



International Conference Berlin, Germany

9—10 November, 2011

Beyond the Crossroads: New Issues, Persistent Problems. Linking food security, sustainability science and sustainability politics

Connecting IAASTD to the Main and Passive actors

**Case study on agriculture development in
the Tarim River Basin, Xinjiang, China**

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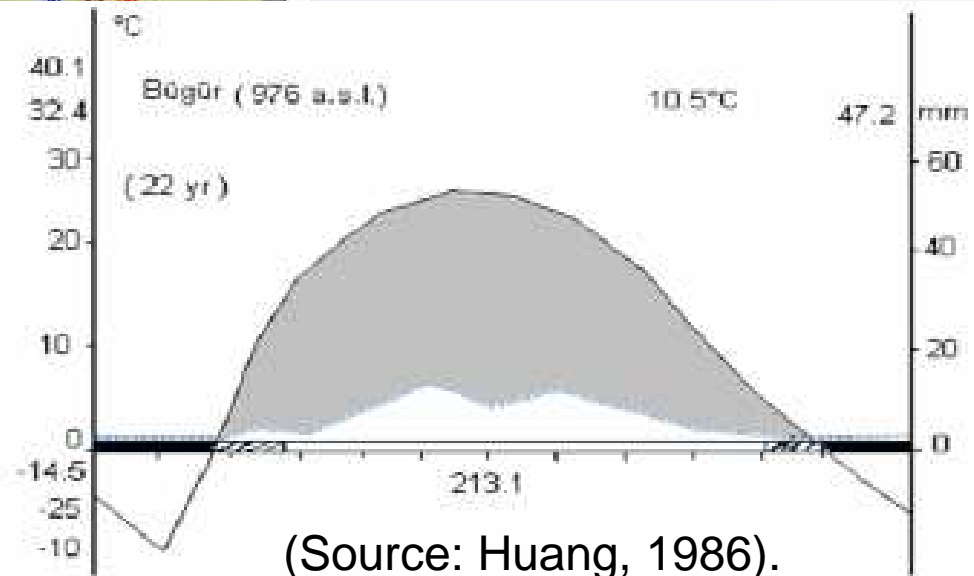
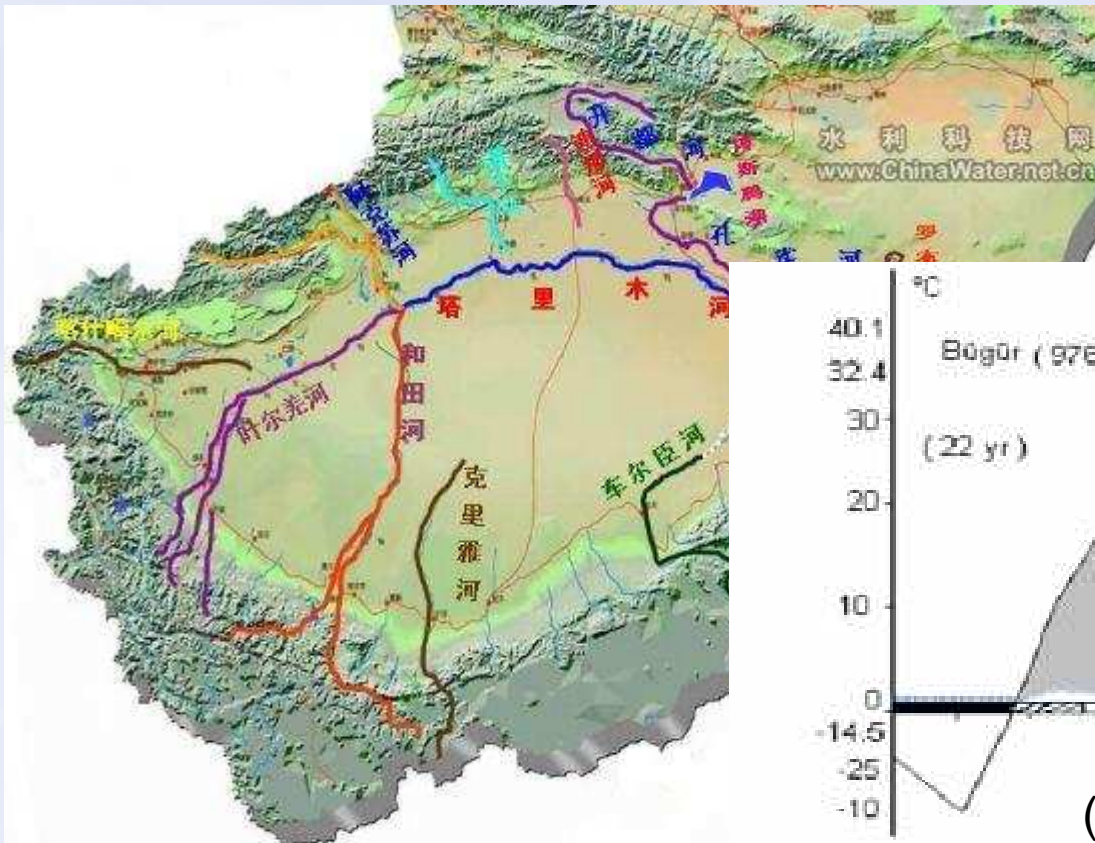
Outlines

- I. Agriculture development in the Tarim River Basin**
- II. Connecting IAASTD to the main and passive actors**
- III. How to engage the young generation**

I. Agriculture development in the Tarim River Basin

Tarim River
Continental river, 1321km
9 tributary river systems
1.02 Mio km²

Climate: Arid and Semi-arid, winter cold.
Annual precipitation: 17.4–42.0 mm.
potential evaporation: >2000mm per year

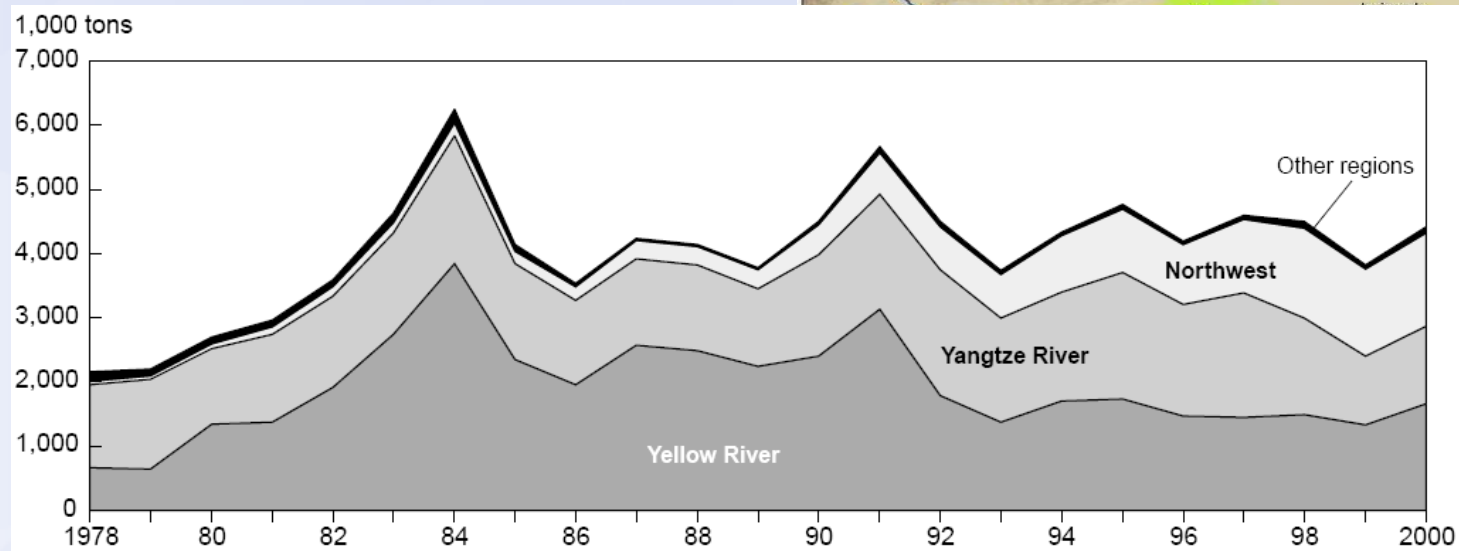
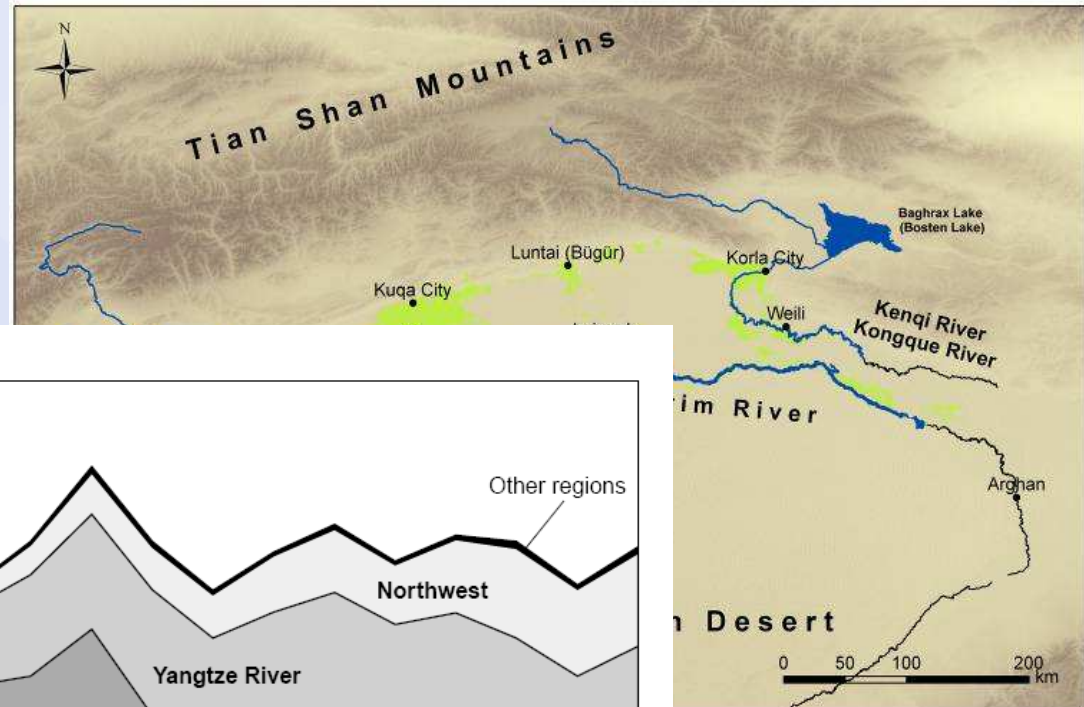


I. Agriculture development in the Tarim River Basin

From natural forest/grassland/desert to agriculture

From small scale to bigger scale

Cotton production: 2.5% to 1/3



the Tarim River

China's cotton production by region, 1978-2000
(source: Hsu and Gale, 2001)

I. Agriculture development in the Tarim River Basin

Problems occur

Land: habitat fragmentation, soil salinization

Water: surface water scarce, groundwater level drop down, no certainty with climate change

Vegetation: riparian vegetation degraded, grassland dried

I. Agriculture development in the Tarim River Basin

Influences on local people (at some places)

- Reduction of life quality
- Land loss: loss of production basis
- Home loss: “Ecological migration”
- Traditional knowledge loss with change of production patterns



II. Connecting IAASTD to the main and passive actors

Who are they?

Main but passive actors, producers but also affected

Who is listening to and representing them?
Officials? Scientists? NGOs? Themselves?

Who is standing at their side?
?...

II. Connecting IAASTD to the main and passive actors

IAASTD: comprehensive, fundamental, practical

But limits in implementation exist

1. Lack of knowledge

Not knowing the facts

No sufficient understanding of integrated knowledge

2. Lack of commitment

National and regional limit

Individual limit

Competition between different sectors

II. Connecting IAASTD to the main and passive actors

Focus should be given to

1. Education

- Farmers: external expertise, and approaches to protect their rights
- Consumers: green and wise consumption
- Governmental officials: “business as usual is not an option”
- Scientists: interdisciplinary understanding, effective communication

2. Institutional development

- Legal construction for property rights protection (in China)
- Trading policies on local and small-scale farming
- Support for Agriculture organizations growing

III. How to engage the young generation

1. Education pursuit, knowledge gaining
2. Active interdisciplinary communication
3. Ground level research as young academics
4. Participatory approach in implementation
5. Emotional connections

Thank you for your attention
Vielen Dank
谢谢 (xièxiè)

