



Revitalizing Rural China through Land Policy Reform and Innovation in Rural Governance and Public Service

联合国开发计划署
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The Challenge

During the last two decades, China has experienced the world's fast economic growth, and also has made impressive achievements in poverty reduction. Economic Transformation in China has also brought out numerous challenges. The Chinese Government has been repeatedly emphasizing the work on "three-dimensional rural problem" as the most important focus of its work. "Balancing rural-urban development" and "Building a new socialist countryside" were proposed by the CPC Central Committee. However, implementation of the policy for building up a new socialist countryside is confronted with many institutional barriers including land rights, public service delivery, and rural governance.

China's comprehensive strategy of building a New Socialist Countryside includes the process of transforming and upgrading old villages and expansion of social services to rural areas. The transfer of rural land will continue to pose a serious challenge. It is now a matter of urgency to reform land acquisition and land transfer system, one that can guarantee farmers their proper rights and security in the quickly changing world they live in.

In order to gradually establish a uniform rural-urban public service system, it is imperative to identify conceptual, political, institutional, economic and organizational barriers that need to be tackled to ensure equal access to public services for people living in rural areas.

In the new era of rural development in China, repositioning of township and village government, development of civil society organizations in rural areas are crucial in the new socialist countryside drive.

The Response

The project has three main components targeting the above-mentioned challenges: (i) Policy research and pilots to clarify rural land property rights and establish clear, equitable and efficient mechanisms for registration, usage and transfer of those rights, (ii) research and pilots to identify structural and systemic obstacles to improving local governance, the provision of public goods and services in rural areas and the protection of farmers' rights and interests, (iii) knowledge sharing and policy debates/dialogues to intensify project findings and disseminate project outputs.

The first component focuses on innovations in the management systems relating to land – titling and registration of ownership and usage, mechanisms for transfer and distribution of benefits



accruing from various forms of land use – while the second places land issues in the broader context of local governance, provision of public services, civil society and farmers' rights with a view to identifying systemic obstacles to rural development



and the strategy to construct a new countryside. The second outcome is designed to be complementary as well as mutually reinforcing.

The third outcome is to set a knowledge sharing and policy development platform to conduct broad-based policy debate and knowledge sharing with the participation of government officials and policy researchers from relevant departments to exchange ideas on policy, institutional and mechanism innovations to facilitate the building of a new socialist countryside and foster policy innovation. International partners will be also invited to join such discussions. This component is also meant to develop closer synergies between first two components and document key findings for dissemination and policy considerations.

At A Glance

Start Date: 2006
End Date: 2011

Implementing Partner(s): China International Centre for Economic and Technical Exchange (CICETE), Ministry of Land Resources, China Institute for Reform and Development.

Project ID: 00054218

UNDAF: Outcome 1 Socio-economic policies are developed and improved to be more scientifically-based and human centred for sustainable and equitable growth

Outcome 3. More efficient management of natural resources and development of environmentally friendly behaviour in order to ensure environmental sustainability

MDG Goal: Goal 1 Eradication of extreme poverty and hunger/
Goal 3 Promote gender equality and empower women
CPAP output:

Output 2.4 Policy oriented research on emerging poverty challenges developed and disseminated to key stakeholders

Website: www.undp.org.cn

Total Budget: US\$ 5,030,000
UNDP Budget: US\$ 2,030,000
Government cost sharing: US\$ 3,000,000

Project location(s): Sichuan, Xinjiang, Anhui, Henan Shandong, Jiangsu, Fujian

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