

3rd China-Europa Forum
Workshop: Agriculture and Biodiversity
Place and Date: July on Dali, Yunnan China

Nowadays philosophic thoughts like scientism, reductionism, determinism and pragmatism have been prevailing over human development process. It was always claimed that industrial technology development will solve all problems human being faces. In the last century, human practices, as industrialization, urbanization and technology progress, led to change the society. Some of them are positive, but some are dramatic, such as ecological disasters, environmental degradation, global warming, or human health problems.

Developed countries began to rethink their development model and its problems, while developing countries, like China, are following the old path of developed countries. The similar situations are happening in agricultural area. This workshop will gather participants from China and European countries to address the following issues.

1. What kind of practices for a sustainable farming system ?

The main principles of sustainable agriculture will be discussed to build a common idea of sustainability. On this basis, the participants can discuss about different aspects, in order to assess **the impacts of modern technologies on environmental, social, cultural and economical aspects.**

That is why presentations about assessment methods of sustainability of agriculture will be very appreciated.

2. Agricultural practices and their impacts on biodiversity :

This part of the workshop **focus on the impacts of modern technologies and sciences on agro-biodiversity, one part of sustainable agriculture.**

The concerned technologies and practices include chemical pest control, genetically modified technology, chemical fertilization and monocropping system.

In the meantime this workshop will deal with traditional knowledges and practices concerning the conservation of agro-biodiversity and the exploration of the potential of modern and alternative farming practices.

These discussions will also include others subjects such as agro-biodiversity values, and conservation strategies.

3. The sustainability of small scale farming systems

Additionally, food safety and food crisis are very often major reasons proposed by people who support industrialized agriculture. That is why the discussions about relations among food security, agricultural policies and productivity of small scale farming systems are very important, as well as the comparison between benefits for farmers related to industrial agricultural systems and small scale farming systems. This workshop gives special welcome to case study presentation on productivity and benefits of small scale farming systems in the western of China and in Eastern Europe.

It is expected that dialogs among participants from China and Europe will bring new insights into the above issues, and promote mutual learning in agricultural development. Eventually, both of us work together to seek a safer, healthier and more sustainable agricultural development way.