

CHINESE STUDY OUR OPERATIONS

By RICHARD MOORE

FOUR Chinese foresters spent two weeks in the south-west recently, studying forestry and agroforestry activities.

The study tour was part of an Australia-China Agroforestry Exchange Programme coordinated by the International Tree Crops Institute.

One of its main objectives was to identify areas where there could be mutual benefit from on-going exchange of ideas and information.

The study tour included inland forestry at Kalbarrie, windbreaks and fodder trees at Esperance, agroforestry for salinity control at Frankland and Mundaring and plantation and native forestry in the Manjimup region.

The leader of the delegation, Hu Yuxuan, is Govern-

nor of Nampi county; a county 300km south of Beijing, 20km by 40km in area, but with a population of 300,000.

Gao Yong is chief forester for several districts including Nampi county.

The third member of the party was Song Zhaomin, deputy director of the Agroforestry Research Division of the Chinese Academy of Forestry in Beijing.

For many years he has been studying the effects of windbreaks on microclimate and agricultural crops.

The interpreter for the party was Wang Mei Yan, who is involved with planning research with the Academy of Forestry in Beijing and with guiding visiting foresters.

The Chinese foresters said one of the tour highlights was seeing the broad-scale windbreak plantings on some farms near Esperance.

They described the farms of Geoff Grewar and the Overhues as model farms for controlling wind erosion and for sheltering stock and crops.

The tour also provided the Chinese with opportunities to experience something of the Australian way of life.

They visited seven farms, saw sheep being shorn, heard the Western Australian Symphony Orchestra at Esperance and inspected the Gloucester Tree.

The visit also gave

Western Australia farmers an opportunity to find out how the Chinese integrate trees and farming.

The Chinese foresters participated in a public forum in Esperance and showed slides and talked about their work at a lunch time break during a field day organised by the Land Management Society at Frankland.

Foresters in China have been closely involved in developing farming systems with trees.

During the past 30 years they have worked with local government to establish a system of multi-purpose windbreaks across millions of hectares of farming land.

The visit successfully opened up new channels of communication in a field where Australia can learn much from China.

They will return for a month in February to continue their work which is being funded by the World Wildlife Fund.

"We want to know the parrots' exact habitat and territory," Allan said.

Allan said the parrots were trapped by mist nets and fitted with a light-weight transistor glued to their back.

Only two localities, Cape Arid, east of Esperance and the Fitzgerald National Park area, were known habitats of the parrot. They once existed along a big area of the south coast of WA.



Interpreter Wong Mei Yan asks David Jenkins about an agroforestry project on his farm near Bridgetown.

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— TOM WOOD

