UK-China Cooperation on Sustainable Agriculture

- Framework and Implementation

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In China, any problem, no matter how small, multiplied by 1.3 billion, can be a big problem;

any resources, no matter how abundant, will become very modest when divided by 1.3 billion.

Wen Jiabao
UK-China Sustainable Development Dialogue (SDD)

• Initiated by Wen Jiabao and Tony Blair in 2004
• Officially launched in November 2005
• Priorities areas:
  1. Sustainable Consumption and Production
  2. Natural Resources Management
     Agriculture
  3. Urban Development
  4. Capacity Building and Governance for Sustainable Development Capacity
Defra & MOA joint Work Programme on Sustainable Agriculture and Fisheries, under the UK-China SDD.

The Work Programme includes six workstreams:

1. Agricultural sustainability strategies, policies and approaches
2. Agricultural biomass utilisation and biogas
3. Sustainable global fisheries, with particular reference to UK and China sustainable consumption and production
4. Management of agro-chemical inputs
5. Addressing climate change mitigation and adaptation
6. Ecosystem services and poverty alleviation.
MOU on Agricultural Cooperation between UK and China, signed in November 2008

- Policy exchange
  - Agricultural sustainability strategies, policies and approaches
  - Agricultural biomass utilisation
  - Sustainable global fisheries,
  - Management of agro-chemical inputs
  - Climate change M&A
  - Ecosystem services and poverty alleviation.

- Agricultural science and technology

- Exchange of personnel
UK China Food Security Action Plan

Overall objective
Improve global food security and advance efforts to achieve the UN’s Millennium Development Goals

Details of Cooperation
(i) Food quality / safety and agricultural trade promotion;
(ii) Agricultural and food security related research;
(iii) Trilateral cooperation in selected African countries.
Rationale for SAIN

1. Agricultural sustainability is a common concern of UK and China

2. Sustainability can only be achieved through partnership within and between countries;

3. More needs to be done to bring policy makers, researchers, extension staff, farmers and other stakeholders together

4. Policy making must be better informed and technical interventions better targeted

5. The two countries have many policy and research experiences that should be shared but there is no appropriate mechanism

6. Most collaborations have developed piece meal and do not exploit opportunities for synergism
SAIN was launched in Nov 2008 by agricultural and environmental ministers of China and the UK.

A mechanism to bring about closer collaboration on sustainable agriculture between the two countries and contribute to global sustainability.
SAIN’s Overall Purpose

To provide a coherent framework for the development and implementation of China-UK collaboration on sustainable agriculture.

The central aim is to contribute to the achievement of a resource efficient, low carbon economy and an environmentally friendly society.
SAIN’s Objectives

• Support the implementation of the UK-China MOU on Sustainable Agricultural Cooperation, the Sustainable Development Dialogue (SDD) and Food Security Action Plan

• Stimulate innovative thinking, research and policy approaches on all aspects of sustainable agriculture

• Communicate information on sustainable agriculture and disseminate best practices to key audiences (farmers, policy makers, businesses)

• Contribute to global sustainability through wider sharing of expertise between developed and emerging economies.
UK-China Sustainable Agriculture Innovation Network (SAIN)

How SAIN Operates

- Strategic Guidance
  - Governing Board
  - Steering Group

Operations
- Secretariats
- Working Groups

Actions
- Research projects
- Knowledge sharing
- Capacity building
- Communication & engagement

• Research projects
• Knowledge sharing
• Capacity building
• Communication & engagement
SAIN Focus Areas

• Improving soil and crop nutrient management and reducing non-point pollution and GHG emission

• Increasing the use of agricultural biomass and livestock manure for biofuels and organic fertiliser production

• Climate change mitigation and adaption measures and their integration into all agricultural policies

• Policies to achieve circular agriculture
**SAIN’s on-going research projects**

- **Improved nutrient management in agriculture: A key contribution to low carbon economy (2009-2012)**
- **Manure nutrient management (2010-2012)**
- **Estimates of future agricultural GHG emissions and mitigation in China (2010-2013)**
- **Integrating policy for agricultural water use and energy (2010-2012)**
- **Conservation for enhanced utilization of crop wild relative diversity (2010-2013)**
- **Building capacity for adaptation of agriculture to climate change in China (2010-2013)**
Developing a catchment management template to mitigate non-point source pollution in China
Thanks for your attention

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