

## Voluntary Guidelines for a Sustainable Green Rice Standard on Chongming Island in Shanghai, China

As part of the Shanghai Municipal Government's 13th Five-Year Plan, which aims to "establish a world-class ecological island", the China office of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Chinese representative of the World Agricultural Heritage Foundation (WHF) jointly developed an innovative standard for chemical-free rice production and related good agricultural practices for Shanghai's Chongming Island, by exploring the agroecological and sustainable green rice production standard called the "Voluntary Standard for Chemical-Free Synthetic Pesticides and Fertilizers".

Shanghai's Chongming Island is located between the north and south branches of the Yangtze River and is bordered by the East China Sea. It is the largest alluvial island in the world and the third largest island in China. The main agro-ecosystems on Chongming Island are supported by the traditional polder system and natural wetland ecosystems. Artificial agro-ecosystems dominate most land uses and provide an important part of Shanghai's food supply: 25% of Shanghai's forest areas, 1/7 of vegetable supplies and grain production, agriculture is the largest form of land use on the island, accounting for 70% of the land cover. The entire island is flat land, with fertile soil, lush forests and abundant natural resources. Natural wetland ecosystems are widely distributed along the coastline and provide important habitats for many aquatic and wildlife species. To the east of the island is Chongming Dongtan Nature Reserve, which is recognized as a Wetland of International Importance by the Ramsar Convention.

The sustainable green rice production standard creates a model of sustainable agricultural development to help the island build the world's first low-carbon island. The standard applies to the entire process of sustainable green rice production derived from organic rice production, including planting, processing, product transportation, storage and packaging, as well as the certification of sustainable green rice by stakeholders.

The standard follows the key components of the principles and requirements of FAO's Globally and Nationally Important Agricultural Heritage System (GIAHS and NIAHS) for agro-ecology, sustainable agricultural development and the implementation of dynamic conservation of agricultural heritage systems, while ensuring ecosystem services and quality attributes of nutritional value, taking into account resource, energy, environmental and ecological indicators through innovative measures of Alegacy App. for Crowded Sourcing and ICT.

While the standard provides prescriptive guidance, practitioners may require locally relevant advice on appropriate best practice recommendations that support the requirements of the standard. National/local interpretation guidelines can therefore be developed to serve as a bridge between the common sustainable green rice standard and local field application.

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