

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

May 2017
Conservation International

2017 planting underway

Tree-planting activities got underway in March. Besides fruit species like grapes, peaches, and apples, participants planted a special variety of mulberry trees on slopes in order to prevent surface run-off and provide feed for pigs. Starting in April, they will begin planting vegetables such as chili peppers, tomatoes, and leguminous vegetables in between trees.



Spring planting (© CI/Jin Yan)

Pig-rearing begins

Pig-rearing got underway on the demonstration site. Not only will the pigs provide additional income for villagers; their excrement will provide the raw material for fertilizer needed for the orchards. In March, nine pigs arrived at the demonstration site. It will take about a year and a half for these pigs to give birth to their first piglets. Piggery experts were invited to the project site, where they instructed villagers in things like proper feeding methods and treating diseases. Black pigs from Tibet are scheduled to arrive in April.



Pigs being raised



Training session (© CI/Jin Yan)

Study tour to Guangdong to learn about eco-friendly regional development

Integrating the development of agriculture and eco-tourism at the agroforestry demonstration site is part of a long-term vision of growing Ganpu as an eco-friendly village. In March, CI hosted a study tour for staff of the Environmental Protection and Forestry Bureau and Ganpu Village representatives. Participants visited one village and two farms in Guangdong that have a wealth of experience in eco-friendly development combining agriculture and eco-tourism. The study tour allowed participants to get the big picture on a range of approaches to eco-friendly regional development. We hope this will prove valuable for Ganpu in designing future development plans.



Study tour in Guangdong (© CI/Jin Yan)

Environmental education at Ganpu Village elementary school

On March 29, CI led environmental education activities at the Ganpu Village elementary school under the theme “spring planting.” Together with project staff, about 40 students in grades 5 and 6 planted seedlings, small trees, and herbs in the school’s gardens. Thanks to the variety of plants, the school now has a small but vibrant ecosystem where students can enjoy seeing flowers bloom with each coming season. Students got a better understanding of the plants by observing their growth together with staff, after which they drew pictures of flowers in the garden blooming.



Children at the Ganpu Village elementary school take part in environmental education (© CI/Jin Yan)

Communication

Photos and video clips of the project site and communication activities were used as material for a project newsletter and promotional video. A contract was signed for the production of a video summarizing the past three years of the project.

Hollywood actor Lee Pace, a member of the Environmental Leadership Council of CI, visited Ganpu Village. We made a short video of him visiting the project site in Sichuan. This video garnered significant attention on social media. In the video, Mr. Pace introduces the Ganpu Village project. See the following links to view the video.

Weibo

<http://m.weibo.cn/status/4085862369007967>

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/conservationchina/videos/1232779013510297/>



Scene from a video in which Hollywood star Lee Pace introduces Ganpu Village

Work plan for next reporting period

We plan to complete the 2017 planting and begin raising black pigs and worms. We will also monitor the implementation of a conservation agreement for the agroforestry demonstration site and the site's management. Volunteers from Daikin in China will come to the site. The project video is scheduled for completion.

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