

## Strengthening Urban Climate Resilience through Grassroots Action: Highlights from the APN-CaBUNA Pilot Stakeholder Meeting in Ningbo

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On 19 June 2025, a stakeholder round-table meeting for the Olive Green - He Yi Agricultural Innovation Garden (hereby “He Yi Garden”) was successfully held at the University of Nottingham Ningbo China (UNNC). The event was initiated under the Research-based Capacity Building for Advancing Urban Nature Governance in China for Climate Resilience and Ecosystem Restoration (CaBUNA) project, supported by the Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research. As one of the project’s first stakeholder engagement activities in Ningbo, this round-table aimed to establish initial multi-party connections, identify pathways for future collaboration, and clarify the respective roles and responsibilities of involved parties in advancing sustainable development and participatory governance related to the He Yi Garden initiative.



The meeting was a direct outcome of the APN-CaBUNA project’s vision and facilitation efforts, with Mr. Shuai Xia from the project team introducing the broader objectives of promoting nature-based solutions for urban resilience and fostering international collaboration. As part of the project’s implementation plan, the team identified the He Yi Garden in Ningbo as a living lab. Once an unmanaged and polluted area, the Garden has been gradually reclaimed by veterans and community members, evolving into a shared green space. It was selected for its strong

bottom-up governance features, active civic engagement, and potential to demonstrate ecological planting practices – making it a promising example of grassroots innovation and resilience.

Participants in the round-table included representatives from UNNC, social organizations, community groups, and public service sectors, each bringing unique perspectives and resources to support the Garden's transformation. Officials from the local community (she-qu) and subdistrict (jie-dao) expressed a shared aspiration to develop the Garden into a lasting model of grassroots governance. They also emphasized the importance of sustained multi-stakeholder engagement to ensure the Garden's long-term development and vitality.

Veterans and local community groups, who played a central role in the Garden's early transformation, reaffirmed their commitment to ongoing co-management and daily maintenance. Social organizations similarly voiced strong interest in supporting the Garden's future development. Building on this foundation, UNNC expressed its intent to mobilize internal and external resources, co-organize nature-based educational activities, and collaborate with the community stakeholders on broader sustainability initiatives.



Participants engaged in thematic round-table discussions centered on *Cohesion*, *Vitality* and *Impact* – key focus areas proposed by representatives from the subdistrict (jie-dao). These discussions facilitated the exchange of visions and priorities among diverse stakeholders, fostering mutual understanding and the identification of synergies. The meeting concluded with a collective agreement to establish an inclusive coordination mechanism to guide the Garden's future development.

As immediate next steps, the group proposed setting up communication channels, compiling the specific needs and potential contributions of each stakeholder, and initiating the integration of academic resource to support ecological and educational programming.

This round-table marks a significant step toward building a more sustainable, inclusive, and community-driven model for the Olive Green-He Yi Agricultural Innovation Garden. By aligning academic expertise with grassroots initiatives, the project advances the goals of urban resilience and ecological restoration, while reinforcing the Garden's role as a living demonstration of co-created urban nature.

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