



## **FAO-GEF Project Implementation Report 2023 – Revised Template**

Period covered: 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023

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## 1. Basic Project Data

### General Information

<b>Region:</b>	Asia Pacific
<b>Country (ies):</b>	China
<b>Project Title:</b>	Innovative transformation of China's food production systems and agro-ecological landscapes towards sustainability Consisting of two sub-projects: (1) FAO-MARA sub-project (2) WB-Hubei sub-project "Hubei Smart and Sustainable Agriculture Project"
<b>FAO Project Symbol:</b>	GCP/CPR/065/GFF ( <b>WB Project ID:</b> P172224/P168061)
<b>GEF ID:</b>	10246
<b>GEF Focal Area(s):</b>	FOULR IP
<b>Project Executing Partners:</b>	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (MARA) Hubei Province Department of Agriculture and Rural Affairs
<b>Initial project duration (years):</b>	5.5 years (2021-2026)
<b>Project coordinates:</b> <i>This section should be completed ONLY by:</i> <i>a) Projects with 1st PIR;</i> <i>b) In case the geographic coverage of project activities has changed since last reporting period.</i>	<i>[Projects in a) and b) categories should indicate YES here and provide the geocoded data in Annex 2]</i>

### Project Dates

<b>GEF CEO Endorsement Date:</b>	4 March, 2021
<b>Project Implementation Start Date/EOD :</b>	FAO-MARA sub-project: 1st July, 2021 WB-Hubei sub-project: The project became effective in August 2021, and launched in May 2023
<b>Project Implementation End Date/NTE<sup>1</sup>:</b>	1 April 2027
<b>Revised project implementation End date (if approved) <sup>2</sup></b>	n/a

### Funding

<b>GEF Grant Amount (USD):</b>	Total GEF grant: USD 13,461,468, of which: (1) FAO-MARA sub-project: USD 7,179,450 (2) WB-Hubei sub-project: USD 6,282,018
<b>Total Co-financing amount (USD)<sup>3</sup>:</b>	Total USD 402,190,000, of which: (1) FAO-MARA sub-project: USD 56,500,000 (2) WB-Hubei sub-project: USD 345,690,000
<b>Total GEF grant delivery (as of June 30, 2023 (USD):</b>	Total USD 2,440,246, of which: (1) FAO-MARA sub-project: 1,440,246 USD (2) WB-Hubei sub-project: USD 1 million

<sup>1</sup> As per FPMIS

<sup>2</sup> If NTE extension has been requested and approved by the FAO-GEF Coordination Unit.

<sup>3</sup> This is the total amount of co-financing as included in the CEO Document/Project Document.

<b>Total GEF grant actual expenditures (excluding commitments) as of June 30, 2023 (USD)<sup>4</sup>:</b>	Total USD 2 181 527, of which: (1) FAO-MARA sub-project: USD 1 181 527 (2) WB-Hubei sub-project: USD 1 million
<b>Total estimated co-financing materialized as of June 30, 2023<sup>5</sup></b>	Total USD 13,589,200, of which: (1) FAO-MARA sub-project: USD 13,589,200 (2) WB-Hubei sub-project: USD 0 (Note: The GEF is fully blended with a World Bank loan in the amount of USD 150 million)

### M&E Milestones

<b>Date of Last Project Steering Committee (PSC) Meeting:</b>	March 10, 2023
<b>Expected Mid-term Review date<sup>6</sup>:</b>	November, 2024
<b>Actual Mid-term review date (if already completed):</b>	
<b>Expected Terminal Evaluation Date<sup>7</sup>:</b>	September, 2026
<b>Tracking tools (TT)/Core indicators (CI) updated before MTR or TE stage (provide as Annex)</b>	<i>[It is mandatory for projects to update the TT or CI before Mid-Term or Terminal Evaluation stage. For projects that have a planned MTR or TE in the next fiscal year, please indicate YES here and provide the updated TT or CI as Annex.]</i>

### Overall ratings

<b>Overall rating of progress towards achieving objectives/ outcomes (cumulative):</b>	Overall: (1) FAO-MARA sub-project: S (2) WB-Hubei sub-project: MS
<b>Overall implementation progress rating:</b>	<i>Moderately Satisfactory</i>
<b>Overall risk rating:</b>	<i>Moderate</i>

### ESS risk classification

<b>Current ESS Risk classification:</b>	Moderate
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### Status

<b>Implementation Status (1<sup>st</sup> PIR, 2<sup>nd</sup> PIR, etc. Final PIR):</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> PIR
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### Project Contacts

<sup>4</sup> The amount should show the values included in the financial statements generated by IMIS.

<sup>5</sup> Please refer to the Section 13 of this report where updated co-financing estimates are requested and indicate the total co-financing amount materialized.

<sup>6</sup> The Mid-Term Review (MTR) should take place after the 2<sup>nd</sup> PIR, around half-point between EOD and NTE. The MTR report in English should be submitted to the GEF Secretariat within 4 years of the CEO Endorsement date.

<sup>7</sup> The Terminal Evaluation date should be discussed with OED 6 months before the project's NTE date.

<b>Contact</b>	<b>Name, Title, Division/Institution</b>	<b>E-mail</b>
<b>Project Coordinator (PC)</b>	Ma Fengfei, National Project Coordinator, REEA	bdpmpo@vip.163.com
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<b>Lead Technical Officer (LTO)</b>	Zhou Bo, FAO RAP	Bo.Zhou@fao.org
<b>GEF Technical Officer, GTO (ex Technical FLO)</b>	Yurie Naito, GTO, FAO RAP	Yurie.Naito@fao.org

## 2. Progress towards Achieving Project Objective(s) (Development Objective)

*(All inputs in this section should be cumulative from project start, not annual)*

Please indicate the project's main progress towards achieving its objective(s) and the cumulative level of achievement of each outcome since the start of project implementation.

Project or Development Objective	Outcomes	Outcome indicators <sup>8</sup>	Baseline	Mid-term Target Mid-term Target <sup>9</sup>	End-of-project Target	Cumulative progress <sup>10</sup> since project start Level (and %) at 30 June 2023	Progress rating <sup>11</sup>
Innovative transformation of China's food production systems and agro-ecological landscapes towards sustainability	GEF-7 Core Indicators	a) <b>Core Indicator 3:</b> Area of land restored (hectares)  <b>Sub-Indicator 3.1:</b> Area of degraded agricultural land restored  Note: This indicator results from interventions under Component 3 (restoration).	0	Total: 63,000	Total: 90,000, of which: - Shandong: 20,000 - Jiangsu: 20,000 - Jiangxi: 20,000 - Guizhou: 20,000  Added target during inception phase: - Heilongjiang: 10,000	9% completed  Total: 8,414.13 , of which: - Shandong: 1,383.13 - Jiangsu: 2,760 - Jiangxi: 3,227 - Guizhou: 1,044 - Heilongjiang: TBD	S
		b) <b>Core Indicator 4:</b> Area of landscapes under improved practices (hectares)  <b>Sub-Indicator 4.3:</b> Area of landscapes under	0	Total: 156,000	Total: 480,000, of which:  (i) GAP/IPM (200,000): - Shandong: 70,000 - Jiangsu: 50,000 - Jiangxi: 30,000	10% completed  Total: 50,449.4, of which:  GAP/IPM/ ILM plans (450,000): - Shandong: 5,428.7	S

<sup>8</sup> This is taken from the approved results framework of the project.

<sup>9</sup> Some indicators may not identify mid-term targets at the design stage (refer to approved results framework) therefore this column should only be filled when relevant.

<sup>10</sup> Please report on results obtained in terms of Global Environmental Benefits and Socio-economic co-benefits as well.

<sup>11</sup> Use GEF Secretariat required six-point scale system: **Highly Satisfactory** (HS), **Satisfactory** (S), **Moderately Satisfactory** (MS), **Moderately Unsatisfactory** (MU), **Unsatisfactory** (U), and **Highly Unsatisfactory** (HU). Refer to Annex 1.

		<p>sustainable land management in production systems</p> <p>Note: This indicator results from interventions under Components 1 (ILM plans) and 2 (SLM).</p>			<p>- Guizhou: 50,000</p> <p>(ii) ILM plans (250,000)*:  - Shandong: 75,000  - Jiangsu: 65,000  - Jiangxi: 50,000  - Guizhou: 60,000</p> <p>Added target during inception phase:  - Heilongjiang: 30,000</p> <p>*Note: Other area targets have been deducted from this number to avoid double-counting.</p>	<p>- Jiangsu: 18,814.7  - Jiangxi: 21,400  - Guizhou: 4,806  - Heilongjiang: TBD</p>	
		<p>c) <b>Core Indicator 6:</b> Greenhouse Gas Emissions Mitigated (metric tons of CO2e)</p> <p><b>Sub-indicator 6.1:</b> Carbon sequestered or emissions avoided in the AFOLU sector</p>	0		<p>Direct: 4.82 million</p> <p>Indirect: 1.2 million</p> <p>Added target during inception phase:  - Heilongjiang: 0.55 million (direct), 0.15 million (indirect)</p>	<p>0% GHG related data will be collected once the monitoring activity carries out in the second half of 2023.</p>	S
		<p>d) <b>Core Indicator 9:</b> Reduction, disposal/destruction, phase out, elimination and avoidance of chemicals of global concern and their waste in the environment and in processes, materials and products</p> <p><b>Sub-indicator 9.5:</b> Number of low-chemical/non-chemical systems implemented particularly in food</p>	0		4 (1 per province)	0%	S

		production, manufacturing and cities					
		<b>Core Indicator 11:</b> Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment <sup>12</sup>	0	75,000 (at least 50% women)	250,000 (at least 50% women)  Added target during inception phase: - Heilongjiang: 20,000 (50% women)  This number includes individuals benefiting from capacity building, assets or services provided by the project, and/or who use the specific resources that the project maintains or enhances (in line with GEF definition, see footnote 12).	10% completed  25,157 (8,104 women) Shandong: 0 Jiangsu: 3100 Jiangxi: 10140 Guizhou: 11917 Heilongjiang: 0	S
	<b>Capacity Scorecard results</b>	a) Capacity development scores	Baseline score (average): 51%  See Capacity Development report for detailed scores per county.	Mid-term target: 56%  Increase of at least 5 percentage points per county.	End-of-project target: 61%  Increase of at least 10 percentage points per county.	0%	S
	<b>Outcome 1.1:</b> Strengthened ILM policies, plans and capacities that promote participatory planning and	a) Number of county-level ILM and restoration plans in place.	0  Counties have general land use plans, but these do	6  - Shandong: 2 - Jiangsu: 1 - Jiangxi: 1 - Guizhou: 2	12  - Shandong: 4 - Jiangsu: 3 - Jiangxi: 2 - Guizhou: 3	0% will be launched in the second half of 2023.	MS

<sup>12</sup> This indicator captures the number of individual people who receive targeted support from a given GEF project/activity and/or who use the specific resources that the project maintains or enhances. [https://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/council-meeting-documents/EN\\_GEF.C.54.11.Rev\\_02\\_Results.pdf](https://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/council-meeting-documents/EN_GEF.C.54.11.Rev_02_Results.pdf) (p. 35).

enable national and provincial institutions across agricultural landscapes to meet their relevant sustainable agriculture, rural revitalization, land restoration and related climate and biodiversity targets.		not incorporate integrated, landscape-level planning focused on SLM and restoration.					
	b) Area under improved management plans: See Core Indicator 4.	- See Core Indicator 4 above -					
	c) Number of decision-makers and technical staff of national, provincial and local governments with increased capacity to apply ILM.	0	150 (at least 50% women), of which: - Shandong: 40 - Jiangsu: 40 - Jiangxi: 30 - Guizhou: 30 - National: 10	300 (at least 50% women), of which: - Shandong: 80 - Jiangsu: 80 - Jiangxi: 60 - Guizhou: 60 - National: 20	100% completed 446, of which: - Shandong: 244 - Jiangsu: 116 - Jiangxi: 47 - Guizhou: 17 - Heilongjiang: 7 - National: 15	HS Exceeded the original target	
	d) Number of new or improved monitoring systems in place and operational beyond project. (on land use, biodiversity, GHG emissions, climate change impacts)	0 Some monitoring is conducted at the local level, but not systematic and not integrated.	4 (at least one per province)	8 (at least two per province)	0% will be launched in the second half of 2023.	S	
	e) Number of improved policies drafted and recommended for adoption.	0	0	5 (1 national and 4 provincial)	0%	MS	
	<b>Outcome 1.2:</b> Innovative payment for agro-ecological services incentive	f) Number of improved/newly established payment for agro-ecological services incentive mechanisms.	0	0	4 (1 per province)	0% will be launched in the second half of 2023.	S



	mechanisms in place for sustainable, safe, and smart agri-food systems.							
	<b>Outcome 2.1:</b> Sustainable agricultural practices deployed and scaled up that enhance ecological functions, improve soil quality and fertility, mitigate GHG emissions and establish resilient agricultural production models.	a) Area under improved practices/under GAP: See Core Indicator 4.	- See Core Indicator 4 above -					
		b) Carbon sequestered or emissions avoided: See Core Indicator 6.	- See Core Indicator 6 above -					
		c) Number of newly developed or improved standards (GAP/ climate-smart/organic/ green/sustainable agriculture)	0	At least 2.	At least 4.	0	MS	
		d) Chemical fertilizer reduction in the project intervention area	Some general baseline data available in the agriculture report, but not specific for the project intervention area.  Monitoring system, with detailed baseline, to be put in place at the beginning of project implementation.	Reduce by 5%	Reduce by 10%	10% With the support of co-financing, the project area in each province has implemented the application of soil testing formula fertilization, water and fertilizer integration, organic fertilizer and green fertilizer technology. The monitoring system of the project area will be established and improved in the second half of 2023 to complete the measurement and collection of indicators.	S	

		e) Pesticide reduction in the project intervention area	Some general baseline data available in the agriculture report, but not specific for the project intervention area.  Monitoring system, with detailed baseline, to be put in place at the beginning of project implementation.	Reduce by 5%	Reduce by 10%	10% With the support of co-financing, the application of technology such as IPM has been implemented in the project areas of each province. The monitoring system of the project area will be established and improved in the second half of 2023.	S
		Soil organic matter content in the project intervention area	Monitoring system, with detailed baseline, to be put in place at the beginning of project implementation.	Increase by 3%	Increase by 6%	10% With the support of co-financing, projects in various provinces have carried out technical applications such as straw returning, increased application of organic fertilizer, crop rotation and fallow. The monitoring system of the project area will be established and improved in the second half of 2023.	S
		Average yield per hectare in the project intervention area	Monitoring system, with detailed	Increase by 3%	Increase by 6%	10% With the support of co-financing, projects in each	S

			baseline, to be put in place at the beginning of project implementation.			province have carried out agroforestry management, high-standard farmland construction, diversified planting and other technology applications. The index survey and determination will be completed in the second half of 2023.	
	<b>Outcome 2.2:</b> Responsible, market-oriented agricultural value chains implemented and scaled up, including through government-private enterprise-farmer cooperative partnerships and capacity building.	a) Number of person-time (women and men) trained.	0	15,000 (at least 50% women), of which: - Shandong: 5,000 - Jiangsu: 3,500 - Jiangxi: 3,000 - Guizhou: 3,500	50,000 (at least 50% women), of which: - Shandong: 17,000 - Jiangsu: 12,000 - Jiangxi: 9,000 - Guizhou: 12,000	12% completed  6,147, of which: - Shandong: 2,861 - Jiangsu: 670 - Jiangxi: 1,234 - Guizhou: 1,382 -Heilongjiang : 0	MS
		b) Increased farmer incomes from project supported agri-food value chains <sup>13</sup> , disaggregated by gender.	Detailed baseline for participating farmers to be established at the start of value chain activities.	5% increase in income for farmers benefiting from price premium and/or additional sales  Estimated number of farmers: 500 (50% women) - Shandong: 150	10% increase in income for farmers benefiting from price premium and/or additional sales  Estimated number of farmers: 5,000 (50% women) - Shandong: 1,700 - Jiangsu: 1,200 - Jiangxi: 900 - Guizhou: 1,200	0% The demonstration will be initiated in the second half of 2023.	S

<sup>13</sup> Such as from yield increase, crop diversification, and agri-food value chain development.

				- Jiangsu: 100 - Jiangxi: 100 - Guizhou: 150				
		c) Number of green/ organic/ecological agri-food brands certified.	0	5, of which  - Shandong: 1 - Jiangsu: 1 - Jiangxi: 1 - Guizhou: 2	15, of which  - Shandong: 4 - Jiangsu: 4 - Jiangxi: 3 - Guizhou: 4	40% completed  6, of which  - Shandong: 2 - Jiangsu: 0 - Jiangxi: 4 - Guizhou: 0 - Heilongjiang : 0	S	
		d) Number of farmer cooperatives with increased capacity to support responsible value chains.	0	10, of which  - Shandong: 3 - Jiangsu: 2 - Jiangxi: 2 - Guizhou: 3	20, of which  - Shandong: 5 - Jiangsu: 5 - Jiangxi: 4 - Guizhou: 6	75% completed  15, of which  - Shandong: 5 - Jiangsu: 4 - Jiangxi: 3 - Guizhou: 3 - Heilongjiang: 0	S	
	<b>Outcome 3.1:</b> Enhanced conservation and restoration of agroecosystems and biodiversity	a) Species and ecosystems indicators (details to be determined as part of Output 1.1.2)	Some general baseline data available in the biodiversity / ecosystems report, but detailed baseline for each county is yet to be compiled.	No reduction in plant and animal species  Crop varieties increased by 2%	No reduction in plant and animal species  Crop varieties increased by 5%	10% With the support of co-financing, measures to protect ecosystems and biodiversity, such as the construction of ecological corridors and habitat protection, have been implemented in several provinces. The monitoring system of the project areas will be established and improved in the second half of 2023.	S	
		b) Carbon sequestered or emissions avoided: See Core Indicator 6	- See Core Indicator 6 above -					
		c) Area of upland and farmland surrounding	- See Core Indicator 3 above -					

		ecosystems under ecological restoration/ rehabilitation: See Core Indicator 3.					
	<b>Outcome 4.1:</b> Effective knowledge management/information exchange and M&E.	a) Number of information dissemination platforms (smart-phone based app, internet portal, etc.) established (or existing platforms improved) and operational.	0	At least 1	At least 2	50% completed  Invited experts to record 5 distance training videos, completed the post-production of the videos, and disseminated and shared project concepts and technologies on the Chinese rural distance education website, cloud intelligent agriculture and other platforms. <a href="https://www.ngx.net.cn/ztl/mxkcx/">(https://www.ngx.net.cn/ztl/mxkcx/)</a>	S
		b) Number of people reached by information dissemination and knowledge exchange.	0	100,000	250,000  This may, in part, overlap with the 250,000 beneficiaries above (Core Indicator 11).	35% completed  6,329 people, including:  Provincial-level training for 6,147 people (2,215 female). National training 182 people (79 female). Since the establishment of distance learning platform, accumulated more than 80,000 person/times visited and studied the courses updated.	S

## Measures taken to address MS, MU, U and HU ratings on Section 2

Outcome	Action(s) to be taken	By whom?	By when?
<p><b>Outcome 1.1:</b> Strengthened ILM policies, plans and capacities that promote participatory planning and enable national and provincial institutions across agricultural landscapes to meet their relevant sustainable agriculture, rural revitalization, land restoration and related climate and biodiversity targets.</p> <p>a) Number of county-level ILM and restoration plans in place.</p>	Organize field missions and accelerate the baseline research on county integrated landscape management and ecological restoration planning, which has been delayed by the pandemic.	National project management office, provincial project management office and technical team	by December of 2023
e) Number of improved policies drafted and recommended for adoption.	Recruit experts and organize field missions to carry out analysis of existing policy vacancies in the project area.	National project management office, provincial project management office and technical team	by December of 2023
<p><b>Outcome 2.1:</b> Sustainable agricultural practices deployed and scaled up that enhance ecological functions, improve soil quality and fertility, mitigate GHG emissions and establish resilient agricultural production models.</p> <p>c) Number of newly developed or improved standards (GAP/ climate-smart/organic/ green/sustainable agriculture)</p>	<p>Recruit experts and organize field missions to carry out research on the existing agriculture-related standard system in the project area</p> <p>Developed and improve standards related to GAP/ climate-smart/organic/ green/sustainable agriculture.</p>	National project management office, provincial project management office and technical team	by December of 2023
<p><b>Outcome 2.2:</b> Responsible, market-oriented agricultural value chains implemented and scaled up, including through government-private enterprise-farmer cooperative partnerships and capacity building.</p>	<p>Number of person-time (women and men) trained.</p> <p>Organize management and technical training for national and provincial stakeholders.</p> <p>Make good use of the training videos for distance learning.</p>	National project management office, provincial project management office	by December of 2023

### 3. Implementation Progress (IP)

*(Please indicate progress achieved during this FY as per the Implementation Plan/Annual Workplan)*

Outcomes and Outputs <sup>14</sup>	Indicators (as per the Logical Framework)	Annual Target (as per the annual Work Plan)	Main achievements <sup>15</sup> (please avoid repeating results reported in previous year PIR)	Describe any variance <sup>16</sup> in delivering outputs
<b>Outcome 1.1:</b> Strengthened ILM policies, plans and capacities that promote participatory planning and enable national and provincial institutions across agricultural landscapes to meet their relevant sustainable agriculture, rural revitalization, land restoration and related climate and biodiversity targets.				
<b>Output 1.1.1</b> Food and land use collaboration mechanisms established or existing mechanisms strengthened at national and provincial level.	NA (relevant indicators are noted in the previous section)	Provincial PSC established	Organized the 2 <sup>nd</sup> PSC Meeting on March 10 <sup>th</sup> , 2023, refined the mechanism for cooperation between agriculture and land management departments; Established Jiangsu and Jiangxi provincial PSC, which composed of multiple sectors including agriculture, land management, ecology, etc; PMO held specialized training sessions on the integration of multi-disciplines such as integrated landscape management, agricultural sustainable technology, etc.	
<b>Output 1.1.2</b> County-level ILM and restoration plans developed and implemented in a participatory process bringing together public and private sectors and supporting cross-sectoral planning and scaling up, ensuring participation of women.	NA	Initiate the development of ILM and ecological restoration in 5 provinces	Conducted exchange workshop on the demonstration development in each project site. Local project management offices personnels, undertaking units and project consultants participated in the workshop; Prepared the TOR of Development of County-level ILM and restoration plans	

<sup>14</sup> Outputs as described in the project Logframe or in any approved project revision.

<sup>15</sup> Please use the same unit of measurement of the project indicators as per the approved Implementation Plan or Annual Workplan. Please be concise (max one or two short sentence with main achievements)

<sup>16</sup> Variance refers to the difference between the expected and actual progress at the time of reporting.

			in 5 provinces, which will start the bidding process soon.	
<b>Output 1.1.3</b> Gender-sensitive capacity building implemented for decision makers and technical staff of the local government on sustainable integrated land and water resources management, sustainable agriculture, biodiversity conservation and restoration.	NA	Develop capacity building plan for decision makers, technical staff and local farmers.	Recruited local consultants from 5 project provinces and formed a provincial consultant team to provide technical guidance and consultation for local project implementation. The national, provincial and county level project offices held multi-level technical training sessions respectively, which cumulated: 90 person times (23 women) for national level, 13 person times for Shandong, 11 person times for Jiangxi, 16 person times for Jiangsu, 17 person times for Guizhou, and 7 person times for Heilongjiang.	
<b>Output 1.1.4</b> Monitoring systems for sustainable food systems and land use established (or existing systems improved) and implemented.	NA	Develop monitoring guideline, clarify monitoring indicators, and initiate monitoring activities; Develop and maintain integrated landscape management and monitoring application	Started to develop national monitoring guidelines for project areas;	
<b>Output 1.1.5</b> Innovative national and provincial policies drafted and recommended for adoption to support sustainable food systems and land use.	NA			
<b>Outcome 1.2:</b> Innovative payment for agro-ecological services incentive mechanisms in place for sustainable, safe, and smart agri-food systems.				
<b>Output 1.2.1</b> Analysis of payment for agro-ecological services mechanisms conducted and national/provincial policy reform on payment for	NA	Prepared TOR to initiate research on compensation		



agriculture supported, in order to strengthen biodiversity in agro-production system and sustainability of land and soil resources.		mechanism of ecological low-carbon agriculture.		
<b>Outcome 2.1:</b> Sustainable agricultural practices deployed and scaled up that enhance ecological functions, improve soil quality and fertility, mitigate GHG emissions and establish resilient agricultural production models.				
<b>Output 2.1.1</b> Sustainable and Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) implemented and scaled up to promote carbon sequestration and emission reduction; demonstrate effective soil and water management; and optimize the agricultural environment.	NA	Initiate technical demonstration in five project provinces and two experiment and demonstration studies.	Prepared TOR of the demonstration plan for improving grain production capacity and constructing ecological landscape each in all 5 provinces.	
<b>Output 2.1.3</b> Innovations to reduce the use and discharge of chemical fertilizers and pesticides implemented, such as precision agriculture, soil testing, integrated pest management (IPM), ecological interception systems, and digital technologies.	NA	Develop IPM and initiate implementation action	IPM related measures have been developed in the demonstration plans, and the application of relevant technical measures will be strengthened during the project implementation.	
<b>Output 2.1.4</b> Strengthened high-standard ecological farmland construction implemented according to national standards (such as land levelling, improved irrigation and drainage, and improved field road accessibility).	NA	Carry out high-standard ecological farmland construction implementation.	With the support of co-financing, project provinces carried out high-standard ecological farmland construction of about 5000 ha: -Guizhou: approximately 1350 ha -Jiangxi: approximately 2000 ha -Jiangsu: approximately 1250 ha -Shandong: approximately 400 ha	
<b>Outcome 2.2:</b> Responsible, market-oriented agricultural value chains implemented and scaled up, including through government-private enterprise-farmer cooperative partnerships and capacity building.				
<b>Output 2.2.1</b> Capacity and awareness developed among farmers (especially women), extension service providers, enterprises and cooperatives on	NA	Develop training plan, carry out training for stakeholders, accumulate 900 person times.	With the support of co-financing, project provinces carried capacity building activities, which accumulated: Shandong 2861 person times, Guizhou 1382	

sustainable production and agricultural value chains.			person times, Jiangxi 1234 person times, and Jiangsu 670 person times.	
<b>Output 2.2.2</b> Innovative market linkages and access to finance developed (in particular, for women farmers) in support of sustainable agricultural value chains.	NA	Carry out study on ecological value assessment method and construction model of ecological low-carbon agricultural products.		
<b>Output 2.2.3</b> Government-private enterprise-farmer cooperative partnerships established (or existing partnerships strengthened) and investments made to support scaling up of sustainable value chains and financing from input supply, to production, to processing and marketing.	NA			
<b>Outcome 3.1:</b> Enhanced conservation and restoration of agroecosystems and biodiversity.				
<b>Output 3.1.1</b> Interventions implemented and scaled up to maintain and increase biodiversity in production systems.	NA	Develop demonstration plan and initiate biodiversity conservation technology demonstration in five project area.	The farmland biodiversity conservation and related measures have been clearly defined for technology demonstration and application plan. Implementation will start in the second half of 2023.	
<b>Output 3.1.2</b> Ecological restoration/rehabilitation implemented and scaled up (e.g., through revegetation of slopes, ecological corridors, trees on farm, vegetation buffers, hedgerows, nutrient interception) to enhance ecological functions of farmland boundaries and surrounding ecosystems.	NA	Develop ecological restoration/rehabilitation plans and technical specifications and initiate ecological restoration/rehabilitation technology demonstration for 5 demonstration counties.	With the support of co-financing, carried out ecological restoration of 4000 ha; The ecological restoration activities and measures are clarified and will be implemented in the second half of 2023.	
<b>Outcome 4.1:</b> Effective knowledge management/information exchange and M&E.				
<b>Output 4.1.1</b> Project monitoring and evaluation, and reporting, as well as coordination	NA	Deliver one PIR and two PPRs;	The second PSC meeting was held in March, 2023. The meeting reviewed and agreed on the annual work plan;	

with and participation in global Impact Program (IP) events and activities, conducted.		Coordinate/Participate exchange session with Hubei sub-project.	the project participated in the FOLUR side event of the CFS 50 and shared experiences.	
<b>Output 4.1.2</b> Establish diversified information dissemination platforms/mechanisms to share project achievements, knowledge, experiences, and expand environmental and social influence to support scaling and replication.	NA	Develop distance learning material, and establish information dissemination platform	Developed videos of 5 training sessions, and published on web site of China Farmer Physical Culture Association, Yun Shang Zhi Nong App, etc. sharing the project concept and technical experience to enlarge the project impact. <a href="https://www.ngx.net.cn/ztzl/mxkcx/">https://www.ngx.net.cn/ztzl/mxkcx/</a>	
<b>Output 4.1.3</b> Knowledge effectively created and shared through national and provincial platforms, exchange visits, and global platforms such as the One Planet Network Sustainable Food Systems Programme to support replication at the global, regional, national and provincial levels.	NA	Develop multimedia promotional materials and collateral for the project; Organize cross-regional communication 200 person times; Organize international exchange once.	Prepared to design project promotion brochure and project logo; Project activities and promotional material are published on various platforms of REEA, provincial DARA, farmer.com, etc. The project has been promoted in REEA's 10-year celebration booklet; Organized virtual meeting with China-UK sustainable Agriculture Innovation Network, exploring the joint construction of Sino-British cooperative farms. The project participated in the 2023 Annual Meeting of FOLUR in Brazil and shared experience on value chain management and private sector involvement.	

## 4. Summary on Progress and Ratings

Please provide a summary paragraph on progress, challenges and outcomes of project implementation consistent with the information reported in sections 2 and 3 of the PIR (max 400 words)

**Since July 2022, the major progresses of the project are as follows:**

- In terms of project management and coordination mechanism development, national/provincial/county-level PSCs, project management offices and consultant teams were established, which consist of the representative from various fields include: agriculture, land management, ecology, etc, established effective communication and coordination mechanisms, and organized two PSC meetings.
- In terms of developing integrated landscape management (ILM) system in agricultural landscapes, a preliminary framework for national and provincial multi departmental cooperation has been established. The demonstration plan for the first demonstration counties is completed. Signed contract for national monitoring guideline and development and dissemination of the distance-training course. Prepared for study on agricultural ecological compensation mechanism, experiment and demonstration of carbon sequestration and GHG reduction for farmland, development and maintenance of monitoring application, farmland biodiversity conservation and landscape construction, develop ILM plan, technical demonstration and application, and technical training in project area.
- For promoting the sustainable food production practices and responsible agri-food value chains, PMO organized training sessions for decision makers, technicians, enterprises and representatives of large cooperatives, accumulated 231(73 female) person times; the local partners organized series of management and technical training sessions, accumulated 367 person times. With the support of co-financing, local authorities carried out land management, ecological ditches construction, precision agriculture techniques implementation, pesticide reduction technology demonstration and application in more than 60 thousand hectares, and more than 6,147 farmers, large cooperative and technicians were trained.
- For knowledge management, the project conducted spot check and supervision in first demonstration counties, participated in the FOLUR side event of the CFS 50 and 2023 FOLUR Annual Meeting and introduced experiences, and explored the joint construction of Sino-British cooperative farm. The child project in China is one of the earliest and advanced in implementation. The project representative communicated with GEF officers directly and reported on the project progress and GEF 8 preparation. Since the child project in India also works on rice, there will be potentials for further exchange and sharing.

**Main Challenges:**

In 2022, the impact of COVID-19 and its prevention and control policies in various regions delayed the overall implementation of the project. Since 2023, the restriction measures are removed. PMO actively coordinated with provincial and county project management offices service providers to accelerate project implementation.

### **Development Objective (DO) Ratings, Implementation Progress (IP) Ratings and Overall Assessment**

Please note that the overall DO and IP ratings should be substantiated by evidence and progress reported in the Section 2 and Section 3 of the PIR. For DO, the ratings and comments should reflect the overall progress of project results.

	<b>FY2023 Development Objective rating<sup>17</sup></b>	<b>FY2023 Implementation Progress rating<sup>18</sup></b>	<b>Comments/reasons<sup>19</sup> justifying the ratings for FY2023 and any changes (positive or negative) in the ratings since the previous reporting period</b>
<b>Project Manager / Coordinator</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>MS</b>	<i>The FAO-MARA sub-project has established effective communication and coordination mechanism, improved strong technical support team, developed comprehensive monitoring and evaluation method, completed preparation of demonstration plans, built influential remote knowledge dissemination and sharing platform, and driven capacity enhancement of stakeholders through technical training.</i>
<b>Budget Holder</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>MS</b>	<i>Due to the impact of COVID 19, the project implementation is slower than planned, but will accelerate in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of 2023.</i>
<b>GEF Operational Focal Point<sup>20</sup></b>	<b>S</b>	<b>MS</b>	<i>COVID 19 has delayed the project implementation. The project shall accelerate in the next reporting period.</i>
<b>Lead Technical Officer<sup>21</sup></b>	<b>MS</b>	<b>MS</b>	<i>Due to COVID-19 pandemic, the project implementation was significantly undermined since the commencement of the project in 2021. The project has resumed to normal track of implementation since early 2023. As of the reporting period, the project delivery status is relatively lower than expected. However, the 2<sup>nd</sup> PSC meeting in March 2023 provided clear guidance and recommendation for expediting the implementation in 2023 and onwards. It is also very important to have a satisfactory achievement for preparing the anticipated Mid-term review in 2024.</i>
<b>GEF Technical Officer, GTO (ex Technical FLO)</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>MS</b>	<i>The lockdown measures impacted all projects in China including this GEF-7 project. It is critical to discuss with the PMO to come up with a practical 2023-2024 work plan on how to accelerate implementation – which will also help prepare for the upcoming MTR.</i>

<sup>17</sup> **Development Objectives Rating** – A rating of the extent to which a project is expected to achieve or exceed its major objectives. For more information on ratings and definitions, please refer to Annex 1.

<sup>18</sup> **Implementation Progress Rating** – A rating of the extent to which the implementation of a project's components and activities is in compliance with the projects approved implementation plan. For more information on ratings and definitions, please refer to Annex 1.

<sup>19</sup> Please ensure that the ratings are based on evidence

<sup>20</sup> In case the GEF OFP didn't provide his/her comments, please explain the reason.

<sup>21</sup> The LTO will consult the HQ technical officer and all other supporting technical Units.

## 5. Environmental and Social Safeguards (ESS)

*This section is under the responsibility of the LTO (PMU to draft)*

Please describe the progress made to comply with the approved ESM plan. Note that only projects with **moderate** or **high** Environmental and Social Risk, approved from June 2015 should have submitted an ESM plan/table at CEO endorsement. This does not apply to **low** risk projects. Please indicate if new risks have emerged during this FY.

Social & Environmental Risk Impacts identified at CEO Endorsement	Expected mitigation measures	Actions taken during this FY	Remaining measures to be taken	Responsibility
<b>ESS 1: Natural Resource Management</b>				
<b>ESS 2: Biodiversity, Ecosystems and Natural Habitats</b>				
<b>ESS 3: Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture</b>				
<b>ESS 4: Animal - Livestock and Aquatic - Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture</b>				
<b>ESS 5: Pest and Pesticide Management</b>				
5.1 – Would this project procure, supply and/or result in the use of pesticides on crops, livestock, aquaculture or forestry? Yes  5.2 – Would this project provide seeds or other materials treated with pesticides (in the field and/or in storage)? Yes	An Integrated Pest Management Plan has been prepared in line with the concept of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and is included as Annex O. Activities to reduce the use of chemical pesticides have been incorporated into the project design. GEF-7 project funds will not be used to purchase chemical	Organized training activities on technologies related to IPM and green crop prevention and control; IPM, chemical fertilizer and pesticide reduction actions and corresponding indicators were included in the	Conduct relevant technical training;  Strengthen monitoring and evaluation of relevant indicators in the project area.	PMO, pest control and prevention consultants

	inputs. However, the project may issue technical guidelines and recommendations for improved, low-impact chemical use and application, in line with the overall aim of reducing the use of chemical pesticides.	demonstration programs.		
<b>ESS 6: Involuntary Resettlement and Displacement</b>				
<b>ESS 7: Decent Work</b>				
<b>ESS 8: Gender Equality</b>				
<b>ESS 9: Indigenous Peoples and Cultural Heritage</b>				
<p>9.1 – Are there indigenous peoples living outside the project area where activities will take place? Yes. However, the project activities will not influence any facets of their life.</p> <p>9.2 – Are there indigenous peoples living in the project area where activities will take place? Yes</p>	<p>Ethnic minorities are present in the target counties of Guizhou Province. Consequently, a Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) procedure was prepared during the project preparation phase in line with FAO Environmental and Social Management Guidelines and GEF Indigenous Peoples Principles and Guidelines. Measures to mitigate risks and enhance opportunities were also elaborated as part of the FPIC report. The FPIC process is described in Annex J.</p>	<p>PMO hired social security and gender consultant to clarify FPIC related regulations to Guizhou provincial authorities. Training on social security and gender mainstreaming was organized.</p>	<p>Conduct training on relevant policies and cases;</p> <p>Summarize the significant cases of indigenous people participation and conduct publicity and promotion.</p>	<p>PMO, social security and gender consultant.</p>
<b>New ESS risks that have emerged during this FY</b>				

In case the project did not include an ESM Plan at CEO endorsement stage, please indicate:

Initial ESS Risk classification (At project submission)	Current ESS risk classification Please indicate if the Environmental and Social Risk classification is still valid <sup>22</sup> . If not, what is the new classification and explain.
Moderate	Yes

<i>Please report if any grievance was received as per FAO and GEF ESS policies. If yes, please indicate how it is being/has been addressed.</i>

<sup>22</sup> **Important:** please note that if the Environmental and Social Risk classification has changed, the ESM Unit ([Esm-unit@fao.org](mailto:Esm-unit@fao.org)) should be contacted. The project shall prepare or amend an Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) or other ESS instruments and management tools based on the new risk classification (please refer to page 13 <https://www.fao.org/3/cb9870en/cb9870en.pdf> )



## 6. Risks

The following table summarizes risks identified in the Project Document and reflects also any new risks identified during the project implementation (including COVID-19 related risks). The last column should be used to provide additional details concerning manifestation of the risk in the project, as relevant.

	Type of risk	Risk rating <sup>23</sup>	Identified in the ProDoc Y/N	Mitigation Actions	Progress on mitigation actions	Notes from the Budget Holder in consultation with Project Management Unit
1	Lack of inter-sectoral collaboration among agencies at the local, provincial and national level.	Moderate	Y	Through the leadership of MARA and the participating provinces and counties, different sectors will be engaged and their interests taken into account. The project supports national and local priorities in various sectors by contributing to sustainable agriculture, restoration, poverty alleviation and rural revitalization goals. In addition, the project will bring together different agencies and stakeholders through the integrated landscape management (ILM) approach and the national and provincial food and land use collaboration mechanisms.	Established inter-sectoral collaborative PSC and held the 2 <sup>nd</sup> PSC meeting. Strengthened capacity building of management and technical staff and stakeholders at all levels to promote the application of integrated landscape management methods.	The project has established the PSC with representatives from different sectors to guide the project implementation. At the local level, coordination mechanism has been established to ensure inter-sectoral collaboration.

<sup>23</sup> Risk ratings means a rating of the overall risk of factors internal or external to the project which may affect implementation or prospects for achieving project objectives. Risk of projects should be rated on the following scale: Low, Moderate, Substantial or High. For more information on ratings and definitions please refer to Annex 1.

	Type of risk	Risk rating <sup>23</sup>	Identified in the ProDoc Y/N	Mitigation Actions	Progress on mitigation actions	Notes from the Budget Holder in consultation with Project Management Unit
2	Demographic changes lead to farmers abandoning farmland in the project target areas.	Moderate	Y	The project is aimed at increasing incentives for sustainable agricultural production through enhanced value chains and access to finance. It is, therefore, anticipated that the project will address some of the causes of abandonment of cropland. The project will also aim to strengthen implementation of efficient land transfers. Moreover, recent trends show that, due to the slowing of economic development in urban areas, young people in some areas choose to return to rural areas and resume farming activities. Nevertheless, the project will carefully monitor demographic trends and changes and periodically review its intervention strategy.	This risk has not emerged. No mitigation measures have been taken.	
3	Market and other incentives are insufficient to support the long-term shift towards sustainable practices.	High	Y	Close attention will be paid to the socio-economic benefits of project interventions, as these are a prerequisite for the adoption and sustainability of improved practices. The project interventions will aim to reduce input costs for farmers, reduce occurrence of pests and diseases, increase yields, introduce payments for agro-ecological services, and increase the value and quality of agricultural products, and thus should provide sufficient incentives for the adoption of sustainable practices and restoration of degraded lands.	Designed TOR for study on ecological compensation mechanism of the project, and will propose ecological compensation policy recommendations/programs to promote the transformation of agro-ecosystems at national and provincial levels, and to be applied in the core demonstration areas.	The project intervention will help to ensure the long-term shift towards sustainable practices.

	Type of risk	Risk rating <sup>23</sup>	Identified in the ProDoc Y/N	Mitigation Actions	Progress on mitigation actions	Notes from the Budget Holder in consultation with Project Management Unit
4	Further shift towards high-value crops cancels out the benefits gained in the project's target crops (rice, wheat and maize).	Moderate	Y	Through its landscape approach, the project will look not only at the main staple crops, but at sustainable land use and restoration of degraded land holistically. Strategies to reduce chemical inputs can be replicated in other crop areas, such as vegetables and fruit, and economic plantations such as oil trees. Also, based on current government policies, it is unlikely that there will be a significant reduction in grain crop areas.	The Chinese government and agricultural departments at all levels have formulated relevant policies to prevent the "Non-Grain Production" of arable land and stabilize food production, which can ensure that the production of target food crops will not be affected.	It is not foreseen that the project areas will change the crop structure.

5	<p>Impacts of climate change on crop production during or after project implementation lead to a decrease in yields or crop losses and thus reduce the positive impact of the project.</p> <p>In June-July 2020, the project provinces of Jiangxi, Jiangsu and Guizhou were affected by severe floods caused by torrential rains, affecting the livelihoods of millions of people.</p>	High	Y	<p>The innovative and climate-smart approaches to crop production and restoration to be scaled up under the project are aimed at increasing the resilience of production systems and farmer livelihoods. The project will build on ongoing efforts by government and research institutions in China to promote climate change adaptation in farming systems. It will aim to promote climate-resilient crop varieties and climate-resilient production techniques such as for pest control, water management, diversified cropping and establishing vegetation buffers. An analysis of climate change impacts and projected crop suitability in the GEF-7 target provinces was conducted during the project design phase (see the following section). This will be further discussed and refined with local stakeholders during the preparation of ILM plans during implementation (as a part of Output 1.1.2). Impacts of climate change on crop production will be carefully monitored during the project implementation, and capacity will be developed among local institutions and stakeholders to implement adaptive measures.</p> <p>The project will apply adaptive management to adjust to new developments in the target counties.</p>	<p>During the project implementation, timely attention will be paid to meteorological information. Monitoring and early warning system will be established to improve the adaptability of local institutions and service providers.</p>	
6	(i) Impacts of COVID-19 may lead to a delay in implementation, a	High	Y	<p><u>(i) Impact on project implementation</u></p> <p>At present, the office works, transportation, meetings, training, etc. have all returned to normal. The co-</p>	Organizing activities such as work exchanges, seminars and training courses in	Since 2023, the restrictions on COVID 19 are removed.

<p>delay in the realization of co-financing, and/or reduced ability to conduct face-to-face interactions with stakeholders. Furthermore, national technical experts may not be able to travel to the project sites if COVID-19 restrictions are reinstated.</p> <p>(ii) Impacts of COVID-19 may delay or negatively affect the realization of co-financing.</p> <p>(iii) COVID-19 may lead to negative impacts on the poor and vulnerable groups.</p> <p>(iv) Potential migration to rural areas due to economic crisis may increase pressure on natural resources.</p>			<p>financing letters already reflect the new situation based on COVID-19.</p> <p><u>(ii) Impact on project co-financing</u> The impact of COVID-19 on China's national and local economies has been significant, but the situation is gradually improving. As the province most affected by COVID-19, the Chinese Government has established a special fund for Hubei to help it resume economic development as soon as possible. In other regions, economic growth has been affected, but there has been no significant reduction in investment in agriculture and the ecological environment. Thus, it is not anticipated that co-financing support from relevant development partners and the private sector would be significantly reduced. The co-financing letters that were issued already reflect the new situation based on COVID-19.</p> <p><u>(iii) Impact on target beneficiary communities</u> Most of the project areas are rural areas. Due to scattered residence and low mobility, the occurrence of COVID-19 in these areas is low. China's national and local governments have a relatively well-developed system for ensuring the supply of basic necessities in areas at high risk of COVID-19, as well as corresponding assistance policies for poor and vulnerable groups. In its interventions, the project will also focus on strengthening the resilience of agricultural supply chains in</p>	<p>through a combination of online and offline methods;</p> <p>Recruited provincial consultants for five project provinces, providing professional local specified technical guidance;</p> <p>Developed measures for sustainable agriculture, ecological restoration, and agricultural value chain enhancement to promote recovery from the COVID-19 in the project area;</p> <p>At present, offline office work, transportation, meetings, field survey and training have all returned to normal, and the project will further strengthen field research and publicity training to accelerate the implementation progress.</p>	
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	<p>(v) Opportunity to support green agricultural development, as well as improvement of agricultural supply chains, as part of the COVID-19 recovery.</p>			<p>the face of COVID-19 and potential future similar crises.</p> <p>Finally, the project will contribute to the country’s COVID-19 recovery by strengthening investments in sustainable agriculture, food security and environmental protection of natural resources.</p> <p><u>(iv) Migration to rural areas</u>          Long-term demographic changes will be monitored by the project and the project intervention strategy would be revisited if the project context changes, to ensure any potential pressures on natural resources are addressed and opportunities such as increased labour availability taken into account.</p> <p>(v) Food security has become a priority in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. By improving traceability and supply chains, the project will make an important contribution to improving agricultural distribution systems and making them more resilient in the face of potential similar crises in the future. The State Council promulgated the opinions on the protection and utilization of agricultural resources, which remains a priority. The project will contribute to post-pandemic recovery by investing in green agricultural development. Importantly also, by supporting agricultural emissions reduction, the project will contribute to the recent commitment by President Xi to achieve carbon neutrality by 2060.</p>		
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**Project overall risk rating** (Low, Moderate, Substantial or High):

FY2022 rating	FY2023 rating	Comments/reason for the rating for FY2023 and any changes (positive or negative) in the rating since the previous reporting period
Moderate	Moderate	Risks are considered moderate; the primary risk relates to the delays in implementation caused by COVID 19. Since the restrictions of COVID-19 has been removed, demonstration activities in project area will be implemented as soon as possible, the project will accelerate its implementation in the next reporting period.

**7. Follow-up on Mid-term review or supervision mission (only for projects that have conducted an MTR)**

If the project had an MTR or a supervision mission, please report on how the recommendations were implemented during this fiscal year as indicated in the Management Response or in the supervision mission report.

MTR or supervision mission recommendations	Measures implemented <u>during this Fiscal Year</u>
Recommendation 1:	
Recommendation 2:	
Recommendation 3:	
Recommendation.....	
Recommendation.....	
Has the project developed an Exit Strategy? If yes, please summarize	



## 8. Minor project amendments

Minor amendments are changes to the project design or implementation that do not have significant impact on the project objectives or scope, or an increase of the GEF project financing up to 5% as described in Annex 9 of the GEF Project and Program Cycle Policy Guidelines<sup>24</sup>. Please describe any minor changes that the project has made under the relevant category or categories and provide supporting documents as an annex to this report if available.

Category of change	Provide a description of the change	Indicate the timing of the change	Approved by
Results framework			
Components and cost			
Institutional and implementation arrangements			
Financial management			
Implementation schedule			
Executing Entity			
Executing Entity Category			
Minor project objective change			
Safeguards			
Risk analysis			
Increase of GEF project financing up to 5%			
Co-financing			
Location of project activity			
Other minor project amendment (define)			

<sup>24</sup> Source: <https://www.thegef.org/council-meeting-documents/guidelines-project-and-program-cycle-policy-2020-update>

## 9. Stakeholders' Engagement

Please report on progress and results and challenges on stakeholder engagement (based on the description of the Stakeholder engagement plan) included at CEO Endorsement/Approval during this reporting period.

Stakeholder name	Type of partnership	Progress and results on Stakeholders' Engagement	Challenges on stakeholder engagement
<b>Government institutions</b>			
Ministry of Finance	As the GEF focal point, MOF will receive the GEF grant for the current project on behalf of the Chinese Government. MOF will be a core member of the Project Steering Committee. MOF will have a core role in providing guidance, coordination and supervision on the disbursement and expense of GEF grant, performance evaluation, summary and promotion of project results.	PSC member, participate in the 2 <sup>nd</sup> PSC meeting, reviewed the project inception report and annual work plan	
Ministry of Agriculture And Rural Affairs	As the Lead Executing Agency, MARA chairs the Project Steering Committee, has the lead responsibility for overall execution of the project, as well as the supervision of, and coordination between, the relevant government agencies involved in the project at both national and local levels.	As the project executing agency, coordinate the management and implementation of the project. Established project steering committee and national project management office.	
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)	GEF Lead Implementing Agency, Partner	Ensure project oversight as the GEF Agency and ensure coordination with the World Bank in China and at the global level.	
World Bank	GEF Co-Implementing Agency, international financial institution that funds several programmes on sustainable agricultural development in China. In charge of FOLUR Global Programme.	Responsible for oversight of the Hubei sub-project as the GEF Agency.	
Ministry of Natural Resources	As a member of the project steering committee, provide guidance and consultation on project design and implementation, especially on land planning and utilization.	PSC member, participated in the 2 <sup>nd</sup> PSC meeting, reviewed the project inception report and annual work plan	
Rural Energy and Environment Agency, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs	PSC member. Responsible for daily project management and fund management, and providing technical support and coordination for the project team.	PSC member. Responsible for daily project management and fund management, communicate and coordinate between stakeholders.	
Center of International Cooperation Service, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs	Partner. Responsible for providing support for implementation in Guizhou province, specialized in agricultural cultural heritage.	Providing technical support for the project, Participated in the 2 <sup>nd</sup> training session.	
Heilongjiang Provincial Department of Agriculture and Rural Affairs	PSC member. Responsible for supervision and guidance of project implementation in Heilongjiang, assisting the government at the county level in project coordination and resource integration. Promote the establishment of a coordination	PSC member, participate in the project inception workshop, the 1 <sup>st</sup> PSC meeting. Responsible for the overall organization and	

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	mechanism at provincial level and the revision of related policy/regulation and standards.	implementation of the project in Heilongjiang Province.	
Fujin City Agro-Tech Extension and Service Center	Responsible for the coordination of project implementation	Responsible for the coordination and implementation of the project in Fujin City, Heilongjiang, support in baseline data collection and demonstration plan development.	
Jiangsu Provincial Department of Agriculture and Rural Affairs	PSC member. Responsible for supervision and guidance of project implementation in Jiangsu, assisting the government at the county level in project coordination and resource integration. Promote the establishment of a coordination mechanism at provincial level and the revision of related policy/regulation and standards.	PSC member, participated in the project inception workshop and the 1st PSC meeting. Responsible for the overall organization and implementation of the project in Jiangsu Province.	
Jiangsu Farmland Quality and Agricultural Environmental Protection Agency	The specific coordination unit of the project in Jiangsu Province, responsible for the organization and coordination of the project in Jiangsu Province	Responsible for organization and coordination of the project in Jiangsu Province, support in field survey and demonstration plan development.	
Liuhe District, Department of Agriculture and Rural Affairs	The local department of agricultural and rural affairs, responsible for the coordinated implementation of the project	Responsible for the coordination and implementation of the project in Liuhe District, Jiangsu, organize training sessions for farmers and technicians, support in baseline data collection and demonstration plan development.	
Jiangxi Provincial Department of Agriculture and Rural Affairs	PSC member. Responsible for supervision and guidance of project implementation in Jiangxi, assisting the government at the county level in project coordination and resource integration. Promote the establishment of a coordination mechanism at provincial level and the revision of related policy/regulation and standards.	PSC member, participated in the project inception workshop and the 1st PSC meeting. Responsible for the overall organization and implementation of the project in Jiangxi Province. Established provincial project management office.	
Jiangxi Provincial Rural Energy and Environment Protection Agency	The specific coordination unit of the project in Jiangxi Province, responsible for the organization and coordination of the project in Jiangsu Province	Responsible for the specific organizing and coordination of the project in Jiangxi Province, support in baseline data collection, demonstration plan development and expert validation.	
Xinyu City, Department of Agriculture and Rural Affairs	Responsible for the communication and coordination of the project in the Jiangxi project sites	Participate in the organization and coordination of activities in the project area of Jiangxi Province, support in baseline data collection and demonstration plan development.	
Yushui District, Department of Agricultural, Rural and Grain	Responsible for the communication and coordination of the project in the project site in Yushui District, Jiangxi	Participate in the coordination and implementation of projects in Yushui District, support in baseline data collection and demonstration plan development.	
Shandong Provincial Department of Agriculture and Rural Affairs	PSC member. Responsible for supervision and guidance of project implementation in Shandong, assisting the government at the county level in project coordination and resource integration. Promote the establishment of a coordination mechanism at provincial level and the revision of related policy/regulation and standards.	PSC member, participated in the project inception workshop and the 1st PSC meeting. Responsible for the overall organization and implementation of the project in Shandong Province.	

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Shandong Provincial Rural Energy and Environment Protection Agency	The specific coordination unit of the project in Shandong Province, responsible for the organization and coordination of the project in Shandong Province	Responsible for the specific organization and coordination of projects in Shandong Province, support in baseline data collection and demonstration plan development.	
Laizhou City, Department of Agriculture and Rural Affairs	The local department of agricultural and rural affairs, responsible for the coordinated implementation of the project	Participate in the coordination and implementation of projects in Laizhou, support in baseline data collection and demonstration plan development.	
Qingyun City, Department of Agriculture and Rural Affairs	The local department of agricultural and rural affairs, responsible for the coordinated implementation of the project	Participate in the coordination and implementation of projects in Qingyun, support in baseline data collection and demonstration plan development.	
Guizhou Provincial Department of Agriculture and Rural Affairs	PSC member. Responsible for supervision and guidance of project implementation in Guizhou, assisting the government at the county level in project coordination and resource integration. Promote the establishment of a coordination mechanism at provincial level and the revision of related policy/regulation and standards.	PSC member, participated in the project inception workshop and the 1st PSC meeting. Responsible for the overall organization and implementation of the project in Guizhou Province	
Guizhou Foreign Economic Cooperation Center	The specific coordination unit of the project in Guizhou Province, responsible for the organization and coordination of the project in Guizhou Province	Responsible for the specific organization and coordination of projects in Guizhou Province, support in field survey and demonstration plan development.	
Rongjiang Department of Agricultural and Rural Affairs	Responsible for the communication, coordination and implementation of the project in Rongjiang District, Guizhou	Participate in the coordination and implementation of projects in Rongjiang District, support in baseline data collection and demonstration plan development.	
<b>NGOs<sup>25</sup></b>			
All-China Women's Federation	PSC member, supervises and guides the implementation activities of the project, especially participating in the gender action plan	PSC member, participated in the 2 <sup>nd</sup> PSC meeting.	
Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences	involved as technical experts in project implementation	Provide professional and technical support for the implementation of project activities	
China Agricultural University	involved as technical experts in project implementation	Provide professional and technical support for the implementation of project activities	
South China Agricultural University	involved as technical experts in project implementation	Provide professional and technical support for the implementation of project activities	
Renmin University of China	involved as technical experts in project implementation	Provide professional and technical support for the implementation of project activities	
National Agro-Tech Extension and Service Center	involved as technical experts in project implementation	Provide professional and technical support for the implementation of project activities	

<sup>25</sup> Non-government organizations

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Agro-Environmental Protection Institute, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs	involved as technical experts in project implementation	Provide professional and technical support for the implementation of project activities, support in baseline data collection and demonstration plan development for Shandong Province.	
Heilongjiang Black Soil Protection and Utilization Research Institute	involved as provincial-level technical experts in project implementation	Provide professional and technical support for the implementation of project activities, support in baseline data collection and demonstration plan development for Heilongjiang Province.	
Jiangsu Academy of Agricultural Sciences	involved as provincial-level technical experts in project implementation	Provide professional and technical support for the implementation of project activities, support in baseline data collection and demonstration plan development for Jiangsu Province.	
Guizhou University	involved as provincial-level technical experts in project implementation	Provide professional and technical support for the implementation of project activities, support in baseline data collection and demonstration plan development for Guizhou Province.	
World Resources Institute (WRI)	Coordinates the work of the Food and Land Use (FOLU) Coalition and the Food, Agriculture, Biodiversity, Land Use and Energy (FABLE) Consortium in China.	Will be engaged as a partner for knowledge exchange, dissemination and scaling.	
<b>Private sector entities</b>			
Jiangxi Red Soil Technology Service Co.	Private sector	Provide professional and technical support for the implementation of project activities, support in demonstration plan development for Jiangxi Province.	
Nanjing Junsheng Ecological Agriculture Co., Ltd.	Private sector	Participate in project demonstration and promotion in Guizhou Province	
Rongjiang Agricultural Development Investment Co., Ltd	Private sector	Participate in project demonstration and promotion in Guizhou Province	
Guizhou Rongjiang Lilixiang Rice Industry Co., Ltd.	Private sector	Participate in project demonstration and promotion in Guizhou Province	
<b>Others<sup>26</sup></b>			

<sup>26</sup> They can include, among others, community-based organizations (CBOs), Indigenous Peoples organizations, women's groups, private sector companies, farmers, universities, research institutions, and all major groups as identified, for example, in Agenda 21 of the 1992 Rio Earth Summit and many times again since then

<p>Local communities and community groups:                  (i) Local farmers (women and men)                  (ii) Vulnerable groups                  (iii) Ethnic minority groups (in Guizhou)                  (iv) Farmer cooperatives/ associations                  (v) Women's groups</p>	<p>Main beneficiaries of project interventions.</p>	<p>Participated in technical training, increased capacity development.</p>	
<p><b><i>New stakeholders identified</i></b></p>			

## 10. Gender Mainstreaming

**Information on Progress on Gender-responsive measures as documented at CEO Endorsement/Approval in the gender action plan or equivalent (when applicable) during this reporting period.**

Category	Yes/No	Briefly describe progress and results achieved during this reporting period.
Gender analysis or an equivalent socio-economic assessment made at formulation or during execution stages.	Yes	Gender issues have been taken into account during the preparation of the TOR for technology demonstration, knowledge sharing and dissemination, especially in the monitoring and evaluation activities in project areas, which specific indicators such as the number of female beneficiaries have been proposed.
Any gender-responsive measures to address gender gaps or promote gender equality and women's empowerment?	Yes	Incorporate strengthen the demonstration and application of simplified agricultural technologies that facilitate women's participation in developing demonstration plan, and take women's views into account during the preparation for TORs.
Indicate in which results area(s) the project is expected to contribute to gender equality (as identified at project design stage):		
a) closing gender gaps in access to and control over natural resources	Yes	Encourage women to participate in technical training and capacity building activities of the project, to increase the number of women farmers participating in the project and promote their capacity of agricultural production techniques and knowledge.
b) improving women's participation and decision making	Yes	Both the national and provincial levels has increased the level of women's participation in decision-making in projects.
c) generating socio-economic benefits or services for women	Yes	By carrying out technical training and related publicity activities to improve women's knowledge and ability, the application of relevant technical measures such as reduction in chemical fertilizers and extension of agricultural value chain can bring social and economic benefits to women farmers.
M&E system with gender-disaggregated data?	Yes	The number of female trainees for national training sessions is 64, accounting for 35.2% of the total number.
Staff with gender expertise	Yes	PMO participated in gender mainstreaming training, new staffs have increased capacity of gender expertise.
Any other good practices on gender	Yes	PMO have female leaders; the project area emphasizes the cultivation of female leaders, the participation of female scientists, and the enhancement of the product value chain through female participation.

## 11. Knowledge Management Activities

Knowledge activities / products (when applicable), as outlined in Knowledge Management Approach approved at CEO Endorsement / Approval, during this reporting period.	
Does the project have a knowledge management strategy? If not, how does the project collect and document good practices? Please list relevant good practices that can be learned and shared from the project thus far.	Participate in international communication activities to promote the dissemination of project concept and knowledge, include participated in the FOLUR side event of the CFS 50 and 2023 FOLUR Annual Meeting and introduced experiences, and explored the joint construction of Sino-British cooperative farm.;
Does the project have a communication strategy? Please provide a brief overview of the communications successes and challenges this year.	In March 25th, PMO organized inter-provincial project exchange seminar and cross-project exchange seminar with GEF-6 sub-project in Hainan Province. The project management personnel, undertaking units and other stakeholders communicate and discuss the project implementation experience and issues faced during project implementation.
Please share a human-interest story from your project, focusing on how the project has helped to improve people's livelihoods while contributing to achieving the expected Global Environmental Benefits. Please indicate any Socio-economic Co-benefits that were generated by the project. Include at least one beneficiary quote and perspective, and please also include related photos and photo credits.	<p>In March 6 to 10, 2023, PMO organized the second management and technical training in Beijing. A total of 90 (37 female) managers, technicians and related technical support units from project provinces, cities and counties participated in the training offline. At the same time, PMO carried out discussion of the demonstration program in project area. Farmers Daily published the training session.</p> <p>Wang Quanhui, Deputy Director of PMO, was invited to participate in the FOLUR side meeting of 50th session of CFS as the representative of the implementation unit of FOLUR project in China, and gave a keynote speech, sharing the concept and experience of the project.</p>
Please provide links to related website, social media account	<a href="http://www.reea.agri.cn/">http://www.reea.agri.cn/</a> <a href="https://www.ngx.net.cn/ztl/mxkcx/">https://www.ngx.net.cn/ztl/mxkcx/</a>
Please provide a list of publications, leaflets, video materials, newsletters, or other communications assets published on the web.	<p>Wang Quanhui, Deputy Director of PMO, was invited to participate in the FOLUR side meeting of 50th session of CFS.</p> <p><a href="https://www.fao.org/food-systems/news-events/news-detail/en/c/1608457/">https://www.fao.org/food-systems/news-events/news-detail/en/c/1608457/</a>  <a href="https://www.fao.org/food-systems/news-events/news-detail/en/c/1617728/">https://www.fao.org/food-systems/news-events/news-detail/en/c/1617728/</a></p> <p>The second management and technology training of the project successfully held.</p> <p><a href="http://www.reea.agri.cn/stgjxm/202303/t20230320_7951473.htm">http://www.reea.agri.cn/stgjxm/202303/t20230320_7951473.htm</a></p> <p>Under the background of global challenges such as climate change and biodiversity loss: Promoting innovative transformation of China's agricultural ecosystem.</p> <p><a href="https://www.farmer.com.cn/2023/03/30/99925292.html">https://www.farmer.com.cn/2023/03/30/99925292.html</a></p> <p>PMO went to Jiangsu Liuhe project area to carry out research.</p> <p><a href="https://mp.weixin.qq.com/">https://mp.weixin.qq.com/</a></p>
Please indicate the Communication and/or knowledge management focal point's name and contact details	Liu Zhao, Ma Fengfei bdpmo@vip.163.com



## 12. Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Involvement

**Are Indigenous Peoples and local communities involved in the project (as per the approved Project Document)? If yes, please briefly explain.**

If applicable, please describe the process and current status of on-going/completed, legitimate consultations to obtain Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) with the indigenous communities.

Do indigenous peoples and or local communities have an active participation in the project activities? If yes, briefly describe how.

Minority communities are distributed in the target counties and cities of Guizhou Province. Thus, in the preparatory phase of the project, autonomous, preferential and informed consent was obtained from local minorities in accordance with the FAO Guidelines for Environmental and Social Management and the GEF Guidelines for Minorities; The project activities have solicited the opinions of local villagers. During the implementation of the project, villagers' training will be further carried out to improve their skills and enthusiasm; During the development of the project demonstration program, indigenous peoples were highlighted as the main subjects and beneficiaries of the project implementation.

In the decision-making process of the government partners, minority groups are always represented.

### 13. Co-Financing Table

Sources of Co-financing <sup>27</sup>	Name of Co-financer	Type of Co-financing <sup>28</sup>	Amount Confirmed at CEO endorsement / approval	Actual Amount Materialized at 30 June 2023	Actual Amount Materialized at Midterm or closure (confirmed by the review/evaluation team)	Expected total disbursement by the end of the project
Recipient Country Government	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs	In-kind	6,000,000	239,200		6,000,000
Recipient Country Government	Shandong Provincial and District Governments	In-kind	10,000,000	1,840,000		10,000,000
Recipient Country Government	Jiangsu Provincial and District Governments	In-kind	10,000,000	5,980,000		10,000,000
Recipient Country Government	Jiangxi Provincial and District Governments	In-kind	10,000,000	3,280,000		10,000,000
Recipient Country Government	Guizhou Provincial and District Governments	In-kind	10,000,000	1,980,000		10,000,000
GEF Agency	Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)	In-kind	300,000	200 742		300,000
Private Sector	Nanjing Hengcheng Agricultural Development Co., Ltd.	Grant	400,000			400,000
Private Sector	Nanjing Junsheng Ecological Agriculture Co., Ltd.	Grant	400,000			400,000
Private Sector	Nanjing Tianwei Agricultural Technology Co., Ltd.	Grant	400,000			400,000

<sup>27</sup>Sources of Co-financing may include: GEF Agency, Donor Agency, Recipient Country Government, Private Sector, Civil Society Organization, Beneficiaries, Other.

<sup>28</sup>Grant, Loan, Equity Investment, Guarantee, In-Kind, Public Investment, Other (please refer to the *Guidelines on co-financing* for definitions)

[https://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/documents/GEF\\_FI\\_GN\\_01\\_Cofinancing\\_Guidelines\\_2018.pdf](https://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/documents/GEF_FI_GN_01_Cofinancing_Guidelines_2018.pdf)

Private Sector	Taicang City Donglin Village Farm Professional Cooperative	Grant	1,200,000			1,200,000
Private Sector	Fenyi Huayong Agricultural Machinery Specialized Cooperative	Grant	200,000			200,000
Private Sector	Fenyi Qunyuan Agriculture and Animal Husbandry Development Co., Ltd.	Grant	200,000			200,000
Private Sector	Fenyi Quanfeng Breeding Professional Cooperative	Grant	200,000			200,000
Private Sector	Fenyi Guigen Grain Planting Professional Cooperative	Grant	200,000			200,000
Private Sector	Jiangxi Jiafu Agricultural Technology Co., Ltd.	Grant	400,000			400,000
Private Sector	Jiangxi Zhenghe Ecological Agriculture Co., Ltd.	Grant	1,200,000			1,200,000
Private Sector	Laizhou Chenggang Road Weisong Plant Protection Professional Cooperative	Grant	1,200,000	270,000		1,200,000
Private Sector	Shandong Changrun Ecological Agriculture Co., Ltd.	Grant	1,200,000			1,200,000
Private Sector	Guizhou Rongjiangshan Agricultural Development Co., Ltd	Grant	1,000,000			1,000,000
Private Sector	Guizhou Yueliangshan Agriculture Co., Ltd.	Grant	1,000,000			1,000,000
Private Sector	Guizhou Liping Dongxiang Rice Production Co., Ltd.	Grant	1,000,000			1,000,000
		<b>TOTAL</b>	56,500,000	13,589,200		56,500,000

**Please explain any significant changes in project co-financing since Project Document signature, or differences between the anticipated and actual rates of disbursement?**

## Annex 1. – GEF Performance Ratings Definitions

<b>Development Objectives Rating.</b> A rating of the extent to which a project is expected to achieve or exceed its major objectives.	
<b>Highly Satisfactory (HS)</b>	Project is expected to achieve or exceed <b>all</b> its major global environmental objectives, and yield substantial global environmental benefits, without major shortcomings. The project can be presented as “good practice”
<b>Satisfactory (S)</b>	Project is expected to achieve <b>most</b> of its <b>major</b> global environmental objectives, and yield satisfactory global environmental benefits, with only minor shortcomings
<b>Moderately Satisfactory (MS)</b>	Project is expected to achieve <b>most</b> of its major <b>relevant</b> objectives but with either significant shortcomings or modest overall relevance. Project is expected not to achieve some of its major global environmental objectives or yield some of the expected global environment benefits
<b>Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU)</b>	Project is expected to achieve its major global environmental objectives with major shortcomings or is expected to <b>achieve only some</b> of its major global environmental objectives
<b>Unsatisfactory (U)</b>	Project is expected <b>not</b> to achieve <b>most</b> of its major global environment objectives or to yield any satisfactory global environmental benefits
<b>Highly Unsatisfactory (HU)</b>	The project has failed to achieve, and is not expected to achieve, <b>any</b> of its major global environment objectives with no worthwhile benefits

<b>Implementation Progress Rating.</b> A rating of the extent to which the implementation of a project’s components and activities is in compliance with the project’s approved implementation plan.	
<b>Highly Satisfactory (HS)</b>	Implementation of <b>all</b> components is in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised implementation plan for the project. The project can be resented as “good practice”
<b>Satisfactory (S)</b>	Implementation of <b>most</b> components is in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised plan except for only a few that are subject to remedial action
<b>Moderately Satisfactory (MS)</b>	Implementation of <b>some</b> components is in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised plan with <b>some</b> components requiring remedial action
<b>Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU)</b>	Implementation of <b>some</b> components is not in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised plan with <b>most</b> components requiring remedial action.
<b>Unsatisfactory (U)</b>	Implementation of <b>most</b> components is not in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised plan
<b>Highly Unsatisfactory (HU)</b>	Implementation of <b>none</b> of the components is in substantial compliance with the original/formally revised plan.

<b>Risk rating</b> will assess the overall risk of factors internal or external to the project which may affect implementation or prospects for achieving project objectives. Risk of projects should be rated on the following scale:	
<b>High Risk (H)</b>	There is a probability of greater than <b>75%</b> that assumptions may fail to hold or materialize, and/or the project may face high risks.
<b>Substantial Risk (S)</b>	There is a probability of between <b>51%</b> and <b>75%</b> that assumptions may fail to hold or materialize, and/or the project may face substantial risks
<b>Moderate Risk (M)</b>	There is a probability of between <b>26%</b> and <b>50%</b> that assumptions may fail to hold or materialize, and/or the project may face only moderate risk
<b>Low Risk (L)</b>	There is a probability of up to <b>25%</b> that assumptions may fail to hold or materialize, and/or the project may face only low risks

## Annex 2.

### GEO LOCATION INFORMATION

The Location Name, Latitude and Longitude are required fields insofar as an Agency chooses to enter a project location under the set format. The Geo Name ID is required in instances where the location is not exact, such as in the case of a city, as opposed to the exact site of a physical infrastructure. The Location & Activity Description fields are optional. Project longitude and latitude must follow the Decimal Degrees WGS84 format and Agencies are encouraged to use at least four decimal points for greater accuracy. Users may add as many locations as appropriate. Web mapping applications such as [OpenStreetMap](#) or [GeoNames](#) use this format. Consider using a conversion tool as needed, such as: <https://coordinates-converter.com> Please see the Geocoding User Guide by clicking [here](#)

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	Geo Name ID	Location & Activity Description
Rongjiang Xian	N 26° 5' 9"	E 108° 27' 1"		
Liping Xian	N 26° 12' 21"	E 109° 2' 21"		
Congjiang Xian	N 25° 44' 31"	E 108° 43' 33"		
Liuhe	N 33° 35' 15"	E 120° 9' 16"		
Taicang Shi	N 31° 34' 0"	E 121° 7' 40"		
Jiangning Qu	N 31° 57' 19"	E 118° 50' 38"		
Huaiyin Qu	N 33° 38' 6"	E 119° 0' 19"		
Fenyi Xian	N 27° 51' 49"	E 114° 39' 39"		
Yushui Qu	N 27° 50' 0"	E 115° 0' 0"		
Laizhou Shi	N 37° 10' 9"	E 120° 1' 3"		
Qihe Xian	N 36° 40' 54"	E 116° 40' 7"		
Laiyang Shi	N 36° 54' 38"	E 120° 43' 33"		
Qingyun Xian	N 37° 47' 30"	E 117° 28' 37"		
Fujin District	N 47° 10' 27"	E 132° 31' 0"		

Please provide any further geo-referenced information and map where the project interventions is taking place as appropriate.