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Department of
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Social Affairs



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联合国世界粮食计划署

Virtual Tour on the Yellow River Juncao Ecological Security Barrier Juncao Desertification Control and Industrial Development Sites

Concept Note

16:00-17:30, October 6, 2021 (Beijing, China)

Despite progress in reducing both the number of undernourished persons and the prevalence of undernourishment in recent decades, people living in rural areas have been left behind, with many continuing to face grinding poverty and hunger. In particular, smallholder farmers in remote and mountainous areas, drought and desertification- affected regions and small island developing states encounter constant challenges for growing crops, putting them at risk of poverty and hunger.

The socio-economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic has further compounded these challenges, adding urgency to the call to galvanize action and delivery of the SDGs and the eradication of poverty and hunger, particularly in rural areas. Inadequate land use patterns and lack of sufficient arable land, land degradation, and desertification compound the perennial problems of poverty and hunger in many developing countries. Juncao technology that the National Engineering Research Centre of the Fujian Agriculture and Forestry University of China has developed, has allowed smallholder farmers to grow nutritious mushrooms from dried, chopped grasses, without cutting down trees and damaging the environment. This environmental-friendly technology can help small-scale farmers and farming communities to develop a low-cost, commercial-scale mushroom cultivation industry that can provide sustainable livelihood options for family farmers and rural entrepreneurs along agri-food value chains. In addition, the technology can also be used for producing cattle feed, methane gas as a renewable source of energy and minimize soil erosion.

To support countries in achieving the SDGs, the Chinese President Xi Jinping spearheaded a series of initiatives, notably the establishment of the China-UN Peace and Development Trust Fund. The Fund aims to promote scientific and technological innovation in the developing world and contribute to the work of the UN and multilateralism. Sponsored through the Fund, the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), in collaboration the National Engineering Research Centre for Juncao Technology of the Fujian Agriculture and Forestry University, launched an SDG project on poverty alleviation and sustainable agriculture through using Juncao technology in several developing countries. Through the transfer of technology and capacity building, the Juncao project has improved the availability and access to



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productivity-enhancing technology, benefiting smallholder farmers. To date, the Juncao technology demonstration centers and bases have been established in 13 countries by FAFU and around 8,000 agricultural officials and experts from developing countries have been trained. By supporting mushroom cultivation and animal feed, this technology contributes to boosting food security and the transition to a green economy through environmentally friendly technology, more sustainable agriculture, and green jobs, which is the foundation for sustainable and inclusive development.

Through south-south cooperation, this initiative aims to enhance knowledge and strengthen national capacities of developing countries to improve their policies and programmes by supporting sustainable agriculture, promoting productive activities, income generation and entrepreneurship, contributing to getting back on track and accelerating global efforts to achieve the SDGs. In particular, the project is addressing rural poverty and hunger, decent job deficits and inequality as key levers to getting back on track to achieve the SDGs.

The Juncao technology would contribute to the achievement of the following SDGs and targets:

- By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value.
- Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.

In this context, on 6 October 2021, Division for Sustainable Development Goals, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, is co-organizing a virtual tour on “ the Yellow River Juncao Ecological Security Barrier Juncao Desertification Control and Industrial Development Sites,” in collaboration with WFP Center of Excellence for Rural Transformation (WFP China COE), the National Engineering Research Centre for Juncao Technology, and Fujian Juncao Development Engineering Association.

Objectives and Expected Outcomes

- To raise the awareness of policymakers, small-scale farmers, national



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agricultural and environmental experts in the project countries and build the capacities of Juncao beneficiaries and equip them with the knowledge and understanding of Juncao technology that will enable them to increase agricultural productivity of edible mushrooms and fungi and expand the amount of arable land by addressing soil erosion and desertification related challenges.

- To highlight the benefits of South-South and Triangular Cooperation as a means of enhancing access to science, technology, and innovation, knowledge sharing as well as capacity building and to effectively contribute to the achievement of the SDGs.

Presenter

Dr. Lin Dongmei, Deputy Director of National Engineering Research Center of Juncao Technology of Fujian Agriculture and Forestry University, Technical Consultant of the United Nations Juncao Project, President of Fujian Juncao Development Engineering Association

Participation

Member States, representatives from UNDESA and other UN entities and international organizations, as well as the public, civil society organizations, the private sector, academia, agriculture, food and nutrition experts, and entrepreneurs will be invited to participate in the virtual tour.

Language

English

Registration Link

<https://www.wjx.cn/vm/PnHojJK.aspx>

Tips

1. After registration, the ZOOM link, meeting ID and passcode will be sent to the email address you filled in.
2. The virtual tour is conducted by a combination of live broadcast and recorded



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video. To ensure the viewing effect, good access to the internet is necessary.

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