

Description of the typical farm CN5XI, China

General information

Region	Hubei province, Xinzhou district										
Type of farm	Mainly cash crop										
Other enterprise	none										
Legal status	Family farm										
Tillage system	Intensive plowing with rented machinery										
Decoupled payments (subsidies)	None										
Other subsidies	Average crop specific subsidies in China in 2009, (Source: NDRC, China, 2010)										
(average of subsidies paid by central government and provinces)	<table> <tr> <td>Cotton</td><td>48 USD/ha</td></tr> <tr> <td>Rice</td><td>114 USD/ha</td></tr> <tr> <td>Wheat</td><td>105 USD/ha</td></tr> <tr> <td>Corn</td><td>95 USD/ha</td></tr> <tr> <td>Rapeseed</td><td>61 USD/ha</td></tr> </table> <p>Furthermore, there might be subsidies for fertilizer companies to keep the price low</p>	Cotton	48 USD/ha	Rice	114 USD/ha	Wheat	105 USD/ha	Corn	95 USD/ha	Rapeseed	61 USD/ha
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Peculiarity regarding the national land market (land taxes etc.)	There is no land market in China. Family farmers do not have a land title. Since 2003, they neither have to pay land rent nor land tax to the government										
Any restrictions in place regarding N application?	No restrictions										

Natural conditions

Relief (hills, upland, plains)	Flat area
Elevation (m above sea level)	30
Soil type	Sandy soil
Climate	Subtropical to tropical
Main growing season	March - October
Average precipitation per year (mm)	1,300
Rainfall distribution	70 % between April and August
Duration of sunshine or cumulative temperature	Between 100 and 220 hours per month, depending on the season

On a part-time, but labour intensive basis the family farm CN5XI cultivates 0.3 ha of land. But due to the subtropical climate and the pre-cultivation of young seedlings on small seedbeds two to three harvests can be generated so that in fact 0.7 ha are harvested. Hubei is the leading province when it comes to rapeseed acreage. In 2009, 16 % of the national rapeseed acreage could be found here, amounting to 15.5 % of the arable land in the province. Therefore, rapeseed plays a major role in the typical farm's production system. In September, it is sown on very small plots and

a few weeks later the young seedlings are transplanted to the main fields (see Figure). After harvest in early May, two thirds of the fields are planted with cotton seedlings and the remainder with the first rice crop. Under the given climatic conditions, rice can ripen within two months and thus after harvest in July a second rice crop can be cultivated, due for harvest in September or October. In this way, 8 % of China's rice production originates from Hubei province where it accounts for 27 % of the arable land.

Production system of CN5XI

This (see right) intensive and tight production system is only possible with the use of mineral fertilizer and insecticides, both applied with a backpack sprayer, as well as the help of contracted labour from the neighbourhood. For more information read the article "China: many small farms but very productive" from the Cash Crop Report 2008.

