

2016 IRC

Workshop

Sustainable Chinese Grasslands

Sunday, July 17, 2016

Organized by the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR)

Overview

In 2001 a new program started to investigate improved grassland management in China through finding better ways of improving degraded grasslands while improving the incomes of herder households. A collective program developed with groups across northern and western China, facilitated by funding primarily from the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research. Since 2001 much has been learnt and herders have and are, changing practices, as they shift from a survival mode to one of becoming more production oriented. Our understanding of grassland systems has improved and better guidelines for managing them to achieve a sustainable / resilient state are being developed. This workshop aims to discuss the current state of knowledge for managing these vast grasslands. The results not only have application to the 400m ha of grasslands in China, but also to Mongolia, Russia and throughout Central Asia.

Agenda

Sustainable Chinese Grasslands Workshop

July 17, 2016
Gallery C, TCU Place, Saskatoon, SK

- 8:30 AM **Registration**
- 9:00 AM **Sustainable Chinese Grasslands - Introduction**
David Kemp & Site Leaders (Han Guodong, Hou Fujiang, Hou Xiangyang, Wu Jianping, Zhang Yingjun)
Outline of project strategy, case study farm approach, models, national programs, grazing management
- 9:30 AM **Changing animal practices and industry structures on grassland farms**
Wu Jianping, David Kemp
As herders / farmers move from subsistence to production, what are the changes being seen on farms
- 10:00 AM **Morning Tea**
- 10:30 AM **Farm demonstrations - what are we learning**
Han Guodong, Li Zhiguo
National program and general results obtained, what principles have been developed, general analysis of farm financial structures
- 11:00 AM **Herder attitudes and implication for grassland management**
Hou Xiangyang
Sociological studies of herder attitudes
- 11:30 AM **Selecting management strategies**
Taro Takahashi, Karl Behrendt, Yuan Qing
The four+ models used to help identify suitable changes that can be tested, key design features, criteria to decide which enterprise satisfies income, the environment and other criteria
- 12:00 PM **Sustainability modelling**
Karl Behrendt, Warwick Badgery, Zhang Yingjun
Improving household welfare through managing the interaction between livestock / grassland management and environmental impacts – include landscape issues (water and air quality), greenhouse gas abatement, soil carbon
- 12:30 PM **Discussion on morning session**
- 1:00 PM **Lunch**

- 2:00 PM **Grassland management- Introduction to three grassland type papers**
Warwick Badgery, David Kemp
Principles being developed to define suitable grassland management practices –how the state of knowledge has changed e.g. from simple bans to the need for more subtle tactics
- 2:20 PM **Managing alpine grasslands**
Hou Fujiang
What are the issues – common grazing – overuse in parts of landscape – toxic plant management
- 2:45 PM **Managing desert steppe**
Han Guodong, Wang Zhongwu
How can the botanical composition be managed by grazing
- 3:10 PM **Afternoon Tea**
- 3:40 PM **Managing typical steppe**
Zhang Yingjun
What are the indicators for desirable grasslands – what optimises environmental and ecological outcomes
- 4:05 PM **Training officials and herders, drivers of practice change**
David Michalk, Colin Langford, Wu Jianping, Zhao Mengli
In delivering outcomes what ‘drivers’ are important – shifting herders from survival to production
- 4:30 PM **Policy implications**
David Kemp, Site Leaders, Karl Behrendt
Outcomes from project, issues in integration and future work required
- 5:00 PM **General Discussion**

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