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CHINA'S RURAL DEVELOPMENT MIRACLE

WITH INTERNATIONAL COMPARISONS

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Abstract

**AGRICULTURAL TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT AND
DISSEMINATION WITHIN A FARMING SYSTEMS
PERSPECTIVE**

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The aim of the paper is to give an overview of farming systems research (FSR). The coverage of FSR topics are sufficiently in depth to allow an understanding of FSR concepts and operational procedures. With this background information on FSR, the materials and FSR training manuals listed in the references will become more meaningful.

The paper begins with a description of the basic concept of the farming systems research approach and outlines what a farming systems perspective is about. The various methodological attributes of farming systems research are then discussed. The operational stages of conducting FSR are listed and discussed under the headings of: the diagnostic and descriptive stage, the research design stage, the testing and monitoring stage and the dissemination of information stage.

The paper then discusses each of the above operational stages in greater depth and summarizes the writings and experiences of the leading professionals working with FSR.