

The Northwest Agricultural University (NWAU), Yangling, Shaanxi, P.R. China

General Survey

The Northwest Agricultural University (NWAU) is one of the key comprehensive agricultural institutions directly under the Chinese Ministry of Agriculture. As the oldest one of its kind in the Northwest China, the university, formerly the Northwest Agricultural College growing out of the Northwest Junior College of Agriculture and Forestry, was founded in 1934 with a history of over 60 years.

The NWAU is located in Yangling, a unique agro science town in the west part of the most Guanzhong Plain, 90 km. west of the city of Xi'an. Yangling is the main birthplace of Chinese agriculture. In accordance with a legend, here is the place where Houji, the first official in charge of agriculture during the Yao and Shun monarchical period, taught people how to grow crops 4,000 years ago. Now, approved by the State Council, Yangling is opened up as a National Agricultural Hi - tech Industries Demonstration Zone.

The NWAU occupies over 250 hectares of land. The university consists of five colleges (Economy and Trade, Hydraulic Engineering and Construction, Mechanical and Electronic Engineering, Enology, Continuing Education) and eleven departments (Agronomy, Plant Protection, Resources and Environmental Sciences, Horticulture, Animal Science, Veterinary Science, Food Science, Basic Sciences, Social Science, Computer Science, and Foreign Languages) with a total of 68 specialities. In addition, the NWAU has a ranch of the Central Agricultural Administrators' Training College, the NWAU Consultation and Training Centre for Rural Management under the General Management Station of the Ministry of Agriculture and the Northwest Rural Energy Resources Training Centre of the Ministry of Agriculture are attached to the university. Approved by the Academic Degree Committee of the State Council, all four-year major curricula lead to Baccalaureate Degrees, whereas 32 and 13 programs are offered to the graduates who pursue Master's Degrees or Doctoral Degrees respectively. The university also offers a postdoctoral program of agricultural science. The university has eleven research institutes, such as Research Centre for Agriculture in Arid and Semiarid Regions, Wheat, Phytopathology, Entomology, Agricultural Economics, Agricultural Soil and Water Engineering, etc.. Four Laboratories, namely Dryland Farming, Reproductive Endocrine in Domestic Animals and Embryos Engineering, Plant Diseases and Pests Management, Agricultural Soil and Water Engineering, are key and open laboratory of the Ministry of Agriculture. Besides, there are 73 laboratories including the Central Laboratory equipped with sophisticated instruments, a Computer Centre, an Audio-visual-aid teaching Centre and an Accounting Computerization Training Centre, etc, as well as a Crop Experimental Farm, an Orchard, a Vegetable Garden, a Veterinary Clinic, a Farm Machinery Workshop and a Food Processing Plant. The university also established over 30 technical extension stations in Shaanxi, Ningxia and other provinces in west China. In order to promote the transformation of the scientific research achievements, the university has set up a Biorational Pesticides plant, an Animal Pharmaceutical Plant, and etc.. The products are sold widely in China while some of them even are exported overseas. The university library contains collections of over 700,000 volumes as well as about 1,800 kinds of periodicals in Chinese or other languages. It is one of FAO's book storage bases. The number of faculty and staff amounts to more than 2,200 among whom over 900 are engaged in teaching and research, over 400 are professors and associate professors (68 are doctoral tutors). The student enrollment totals 5,000 including those taking special training courses or refreshing courses. Of the total enrollment of the student more than 400 are graduate students. In addition, there are some 2,000 students registered for continuing education. Since its founding, the university has turned out over 40,000 qualified graduates who are now scattered all over the world, most of them have been playing important roles in Chinese agricultural front. While teaching, the NWAU takes an active part in scientific research in many fields and has gained important

achievements, among which over 400 have received awards from provincial or national authorities.

The NWAU has been attaching great importance to international academic exchanges and cooperation. Since 1980, about 400 faculty members and staff have been abroad for pursuing advanced degrees, conducting cooperative research or attending international academic conferences. More than 2,000 international experts, scholars and students from over 30 countries have been here to give lectures, do co-operative research or study. Up to now, the university has established book, journal and academic exchanges with 210 institutes in over 40 countries and cooperative relations with over ten universities, such as Liebig University in Germany, University of Idaho in the US and University of Manitoba in Canada, etc.. Eight kinds of journals, such as *Acta Universitatis Agriculturae Boreali-Occidentalis*, *Agricultural Research in the Arid Areas*, *Entomotaxonomia*, etc., are published by the university and distributed both at home and abroad.

One of the NWAU's goals is to follow the education policy of Being oriented to the modernization, to the world and to the future and the service principle of Being oriented to the whole country, particularly to the Northwest and Serving the agriculture, rural economy and farmers. The whole faculty members and staff of the university, filled with enthusiasm and united as one, are undertaking process of readjustment and reform so as to raise the quality of teaching and to promote research in an attempt to develop the Northwest Agricultural University into a first-class comprehensive agricultural institution with its own distinctive features.

Zhang Baowen

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Deputy secretary general of 9th CPPCC National Committee; vice chairman and secretary general of 8th Central Committee of China Democratic League (CDL).

Graduate from English Department of Xi'an Institute of Foreign Languages, 1968.

Studied at Minnesota University of United States, majoring in agriculture education, 1984-1986.

After returning, worked at Northwest China Agricultural University as associate professor and professor. Appointed president of Northwest China Agricultural University, 1996.

Elected vice chairman of 8th CDL Shaanxi Provincial Committee, and vice chairman and secretary general of 8th CDL Central Committee, 1997.

Made deputy secretary general and Standing Committee member of 9th CPPCC National Committee, 1998.

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