Rangeland Restoration Awards 2026

ZHANG YINGJUN

From College of Grassland Science and Technology, China Agricultural University, Beijing, China



ABOUT HIM

- Professor Zhang Yingjun is a leading grassland scientist and Dean of the College of Grassland Science and Technology, China Agricultural University.
- Chief Scientist of China's National Forage Industry Technology System with expertise in grassland restoration and sustainable pastoral development.
- Developed the In Situ Overseeding Technology for restoring degraded grasslands.
- Has led major national and international research projects, published 100+ scientific papers, holds multiple patents, and has trained numerous grassland professionals.

THE LAND HE RESTORES

- The "In Situ Overseeding" technology has restored degraded natural grasslands across China, including Inner Mongolia, Heilongjiang, Jilin, Hebei, Shaanxi, Gansu, Xinjiang, and Tibet.
- These landscapes restore degraded ecosystems and improve vegetation cover, supporting livestock production and pastoral livelihoods and enhancing biodiversity and wildlife habitats.

KEY CONTRIBUTIONS

- **Developed Innovative Technology:** Created the In Situ Overseeding Technology for restoring degraded grasslands, now applied across 60,000+ hectares in eight provinces.
- **Restored Degraded Grasslands:** Established demonstration sites in Huitengxile Grassland and Meiguiying Town, Ulanqab, where grassland productivity increased 1–2 times and and hay yield reached over 3,000 kg/hm2.
- **Supported Pastoral Livelihoods:** Improved forage production, benefiting millions of sheep units, 200+ herder households, and training 500+ technicians and herders.
- **Promoted Sustainable Management:** Developed the No-Till Reseeding Restoration Theory and adaptive grazing and mowing practices.
- **Strengthened Policy & Partnerships:** In 2022, the National Chief Forage Scientist Expert Workstation was established in Ulanqab, integrating Beijing's technical resources with local grassland restoration needs.
- In 2025, a cooperation agreement was signed between Ordos City and China Agricultural University to jointly build the Ordos Grassland Agriculture Experimental Station, focusing on three core technologies including In Situ Overseeding.
- Promoted collaboration among government, research institutions, and pastoral communities.