Developing Countries Farm Radio Network

Pack 14, Item 9

Type: Script

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**Farming hint: Growing soybeans on dykes in paddy fields** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Presenter: George Atkins

Interviewee: Wung Ing Gen, a farmer, An Yuan Commune, Ninghua County, Fujian Province, People's Republic of China

Interpreter: Lei Qi Shi, Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, Fuzhou, People's Republic of China

**Suggested introduction**

From all over the world, the Developing Countries Farm Radio Network collects ideas that you may be able to use. They've all been used successfully by farmers in their own areas—and they can also be used just as successfully by farmers in other areas and countries who are working under similar conditions. Here's George Atkins.

**ATKINS:** This farming hint comes from China. It's about the dykes or bunds that surround paddy fields to hold the shallow water in place.

Now my question for you today is—do you use the soil in the dykes around your paddy field to grow something useful on? Perhaps you haven't thought of this before, —but that's good soil that those dykes are made of—and there's water close by that roots of a crop planted on the dyke could easily reach.

Well, in Fujian Province in China, farmers have been growing soybeans on these dykes for many centuries. Some grow two rows of soybeans, one on each side, and they still have room for a narrow path between these rows.

Wung Ing Gen grows rice in a paddy field that's 2 mu (just less than 1/7 of a hectare or 1/3 acre) in size. As I stood on one of the dykes at the edge of his paddy field, I asked Mr. Wung about the soybeans he grows around the border of his field. My interpreter, Lei Qi Shi, told me this:

**LEI:** He says that the soybeans in the border increase our income. We've grown soybeans in the border for a long, long time.

**ATKINS:** How much soybeans would he get from the border of this field that is 2 mu (just less than 1/7 of a hectare or 1/3 acre) in size?

**LEI:** About 25 kilograms (55 pounds) of soybeans from the border around 2 mu (just less than 1/7 of a hectare or 1/3 acre) of paddy field.

**ATKINS:** Thank you very much, Wung Ing Gen, here in FujianProvince in the People's Republic of China.

Serving Agriculture, the Basic Industry, this is George Atkins.

**Information source**

Wung Ing Gen, People's Republic of China.