

World Agricultural Cultural Heritage "Purple Magpie Terraced Fields"

Ziquejie Terrace is located in Shuiche Town, Xinhua County, Loudi City, Hunan Province, involving 13 administrative villages, belonging to the Fengjia Mountain section of Xuefeng Mountain, with a total area of more than 260,000 mu and a core area of more than 20,000 mu. It is a global important agricultural cultural heritage and a world irrigation project heritage.

1. Historical origin: Zique Terrace originated in the pre-Qin Dynasty and flourished in the Song and Ming dynasties. It has a history of about 2,000 years and is the crystallization of the joint work of the ancestors of Miao, Yao, Dong, Han and other nationalities in China. Its development integrates the mountain fishing and hunting culture and rice farming culture, which is a prominent landmark cultural landscape in ancient Meishan region.

2. Scale characteristics: The surrounding terraces reach more than 80,000 mu, and the core scenic spot reaches more than 20,000 mu. It is characterized by small, many and high, that is, the terrace area is relatively small, but the number is large and the distribution is dense, and the altitude is high.

3. Natural conditions and irrigation system: Ziquejie terraces rely on unique natural landforms and ingenious irrigation systems, without the need for external water sources for irrigation. The mountain here is granite, the soil water absorption is poor, the precipitation can quickly penetrate into the ground to form groundwater, and then through the rock cracks and soil pores, forming a natural irrigation water source, so that the terrace can be moisturized for a long time.

4. Agricultural production: Terraced fields are mainly used for rice cultivation. With rich experience and wisdom, ancestors developed suitable rice agricultural production methods according to different terrain and climate conditions, and cultivated a variety of excellent rice varieties. This mode of agricultural production not only ensured the local food supply, but also formed a unique farming culture. For

example, in the process of rice planting, there are a series of traditional farming rituals and customs, such as opening ploughing ceremony, offering sacrifices to the god of the field, etc. These rituals and customs carry people's expectations for harvest and reverence for nature, reflecting profound cultural connotations.

5. Ecological significance: Ziquejie Terrace has rich biodiversity. The unique ecological environment formed in the terraces provides habitat and living space for many plants and animals, such as various aquatic organisms, insects, birds and so on. At the same time, the vegetation coverage of terrace helps to preserve soil and water, conserve water resources, and plays an important role in maintaining regional ecological balance. In addition, because its traditional agricultural production methods have less impact on the environment, the ecosystem here has been stable and healthy for a long time.

6. Cultural value: As an important agricultural cultural heritage, Ziquejie Terrace contains profound cultural deposits. It is not only a witness of local agricultural production, but also a symbol of national cultural integration, reflecting the process of mutual communication, mutual learning and common development of different nationalities in the long-term production and life. This multi-cultural integration is clearly reflected in the architectural style, farming techniques, folk customs and other aspects of the terrace. For example, the ridge of terrace is built with unique technology, which is both practical and beautiful, reflecting the architectural wisdom of local people; The traditional costumes, songs and dances, and handicrafts of various ethnic groups have been inherited and developed in the surrounding areas of the terraces, becoming a unique cultural landscape.

7. Tourism development: Today, Ziquejie Terrace has become a national 4A level tourist attraction, attracting a large number of tourists to visit. Visitors can enjoy the magnificent terrace scenery here, experience the traditional farming life, and feel the rich folk culture atmosphere. Tourism development not only brings economic

benefits to the local area, but also promotes cultural inheritance and protection, and enhances people's awareness and attention to agricultural cultural heritage. For example, through the development of tourism, the local government has promoted the development of farm entertainment, homestay and other industries, providing more employment opportunities and income channels for villagers. At the same time, by holding various cultural activities and festivals, such as terrace Culture Festival, further enhance the visibility and influence of Zique Terrace.