

Part III

Practices of Soil Erosion Control in Eastern China

As the reform and opening-up policy goes on, the growth of the middle and lower reaches of the Yangtze River as the economic center of China has to be associated with an agenda for sustainable development. Economic development has brought not only enormous material benefits but also negative influences on the environment – the population in this area has reached a level close to its maximum carrying capacity, and the eco-environment has been severely damaged. The environment is assuming critical importance in the 21st century, with degradation of the eco-environment as a potential bottleneck of economic development. To break this bottleneck the relationship between economic development and the environment has to be coordinated. Therefore, how to care about and improve the local eco-environment is an urgent problem, not merely for the middle and lower reaches of Yangtze River but for all of China in the long run.