



## **WT54 – Land management and land ownership policies Session 1**

**The Chinese vision**

**The European questions addressed to Chinese**

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### Session 2

#### The European vision

- There are many different access modalities for land, especially farm land. Should these modalities be controlled, and if so, how? Is the French land policy a pertinent example that can be reproduced elsewhere?
- Ground roles and functions are not sufficiently taken into account to promote reasonable land use. But initiatives exist to develop knowledge of the land and to identify land at risk.
- There are many different way of controlling and regulating land use. How can these regulatory methods be managed by the people (be they city dwellers, farmers, consumers, etc.) themselves in a participative and democratic way?

#### The Chinese questions addressed to Europeans

- The challenges China is faced with are challenges that Europe has already experienced. China needs to resolve food safety problems and environmental challenges. What experience does Europe have to offer? Has it found a solution? Are there any residual problems?
- The European Union has set up control mechanisms for ground quality. How can we make sure that the results of these surveys really lead to applicable and coherent policies that will help preserve ground quality?
- The Chinese government has chosen to promote urbanisation, especially for small and middle sized cities. Why did the number of farmers drop in Europe after the second World War to the point that today, policies must put in place to protect farming activities? What was the role of policy in the reduction in the number of farmers?
- Why do European countries favour small farms, which, theoretically, are less productive than large farms ?
- Why are European cities increasing in size while the urban population remains stable ?
- After the second World War, did European governments set up incentives to encourage rural populations to move to the cities?

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### Session 3

#### Similarities

- Soil degradation : pollution, salivation, erosion, landslides, loss of ground water and biodiversity in soils, etc.
- A lack of political awareness of the importance of soil (no soil-specific political or legal directives), a lack of technical support for scientific research, insufficient public awareness.
- Soil is not accounted for as a resource in land use planning.
- Energy security is an issue of major importance.
- The challenge of urban expansion into farm lands
- To achieve corporate sustainable development goals, politicians must successfully address the following inter-connected issues: the distribution of property, farming modernisation methods, equity between urban and rural incomes, and rural-urban migration due to job creation.

#### Differences

- Soil in China is used more intensively (and subject to more chemical input) than in Europe.
- In Europe, farming practices reflect current law, while in China they are based on habit and tradition.
- Food safety is not always assured in China, while there is a production surplus in Europe.
- Land use planning is centrally controlled in China, but managed by regional and local authorities in most of Europe.



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### **Session 4**

**How to enhance the dialogue between China and Europe ?**