**Case Study 2.6 China's Botanical Gardens and Arboretums Conserve More Than 60% of Native Plants**

There are more than 200 botanical gardens and arboretums in China. They cover China's major climatic zones and typical natural vegetation zones. They have made great progress in implementing China Plant Conservation Strategy, building capacity for *ex-situ* plant conservation and talent team building. They have become an important force in the international botanical garden community.

At present, the total area of ​​Chinese botanical gardens has reached 102,000 hectares, including 5,400 hectares for gardens particularly for plants, 1,014.9 hectares for plant nursery areas and seedling nursery areas, and 76,171.7 hectares for vegetation area in gardens. At the same time, a large-scale talent team has been established by botanical gardens in China. The total number of staff in the botanical gardens is 11,227, including 2,876 research staff, 2,937 gardening and horticultural management personnel, 1,161 public communicators and educators, and more than 100 well-known experts in the field of botany. It has become an important force in the international botanical gardens community and in the field of *ex- situ* plant conservation.

According to a sample survey of plants conserved *ex-situ* in China's main botanical gardens, there are currently 396 families, 3,363genera, 23,340 species of vascular plants conserved *ex-situ* in China, including 288 families, 2911 genera and 22,104 species of native plants, which account respectively for 91% of the families, 86% of genus and 60% of species of higher plants in China. At the same time, the Chinese botanical gardens protected about 40% of the rare and endangered plants in the China's Plant Red List, and established 1,195 gardens particularly for plants, which played a positive role in the conservation of native plant diversity in China.

The 15 botanical gardens affiliated to the Chinese Academy of Sciences (such as South China Botanical Garden, Xishuangbanna Botanical Garden, Wuhan Botanical Garden, Kunming Botanical Garden) have long been undertaking the collection, research, exploration and use of specialized plant families and genera and some specialized plant groups according to their institutional objectives. They have a long history, rich collections, strong regional representation and systematic data collection, For example, they are remarkably leading in the number of plant introductions registered (303,450, accounting for 78.3% of those kept in all the botanical gardens across the country), the number of plant species conserved *ex-situ* (20,000, accounting for 86% of the national total), the number of China's endemic plant species and local plant species (24,740 species, accounting for 73.56%) and the number of rare and endangered plants (4,228 species, accounting for 40.05%).