

GIES Case Dataset on Yanchi Tan Sheep Arid Grassland in Huamachi Township, Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, China

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Abstract: The Huamachi town of Yanchi county, Ningxia Hui autonomous region of China is located at the border among four provinces (Shaanxi, Gansu, Inner Mongolia and Ningxia) and is mainly covered with arid grassland. Yanchi Tan sheep is the National Geographical Indication Product, which plays an irreplaceable role in the life of local people in Yanchi, Ningxia Hui autonomous region. Huamachi town is the core habitat (ecological geographical environment) of Yanchi Tan sheep, which has accumulated the experience of inheritance significance in the habitat protection and sustainable development of Tan sheep. The case dataset of Tan sheep of semi-arid grassland in Huamachi town of Yanchi includes: (1) The dataset of Huamachi town of Yanchi and its adjacent areas; (2) DEM and slope classification data of Yanchi county; (3) Soil pH and chemicals in Wanjigou village, Huamachi town, Yanchi county; (4) Yanchi grassland plant species data; (5) Groundwater chemical data of Wanjigou village, Huamachi town; (6) Land use and NDVI data of Yanchi county. The dataset is archived in .shp, .tif, .xls, .png and .docx formats with a data size of 329 MB (211 MB in compressed) and consists of 74 data files.

Keywords: Ningxia; Yanchi; Tan Sheep; Huamachi Town, Geographical Indication; GIES; Case 1

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The dataset supporting this paper was published and is accessible through the *Digital Journal of Global Change Data Repository* at: <https://doi.org/10.3974/geodb.2021.05.09.V1> or <https://cstr.escience.org.cn/CSTR:20146.11.2021.05.09.V1>.

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1 Introduction

Yanchi county is located in the east of Ningxia, at the border of Shaanxi, Gansu, Inner Mongolia and Ningxia and is within 106°33'E–107°47'E and 37°04'N–38°10'N. The ancestor of Yanchi Tan sheep is the Mongolia sheep, one of the three sheep breeds in China. After years of natural evolution and artificial breeding, it has developed its unique features^[1]. To preserve Yanchi Tan sheep, various measures have been taken, including national standard^[2] in 1980, national geographical indication protection in 2016^[3], and local standard in 2020^[4]. “Yanchi Tan sheep Huamachi town arid grassland case dataset on ecosystem protection and sustainable development”^[5] is a new effort and may be used to study the habitat sustainability.

2 Metadata of the Dataset

The metadata of the dataset^[5] is summarized in Table 1. It includes the full name, short name, authors, geographical region, year of the dataset, data format, data size, data files, foundation, data publisher, address and data sharing policy, etc.

Table 1 Metadata summary of the dataset

Items	Description
Dataset full name	Yanchi Tan sheep Huamachi town arid grassland case dataset on ecosystem protection and sustainable development
Dataset short name	YanchiTanSheepCase01
Authors	Zhang, M. X. L-8674-2018, Ningxia University, 1014279339@qq.com Sun, Y. W., Agriculture and Rural Affairs Bureau of Yanchi County, 2321858709@qq.com Li, B., Ningxia Yanchi Tanyang Industry Group, Yanchi, Ningxia, 411702569@qq.com Liu, C. L-3684-2016, Institute of Geographic Sciences and Natural Resources Research, CAS, lchuang@igsnr.ac.cn Wu, G. H., Ningxia Yanchi Tanyang Industry Group, Yanchi, Ningxia, 911844543@qq.com Wang, Y. J. AAO-8514-2021, Ningxia University, wyj8690@163.com Yan, R., Ningxia University Wang, Z. X., Institute of Geographic Sciences and Natural Resources Research, CAS, wangzx@igsnr.ac.cn Shi, R. X., Institute of Geographic Sciences and Natural Resources Research, CAS, shirx@igsnr.ac.cn Yu, X. H., Publicity Department of Ningxia Bai, Y. J., Wanjiyou Village, Huamachi Town, Yanchi County, Ningxia
Geographical region	Yanchi county, Ningxia, 106°33'55.8"E–107°39'42.1"E; 37°4'49.7"N–38°9'44.6"N
Year	2020
Data format	.shp, .xls, .tif, .png, .docx
Data size	329 MB (212 MB after compression)
Data files	(1) boundary data of Yanchi county, township and village; (2) DEM and slope data of Yanchi county; (3) grassland data in Wanjiyou village, Huamachi town; (4) grass types list, Yanchi; (5) groundwater pH and chemicals, Wanjiyou village, Huamachi town; (6) land use and NDVI, Yanchi county
Foundations	Ningxia Natural Science Foundation of China (2020AAC03114); High Quality Development Project of Tan Sheep in Yanchi County; Chinese Academy of Sciences (A99P2010YT)
Data publisher	Global Change Research Data Publishing & Repository, http://www.geodoi.ac.cn
Address	No. 11A, Datun Road, Chaoyang District, Beijing 100101, China
Data sharing policy	Data from the Global Change Research Data Publishing & Repository includes metadata, datasets (in the <i>Digital Journal of Global Change Data Repository</i>), and publications (in the <i>Journal of Global Change Data & Discovery</i>). Data sharing policy includes: (1) Data are openly available and can be free downloaded via the Internet; (2) End users are encouraged to use Data subject to citation; (3) Users, who are by definition also value-added service providers, are welcome to redistribute Data subject to written permission from the GCdataPR Editorial Office and the issuance of a Data redistribution license; and (4) If Data are used to compile new datasets, the ‘ten per cent principal’ should be followed such that Data records utilized should not surpass 10% of the new dataset contents, while sources should be clearly noted in suitable places in the new dataset ^[6]
Communication and searchable system	DOI, CSTR, Crossref, DCI, CSCD, CNKI, SciEngine, WDS/ISC, GEOSS

3 Geographical Boundary Data of the Study Area

The boundary data of this study include geographic data of Yanchi county and Huamachi town. This county covers an area of 8,522 km² including 4 towns, 4 townships, and one street office. Four towns are: Huamachi, Dashuikeng, Huianbao, and Gaoshawo. Four townships: Wanglejing, Fengjiegou, Qingshan, Mahuangshan. Huamachi town is located in the northeast corner of Yanchi, is the capital of Yanchi county. The town covers an area of 1,531 km², including 23 administrative villages, one urban community and 146 natural villages. Of the 35,000 residents, there are 32,000 working in agriculture sector (Figure 1).

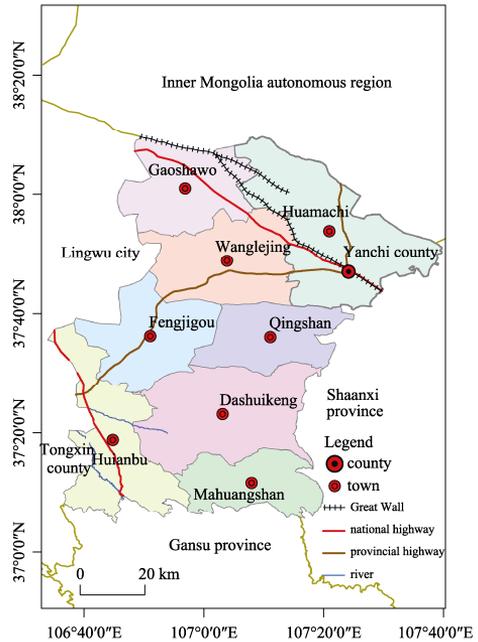


Figure 1 Location of Huamachi town, Yanchi county, Ningxia

4 Geographical Data

The geographical data includes DEM and slope, meteorological data, hydrology data, soil data, land cover data, and grassland data.

4.1 Terrain and Meteorological Data

Yanchi county lies in the transitional zone from the Loess plateau in the south to the Maowusu desert in the north (Figure 2). As a result, the corresponding climate is a transition from semiarid to arid, the vegetation is the transition from arid grassland to desert, and the land use is the transition from agriculture to pasture^[7]. This transition in geography leads to the diversity of natural resources and the fragility of ecological environment.

The climate of Yanchi is continental arid, with four distinct seasons, late spring and early autumn, long winter and short summer, sufficient sunshine and intense evaporation. According to the records of Yanchi Meteorological Station (2011–2020), the annual average temperature of Yanchi is 7.8 °C, the extreme high temperature is 38.1 °C and the extreme low temperature is −29.6 °C, and the day-night temperature difference can reach 20 °C. The annual sunshine is 2,180–3,390 hours. The annual rainfall is 200–240 mm, mostly concentrated in July, August and September, accounting for more than 60% of the annual precipitation. The annual evaporation is about 1,800–2,400 mm, and is about 10 times of the annual precipitation. The monthly precipitation, monthly average temperature and monthly sunshine duration in Yanchi from 2011 to 2020 are shown in Figure 3, 4 and 5.

4.2 Groundwater Quality Data

4.2.1 Groundwater Quality Data

Six water quality samplings were conducted in five villages (Nanwangjiqian, Beiwangjiqian, Lizhaizi, Wanjiqou, and Yangzhaizi villages) and one ecological pasture of

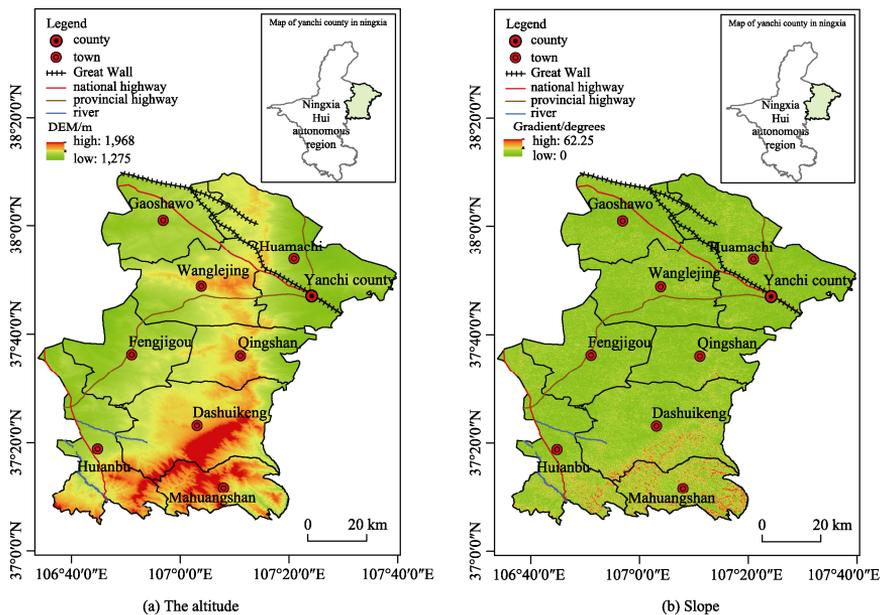


Figure 2 The altitude and slope of Yanchi county and Huamachi town

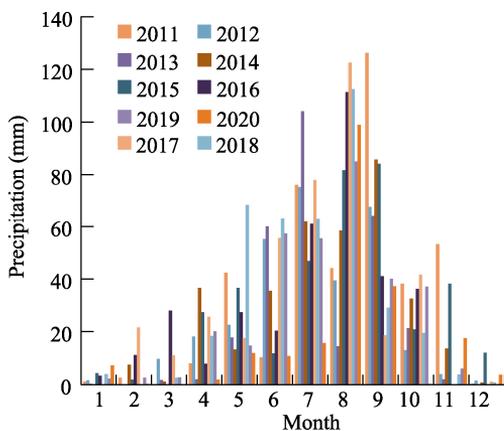


Figure 3 Monthly precipitation in Yanchi, 2011–2020

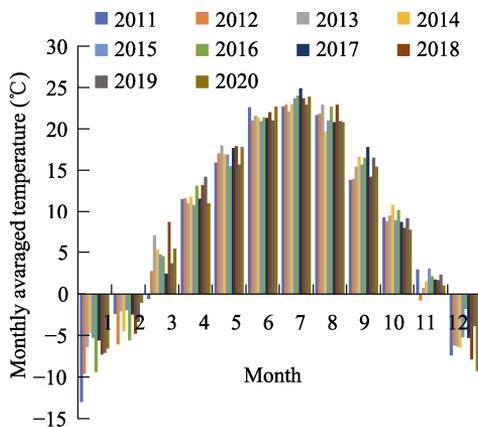


Figure 4 Monthly average temperature in Yanchi, 2011–2020

Tan Sheep Group Company. Water quality analysis was completed by the water quality Testing Center of Ningxia ShuitouYanchi Water Co., Ltd., (Table 2, and Figure 6).

As can be seen from Table 2, groundwater in the whole region is generally alkaline, with pH value between 7.85 and 8.17, and the most alkaline places are located in Yangzhaizi and Wanjigou. The highest groundwater hardness is located in Lizhaizi, which is 1,000.9 mg/L, belongs to the extra-hard water.

4.2.2 Quality of Water Consumed by Tan Sheep in Wanjigou

According to the National standard for groundwater quality (GB/T 14848—2017)^[8] and the comparative analysis of toxicological indicators of groundwater in the case area, the fluoride

in five samples (No.2–No.6) exceeded the standard, the toxicological indicators of the groundwater samples met the Class III water standard. GB 5749—2006 stipulates that Class III groundwater is medium in quality, suitable for centralized drinking water, industrial and agricultural water; and Class IV groundwater is poor, which is only suitable for agriculture and some industry, and cannot be used as drinking water without proper treatment (Table 3).

4.3 Main Soil Types and pH

According to the second soil survey in Yanchi in 1983, the soil in Yanchi can be divided into nine types: lime soil, aeolian soil, dark loessial soil,

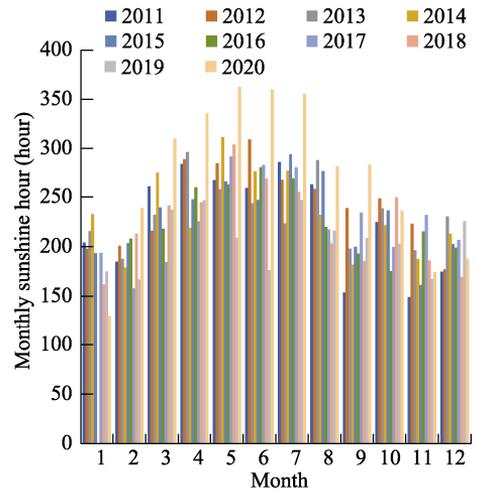


Figure 5 Monthly sunshine hours in Yanchi, 2011–2020

Table 2 Sensory characteristics and general chemical indexes of groundwater (mg/L)

No.	Sampling point	pH	Soluble total solids	CaCO ₃	Ammonia nitrogen	Fe	Mn	Cu	Zn	Chloride	Sulfate
1	Nanwangjiquan	8.05	989	400.4	0.056	<0.003	<0.008	<0.003	<0.015	130.6	222.1
2	Beiwangjiquan	7.85	1,740	420.4	0.086	<0.003	<0.008	<0.003	<0.015	322.1	480
3	Lizhaizi	7.85	3,356	1,000.9	0.619	<0.003	<0.008	<0.003	<0.015	853	945.4
4	Wanjigou	8.17	2,320	820.7	0.218	<0.003	<0.008	<0.003	<0.015	438.2	580.7
5	Yangzhaizi	8.17	518	280.8	0.179	<0.003	<0.008	<0.003	<0.015	54.1	85.9
6	Eco Pasture	8.1	1,058	340.3	0.048	<0.003	<0.008	<0.003	<0.015	210.4	290.1

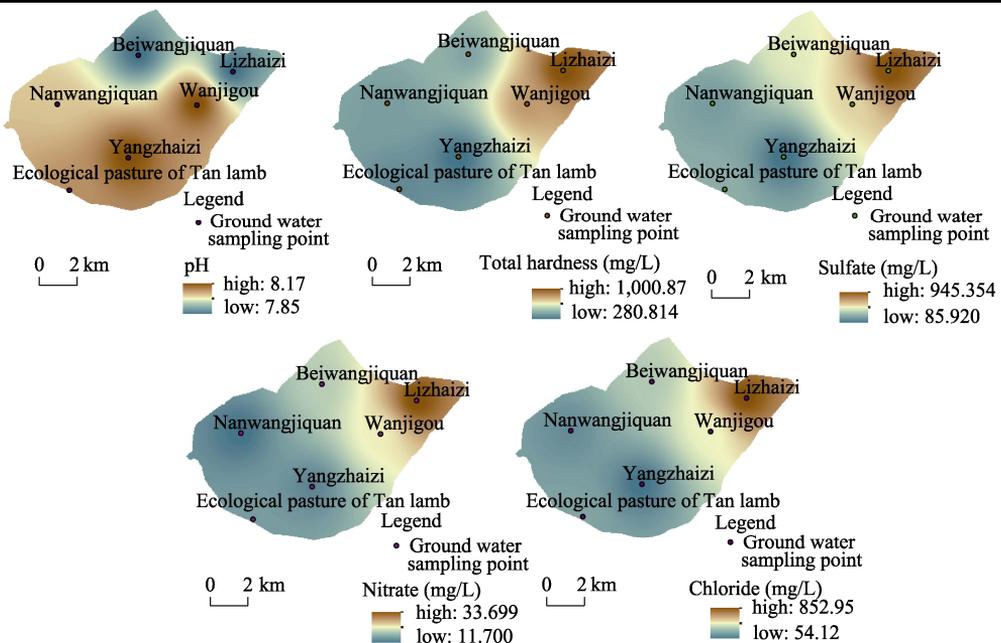
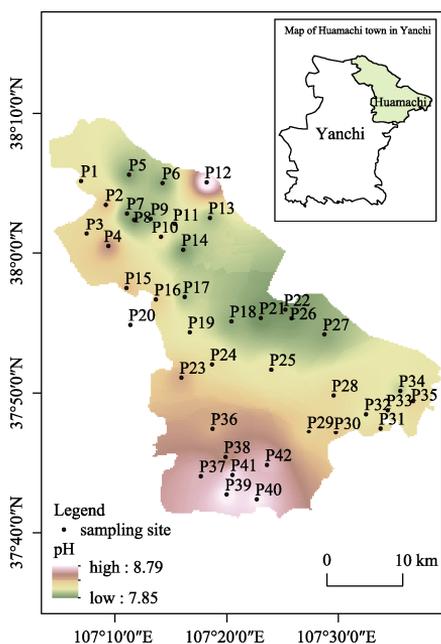


Figure 6 Interpolation of groundwater quality indexes in Wanjigou village

Table 3 Toxicological indexes of groundwater in sampling points (mg/L)

No.	Sampling point	As	Cd	Cr	Pb	Hg	Se	fluoride	Nitrate (N)
1	Nanwangjiquan	<0.001	<0.000,25	<0.004	<0.000,20	<0.000,1	<0.000,4	3.82	11.7
2	Beiwangjiquan	<0.001	<0.000,25	<0.004	<0.000,20	<0.000,1	<0.000,4	7.13	19.3
3	Lizhaizi	<0.001	<0.000,25	<0.004	<0.000,20	<0.000,1	<0.000,4	6.96	33.7
4	Wanjigou	<0.001	<0.000,25	<0.004	<0.000,20	<0.000,1	<0.000,4	4.33	22.9
5	Yangzhaizi	<0.001	<0.000,25	<0.004	<0.000,20	<0.000,1	<0.000,4	1.58	13.1
6	Eco Pasture	<0.001	<0.000,25	<0.004	<0.000,20	<0.000,1	<0.000,4	5.13	15

**Figure 7** Soil pH in huamachi town, Yanchi

saline soil, fresh soil, meadow soil, heap-bed soil, bobby soil and bare rock. In this study, 40 sample points were chosen in Huamachi, and the soils in sampling points are lime soil, saline soil and aeolian sand soil. First, GPS is used to record the geographical locations of sampling points. Second, removed about 10 cm of surface soil, and cleaned up all organic impurities in the soil, such as leaves and roots. Third, the ZD-18 instrument was used to insert the metal probe into the soil vertically and clockwise to about 8–10 cm, and the soil was compacted evenly around the probe to make the soil fully contact with the probe. After the numerical value was stabilized, the readings were recorded (Figure 7). Figure 7 shows that the soil pH in Huamachi was high in the south and low in the north.

4.4 Unique Grassland Resources

4.4.1 Plant Types: 173 Species from 39 Families and 118 Genera

There are four types of grassland in Yanchi, including dry steppe grassland, desert grassland, sand vegetation grassland and halophyte vegetation grassland. There are 175 species of natural plants, which belong to 39 families, and most of them are forage plants. Among them, 12 kinds of plants such as licorice and bitter beans are included in the pharmacopoeia, and 4 kinds of plants such as green bristle grass are used for folk medicine (Table 4).

4.4.2 Land Use and Land Cover (NDVI) in Huamachi Town

(1) Land use in Huamachi town

The land cover and land use map of Huamachi are produced based on Sentinel-2 L2A data^[9]. Land use consists of six types, including construction land, water, cultivated land, woodland and grassland (Figure 8). The grassland accounted for 30.24% of the total area of Huamachi.

(2) Land cover (NDVI) in Huamachi town

Based on the Sentinel-2 data, NDVI for five-scenes from September 8, 2020 (spatial resolution of 10 m) were calculated and synthesized using Equation (1) (Figure 9).

$$NDVI = \frac{(NIR - R)}{(NIR + R)} \tag{1}$$

where *NIR* is the near-infrared band (Band8 in Sentinel-2); *R* is the red band (Band4 in Sentinel-2). The statistics show that NDVI of Huamachi in September 2020 is between 0 and 0.99, of which, *NDVI* above 0.21 accounts for 65.77% of the total area.

Table 4 Statistics of families, genera and species of natural plants in Yanchi

No.	Families	No. of genera	No. of species	No.	Families	No. of genera	No. of species
1	Leguminosae	18	33	21	Euphorbiaceae	1	2
2	Gramineae	18	30	22	Paeoniaceae	1	2
3	Chenopodiaceae	12	14	23	Solanaceae	1	1
4	Compositae	10	20	24	Rutaceae	1	1
5	Rosaceae	6	11	25	Violaceae	1	1
6	Caryophyllaceae	4	4	26	Oleaceae	1	1
7	Ranunculaceae	4	4	27	Verbenaceae	1	1
8	Papaveraceae	4	4	28	Sapindaceae	1	1
9	Cruciferae	4	4	29	Arnebiaceae	1	1
10	Zygophyllaceae	3	4	30	Tamaricaceae	1	1
11	Polygonaceae	2	4	31	Polygalaceae	1	1
12	Cyperaceae	2	2	32	Rhamnaceae	1	1
13	Labiatae	2	2	33	Oxalidae	1	1
14	Convolvulaceae	2	2	34	Pedaliaceae	1	1
15	Scrophulariaceae	2	2	35	Loniceraceae	1	1
16	Crassulaceae	2	2	36	Campanulaceae	1	1
17	Liliaceae	1	3	37	Amaranthaceae	1	1
18	Ephedraceae	1	3	38	Moraceae	1	1
19	Asclepiadaceae	1	2	39	Santalaceae	1	1
20	Iridaceae	1	2				
Total				39		118	173

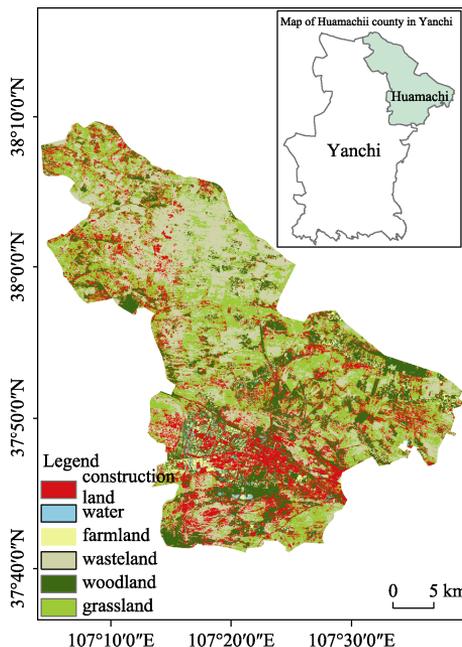


Figure 8 Land use type of Huamachi town

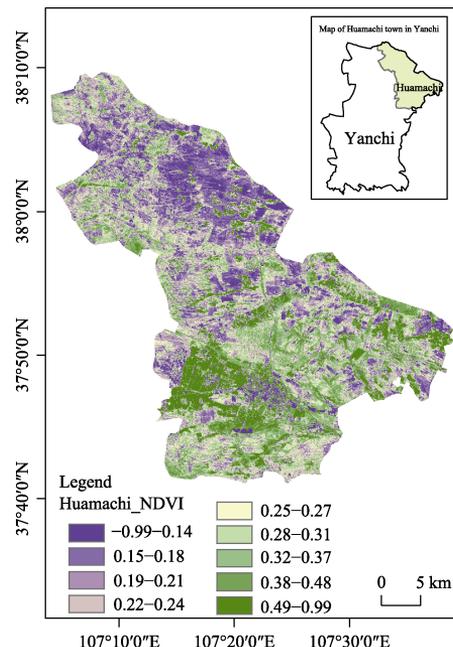


Figure 9 NDVI of Huamachi town

5 Variety Data of Yanchi Tan Sheep

5.1 Identification (Authentication) Standard of Yanchi Tan Sheep

Yanchi Tan sheep is a breed for both its skin and meat products, and the identification of this breed has been included in national and local standards. According to the national standard GB/T 2033—2008 and the local standard geographical indications of Ningxia Hui autonomous region—Yanchi Tan sheep DB64/T 1545—2020^[4], Yanchi Tan sheep has a medium build, strong constitution, good combination of all parts of the body, slightly raised nose bridge, and with three kinds of ears: large, medium and small. Rams have spiral horns extending outward; ewes are usually have no or small horns. The back waist is straight, the chest is deeper, the limbs are straight and the hooves are solid. The tail root is wide, the tail tip is fine and round, and it is inverted long triangle and droops over the hock. Body hair color is pure white, most of the head have brown, black, or yellow hair spots (Figure 10).



Yanchi Tan sheep (ram)



Yanchi Tan sheep (ewe)



35–45 days old lamb

Figure 10 Yanchi Tan Sheep: Rams, Ewes and 35–45 days old lambs

According to the former State Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine, the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine of P. R. China, the protected area of the geographical indication product is limited to the administrative department of eight towns in Yanchi county within the administrative area (Figure 1).

5.2 The Mutton Product Standards of Yanchi Tan Sheep

The quality of mutton product from Yanchi Tan sheep is guaranteed by a series of specifications and standards. Specifically, items 15–27 in Table 5 cover a wide range of fields regarding mutton quality, from carcass classification to product delivery.

5.3 Product Standards of Tan Sheep Fur and Fur of Lambs

Because of its soft texture and light and strong leather board, the leather of Tan sheep is the best material for making leather clothes and leather goods. The fur of lambs is produced about one month after birth (35–45 days), and the length of the wool strand reaches 7–8 cm. The release standard and the fur products of Tan sheep have been listed as the local standard of Ningxia Hui autonomous region (DB64/T 687—2011). The fur of lambs has strict localities as Tan sheep (item 28 in Table 5).

6 Social Infrastructure for Yanchi Tan Sheep Development

The total population in Yanchi is about 159,200, with 81,822 living in towns and 77,303 in villages. There are 4,500 Hui minorities, accounting for 2.6 percent of the county's

population. In 2020, the per capita disposable income of farmers is 13,922 Yuan, more than 50% comes from the tan sheep industry. The government, enterprises, herdsmen, technology and media in Yanchi have coordinated to protect the habitat of Yanchi Tan sheep using following-measures.

6.1 Preservation of Fine Varieties

Yanchi is the home to Tan sheep in China. For a long time, Yanchi Tan sheep is closely related to local people's life, and forms the only germplasm resources. It is the consensus of all stakeholders in Yanchi to protect the fine quality of Tan sheep. From June 8 to 10, 2020, President XI Jinping inspected Ningxia, and made comment about Tan sheep, "Tan sheep has good quality and has its own special flavor, and we should get it well preserved."

6.2 Protection of Intellectual Property

Geographical indication products are a kind of intellectual property. Yanchi Tan sheep has registered geographical indication products and are also the precious intellectual property of Yanchi people. The government and enterprises of Yanchi attach equal importance to the protection of intellectual property and product quality. Specific measures include:

(1) Raising the awareness of intellectual property rights, registered the trademarks of geographical indication

In 2005, "Yanchi Tan sheep" (Class 29, registration number: 3334050) was registered by the State of Trademark Administration as a certification trademark of geographical indications to prove the specific quality and origin of "Yanchi Tan Sheep". In 2008, the Ministry of Agriculture awarded Yanchi Tan sheep "Agricultural Geographical Products"; In 2016, the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine awarded Yanchi Tan sheep "National Geographical Indications Protection Product". Thus, Yanchi Tan sheep has the exclusive trademark right under legal protection (Figure 11).

(2) Implementation of the Trademark of Geographical Indication Products of Yanchi Tan Sheep

In 2021, the government of Yanchi issued measures to administrate the Trademark of geographical indications products of Yanchi Tan sheep. The measures stated clearly that "Yanchi Tan Sheep" is a collective Trademark of Geographical Indications Products, whoever wants to use this trademark need to apply for it, get the approval from trademark registrant, and sign the trademark use contract. Without the permission of the trademark registrant, no organization or individuals may use it.

(3) Inspection of law enforcement to protect the exclusive right of "Yanchi Tan Sheep" trademark.

Governments at all levels in Ningxia carried out rectification actions on the use of the registered trademark of "Yanchi Tan Sheep", and banned the actions of deceiving consumers by illegally using the geographical indications of "Yanchi Tan Sheep". The intellectual property rights of trademark registrants and the legitimate rights and interests of consumers of "Yanchi Tan Sheep" will be effectively safeguarded.



Figure 11 Trade mark of Yanchi Tan sheep

6.3 Standardization of Management

A series of standards have been issued for the geographical indication products of Yanchi Tan sheep. The standardization of Yanchi Tan sheep management is an important guarantee for the protection of Yanchi sheep species, ecological and geographical environment, and the interests of herdsman. The 28 standard and technical Specifications of the “Yanchi Tan Sheep” production are listed in Table 5.

6.4 The Government Provided Ecological Compensation for Grassland Protection

To restore high-quality pastures, the government has issued a grazing ban policy. In 2020, 95,964 ha of grassland received ecological compensation in Huamachi town. Yanchi county provided the ecological compensation of 112.5 Yuan/ha to implement the forbidding grazing policy, 10.8 million Yuan in total and benefiting 8,573 herdsman.

6.5 Roles Played by Enterprises

Ningxia Yanchi Tan Sheep Industry Development Group Co., Ltd. is a wholly state-owned

Table 5 Standard and Technical Specifications of Yanchi Tan Sheep Management

Item	Standard and technical specifications	Standard*
1	Tan sheep (GB/T 2033—2008)	NS
2	Geographical indication products—Yanchi Tan sheep (DB64/T 1545—2020)	LS
3	Standard for sheep farm construction (DB64/T 749—2012)	LS
4	Specifications for the stabling of Tan sheep (DB64/T 845—2013)	LS
5	Specifications for ewe Tan sheep in the house (DB64/T 939—2013)	LS
6	Specifications for high frequency breeding of Tan sheep in house (DB84/T 1480—2017)	LS
7	Specification for Yanchi Tan sheep production- mutton (DB64/T 1232—2016)	LS
8	Specification for early supplementary feeding of lambs (DB64/T 1619—2019)	LS
9	Specification for lamb fattening (DB64/T 846—2013)	LS
10	Specification for total mixed ration and mixed feeding for Tan sheep (DB6A/T 1476—2017)	LS
11	Specification for silage preparation (DB64/T 104—2013)	LS
12	Specification for processing and modulation of forage enveloped silage (DB64/T 752—2012)	LS
13	Specification for sheep farming disease prevention and control (DB3207/T 116—2018)	LS
14	Specification for immunization of sheep small ruminant pest (DB64/T 1604—2019)	LS
15	Specification for Yanchi Tan Sheep Slaughter house (T/TYXH 02—2017)	LS
16	Determination and Carcass Classification of Yanchi Tan Sheep (DB64/T 1084—2015)	LS
17	Practice for PCR-mtDNA Identification of Pure Tan Sheep (DB64/T 1638—2019)	LS
18	Grading Standard for Meat Carcass of Tan Sheep (DB64/T 747—2012)	LS
19	Specification and Standard for Segmentation of Yanchi Tan Sheep Mutton (T/TYXH 01—2017)	LS
20	Specification for Lamb Segmentation (NYT1564—2007)	LS
21	Specification for Transport and Distribution of Yanchi Tan Sheep (T/TYXH 04—2017)	LS
22	Specification for Sales Zone of Yanchi Tan Sheep (T/TYXH 03—2017)	LS
23	Stir-fried of Yanchi Tan Sheep Lamb Mutton (T/TyxH 06—2017)	LS
24	Chunks of Yanchi Tan Sheep Mutton (T/TyxH 07—2017)	LS
25	Stewed Yanchi Tan Sheep Mutton (T/TYXH 08—2017)	LS
26	Hand-Grab Yanchi Tan Sheep Mutton (T/ TyxH 09—2017)	LS
27	Steamed Yanchi Tan Sheep Mutton (TyxH 10—2017)	LS
28	Specification for fur products of Yanchi Tan sheep (DB64/T 687—2011)	LS

* NS= National standard; LS=Local standard (Ningxia).

Table 6 Subsidy from Ningxia Yanchi Tan sheep industrial development group in 2019

Batch	Towns	Villages	Natural village	Subsidy number	Subsidy standard (Yuan/Sheep)	Subsidy amount (Yuan)
1	8	74	213	51,246	30	1,537,380
2	8	52	161	23,564	30	706,920
3	8	61	189	21,854	30	655,620
4	8	70	206	23,009	30	690,270
5	8	35	68	6,921	30	207,630
6	8	85	241	73,243	30	2,197,290
7	8	32	103	21,396	30	641,880
Total		409	1,181	221,233		6,636,990

enterprise established by the government of Yanchi county in 2017. It is an industrial enterprise of Tan sheep and serves multiple functions: preservation, purchase, processing, storage, sales and promotion of Yanchi Tan sheep. At present, the company has a slaughtering factory with a capacity of 300,000, and has 5,000 sheep in the ecological pastures. In addition, the company facilitates scientific research, establishes species germplasm bank, help to diminish various risks. To protect Yanchi Tan sheep species and its genetic germplasm resources, Ningxia Yanchi Tan Sheep Industry Group Co., Ltd. established series of measures, a demonstration farm, and a monitoring system.

Demonstration of new technology and management is an integral part of the Ningxia Yanchi Tan Sheep Industry Development Group, which covers wide areas. Meet the volatile market resulted from various factors is another challenge. For example, in 2019, the company gave each sheep a subsidy of 30 Yuan to enhance farmers' capacity to meet the unstable market, with a total subsidy of more than 6 million Yuan (Table 6). During COVID-19 outbreaks in 2020, the company set up a trading service platform to help farmers sell their sheep at a fare price, and meanwhile help farmers buy small lamp.

7 Summary

Persistence of “Yanchi Tan Sheep” as a national geographic indication product benefits from two factors: the unique, irreplaceable ecological environment (habitat) in Yanchi, and the well-developed social infrastructure—the engagement of all stakeholders from individual farmers to relevant companies to local governments. The development of “Yanchi Tan sheep Huamachi town arid grassland case dataset on ecosystem protection and sustainable development” is a new effort in this direction. This dataset will promote Yanchi Tan sheep industry in Ningxia to develop in terms of more scientific approach, more efficient management, more delicious and safer products. The key takeaways from the development of this case dataset is: development must adapt to local conditions; respect geographical tradition; the integration of variety, quality, brand promotion and reputation; the integration of herdsman, enterprises, government, academics; and the coordination of information flow, logistics, and people flow. While Yanchi Tan sheep has its unique feature, it is also a section in a broader spectrum of worldwide geographic indication sheep product^[10]. There are still many issues to be solved, such as the relationship between water, soil, grass and air and the quality of Yanchi Tan sheep, and the breed protection and quality inheritance of Yanchi Tan sheep.

Author Contributions

Liu, C. and Yu, X. H. made the overall design of the original ecological environment protection and sustainable development case study of Yanchi Tan sheep in Huamachi town, Yanchi county, and hosted a field seminar on the case in January 2021. Yu, X. H., Sun, Y. W., Li, B., Wu, G. H., Liu, C. and Zhang, M. X. completed the field investigation, and Zhang, M. X. designed the data set framework; Wang, Y. J., Zhang, M. X. developed the land use data. Sun, Y. W., Li, B., Wu, G. H. and Zhang, M. X. analyzed water, plants, and soil data, Wang, Z. X. provided data processing technology and Shi, R. X. classified elevation data, Shi, R. X. finalized the dataset, Wang, Y. J. processed data and completed the thesis draft, Liu, C. adjusted the data structure and data results, revised the Chinese version of the data paper, Wang, Y. J. and Zhang, M. X. translated the paper into English, and Liu, C. and Wang, Z. X. proofed the English version.

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Conflicts of Interest

The authors declare no conflicts of interest.

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