**Case Study 2.12 Desertification Control in Western Inner Mongolia**

The western part of Inner Mongolia is rich in desert resources. Further to the implementation of national key forestry ecological projects, the region continues to expand the green plantation industry, mainly using *Haloxylon ammodendron* and *Cistanche deserticola*, to promote local sustainable development. In 2014, the “100 Million Haloxylon” project was initiated by the Alashan SEE Foundation. It planned to plant 133,333 hectares of desert vegetation in the Alashan region in a decade to restore the historical 800-kilometer shuttle chain barrier. By the end of 2017, 47,600 hectares of sandy plants mainly *Haloxylon ammodendron* have been planted.

Enterprises were introduced to participate in forestry ecological construction. Inner Mongolia Wangye Cistanche Co., Ltd. plans to build 20,000 hectares of organic Chinese medicinal herb planting base in Wulanbuhe Desert. At present, it has built 3,333.3 hectares of organic certified base for plantation mainly of Cistanche and licorice, supplemented by other sandy Chinese medicinal materials such as *Astragalus* spp., *Cynomorium songaricum*, seeds of *Sophora alopecuroides*, desert sheep and desert chicken.

In Qikou County, a wind-proof and sand-fixing forest belt has been constructed on the bank of the Yellow River, reducing the average speed of sand dunes to the Yellow River from 12.64 meters in 2010 to 1.87 meters in 2016. The forest coverage rate and the forest and grass coverage rate increased from 19.2% and 27% in 2012 to 20.6% and 37% respectively. The desert control area of ​​the county has exceeded 186,667 hectares.

The achievements of sand control in the Alashan region for decades have enabled the green area of the Kubuqi Desert to exceed 320,000 hectares, having created more than 500 billion yuan of ecological benefits and lifted over 100,000 local people out of poverty. Kubuqi was identified by the United Nations Environment Program as the Global Desert Ecological Economic Demonstration Zone. Among them, Kubuqi's main force and leader for desertification control-Yili Group formed 232 local farmer teams. 5,820 people became ecological construction workers and 1,303 farmers and herdsmen in the neighboring region were brought to undertake the tourism industry, with an average annual income of more than 100,000 yuan per household and more than 30,000 yuan per capita generated.

 