

Biocrust 5: Toward A Healthy Ecosystem

Convenors: Yunge Zhao; Yuanming Zhang; Xinrong Li

Proposed meeting place:

Institute of Soil and Water Conservation, Northwest A&F University

Yangling, Shaanxi, China

Reasons:

- China is the biggest country of Asia. During the past two decades, the Chinese government paid large attention to the ecosystem healthy. A number of ecological restoration project were carried out all over the country, especially the "Grain for green" eoc-project, which cause a fast restoration of biocrust, which play importation roles in ecological restoration in different climate zone. Therefore, biocrust in arid and semi-arid region of China is worthy seeing for biocrust experts from all over the world.
- Nowadays, more and more researchers, especially young researchers from different disciplines, are important contributor to biocrust research in China. The young researchers will have chance to join in the workshop if the meeting held in China.
- The first four workshops on biocrusts were held in Europe, the United States and Australia. The semi-arid region of China in Asia will show you a unique landscape and biological crust.

- The traditional culture, hospitality of the people, delicious food and wonderful scenery are worthy to experience.
- Northwest A&F University has many experiences in organizing international conferences and has the ability to host the biocrust 5 workshop.

Conference facilities:

The University owns a number of conference rooms with the capacity ranged from less than 100 to more than 500 people in good conditions can be used for free.

Transportation and accommodation:

Northwest Agriculture and Forestry University is located in Yangling city, Shaanxi Province, which is 90 km from Xi'an city (30 minute by high speed train), which is the capital city of Shaanxi Province. The transportation conditions are very good.

The nearest XI'AN international Airport is approximately 100 km from Yangling city (we will arrange to pick up at Xi'an international Airport on the registration day).

There is a complete high-speed rail station, train station and bus transportation system in Yangling.

There are two hotels on the university campus for living and dining. There are also several hotels that located in the walking distance to the University can be chosen.

Proposed time frame:

The whole September is suitable for the meeting, because this month is the best season of the Loess Plateau region. Further, I proposed Sept. 20-24, 2021, because

the week is only a little before the holiday of Chinese National day (Oct. 1st). All of the interesting sites, hotels and transportations are ready for tourists. Thus, the week is a good time for travel in China.

First day: Conference, visiting the Museum of the University

Second day: Conference

Third day: Conference, visiting the Institute of Soil and Water Conservation, CAS

Fourth day: Conference, leaving for field trips in the afternoon.

Fifth day: Field trip and closing ceremony

Filed trip:

Three lines are designed for one and a half days' field trip:

1. Ecological restoration and biocrust trip on the Loess Plateau (Ansai field research station):

- Diverse biocrust and its contribution to the ecosystem restoration.
- Restored vegetation on the Loess Plateau.
- Long term experiment on ecological process.
- The typical landscape of loess.

2. Sandy desert exploring (Shapotou field research station):

- Biocrust distribution and its function in desertification control.
- Yellow river floating.
- Desert exploration.

3. Chinese history experience in Xi'an city.

- Terra-Cotta Warriors

- Xi'an City and its city wall
- Great and Small Wild Goose Pagoda
- Shaanxi History Museum