

Implementation of Sanjiangyuan Grassland Eco-Friendly Management and Farmer Livelihood Research

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China, Sanjiangyuan



GEI Program Coordinator, Dr. PENG Kui, interviews a Sanjiangyuan herder – 2015 GEI

Each family in Sanjiangyuan herds a total of 20-40 animals but as the Tibetan religion bans eating meat, these families remain very poor with livestock only providing enough milk or clothes material for one family. Their animals' grazing area is shrinking due to the flooding and desertification of the melting permafrost. As such, the herders' financial struggles are exacerbated by constant migration and environmental changes.

GE saw opportunity in Sanjiangyuan due to our experience operating the Community Conservation Concession Agreement (CCCA), which provides support for local people to obtain land and develop economically. **In 2015, GEI worked with Southwest University to interview 197 families across 6 townships in 3 counties:** Wosha, Jianshe and JiMai in DaRi county; Deng Ta in BanMa county; and BaiYu in JiuZhi county.

RESEARCH: GEI experts investigated two factors about Sanjiangyuan life in their interviews: **1. Why were families so poor? 2. In terms of the land degradation, which, if any, agricultural land management methods were used?**

FINDINGS: Sanjiangyuan region farmers and herders have a particularly singular lifestyle: they *lack agricultural diversification* and have *a low degree of knowledge about natural environment deterioration*. The farmers also *lack social capital*.

CONCLUSIONS: The combination of these factors presents major obstacles for developing livelihoods and are important issues to address in development plans. **We produced our findings into a report,** which was submitted to *Qinghai Forestry Department of Protected Areas Authority and Sanjiangyuan Community Cooperative*.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. The Sanjiangyuan government should **avoid engaging in a 'one-size-fits-all' mentality** when determining policies concerning nomadic animal husbandry and migration periods. In fact, the government should fully respect the wishes of local farmers and herdsmen so to improve social stability and national unity.
2. More **effective methods for avoiding natural disasters** as well as **strengthened infrastructure** along the migration route are required.

Over the course of 2016, GEI will continue to research this community to gain insight grazing land management and home economics. They will also work with the locals to develop and implement a Sanjiangyuan-specific CCCA model.

Sanjiangyuan Static Documentary Series

This year GEI produced a **3-part static documentary** series about the Sanjiangyuan Region and its environmental challenges; the episode titles are "Expecting," "Dependence" and "Working Together." The documentary content is in Chinese but we hope our foreign friends will enjoy the stunning pictures and traditional music from this special region.



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