

# Jin Hua's ecological engineering plans next season

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Caption: Maturing wheat crop in an area to be planted with single season rice at Jin Hua

On 19-20 April, Prof Geoff Gurr visited the Jin Hua ecological engineering site with Profs Lu Zhong Xian and Zhu Zheng-Rong. Local staff explained plans for ecological engineering treatments to be established for the coming rice growing season. Detailed discussions took place the following morning. Key decisions were to use sesame and ladies fingers plants on the bunds to provide nectar and to use sorghum and zizania as trap plants for Lepidoptera pests. An additional experiment will be set up nearby as a randomized, replicated experiment of sesame versus conventional bund vegetation.

Two new masters students will undertake laboratory research (on aspects such as effects of nectar on parasitoid longevity) to complement the field study. Prof Lu is also setting up an ecological engineering site at Ningbo, Zhejiang Province. Prof Gurr plans to visit these sites in early June by which time single season rice will be planted and bund treatments well established.

