

# MEDIA RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

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ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

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## **International agricultural research partnership discussions**

The Tasmanian Institute of Agricultural Research (TIAR) is hosting a delegation of agricultural scientists from China this week to discuss potential research partnerships between TIAR, UTAS School of Agricultural Science and Chinese research institutions.

The partnership, called a cotutelle agreement, is an internationally recognised agreement which enables research collaboration and the joint teaching of PhD candidates in highly competitive areas of mutual research interest and commercial interest.

Among the visiting group is China's foremost expert on rice research, Professor Ming-hong Gu, who is internationally renowned for his work on the Super Rice Breeding Program in China and the rice genome. He is also a director of the Chinese National Natural Science Foundation (similar to the Australian Research Council) and the former president of Yangzhou University.

TIAR Director, Professor David McNeil, said, "I am very excited about what the scholars of our countries could achieve through collaboration and the sharing of knowledge.

"The Chinese Government makes an extraordinary financial commitment to their R&D programs and have two dedicated and highly resourced agriculture universities in each province."

Professor Ming-hong Gu gave a talk on China's research funding and latest trends and achievements in agricultural research to TIAR researchers this week. He also compared the food security of the Chinese people to Australia..

The group from Yangzhou University, China, who are visiting Tasmania are:

Professor Ming-hong Gu, Plant genetics and breeding (rice)

Professor Qiaoquan Liu, Plant genetics and breeding (rice)

Professor Guohuan Liang, Plant genetics and breeding (rice)

Professor Chenwu Xu, Plant genetics and breeding, quantitative genetics

Professor Rugen Xu, Plant genetics and breeding (barley)

Professor Zuli Huang, Plant genetics and breeding (barley)

Professor Dexiang Deng, Plant genetics and breeding (maize)

In mid 2006, UTAS introduced the Cotutelle Policy to guide doctoral examination of cotutelle candidates with partner institutions. This framework has been used to allow candidates the opportunity to study at other national and international institutions.

*For more information and to organise interviews please contact Genevieve Turville,  
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