



## **Aeolian Desertification and its Control in Northern of China**

Tao Wang

Key Laboratory of Desert and Desertification, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Cold and Arid Regions Environmental and Engineering Institute, CAS (wangtao@lzb.ac.cn)

Aeolian desertification is land degradation through wind erosion mainly resulted from the excessive human activities in arid, semiarid and part of sub-humid regions in Northern China. To compare the analyses results of remote sensing data in late of 1950, 1975, 1987, 2000 and 2010, we can summarize that the development of aeolian desertified land in Northern China had being accelerated for 5 decades, as its annual expanded rate was 1,560 km<sup>2</sup> during late of 1950 and 1975, 2,100 km<sup>2</sup> between 1975 and 1988, 3,600 km<sup>2</sup> from 1988 to 2000 and -1375 km<sup>2</sup> from 2000 to 2010. The whole situation of desertification comes to be depraved before 2000 and to be improve after 2000. The human impact is much more active than natural one on the process of aeolian desertification which mainly incarnates on the changes of the landuse fashion (from rangeland to farmland) and enhance of landuse intensity (over-cultivation, over-grassing and over-fuelwood collection). The natural vegetation had been destroyed by the human activities that had accelerated to the development or/and control of aeolian desertification. China has made much progresses in understanding and combating aeolian desertification through many efforts for decades and there were many projects have been carried out. One of among them is the National Project of Grain for Green Program and more than 1000 counties in 22 provinces have been included into this project. The objective is to withdraw 3.67 million ha of dry land farming and degraded steppe, and 5.13 million ha of aeolian desertified land suited to reforestation and revegetation will be rehabilitated. There are about 8 million ha of lands under the threats of aeolian desertified land will be brought under control in the next ten years and 26.67 million ha of windbreaks will be planted. The total financial input is estimated to 75 billion Yuan (11 billion US\$) what is entirely from the central government.