

Work in Progress

Biochar Project Kicked Off

Funded by Dfid and Chinese Ministry of Agriculture, a new project “*Suitability of Bio-char in China and Sub-Saharan Africa: Biophysical and Socio-economic ‘Fit’*” was kicked off in April.

This project aims to (i) develop and test an integrated framework for assessing the suitability and feasibility of different forms of biochar and application method to specific biophysical and socio-economic situations; and (ii) to strengthen a number of important biochar-related research activities into a coherent programme of work that will move forward our understanding of the potential of biochar to improve livelihoods in sub-Saharan Africa, south Asia and China.



Led by Dr John McDonagh of University of East Anglia, Prof Zhao Lixin of Chinese Academy of Agricultural Engineering, this 30-month project is jointly implemented by SAIN and Dfid-funded programme of *Policy Innovation Systems for Clean Energy Security (PISCES)*.

For further information on this project, please contact Dr John McDonagh at J.Mcdonagh@uea.ac.uk; or Prof Zhao Lixin at zhaolixin5092@gmail.com.



MoA's Policy Delegation Visited the UK

Led by Zhang Hongyu, Director General, Department of Policy & Regulation, Ministry of Agriculture, the delegation visited Defra, NFU, British Sugar, Scottish Government and Scottish Agricultural Organisation Society (SAOS), 15-20 May. During the visit, the delegation held a number of in-depth discussions on UK policies of agricultural subsidies, agricultural insurance and farmers' cooperatives.

It was felt that the agricultural sectors in the two countries face similar challenges, though at different development stages. There is great scope for the two countries to strengthen communications on policy making and implementation. It was suggested SAIN could facilitate policy communications through joint research, and workshops.

The other delegation members included Wang Hui, Zhang Hiyang, Li Hongtao and Tian Xiao.

Foresight report presented at BRICS countries workshop

Prof James Muir of Stirling University and Prof David Norse of University College London were in Beijing on 19-23 June, and presented the key findings and follow up of *The Future of Food and Farming: Challenges and choices for global sustainability*, and *The Foresight Report, low carbon agriculture and climate change mitigation* at BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa)

UK-China Sustainable Agriculture Innovation Network (SAIN)

Workshop on Agriculture and Climate Change. Dr Yuelai Lu of SAIN Secretariat presented SAIN's research on climate change titled *Dealing with Climate Change in an Agricultural Way – Implementation of UK China Cooperation*.

This workshop was part of the BRICS Agricultural Cooperation Action Plan (2012-2016) which agreed upon by the BRICS countries' agricultural ministers in 2011. The objective of the workshop was (i) to share agricultural development experiences, learn from each other the policies and measures taken by each country to offset the negative impacts on agriculture by climate change, and to discuss possible ways for cooperation in the fields of information, technology and research for adapting agriculture to climate change; (ii) to discuss the role of agriculture in offsetting the negative impacts of climate change, more specifically about the feasibility and effectiveness of such measures as carbon sink, soil carbon sequestration, livestock management, circular agriculture, emission trading scheme. The workshop was attended by over 50 officials, researchers and private sector representatives from the UK and BRICS countries.

Prof Muir and Prof Norse also delivered lectures at Chinese Academy of Fishery Sciences, and Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences.

Click the following titles for further information about Foresight Report:

[The Future of Food and Farming: Challenges and choices for global sustainability](#)

[Executive Summary \(Chinese\)](#)

[The Future of Food and Farming: Implications for China](#)



Publications

Ding, X. et al. (2012). Aflatoxin B1 in post-harvest peanuts and dietary risk in China. *Food Control* 23(1): 143-148.

Click [here](#) to read full paper

Norse, D. et al. (2012). *The Future of Food and Farming: Implications for China*. Foresight, Government Office for Science, UK.

Click [here](#) to read full report

Other News

Defra Minister visited China

Food and Farming Minister, Jim Paice, was in China 17-22 May to promote UK China food trading and cooperation in agricultural modernisation.

On 21 May, Jim Paice held a meeting with Vice Minister Niu Dun from the Chinese Ministry of Agriculture. They discussed areas where the UK and China can increase cooperation including in research and development and animal husbandry, poultry breeding and processing of livestock and dairy products, as well as the opportunity to export horses for both sport and leisure purposes.

UK-China Sustainable Agriculture Innovation Network (SAIN)

Prior to Jim Paice's visit, David Norse and Yuelai Lu of SAIN Secretariat attended the briefing meeting organised by CBBC (China Britain Business Council), and submitted briefing report on SAIN's progress and future plan.

Ocean fishing key to China's food security

BEIJING, May 29 (Xinhua) -- China needs to further develop the ocean fishing industry to ensure the country's food security, according to Vice Premier Hui Liangyu.

In a letter applauding the establishment of the China Ocean Fishing Association on Tuesday in Beijing, Hui said the country will develop ocean fishing so to effectively utilize the resources of the oceans.

The vice premier said he hoped the association would contribute to the sustainable and healthy development of China's ocean fishing industry.

China had 116 ocean fishing enterprises and 1,628 ocean fishing vessels at the end of last year.

MoA's vice minister Niu Dun is the president of the China Ocean Fishing Association.

Click [here](#) for details.

China to boost strategic emerging industries

China Daily, 2012-05-31: The State Council adopted a plan to boost the development of seven strategic emerging industries amid the country's economic slowdown.

The statement said that the development of strategic emerging industries is of great significance in terms of maintaining long-term and steady economic growth.

According to the statement, the strategic industries include energy-saving and environmental protection, information technology, biology, advanced equipment manufacturing, new energy, new materials and new-energy vehicles.

The healthy development of these industries, the statement said, will mainly rely on a market that can play a fundamental role in allocating resources, an optimized policy environment and market participants.

The State Council urged indigenous innovation and enhanced international exchanges and cooperation while promoting the development of strategic emerging industries.

Click [here](#) for details.

UN Secretary General launched Zero Hunger Challenge in Rio

UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon launches Zero Hunger Challenge at Rio+20 summit on 21 June. He called on governments, business, farmers, scientists, civil society and consumers to join the challenge by honoring past promises and working together to put an end to hunger.

The Zero Hunger Challenge has five objectives:

1. 100% access to adequate food all year round.
2. Zero stunted children under 2 years, no more malnutrition in pregnancy and early childhood.
3. All food systems are sustainable.
4. 100% growth in smallholder productivity and income, particularly for women.
5. Zero loss or waste of food, including responsible consumption.

Click [here](#) to read more.

*For more information about SAIN, please visit: <http://www.sainonline.org/English.html>
If you have any further enquiries, please contact Yuelai Lu at: y.lu@uea.ac.uk*