

Sustainable Management of Natural Bamboo Forest Ecosystems and its Biodiversity, International Network for Bamboo and Rattan (INBAR)



Project team is setting up demonstration plots in biodiversity-rich mixed bamboo forests in Pikeng village, Hunan Province. Photo by Lou Yiping



Local forestry technicians were doing biodiversity baseline survey in the field in Sichuan. Photo by Jiang Nanqing



Prof. Dong is teaching farmers on managing the bamboo forest site in bamboo demonstrative field. Photo by Jiang Nanqing



All field team members accommodated in villagers' home in the Yinxing Village for more than 10 days for setting up the demonstration site and train the local farmers. Photo by Jiang Nanqing

Three field sites set up in Hunan, Sichuan and Yunnan

Three field sites at Pikeng village of Shidu township, Yinxing village of Mungan township (Yunnan) for moso bamboo (*Phyllostachys pubescens*) with high economic and environmental importance in China and Jiulong village of Shuanghe township for endangered Qiongzhu bamboo (*Qiongzhu tumidinoda*) were selected as planned in the Annual Work Plan.

Each site has an area about 45 hectares of bamboo forests and was sub-divided in areas for various demonstration activities. Biodiversity baseline survey of tree, shrub, and underground species of core area were carried out, as well as estimations of bamboo productivity. Different bamboo forest management practices will be carried out in the demo sites and a total 74 trial plots were set up for demonstrating and observing the impact on biodiversity, environmental service function and bamboo forest productivity, as well as farmers' knowledge, technology and income generating from bamboo forests

The teams who undertook the baselines surveys were composed of bamboo and forest experts from provincial forestry universities, local staff of provincial and county forestry departments, INBAR project staff and volunteer master students. The teams were accommodated in local farmers' houses in Yunnan and Hunan.

Farmer's training in Yunnan

The first farmer's training sessions in Yunnan were held in Yinxing village in Mr. Chen's (one of the involved farmers) house, in October 2007. More than 30 bamboo farmers in the project area joined the training course on management of the endangered Qiongzhu bamboo forest. Local government officers were present at the training and addressed the importance of this project.

Director Zhang from the County's Forestry Department introduced the relationship between forest ownership reform and project. Professor Dong from the Southwest Forestry College taught the farmers the management technologies, for example, the age structure of the bamboo forest showed warning signs if the percentage of 4 and 5 years old plants was greater than 30% and if some were already blooming. Local Qiongzhu bamboo expert demonstrated how to recognize the age of bamboo for better regulating and optimizing bamboo composition of culms in terms ages which is a crucial technique for the bamboo management. The local farmers expressed that it was their first time to learn

about better management of the natural bamboo forests although even they lived with it everyday. They felt proud to be a part of the ECBP, and hope that the experts would bring more knowledge and demonstrate management technologies for them in future project implementation.

