



农民种子网络

FARMERS' SEED NETWORK(CHINA)

Farmers' Seed Network (FSN) has been a leader in applying participatory action research on community-based agrobiodiversity and natural resource management for over two decades. Operating in more than 40 rural communities across 12 provinces, FSN supports seed conservation and sustainable use at the local level. By fostering collaboration between farmers, scientists, and other stakeholders, FSN strengthens farmer seed systems, improves livelihoods, enhances farmer dignity, and promotes seed and food security on multiple scales.



www.fsnchina.info



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Agrobiodiversity and Bioculture

Insights and Initiatives from Eastern China

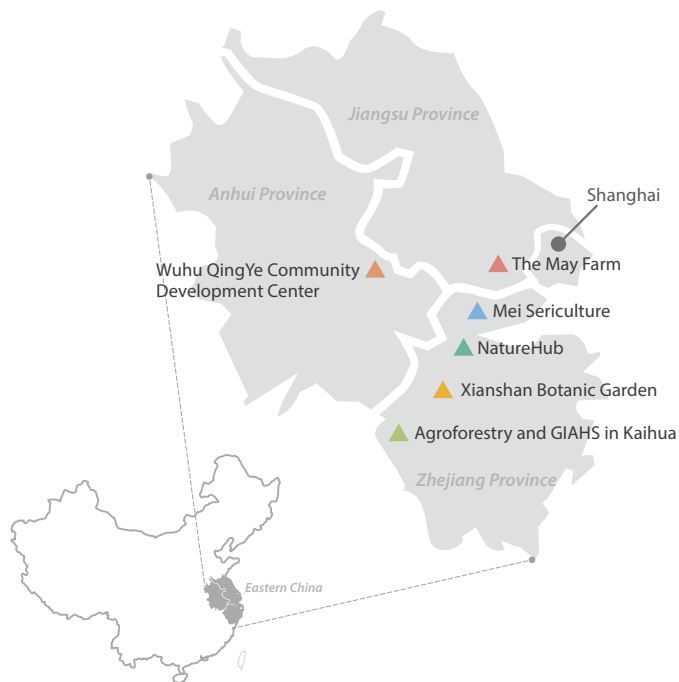


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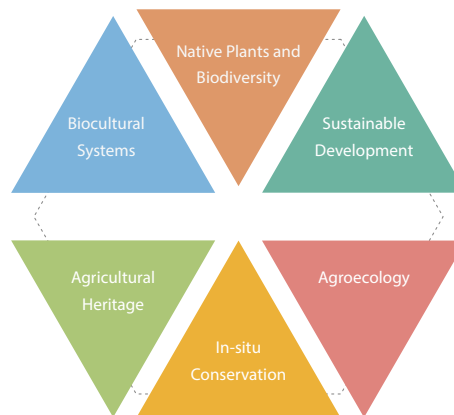
The Eastern Network

The Farmers' Seed Network (FSN) recognizes the crucial role farmers and communities play in conserving and utilizing agrobiodiversity. For these communities, deeply connected to their land and environment, agrobiodiversity at the genetic, species, and landscape levels is inseparable from their biocultural heritage.



Building upon its work in Southwest and North China, FSN launched the Eastern Network in 2022. This network focuses on the Yangtze River Delta, specifically the provinces of Jiangsu, Zhejiang, Shanghai, and Anhui – a region witnessing a surge in agroecology and agrobiodiversity efforts. By connecting diverse partners, the Eastern Network fosters a holistic understanding of Bioculture. It achieves this by drawing upon both nature-based mechanisms and community-based cultural traditions as guiding principles for localized action.

This brochure features the voices of Eastern Network partners, sharing their actions, lessons, and messages for COP16, highlighting the critical link between agriculture and biodiversity.



梅和鱼 蚕桑文化

Zhejiang

Mei Sericulture

Established during the spring silkworm season of 2013, Mei Sericulture is committed to inheriting, preserving and sharing China's rich heritage of sericulture practices, including a handcrafted silk workshop and a small family farm. The workshop creates silk quilts and other natural textiles, adhering to the principles of "tactile experience" and "daily use." At our farm, we uphold local heritage of sustainable agriculture and agrobiodiversity, known as "Spring Blossom on the Earth".





Action

Emphasizing biodiversity, traditional sericulture integrates a biocultural system that silkworms, chrysanthemums, rice, and mustard greens coexist and coevolution producing and providing local food and chrysanthemum tea in traditional manner.



Message

In the face of industrialization and monoculture, traditional and small farmers worldwide can remain vibrant through exchange and innovation, offering a sustainable alternative for the future.

青野 社区

Anhui

Wuhu QingYe Community Development Center

QingYe is dedicated to fostering holistic and sustainable community development within the Qingyi River watershed of southern Anhui, addressing critical issues through a participatory approach. Their work focuses on promoting sustainable farming practices, implementing watershed-based environmental protection, building community resilience to climate change, and empowering stakeholders – with a particular emphasis on women, youth, and smallholder farmers.





Action

QingYe has conducted research on traditional seeds within rural communities, establishing the Xihe Community Seed Bank. Throughout this process, they documented the stories of small farmers, helping them recognize their contributions to the conservation of local Bioculture. They also conducted community-based climate risk assessments and research, highlighting the interactions between agriculture and environment in the regional polder landscape.



Message

As urbanization accelerates, it's becoming increasingly vital to recognize and support the crucial role China's small farmers play in preserving biodiversity through their traditional seed-saving and farming practices.

五月田 有机农场

Jiangsu

The May Farm

The May Farm, established in 2009, stands as an example of ecological agriculture in action with a goal of prioritizing harmony with nature. Spanning nearly 300 acres, this certified organic farm provides fruits and vegetables, and natural education services to 500 members. For over 12 years, The May Farm has remained committed to organic principles, rejecting synthetic pesticides, fertilizers, and herbicides in favor of natural alternatives like organic fertilizers and biopesticides.





Action

The May Farm takes a holistic approach to sustainability, growing 80 crop varieties annually, including local ones, to reduce risks from pests, diseases, and climate change. An on-site reserve was set up to protect local wildlife habitats, while crop rotation, green manure, and straw mulching practices enrich the soil and enhance biodiversity. Additionally, the water purification through aquatic plants further minimizes the farm's environmental footprint.



Message

The impact of Agroecology can extend far beyond the borders of farmers, providing members with direct access to high-quality, sustainably grown food and preserving valuable traditional farming knowledge.

青山 研习社

Zhejiang

NatureHub

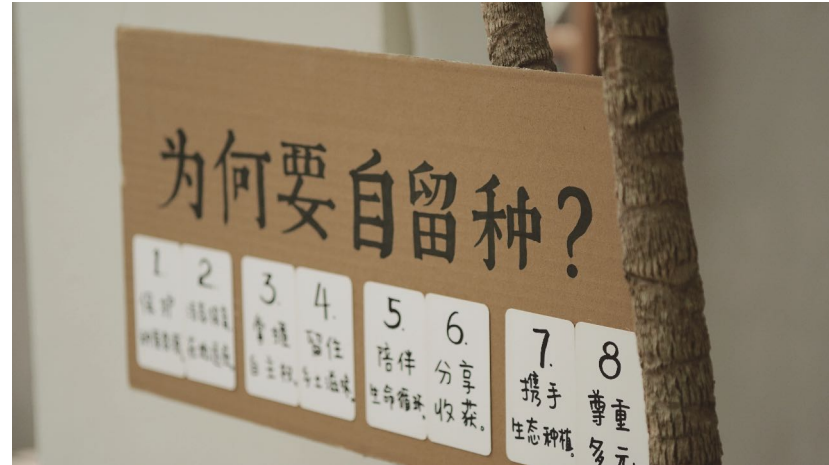
NatureHub works to restore the local drinking water to Class I quality while fostering a thriving community in Qingshan Village, Hangzhou. Driven by a unique model that combines sustainable public welfare with entrepreneurial spirit, NatureHub spreads a message of positive change for the planet.





Action

NatureHub launched the "Qingshan Seed Search," an initiative documenting traditional seed-saving practices in the Qingshan village. In June 2023, NatureHub partnered with the Farmers' Seed Network to host a workshop, bridging the gap between generations of farmers and showcasing their discoveries in the newly established "Qingshan Seed Library."



Message

Through these initiatives, NatureHub inspires public engagement in agriculture and seed conservation, particularly among younger generations. By reconnecting people with the environment, land, seed and food, NatureHub cultivates a deeper understanding of sustainable living and strengthens the bonds within rural communities.



羨山 植物园

Zhejiang

Xianshan Botanic Garden

Xianshan Botanic Garden, located in the mountains of western Zhejiang, is a vibrant hub where nature and culture intertwine. Dedicated to preserving native plant biodiversity, the garden invites the public to explore, learn, and actively participate in its crucial mission. Through hands-on exhibits and engaging programs, visitors discover the wonders of native plant species, scientific research, and the importance of traditional biocultural knowledge.





Action

Over the past year, Xianshan Botanic Garden has implemented several impactful projects, ranging from native plant germplasm collection and introduction to pollinator network monitoring. Researchers are also delving into pangolin food sources and documenting the traditional biocultural knowledge of local communities around botanic garden. These efforts aim to preserve plant genetic diversity, restore native habitats, and deepen understanding of local ecosystems.



Message

By examining the connections between plants, animals, and humans, Xianshan Botanic Garden develops effective conservation strategies and fosters a deep appreciation for the natural world. The garden serves as a beacon of inspiration, inviting the public and communities to join in the collective effort to safeguard our planet's biodiversity.



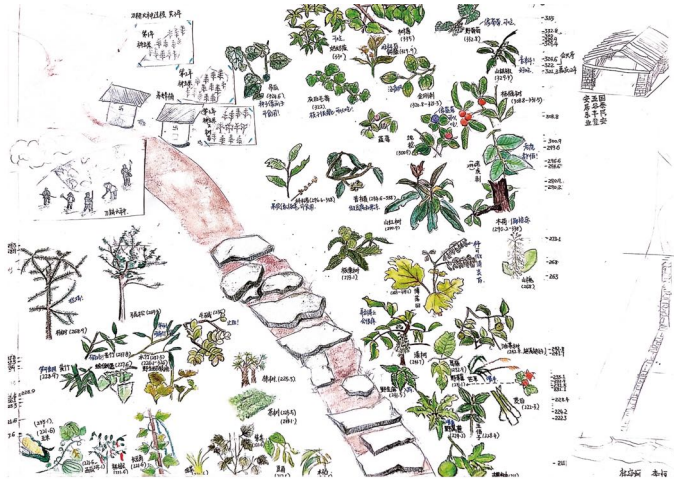
农业 文化遗产

Zhejiang

Agroforestry and GIAHS in Kaihua

Kaihua County, located at the westernmost edge of Zhejiang, is home to the headwaters of the Qiantang River. This region is distinguished by its biological diversity and a rich agricultural heritage that has been cherished and passed down through generations.





Action

In 2023, the Farmers' Seed Network partnered with the Center for Agricultural Cultural Heritage Research at China Agricultural University to investigate Kaihua, Zhejiang, where agroforestry shapes the landscape. This collaboration documented traditional farming practices and explored the relationship between local communities and natural reserves. It also led to the ethnobotanic mapping of local plant resources and the establishment of a community seed bank, preserving over 20 landraces and playing a key role in safeguarding the region's agricultural heritage.



Message

Small farming communities across China, custodians of an invaluable agricultural heritage, serve as stewards of biodiversity. Relying on generations of traditional knowledge, intensive farming practices, and a deep connection to their natural surroundings, these communities are essential for a sustainable future. Amplifying their stories and fostering collaboration and support networks will be crucial to ensuring the flourishing of both traditional knowledge and biodiversity.