

Update

April - June 2013 (No 15)

Work in Progress

SAIN Third Governing Board Meeting Held in Beijing

The third Governing Board meeting of SAIN was held in Beijing on 15-16 April 2013. The meeting was co-chaired by Mr Niu Dun, Vice Minister of Agriculture, China, and Professor Ian Boyd, Chief Scientific Adviser of Department of Food, Environment and Rural Affairs (Defra), UK. The participants of the meeting included SAIN governing board members, working group co-chairs, and secretariats representatives.

At the meeting working groups and secretariats reported SAIN progress since the second Board meeting in May 2011 and SAIN work plan for 2013-2015. The Board reviewed current links between the two countries on policy, academic and business sectors; analysed future challenges of agriculture development faced by the two countries; proposed strategic direction of future SAIN development. The Board suggested SAIN should incorporate sustainable intensification in its future work and strengthen the links with policy and business sectors.

Professor Ian Boyd and Vice Minister Niu Dun 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. MoA and Defra will continue supporting and fully using SAIN as a platform to deliver all-round agricultural cooperation between the two countries.

After the Board meeting, the UK delegation visited an integrated pig farming, biogas and horticulture system in the suburb of Beijing.



UK-China Sustainable Agriculture Innovation Network (SAIN)

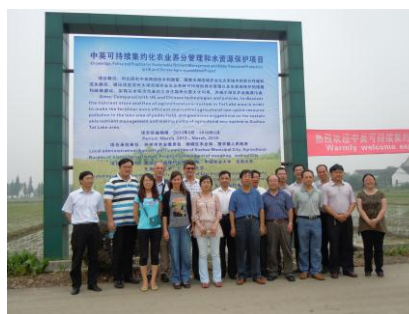
SAIN new project launched in Tianjin

The inception workshop for the 3-year SAIN project “*Knowledge, policy and practice for sustainable nutrient management and water resources protection in UK and Chinese agro-ecosystems*” was held at the Agro-Environmental Protection Institute (AEPI) of Chinese Academy for Agricultural Sciences in Tianjin on 20-21st May 2013. Project partners from SOAS, AEPI, China Agricultural University, Northwest A&F University, Lancaster University, University of East Anglia and Suzhou Agricultural Commission discussed the details of the activities that will work towards the project's objective of achieving more sustainable management of N and P in agro-ecosystems. Led by Prof **Laurence Smith** of SOAS, and Prof **Ren Tianzhi** of AEPI, this project will develop and exchange innovation in the fields of knowledge, practice, policy and governance, with a focus on regional examples that capture key farming systems within both China and the UK.

The project selected three catchments in Zhouzhi county in Shaanxi Province, Huantai county in Shandong province, and Xiangcheng District in Suzhou City, Jiangsu Province as case study sites. After the workshop, the project team visited one of the case study site I in Suzhou, Jiangsu province and held meetings with local officials and technical staff.

The project is funded by Defra and Chinese Ministry of Agriculture with total value of £760,000.

For more information about this project contact: Laurence Smith (L.Smith@soas.ac.uk) or Xin Lai (laixin@foxmail.com).



Research Paper

New technologies reduce greenhouse gas emissions from nitrogenous fertilizer in China

Scientists have demonstrated how improvements in nitrogen fertiliser manufacture and their application could help reduce China's agricultural greenhouse gas emissions by around 60%, by 2030, compared to the current business as usual approach. This emissions reduction represents a 2 to 6% reduction in China's overall greenhouse gas emissions and therefore could be significant in the global battle on climate change.

In a paper published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the USA, the team from Rothamsted Research and China Agricultural University, working alongside other scientific colleagues in the UK and China, have quantified the total GHG emissions associated with nitrogen (N) fertiliser manufacture and use in China. They then examined several scenarios for reducing over-use and mis-use of N fertiliser, and for changing manufacturing processes, and calculated the decreases in greenhouse (GHG) emissions that could be achieved.

In this study, funded by the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office and linked closely with projects funded by the Chinese Ministry of Agriculture, the UK-China team concluded that a combination of technical innovations in manufacturing and changes in agricultural management could result in annual GHG emissions being reduced to of 204 teragrams of carbon dioxide equivalents (Tg CO₂-eq) instead of the projected 542 Tg CO₂-eq by 2030.

Click [here](#) to read the full paper.

SAIN research findings were reported at Agricultural Science and Technology Newspaper

Agricultural Science and Technology Newspaper (<http://eb.nkb.com.cn/>) reported SAIN research findings on 9th, 10th, 11th, 16th and 18th of April respectively. The tiles and links are as following:

Improved nutrients management for the development of low carbon economy

<http://eb.nkb.com.cn/nykjb/20130409/index.htm>,

<http://eb.nkb.com.cn/nykjb/20130410/index.htm>

UK China scientists work together for the development of circular agriculture

<http://eb.nkb.com.cn/nykjb/20130411/index.htm>

Turning agricultural wastes into precious resource

<http://eb.nkb.com.cn/nykjb/20130416/index.htm>

Promising Potential of biochar in agricultural production

<http://eb.nkb.com.cn/nykjb/20130418/index.htm>

News from SAIN Members



Laurence Smith promoted to Professor

Congratulations to Laurence Smith, SAIN's Working Group 4 co-chair who has been promoted to Professor of SOAS, University of London.

Laurence has extensive experience of research, consultancy, education and training work in the UK and in over twenty countries, with particular expertise in relation to South and South East Asia. He has worked for leading international agencies including DFID, World Bank, and FAO, and with CGIAR research institutes including the International Water Management Institute (IWMI) and WorldFish.

UK-China Sustainable Agriculture Innovation Network (SAIN)

Laurence is leading a SAIN project ‘Knowledge, policy and practice for sustainable nutrient management and water resources protection in UK and Chinese agro-ecosystems’ commenced in April 2013.

Other News

Climate change overseas likely to affect UK food supplies

[BBC News, 17 June 2013] Climate change abroad will have a more immediate effect on the UK than climate change at home, a report says.

Research by consultants PWC for Defra says the UK is likely to be hit by increasingly volatile prices of many commodities as the climate is disrupted.

It warns that global production of some foodstuffs is concentrated in a few countries.

These are likely to suffer increasing episodes of extreme weather.

The report says there will be opportunities for the UK from climate change but these are likely to be far outweighed by problems.

The opportunities include the ability to export British know-how and reduced shipping costs if the Arctic becomes ice-free. The Arctic looks likely to be a big business opportunity; research estimates suggest that it is likely to attract more than £64bn of investments over the next decade.

Click [here](#) for details

British Council launches campaign for 15,000 UK students to go to China

[10 June 2013] *‘Generation UK’ campaign launched to give UK young people an experience of Chinese business and culture*

The British Council has launched a new UK-wide campaign to encourage and support student mobility to China, known as ‘Generation UK’.

The campaign aim is for at least 15,000 UK students to either study or gain work experience in China by 2016. Underlining the British Council’s ongoing commitment to promoting international opportunities to students across the UK, the goal of Generation UK is to create a new generation of more globally, culturally and business aware young people.

The most recent figures suggest about 3500 UK students studied in China in 2011. Generation UK aims for this number to increase by at least a third by September 2016.

Generation UK will provide the practical support for UK students to study and work in China, through academic scholarships and funded internship placements, as well as widening a network of support for students to engage with China. The campaign is set to encourage global perspectives and a competitive advantage in skills development among UK students, and to help shape them into international citizens and ambassadors for the UK.

Click [here](#) for details

***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***