



Season's Greetings from Secretariat

Work in Progress

SAIN (China) held annual meeting

SAIN (China) 2014 annual meeting was held in Beijing on 11-12 December. Mr Wang Jinbiao, Director of European Affairs Division, Department of International Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture delivered a speech. Professor Tong Yanan, on behalf of SAIN Secretariat (China), summarized the progress in 2014, four working groups reported the project progress and future work plans.



Mr Wang Jinbiao expressed full recognition of SAIN achievements in recent years and put forward the practical suggestions on SAIN development under the new environment. He stressed that, in order to deepen the UK-China cooperation, the two countries would actively promote the high-level interaction with a new cooperation mechanism, and SAIN should be actively involved in the new mechanism in order to strive for more resources to achieve SAIN sustainable development. Mr Wang also suggested to strengthening multilateral cooperation, new project application involving the third party beneficiary as far as possible.

At the meeting, participants discussed issues regarding challenges SAIN is facing under the new environment, SAIN's functions, new project application as well as SAIN's sustainable development. Professor Tong encouraged the working groups broaden their horizons to seek more cooperation opportunities within and beyond SAIN. Participants also suggested to strengthen academic exchanges with UK and organize more knowledge sharing workshops (*Provided by Tong Yanan*).

Completion of biochar project

SAIN project Biochar: Socio-Economic and Biophysical "Fit" has been completed by a team composed of researchers from UK, China and Ghana, led by Dr John McDonagh of University of East Anglia and Prof Zhao Lixin of Chinese Academy of Agricultural Engineering.

The objectives of the project were (i) to investigate, from both biophysical and socio-economic perspectives, the applicability of different biochar technologies in rural, peri-urban and other locations in sub-Saharan Africa, south Asia and China; (ii) to investigate the likelihood of unequal socio-economic impacts at different scales arising from biochar production and use; (iii) to test and refine "purposeful selection" tool(s) that help the user match the biochar technology to the site-specific biophysical and socio-economic environment; and (iv) to investigate sustainable use of biochar for improved food security and energy access.

Part of the research findings were published in the paper **From rhetoric to reality: farmer perspectives on the economic potential of biochar in China**, *International Journal of Agricultural Sustainability*, DOI: 10.1080/14735903.2014.927711

UK-China Sustainable Agriculture Innovation Network (SAIN)

The project was funded by the UK's Department for International Development (DFID) and by China's Ministry of Agriculture. For more details of the project please contact Dr John McDonagh (j.mcdonagh@uea.ac.uk) or Prof Zhao Lixin (zhaolixin5092@163.com).

Engagement and dissemination

SAIN joined Global Alliance of Climate Smart Agriculture as founding member

The Global Alliance for Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA) was launched on 23 September 2014 at the UN Climate Summit. It seeks to improve people's food security and nutrition in the face of climate change. The Alliance will help governments, farmers, scientists, businesses, and civil society, as well as regional unions and international organizations, to adjust agricultural, forestry and fisheries practices, food systems and social policies so that they better take account of climate change and the efficient use of natural resources.

SAIN joined the Alliance in September as one of the founding members. This is the second international initiative which SAIN is formally involved, following the Global Partnership on Nutrient Management (GPNM). Dr Yuelai Lu of SAIN Secretariat is SAIN's liaison person to the Global Alliance.

Click [here](#) for more info about Global Alliance of CSA

Click [here](#) to see the list of members of Global Alliance CSA

SAIN in media

SAIN research findings on *China's crop diversity vital for global food security* has been covered by a wide range of top Chinese internet-based media. Here are some of them (click for details):

[Sciencenet.cn](http://www.sciencenet.cn)

[People.net](http://www.people.net)

[Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences](http://www.cas.ac.cn)

[Chinese Academy of Fishery Sciences](http://www.cas.ac.cn)

[World News Wn.com](http://www.worldnews.com)

Presentation at international conference

Dr Yuelai Lu of SAIN Secretariat was invited to speak at the 4th High Level Conference on the Development of Modern County Agriculture in China, held in Beijing on 17-18 October 2014. The conference was organised by China Agricultural University. In his speech, Dr Lu highlighted the UK agriculture and food system, agri-tech strategy and cooperation between UK and China through SAIN and other mechanisms.

第四届中国县域现代农业发展高层会议



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

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