



***1 October 2012***

**Banquet hosted by  
Chinese Academy of Agriculture Sciences (Caas)**

**Mr Li Jiayang, President of the China Academy of Agricultural  
Sciences, CAAS**

**Ladies and gentlemen.**

It is an honor to be here in the People's Republic of China.

Today has been a very interesting day.

Thanks to Mr Li, I was able to visit some of the facilities of the Chinese  
Academy of Agricultural Sciences.

I saw the Institute of Crop Sciences, the Gene Bank and the National  
Agricultural Technology Demonstration Park.



It has been exciting to see some of China's advanced scientific technologies at work, as well as its academic knowledge and expertise.

I am especially impressed by the many ways in which CAAS develops, shares and applies its research and technology.

You have created a unique series of links between the worlds of science, academia, applied research and farmers.

When I see the Academy at work, I believe, more than ever, that we as a world community, have the means to eradicate hunger and extreme poverty.

As you know, that is the mandate of the Food and Agriculture Organization.

To achieve this goal, we will all need to work together - governments, civil society and the private sector - in co-operation with the men and women who work in farming, fisheries, forestry, and other agriculture-related areas.

It is good to do research, to develop new technologies, to train new generations of young people. But, to truly make a difference, we must be sure to make research and technology accessible to others.

Through CAAS, China has the potential to take its know-how and adapt it so that farmers everywhere can benefit from the best materials and new methods, while preserving agricultural traditions that have served us well.



As China's national agricultural research organization, CAAS already has extensive international co-operation relationships with more than 40 countries and international organizations.

These relationships allow you to share knowledge – and to learn from others.

I congratulate CAAS for all that it is doing to serve agricultural and rural development at home and abroad. I urge you to continue to use your work to empower farmers, build the capacity of farmers, and to improve lives.

We at FAO look forward to working together with CAAS and China in this regard.

Thank you.