

Brief Introduction of Agriculture in Songjiang

Songjiang, which used to be called Huating, is a famous land of plenty in the south of the Yangtze River. Located in the southwest of Shanghai, the upper reaches of Huangpu River, Songjiang is the core area of Shanghai that links Shanghai and Yangtze Delta Area, reaching the Yangtze River valley and it is increasingly the important portal of the southwest of Shanghai. Songjiang enjoys mild north subtropical monsoon climate featuring abundant rainfall, full sunshine and four distinct seasons which is conducive to the agricultural production. Songjiang covers an area of 604 square kilometers, accounting for 9.5% of Shanghai's total. The total area of agriculture land of Songjiang covered 27,100 hectares in 2013. Among that, 16,553 hectares were cultivated land, 9507 hectares were woodland and 606 hectares were freshwater aquaculture area. The population of Songjiang totaled 1,736,600 with a rural residential population of 300,400 and there were 5281 agriculture labors. The output of the main agricultural products in 2013 is list as follow: 112,000 tons of grain (rice, barley and wheat), 181,000 tons of vegetable, 260,000 heads of slaughtered fattened hogs, 1,280,000 heads of slaughtered poultry, 3053 tons of freshwater products. In 2013, Songjiang achieved a total agriculture output of 2,160,000,000 yuan (348,000,000 U.S. dollars) and an added value of 872,000,000 yuan, accounting for 1.0% of Songjiang's GDP.

In recent years, with the rapid development of urbanization and industrialization, centering on the development goal of modern agriculture to be scientific, ecological and efficient, the agriculture of Songjiang has carried out active research and practice in the allocation and methods of agricultural production, the agricultural service system, ecological agriculture and many other aspects to accelerate the building of modern agriculture in metropolis suburb of Shanghai. It has formed a southern-Pudong-centered agriculture regional distribution and has built a specialized scale way of agricultural production and management that the grain production should be dominated by family farms, the vegetable production should be dominated by vegetable farms and specialized households, the swine industry should be dominated by scale pig farms and planting-breeding family farms, and the aquaculture production by cooperatives.

1. Planting Industry

The grain production of Songjiang in summer focused on planting rice. The planting area of 2013 was 1140 hectares and the output was 97,900 tons, 575 kilogram per mu. In winter, part of barley and wheat were planted, covering an area of 3000 hectares. The grain production takes a family farm as a unit. By the end of 2013, there have been 1267 family farms in Songjiang, covering an area of over 10,000 hectares. The vegetable production area was 1398 hectares. Most of that were covered by green leafy vegetables. The fruit production focused on planting pears, peaches, grapes and melons. The annual output was 17,400 tons.

2. Animal Husbandry

Swine industry is the main body of the animal husbandry of Songjiang. There are 7 modernized scale pig farms that have over 1000 sows and 60 planting-breeding family farms. The live pig amount of livestock on hand has been 157,700 by the end of the year and the annual amount of pigs appearing on the market has been about 260,000. Besides, poultry, goats and a small amount of milk cows were bred. Swine industry accounted for over 80% of the total output value of the animal husbandry. The swine industry of Songjiang has formed a self-contained industrial chain from pig breeding, feeding to slaughtering.

3. Freshwater Fisheries

The freshwater aquaculture area of Songjiang totals 606 hectares. The focus is on breeding fingerlings and cultivating famous, special and improved aquatic products. Songjiang has the only national aquatic breeding farm of Shanghai which provides over 20 provinces and cities all over the country with fries and fingerlings of the blunt snout bream cultivated by it. Speaking of famous, special and improved products, perches with four gills, the historical famous product of Songjiang, have been artificially bred successfully and raised into adult form in the pond. The ecologically bred Huangpu River hairy crab has been honored as Shanghai's Namebrand Product and is very popular with the consumers.

Brief Introduction of Education in Songjiang

“Shanghai is famous all over the world while Songjiang enjoys a good reputation that runs through thousands of years of history.” Being the cradle of the history and culture of Shanghai, Songjiang is called “the root of Shanghai” and has rich cultural resources. From the Songze Culture of the Neolithic Age to the Lu Brothers Culture of the Jin Dynasty, the Buddhist Culture of the Tang and Song Dynasty, the Garden Culture and the art of painting and calligraphy of the Yuan, Ming and Qing Dynasty, it bred unique, glamorous Huating Culture and won a good fame as the place of gathering Jinshi (person has passed the imperial examination). Thus it cultivated a profound tradition of respecting teachers and valuing education and revealed the wit of ancient Songjiang. With the economic development of the reform and opening up for over thirty years, Songjiang has become an advanced production base, a modern leisure tourism base, a modern agricultural base and a scientific education base of combining learning with research and production of Shanghai. Talented people gather here to improve the rapid development of Songjiang economy, infusing new life to new Songjiang.

In recent years, under the leadership of district committee and the district government, according to the 12th five-year plan of the development of Songjiang education and the scientifically designed medium and long term plan of education, we have taken promoting the balanced and quality development of compulsory education as the top priority, aimed at all-round development, equity and making it generally beneficial, taken creative actions and put great emphasis on the implementation, accelerated the balanced, quality, equitable and open development of regional education, held on well at the current situation and looked forward to the future, deepened reform and development, accelerated the building of the resources sharing, kept optimizing the teaching staff, carried out quality oriented education in an all-around way, focused on deepening the connotation of education, steadily promoted the sustainable development of Songjiang education.

In 2013, there were 255 education institutions of all levels and types in Songjiang. There were 177 schools at elementary education stage. Among that, there were 107 kindergartens (including 62 private kindergartens) (In addition there were 62 branches of public kindergartens.), 70 primary and secondary schools (including 24 private schools and one special school), 70 vocational schools (including the Open University, one teacher training college, 5 secondary vocational schools, 13 town schools and street schools and so on), and 8 other public education institutions. There were 7721 teachers and staff in public schools (including 6204 full-time teachers) and 3878 teachers and staff in private primary and secondary schools and kindergartens.

By September 2013, schools of all levels and types in Songjiang contained 143,500 students. Among that, 131,000 were at compulsory education stage and preschool education stage (including 80,900 non native inhabitants, accounting for 61.72% of the total). There was a rise of 8733 people on last year’s same period with the growth rate of 7.12%.