

Present the

International Workshop

on

Sustainable Food and Agriculture

Beijing, China

March 2010



Our global food and agriculture systems are in crisis. Energy and input-intensive farming practices - along with industrial food processing and distribution systems - are major emitters of greenhouse gases and are widely understood to be out of sync with the long term goal of achieving sustainability.

During the International Workshop on Sustainable Food and Agriculture, participants from China and the world over will meet to share their knowledge, discuss the current challenges of our global food and agriculture systems, and identify the best ways forward to sustainable solutions.

From exchanges on practical alternatives in agricultural techniques and food production drawn from around the world, to policy roundtables on innovative pathways toward systemic change, to international food tastings and interactive panel discussions bringing together experts and practitioners from far-flung locales, this lively event will push the boundaries of the current discussion. The time for change is now.

You are invited to participate in this unique event - the International Workshop on Sustainable Food and Agriculture in China!

You can participate!

We invite you to submit your discussion ideas, or offer your time to spread the word to friends and colleagues about this important event. Here's what you can do:

- Are you an expert, researcher, or practitioner in the area of food and agriculture? Does your organization work on food or agriculture innovations? Submit your ideas for presentations, panel discussions, or roundtables!
- Would you like to see this event have a greater impact, have greater student outreach, or include more participants from rural areas around the world? Consider becoming a sponsor. Contributions are tax-deductible.

Why in China?

Current events place Beijing at the center of a growing economic, environmental, and agricultural crisis that is felt throughout the world. The time to come together to share ideas and generate solutions is now.

International food price hikes and other recent events have brought awareness of food security and food safety to an all-time high in China and in the world. In China, the general public, the academy, and the government are all deeply concerned about these issues and are eager for more information from other parts of the globe.

As a result of the ongoing financial and economic crisis, tens of millions of migrant workers in China have lost their jobs in the export zones due to the decreased demands from the US and other OECD countries. Millions have returned to their rural villages, dependent on the ever-scarcer land. Like small farmers everywhere, they desperately need a viable and meaningful livelihood. But what is the 'right' way to do this, not just in China, but around the world?

With the right enabling conditions, the current crisis can serve as a catalyst to transform our existing food and agriculture systems towards greater social equity and environmental sustainability.

This event will help make this possible by bringing together an uncommon group of people from around the world to discuss alternatives. Simultaneous translation will be available at panels and plenary events to enable maximum participation and exchange.

Framed by China's growing international importance, this event can spur discussion about a global green new deal in the face of current crises, and explore what it can mean for the world's rural majority.



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For the latest info, or to join our mailing list, see: <http://action2030.org/foodagfest/>

Be sure to check our website regularly for news and updates!