

# Green Poverty Alleviation in Poor Rural Areas of

## The Challenge

China has been the world's fastest growing economy over the past two decades, with real GDP growth at an average rate of 9.4% annually and per capita incomes rising threefold. However, accompanying the growth is broadened disparity between urban and rural areas. Statistics like the income growth ratio and other social development indicators reflect the disparity. The main reason for these inequalities is the higher incidence of extreme and chronic poverty in the Western region. Despite high aggregate growth rates, the proportion of the total poor living in the Western Provinces has increased in recent years.

Harsh living conditions and low population densities within a vast land mass have caused high costs of living and production in these regions. The fragile ecology and environment has suffered serious damage due to long-term overgrazing and inappropriate farming methods leading to aggravated soil erosion and desertification.

To address poverty problems in western rural areas, central and local governments place considerable emphasis on the protection and improvement of the eco-environment, landscapes, fauna, flora and biodiversity. However, the reconstruction of fragile ecosystems will be a long and difficult task requiring considerable strategic investment. Natural resource degradation and biodiversity loss are undermining the livelihoods of large numbers of the poor.

The current level of energy consumption in poor rural areas is relatively low and the energy supply infrastructure is unevenly developed. With gradual social and economic development, the demand for energy is expected to increase and will challenge the supply structure. The ability to meet rising energy demands could be an essential element of solutions which purports to achieve lasting poverty alleviation.

## The Response



The project will utilize available science and technologies as major inputs for the development of local communities through an integrated 'Green Poverty Alleviation' (GPA) strategy that

combines poverty alleviation with eco-environmental improvement and rural energy development. The focus will be on providing solutions to problems such as providing energy for continuing development, improving the utilization and processing of local resources and raw materials and creating opportunities for income generation through:

- Agro-economical activities to address planting and cultivation;

- Local energy generation through the application of renewable energy resources;
- Processing of local resources and raw materials to



provide improved income-generation activities.

Potential technologies and mechanism for income generating and social well-being will be piloted, including: 1) planting of the *Jatropha Curcas L* trees in Yunnan, Guizhou, Sichuan, Hainan to provide a feedstock for bio-diesel production 2) growing of *Jarraha Dayun* (Chinese medicinal herb) in desert of Xinjiang for a raw material of traditional medicine 3) planting of sweet sorghum as a feedstock for bio-ethanol generation in Shanxi 4) cultivating of mushroom in discarded mine areas of Mentougou, Beijing

联合国开发计划署  
驻华代表处

## At A Glance

Start Date: 2006  
End Date: 2010

Implementing Partner(s): China International Centre for Economic and Technical Exchange (CICETE)  
Ministry of Science and Technology  
Project ID: 00051952

### UNDAF

Outcome 1: Social and economic policies are developed and improved to be more scientifically based and human centered for sustainable and equitable growth;  
Outcome 3: By the end of 2010, more efficient management of natural resources and development of environmentally friendly behaviour in order to ensure environmental sustainability

### MDG

Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger  
Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability

### CPAP output:

Output 1.3 Improved tax legislation and strengthened capacities in tax administration enable the development of pro-poor initiatives

Output 1.4 Poverty reduction approach piloted on target population

Website: [www.undp.org.cn](http://www.undp.org.cn)

Total Budget: US\$ 10,965,850  
UNDP: US\$ 2,880,850  
MOST: US\$ 3,100,000  
Local Governments: US\$ 4,985,000

Project location(s): Yunnan, Guizhou, Sichuan, Hainan, Xinjiang, Shanxi, Beijing (Mentougou)

To contribute to this initiative, or to find out more about the programme, please visit our website or contact Mr. Wu Peng, Programme Manager at (86-10) 8532 0752 or [bert.wu@undp.org](mailto:bert.wu@undp.org)