



ChinaParts (INCO – CT – 2004 – 502253)

Responding to S&T co-operation with China: The
Development of a Cross-Border Agro-Food Processing
S&T Platform

Project Report

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. INTRODUCTION.....	1
2. OBJECTIVES.....	2
3. DESCRIPTION OF THE WORK.....	3
4. RESULTS, MILESTONES AND DELIVERABLES.....	4
5. DISSEMINATION ACTIVITIES.....	9
6. ONGOING ACTIONS.....	10
7. ACTION REQUESTED FROM THE COMMISSION.....	10

1. INTRODUCTION

This report outlines the activities completed by the ChinaParts project (Responding to Developmental Challenges in China through the Development of a Cross-border Agro-food Processing Platform Strategy - FP6-2002-INCO-DEV/SSA-1) during the period May 1st 2004 to April 30th 2005. This includes a synopsis of the activities completed during the Project, including the two workshops held in June 2004 and December 2004 in Beijing. The first workshop agenda was structured towards analyzing fruit and vegetable policies in China. The second workshop allowed the development of international agro-food processing collaborations between European and Chinese individuals and organisations. Both workshops involved the participation of Chinese and European experts from the fruit and vegetable processing sector. The periods leading to the workshops were dedicated to developing the workshop structures, identifying and inviting the experts within the Agro-food community. The periods subsequent to the workshops were dedicated to follow-up activities based on the workshops conclusions and project specific requirements. A Cross-Border Agro-food Processing S&T Platform Strategy was developed to identify the means to upgrade the fruit and vegetable processing chains in China. As part of this platform strategy, a database of contacts in the agro-food sector (European and Chinese organisations) was created and a new project proposal was presented to the 6th Framework Programme of the European Commission. A website and a brochure in Mandarin and English were also developed.

The project proceeded in line with the overall Project Plan as presented in the Technical Annex to the Contract. All of the different deliverables agreed in the project proposal were completed:

- Project Website;
- Project Brochure;
- 1st International Workshop Proceedings;
- Report - Key Policies, Practices and Standards for Chinese Agro-Food Processing of Fruit and Vegetables;
- 2nd International Workshop Proceedings;

- Report - Cross-border Agro-Food Processing Platform Strategy.

In addition a Database of Contacts in the Agro-Food sector involving European and Chinese Organisations was created. A Database Guidelines Document was also produced.

2. OBJECTIVES

The People's Republic of China has made significant efforts to develop economic agreements with the European Union. This project directly aims at responding to that agenda.

ChinaParts was supported through collaborative efforts between European and Chinese stakeholders to address S&T challenges in China, specifically on processing chains for fruits and vegetables.

The focus of this project was to:

- Enhance S&T co-operation with China within the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) framework.
- Exchange experiences in the S&T field.
- Build bridges between the European Union and China's agro-food processing sectors.

This was accomplished through developing a cross-border agro-food platform strategy. The strategy aimed at promoting new S&T partnerships and identifying means of implementing and supporting a successful cross-border agro-food S&T co-operation in the domain of fruit and vegetable processing.

Benefits included:

- Promoting understanding and openness between the European Union and China.
- Building common policies, practices and standards of the targeted agro-food sub-sectors.
- Developing a cross-border agro-food platform strategy to promote new S&T partnerships.

- Strengthening partnerships between Europe and China by developing mutual understanding among agro-food stakeholders.

3. DESCRIPTION OF THE WORK

The first months were dedicated to organising and implementing the project website (Annex I), project brochure in English and Mandarin (Annex II), and first workshop. Workshop preparation involved detailing a workshop programme, identifying European and Chinese experts from the fruit and vegetable processing sector to discuss current Chinese policies, standards and practices. A successful workshop was conducted in Beijing, People's Republic of China on the 7th of June 2004. The results of the workshop are highlighted in section IV and the workshop presentations and conclusions are detailed in the 1st International Workshop Proceedings (Annex III). In line with this Workshop, three onsite visits were conducted to fruit and vegetable processing facilities within the Beijing area. A summary document of Key Policies, Practices and Standards for Chinese Agro-food Processing of Fruit and Vegetables was also produced (Annex IV).

The second ChinaParts workshop took place in Beijing, People's Republic of China on the 16th and 17th of December 2004. The workshop focused on the development of an international scientific platform for the agro-food industry and was attended by 40 stakeholders from China and Europe (Austria, France, Italy, Poland, Portugal, Spain and United Kingdom) active in the agro-food processing field and leaders of various areas within the agro-food sector such as research, industry, and government. The results of the workshop are highlighted in section IV and the workshop presentation and conclusions are detailed in the 2nd International Workshop Proceedings (Annex V). Subsequent to the workshop a Cross-border Agro-Food Processing Platform Strategy was developed (Annex VI). A Database of Contacts in the Agro-Food sector involving European and Chinese Organisations was created. This database aims at supporting the implementation of a cross border agro-food platform, foster the exchange of experiences in the Scientific and Technological (S&T) field and contribute to the development of new partnerships. This database can be accessed through the ChinaParts project website. A Database Guidelines document was produced (Annex VII).

4. RESULTS, MILESTONES AND DELIVERABLES

As specified by the ChinaParts Technical Annex, there are six identified project outputs or deliverables. In addition a Database of contacts in the agro-food sector involving European and Chinese organizations was developed. A Database Guidelines Document was also produced. Following is a description of each deliverable:

➤ **Project Website (Annex I)**

The website is divided in the following sections:

- Introduction: presents an overview of the ChinaParts project.
- Objectives and Benefits: includes a description of the strategic objectives and project benefits.
- Methodology / Activities: includes a detailed presentation of the four project workpackages.
- Documents: includes access to the project deliverables associated with the individual work packages (in pdf or word format).
- Meetings: includes specific information on the two workshops, namely information on the agenda, participants, presentations.
- Brochure: presents information on the project's strategic objectives, benefits, inputs and outputs, methodology and deliverables. Two versions (English and Chinese) can be downloaded.
- Participants: includes contacts of the different project participants.
- Links: presents a compilation of relevant information for everyone interested in acquiring knowledge on the areas covered by the project.

➤ **Project Brochure (Annex II)**

The ChinaParts brochure presents information on the project's strategic objectives, benefits, inputs and outputs, methodology and deliverables. Two versions (English and Chinese) are available.

➤ **1st International Workshop Proceedings (Annex III)**

The first International Workshop took place at the Tsinghua Science Park in Beijing, People's Republic of China on the 7th of June 2004.

The workshop agenda was structured towards analyzing fruit and vegetable policies of China. The workshop involved the participation of Chinese and European experts from the fruit and vegetable processing sector. The workshop started with a general presentation of the ChinaParts project by SPI, with a brief overview of the project participants, project objectives, project benefits and project methodology. The ChinaParts partners were invited to discuss current Chinese policies, standards and practices. The first presentation was done by Prof. Jun Li, who represented the China Agricultural University. Prof. Li's presentation was titled "China Fruit and Vegetable Processing Policies, Legislation and Standards Dealing with Food Safety". After a break, where the workshop participants had the opportunity of networking, Dr. Bai Fengmei representing the China National Food Industry (Group) Corporation gave a talk titled "Fruit and Vegetable Processing in China: Technology, Quality, Assurance and Labelling". Prof. Changju Yang representing Renmin University of China provided a detailed analysis of current Chinese policies in fruit and vegetable production.

After lunch, SPI gave an overview titled "European Union Fruit and Vegetable Processing Policies, International Initiatives Dealing with Food Safety". The workshop continued with a discussion led by SPI on what are the key topics to be considered when visiting Chinese processing companies. The workshop ended with a discussion between SPI and the different participants with regard to the next steps within the ChinaParts project, and SPI made the closing comments.

In connection with this Workshop, three onsite visits were conducted to fruit and vegetable processing facilities within the Beijing area. These visits aimed at further enhancing and refining SPI's understanding of Chinese agro-food processing policies,

standards and practices. The visits to the three fruit and vegetable processing facilities (Beijing Shunxin-Qianshou Co. Ltd, Beijing Huabang Food Co., Ltd and Beijing Huiyuan Fruit Juice Drink Group Co.) took place on the 8th and 9th of June, 2004.

➤ **Report - Key Policies, Practices and Standards for Chinese Agro-Food Processing of Fruit and Vegetables (Annex IV)**

This document is divided in the following sections:

- Introduction of the Chinese Fruit and Vegetable Processing Sector;
- Administrative System of Chinese Agro-Food Processing of Fruits and Vegetables;
- Legislative Regulations of Chinese Agro-Food Processing of Fruit and Vegetables;
- Chinese Agro-Food Processing of Fruit and Vegetables: Regulating Standards;
- Analysis of China's Key Policies on Agro-Food Processing of Fruit and Vegetables.

The development history, the current situation and the future development and challenges are among the topics covered on the introduction of the Chinese fruit and vegetable processing sector. From 1949 to 1979, fruit juice products were very limited in the Chinese market. In the 1980s, the reform and open policy gave farmers the freedom of choosing the crops and plants they wanted to cultivate. After the 1990s, the fruit and vegetable planting and juice industry increased in China increased rapidly. Today, more than 60% of the manufacturers' equipments are integrated with the internationally prevalent technology of the 1990s, e.g. enzyme application, ultra filtration, activated carbon absorption, recovery of natural fruit aromas. Many process companies have their own orchards, encouraged by government financial aid and other measures. Although, China is one of the biggest potential fruit and vegetable juice markets in the world, challenges are still present on the on-going development of the industry sector.

The Administration System of Chinese agro-food processing of fruit and vegetables is the second topic covered in this document. The following food safety agencies are

highlighted: State Food and Drug Administration, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Agriculture, General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine (AQSIQ), State Administration for Industry and Commerce.

The legislative regulations of Chinese Agro-Food processing of fruit and vegetables are also mentioned, including the product quality law of the People's Republic of China (P.R.C), the Food Hygiene Law of P.R.C, Law on Import and Export Commodity Inspection, Law on the protection of consumer's rights and experts, law of sanitary and phytosanitary of import and export propagation.

Standards for fruit and vegetables in China are also discussed, including inspection standards, quality standards, the system of green food, organic food and non-environmental pollution food standards. China's key policies on agro-food processing of fruit and vegetables are also presented. Some of the policies discussed include: market access, shelf life, good manufacturing practice (GMP), HACCP, labelling, environment risk assessment, cleaner production.

➤ **2nd International Workshop Proceedings (Annex V)**

The second International Workshop took place at the Jade Palace Hotel in Beijing, People's Republic of China on the 16th and 17th of December 2004.

The workshop agenda was structured towards establishing the interest of European and Chinese individuals and organisations for the development of international agro-food processing collaborations. The workshop focused on the development of an international scientific platform for the agro-food industry and was attended by 40 stakeholders from China and Europe (Austria, France, Italy, Poland, Portugal, Spain and United Kingdom) active in the agro-food processing field and leaders of various areas within the agro-food sector such as research, industry, and government.

The workshop started with a general presentation of the ChinaParts project by SPI with a brief overview of the project participants, project objectives, project benefits, project methodology and a review of the first international workshop. The different participants in the workshop were invited to do a presentation on him/herself and on the organisation they work for. After a break, where the workshop participants had the opportunity of networking, SPI did a presentation on "Key Policies, Practices and Standards for Chinese Agro-food Processing of Fruit and Vegetables". After lunch, SPI

presented a database of contacts in the agro-food area (European and Chinese organisations) and a Cross-Border Agro-Food Platform Strategy.

The afternoon session continued after a break with an overview given by SPI on “Opportunities within the FP6 Framework Programme of the European Commission”. The first day of the workshop was concluded with a press conference. Lusa Beijing Office, Global Food Industry Magazine, China Food Magazine, China Food Newspaper, China Drinks Industry Association, International Business Daily, Beijing Youth Daily, Beijing Evening News were some of the media present.

➤ **Report - Cross-border Agro-Food Processing Platform Strategy (Annex VI)**

The Agro-Food Processing Platform Strategy brings together leading individuals, representing the diversity of the sector (research, industry, and government) to promote long-term cooperation on issues relevant to processing chains for fruit and vegetables. This platform will initiate networks, projects, workshops with the objective of promoting research/industry partnerships and supporting investments in human resources. The platform’s general objectives are:

- To provide cross-border agro-food S&T cooperation mechanisms by encouraging the use of information and communication systems specifically designed to enhance S&T cooperation in target areas;
- To enhance the establishment of new agro-food S&T joint initiatives between Europe and China and facilitate cross-border cooperation by providing networking opportunities;
- To foster the exchange, dissemination and development of knowledge on issues relevant to processing chains for fruits and vegetables and the agro-food sector in general.

➤ Database of Contacts in the Agro-Food sector involving European and Chinese Organisations (Annex VII)

This database aimed at supporting the implementation of a cross border agro-food platform, foster the exchange of experiences in the Scientific and Technological (S&T) field and contribute to the development of new partnerships.

The specific objectives of the database are:

- To collect information on European and Chinese agro-food organisations;
- To collect information on agro-food projects;
- To facilitate contacts among European and Chinese agro-food stakeholders.

As registered members of the database the different organisations have access to:

- A list of European and Chinese agro-food organisations.
- A description of agro-food projects of the listed organisations;
- Contacts of European and Chinese agro-food stakeholders, within the listed organisations.

The database also has a forum that allows for interaction among the different database members. Experts from different agro-food organisations (company, educational, EU, government agency, international organization, private non profit, research) in Europe and China are able to read, reply and post messages in this forum.

5. DISSEMINATION ACTIVITIES

The project brochure was disseminated to the more than 50 participants of the first and second ChinaParts workshops. These stakeholders from China and Europe (Austria, France, Italy, Poland, Portugal, Spain and United Kingdom) were strongly encouraged to further disseminate the project brochure and project information to their individual networks.

The Database of contacts (<http://www.spi.pt/chinaparts/login/login.asp>) in the agro-food area (European and Chinese organizations) already described plays also an important role on the project dissemination activities.

The project website is also an excellent dissemination tool. All the project information and project results were uploaded in the project website. All the project deliverables can also be accessed through the website. All the presentations from the first and second workshop are also available through the project website. As a result, major agro-food processing related associations and organisations in China and Europe have access to documents such as: Key Policies, Practices and Standards for Chinese Agro-food Processing of Fruit and Vegetables.

6. ONGOING ACTIONS

The ChinaParts project has now come to an end, but the coordinating organization and several experts within the Agro Food community plan to move forward with what are seen as the most critical project conclusions:

- An outcome of the second ChinaParts project held in Beijing in December 2004 was the development of a proposal within the 6th Framework Programme. A proposal entitled “ChinaFoodNet – Optimising Safe and High Quality Food Supply Chains between China and Europe” was submitted on the past February 8th. This proposal, Specific Support Action within the Food Quality and Safety Thematic Priority, involved 16 partners, being 8 from Europe and 8 from China.
- The Database of contacts is being continuously updated with new organisations, new contacts within the organisations and new projects within the agro-food area.

7. ACTION REQUESTED FROM THE COMMISSION

No major deviations from the requirements of the Technical Annex were necessary.