

1.1 About This Document and The Seminar It Refers To

The Qinghai Livestock Development Project (QLDP) was implemented by Qinghai Province's Bureau of Animal Husbandry (BAH) from 1996 to 2000, with technical assistance from the European Commission (EC). At the end of August 2000 a 'Concluding Project Seminar' was held in the provincial capital, Xining. The seminar reviewed the work executed by the project-related researchers and field workers and, based on the lessons learned from project execution, prioritised future interventions. This document gives an overview of the technical content that was discussed at the seminar.

While the project was only able to make a modest contribution to improving the herders' situation, it has gathered important information to guide ongoing and future interventions. These herders are amongst the poorest people of China. The harsh environment they live in covers the sources of China's three largest rivers and so environmental processes in the Qinghai rangelands can have important effects on extensive areas outside the province. This publication reports how the project has analysed the structure of poverty of sheep and yak herders; assessed changes in vegetation production over the past 17 years; reviewed veterinary treatments; and conducted trials to rehabilitate degraded rangeland and to grow oats in sheep pens. It also reports on experiences in trying to promote the introduction of



Figure 1.1: Map of China, showing the percentage of the area consisting of the best two classes of rangeland

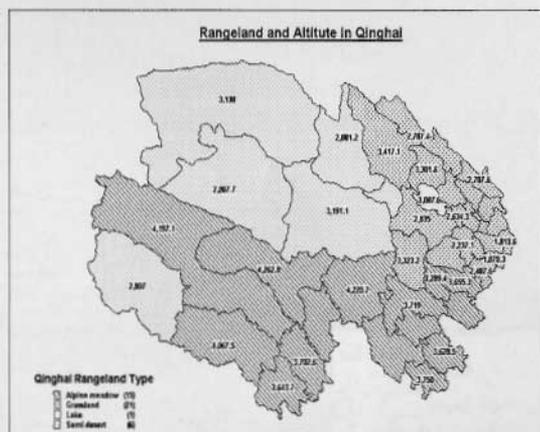


Figure 1.2: Map of Qinghai Province, showing average altitude in masl and type of rangeland

technological innovations in herders' communities. This document provides an overview of all technical content presented and discussed at the seminar and systematically reviews the technical papers and consultants' reports produced during project execution.

1.2 The Qinghai Livestock Development Project (QLDP)

The project area included eight 'Townships' in Maqin and Dari counties of Guoluo prefecture of Qinghai Province (see Figure 1.3).

The Qinghai Livestock Development Project began in 1996 to improve the livelihoods of sheep and yak herders in Qinghai Province by improving livestock production. The BAH established a Project Management Unit (PMU) staffed by Bureau of Animal Husbandry (BAH) representatives who worked alongside mostly short-term, non-Chinese experts in animal production, rangeland agronomy and management, veterinary care, land-use assessment, remote sensing, and pest control. These foreign experts were from a consortium of European agencies, with the Netherlands' RDP Livestock Services BV taking the lead in QLDP.

The PMU initiated three types of activities as follow.

- **Stock-taking** (descriptions and analyses of the existing rangeland situation, livestock, and the herder community)
- **Field trials** (with oats as winter feed, rangeland rehabilitation, control of rodent – especially 'pika' – damage, control of diseases and parasites in young stock)
- **Extension** (of promising findings of field trials, including training in participatory methods and monitoring).

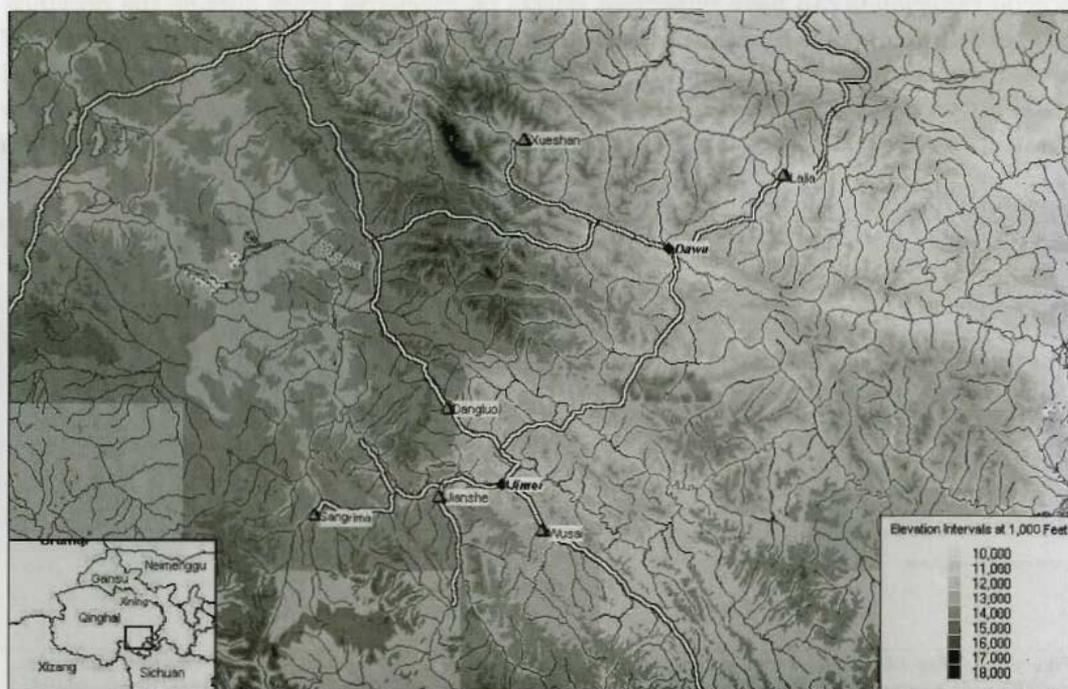


Figure 1.3: Map of Guoluo Prefecture showing the townships of project activity

The PMU worked with the BAH to design and implement activities. These units included the central, prefecture and county level grassland stations and veterinary stations; the provincial academies (Qinghai Academy of Animal Science and Veterinary Medicine); and the Huang Yuang School of Animal Husbandry. The Lanzhou Normal University, Qinghai Meteorological Bureau and the North-West Plateau Institute of Biology in Xining were also involved with specific activities. The role of the EC experts was not only to transfer technology and design field trials, but also to disseminate (new) ideas for development approaches. This network of institutions was coordinated by the PMU to contribute to the Concluding Project Seminar.

This document is not meant to be an evaluation of how the project has been executed. The European Commission and the central Chinese government's Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation (MOFTEC) have conducted an evaluation which has been reported on separately.

1.3 Further Reading

This document is made up of a series of review papers prepared by EC experts involved in the project. These reviews are based on the following three sets of documents: more than 80 workshop papers (in Chinese) produced for a workshop held prior to the seminar; more than 40 consultants' reports produced by consultants who had visited the project; and incidental documents gathered in connection with the seminar and during seminar discussions.

Workshop papers: The project staff and researchers of related institutes prepared for the seminar by writing summary reports on research and experiments done over the course of the project. This series of research papers and activity reports was presented and discussed by the participants of a workshop which preceded the seminar. These papers are to be published in Chinese under the title: 'QLDP Workshop Papers on Livestock and Rangeland Improvement in Qinghai'. To give non-Chinese speakers access to this material, English translations of abstracts of these papers have been made and are available at the Bureau of Animal Husbandry in Qinghai.

Consultant's reports: These reports were prepared by visiting EC experts between 1996 and 2000. They have been summarised and a list of them is given in Annex 1. Full versions of these reports in Chinese and English are available at the Bureau of Animal Husbandry in Qinghai.