

China
Agro Forestry in the Mountains of Southwest China

News from the Field

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Conservation International

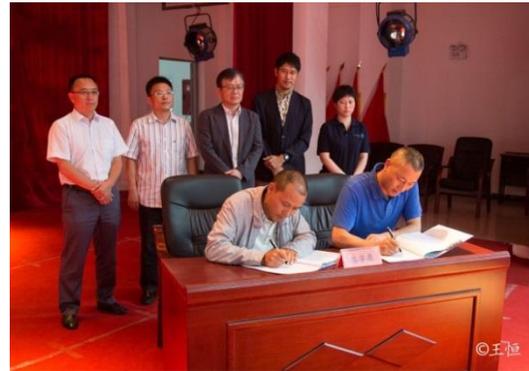
Opening Ceremony

On July 16, 2015, the opening ceremony of the agro-forestry project was held in Ganpu Village. Representatives from Daikin Japan, Daikin China, CI Japan, CI China, Sichuan Forestry Department, Li County Government and the local community attended the ceremony.

The conservation agreement between Li County Forestry Bureau and Ganpu Village Council was signed at the ceremony. Based on the agreement, a 600-hectare community conserved area will be established and rules and regulations to manage and protect collective forests will be set.



Opening ceremony



Representatives sign the conservation agreement

After the ceremony, representatives from Daikin, CI and the local government visited the agro-forestry demonstration field and set up a project signboard. There, CI project staff introduced the concept and progress of the project.



Visiting the agro-forestry demonstration area

First Harvest

The legumes planted in the newly reclaimed project site in April were ready to be harvested after growing big and healthy under the summer sun. The kidney beans were harvested in the last week of August and the soybeans a month later. The total legume harvest yield was estimated to be more than 1,500 kilograms.

Planting legumes helps fertilize the soil through nitrogen-fixing nitrogen. At the same time, the sale of beans provides financial support for the next stage of the project. Currently the beans are sold through a crowd-funding website, Zhongchou.com, and the revenue will be used to buy a straw shredder to crush legumes straw and weeds so as to return the legumes back to soil as green fertilizers.

Monitoring of Surface Runoff Begun

Facilities on monitoring surface runoff were set up in July. The data has been collected twice so far, in August and September. Through long-term monitoring of the surface runoff, we will be able to compare the impact of different vegetation types on water and soil loss and to assess the effect of the agro-forestry system on water and soil conservation.

Study Tour of Eco-Friendly Agriculture

From September 14 to 19, CI organized a study tour on eco-friendly agriculture for our local partners and several community residents from Ganpu. Beijing has the most mature organic food consumption market in China and is also home to many organic farms. The group visited five organic farms in the suburb of Beijing, where participants learned firsthand about eco-friendly agriculture and exchanged ideas with local farmers about technologies on production and management, as well as marketing skills. The group also took part in the Beijing Organic Farmer's Fair and community center to gain insight into the organic market and to get to know more about what consumers want.

Communications

Photos and videos of the opening ceremony, crop-growing progress and the eco-friendly agriculture study tour were taken for the project newsletter and a promotional video.

Presentation of Paper-Cutting work

At the ceremony, Mr. Han, the principal of Ganpu Elementary School, presented Daikin with a gift on behalf of the local community—a traditional Tibetan paper-cutting work. Designed and crafted by Mr. Han, the image of the paper-cutting will be used by the village as a logo for the agro-forestry project. Embodying the concept of Ganpu's agro-forestry using trees and buds, the paper-cutting work also shows the connection between humans and nature by combining natural elements such as water drops, flowers and birds with a military watchtower, the symbol of the village.



The paper-cutting work gift

Plans for the Next Quarter

A workshop on agro-forestry and eco-friendly agricultural technologies will be organized. Villagers will receive training on controlling fruit pests. Monitoring and support will be carried out during construction of the agro-forestry demonstration field, straw and other organic fertilizers will be spread throughout the field, and saplings to be planted next spring will be selected and ordered. Data will continue to be collected in monitoring the soil and water loss of different types of land, and communication materials for project updates and promotional videos will be gathered.

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