

Grain for Green / Sloping Land Conversion Programme (China)

PES & Nature-Based Solutions · Good practice · China

Quality score: 60/100

Evidence strength: Observational / pre–post

Summary

The world's largest PES: since 1999 China has paid 30M+ rural households to convert ~29.8M hectares of sloping cropland to forest to curb erosion, investing over ¥430bn — at vast scale, with debated ecological quality.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Carbon — sequestration / storage, evidenced	2/3
Biodiversity — conservation / improvement, evidenced	1/3
Water & soil — retention, infiltration, erosion control	3/3
Fire resilience — risk reduction, evidenced	1/3
Governance, certification & transferability	2/3

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

[C-NAPSE evaluation](#) — accessed 2026-06-19

[Green Economy Coalition — China eco-compensation](#) — accessed 2026-06-19

[Longitudinal household evaluation \(ScienceDirect\)](#) — accessed 2026-06-19

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