

永續鄉郊

Rural Sustainability



Summer 2024 夏 | 免費取閱 Free Copy

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「滙豐永續鄉郊計劃」由永續坊主辦並由滙豐銀行慈善基金支持 The "HSBC Rural Sustainability" programme is initiated by the Policy for Sustainability Lab and supported by The Hongkong Bank Foundation.

一步一腳印：香港鄉郊演化歷程

The Evolution of Hong Kong's Countryside

在短短百多年間，香港由小鄉村變身為國際都會。滄海桑田，香港鄉郊經歷了超過一個世紀的演化，今期我們精選了數件有關香港鄉郊的重要事件，一步一腳印，讓大家了解近代香港鄉郊的演化歷程！

1840年代至二戰時期：植林計劃與自給型鄉村經濟

開埠初期，英國官員形容香港島為「荒蕪的石頭」。香港原有的森林已因居民開墾農田和伐木取薪等活動而逐漸被摧毀。1879年，港英政府把「花園和植林組」升格為獨立部門「植物及植林部」，在港島山嶺開始植林，改善景觀。植林工作後來推展至新界，以保護集水區。可惜，二戰期間由於市面燃料供應極為短缺，大部分林木再次被砍伐殆盡，植林工作待戰後才重啟。

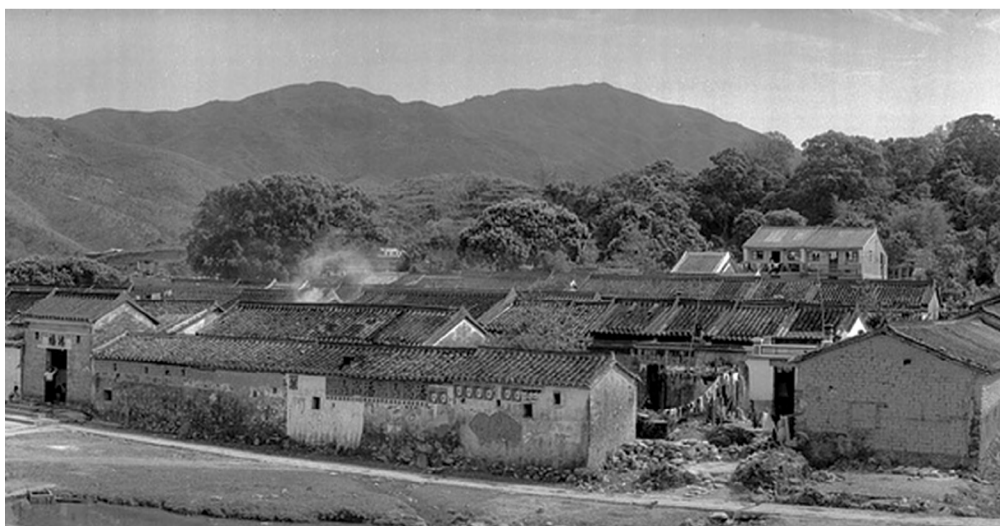
英國在1898年租借新界時，新界是一個農業社會，遍布鄉村，主要是「本地」和「客家」宗族的聚落。其中本地人（如鄧、侯、文、彭、廖等大氏族）早在明朝以前便定居香港，在元朗、粉嶺、上水等肥沃的平原地區建立圍村；客家人則在清朝初年才遷入，在新界中部、東北等山地墾荒聚居。這些宗族後來被港英政府承認為「新界原居民」。租借新界後，政府統治仍以港九都市為中心，在新界所帶來的改變痕跡不多。新界鄉民主要種植稻米自給，經濟活動主要集中在昔日的舊墟市例如大埔墟和元朗墟等。另外，聚居沿海地帶的村民（包括香港島的村民）也依靠捕魚為生。



1860年代植物公園的照片顯示香港山坡樹木稀少。A photo of the Hong Kong Botanical Gardens taken in the 1860s shows the barren hillsides in Hong Kong. 攝影 Photo by: Floyd, William Pryor
圖片來源 Picture source: Bath Royal Literary and Scientific Institution and Special Collections, University of Bristol Library (www.hpcbristol.net).



1920年代漁民聚居的香港仔漁港 Aberdeen fishing port in the 1920s. 攝影 Photo by: Denis H. Hazell
圖片來源 Picture source: Historical Photographs of China and Special Collections, University of Bristol Library (www.hpcbristol.net)



Hong Kong has transformed from a small village to an international metropolis in just over a century. In this issue, we have selected several significant rural incidents to illustrate the evolution journey of modern Hong Kong's countryside and villages.

1840s – WWII Era: Afforestation plans and self-sufficient rural economies

In the early days of Hong Kong being a trading port, the Hong Kong Island was described as a barren rock by a British official. The original forests in Hong Kong had gradually deteriorated due to farming and logging for fuelwood by the residents. In 1879, the British Hong Kong government upgraded the “Gardens and Afforestation Section” to “Botanical and Afforestation Department” and started afforestation on the hills of Hong Kong Island to enhance the landscape. The afforestation efforts later expanded to the New Territories for water catchment protection. Unfortunately, during WWII, due to fuel shortages, most of the trees were once again cut down, halting the afforestation work until after the war.

When the United Kingdom leased the New Territories in 1898, it was primarily an agricultural society which was home to hundreds of villages inhabited by Punti and Hakka clans. The Puntis had settled in Hong Kong before the Ming dynasty, establishing walled villages in fertile areas like Yuen Long, Fanling, and Sheung Shui. Hakka migrants arrived in the early Qing dynasty, settling in the hilly areas. These clans were later recognised by the British Hong Kong government as the “indigenous inhabitants of the New Territories”. Despite the lease, the government focused its administration on the urban areas, resulting in minimal changes in the New Territories. Villagers of the New Territories mainly engaged in rice cultivation for self-sufficiency, with economic activities concentrated in the old markets such as Tai Po Market and Yuen Long Market. In addition, coastal villagers engaged in fishing activities, including those on the Hong Kong Island.



1898年中英雙方代表在沙頭角豎起新界第一枝界址木樁。British and Chinese Commissioners fixing the first boundary mark in the New Territories at Sha Tau Kok in 1898.
圖片來源 Picture source: The National Archives of the UK (Flickr CO 1069-480-25)



1930年代農民割禾打穀的情景 Farmers harvesting and threshing in the 1930s. 攝影 Photo by: Hagger, F.
圖片來源 Picture source: Historical Photographs of China and Special Collections, University of Bristol Library (www.hpcbristol.net)

1950年代大埔的傳統圍村 A traditional walled village in Tai Po in the 1950s. 攝影 Photo by: Funnell, Martin
圖片來源 Picture source: Historical Photographs of China and Special Collections, University of Bristol Library (www.hpcbristol.net)



戰後新移民在新界建立菜田與非原居民鄉村。Post-war new immigrants established vegetable farms and non-indigenous villages.
 圖片來源 Picture source: 香港特別行政區政府 Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government



嘉道理農業輔助會向農民贈送豬種，使鄉村經濟更多元化。
 The Kadoorie Agricultural Aid Association distributed pigs to farmers to diversify the rural economy.
 圖片來源 Picture source: 香港社會發展回顧項目 The Hong Kong Heritage Project

戰後至1960年代：從種植稻米逐漸轉為種植蔬菜

二戰結束後，大量內地難民湧港，他們帶來了新的種植技術，向原居民租地種植利潤較高的蔬菜（如白菜、芥蘭、莧菜等）或飼養禽畜。1950年代末至1960年代初，大批原居民遠赴西歐大城市或到港九市區謀生，內地新移民則承租了他們空置的農地經營農場，並在農地上搭建簡陋的寮屋，慢慢形成非原居民鄉村。蔬菜種植逐步成為主流，本地蔬菜自給率在1960年代達到30%。

戰後的人口增長令香港的糧食供應面對巨大壓力，政府大力扶持農業，透過蔬菜統營處貸款基金、約瑟信託基金和嘉道理農業輔助貸款基金為農民提供財政支援。嘉道理兄弟創立的嘉道理農業輔助會也為農民提供培訓和農用物資。1964年，政府把農林業管理處與合作事業及漁業管理處合併成漁農處作為獨立部門，以促進漁農業發展，同時保護郊區和動植物。

Post-war Era – 1960s: Gradual shift from rice cultivation to vegetable cultivation

After WWII, the influx of refugees from the Mainland brought new farming techniques to Hong Kong. They leased land from indigenous villagers to cultivate high-profit vegetables or raise livestock. From the late 1950s to the early 1960s, many indigenous villagers moved to Western Europe or to the urban areas of Hong Kong and Kowloon to seek better opportunities. Mainland immigrants farmed on the abandoned farmland and built squatter huts, forming non-indigenous villages. Vegetable cultivation gradually became mainstream. The local vegetable self-sufficiency rate reached 30% in the 1960s.

Post-war population growth strained Hong Kong's food supply, prompting the government to support agriculture. It granted loans to farmers through the Vegetable Marketing Organization Loan Fund, the J. E. Joseph Trust Fund, and the Kadoorie Agricultural Aid Loan Fund. The Kadoorie Agricultural Aid Association founded by the Kadoorie brothers also provided training and agricultural inputs to farmers. In 1964, the Agriculture and Forestry Department merged with the Co-operative Development and Fisheries Department to form the Agriculture and Fisheries Department, promoting agriculture and fisheries development while protecting the countryside and wildlife.

1970-1980年代：發展新市鎮並建立郊野公園

隨著內地移民不斷湧入，人口激增，港九市區用地發展飽和，政府於1970年代初在新界開展新市鎮計劃，由政府出資收地並安排遷村，到1980年代已開展第三代新市鎮的建設。新市鎮內除了興建大量公營房屋，也提供必要的服務和社區設施，並設有工商業區，逐漸發展成自給自足的社區。同期，政府也保育自然環境以作市區人口的休閒去處。1976年，《郊野公園條例》生效，往後三年內成立了21個郊野公園，佔香港土地面積近四成。

政府於1972年起實施「新界小型屋宇（俗稱「丁屋」）政策」，官方目標為提升鄉郊地區的住屋和衛生標準，讓新界原居民成年男性後嗣可一生一次申請在認可鄉村範圍內建造一所小型屋宇。此後不久，三層高西班牙別墅式的丁屋大量興建，取代傳統的舊式村屋。濫用丁屋政策的情況屢見不鮮，許多丁屋出售予村外人。

香港農業到1980年代已達到頂峰。此後，面對耕地減少、入口競爭、成本上揚、經濟轉型和政府減少支援等挑戰，農業逐漸步向式微。大量農地流失或遭棄耕，許多農地改作露天車場或儲物場。私人發展商亦大規模囤積農地作為土地儲備。



1975年的航空照片顯示建設中的沙田新市鎮 Aerial photo of Sha Tin New Town under construction in 1975.
圖片來源 Picture source: 香港特別行政區政府空間數據共享平台 Common Spatial Data Infrastructure Portal, HKSAR Government

1970s – 1980s: Development of new towns and establishment of country parks

With increasing Mainland immigration and population growth, urban development in Hong Kong and Kowloon reached capacity. In the 1970s, the government launched the New Town Development Plan in the New Territories. By the 1980s, the development of third-generation new towns had begun. In addition to providing public housing, the new towns also provided necessary services and included industrial and commercial areas, gradually developing into self-sufficient communities. Simultaneously, the government preserved the natural environment as a leisure destination for the urban population. The Country Parks Ordinance took effect in 1976, establishing 21 country parks within three years, covering almost 40% of Hong Kong's land.

With the official objectives to enhance rural housing and sanitation, the government introduced the “New Territories Small House Policy” in 1972, allowing adult male descendant of indigenous inhabitants of the New Territories to apply once to build a small house within the village environ. A lot of three-story Spanish-style small houses were constructed since then, replacing traditional village houses. The policy was often abused, with many small houses sold to outsiders.

By the 1980s, Hong Kong's agriculture had reached its peak. It subsequently declined gradually in the face of challenges such as dwindling farmland, increased competition, rising costs, economic transformation, and reduced government support. Much of the farmland was abandoned or converted into open storage uses. Private developers also hoarded farmland as their land reserves.



1985年的荃灣新市鎮已有約70萬人口。 Tsuen Wan New Town had a population of around 700,000 in 1985.
圖片來源 Picture source: 香港特別行政區政府 Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government



1977年的大潭郊野公園包括四個水塘，均是港島早期食水供應的主要來源。 Tai Tam Country Park in 1977 contains four reservoirs which were key water storage facilities of the Hong Kong Island in early years.
圖片來源 Picture source: 香港特別行政區政府 Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government



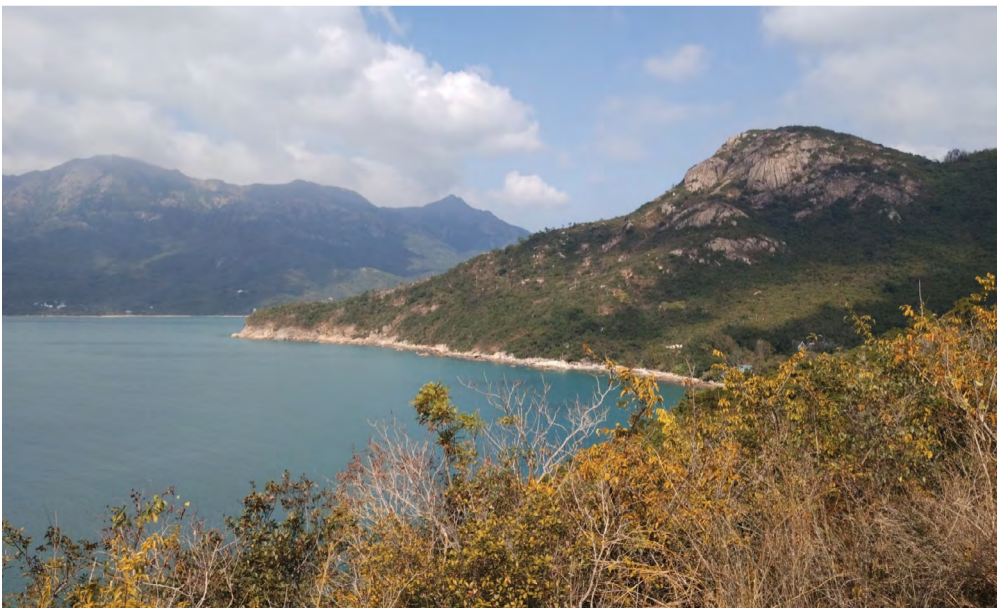
郊野公園吸引無數遠足人士。圖為1986年的船灣郊野公園新娘潭。 Country parks attracted countless hikers. The photo shows Bride's Pool in Plover Cove Country Park in 1986.
圖片來源 Picture source: 香港特別行政區政府 Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government



城門郊野公園成立於1977年6月，是香港首批郊野公園之一。公園內的城門水塘是戰前儲水量最大的水塘，同時為九龍和港島供應食水。Designated in June 1977, Shing Mun Country Park is one of the first country parks in Hong Kong. Shing Mun Reservoir in Shing Mun Country Park was the largest reservoir of the pre-war period and provided water for both Kowloon and the Hong Kong Island.
 圖片來源 Picture source: 香港特別行政區政府 Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government



西貢東郊野公園內萬宜水庫一帶的早白堊世流紋質岩柱群是香港聯合國教科文組織世界地質公園的重要景點。Early Cretaceous rhyolitic columnar rock formation at High Island Reservoir in Sai Kung East Country Park is an important attraction of the Hong Kong UNESCO Global Geopark.
 圖片來源 Picture source: 漁農自然護理署 Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department



南大嶼郊野公園佔地達5,646公頃，是全香港最大的郊野公園。Occupying 5,646 hectares, Lantau South Country Park is the largest country park in Hong Kong.



沙頭角紅花嶺郊野公園新成立於2024年3月，是香港第25個郊野公園。Newly established in March 2024, Robin's Nest Country Park at Sha Tau Kok is the 25th country park in Hong Kong.

1990-2000年代：政府和環保團體推動生態及鄉村保育

1990年代，自然和鄉郊保育工作主要由政府和環保團體推動。政府於1995年把米埔及內后海灣一帶約1,500公頃濕地指定為拉姆薩爾濕地，標誌著香港首個國際級保育項目。為彌償后海灣地區因天水圍新市鎮發展而失去的生境，政府於1998年設立香港濕地公園作生境補償區（2006年正式開放予公眾）。2002年，政府公布《重整大澳發展研究：推薦重整策略》，以恢復大澳漁村的繁榮，保護自然環境和文化遺產，吸引遊客和照顧當地社區需要。2009年又成立香港地質公園（2015年更名為香港聯合國教科文組織世界地質公園），推動自然保育、科普教育和可持續發展。

鄉郊私人土地所面對的生態威脅受到環保團體的高度關注，當中包括發展商提出在沙羅洞興建高爾夫球場及大型住宅項目的私人項目，以及九廣鐵路公司提出落馬洲支線橫跨塱原濕地的高架橋設計等。這些計劃不僅威脅自然生態，亦會破壞鄉村風貌。在1990年代初，發展商、村民、環保團體、農夫等不同持分者各據己見，鮮有共識。

為了加強保育私人土地，2004年政府公布「新自然保育政策」，選定拉姆薩爾濕地、沙羅洞和塱原及河上鄉等12個具重要生態價值並須優先加強保育的地點，並推行管理協議計劃（政府資助非牟利機構與土地業權人訂立管理協議，促進優先保育地點內的自然保育工作）和公私營界別合作計劃（容許於優先保育地點內生態較不易受破壞的部分作出有限度發展，但土地業權人須向繳付一筆可以產生足夠經常收入以維持需要保育的土地的長遠保育工作的款項）。這意味著政府已經把具重要生態價值的環境視為公共財產，並願意運用公共資源對其進行保育和管理。這項政策也令私人土地業權人看到他們的土地除了發展以外還有著其他價值。

1990s – 2000s: Government and green groups promoted ecological and rural conservation

In the 1990s, nature and rural conservation efforts were primarily driven by the government and green groups. In 1995, the government designated approximately 1,500 hectares of wetland in Mai Po and Inner Deep Bay as a Ramsar Site, marking the city's first international conservation project. To compensate for the wetlands lost due to the Tin Shui Wai New Town development, the government started constructing the Hong Kong Wetland Park as an ecological mitigation area in 1998 (opened to the public in 2006). In 2002, the government released the “Study on Revitalisation of Tai O: Recommended Revitalisation Strategy” for restoring the prosperity of the Tai O fishing village, protect the natural environment and cultural heritage, attract tourists, and meet local community needs. In 2009, the Hong Kong Geopark was established (renamed as Hong Kong UNESCO Global Geopark in 2015) to promote nature conservation, science education, and sustainable development.

Ecological threats to private land in rural areas have drawn significant attention from green groups. These include a developer's proposal of a residential and golf course project in Sha Lo Tung, as well as the plan by the Kowloon-Canton Railway Corporation to construct a flyover across the Long Valley wetland for the Lok Ma Chau spur line. These projects not only threatened natural ecosystems but would also disrupt the rural landscape. In the early 1990s, there were conflicts among all rural actors, including developers, villagers, green groups, and farmers. Little consensus could be reached.

In 2004, the government introduced the “New Nature Conservation Policy” to enhance the ecological conservation of private land. 12 Priority Sites for Enhanced Conservation, including Ramsar Site, Sha Lo Tung, and Long Valley and Ho Sheung Heung, were identified and the Public-Private Partnership and Management Agreement schemes were proposed. This policy implies that the government finally sees ecologically important areas as public goods and is willing to put aside public resources to conserve and manage them. This policy also helped private landowners see other values of their land besides development.



米埔自然保護區於1983年成立，是香港的「雀鳥天堂」，由世界自然基金會香港分會管理。Mai Po Nature Reserve was established in 1983 and is a “bird paradise” of Hong Kong managed by WWF-Hong Kong.
圖片來源 Picture source: 世界自然基金會香港分會 WWF-Hong Kong



長春社和香港觀鳥會自2005年起在塱原展開管理協議項目，雀鳥多樣性顯著提升。政府於2019年收回塱原核心部分的土地，建立塱原自然生態公園。The Conservancy Association and The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society have implemented management agreement project in Long Valley since 2005, successfully increased the bird biodiversity there. In 2019, The government resumed the core areas of Long Valley for the development of the Long Valley Nature Park.
圖片來源 Picture source: 香港觀鳥會 The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society



大澳曾是香港的主要漁港，至今仍保留着傳統漁村風貌。Tai O was an important fishing port in Hong Kong. It still retains the traditional fishing village setting.



2013年，近百名市民到大浪西灣排成心形，表達對郊野保育的關注。Nearly a hundred citizens formed a heart-shaped human chain at Tai Long Sai Wan in 2013 to express concerns for countryside conservation.
圖片來源 Picture source: 長春社 The Conservancy Association



由復耕到復村的荔枝窩
Lai Chi Wo has been revitalised starting with agricultural rehabilitation.



本地一位美術老師自2017年起帶領學生和義工在元朗錦田繪畫了過百幅壁畫，帶動了錦田村落的旅遊業。
Since 2017, a local art teacher has been leading students and volunteers to paint over a hundred murals in Kam Tin, Yuen Long, which has enhanced the tourism of villages in Kam Tin.

2010年代至今：社會各界關注鄉郊在香港的可持續發展中的角色

2010年代至今，隨著公眾的保育意識提高，鄉郊保育漸漸獲得社會各界關注。2010年，有富商在大浪西灣的「郊野公園不包括土地」向當地村民收購私人土地並進行開墾，打算興建十萬呎的私人別墅，引起公眾多次發起捍衛大浪西灣的活動。當時全港共有77幅「不包括土地」，主要是政府在成立郊野公園之時，為免引起村民反對或索償而刻意剔出郊野公園範圍的鄉村和農地。大浪西灣事件促使政府重新檢視「不包括土地」，並承諾將尚未納入分區規劃大綱圖的54幅納入郊野公園範圍，或透過法定規劃程序確立用途。

新界東北發展及高鐵菜園村事件也觸發了市民對本地農業發展的關注，不少市民希望保留本地農業，並增加本地農產品在市場的佔有率。政府為回應社會訴求，於2016年推出「新農業政策」，透過設立農業園、成立農業持續發展基金和探討設立農業優先區等主要措施，推動本地農業可持續發展。

2013年，荔枝窩村與香港大學、民間組織及商界協作展開「永續荔枝窩計劃」，計劃得到政府支持及認可，打破了原居民鮮有與外來團體合作的局面。荔枝窩的活化推動了鄉郊政策發展。2017年《施政報告》公布加強偏遠鄉郊的保育工作，包括成立鄉郊保育辦公室，統籌保育鄉郊計劃。同年，政府也成立了可持續大嶼辦事處，支持在大嶼山的鄉郊永續發展。2021年《施政報告》提出建設北部都會區，這項香港未來發展的重大策略以「城市與鄉郊結合、發展與保育並存」為規劃原則。雖然實施和成果尚待觀察，但《北部都會區發展策略》已帶起社會各界就發展與保育之間的平衡及衝突進行激烈的討論。

儘管飽歷社會、經濟和政治上的轉變，但至今仍有四分之三的香港土地保留了鄉村綠野，而城鄉連結共融的概念已經受到大眾關注，甚至成為未來城市發展的方向。可能還需要耐心等待，但相信在各界社群協力推動下，本地鄉郊獨特的自然和文化價值將會在不久的將來再度綻放！

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2010s – Present: The role of rural areas in Hong Kong's sustainable development has drawn attention from various sectors of society

Since the 2010s, rural conservation has gained attention from various sectors of society as public awareness for conservation has increased. In 2010, a wealthy businessman acquired private land from local villagers in the country park enclave of Tai Long Sai Wan with the intention of building a mansion. This sparked multiple public campaigns to protect Tai Long Sai Wan. At that time, there were a total of 77 such enclaves of village houses and agricultural lands in Hong Kong deliberately excluded from the country park during the country park designation to avoid opposition or compensation claims from villagers. The Tai Long Sai Wan incident prompted the government to examine these enclaves and pledge to incorporate the remaining 54 enclaves into country parks or put them under the statutory planning framework.

The planning and development of the North East New Territories New Development Areas and the controversy surrounding the construction works of Express Rail Link at Choi Yuen Tsuen triggered public concern over local agricultural development. There have been increasing calls for preserving local agriculture and increasing the market share of local produce. In response, the government launched the “New Agriculture Policy” in 2016 to promote sustainable agricultural development through measures such as setting up an Agri-Park, establishing a Sustainable Agricultural Development Fund, and exploring the designation of Agricultural Priority Areas.

In 2013, the “Sustainable Lai Chi Wo” programme was launched through collaboration between Lai Chi Wo village, The University of Hong Kong, civil society organisations, and the business sector. This project gained government support and recognition. It broke the traditional barrier between indigenous villagers and external organisations. The revitalisation of Lai Chi Wo has also propelled rural policy development. In 2017, the Policy Address announced efforts to enhance rural conservation, including the establishment of the Countryside Conservation Office. The government also established the Sustainable Lantau Office at the end of 2017. The 2021 Policy Address proposed the construction of the Northern Metropolis, a major development strategy for Hong Kong's future, emphasising the planning principle of “Urban-Rural Integration and Co-existence of Development and Conservation”. While the actual implementation and its results are yet to be seen, the Northern Metropolis Development Strategy has been heatedly debated among the society's actors on the integration and conflict between conservation and development.

Despite experiencing social, economic, and political changes, three-quarters of Hong Kong's land are still rural. The concept of urban-rural integration has gained public attention and even become the direction for the city's future development. Perhaps it may still take some time, but with the collaborative efforts of various sectors, the unique natural and cultural values of Hong Kong's rural areas will blossom once again in the near future!

談未來：城鄉共生的下一個十年

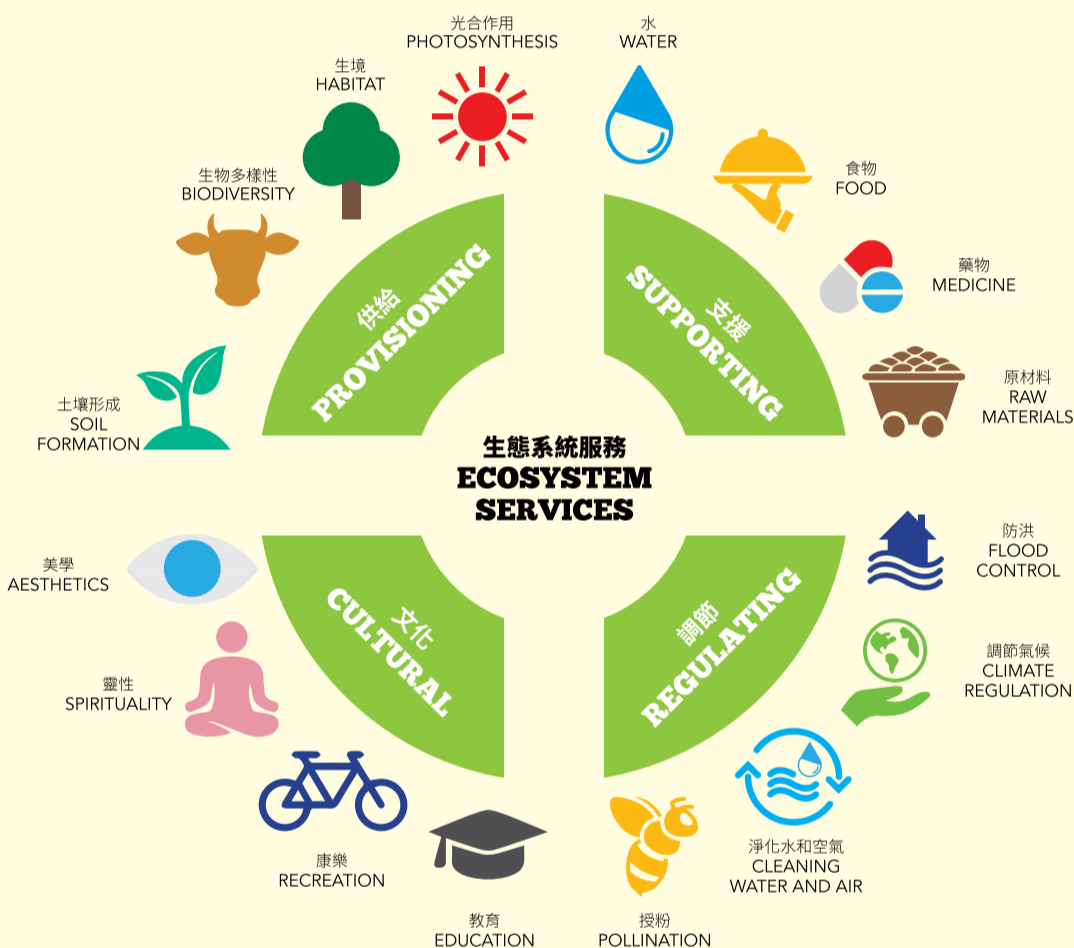
The Next Decade of Urban-Rural Symbiosis

在過去十年，城鄉共生的議題在全球和地區層面上已成為永續發展的核心議題，引發了各種形式的討論和嘗試。經歷新冠疫情，人們更加珍惜新鮮食物和寬敞的綠色戶外空間，並重新審視了城鄉之間相互依存的重要性。儘管推動永續鄉郊的願景已逐漸獲得社會的認同，但如何實現永續鄉郊的討論仍然集中在城市化和經濟發展對鄉郊所帶來的壓力。鄉村和郊野的角色往往被視為城市的附庸，需要配合城市發展，這種討論往往缺乏想像力。

在未來十年，香港多個大型區域性發展項目將陸續出台，我們又需要什麼樣的城鄉想像，以應對未來經濟、社會和環境所面臨的各項挑戰呢？以下我們精選五個全球熱門的永續發展相關概念，一起思考未來香港城鄉共生應走的路向。

In the last decade, urban-rural symbiosis has become a key issue in sustainable development. The COVID-19 pandemic has further highlighted the importance of interdependence between urban and rural areas. Despite growing recognition of the need for sustainable rural development, much of the attention has been on the development and conservation paradox, with a lack of imagination into the actual sustainable pathways that rural areas and communities should take.

In the coming decade, Hong Kong will launch several large-scale regional development projects. What urban and rural imagination do we need to address future challenges? We have selected five globally trending sustainable development concepts to discuss the direction of Hong Kong's urban-rural symbiosis.



#生態系統服務 #Ecosystem services

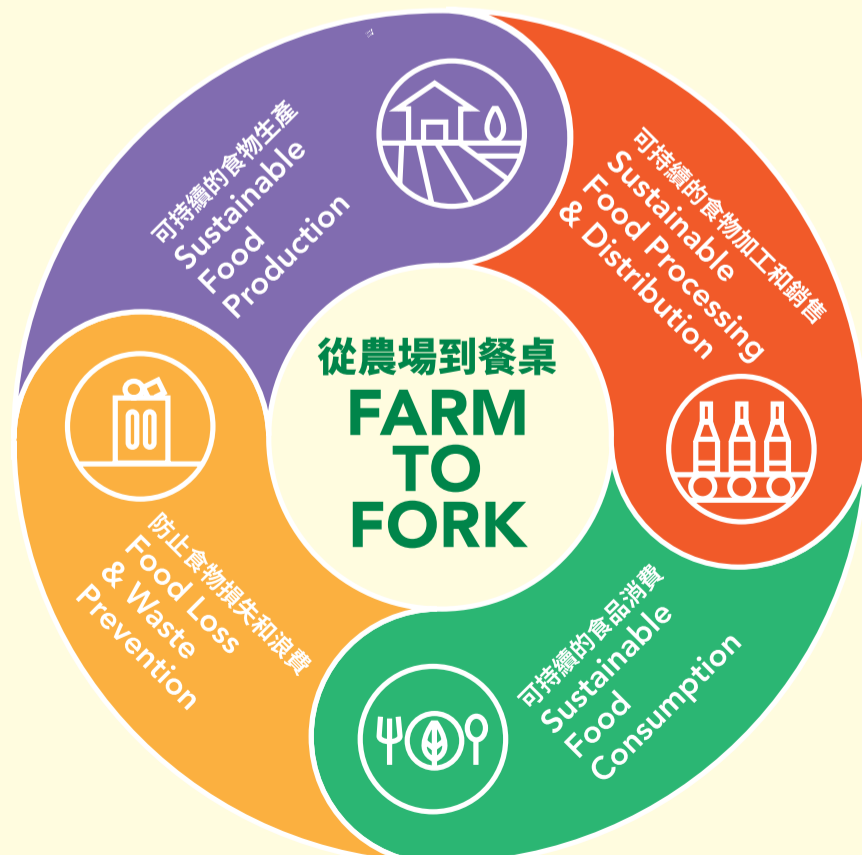
雖然全球大部份人口生活在市區之中，但鄉郊地區卻是提供維持我們生活所需的「生態系統服務」的主要場所。生態系統服務是指自然生態系統為人類提供的各種益處，如空氣淨化、水資源保護、糧食生產、氣候調節等等。城市依賴鄉郊地區來滿足這些需求，因此城市發展應採取不影響鄉郊生態系統服務供應及鄉郊生活原則的永續發展策略。

Despite most of the global population living in urban areas, rural areas are the main places that provide essential ecosystem services for our survival. Ecosystem services refer to the various benefits that natural ecosystems provide to humans, such as air purification, water resource protection, food production, and climate regulation. Cities rely on rural areas to meet these needs, so urban development should adopt sustainable development strategies that do not harm the supply of ecosystem services.

#永續糧食系統 #Sustainable food system

食物的生產、加工、消費到廢物管理是城鄉互動交流中最重要的一環，因為每一個人都需要食物，所有人都是持份者！2021年聯合國糧食系統峰會強調了城市和鄉村社區之間應加強合作共享資源，建立更包容、環保和創新的糧食系統。例如城市可提供市場、科技和創新機遇，而鄉郊則可提供優質糧食和生態系統服務，從而實現糧食安全、維護生態環境和促進可持續發展。

Food production, processing, consumption, and waste management are the most important aspects of urban-rural interaction and exchange. The 2021 United Nations Food Systems Summit highlighted the importance of stronger collaboration and resource-sharing between urban and rural communities to establish food systems that are more inclusive, environmentally-friendly, and innovative. Urban areas can provide markets, technology, and innovation opportunities, while rural areas can provide high-quality food and ecosystem services.





新北市地區的人工濕地採取了以自然為本的解決方案，利用濕地生態系統的天然淨化機制來處理城市污水，同時在城市地區提供野生動物的棲息地。
The creation of artificial wetlands in the New Taipei City region is a nature-based solution example that makes use of the wetland ecosystem's natural purification mechanism to treat urban sewage while providing habitats for wildlife near urban area.

#再生漁農業

#Regenerative agriculture / aquaculture

有機漁農業和再生漁農業雖然有一些共同原則，但在整體目標和實踐方面有所不同。再生農業超越有機實踐，更積極尋求改善土壤健康、固碳、增加生物多樣性和修復退化的生態系統的生產模式。雖然兩種方法都有助於農業的可持續發展，但再生農業更強調恢復和提高自然資源，最終旨在為環境創造淨正面的影響。

Organic and regenerative farming share some common principles but differ in goals and practices. Regenerative farming goes beyond organic practices and seeks more actively to improve soil health, sequester carbon, increase biodiversity, and restore ecosystems in its production model. Both approaches contribute to sustainable agriculture, but regenerative farming prioritises restoring and enhancing natural resources, aiming for a net positive impact on the environment.



有本地餐飲品牌與農場合作，回收餐前廚餘成為魚肥和天然酵素，代替化學農藥和化學肥料。種出的新鮮農產品供應餐廳或店舖使用，在本地實踐循環經濟鏈。圖片顯示鴻日農莊的廚餘酵素。A local food and beverage brand partners with local farms to create a circular economy by recycling kitchen waste into fish fertiliser and natural enzymes. These are used to grow fresh produce without the need for chemicals, and the products are supplied to local restaurants and stores. This photo shows the kitchen waste enzymes at Hung Yat Farm.

#以自然為本的解決方案

#Nature-based solutions

以自然為本的解決方案涉及利用自然過程、生態系統和生物多樣性來解決氣候變化、水資源短缺和土地退化等社會和環境問題。這些解決方案可以融入城鄉連結策略，促進城鄉資源共享和合作。例如，投資綠色基礎設施（如城市森林和濕地）以改善空氣質量和減低洪水風險。我們可以利用自然力量加強城鄉聯繫，創建更具韌性、可持續和宜居的環境。

Nature-based solutions use natural processes, ecosystems, and biodiversity to address environmental and social problems such as climate change, water scarcity, and land degradation. They can be integrated into urban-rural connection strategies for resource sharing and cooperation. For instance, investing in green infrastructure like urban forests and wetlands to improve air quality and reduce flood risks. We can make use of the power of nature to strengthen urban-rural connections for creating resilient, sustainable, and liveable environments.



許多咖啡生產國正在推廣「農林間作」的再生農業實踐方式，旨在恢復農地生態系統的健康及增加生物多樣性，還可以通過引入其他作物和樹種，為農民提供額外的收入來源。圖為荔枝窩的農林咖啡園。Agroforestry, a regenerative agriculture practice, is promoted in many coffee production countries to restore farmland ecosystem health and increase biodiversity. It also provides additional income streams by incorporating other crops and trees alongside coffee cultivation. This photo shows the agroforest coffee farm at Lai Chi Wo.

#循環經濟

#Circular economy

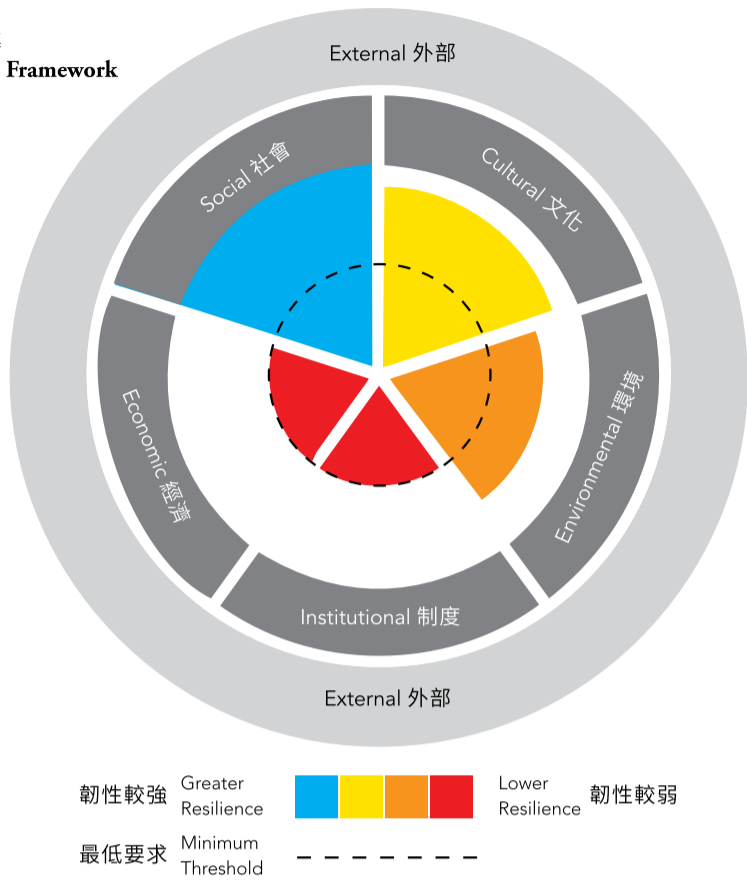
採取循環經濟原則，我們可以在城市和農村之間創建一個高效的資源循環網絡，把供應鏈一端的廢料（如廚餘）轉化成供應鏈另一端的原材料（如農業用肥料），通過資源循環和資源再利用來創造新價值，並把資源浪費和污染減至最低。

By applying circular economy principles, we can create an efficient resource circulation network between urban and rural areas. Waste materials (such as food waste) can be transformed into raw materials (such as agricultural fertilisers), minimising waste and pollution while creating new value through resource reuse.

鄉郊社區韌性

Rural Community Resilience

韌性框架
Resilience Framework



示意圖改編自 Diagram adapted from: Fielke, S., Kaye-Blake W., Smith W., and Vibart R.. (2017). *Operationalising rural community resilience: framing indicators for measurement*. Report for Resilient Rural Communities Programme. AgResearch, Hamilton, New Zealand.

鄉郊地區正面對許多挑戰，除了城市急速發展導致鄉村人口流失、經濟衰退和環境退化外，氣候變化和環境災害也是對鄉郊地區構成威脅。提升鄉郊社區應對外來壓力和干擾的能力（即其韌性），是推動鄉郊永續發展的關鍵。

「韌性」的概念早期用於物理學，形容物料受到衝擊或干擾後回彈復原的能力，後來生態學也用這個概念來形容生態系統受到干擾後的恢復能力。到了廿一世紀，韌性理論被廣泛應用到社會科學領域。鄉郊研究也愈來愈關注鄉郊社區的韌性。

鄉郊社區韌性不僅是指社區被動地對外來衝擊及個別事件作出反應（例如災害應變）而已，也涵蓋災害準備和社區賦權等範疇，並包括鄉郊社區刻意積極提升其個人和集體的技巧和能力，善用社區資源，增強社區凝聚力，與外界建立連繫，使其能夠在變幻莫測的環境中發揮影響力，開創出新的應變方式，讓社區持續發展，不斷更新。

鄉郊社區的韌性可以從多個向度來衡量，包括經濟韌性（例如生產力和產業結構等）、環境韌性（例如土地和水資源和生物多樣性等）、社會韌性（例如信任程度和社會福祉等）、制度韌性（例如權力分配和決策參與等）、文化韌性（例如身分認同和文化傳承等），以及外部因素（例如獲取外界資訊及與專家聯繫的渠道等）。

Rural areas are facing many challenges. Rapid urban development has been causing rural population loss, economic recession, and environmental degradation. Climate change and environmental disasters are also threats to rural sustainability. It is crucial to improve the ability of rural communities to cope with external pressures and disturbances, i.e., their resilience.

The concept of “resilience” was first used in physics to describe the ability of a material to resume its original shape after external shocks. The concept was later used in ecology to describe the ability of ecosystems to recover from disturbances. In the 21st century, resilience theory has been widely applied in social sciences. Rural studies are increasingly concerned with rural community resilience.

Rural community resilience not only refers to the communities’ reactive response to external shocks, but also covers disaster preparedness and community empowerment. It includes the communities’ deliberate improvement of their skills and ability to make good use of community resources, enhance community cohesion, and establish external connections. These enable rural communities to influence the changing environments and develop new ways to respond, so that they can develop sustainably.

Rural community resilience can be measured from multiple aspects, including economic resilience (such as productivity and industrial structure), environmental resilience (such as land and water resources and biodiversity), social resilience (such as trust and social well-being), institutional resilience (such as power distribution and participation in decision-making), cultural resilience (such as sense of identity and cultural inheritance), and external factors (such as access to external information and connection with experts).

復育森林村落景觀

提升生態系統服務

Revive Forest Village Landscape Enhance Ecosystem Services

由香港大學公民社會與治理研究中心（中心）主辦的「森林村落：梅子林及蛤塘永續鄉村」第一期計劃在2021年2月正式啟動。為期三年的計劃由鄉郊保育辦公室轄下的鄉郊保育資助計劃支持，旨在活化並利用兩個村落的自然和文化資源，與村民及其他持份者合力採取復育行動，增加各方的保育意識，共同守護這些活態遺產。

在自然保育方面，計劃修復農田、重現村落的農業生產，同時以農產相關活動為當地社區注入活力。另外，計劃亦為村落附近的各種生境和物種進行保育工作，提升生物多樣性和相關生態系統服務。

在文化保育方面，計劃修復了一間舊村屋及美化了村中環境，以提升公眾認識和促進未來發展。另外，項目把荒廢的梯田改造成露營地點，配合口述歷史和文化地圖，把歷史文化、鄉土建築、農耕景觀等豐富的客家文化資產結合起來，並舉辦各種相關公眾活動，讓更多人可以接觸、瞭解和欣賞這些珍貴的資產。

計劃不單得到村民的參與和支持，更吸引了各方熱心市民參與，包括義工活動、導賞員培訓及其他修復工作的崗位。計劃亦邀請了不同的藝術家、建築師及景觀設計師等，為村落增加不同元素。

建基於第一期計劃的成果，中心於2024年5月啟動了第二期計劃以支持「森林村落」的永續發展。透過以自然為本的解決方案，繼續加強森林村落所提供的生態系統服務，並重點培育村民和義工，令他們可以在鄉郊保育工作中擔當更重要的角色。

The first phase of the “Forest Village: Mui Tsz Lam and Kop Tong sustainable village” programme organised by the Centre for Civil Society and Governance (the Centre) commenced in February 2021. The 3-year programme, supported by the Countryside Conservation Funding Scheme under the Countryside Conservation Office, aims to revitalise and utilise the natural and cultural resources in the village, and increase the stewardship of all stakeholders for these living heritages.

In terms of nature conservation, farmland restoration and management are carried out to rejuvenate the villages through crop production and other farming-related activities. In addition, habitats and species around the villages are conserved to increase the biodiversity and the related ecosystem services.

In terms of cultural conservation, a dilapidated village house has been restored and the village environment has been enhanced for community engagement and future development. Furthermore, some of the abandoned terrace farmland has been transformed into a camping ground. Integrating the rich Hakka cultural assets such as vernacular architecture and agricultural landscape, various related public activities are held for public education and appreciation.

The project has successfully garnered the support and contribution of not only the villagers, but also the enthusiastic citizens. They have actively participated in volunteering activities and guided tour training. The project also invites different artists, architects and landscape architects to enhance the beauty of rural landscape.

With these important foundations, it is a vital time to sustain the revitalisation effort to ensure the long-term sustainability of the villages. The Centre started the second phase of the project in May 2024, continuing to enhance the ecosystem services provided by the forest villages as a Nature-based solution. One major focus is to empower villagers and volunteers to implement and take charge of conservation works.



計劃吸引了村民、非政府機構、私人機構、藝術家和義工參與。
The programme has attracted participation from villagers, NGOs, private organisations, artists and volunteers.

永續鄉郊 – 亞太區域合作計劃

Rural Sustainability Programme – APAC Initiative for Regional Impact



計劃培訓了一批來自香港、中國內地、台灣和泰國的優秀學員成為鄉郊活化的領袖。
The programme has trained a pool of outstanding Fellows from Hong Kong, Mainland China, Taiwan, and Thailand to become rural revitalisation leaders.

香港大學公民社會與治理研究中心於2021年啟動了「永續鄉郊 – 亞太區域合作計劃」(AIRI)，作為中心在荔枝窩開展的「永續鄉郊計劃」的延伸。此計劃與不同地區的大學、國際機構和地方組織建立區域網絡，為亞太區鄉郊永續發展培訓領袖人才。此計劃為期三年，獲得滙豐銀行慈善基金支持。

中心聯同清華大學公共管理學院、政治大學社會實踐辦公室以及亞洲理工學院發展與永續學系，成為區域聯盟的創始成員。創始成員透過「以網絡建立網絡」的方式，與地方組織及國際機構合作，聯繫區內的重要持分者和協作夥伴，為知識的締造、傳播和應用增添凝聚力和推動力。

四所成員大學現已協力就香港、中國內地、台灣和泰國的鄉郊永續發展工作進行研究，了解亞太地區鄉郊永續發展的不同途徑，並嘗試整合出亞太地區鄉郊永續發展的模型，以便推動政策創新和協作行動。

此計劃亦開展了「亞太城鄉永續發展學人計劃2022-23」，由大學教授和國際專家就鄉郊治理、環境管理、文化保育、鄉郊經濟、社會創新和社區活化等範疇制訂培育計劃，為四所成員大學甄選出的90多位有志推動城鄉共生的人士提供線上及體驗式學習機會。學人計劃更為畢業學員舉辦了「亞太城鄉永續發展行動提案比賽」。四隊來自香港、中國內地、台灣和泰國的最佳提案隊伍分別獲得高達25,000美元的種子基金落實項目，為鄉郊永續發展發揮真實的影響力。

The Centre for Civil Society and Governance at The University of Hong Kong initiated the Rural Sustainability Programme – APAC Initiative for Regional Impact (AIRI) in 2021. Supported by The Hongkong Bank Foundation, the three-year programme aims to build a regional network of universities as well as international and local organisations and incubate change fellows for the attainment of rural sustainability in Asia-Pacific.

The Centre, together with the School of Public Policy and Management of Tsinghua University, University Outreach Office of Chengchi University, and Department of Development and Sustainability of Asian Institute of Technology, jointly founded the regional consortium. Each of the consortium members has been engaging its local and international partners to gather energy and momentum for knowledge generation, dissemination, and application.

The four universities are jointly conducting research on the rural sustainability efforts that have taken place in Hong Kong, Mainland China, Taiwan, and Thailand. Findings of the studies will contribute to a better understanding of the diverse pathways to rural sustainability in Asia-Pacific and coalesce into an Asia-Pacific model of rural sustainability.

The Programme launched the AIRI Urban-Rural Sustainability Fellowship 2022-23 which offered a series of online and experiential training sessions to empower and connect over 90 Fellows and Associate Fellows selected by the four universities. The fellowship scheme also organised the "AIRI Urban-Rural Sustainability Action Proposal Competition" for the Fellowship graduates. The four winning proposal teams from Hong Kong, Mainland China, Taiwan and Thailand respectively have each received a seed grant of up to US\$25,000 for project implementation.

初創培育及社區共創計劃總結

Roundup of Rural Start-up and Co-creation Schemes

由2018年開展的「鄉郊初創培育」和「社區共創：重塑鄉郊」計劃，不經不覺已經培育了17個本地鄉郊創新項目，在十多個村落從文化、藝術、農業、漁業、教育、適切技術、身心靈健康和綠色生活的方向展示本地鄉郊活力。總結四年的經驗，兩個計劃不僅提供了運作經費，各參與團隊亦表達了計劃同時在資訊、網絡、工具、宣傳，及專業知識上給予了足夠的支援，協助他們推行項目。雖然這些創新項目的期限已經完結，但是它們大都已經具備延續的能力，其中七個項目成功獲得其他經費資助其進一步發展，亦有兩個項目能夠運用其業務收益繼續運作。

另外，我們也發現了幾個項目團隊的成功要素：

- 1. 原創及自主能力** – 早期運作未成熟時太過依賴團隊以外的投入，往往令項目原創性降低，容易失去彈性及難以長遠規劃；
- 2. 具備與鄉村社群合作的經驗** – 鄉村社區與市區運作很不同，照搬市區經驗入村工作容易水土不服，因此沒有鄉村社區經驗的團隊要投入較多早期資源及時間摸索鄉郊模式；
- 3. 不只談理想，還要認真思考執行細項** – 許多初創團隊都是懷著滿腔熱情組成，但正式執行時往往忽略了內部溝通、分工和協調的重要性。沒有好的統籌及決策機制，最容易磨蝕團隊意志，令項目停滯不前。

我們也看到以藝術作為鄉郊活化的媒介，對於重塑鄉郊的形象以及推動生態和文化旅遊等都收到不錯的效果，相信未來會有更多元化的藝術新嘗試會在本地鄉郊發生。

Our "Rural in Action Start-up" and "Co-creation of Community" schemes, launched in 2018, incubated 17 local projects showcasing the vitality of more than 10 villages through culture, art, agriculture, fisheries, education, technology, wellness, and green living. These schemes not only provided funds but also support in terms of information, network, tools, publicity, and knowledge. Most teams have continued their projects after the scheme, with seven receiving other funding and two generating sufficient income to continue.

In addition, several key success factors have been identified from the project teams:

- 1. Originality and independence** – the project team should not rely too much on external parties' inputs which can hinder the project's originality and flexibility;
- 2. Experience working with rural communities** - urban experience may not directly apply to villages;
- 3. Focus on implementation details** - internal communication, division of labor, decision-making, and coordination are crucial for sustaining enthusiasm and progress.

Our experience has shown that art is an effective medium for rebranding rural areas and promoting ecological and cultural tourism. It is likely that more diverse art attempts will occur in local rural areas.



「鄉郊初創培育」和「社區共創：重塑鄉郊」計劃培育了多元化的鄉郊創新項目。
The "Rural in Action Start-up Scheme" and "Co-creation of the Community" Scheme have incubated a diversity of innovative rural projects..

支持本地農產的六大理由

Six Reasons to Support Local Agriculture



相片提供: 田野
Photo credit: Tinyeah

過去介紹了多款本地農產品，有人可能會問：為什麼要特別支持本地種植呢？今期「本地菜籃」將和大家分析六大支持本地農產的理由 -

更短的食物里程

地產地銷縮短食品的運輸距離，減少產品在遠程運輸及儲藏時消耗的能源和碳排放，這有助於減緩全球暖化。

更鮮美、更貼心

地產地銷讓農作物可以在更貼近完全成熟的狀態下採收，產品質量得以提升。本地農夫了解當地消費者的需求，能夠提供更貼心和彈性的服務。

負責任的生產和消費

在自家地方生產和消費，生產者和消費者都會對環境和社會更有責任感，容易創造良心價值鏈。

保留地方特色

扎根地區的產品帶有地區特色和歷史，這是外國入口產品無法模仿的，也是文化認同的一部分。支持本地農業有助保留當地的文化特色。

綠色及循環經濟潛力

農業生產對本地GDP的貢獻雖然看似微小，但農業系統可以消化家居或飲食業有機廢物作肥料，實現在地循環利用資源。農業也同時孕育如農業旅遊等相關綠色經濟項目，有利創造另類就業機會。

農業的多元功能

農地不止生產糧食，良好的農業運作也能提供水土保護、碳吸存和生境保育的生態系統服務功能，並為大眾市民提供休閒和學習的地方。

We have introduced many local agricultural products in the previous issues. Some people may ask why we should specifically support local agricultural products. Let's take a look at six reasons -

Shorter food mileages

Local production and consumption shorten the transportation distance of food, reducing the energy and carbon emissions produced during long-distance transportation and storage. This helps mitigate global warming.

Fresher and more caring

Local produce can be harvested closer to full maturity, improving quality. Local farmers also have a better understanding of the needs of local consumers, thus can provide more caring and flexible services.

Responsible production and consumption

Local producers and consumers have a greater sense of responsibility for the local environment and society, making it easier to create a value chain with a conscience.

Preserving local characteristics

Products rooted in a region carry the characteristics and history of that region. These are something that imported products cannot imitate and are part of the cultural identity. Supporting local agriculture helps preserve the local cultural features.

Green and circular economy potential

Although the contribution of agricultural production to local GDP may seem small, agricultural systems can digest organic waste from households or food and beverage industries to produce fertilisers, realizing the local circulation of useful resources. Agriculture also nurtures related green economic projects, such as agricultural tourism, which can create alternative employment opportunities.

Multiple functions of agriculture

Farmland not only produces food but also provides ecosystem services such as soil and water conservation, carbon sequestration, and habitat conservation through good agricultural practices. It also provides a place for the general public to relax and learn.

出版 Publisher 香港大學公民社會與治理研究中心永續坊 Policy for Sustainability Lab, Centre for Civil Society and Governance, The University of Hong Kong
顧問 Advisors 林維峯教授 Professor Wai-Fung Lam / 羅惠儀博士 Dr. Winnie Law
編輯 Editors 姚思言 Sianna Yiu / 戚曉麗 Katie Chick
設計 Design TGIF
承印 Printer 雅聯印刷有限公司 Allion Printing Co. Ltd.

讀者意見調查
Readers
feedback survey



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Programme
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永續坊的願景是建立並推動社群及生態互惠互利的經濟模式。永續社會以「社會經濟系統」和「生物生態系統」互補為基礎。我們將從公私營和非牟利機構匯聚城鄉價值鏈上的持份者及人才，以自然為本的解決方案（NbS）、循環資源運用及再生系統思維，作為推動永續發展的方向和選項。

PSL aspires to build the social-ecological resilience as a way to enhance the capitals for sustainability. We seek to cultivate a collaborative ecosystem that coalesces community of interest and talents, and pulls together resources from the business, government and non-profit sector across the urban-rural value chains for mainstreaming nature-based solution (NbS), resource circularity and regenerative system thinking.

詳情請瀏覽 For more information, please visit csg.hku.hk/project-psl/

「滙豐永續鄉郊計劃」由永續坊推行，建立生態農業生產、農產銷合作和創意社區等鄉郊社區經濟模式，試驗及建構永續發展項目的評估框架，並設立永續社區學院開辦市區和鄉郊社區永續發展的培訓課程。

The "HSBC Rural Sustainability" programme is organised by the Policy for Sustainability Lab to incubate a mix of socio-economic models for rural communities, including the eco-agriculture, co-production and co-creation of the community. It supports the formulation of a sustainability assessment framework, and creates new avenues for setting up the Academy for Sustainable Communities which offers a suite of courses covering sustainable development in both urban and rural communities.

採用森林管理委員會認證紙張及大豆油墨印製 Printed with soy ink on FSC paper