

UNDP/GEF Conservation and Sustainable Utilization of Wild Relatives of Crops in China

 联合国开发计划署
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The Challenge

China is one of the seven independent centres of crop origin in the world. It is estimated that of about 1,200 crop species harvested worldwide, 600 are found in China, and of those up to half originated in China. However, the diversity of wild relatives of crop species in China with high international significance is increasingly threatened from land conversion, improper agricultural practices, intensification of land use, spread of invasive species, pollution and impact of genetically modified crops. The underlying causes of these threats include short-term economic development measures at the local level, institutional constraints to implementation of conservation regulations, promotion of new cultivars and new techniques by the agricultural extension system, and obscurity of population status of wild relatives. If unaddressed, these issues will result in loss of genetic resources for China and the world.

The Response

This project will promote involvement of farmers in conservation activities instead of physically separating conservation from agricultural production. This will be achieved by working within existing governmental structures that support dialogue with farmers, but building the capacity of such structures to present and promote agricultural development options that incorporate conservation of wild relatives. Thus, the county and township agricultural bureaux and extension services will be supported in establishing participatory conservation measures in land under production. This project will also ensure that local knowledge regarding conservation and use of wild relatives is incorporated into conservation strategies. For sites where the opportunity to effect *in situ* measures has already passed as a result of the fast pace of economic development, *ex situ* conservation will be promoted where possible.

Achievements

The project objective is to mainstream conservation of wild crop relatives in agricultural production landscapes by targeting wild relatives of rice, soybean and wheat in eight provinces of China. Five outcomes are designed to address barriers to this objective and underlying causes of threats to wild relatives:

- Generation of sustainable financial or other incentives for their conservation at the county level in eight provinces;
- Policy, legal and regulatory system supports conservation;
- Stakeholders at the central and local level have adequate capacity to conserve wild relatives;
- Accurate and timely information concerning the status of wild relatives is available and utilized; and
- Lessons and experiences from target provinces create conditions for replication and expansion of conservation programs.

In addition, this project will also contribute to alleviating poverty, improving educational levels and promoting gender equality at the wild crop relative sites.

At A Glance

Start Date: December 2007
End Date: December 2012
Implementing Partner: Ministry of Agriculture (MOA)
Project ID: [00053198]

UNDAF Goal: more efficient management of natural resources and development of environmentally friendly behavior in order to ensure environmental sustainability (Outcome 3)

MDG: eradicating extreme poverty and hunger (Goal 1), promoting gender equality and empowering women (Goal 3) and ensuring environmental sustainability (Goal 7)

CPAP output: [National & Local Biodiversity Action Plans updated and mainstreamed into the national & local Five Year Plan (7.2); Capacity of CSOs and communities to participate in biodiversity conservation activities strengthened (7.3); and National coordination mechanism established (7.4).]

Total Budget:	US\$	20,898,000
Donor (GEF):	US\$	8,056,000
UNDP:	US\$	650,000
Government (MOA):	US\$	5,982,000
Local Government:	US\$	6,210,000

Project locations: [Heilongjiang, Jilin, Henan, Ningxia, Xinjiang, Yunnan, Guangxi and Hainan]

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