

# FAO's **30** *Years* in China

1982-2012

**Bridging China to the World  
in Food and Agriculture Development**



**FAO Representation in China  
October 2012**

## 1. Introduction

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) leads international efforts to build a world free of hunger and malnutrition where food and agriculture contribute to improving the living standards for all, especially the poorest, in an economically, socially and environmentally sustainable way.

As a developing country with over 1.3 billion population, China always attaches high importance to food and agriculture development. After resuming its membership in 1973, China has been maintaining close cooperation with FAO. In 1982, FAO announced the establishment of a Representation Office in China. Not long thereafter the country entered an important era of “Reform and Opening-up”.

After three decades of economic reform, China has become the second largest economy in the World. In the 21st century, FAO’s cooperation with China has entered a new era. In addition to receiving needed assistance, China has become one of the major supporters to the FAO led endeavours to fight hunger and food insecurity through offering its successful experience to the rest of the developing world.



FAO-China office, Beijing

## 2. FAO’s Work in China

FAO's mandate is to raise levels of nutrition, improve agricultural productivity, better the lives of rural populations and contribute to the growth of the world economy. Specifically, FAO Representation in China is dedicated to:

### 2.1 Extending knowledge and technology to the field <<<<

Over the past 30 years, FAO has invested approximately US\$221 million to support over 400 field projects in the country through project modalities of Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP), Government Cooperation Programme (GCP) and the Unilateral Trust Fund (UTF) Programme. FAO has extended specific knowledge and technologies to the field in the agriculture, fisheries, livestock, forestry and natural resources management sectors,

helping China to both access international experience and pilot its own new approaches toward achieving its development goals and targets.

These projects covered technical assistance for:

- policy, advice and development that resulted into the review and development of several sectoral policies, strategies and legislations;
- setting of norms and standards in harmony with those established under international normative instruments (agreements, conventions, protocols and treaties) to which China is party to;
- institutional and technical capacity development;
- information collection, collation, analysis, compilation and dissemination in user friendly formats, such as statistics, maps, etc;
- transfer of technologies and best practices, including through South-South Cooperation Programme;
- the control and prevention of transboundary animal and plant diseases and pests; and
- preparedness for effective and efficient response to and rehabilitation of emergencies affected areas and communities.



## 2.2 Providing a platform for information sharing and capacity development <<<

Serving as an information network among its member nations, FAO collects, compiles, analyses and disseminates information and data in China. In addition to sharing information and knowledge, FAO has been actively coordinating with China to both participate in and host high-level international meetings, dialogues and events for fostering better response and decision-making alongside international agriculture development. In the meantime, FAO has been developing the capacity at community and institutional levels in the country, addressing the needs for China's engagement in the international arena.



FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific, Beijing, China, 2004



Capacity strengthening of International Agriculture Training Centers in China

## 2.3 Coordinating standard setting and policy making <<<

FAO has coordinated China's involvement in standard setting work through agreements, conventions, protocols and treaties in recent years. In close collaboration with other UN agencies, FAO has assisted the country in devising policies and plans to respond to climate change and emergencies that require global synergy. FAO lent China with policy expertise in defining and formulating national agriculture development strategies and policies.



39th session of the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues, Beijing, China, 2007

## 2.4 Boosting the development of South-South Cooperation <<<

Since the South-South Cooperation (SSC) Initiative was launched by FAO in 1996 within the framework of the Special programme for Food Security, China has always been actively involved and its efforts are highly appreciated and commended by FAO and recipient countries. To date, China has dispatched about 935 Chinese experts and technicians, through FAO, to Africa, Asia, the Caribbean and the South Pacific to provide technical assistance. China has contributed USD 30 million Trust Fund to FAO to support SSC in 2008, which also marked China's entry into FAO's donor community.



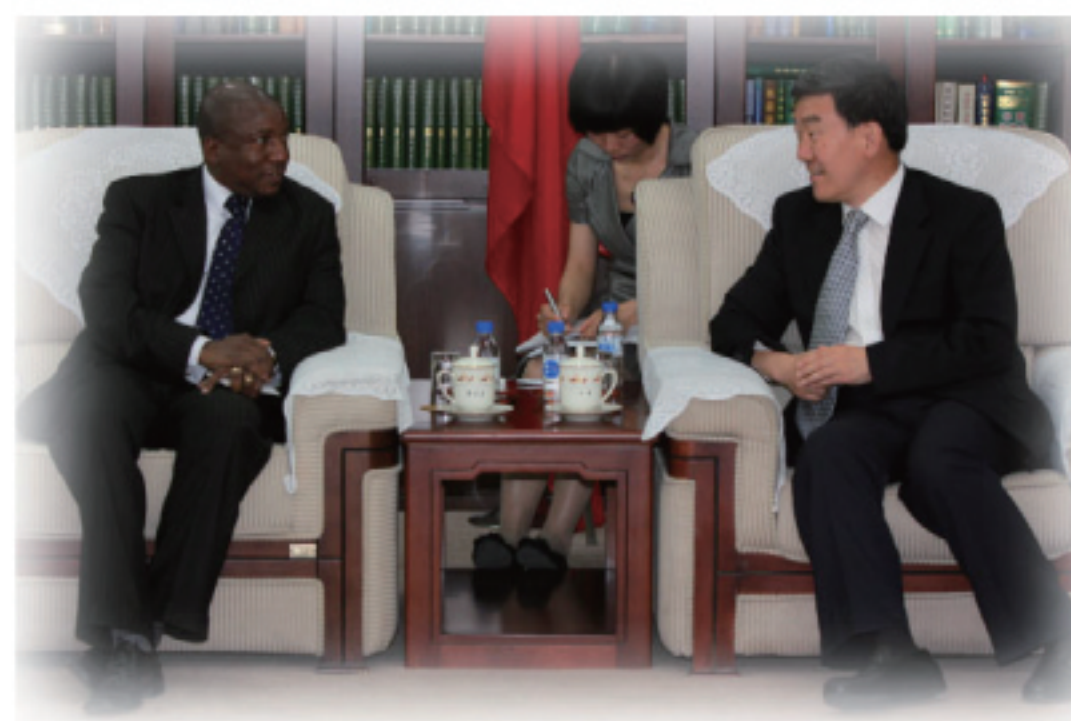
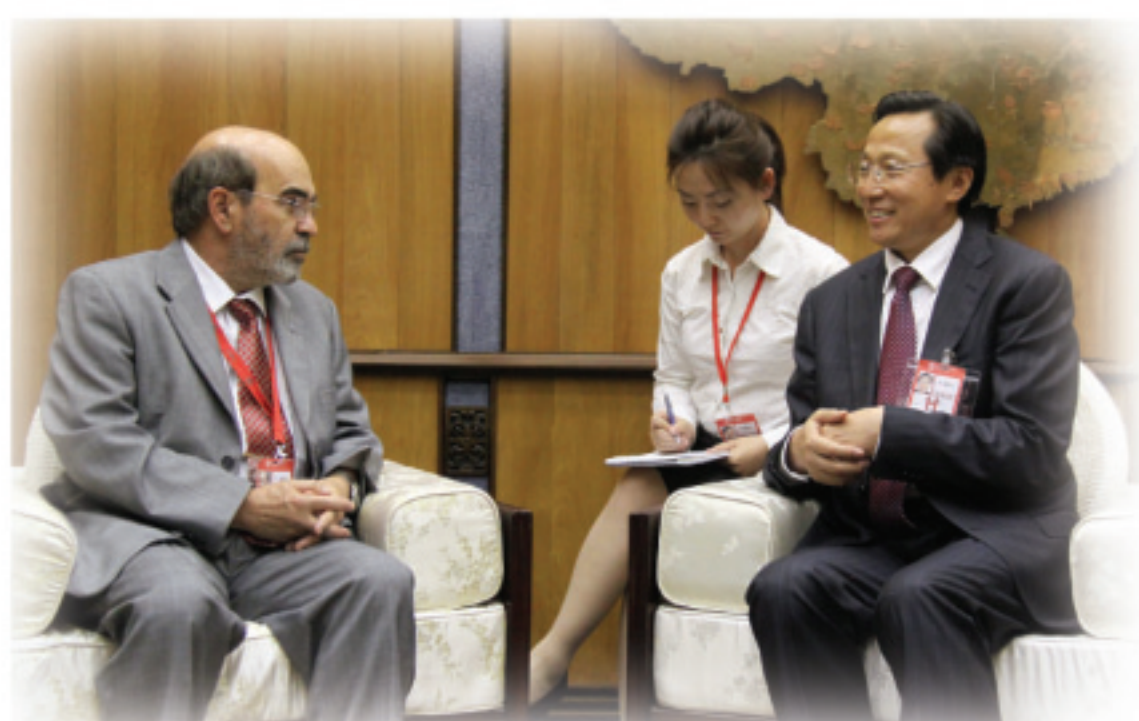
USD 30 million donation to FAO announced by Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao, New York, USA, 2008



SSC Chinese expert in the field

## 3. Perspectives

Despite the country's rapid rise, China remains a developing country striving for a balanced and low carbon development pathway embracing modernization and industrialization drive that is concomitantly equitable as well as environmentally sustainable and climate friendly. China has recognized this to be essential both for its own environmental sustainability and to contain climate change globally. China thus continues to seek FAO's assistance in addressing various aspects of this complex equation and FAO is determined to continue its support to China in the future. To this end, FAO and China have jointly formulated the 2012-2015 Country Programming Framework for enhanced, focused and effective collaboration.





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