

Hairy crabs, rice do well together

Gu Xianhui and Tom Qian

Farmer Wang Ninghong, 49, has been busy harvesting rice and hairy crabs on his 12,000 square meters of rented land in Ludu Village in the Jiading Industrial Zone.

It's the first time that someone in the district has raised crabs and rice from the same piece of land.

Wang, an aquatic products vendor, decided to branch out into raising crabs at the beginning of last year.

He obtained aquatic plants from Yangcheng Lake, which is famous for the quality of its hairy crabs, a local delicacy enjoyed during October and November when the crabs are mature.

The delectable taste of the rich, creamy crab roe and paste as well as the sweet, tender crab meat proves irresistible for many people and the production of hairy crabs is a billion-dollar business these days.

Crabs reared in the freshwater lake northeast of Suzhou in Jiangsu Province are reputed to be the best in China. Because of their supreme quality, crabs farmed and harvested in the region can be expensive.

"Comparing to local water plants, the aquatic plants from Yangcheng Lake are more

tender and nutritious. They are the favorite food of the crabs and also an organic fertilizer for rice," Wang said.

After planting the aquatic plants, Wang decided to raise crayfish — in Chinese known as *xiaolongxia* — as a test.

Wang went to Huating Town and learned the skills of raising crayfish from farmers who had raised the crustaceans on land where they also grew rice.

The crayfish reared by Wang and his wife did well and, by May, some had grown to as heavy as 200 grams. They proved very popular with customers and soon demand exceeded supply. Wang managed to sell almost a ton of them.

In June, Wang planted rice seedlings. "The aquatic plants grow wildly so it's more difficult to clean the rice field. Thus we planted rice later than others," said Wang. However, the aquatic plants served as organic fertilizer and the rice grew much better than that planted by others.

"My daughter got married in October, and the big crabs have been caught for guests to enjoy," Wang said. "Still the big ones in the field weigh at least 250 grams."

After his experience this year, Wang has decided to continue planting rice and raising crabs together next year.



A staffer shows how large these crabs are. — Gu Xianhui

Plenty to sing about for students of culture

Li Huacheng and Tong Wangyue

THE 2018 Jiading District "Opera on Campus" performance was held last month at Shanghai Poly Grand Theater to offer primary and middle school students a feast of Chinese traditional opera and showcase the district's achievements in the integration of culture and education.

Ten artists from Shanghai Jingju Theater Company, Shanghai Opera Troupe, Yueju Opera Troupe, Kunqu Opera Theater, Huaju Opera Troupe and Farce Troupe participated in interactive opera appreciation activities at 10 schools across Jiading.

Since the initiation of Jiading's "Integration of Culture and Education" plan two years ago, public cultural institutions in the district have organized a wide range of activities and intangible cultural heritage exhibitions, drawing teenagers into the world of culture and art.

Jiading offers around 300 batches of cultural education activities for youngsters every year, which cover more than 280 schools in the district and benefit more than 50,000 teachers and students.

In addition, Shanghai Poly Grand Theater has joined with Shanghai Jingju Theater Company, Shanghai Opera Troupe and Shanghai Yueju Opera Theater to establish the Jiading Campus Opera Alliance, which has the aim of introducing and integrating the high-end art education resources of professional art troupes and academies.

The alliance will enhance students' interest, understanding, expression and creativity in traditional opera and promote the inheritance and development of Jiading culture and education through a range of campus activities.

Driverless sweepers on the streets soon

Wang Anqi and Tom Qian

THIRTY driverless motor sweepers are due to be on Jiading streets from January, according to a deal signed between the Jiading government and Tongji University.

The driverless sweeper made its debut at the recent AI World 2018 and 20th China International Industry Fair held in Shanghai.

They have been developed by the university with sponsorship from the Shanghai Science

and Technology Commission.

So far four have been built and passed tests.

In the National Intelligent Connected Vehicle (Shanghai) Pilot Zone in Jiading where driverless motor sweepers are under test, they can avoid roadblocks, detour automatically and run along preset courses monitored by a safety supervisor.

With a speed of 3-5 kilometers an hour, each vehicle can cover 13,000 square meters in

an hour, work for over six hours without stopping, and return to parking spots automatically.

Equipped with intelligent driving and remote control systems, the sweepers have already been used to clean streets and squares.

They can clean streets along set routes or along road edges automatically.

Supervisors can control the vehicles and check their status of the vehicles via an app on a mobile phone which also

receives data from video, sensors, and monitors electricity and malfunctions.

Drivers can take control of the vehicles by simply stepping on the brake or touching the steering wheel to convert the unmanned model to a manned model.

"So far the driverless motor sweepers are especially suitable for use in closed areas at night, which can save a lot of manpower and labor cost," an industry insider said.

District speeds up processes for VW's new factory

Sun Ling and Tong Wangyue

JIADING broke a record when it took less than 48 hours to finish the examination and verification process of SAIC Volkswagen's new electric factory project.

The Anting Town factory will produce electric vehicles based on VW's Modular Electric Drive Kit (MEB). The 610,000-square-meter facility will begin operations in October 2020 with a total investment of 17 billion yuan (US\$2.4 billion).

Annual production is expected to reach 300,000 vehicles, a volume not only of great strategic significance for the company but also for the city's

automobile industry chain development and industrial transformation.

The progress of the MEB project lagged behind at first due to factors such as relocation of local farmers. The company worried that they might miss market opportunities if they couldn't start production early enough as the examination and verification process used to take about 15 working days.

To meet the needs of SAIC VW, Jiading took measures to shorten the examination and verification time. It simplified the process and integrated the database of over 10 departments including the planning and land resources department

and the construction department so that the enterprise didn't need to submit declaration and application material to multiple departments.

"If we follow the regular procedures as before, the examination and approval speed would barely meet the needs of the enterprise," said Cheng Chongjia, deputy director of the comprehensive coordination department of the district administrative service center.

Relevant departments have been fully involved in the early stages of the MEB project, informed some of the application contents and requirements in advance, and helped the enterprise solve

problems in the preparatory stage.

For example, the planning and land resources department communicated with the enterprise on the standardization of the project drawings in advance and divided the project into four bidding sections, allowing four companies to participate in the construction at the same time to accelerate the process.

On October 10, the grant contract of land use right was signed. Design, survey, supervision and construction contracts were all put on file the next day and the data was submitted as well. The Volkswagen project finally obtained a construction permit on October 12.