

Vetiver Development in Yunnan Province of southwest of China

In October 2003, Ms Li and her colleagues from China National Democratic Construction Association (Yunnan Provincial Committee) participated in the Third International Conference on Vetiver (ICV-3) in Guangzhou. When she returned Yuannan she started the first vetiver project in Yunnan Province, southwest China titled Vetiver for Ecological Remediation. Three years later, on Jan.11, 2006, a meeting was held and the project was evaluated and proved by an expert group organized by Rural and Social Development Division of Science and Technology Department of Yunnan Province. The experts came from Yunnan China Science Technology Development Academy, the Committee of Population Resource and Environment of Yunnan People's Political Consultative Conference, Communication Department of Yunnan Province, Biological Creation Office of Yunnan Provincial Government, Environmental Protection Department of Yunnan Province, Forestry Academy of Yunnan Province, Livestock Research Institute of Yunnan Province, etc. The Democraticatic Construction Association presented a report on the design and implementation of the project. The experts evaluated the project and asked questions. Summary, the following comments were reached:

1. The Yunnan Province is located in upper reaches of Yangtze Delta and Pearl Delta. Therefore the environment protection is very important. The project focused on the environment protection and achieved great success. The project provided successful experience for road embankment stabilization, soil

erosion and sediment control of reservoir area, wetland ecological reclamation, and slope stabilization in Yunnan Province.

2. Though the three years' implementation, all tasks listed in the project contract were completed:

A_ Total 12500 m² demonstration plots were established to protect:

- the embankments of Songmao section of Kunshi Express Way;
- Samao Section of 4th-class highway of Zhaoyang district of Zhaotong city;
- Lengshui River embankment;
- the embankment of Yandian 2nd-class highway of Yanjin county.

The average survival rate of vetiver grass reached 80%. All of the slopes were stabilized and the ecology was recovered.

B_ Altogether 7 varieties of vetiver were introduced from Red Soil Research Institute of Jiangxi Province and South China Agriculture University. Totaling 400,000 seedlings were imported to Yunnan and 28.5 Mu (15Mu=1ha) vetiver nursery was established and 270000 seedlings were reproduced.

C_ Around 10 Mu of slope land and 1500 M roadside around Yulongwan Reservoir of Anning county and Sunjiaba dam of Jinning county was protected. The slope was stabilized and sediments were controlled.

3. The Yunnan Province located on the high plateau with an average altitude of 4000-5000 M above sea level and with strong sunshine that is not beneficial to the survival of vetiver planting materials. Therefore during planting root moisture should be well maintained. Through the implementation a detailed planting

regulation was prepared to ensure further development to be more successful.

The experts said that in the past people just paid attention to the slope greenization with short-rooted grass. As a result the slope could not be stabilized. Vetiver grass could not only enable the slope greening up but also enable it stabilized for a long time.

