



## **Chişinău Declaration:**

### **Securing and Conserving Chernozems (Mollisols) in China and the Republic of Moldova**

Participants of the Moldova-China Forum on Black Soil Farming held in Chişinău and Bălţi, Republic of Moldova (1-5 September, 2026) are aware about the state of Chernozem soils and agreed on the following:

- Chernozems are an irreplaceable natural resource to both China and the Republic of Moldova. Their conservation is essential not only for maintaining ecosystem integrity, but also for securing long-term food and water resilience.
- Services provided by Chernozems are indispensable to human life and to the ecosystems, particularly agro-ecosystems, on which we all depend.
- Chernozems have largely lost their capacity to deliver ecosystem and social services. Yet they are still the major buffer against climate change – and the only one that we can manage effectively.
- Chernozems are being degraded with their natural productivity declining as soil health deterioration and erosion intensify. However, the many parts played by the soil in assuring public health and well-being are not well appreciated by society at large – and insufficiently studied by the research community.
- Maintenance of soil fertility by preventing soil erosion and ensuring the full return of nutrients and organic matter to the soil (compensating for the loss of soil organic matter through biological mineralization) is much more effective than controlling the consequences of bad agricultural practices.
- Promoting conservation farming systems is crucial for the transition to a more sustainable and resilient agriculture. Long-term field experiments that represent a national treasure house of the skills, experience and fundamental data are essential to develop and support sustainable farming systems.
- The deepening knowledge and exchanging scientific and practical information between both countries is needed to develop sustainable practices of Chernozem management, recovery of its fertility, and carbon fixation.
- Future acts and norms in the fields of agriculture, rural development and the rational use of Chernozems resources in both countries should avoid conflict between the fundamental ecological principles of managing the soil as a living body and the economic interests of the people.

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