

TECHNOLOGY NEEDS FOR PROMOTING RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MITIGATING GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS IN CHINA

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China is the largest developing country and it lags behind more than 100 other countries in terms of economic output per capita. Although China has basically solved the problem of food and clothing, the living standard is still quite low, especially the farmers, accounting for 70 percent of its total population. The most pressing and immediate task facing China is to give top priority to economic development and continue to raise the living standards of its people.

Based on China's initial National Communication on Climate Change, the estimated GHG emission from agriculture was about 600 Tg CO₂-e in 1994, 17 percent of national total GHG emissions. With the growth of the rural economy and the improvement of living standards, the GHG emissions from agriculture will continue to increase, which is essential for agricultural and rural development.

In order to raise farmers' living standards, and to improve rural environment and living quality, Chinese government has adopted a series of measures and programmes, such as demonstration of eco-farm, construction of eco household, balanced fertilization, cattle production with treated straw, no-tillage etc.. These measures will lead to the GHG emission reduction or carbon sink enhancement.

As a developing country with the biggest population but inadequate per capita share of natural resources, such as, arable land,, GHG control in agricultural sector would affect China's rural economic and social development if there is no technological innovation and financial support. In order to slow down the increase rate of GHG emissions from agricultural activities, China strongly wishes that financial and technological support can be provided by international communities to protect our climate while enhancing the development of agriculture and rural area. The priority areas of such support include biomass and manure utilization, genetic improvement of plant and livestock, high efficiency fertilizer production, ect.,