



## **Farming the Tibetan Plateau in prehistoric period**

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The rapid accumulation of archaeobotanical and zooarchaeological evidence from Neolithic and Bronze sites in northwest China provides significant dataset for exploring the history for the introduction and diffusion of important crops (millets, barley, wheat) and livestock (sheep, yak, etc.) upward to the high areas of northeast Tibetan Plateau, while the detailed process for the adoption of these domesticated plants and animals on the whole Tibetan Plateau during late prehistoric period still remain unclear. Here we review the results of updating archaeobotanical and zooarchaeological studies, radiocarbon dating of crop remains, and carbon isotopic data from human bones unearthed from prehistoric sites on the Tibetan Plateau and surrounding areas, to reconstruct a comprehensive scene for the early development of agriculture on the Tibetan Plateau. We argue that prehistoric indigenous human groups of the Tibetan Plateau might have not adopted newcomer farming livelihoods soon after the introduction of agricultural technology, as was suggested by previous researches, and the trajectory for the agricultural development varied in different parts of the Tibetan Plateau during late prehistoric times.