

Ecological engineering campaign to restore biodiversity and ecosystem service

China will launch an ecological engineering campaign to restore biodiversity and ecosystem services in rice production systems in Sanmen County, Zhejiang Province on International Biodiversity Day on 22 May 2012.

The International Launching Day and Symposium on Ecological Engineering for Rice Pest Management is organized jointly by Zhejiang University, International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), China National Agricultural Technical Extension and Service Center (NATESC), Department of Agriculture of Zhejiang Provincial Government and Zhejiang Academy of Agricultural Sciences.

On May 22, Officers from Ministry of Agriculture of China, Zhejiang University, local governments and distinguished guests from IRRI, Visays State University of Philippines, Charles Sturt University of Australia, and representative from FAO will jointly launch the event and will deliver the supports for applying the ecological engineering approach for green plant protection. The up-scaling activities of ecological engineering for rice insect pest management will include large scale landscape designation, long-term cropping arrangement, growing nectar flowering crops (plants) on rice field bunds, conservation of natural enemies and reduction of pesticide to enhance functional biodiversity and ecosystem services to regulate the pest population and secure rice sustainable production. During the Launching event, a series of cartoons, couplets, poems, prose poetry, book markers, and a book titled "Ecological Engineering for Pest Management in Rice" will be delivered to audience. Around 100 extension staff, large-land farmers' representatives, agricultural scientists and professors from rice production provinces in south China will attend the events. The ceremony will be covered by national and provincial media.

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