


IPSI Case Study Summary Sheet

Basic Information

Title of case study			
Working with nature for a more resilient world to COVID-19: Inspirations from farmer communities in China			
Submitting IPSI member organization(s)			
Center for Chinese Agricultural Policy			
Other contributing organization(s) (IPSI members and/or non-members)			
UNEP-IEMP, Farmers' Seed Network (China)			
Author(s) and affiliation(s)			
Yufen Chuang, Xin Song, Yanyan Zhang, Guanqi Li, Yiching Song			
Format of case study (manuscript or audiovisual)	manuscript	Language	English
Keywords			
CEL Flagship Programme, Women Empowerment, Ecosystem-based Adaptation, Biodiversity Conservation, COVID-19			
Date of submission (or update, if this is an update of an existing case study)	26/08/2020		
Web link (of the case study or lead organization if available for more information)	http://www.unep-iemp.org/index.php?menu=25&id=202		

Geographical Information

Country (where site(s) or activities described in the case study are located – can be multiple, or even “global”)									
China									
Location(s) (within the country or countries – leave blank if specific location(s) cannot be identified)									
North China: Aohan prefecture in Inner Mongolia province, Zhangjiakou county and She county in Hebei province, Shunyi district in Beijing. East China: Kunshan city in Jiangsu province. West and Southwest China: Xining city in Qinghai province, Lijiang city in Yunnan province, Nanning city in Guangxi province.									
Longitude/latitude or Google Maps link (if location is identified)									
									
Ecosystem(s)									
Forest		Grassland		Agricultural	x	In-land water		Coastal	
Dryland	x	Mountain	x	Urban/peri-urban	x	Other (Please specify)			
Socioeconomic and environmental characteristics of the area									
The scope of this case study is covering 14 communities in the north, east and southwest China with different types of landscapes, farming practices and crops including large scale agriculture, emerging organic and community supported agriculture and traditional smallholder farming.									

Description of human-nature interactions in the area
The targeted communities and farms are combining the traditional farming practices with modern technology and innovations to develop ecological agriculture and conserve local farmers' seeds for a sustainable food system to meet the demand of rural and urban people.

Contents

Status (<i>"ongoing" or "completed"</i>)	Completed	Period (MM/YY to MM/YY)	01/2020-07/2020
Rationale (<i>why activities or policies described, or information shared in the case study are needed</i>)			
The COVID-19 crisis has shown that the health and the future of people and nature are intertwined. As global leaders called for 'care for nature' to keep people safe and well, China Farmers' Seed Network, working with UNEP-IEMP, collated stories from 14 farming communities in China to show how working with nature can help people cope better with and recover better from crisis like COVID-19 and climate change.			
Objectives (<i>goals of activities or policies described, or of producing the case study</i>)			
To reflect on why working with nature to adapt to climate change can offer valuable lessons on how to build back better from COVID-19.			
Activities and/or practices employed			
Co-supported by Farmers' Seed Network (China) and UNEP-IEMP projects, these farmer communities have been working with nature to adapt to climate change. Working closely with scientists and drawing on traditional knowledge, farmers collectively conserve and breed crop varieties that are better adapted to climate risks like drought. They revive traditional farming techniques for pest control, such as combining organic rice with duck and fish production. They practice and promote traditional intercropping to increase biodiversity on farm and better manage soil and water.			
Results			
As COVID-19 continues to disrupt transportation and travel, those farmers found that working with nature has made their farming communities more resilient not only to climate change but also to COVID-19 impacts. They have secure access to seeds as they conserve and breed seeds themselves locally. They grow a diversity of food on their farms so access to nutritious and affordable food has not been disrupted.			
Lessons learned (<i>factors in success or failure, challenges and opportunities</i>)			
The stories from those communities' echoes strongly with UNEP-IEMP research which shows working with nature to adapt to climate change (also known as Ecosystem-based Adaptation) are cost-effective and can bring a wide range of social, economic and environmental benefits to local communities. As governments consider how to protect food security during COVID-19 and how to build more resilient food system post COVID-19, they must ensure that recovery policies and investments support integrated solutions for people, nature and the climate and those local actors who are leading the way in implementing them.			
Key messages			
UNEP-IEMP and FSN carry out comprehensive, multi-level long-term cooperation in action and policy policing especially at the community level. The Farmers Seed Network and UNEP-IEMP summarize a series of tweets based on community responses and adaptation to the COVID-19 and climate change, to show how working with nature can help people cope better with and recover better from the crisis and changes.			
Relationship to other IPSI activities (<i>if the case study is related to any other IPSI collaborative activities, case studies, etc.</i>)			
Farmers' Seed Network (FSN) is a pioneering organization in applying participatory action research on agrobiodiversity and natural resource management in the past 2 decades in China. As a non-profit social organization, FSN has worked in over 30 rural communities in 10 provinces across the country to support community-based seed conservation and sustainable utilization, and facilitate collaborations between farmers and plant scientists for strengthening farmers' seed systems, improving farmers' livelihoods, enhancing farmers' dignity, and promoting national seed and food security.			
Funding (<i>any relevant information about funding of activities or projects described in the case study</i>)			
Flagship Programme on Climate, Ecosystem and Livelihood supported by UNEP-IEMP			

Contributions to Global Agendas

CBD Aichi Biodiversity Targets (<https://www.cbd.int/sp/targets/>)

The table below shows based on the self-evaluation by author(s). ● and ■ indicates the “direct” or “indirect” contributions to the CBD’s Aichi Biodiversity Targets respectively to which the work described in this case study contributes to.

Strategic Goal A				Strategic Goal B					
●	■	●	●	■	■	●	■	■	
Strategic Goal C			Strategic Goal D			Strategic Goal E			
	●	●	●	■			●	●	■

UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgs>)

The table below shows based on the self-evaluation by author(s). ● and ■ indicates the “direct” or “indirect” contributions to the SDGs respectively to which the work described in this case study contributes to.

■	●	●		■			●	
	●	■	●		●		■	