

North Asia

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China

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Regional Coordinator



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Researchers working with growers in western China are delivering improvements in postharvest management of melons

China

GNI per capita (\$US)	1,740	Bilateral actual 2005–06	\$3.73 m
Population	1,308.0 million	Bilateral budget 2006–07*	\$3.23 m
Population 2015/2050	1,393/1,586.7 million	Bilateral budget 2007–08**	\$2.59 m
Active bilateral projects	17	Bilateral + multilateral budget 2007–08	\$2.73 m
Active multilateral projects	3		

*Includes co-funding of \$0.09 m (Grains R&D Corporation), \$0.36 m (Australian Greenhouse Office) and \$0.02 m (AusAID)

**Includes co-funding of \$0.09 m (Grains R&D Corporation) and \$0.17 m (Australian Greenhouse Office)

Country Manager
Ms Catriona Murray
ACIAR Country Manager, China



A Tibetan herdsman with his sheep

Key program managers

Dr Simon Hearn, Agricultural Development Policy

Dr Paul Fox, Crop Improvement and Management

Dr Christian Roth, Land and Water Resources

Dr Jon Tanner, Livestock Production Systems (Tibet AR only)

Key performance indicators (2007–08)

- ACIAR's program in Tibet Autonomous Region is refined by building on initial progress with crop–forage–livestock systems
- Evidence of utilisation of the results of economic, trade and policy-related research by Chinese government policy makers
- Useful genetic diversity for agronomically useful characteristics such as frost tolerance and disease resistance identified in Chinese pea or faba bean germplasm
- Options for economically viable rangeland management practices in Gansu and Inner Mongolia that have positive impacts on rangeland ecology and greenhouse gas emission identified and communicated to stakeholders
- At least 40% of all new projects designed to have components leading to significant farmer or policy impacts within five years of completion

Medium-term strategy

ACIAR's program in China will focus on sustainability aspects of agricultural production through policy and technical projects on better management of land and water resources in north-western China. In addressing sustainable production the need to raise farmers' incomes through increased productivity and marketability of produce is also taken into account in project design. To maximise poverty

reduction, attention will be increasingly targeted on rain-fed cropping systems with an emphasis on north-western China (Gansu, Ningxia, Qinghai and Shaanxi). There is a related but broader emphasis on improving agricultural productivity in Tibet Autonomous Region.

In recognition of the evolution of Australia's development assistance relationship with China all new activities will take the form of partnerships that include significant co-investment by our Chinese partners. ACIAR will make small investments through a China Linkages Scheme to sustain collaborative relationships between teams in selected completed ACIAR projects and to facilitate broader interactions between Chinese partner agencies and Australian agencies in subjects of high priority to both countries. Funding for exchange visits for workshops or other small activities for exposure to Australian agricultural policies, natural resource management practices, institutions and research management may also be provided via Small Research Activities involving China.

Position

ACIAR has had a program with China since 1984. Major areas of research have included agricultural water management, selection of Australian trees suited to Chinese forestry, improvement and integrated pest management in Brassica crops, studies of livestock production and diseases with a focus on sheep and wool, quality management in stored grains as well as broadacre crop and citrus improvement. Adoption of conservation tillage in some central western provinces has been recognised as part of the solution to improve crop management and reduce wind-blown dust in Beijing. In 1999, the focus of ACIAR's

program shifted towards western China, in line with the need to raise farmers' incomes in this part of China and to better manage land and water resources.

In view of the significant human and financial resources available within the Chinese National Agricultural Research System and the strong mutual benefits to Australia, ACIAR requires projects in China to have significant sharing of costs by Chinese and Australian research providers. ACIAR will usually seek a funding commitment through case-by-case exchanges of letters at the stage of development of full project proposals. Only a small proportion of the highest priority projects can be supported. Projects chosen must:

- address the highest priority of Chinese partners
- address overall Australia–China development policy (to 'Further mutual interest by supporting China's balanced development policies and working together in the region'*)
- complement other schemes for China–Australia collaboration, including the AusAID Australia–China Environment Development program, begun in 2006
- be in areas where the overwhelming driver is Australian technical comparative advantage
- complement rather than duplicate activities of other (larger) donors.

Within our stated priority areas, ACIAR will also fund small investments that foster collaborative linkages between activities that have been primarily funded from Australian and Chinese sources. Conservation tillage will be fully considered in this context.

Australian Inter-Governmental Cooperation

ACIAR projects form only one part of the China–Australia inter-governmental cooperation in agriculture and natural resource management.

AusAID's China strategy for 2006–10 has the goal of furthering mutual national interest by supporting China's balanced development policies and working together in the region. It has the three strategic objectives of building capacity in selected sectors in China, in particular governance, environment and health; enhancing the Australia–China relationship by building institutional linkages; and working collaboratively to strengthen the region.

ACIAR's China program, while maintaining a focus on sustainable resource management in poorer western regions reflects the strategic objective of building capacity in China, with a strong focus on capacity enhancement in technical and policy issues relating to the environment as it is either affected by agricultural production or in turn affects production sustainability. Governance and collaboration in the region are addressed by a second emphasis on agricultural development policy issues, particularly relating to trade policy and environmental management. ACIAR's mode of operation in China is through the development

of strong institutional linkages between Australian and Chinese government R&D and policymaking organisations, thus supporting the second strategic objective of the overall Australian aid program in China.

Other activities that are taken into account by ACIAR, and which may be an alternative source of support for researchers interested in China include:

- the **Australia–China Agricultural Cooperation Agreement** (ACACA, www.daff.gov.au/market-access-trade/iac/acaca), jointly administered by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry—Australia (DAFF) and the Chinese Ministry of Agriculture. ACACA provides funding for agricultural exchange projects between Australia and China. The present focus is on projects that demonstrate commercial potential and provide clear flow-on benefits to industry. DAFF has also established an Agricultural Technical Cooperation Program with initial projects in wool marketing and grasslands management. In addition, DAFF has formed a Strategic Partnership Agreement with AusAID to strengthen the whole-of-government approach to development cooperation in the Asia–Pacific region. This Partnership has helped facilitate recent water management assistance projects with China.
- Australian Government Department of Education Science and Training (DEST) 'International Science Linkages program' (www.dest.gov.au/science/isl). This includes competitive grants under the **Australia–China Special Fund for S&T Cooperation**, in which agriculture, biotechnology and environmental research form three of the priority areas. In addition, DEST supports international exchanges, targeted scientific and technological individual visits, missions and workshops to promote S&T collaboration. These are managed by the Australian Academy of Science (www.science.org.au/internat/index.htm) and the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering (www.atse.org.au).
- the Memorandum of Understanding on **Scientific and Technological Cooperation in Food Safety**, recently entered into by Food Standards Australia and New Zealand and the Chinese Ministry of Science and Technology.
- the **Joint Declaration on Bilateral Cooperation on Climate Change** between the Australian Greenhouse Office (Department of Environment and Heritage—DEH) and the National Development and Reform Commission for China (www.deh.gov.au/minister/env/2003/mr24oct203.html) which sets out cooperation in technology development and policy. ACIAR and the Australian Greenhouse Office are currently jointly funding two projects (LWR 2003/039, LPS 2001/094) which are relevant to both the agricultural sustainability and greenhouse gas reduction agendas.
- the **State Bureau of Foreign Experts Affairs of China** which is responsible for accrediting international

* Source: *China–Australia Country Program Strategy 2006–2010, AusAID, November 2005*

educators in China and for identifying and negotiating training opportunities across the world which will be of benefit to China. The related **China Association for International Exchange of Personnel** (www.china.org.cn) is a government-sponsored institution also engaged in the international exchange of specialised technical and managerial personnel in several areas, including agriculture, science and technology.

Indicative priorities

ACIAR has consultations with China to establish priorities for research collaboration, including meetings with senior leaders and researchers from the Ministries of Science and Technology, Agriculture, and Water Resources, as well as the China Academy of Sciences, China Academy of Agricultural Sciences, universities and provincial authorities.

ACIAR's China program for 2007–08 has the following themes:

Subprogram 1: Increased water productivity of agriculture in north-western China

- Technologies for improved water-use efficiency, with an emphasis on dryland agriculture

- Policies and institutions for improved land and water use

Subprogram 2: Improved agricultural productivity in Tibet Autonomous Region

- Improved crop–livestock systems in favourable areas of Tibet AR
- Economic analysis of crop and livestock development options for Tibet AR

Subprogram 3: Implications of Chinese trade developments for smallholders

- Implications of more open trade and associated economic policy reforms for poor smallholders in China, regional developing economies and Australian interests
- Identification of policy constraints to adoption of research findings

Subprogram 4: China linkages scheme

- Support for small activities arising out of ACIAR research to assist in communicating findings and to complement activities of other Australia–China cooperative programs

Current project portfolio

(Possible new projects commencing in 2007–08 shown as 'proposed')

Subprogram 1: Increased water productivity of agriculture in north-western China

ADP/2002/021	Sustainable land-use change in the north-west provinces of China
CIM/1999/072	Oilseed Brassica improvement in China, India and Australia
CIM/2000/035	Increased productivity of cool season pulses in rain-fed agricultural systems of China and Australia
CIM/2003/067 (Multilateral)	Ensuring productivity and food security through sustainable control of yellow rust of wheat in Asia (CIMMYT)
CIM/2005/111 (proposed)	More effective water use by rain-fed wheat in China and Australia
LPS/2001/094	Sustainable development of grasslands in western China
LWR/2002/094	Promotion of conservation agriculture using permanent raised beds in irrigated cropping in the Hexi Corridor, Gansu, China
LWR/2003/039	Improving the management of water and fertiliser for agricultural profitability, water quality and reduced nitrous oxide emissions in China and Australia
LWR/2005/059	Modelling water and solute processes and scenarios for optimisation of permanent raised bed systems in China, India, Pakistan and Indonesia
LWR/2006/076 (proposed)	Improving livelihoods and water productivity through rainwater harvesting for agriculture in north-west China
LWR/2007/191 (proposed)	Improving productivity and sustainability of farming systems in semi-arid regions of eastern Gansu province

Subprogram 2: Improved agricultural productivity in Tibet Autonomous Region

CIM/2002/093	Intensifying production of grain and fodder in central Tibet farming systems
LPS/2002/104	Increasing milk production from cattle in Tibet
LPS/2005/129	Mineral response in Tibetan livestock
LPS/2006/119 (proposed)	Integrated crop and dairy systems in Tibet Autonomous Region
LPS/2006/175 (proposed)	Economic analysis of rural household and development options for the Tibetan Autonomous Region

Subprogram 3: Implications of Chinese trade developments for smallholders

ADP/2004/044 (Multilateral)	Economic analysis of technical barriers limiting agricultural trade of China (IFPRI)
ADP/2004/045 (Multilateral)	Exploring alternative futures for agricultural knowledge, science and technology (KST) (IFPRI)
ADP/2005/070 (proposed)	Trade liberalisation impacts on smallholder incomes, employment, productivity and public good needs in Indonesia and China
PLIA/2006/135 (Multilateral, proposed)	Trends in world agriculture to 2030 in India, China and Indonesia (IFPRI)

Subprogram 4: China linkages scheme

PLIA/2005/152	Improved cold tolerance in rice in China and Australia
PLIA/2006/151	Establishment of beef on red soils in China
PLIA/2006/153	Soil filtration technology adoption in China

Other

CIM/2000/038	Use and improvement of sugarcane germplasm
HORT/1999/081	Reducing spoilage and microbial contamination of fresh vegetables in China and Australia
FST/1999/095	Improving the value chain for plantation grown eucalypt sawn wood in China, Vietnam and Australia: genetics and silviculture
FST/2001/021	Improving the value chain for plantation-grown eucalypt sawn wood in China, Vietnam and Australia: sawing and drying

*Harvest time*

