

Work in Progress

SAIN Governing Board meeting held in London

The second meeting of SAIN Governing Board was held in London on 24th May 2011. The meeting was chaired by Mr Niu Dun, Vice Minister of Agriculture, China, and Professor Bob Watson, Chief Scientific Adviser of Department of Food, Environment and Rural Affairs (Defra), UK. Jim Pace, MP, Minister of Defra, attended the meeting and delivered a welcome speech. The participants of the meeting included SAIN governing board members, steering group members, working group co-chairs, and secretariats representatives.

The Board members reviewed SAIN progress since the first Board meeting in July 2009. The Board endorsed SAIN “Private Sector Engagement Strategy”, “Work Plan for 2011-2012” and “Governance Arrangement”. The Board also encouraged SAIN to diversify funding sources and respond to emerging funding opportunities in both China and the UK, such as DFID’s new Global Development Partnership Programme.

Professor Bob Watson and Vice Minister Niu Dun highly praised SAIN’s progress and emphasized that SAIN should continue to make greater contribution in promoting UK-China sustainable agricultural development and global food security.

Dr David Lawrence, member of Foresight lead expert group, delivered a key note on Foresight Report - The Future of Food and Farming. The Report explored the challenges and choices of global sustainability of food and farming systems between now and 2050. The participants agreed the Report has valuable implications for China and that follow-up activities in China should be initiated.



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Vice Minister Niu Dun visited British Sugar factory

Prior to the SAIN Governing Board meeting, Vice Minister Niu Dun and the delegation visited the British Sugar Group (BSG) factory in Wissington, Norfolk, on 23rd May. The visit was hosted by Dr Mark Carr, Chief Executive Officer and Mark Hazlehurst, Business Development Director (China). The Chinese delegation was impressed by BSG's advanced technologies and management in high productivity, circular use of resources, and environmental sustainability. BSG works closely with Chinese partners in Guangxi, Heilongjiang, Inner Mongolia and Hebei provinces to promote sustainable practices in sugar beet and sugar cane production and processing. The Chinese delegation and BSG's executive team also discussed possible ways to strengthen the cooperation between BSG and Chinese research organisations.



SAIN-FCRN joint workshop held in Beijing

A workshop co-organised by SAIN and Food Climate Research Network (FCRN www.fcrn.org.uk) was held in Beijing on 7-9 June. The purpose of the workshop was to bring together UK and Chinese researchers from across a range of disciplines, to focus on the relationship

between the growth in livestock production and consumption and a range of key issues, including:

- Healthy and culturally relevant diets (over- and undernutrition);
- Livestock-related greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions;
- Animal welfare; and
- Livelihoods and employment

The workshop was hosted by Institute of Agri-Environment Protection, Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences, sponsored by World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA www.wspa.org.uk/).

SAIN research findings published in *Nature Climate Change*

A SAIN project review paper titled "Greenhouse-gas emissions from energy use in the water sector" was published in *Nature Climate Change* online on 26 June. The paper was written by Sabrina Rothausen and Declan Conway of University of East Anglia, as part of the output from SAIN project "Harmonising adaptation and mitigation for agriculture and water in China". The abstract of the paper is as follows:

Water management faces great challenges over the coming decades. Pressures include stricter water-quality standards, increasing demand for water and the need to adapt to climate change,

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while reducing emissions of greenhouse gases. The processes of abstraction, conveyance and treatment of fresh water and wastewater all demand energy. Energy use in the water sector is growing, yet its importance is under-recognized, and gaps remain in our knowledge. Here we define the need to integrate energy use further into water resource management and identify opportunities for the water sector to understand and describe more effectively its role in greenhouse-gas emissions.

The full paper is available at: Nature Climate Change 1, 210–219 (2011)

doi:10.1038/nclimate1147; <http://www.nature.com/nclimate/journal/v1/n4/full/nclimate1147.html>

Forthcoming Event

SAIN working group 1 project “Improved nutrient management - a key contribution to low carbon development” will hold an international workshop on 16-17 September in Beijing. The Global Partnership of Nutrient Management (GPNM) will co-sponsor the workshop. SAIN and GPNM work together to promote sustainable nutrient management.

Other News

Professor Bob Watson becomes a Fellow of the Royal Society

On 20th May 2011, SAIN Governing Board co-chair, Defra’s Chief Scientific Adviser, Professor Bob Watson has been elected as a Fellow of the Royal Society.

The Royal Society is a Fellowship of the world’s most eminent scientists and is the oldest scientific academy in continuous existence. The honour is the latest in a number of awards made to Professor Watson, most recently the Blue Planet Prize in 2010. He also shared in the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change 2007 Nobel Peace Prize.

For details see:

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/news/2011/05/20/bob-watson-royal-society/>



For more information about SAIN, please visit: <http://www.sainonline.org/English.html>

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