

China
Promoting Agro-Forestry in the Mountains of Southwest China
News from the Field

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Conservation International

Harvest in Ganpu

This is the second year of growing fruits such as plums and winter peaches in the village of Ganpu. Despite last year's severe drought and this past summer's heavy rains, the fruit trees survived and have begun to bear fruit. The first season's harvest was not of high enough quality to sell, but we believe that starting in the second season the fruit will provide significant profits to the community. As for the vegetable crop, chili peppers provided an income of 6,000 yuan (approx. US\$926). A trial planting of onions was also a success.



First winter peach trees to bear fruit



Harvesting chili for selling (© CI/Zang Jie)

Pig rearing

In July, 38 pigs and 9 Tibetan black pigs arrived at the agroforestry system. Experts from agricultural science institutes and the local animal husbandry bureau were invited to instruct villagers on management methods. The villagers have to adjust from their traditional methods of pig rearing in matters such as feeding, nutrition balance, and tending the pig pens to more modern, scientific methods. So far, 40 Tibetan black pigs have been born, and these will be able to be sold within six months. The pigs provide a stable supply of compost and are an important source of short-term income needed to pay the costs of running the demonstration site.



Tibetan black pigs (left) and adult pigs (right) in Ganpu (© CI/Zang Jie)



Learning about pig-rearing in the pig pen in Ganpu (© CI/Zhang Tianheng)

Project begins in Xiaozhaizigou Nature Reserve

The agroforestry demonstration site in the Xiaozhaizigou Nature Reserve is in Wulong Village, where Tibetans also live. To begin, strawberries, sweet persimmons, and peonies for medicinal purposes will be grown on the 0.5-hectare test site. There will be briefings to explain agroforestry and how it is implemented and training on things like eco-friendly insect control and vegetable-growing techniques. Study tours will also be organized.

Project begins in Xishuangbanna Nature Reserve

With the cooperation of the Xishuangbanna Tropical Rainforest Conservation Foundation and the Xishuangbanna Nature Reserve, the project site in Changtianba Village has been selected as an agroforestry system test site in China's tropical region. Changtianba is in Menghai County, a major pu-erh tea producing region. A focus of this

project is adopting agroforestry concept to revamp tea plantations. Plans call for trials in which methods such as paddy fields will be utilized to grow a variety of crops.



Tea plantation in Changtianba Village, Xishuangbanna Nature Reserve (© CI/Xu Wansu)

Work plan for next reporting period

In October, we will launch the projects in the Xishuangbanna Nature Reserve and the Xiaozhaizigou Nature Reserve, and sign conservation agreements with the communities in both reserves. We will launch earthworm-raising on the project site in Ganpu. On the Agroforestry project site, we will monitor and provide technical support.

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