

Zeitschrift: Veröffentlichungen des Geobotanischen Institutes der Eidg. Tech. Hochschule, Stiftung Rübel, in Zürich

Herausgeber: Geobotanisches Institut, Stiftung Rübel (Zürich)

Band: 113 (1993)

Artikel: Integrated framing systems in China : an overview

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Bibliographie

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-308977>

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SUMMARY

The traditional integrated farming systems in China have developed over thousands of years and have been applied on the widest geographic and economic scale. Recently, this system has developed very fast and has aroused considerable interest among scientists both in China and abroad.

This report is intended to give a brief review about the history and the experience gained from implementing the integrated approach in agriculture in China.

This report is divided into three parts. The first part includes chapters 1 to 3 which present a general review of the challenge and opportunities in the development of agriculture and the definition and the characteristic features of integrated farming systems in China. The second part, chapter 4, describes successful examples of integrated farming. The report does not include detailed descriptions of all the existing integrated farming systems in China, but rather concentrates on a few typical examples of systems. Finally, part three, including chapters 5 and 6, discusses the strategies and the perspectives of the development of integrated farming systems in China.

The book presents the diversity and complexity of integrated farming systems. The descriptions and their analysis show their merits and potentials on the one hand, and the obvious gaps in our understanding of these systems on the other.

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