Project description

Two Sino-Danish Government-to-Government cooperation projects have been successfully running since January 2017.

Project A focuses on cooperation within legislative aspects of food safety and capacity building within procedures for laboratorial methods and testing. Improvement of food safety is a high priority for the Chinese government due to a number of safety scandals and a strong public focus on food safety. Development of sufficient legislations, implementation and efficient control systems both in the agricultural production and in the food supply chain are major challenges to the government and to provincial administrations.

Due to the Communist Party’s congress in March 2018 and the subsequent restructuring of the central government, the area of “food safety” was moved from one ministry (China Food and Drug Administration, CFDA) to another ministry (State Administration of Market Regulation, SAMR). Accordingly, new project partners joined Project A. The project activities continued to support China’s efforts on improved food safety by introducing a more risk-based and preventive approach with a strong value chain focus. Special emphasis is put on how to establish a recall system for hazardous and fraudulent food on the Chinese market.

Project B focuses on capacity building within systems for handling and use of manure as fertilizer, both from a regulatory and from a technical point of view.

China faces major environmental challenges partly due to agricultural activities. Use of fertilisers and pesticides are among the highest in the world. Soil erosion, soil pollution and loss of agricultural biodiversity are widespread. Water scarcity affects many parts of the country. The Danish public sector has extensive experience in drafting and implementing regulatory measures and laws on e.g. husbandry regulation and food safety, which can inspire the Chinese counterparts in their efforts to address these challenges. In addition, the Danish private sector can offer technical solutions for more sustainable production methods, establishment of cooperatives, set-up of systems for advisory service and educational programmes to support the demand from China.

Key activities in 2018

- Successful implementation of train-the-trainer-programme for 20 Chinese governmental officials (agriculture)
- Launching of Sino-Danish guidelines on manure handling
- Dynamic training course for 100 food safety inspectors covering all provinces in China
- Fruitful admittance of partner candidates from CAAS and CFDA to a range of courses at University of Copenhagen

Main achievements in 2018

Sino-Danish cooperation with State Administration of Market Regulation (SAMR) and Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (MARA) has been deepened and relations to other relevant stakeholders have been intensified and new Chinese partners from the administrative authorities has been introduced which is beneficial for the Danish relationship with Chinese authorities. Extensive networks and dynamic cooperation at regional/provincial levels have been strengthened. Recommendations on utilization of manure have been used as input for national guidelines published by MARA. Knowledge gained in relation to food safety has been input to food safety scheme as China is about to renew the food safety control system.

Also in 2018 the Chinese and Danish partners have started the process of defining the new projects themes of the second phase of SSC (2019-2022). The second phase of SSC will have a continuous focus within the areas of A) food safety and B) recommendations for environmentally sound use of animal manure as fertilizer. In late 2018 and beginning of 2019 Danish experts have already completed very successful fact-finding visits with the Chinese partners.

Status: Full SSC project under implementation.

Partners: State Administration of Market Regulation, Ministry of Agriculture, Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences, Harbin Municipality and the Danish Food and Drug Administration under the Ministry of Environment and Food.

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