

Summary Report of the 1st Symposium on GI Environment and Sustainability

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With the support and coordination from the Department of Communication of Ningxia Hui autonomous region and Department of Agriculture of Yanchi County, the First Symposium on Geographical Indications (GI) Environment and Sustainability was successfully held on January 13, 2021 in Yanchi county, Ningxia Hui autonomous region. Experts from Institute of Geographic Sciences and Natural Resources Research, Chinese Academy of Sciences (IGSNRR/CAS), Ningxia University, Yanchi Tan Sheep Ltd., officers from Ningxia Hui autonomous region and Yanchi government, as well as local herdsmen from Huamachi town joined the symposium.

Yanchi county is located at the junction area of provinces among Shaanxi, Gansu, Ningxia and Inner Mongolia, which is the continental temperate dry grassland monsoon with the yearly precipitation 200–400 mm only. Yanchi county covers a total area of 8,522.2 km², in which more than 80% land is the grassland. Yanchi's grassland is consisted of four grassland types: dry grassland, desert grassland, sandy vegetation grassland and saline vegetation grassland. There are 175 kinds of high-quality forages, including 110 kinds of traditional Chinese medicine. The soil in the territorial is mainly light gray and gray calcium soils; groundwater is weakly alkaline water, which is good for Tan Sheep. The total population of the county is around 173 thousands. Tan sheep, the GI product, is an excellent local sheep variety in Ningxia for mutton and fur, with a breeding history of more than 2000 years. President Xi indicated that the Tan sheep should be well protected. In 2000, Yanchi county was listed as the core reserve and core productive area of Tan sheep germplasm resources by the Ministry of Agriculture of China; it is the only Tan sheep reserve in China.



The symposium participates recognized and agreed that Yanchi Tan Sheep, as a national geographical indication product, has a unique ecological, geographical environment and the product inheritance geographical conditions in Yanchi, Ningxia. Based on the common understanding, it was decided at the symposium that taking the case on Yanchi Tan sheep dry grassland as a practice case to demonstrate how to reach Goal 15 of UN SDGs, specifically in GI environment and sustainability.

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