

## Newsletter no 5 – July 2006

# Agroparks in China

This newsletter informs you on the progress being made by Wageningen-UR and TransForum in trying to implement Agroparks in China. The first four Newsletters together cover the period from September 2004 until February 2006. This issue informs you on developments between March and July 2006 and on the mission of Peter Smeets (TransForum Wageningen UR - Alterra) from July 10 to 16, 2006. Since the scope of our actions is broadening the title of the Newsletter has been changed accordingly.

The board of TransForum ([WWW.Transforum.NL](http://WWW.Transforum.NL)) has repeatedly expressed its interest in development of Agroparks in fast growing and urbanizing countries like China and India. As a result of the February mission Henk van Latesteijn (TransForum CEO) and Peter Smeets elaborated the criteria under which TransForum would get involved in development of Agroparks in China. During the mission three different roles and responsibilities became clear that should not be mixed up. As a result TransForum was sometimes seen as an investor and in other cases co-responsible for plan development. We discern the following:

- Business-to-business investment opportunities: either in copying good practices or in innovation trajectories;
- Demand for support in systems innovations, either aimed at regional development (Spaces of places) or networks of co-operation (Spaces of flows) or the combination of both in clustering;
- Sino-Dutch cooperation on knowledge development. Only if this knowledge aspect is explicitly at stake or in perspective, participation of TransForum can be legitimized from its own goals

Regarding the involvement of Wageningen-UR and other Dutch knowledge institutes a similar line of thinking has evolved during the last months. Although Wageningen-UR still wants to acquire and execute projects in China on a consultancy base (either paid per hour or on the basis of a success-fee construction), they more and more consider development of strategic co-operation. This would take the form of joint ventures in which the design and implementation of an Agropark is only the beginning of a long term relationship that aims on the development of a knowledge value chain of education, research, applied knowledge and monitoring and evaluation carried out and applied while being a part and sharing in the revenues of the agropark practice. In doing so the knowledge institutes change their role to co-investors, bringing in cash, kind and knowledge.

### **WAZ-Holland Park in Changzhou**

Concerning developments of WAZ-Holland Park we very much regret to have to conclude that there has been made no significant progress. In our last joint meeting with WAZ-authority, we agreed that they would carry out a feasibility study, aiming at technical (hardware), organizational (orgware) and process (software) aspects of the Central Processing Unit (CPU) that was designed as the heart of the WAZ-Holland Park's design technical outfit. However in second instance the WAZ-side kept on insisting that this study must be carried out by Dutch investors. On the other side it is our estimate that investors

will regard the CPU as part of the infrastructure in which WAZ-authority should be the initial investor, being the project developer, and then paid back by all enterprises in the park that make mandatory use of this infrastructure. These investors will not invest in a feasibility study in advance. A similar constructin has been elaborated in Bergerden, The Netherlands, where Greenhouse companies produce their electricity, heath and CO<sub>2</sub> together and have organized common water management (see: <http://www.bergerden.nl/> (in Dutch))

### Shenyang Huishan Agricultural New & Hightech Development Zone

Concerning our participation in development of a potential Agropark in Shenyang province there has been made no significant progress.

### Chongming Dongtan Agropark



Chongming Island is situated in the mouth of Yangtze River. In 2009 a bridge will be finished that connects the island to mainland Shanghai.

Every year the Yangtze adds a few hundred metres of new land to the island by heavy sedimentation. These areas are diked in and taken into development.



The existing Masterplan for Dongtan distinguishes in zones for urban development, leisure, nature conservation, science & technology and for commerce & services.

The Masterplan and related developments of the Chongming Dongtan Zone were extensively discussed during the Eco-Chongming Forum 2006 that took place from July 12 to 14 on Chongming Island (See: <http://www.stcec.com/cm/english.html>). In this conference a special session was aimed at Industrial Ecology. In this session an overview of Agropark development was presented by Peter Smeets. Paula C. DIAS, from the French Agropolis Center ([www.agropolis.fr](http://www.agropolis.fr)), presented a project outline for a feasibility study on a Sino-French Laboratory on Ecology and sustainable development that would be established on Chongming island and that would aim at sustainable water management, energy & waste and on ecology and eco-agriculture. The ambition of the Agropolis-project is to create a network of co-operation

During the past months our focus has been on this Chongming Dongtan Agopark. TransForum and Wageningen-UR have together with Shanghai Industrial Investment Corporation, Shanghai Tongji University and Shanghai Jiaotong University decided to write a project proposal. All these parties will be investors and they will present the proposal to respective boards for decision in September. During the Eco-Chongming Forum Paula Dias and Peter Smeets agreed to look for close co-oration between the Agopark and the Agropolis project, after both have passed their approval in September 2007.

The Dongtan planning area contains a 27 km<sup>2</sup> area that will be developed as an agricultural demonstration zone, mixing agriculture, aquaculture and leisure. The centre of this zone will offer facilities for trade and selling, restaurants, hotels and an agricultural forum. Also an agricultural demonstration and education site will be developed including an international farms exhibit that will show model farms of different countries in the world and lifestyles of farming communities. A preliminary list of investors from China, Taiwan, the Netherlands and Japan is already made up by SIIC. These aim at development of greenhouses, aquaculture and production of high value added chinese medicin herbs. However it is the explicit aim of SIIC to expand the scope of the Agopark towards intensive livestock and dairy production and to establish linkages with land dependent agriculture within the 27 km<sup>2</sup> zone and elsewhere on Chongming island.

The project proposal will distinguish three phases. In 2006, from September to December Masterplanning, the start of Consortium Building and the establishment of a Knowledge Network will be the components of the first phase. The second part of the project (2007) will aim at accompanying the implementation of the park. The third phase from 2008-2009 onward will accompany the start up of operation and the monitoring and evaluation of operation and maintainance of the park.

Three research projects will be part of the first phase. They are needed to clarify, facilitate as well as support the argument of some of the key issues leading to the successful establishment of Dongtan agro park. Actually the three issues represent the three levels of development of the agro park project.

The first research project will focus on a modular design of CPU. CPU design can be complicated due to the variability of production cycle within a production unit and changes in production units due to change of investors, and other possible changes. To cope with these constant changes, the modularize CPU design software resulting out of this sub-

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<http://www.alterra.wur.nl/UK/research/China/Newsletter+Wujin/> and on  
<http://english.transforum.nl/html/newsletters.php>

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project can handle new input and output with ease and flexibility. The software product will be beneficial to Dongtan agro park, but also to the other agro parks.

The second research project will prepare Agropark information valuable to investor's business plan, such as market outlooks, cost-benefit analysis. Attracting investors to Dongtan agro park is one of the most important issue in it's development.

The third research project will focus on the Operational Modality of Dongtan Agro Park. As such it is part of the preparation of phase 3 of the project. It will elaborate management model and training for Dongtan agro park administration, as well as the environmental management of the agro park, the organization of international co-operation within the park and it will look forward to a potential "international livestock coordinating role" in Dongtan agro park.