

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

August 2018
Conservation International

Agro-forestry system built in the Xishuangbanna Nature Reserve

Planting and livestock raising started in June based on an agro-forestry development plan for Changtianba village created by experts with villagers using a participatory approach. The 27 ha of tea farms are being gradually diversified with the planting so far of 1,720 lemon trees. More fruit trees will be planted in the village in August. As a pilot project, 20 black pigs and nine porcupines were delivered to seven households. Trainings on related techniques will be conducted in August and September.

Planting and related training conducted on project site on Xiaozhaizigou Nature Reserve

The building of the agro-forestry system in the Xiaozhaizigou project site started in April. The planting is fully funded by the Xiaozhaizigou National Nature Reserve with an amount of around 100,000 CNY (about 1.62 million JPY as of August 2018). In June, a study tour and training sessions on agro-forestry designs, eco-friendly plantation techniques, and conservation work in the reserve were conducted in the project village. Follow-up training supported by the reserve will be carried out on a regular basis for a year and will cover specific techniques on species in the agro-forestry system in the project site including persimmon, strawberry, peony, and herbs. Eco-tourism and community-reserve cooperation will also be covered.

Private sector company introduced to Ganpu to operate agro-forestry demonstration site

Because direct financial support from CI and the local government ended last December, the village committee invited a company to operate the demonstration site in order to ensure its management and further development. The company will cover all the costs of management and further development of the demonstration field and pay the village around 68,000 CNY (about 1.1 million JPY as of August 2018) per year. Part of the money that goes to the village committee will be used to reward the forestry committee of the village for effective forest management and conservation. The production process in the demonstration site will follow the same protocol jointly decided on by the village committee, CI, and the forestry department.

Study tour for Xishuangbanna project team

A study tour of communities and reserves in Chongqing was organized for project staff from the Tropical Rainforest Conservation Foundation, the Science Institute and Menghai Sub-reserve of Xishuangbanna National Nature Reserve, and members of the project community. The group visited several sites with successful aquaponics systems to get ideas on how to make their paddy fields more productive and eco-friendly.

Report on promotion of agro-forestry system submitted to provincial government

Experts in agriculture and policy were invited to visit the project site in Ganpu and to write a report to the Sichuan provincial government to promote agro-forestry as a model for ecosystem restoration and poverty alleviation. Because environmental conservation and poverty alleviation are the two of three most important strategies of the Chinese central government, significant amounts of government funding are being invested in related fields. We hope that this report will convince the government to adopt and allocate more funding to agro-forestry as a recommended strategy for conservation and poverty alleviation of mountainous areas.

Work plan for next quarter

The creation of agro-forestry systems will be completed in the Xishuangbanna and Xiaozhaizigou project sites. All agro-forestry project sites will be monitored and provided with technical support. A communication activity with Daikin China will be held in October 2018.

Note: Unauthorized copying of the images and text used here is prohibited.