

AN INNOVATIVE COLLABORATION

China looks to Southern Tasmania for NRM expertise



2017

In November 2017, the President of the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS) – China’s premier agricultural research organisation and one of the largest in the world – signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with NRM South that will see the two organisations sharing expertise and technologies in sustainable agriculture and natural resource management.

Over the last two years, NRM South has been in discussions with CAAS on ways that they could collaborate on sustainable farming practices, better natural resource management, environmental improvement and increasing the production of safe and healthy food.

China is Tasmania’s largest export market for agricultural produce, and is also the leading source of overseas tourists and students. Chinese consumers and investors will be increasingly important for the growth of Tasmanian agriculture as envisaged in the Sustainable Agri-Food Plan 2016-18 for an agri-food sector of \$10B per annum by 2050.

The signing of the MOUs is a landmark event in Tasmania’s collaboration with the Academy and Chinese agriculture – connecting

our small State with China’s leading organisation in agricultural technology.

The CAAS initiative has gained recognition from NRM South’s primary funders (the Australian and Tasmanian Governments) of the state-wide, national and international value of Tasmanian/Australian NRM knowhow, practices and institutional arrangements.

The southern Tasmanian community will gain from NRM South having access to more resources through links to CAAS to deliver high quality NRM services to the region into the foreseeable future.

Further to the MOUs, and thanks to a grant received by NRM South from the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources under the Australia-China Agriculture Cooperation Agreement earlier in 2017, NRM South will be hosting a Australia-China Sustainable Agricultural Technology Forum in Hobart in May 2018. CAAS will be a co-host of this forum.



[The trade between] China and Australia, especially Tasmania, is growing bigger... As a national research organisation, together with our counterparts here in Tasmania, we’re working together to provide scientific support, in order to have a sustainable trade business.

Australia has very good experience in terms of management of natural resources [and] sustainable development... Management of natural resources in a sustainable way is very important [in China] now. It’s a turning point – [we’re] paying more attention to environmental issues.”

- Professor Tang Huajan, President of CAAS



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NRM SOUTH: 313 Macquarie St, Hobart TAS 7000
PO BOX 425, South Hobart, TAS 7004
PH: 03 6221 6111 FAX: 03 6221 6166

www.nrmsouth.org.au
@nrmsouth
facebook.com/nrmsouthTas