

Press release – 2 June 2021

## **INRAE and the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS) renew partnership agreement**

**On 1 June, the Chair and CEO of INRAE, Philippe Mauguin, and Tan Sun, Vice President of the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS), signed a new framework agreement for a period of five years. The signing took place at the opening of the Franco-Chinese symposium on agricultural sciences at the 14<sup>th</sup> Joint Science and Technology Committee under the aegis of the ministries of research of both countries and with the participation of their respective embassies. The framework agreement formalises the long-standing and fruitful continued collaboration between the two institutes and reflects the spirit of cooperation between INRAE and China in the fields of agriculture, food and the environment, which has given rise to no less than nine international associated laboratories.**

This new framework agreement highlights scientific themes at the heart of current global challenges: sustainable agriculture in the context of global change, nutrition and human health, the environment, soil science and climate change, water and irrigation resources, genetic and genomic resources, plant protection, smart agriculture, remote sensing, etc. A key player in Chinese research in these fields, the CAAS is one of INRAE's leading partners in China in terms of the number of joint studies published<sup>1</sup>.

The framework agreement boosts the development of joint bilateral research projects, joint participation in consortium projects, and strengthened cooperation at institutional level. It supports the structured cooperation initiated by INRAE. Among INRAE's international associated laboratories (LIAs) with its partners in China, and where applicable, partners from higher French learning, two LIAs carry out work in collaboration with CAAS: the plant-insect interaction LIA for the agroecological protection of plants, with CAAS's Institute for Plant Protection, and the wheat genomics and

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<sup>1</sup> 90 joint publications in the 2012 – 2018 period (Web of Science™).

breeding LIA with CAAS's Crop Institute. These collaborations give rise to scientific mobility, joint research projects and training, scientific events, and joint publications.

#### **A Franco-Chinese symposium within the framework of the 14<sup>th</sup> Joint Science and Technology Committee**

This symposium, held by videoconference on 1 June, was an opportunity to highlight the collaborations established between institutions of higher education and research in France and China through cooperation instruments, and notably the nine LIAs in major fields like plant protection and health, the environment, agroecology, and breeding technologies and food processing, all in connection with global changes that are underway, especially those related to climate and biodiversity.

The main themes touched upon by INRAE and CIRAD scientists and their Chinese counterparts focussed more specifically on green agriculture, the agroecological protection of plants thanks to plant-insect interactions, genetic resources and wheat genomics, and tropical agricultural platforms with CIRAD.

**For more information (in French):** <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/fr/politique-etrangere-de-la-france/diplomatie-scientifique-et-universitaire/veille-scientifique-et-technologique/chine/article/14eme-session-de-la-commission-mixte-scientifique-et-technologique-franco>