

China
Agroforestry in the Mountains of Southwest China
News from the Field

May 2016
Conservation International

Land Preparation and Tree Planting

March signaled the arrival of spring in Ganpu village. The villagers were busy preparing the land for tree planting, mixing the soil with goat manure fertilizer, and digging holes to plant the trees in. In late March, they planted saplings of apple, fig, prune, plum, pear-date, walnut, and Chinese pepper trees in the demonstration field.



Preparing the land and planting the trees in the demonstration field © Wang Heng

Matching Fund Approved by County Government

Last year, Ganpu village submitted a plan to the Li County government for the agro-forestry demonstration field as part of its application to receive financial support from a matching fund. The plan has been approved, and about CNY800,000 (US\$125,000) from the county government will cover infrastructure costs including the demonstration field and facilities for raising livestock.

Publication of Handbook on Establishing and Managing Agroforestry System

Based on previous technical training, eco-friendly farm visits, and agricultural technique books, the project team and consultants from the Chinese Academy of Sciences and the Chengdu Academy of Agriculture and Forestry Sciences have started to draft a technical handbook on establishing and managing agro-forestry systems. The handbook will include principles and benefits of agro-forestry systems, how to establish a system, techniques for vegetable planting, fruit-tree planting, and livestock raising, diseases and pest control, and agro-forestry case studies. The handbook will be distributed to villagers in Ganpu, as well as to other partners interested in agro-forestry practices, to help them establish systems on their own land and solve problems that may occur. In future, the handbook will be improved and distributed on a wider scale in order to promote agro-forestry practices.

Communication

Photos and videos of the land-preparation and tree planting were taken as material for the project newsletter and other communication activities. We also asked an expert to take aerial photos of the demonstration field in order to get a larger view of it.



Aerial photos of the finished demonstration field © Gong Hui

Tibetan–Qiang Corridor of Li County

Though only coined in the late 1990s, the term “Tibetan–Qiang Corridor” embodies a critical passage area that has connected various ethnic populations for the past several thousand years. Stretching from Taoping Qiang Village in Li County all the way up to *Zhuokeji* Headman's Village in Barkam, the main sections of this corridor feature breathtaking scenery and a wide variety of ethnic cultures, and are dotted mostly with Qiang and Rgyalrong Tibetan settlements. Located right in the central area of this corridor, Li County divides Qiang populations in the east and Tibetan populations in the west, turning this region into a fascinating mixture of distinct ethnic cultures.

Plans for the Next Reporting Period (April to June 2016)

Construction will begin on livestock-raising facilities, and the Conservation Agreement will be implemented and monitored. Annual monitoring will be conducted on biodiversity and on water and soil loss. The agro-forestry handbook will be completed and distributed. Vegetables and grass will be planted under the trees in the demonstration field, and environmental education activities for Ganpu primary school will be planned. Project updates will be made and videos will be recorded to use as communication material.

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