

Conference: HUTRAIN 2024

Commitee: FAO

Agenda Item: Strategies for Advancing Sustainable Agricultural Practices in the Green Transition

Country: People’s Republic of China

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As China that is one of the biggest food producers, we are acknowledged that agriculture is one of the most important things that impacts global food security and environmental sustainability. Agriculture also comes with some challenges like climate change, biodiversity loss and the useage of natural resources. Agriculture heavily relies on nature, particularly well-functioning ecosystems. Activities related to agri-food systems, such as biological resource utilization, land use change, and pollution, significantly contribute to biodiversity loss. Moreover, agriculture serves as a vital source of employment, livelihoods, social well-being, and cultural development, impacting human health and nutrition.But to advance sustainable agriculture in green transition we believe that there should be cooperation around the countries, innovative technologies and many more to achieve that. While trying to achieve these we are commited to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), and SDG 13 (Climate Action). China has been looking into sustainable agriculture primarily because we are aware of challenges such as chemical fertilizers and pescitides, greenhouse gas emissions and uncontrolled water usage from agricultural practices and the hazardous effects that it gives the environment. To minimize that we think that we should use green technologies and innovative technologies. We are encouraging farmers to adopt innovative practices and technologies, striving for wholesale agricultural and rural modernization by 2035. We are aiming for a 75 percent agricultural mechanization rate for crop production and harvesting.

For decades, irrigated agriculture in our country has been an essential source of rural employment and livelihoods for millions of people, while also contributing to 75% of the country's total agricultural outputs. The rapid economic growth and poverty reduction of China is, to a significant part, attributable to irrigated agriculture, but the sector is responsible for some of the country's water stress, as well. Irrigated agriculture uses over 60% of the nation's total water resources, more than any other activity. Population growth, rapid industrialization, and the adverse effects of climate change exacerbate the problem.

Water scarcity, combined with inefficient and unsustainable water use, low agricultural water productivity, and low farm income in Northern China are taking a toll on the region's socioeconomic development. We are encouraging the usage of water-saving technologies and practices such as rainwater harvesting and wastewater reuse.

In November 2015, the seventh national conference on Agroecology and sixth international conference in China was held in Beijing. Seven hundred people both from China and abroad participated. The Community Support Agriculture was agreed as an internationally accepted term, and it was agreed that its appropriate translation into Chinese should be shehui shengtai Nongye, which means social ecological agriculture, social mobilization to support and participate ecological agriculture development. Participants fully agreed that Community Support Agriculture’s belief in “Fair Trade, Care Earth, Care for producers and Conserve the tradition and culture” contributes not only economic gains for the farm owners and small scale farmers, but also contributes to the food safety and health living of people, and nurtures social relations between the rural and urban people through agriculture. At the same time, it also contributes to the reduction of environmental pollution from using chemical inputs. To summarize, We support Agroecology, social Agroecology in Chinese term, leads us to be a friend of our mother earth and to be a learner from the nature. This is fundamental for us to be able to have safe lives with sustainability.

In conclusion we think that achieving these cannot be done individually, countries need to collaborate. We had engaged in numerous partnerships to promote sustainable agriculture and we are looking forward to more. We encourage the FAO to continue promoting the exchange of best practices and technical knowledge between countries, especially in regions where agricultural productivity is low, and environmental challenges are high.

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