Hebei province

- Population 67 million; land size 188,000 km²
- Highly unsustainable agricultural production

Fig. 1: Map of Hebei province

- Fertile soils vs. poor farmer
- Vegetable production increases heavily
- Intercropping uses resources more efficiently
- Higher yields on limited land

Fig. 2: Overuse and pollution of surface and ground water

- Manual labor is predominant
- Vegetable intercropping systems
- Intercropped with maize
- Agro-forestry systems
- Pure vegetable intercropping

Fig. 5: Intercropping of vegetables with maize and cotton

Intercropping system transfer

- Developed by farmers
- Tested, improved, transferred by extensionists
- Researchers pick up, but no return of findings

Fig. 6: Transfer of intercropping system on different levels

Qualitative inquiry

- Interviewing farmers, extensionists and researchers
- Methods, development, chances and constraints of vegetable intercropping
- Semi-structured interviews (Berg, 2005)
- More than 60 hours of recorded interviews

Fig. 4: Interviewing extensionists, researchers and farmers

Conclusions

- Huge variety of vegetable intercropping systems
- Transfer: first bottom-up, then top-down
- Lack of communication: researchers and extensionists

Contact: Til Feike, Institute of Crop Production and Grassland Research, Universität Hohenheim, tilfeike@uni-hohenheim.de