

## Save-our-Seeds & Pesticide Eco Alternatives Center

### Report on EU-China NGO Twinning program

Luise Körner, Save-our-Seeds, Germany

YANG Hongyan, PEAC, Kunming

*The principle topics of this exchange were sustainable agriculture, genetically modified organisms (GMO), food safety and agriculture policies. The participants not only wished to develop joint solutions for global issues through comparing and sharing different cases, they also aimed to build a communication mechanism for European and Chinese farmers for the purpose of experience sharing*

### Luise Körner, Save-our-seeds, Germany

Starting from the 1st of November 2014 Luise Körner stayed with the Pesticide Eco Alternatives Center in Kunming for four weeks, as part of the EU-China NGO-Twinning-Program.

#### ***Twinning overview***

Luise Körner coordinates the 2000 m<sup>2</sup> project at Save Our Seeds. One of the project's aims is to show 2000 m<sup>2</sup> of arable land and the farmers working on it in different countries. During her stay with PEAC in China, Luise Körner was introduced to a large number of rural communities in the country sides of Yunnan Province. PEAC provided translations for each field trip, which allowed her to have conversations with farmers and the people in the rural villages. These experiences and learnings were impressive and shared through the 2000 m<sup>2</sup> website. [\*1] During her stay in Germany, Hongyan Yang had already translated the 2000 m<sup>2</sup> website into Chinese [\*2]. Therefore a tool was provided to present the project and its aim to establish an "experimental" field on Yunnan's country side to a broader audience.

#### ***At the PEAC office***

What's more Luise Körner had a chance to work together with PEAC's staff at their Kunming office. Through this she achieved a true insight into the way an NGO in China operates. From bigger hurdles such as fundraising and dealing with only little governmental support, to the smaller ones such as the regular power blackouts and water cuts. The brightest parts certainly were the farmers' market which is organized by PEAC in cooperation with other organizations and their project work with students and children. The latter led to an

inspiration to cooperate with the “school and genetic engineering” project co—initiated by Save Our Seeds. The materials could be translated, complemented and used in both languages.

### Food and Farming here and there – approaches to empower producers and consumers

Being part of the PEAC team Luise Körner was not only allowed to experience PEAC’s daily work, but also to make colleague friends rather than business contacts. For future collaborations this presumably will be a highly valuable part. What came up also through the experience of the twinning program was the big difference in situations of Chinese and German farmers. Hongyan Yang and Luise Körner had longer discussions about what it means to a farmer in their home countries and how to advocate for small scale farming as an NGO. The plan is now to build awareness for the situation of small scale farmers on the one hand. On the other hand PEAC and Save Our Seeds want to empower citizens in both countries to make their choice when it comes food and farming based the knowledge provided. An ongoing exchange via the websites of PEAC and Save Our Seeds will help to promote this.

### Future plans for cooperation

## 损失&浪费



**食品供应链中我们还损失了什么**

假设我们一生中每天都消耗3500卡路里，我们有可能直接爆掉。一个很不锻炼的成年人每天需要大约2000卡路里。如果将包含这么多卡路里的食物放在一个盘子里，放于全球，那就需要收割4600卡路里的食物——比成年人每天所需要的两倍还多。

一方面，为了让超市里面的东西永远看起来新鲜和完美，并随时有货，很多食物都被扔了；另一方面因为我们买的食物往往会比我们能吃下的要多，因此造成了食物的浪费。不是所有浪费都能被避免，例如，蔬菜皮，然而，的确很多浪费都是可以避免的。在欧洲以及其他工业地区，食物大多是在加工、零售、烹饪和私人宴请的时候被浪费的。在热带地区和欠发达地区，未经田间到加工的生产链的食物浪费是最严重的：发霉的、变质的、被老鼠和虫啃的，甚至是还没有收割的。收获后的损失同样也出现在欧洲。由于胡萝卜、土豆以及其他蔬菜经常不符合零售业的要求，数以吨计的蔬菜被销毁或者直接留在田里。

[Show Sources \(21 More Words\)](#)

The 2000 m<sup>2</sup> experimental field is just being established. It gives both organizations a precise task to exchange stories, photos and knowledge on a regular basis. Hongyan Yang met with several bigger organizations and grass root groups to make contact for future collaborations. If requested, Luise Körner will be happy to help set up contacts and cooperation partners for PEAC in Germany. Luise Körner is currently working on articles about the 2000 m<sup>2</sup> project

cooperation in China for other formats such as the German Food Assembly. She also will speak at the Chinese-German students meeting this March in Münster about the situation of Chinese NGOs and hold a workshop there on the possibilities and challenges of small scale farmers in China.

[\*1] Articles about the exchange experience by Luise Körner:

<http://www.2000m2.eu/de/unser-kleiner-2000-m%C2%B2-weltacker-china/>

<http://www.2000m2.eu/de/kleinbauerliche-landwirtschaft-china-jeder-quadratcentimeter-za-ht/>

<http://www.2000m2.eu/de/vielfalt-statt-monokulturen-wie-ein-kleinbauer-china-sein-dorf-u-berzeugte/>

[\*2] The Chinese version of the 2000 m<sup>2</sup> Website provided by Hongyan Yang, PEAC:

<http://www.2000m2.eu/zh-hans/>

## **YANG Hongyan, PEAC, Kunming**

Between the 29<sup>th</sup> of September and the 27<sup>th</sup> of October 2014 Yang Hongyan stayed with the Save-our-Seeds in Berlin as part of the EU-China NGO-Twinning-Program.

### ***Twinning overview***

During her 4-weeks stay in Germany, Yang Hongyan stayed at SOS to go deeper to an agriculture project named “2000m<sup>2</sup>” which is an educational project covering issues related to food safety, biodiversity, agriculture policies, and more. In addition, she visited around 16 NGOs, research institutes and farms in total and got to learn about agriculture development, agriculture policies, and relevant movements by NGOs, institutes and farmers as well. The exchange not only provided the opportunities for PEAC and SOS to obtain a better understanding of small scale farming in both regions, but also promoted communication and exchange among all participant organizations, and provided the platform to get to know and link to more other NGOs, government sectors, and research institutes.

### ***Visiting small scale farmers in Germany***

It was a great opportunity being able to look at farms and talk to farmers directly and visit farms to learn about farmers’ life and agriculture development in Germany. I was firstly impressed that farmers in Germany indeed do have quite big-scale farm land at their hands. Secondly, I was surprised that farmers in Germany are satisfied with their life and proud to be a farmer. One farmer’s daughter gave up her work as an engineer with high salary and went back to the farm as a farmer. It was totally different from that in China where farmers don’t like to be farmers. Agriculture in Germany seems to be mostly machine-based. But in China, especially in the Southwest, farm work more relies on labor force. Farmers in the

Southwest of China turn up the soil by the hoe, harvest by a sickle, or by hand

### ***Overall Impression and Future Plans for Cooperation***

It was a busy, but indeed a quite fruitful and interesting exchange trip. We worked with small farmers directly, but we think farmers in both regions are scientists on the farm field. They have accumulated rich farming culture and environmental friendly farming systems. It is of great importance to build a platform for communication and experience exchange between farmers in both regions as exchange would be the most powerful driving force for awareness raising and action change. Promoting mutual learning between farmers in both regions would be helpful to promote the sustainable development of agriculture in China and Germany.

In short, EU-China Twinning Exchange Program provided the opportunities for PEAC and SOS to obtain a better understanding of small scale farming in both regions; promoted the establishment of trust-building relations, alliances and cooperation between PEAC and SOS and promoted communication and network building between Chinese NGOs. Furthermore, The communication and exchange between both sides enhanced the global perspectives on small scale farming and contribute to capacity building for the organization.