

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

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Conservation International

Harvesting Completed

All products in the demonstration field were collected in October. The harvest comprised about 1,000 kg of soy beans, 100 kg of white beans, and 50 kg of red beans. The okras were reserved as seeds for next year, and we have already received an order from a customer for these. The chilis sold well, generating a net revenue of 4,000CNY (\$581) for products harvested from 0.25ha. Currently, the demonstration field is covered by green fertilizers to enrich the soil for the coming year's harvest.



Harvesting (© Conservation International/Photo by Kyle David Obermann)

Summary and Planning Meeting Held

In December 2016, members of the Ganpu Farmers' Agricultural Cooperative, CI staff, and experts, together with staff of the Environmental Protection and Forestry Bureau, held a meeting to provide feedback on the work of 2016 and to make plans for 2017. Problems related to planting, accounting, and product marketing and sales were summarized and discussed. To ensure the sustainable management of the demonstration system, the demonstration field will be handed over to villagers by contract, with strict regulation on management methods. The revenue from the contracts will become a collective fund for the village, with a certain amount to be used for conservation of the community-based protected area.

Training for Winter Orchard Management

On December 23, in cooperation with the Environmental Protection and Forestry Bureau and Agriculture Bureau of Li County, CI organized training on orchard management in winter for

residents of Ganpu village. The project technical consultant and experts from the Agriculture Bureau taught the villagers about pruning and eco-friendly pest control. Over 50 villagers attended and practiced the methods under the instructors' supervision.



Training on orchard management (© Conservation International/Photo by Gu Xiaoting)

Agro-forestry Model and Eco-friendly Poultry Raising Training for Li County Villagers

After two years of implementing an agro-forestry system in Ganpu Village, the local government and villagers have recognized its benefits and have started to promote it in the region. Training on the agro-forestry model and eco-friendly poultry raising techniques was organized by the Environmental Protection and Forestry Department and CI China on November 17. The training was attended by more than 70 farmers from different villages of Li County and several villagers from neighboring Beichuan County who were interested in agro-forestry practices. Participants learned the basic concepts of agro-forestry and how it works to restore the soil. They were also taught how to use the agro-forestry brochure and log book as guidance for their agro-forestry trials. More training sessions related to different aspects of agro-forestry will be held in the next year.



Agro-forestry model and eco-friendly poultry-raising training
(© Conservation International/Photo by Jin Yan)

Forest Nature Education Conference

On December 9, CI and the Sichuan Forestry Department cooperated to host a forest nature education conference in Chengdu. The approximately 200 participants from nature reserves and

forest education institutions in Sichuan discussed approaches to forest nature education for promoting awareness among the public, especially children, on forest conservation.



Forest nature education conference (© Conservation International/Photo by Chen Zijun)

Promotion of Agro-forestry System in Nature Reserves

The administrations of several nature reserves invited staff and experts of CI to introduce the agro-forestry system as an approach to sustainable development in surrounding communities. Through site visits and discussions with local communities, CI China helped to design an initial agro-forestry plan for the Wulongzhai community in Beichuan County. The reserve will provide funding for further development.

Seminar with Teachers and Students of SICHUAN Agriculture University

On November 30, technical consultants and staff of this project hosted a seminar on agricultural pollution and its solutions at Sichuan Agriculture University. About eight teachers and 140 students attended. Discussions were on the causes of agricultural pollution and how to use agro-forestry and other methods to convert agricultural pollutants into resources. The hope was that the seminar would help students majoring in agriculture-related fields get a better understanding of the problems of current agriculture systems and understand how the agro-forestry model could be used as a solution.



Seminar at a university
(© Conservation International/Photo by ...)

Communication

Photos and video clips of the project site and communication activities were used as material for a project newsletter and promotional video. Articles on agricultural biodiversity and soil health were published through the official account of CI China on social media.

Work Plan for Next Quarter

Planting for 2017 will begin. Livestock raising and composting will be launched, and training will be organized on livestock raising, earthworm raising, and composting. Implementation of the conservation agreement and management of the agro-forestry demonstration area will be monitored. Materials will be prepared for the project video.



The demonstration area in autumn (© Conservation International/Photo by Kyle David Obermann)

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