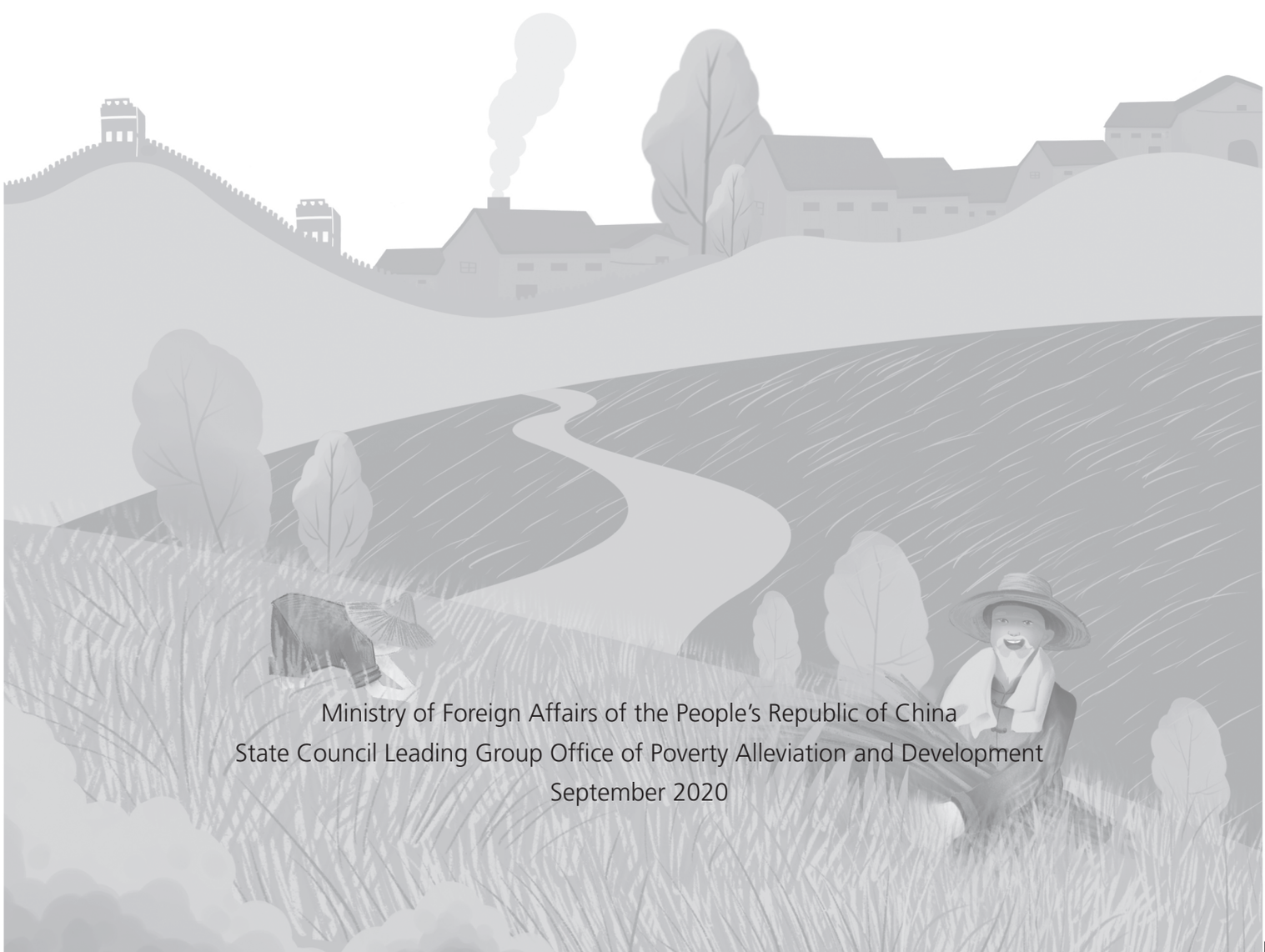
ERADICATION OF EXTREME POVERTY

CHINA'S PRACTICES



Eradication of Extreme Poverty

China's Practices



Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China
State Council Leading Group Office of Poverty Alleviation and Development
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Preface

I

Poverty eradication is a common challenge facing the world. In 2015, the United Nations General Assembly adopted *Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, in which "Ending poverty in all its forms everywhere" is listed as the primary sustainable development goal, including eradicating extreme poverty for all people everywhere by 2030, charting the course for global poverty reduction. Currently, the implementation of this agenda is confronted with unprecedented challenges brought by the COVID-19 pandemic. It is estimated that about 70 to 100 million people worldwide could fall into extreme poverty due to the pandemic, wiping out progress in poverty alleviation in the poorest countries over the last three years. Under such circumstances, China stands ready to work with the international community to deepen international cooperation with confidence and the vision of building a community of shared future for mankind, to jointly advance the cause of global poverty reduction towards achievement of the relevant sustainable development goals.

China attaches great importance to poverty alleviation. Over more than 40 years of reform and opening up since 1978, more than 700 million Chinese have been lifted out of poverty, accounting for more than 70 % of global poverty reduction over the same period, creating "a legend of poverty alleviation" in contemporary history. Following the principle of putting people first, China set the goal that by 2020 "all rural residents falling below the current poverty line should be lifted out of poverty; all poor counties should leave poverty behind; and regional poverty should be eliminated on the whole." By now, China has eradicated regional overall poverty by and large, with the number of impoverished people falling to 5.51 million at the end of 2019 from the 2012 year-end figure of 98.99 million, and the poverty incidence rate dropping to 0.6 % from 10.2 % during the same period. For seven years in a row, China has lifted more than ten million people out of poverty annually. By the end of May this year, 780 out of 832 poverty-stricken counties across the country had left poverty behind. From 2013 to 2019, the per capita disposable income of farmers in 832 impoverished counties increased from RMB 6,079 to RMB 11,567, reaching an average annual increase of 9.7 %, which was 2.2 percentage points higher than that of the national per capita disposable income of farmers in the same period. The per capita net income of the poor households increased at an annual average rate of 32.6 % from RMB 2,927 in 2015 to RMB 9,057 in 2019.

In the face of the unexpected challenges brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, President Xi Jinping stressed that "lifting all rural residents living below the current poverty line out of poverty by 2020 is a solemn promise made by the CPC Central Committee, and it must be fulfilled on time with no room for negotiation." Upon accomplishment of the tasks for poverty eradication this year, China will achieve the relevant sustainable development goal ten years ahead of schedule, which will greatly boost the confidence and determination of the international community in achieving poverty reduction, and inject strong impetus into the global poverty reduction cause and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

II

China's achievements in poverty alleviation are attributed to its strong political commitment. Since the founding of the People's Republic, the Chinese government has been committed to development and poverty eradication. Since 1984, the government has issued a number of guiding documents including the *Notice on Changing the Conditions of Impoverished Areas As Soon As Possible, Seven-Year Program for Lifting 80 Million People Out of Poverty (1994-2000), Outline for Development-Oriented Poverty Alleviation for China's Rural Areas (2001-2010), and Outline for Development-Oriented Poverty Alleviation for China's Rural Areas (2011-2020)*, and set out policies and measures for poverty alleviation in different periods. Since the 18th CPC National Congress, the CPC Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping at its core has made poverty eradication the basic task and benchmark indicator for building a moderately prosperous society in all respects, incorporated poverty alleviation and development into the "five-sphere integrated plan" and the "four-pronged comprehensive strategy" and launched the battle against poverty throughout the country. President Xi attaches great importance to poverty alleviation. Since 2015, he has presided over seven thematic meetings on winning the battle against poverty and made a series of major plans on different fronts of the work. China's efforts in poverty eradication have reached unprecedented levels in terms of intensity, scale and impact.

China's achievements in poverty alleviation are attributed to its development philosophy. China takes development as its top priority and strives to improve the quality and efficiency of development, driving development through innovation, balancing regional development through coordination, pursuing harmony between man and nature through green development, promoting interactions between China and the rest of the world through opening-up, and upholding equity and justice through shared development. With the new vision for innovative, coordinated, green, open, and shared development, China closely links poverty alleviation efforts with its pursuit for development, taking compensation for ecological conservation as a way to produce positive results on poverty reduction and environmental fronts,, developing education to address the root causes for poverty, and strengthening the social safety net to provide the basic line of defense against poverty so as to help the poor benefit from social development and build up their own blood-making capabilities for development. Such efforts have led to sound progress in economic, social, and ecological development.

China's achievements in poverty alleviation are attributed to poverty alleviation policies suited to its national conditions. With "precise poverty alleviation" as the basic strategy, China works to end poverty through a trinity of special campaigns, industrial development and social undertakings. Basic poverty alleviation approaches include industrial development, relocation, compensation for ecological conservation, educational development and social security. Specific measures are designed and implemented on the basis of the precise needs of the relevant villages, households and individuals. Central to the precise poverty alleviation strategy is to precisely identify those needing help, take measures aimed directly at each household, make precise arrangements in projects, use funds effectively, send the right people to each village and achieve well-defined results. Ten poverty alleviation programmes have been carried out, focusing respectively on dispatching resident officials to poor villages for poverty alleviation, vocational education and training, micro-credit loans, relocation of people in poverty, e-business

opportunities, tourism, photo-voltaic projects, paper mulberry plantation, training for entrepreneurs, and help from leading enterprises. Such comprehensive and multi-dimensional precise poverty alleviation strategy has specified the recipients, providers, approaches and the exit of support.

China's achievements are attributed to its sound poverty alleviation governance system. Governments at all levels have set up special agencies to implement poverty alleviation policies. China has iput in place a management system whereby the central government makes the masterplan, provinces take overall responsibility for implementation and counties act to ensure implementation. It has also established the working mechanism of focusing on contiguous poor areas and implementing projects in specific impoverished villages and poor households. China has further implemented the mechanism of Party secretaries at five levels taking charge of poverty alleviation and set up a strict appraisal system for government officials' performance in poverty alleviation as well as a third-party performance appraisal system. Governments at all levels assume the primary responsibility for poverty alleviation and development within their respective jurisdiction and incorporate poverty alleviation into strategies and overall plans for economic and social development. Furthermore, with the East-West partnership mechanism, the fixed-point support mechanism, the "10,000 enterprises assisting 10,000 villages" campaign, and the mechanism of government procurement of services, government departments, enterprises, social organizations, and individuals are all encouraged to participate in the poverty alleviation endeavor, thus forging strong synergy of the whole society for poverty reduction and development.

China's achievements are attributed to the long-term, sustained financial input of governments at all levels. From 2017 to 2020, the central government has invested RMB 86.1 billion, RMB 106.1 billion, RMB 126.1 billion, and RMB 146.1 billion for poverty alleviation in respective years. In addition, local governments, designated entities for fixed-point support, the eastern regions paired up with western regions for poverty alleviation, and social institutions have also provided financial support for poverty alleviation. While advancing industrialization and urbanization, the Chinese government has sustained support for the development of agriculture and rural areas, with funds in support of agriculture and rural areas continuing to increase year by year, accounting for around 10% of its annual fiscal expenditure. In recent years, the government has increased investment in infrastructure and public services in rural areas to ensure that people in rural areas have access to water, electricity, roads, postal service, the internet and other basic facilities, thus providing important resources for poverty alleviation.

III

As a responsible major country, China has worked to the best of its ability to assist other developing countries in reducing poverty while advancing its cause of poverty alleviation at home. China has set up the UN Peace and Development Trust Fund and the South-South Cooperation Assistance Fund, implemented the "100 poverty reduction programs" announced by President Xi Jinping at the High-Level Roundtable on South-South Cooperation in 2015 and steadily promoted cooperation projects under the framework of "the Cooperation Initiative on Poverty Alleviation in East Asia" and "the

China-Africa Poverty Reduction Plan". By the end of 2019, China had facilitated the construction of 24 agricultural technology demonstration centers in Africa, benefiting more than 500,000 local people, and held more than 100 poverty reduction training courses for nearly 3,000 professionals from 116 developing countries. China continues to promote synergy between the Belt & Road Initiative and the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development providing a new engine for poverty reduction and development. According to a World Bank research report, the Belt & Road Initiative will help lift 7.6 million people out of extreme poverty and 32 million out of moderate poverty in the relevant countries, providing strong momentum for international poverty alleviation.

In order to sort out and summarize Chinese experiences in poverty alleviation and development and provide reference for other countries, especially developing ones, in their effort to overcome the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, achieve poverty reduction targets and implement the 2030 Agenda, *Eradication of Extreme Poverty: China's Practices* is compiled and released. This report contains specific and detailed cases showing China's poverty reduction practices in various fields to inform the world poverty reduction cause.

Sincere appreciation is extended to the team led by Li Xiaoyun, Professor, College of International Development and Global Agriculture, China Agricultural University, for its contribution to this report.

Contents

Chapter I Innovation **1**

Section I Innovation in Anti-poverty Targets **2**

1.Target the Impoverished Group: The System for Documented Impoverished Households in the Battle against Poverty in China 2

Section II Innovation in Leadership Mechanism **7**

1.Leaders Working in Villages: The First Secretaries in the Battle against Poverty in China 7

Section III Innovating Models of Poverty Alleviation **12**

1.The Longnan Model of Poverty Alleviation Through E-commerce 12

2.The Practice of Poverty Alleviation through Industrial Development with "Enterprise + Farmer Household" Model: A Story of How An Enterprise Lifted Farmer Households Out of Poverty 17

3.Poverty Alleviation through Cooperative-based Industrial Development: Specialized Laying Hen Breeding Cooperatives in Wangjialing 21

Section IV New Mechanisms for Poverty Alleviation against COVID-19 ..... **25**

1.The Battle against COVID-19 and Poverty in Worst-Hit Areas 25

2.Local Government Officials Promoted Products via Live Streaming during the COVID-19 Pandemic 29

Chapter II Coordination **33**

Section I East-West Coordinated Poverty Alleviation **34**

1.A New Model of Poverty Alleviation Jointly Created by Hangzhou and Enshi 34

Section II Fixed-Point Poverty Alleviation **38**

1.Ministry of Foreign Affairs Helps Two Counties Shake Off Poverty 38

Section III Explore a New Way of Poverty Alleviation through Labor Service Cooperation **42**

1.Fuzhou-Dingxi Partnership Assistance Model 42

Section IV Coordinate Urban-Rural Development in Poverty Alleviation through Employment **45**

1.Poverty Alleviation Workshops in Villages and Towns 45

Section V Encourage the Whole Society to Participate and Make Concerted Efforts in Poverty Alleviation **48**

1.A Boost from Enterprises to Successfully Lifting Bijie Out of Poverty 48

Chapter III Green Development **53**

Section I Poverty Alleviation with Ecological Resources **54**

1.Poverty Alleviation through Tourism: a Yao Mother's Guesthouse Lifted the Family Out of Decades of Poverty 54

2.Poverty Alleviation Through Clean Energy: Photovoltaic Power Stations in Kangbao County 59

Section II Ecological Poverty Alleviation **63**

1.Green Ecological Barriers Bolster Poverty Alleviation 63

2.Ecological Public Welfare Jobs in Antu County 67

Chapter IV Shared Prosperity **71**

Section I Poverty Alleviation through Education **72**

1.Develop Preschool Education in Rural Areas to Prevent Intergenerational Transmission of Poverty 72

2.The Dewdrop Project Promoted Poverty Alleviation 77

Section II Poverty Alleviation through Healthcare **80**

1.Gannan Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture: Poverty Alleviation through Healthcare Removes People's Worries and Triple Guarantees of Medicare Access Warm Hearts 80

2.Zhenba County of Shaanxi Province: Do More with Less Money and Achieve Moderate Prosperity with Better Healthcare 84

Section III Poverty Alleviation through Social Guarantees **89**

1.Transparent and Targeted Social Assistance to Fight Poverty in Lujiang 89

Chapter V Opening Up **93**

Section I China-Africa Cooperation on Poverty Eradication **94**

1.Small Technology, Big Harvest: China-Tanzania Village-level Learning Center for Poverty Reduction 94

Section II Poverty Reduction Cooperation to Jointly Build an Asia-Pacific Community with Shared Future **98**

1.Demonstration Program of Poverty Reduction Cooperation in Cambodia: Targeted Poverty Alleviation and Whole-Village Advancement 98

2.Chinese Grass Spreading Love in Fiji: Juncao Technology Demonstration Center in Fiji 103

Section III Poverty Alleviation Exchange and Cooperation Between China and Latin America **108**

1.Joint Achievements of China and Colombia: Open to Share Experience 108

Afterword **113**

Chapter I Innovation

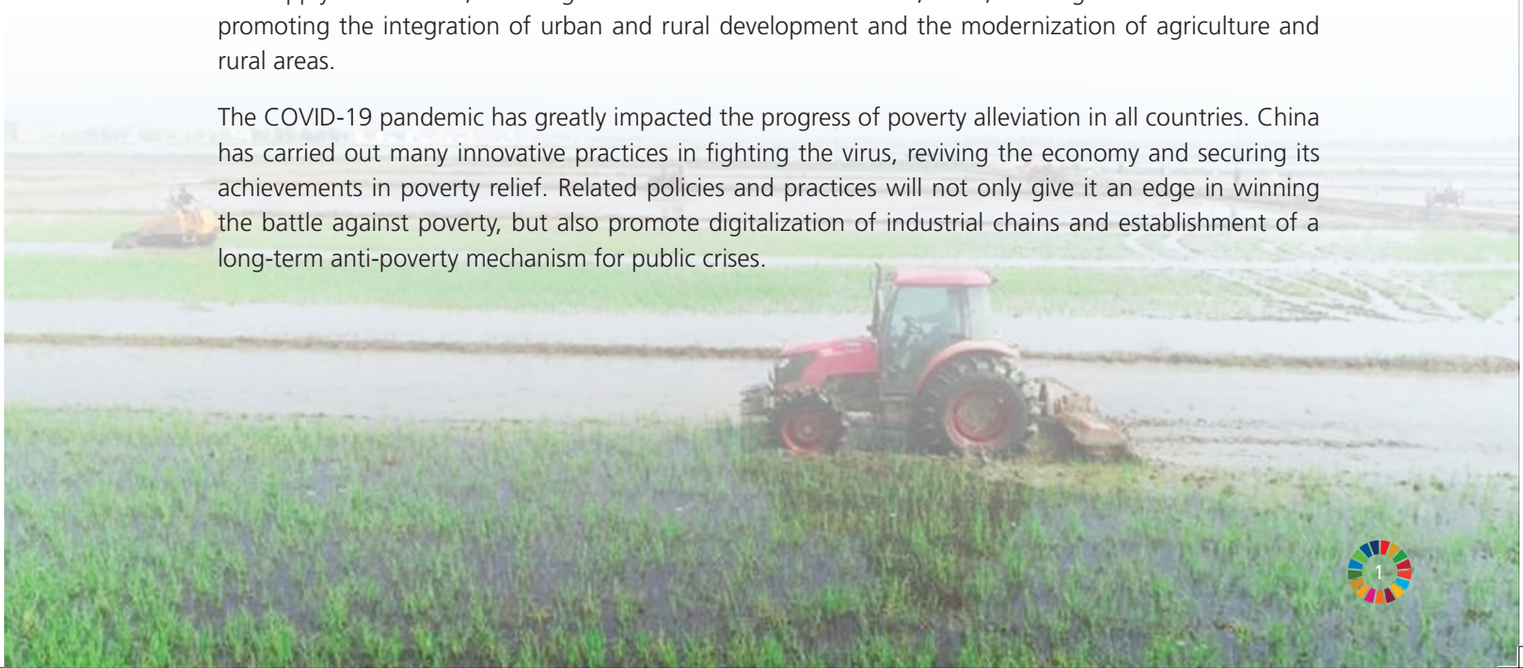
Innovation is the primary engine of development. Since the implementation of reform and opening up policies, China has changed its poverty relief strategy from development-oriented to the one that combines development and support measures, and then to a comprehensive strategy with concerted efforts from multiple dimensions. During this period, the implementation of anti-poverty policies has come with numerous challenges; however, many innovative measures have been discovered as well. This chapter consists of four sections that elaborate on these innovative practices and explorations regarding the target mechanism, the leadership mechanism, the model of poverty alleviation through industrial development and poverty alleviation in the fight against COVID-19.

Targeting is a precondition to implement anti-poverty policies. In the 1980s, China adopted policies taking regions as the target and featuring county-based governance. In the 1990s, the government began to target villages. Since 2012, the government has shifted its target to poverty-stricken households and individuals by establishing a system for documented impoverished households, which has laid a solid foundation for resource allocation, policy support and progress monitoring in poverty alleviation.

It is an important innovation in the leadership mechanism for poverty alleviation in China to have "Party Secretaries at five levels in command." Secretaries of the ruling party at levels ranging from the central government to provinces, counties, towns and villages take command of poverty alleviation and handle the segmentation and restriction in resource allocation and governance to ensure the implementation of various anti-poverty polices. The First Secretary mechanism has linked policies, resources, talent and information for the central and local governments so as to build a framework of poverty alleviation with wide coverage and specific focuses.

Developing industries is a core measure of development-oriented poverty alleviation. The models featuring "Enterprise + Peasant Household" and cooperatives have been improved through years with accumulated experiences and practices of large-scale operations and farmers' interests protection. Supported by policies, e-commerce platforms have played an increasingly important role in connecting the supply and market, breaking down barriers in infrastructure, scale, funding and information and promoting the integration of urban and rural development and the modernization of agriculture and rural areas.

The COVID-19 pandemic has greatly impacted the progress of poverty alleviation in all countries. China has carried out many innovative practices in fighting the virus, reviving the economy and securing its achievements in poverty relief. Related policies and practices will not only give it an edge in winning the battle against poverty, but also promote digitalization of industrial chains and establishment of a long-term anti-poverty mechanism for public crises.



Section I Innovation in Anti-Poverty Targets

Target the Impoverished Group: The System for Documented Impoverished Households in the Battle against Poverty in China

The system for documented impoverished households in China is a great innovation in effectively identifying poverty-stricken populations. The State Council Leading Group Office of Poverty Alleviation and Development issued the ***Work Plan for Registered Impoverished Households in Development-oriented Poverty Alleviation*** in April 2014 and the ***Indicator System for Registered Impoverished Households in Development-oriented Poverty Alleviation*** in June of the same year, in which the national standards and procedures for documented impoverished households are specified.

The registration system covers poverty-stricken households, villages, counties and extremely poor areas, enabling the government to precisely recognize impoverished households and villages, learn their real situation, analyze the causes of poverty, understand their needs, specify the supporting objects, take corresponding measures, conduct evaluations on performance and efficiency and carry out dynamic management. References can be provided for decision-making and evaluation by monitoring and evaluating poverty-stricken counties and continuous destitute areas as well as analyzing and learning the progress of poverty relief and development. In the process of identification, the basic standard is net income, which should be equal to or less than RMB 2,736 per capita in 2013 (the equivalent of RMB 2,300 in 2010), and factors including housing, education and health should also be taken into account. Impoverished households are eligible for inclusion in the system after completing the procedures of application, democratic assessment, publicity and a level-by-level review. Each documented household is given a ***Guide to Poverty Alleviation*** specifying their situations, causes of poverty and measures to be taken for poverty alleviation. These are included in the information system of documented impoverished households to build a large data management platform, which serves as the basis for resource allocation and progress monitoring in poverty alleviation.

By the end of 2014, China completed the work of registering impoverished households and identified 29.47 million impoverished households totaling 89.62 million people. In 2015, the government reviewed the result of the exercise in the previous year. More than nine million people were moved out of the system and eight million were added. With the registration system, the government can have a clear picture of the real situation of the poor, target poverty-stricken groups and implement anti-poverty policies and measures in a targeted manner. Based on dynamic statistics for poverty-stricken areas, the registration system features an open and transparent model of participation to ensure the scientific and legal identification of the poor.

Wang Conghu, a member of Wanyuan Group in Fengshu Village, lives with his brother Wang Conglong and their mother. Despite the fact that their family income was narrowly above the threshold for registration, they lived in a dilapidated brick-and-tile house. Both brothers have moderate intellectual disability and neither got married. Additionally, their mother was old and sick. Therefore, life was difficult for them. The Village Party Branch Committee and the Villagers' Committee found out that Wang's family had not filed an application and then visited them in person to learn their real situation. Based on a comprehensive evaluation, the two committees suggested a supplementary application and included his family on the list for the first-round review with a detailed explanation for the panel and representatives of villagers. In another example, during the review phase, the two committees found out that Wang Yingxian's family from Xuetang Group owned a car and immediately visited his house to inquire about the situation. They proposed disqualifying the family from the system, which Wang Yingxian disagreed with at the very beginning but finally accepted after a detailed explanation of the policy that a household with a car shall not be included in the registration system. Wang was persuaded and his family was removed from the list. These are examples of Fengshu Village exercising the principle to never leave behind a truly impoverished household or ever include any false poor families in the registration process.



Wang Conghu's family was listed as a documented impoverished household



Files of impoverished households in Fengshu Village

"Know the Real Situation and Take Well-Targeted Steps" —Fengshu Village Finished Registering Every Impoverished Household

Located 28 kilometers away from Yuexi County and five kilometers away in the northeast of Laibang Town, Yuexi County, Anhui Province, Fengshu Village has a population of 1,730 people in 443 households, which are divided into 23 village groups. With a large population living in poverty, the village has focused on alleviating poverty and leading a better life for a long time. In 2014, after formulating work plans, disseminating policies and measures and regulating operation procedures, the work of documenting impoverished households in Fengshu Village was finished. It also straightened out the causes of poverty and significantly intensified poverty relief policies and measures to make them more targeted and effective.



A bird's eye view of Fengshu Village

Formulate work plans in light of local conditions. On May 10, 2014, Fengshu Village held a special session to formulate specific plans on registering poverty-stricken households for development-oriented poverty alleviation. Based on national standards and procedures of recording impoverished households and the conditions of the village, the model of "Five Comparisons, Five Perspectives, and Three Priorities" was put forward. It comprises of the comparisons of family income, assets, labor force, living environment, and poverty level; the perspectives of economic sources, consumption capacities, attitudes towards work, living conditions, and causes of poverty; and the priorities given to the disabled, the only child and the all-girls families.

Mobilize as many people as possible to publicize policies and measures. During the period of identifying impoverished people, the working group held meetings with villagers and representatives and made the most of leaflets, bulletin boards and slogans for the publicity of policies and regulations on the registration system, thus clearly elaborating on targeted poverty alleviation policies, identification procedures, and requirements in the interest of their right to know and participate to the greatest extent.

Strictly implement and regulate operation procedures. Fengshu Village conducted its primary selection of documented impoverished households following household applications, panel review, first-round villager review, villager voting and public disclosure. From May 10 to 11, 2014, leaders of all village groups respectively held a representatives' meeting within their own group to review standards, procedures and requirements for identification and distributed application forms household by household for farmers to file a paper application with the Villagers' Committee in accordance with the standards. If one has difficulty in filing an application, the person can designate the Villagers' Committee or others to apply on his or her behalf. After receiving the application forms, the Villagers' Committee forwarded them to the corresponding village groups whose leaders then

held a representatives' meeting to debrief them about the applicants and ask them to vote on the qualification household by household. On May 12, 2014, the Village Party Branch Committee and the Villagers' Committee held a meeting based on the results of the first round of panel review and disqualified those who did not meet the standard from the representatives' meeting. Finally, a list of 536 people in 148 households was submitted for final review at the representatives' meeting held on the afternoon of May 12, 2014, which was attended by 34 out of 42 representatives, in which quorum was met. A total of 528 people from 146 households were included in the shortlist of the impoverished through voting and the results were published after the meeting. After seven days of public notification and without any objection, the list was submitted to the People's Government of Laibang Town on May 19, 2014, for approval. On May 20, 2014, the confirmed list was posted on both town and village bulletins. And after another seven days of public notification without objection, the list was submitted to the County Leading Group Office of Poverty Alleviation and Development for review. The office then published the results on the county's official website on May 30, 2014.

Under the leadership of the Village Party Branch Committee and the Villagers' Committee, with the active participation of villagers, Fengshu Village applied scientific methods to identify impoverished households, and provided accurate information, laying a solid foundation for precisely targeted poverty alleviation and winning the battle against poverty.



Public notification of the shortlist of impoverished households in Fengshu Village



Public notification of the confirmed list of impoverished households in Laibang Town

Improve the Registration System for the Poor and Deepen Targeted Poverty Alleviation

Registering the poor population is crucial to figuring out the root causes of poverty and identifying the correct targets. It is the basis on which to make good use of the poverty alleviation fund and improve the effectiveness of poverty alleviation. China's targeted poverty alleviation strategy features the procedures of accurately identifying impoverished people through the registration system and supporting them in different ways, based on the underlying causes of poverty, that will effectively lift them out of poverty. According to the data released in the ***Poverty Monitoring Report***, the impoverished population in China was as low as 5.51 million by the end of 2019 and the country will wipe out absolute poverty in rural areas and achieve moderate prosperity in all aspects by the end of 2020. China depends on village-level organizations and the household participation mechanism to

identify impoverished households and deliver corresponding policy support. Like many developing countries in the world, China takes the village as the primary administrative unit, and households from the same village are familiar with each other. Village heads can recognize the most deprived people through discussions with village representatives, which informs the allocation and utilization of resources for poverty alleviation.



A poor household engaged in the photovoltaic power generation business



A poor household's current living conditions

Section II Innovation in Leadership Mechanism

Leaders Working in Villages: The First Secretaries in the Battle against Poverty in China

The lack of development in destitute villages is due to the lack of human resources, specifically leadership in the village. "The First Secretary" Initiative, as an important measure adopted by China for poverty elimination, was set up to facilitate the modernization of rural governance at the community level, improve the structure of human resources in poor villages and provide new impetus for rural development through introducing external leadership resources, thus promoting the economic growth of poor villages and achieving the goals of targeted poverty alleviation. Dispatching "first secretaries" to destitute villages is actually a breakthrough in increasing the supply of leadership resources at the community level and improving the governance of public affairs in villages. In April 2015, the Organization Department of the CPC Central Committee, the Office of the Central Rural Work Leading Group and the State Council Leading Group Office of Poverty Alleviation and Development jointly issued the ***Notice on Assigning Outstanding Officials to Serve as the First Secretaries of Villages*** in order to finish the "last mile" of serving the public through the assignment of first secretaries and building rural organizations as the primary engine driving agricultural development, improving country life and maintaining rural stability.

From 2015 to the end of 2019, a total of 459,000 people have been appointed as first secretaries, with 230,000 still currently on duty; among which 424 were dispatched by units of central government with designated responsibility in poverty alleviation. All registered impoverished villages had or still have such a first secretary. These organizational efforts have strongly supported poverty reduction in destitute areas and contributed significantly to the fight against poverty.

Yu Henan, the first secretary dispatched by the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security to Xueniufang Village, is a PhD graduate from Renmin University of China. The "Doctor Secretary," as villagers affectionately call him, has made several attempts and explorations on poverty alleviation since he took office in September 2018 through Party building, industrial construction, e-commerce of agricultural products as well as charity stores. These measures restored people's confidence in their own ability and promoted the poverty alleviation work in Xueniufang Village to a higher degree. "After spending over a year fighting against poverty in the village, I really understand how difficult life is for farmers. As I eat, live and work with them every day, I fell in love with this land. I'm really happy to see them moving from cave dwellings into new houses and witness the realization of 'two assurances and three guarantees' (assuring food and clothing and guaranteeing access to medical care, compulsory education and housing)," said Yu. His story is the epitome of the first secretaries' commitment to poverty alleviation in villages.

Xueniufang Village's Poverty Predicament

Xueniufang is a poverty-stricken village situated in Zhaojiagou Town, Tianzhen County, Datong City, Shanxi Province, with a registered population of 644 from 269 households and 413 permanent residents from 169 households. It covers 2,016 mu of arable land and 1,585 mu of returned forestry from cultivated land, which are all dry and terraced fields unsuitable for mechanical cultivation. Staple crops in the area include corns, millets, beans and potatoes; and major livestock breeds include sheep, pigs, donkeys and chickens. Its villagers mainly depend on growing crops and raising livestock to support their family. In 2017, its economic revenue was only RMB 1.966 million, with a disposable rural income of RMB 3,015 per capita. Lack of diversity in income source and poor arable land lead to a low income very difficult to increase for farmers.



"First Secretary" Yu Henan in a poor household at Xueniufang Village



A panorama of Xueniufang Village

The Doctor Secretary's "Combination Blow" to Facilitate Targeted Poverty Alleviation

After probing into the true conditions of Xueniufang Village through investigations, consultations with community-level officials and learning from villagers, Yu gradually developed a "combination blow" to stimulate endogenous impetus to shake off poverty.



The Poverty Alleviation Workshop of Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security in Xueniufang Village



Women of Xueniufang Village working in the poverty alleviation workshop

The first move of his "combination blow" was creating industrial advantages and pioneering the way to fight against poverty for a better life. Upon his arrival at Xueniufang Village, Yu put forward the idea of establishing a poverty alleviation workshop from the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security. He mainly visited 36 women aged 45 to 55 to learn about their experiences and skills in manual processing, willingness to be trained by enterprises and the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security and their expected income for labor. With a designated fund for poverty alleviation of RMB 150,000, he established the poverty alleviation workshop in the village. On July 1, 2019, the workshop was officially put into operation. Over 40 women from Xueniufang Village were employed after a ten-day training on the use of sewing machines, realizing the dream of an income increase by getting a job nearby. Furthermore, Yu also distributed chicks and gooselings which are bought with "money from villagers and subsidies from the government" in order to develop a collective economy. As of November 2019, a total of 1,860 subsidized chicks have been given to 93 households, in which 68 households were impoverished (73%); and 100 subsidized gooselings to 14 households, in which 12 were poor households (86%).



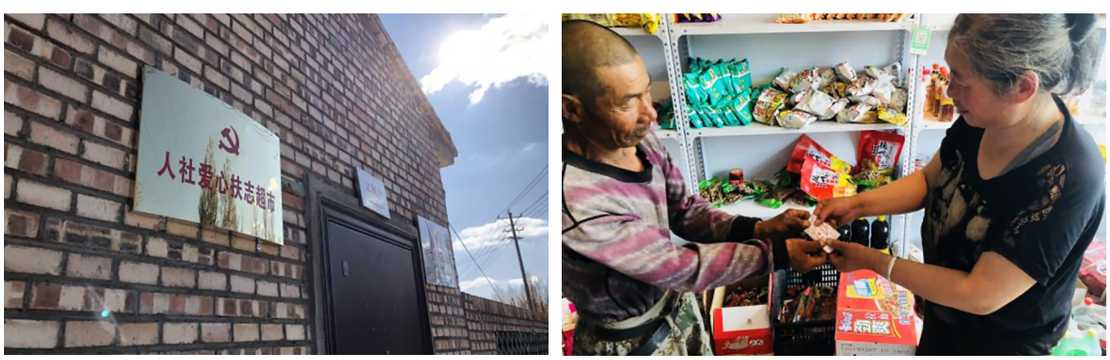
"The first secretary" Yu Henan was giving chicks and gooselings to villagers

The second move of his "combination blow" was establishing e-commerce platforms to open up a new world for poverty alleviation through consumption. Based on the real conditions of Xueniufang Village's planting and breeding industries, and in order to help villagers sell their self-made special agricultural products online, Yu facilitated the establishment of two online stores on an e-commerce platform of "farmers registered with real names" initiated by the Ministry of Human Resource and Social Security and the creation of the brand of minor cereals called "Ziyu Villa". The working group for poverty alleviation dispatched by the Ministry in Tianzhen County also equipped the village with vacuum sealers, meat cutters, corn grinders and oil extractors and actively contacted packaging and logistics providers to reduce the additional cost of sales of agricultural produces and improve the income of deprived households. Yu, as the first secretary assigned by the Ministry, served as the brand ambassador for the village's produces and the "Poverty Alleviation Post" was put into operation in the village with the support of the Ministry. As of April 2020, the online sales of produces reached nearly RMB 100,000 on WeChat and other platforms and the offline sales, with the assistance of designated helping organizations, reached over RMB 600,000. With their identities shifted from "farmers" into "shopkeepers," the impoverished people have gained great impetus and enthusiasm.



Self-made special agricultural products in Xueniufang Village

The third move of his "combination blow" was innovating charity carriers to stimulate new impetus for poverty alleviation. Yu, together with the working group and officials of the village, set up charity stores based on existing shops and groceries in accordance with the principle of "leading by the village committee, participating by all parties, cooperating with the community and benefiting the people," and the concept of "fighting against poverty through charity, increasing confidence in ability and ensuring access to education and advocating civilized behaviour for all." He established a positive reward mechanism for poverty alleviation by "substituting compensation with reward and working harder for higher pay" to encourage farmers to earn bonus points by doing community work and exchange the points for daily necessities. By now, over 5,000 bonus points (yuan) have been issued to over 60 households, including impoverished and non-impoverished ones, greatly stimulating their own drive to fight against poverty.



"Charity stores designed to resume villager's confidence in their own ability" in Xueniufang Village

"The First Secretary" Initiative to Stimulate the Poor's Self-Drive to Fight Poverty

As the intermediaries between the central government and the community-level organizations, and between the designated poverty alleviation units and the destitute villages, the first secretaries are responsible for making various decisions and arrangements in practice, strengthening the relationship among Party members, government officials and residents, and leading people to a better life and

a moderately prosperous society in all respects. In order to enhance the leadership competence of villages and effectively address the remaining "pain points" in rural poverty alleviation, a group of excellent officials have been assigned as first secretaries to the impoverished villages to facilitate the comprehensive and sound development of economy and society as well as poverty elimination in rural areas.

Compared with the existing rural organizations, the first secretaries are generally well-educated with wide access to information and available resources. Therefore, they can bring about strong endogenous forces in poverty-stricken villages to reduce poverty. With a good understanding of policies on poverty alleviation as well as strengthening agriculture, benefiting farmers and enriching rural areas, they can better communicate and implement these policies. By "eating, living and working" together with impoverished villagers, they can understand the villagers' real needs and root causes of poverty, implement well-targeted projects accordingly and use funds effectively. In the process of targeted poverty alleviation, they can organically combine technology, markets and other elements with local characteristics according to the overall national strategy in order to craft the right development roadmaps, establish cooperatives for farmers, increase collective revenues for villages and enhance the ability of injecting impetus to sustain its development.

Section III Innovating Models of Poverty Alleviation

Developing rural e-commerce is one of the important methods in transforming the agricultural development pattern, supporting targeted poverty alleviation, emptying the dead stock of agricultural products and increasing rural income.

In 2015, the ***Instruction on Accelerating the Development of Rural E-commerce of the General Office of the State Council*** pointed out that efforts should be made to speed up the development of rural e-commerce and give full play to its role in driving poverty alleviation and development in rural areas. In December 2015, the ***CPC Central Government and State Council's Decision on Winning the Battle against Poverty*** vowed to intensify poverty alleviation through "Internet +" and e-commerce development. In 2016, the ***Scheme for Poverty Alleviation in the 13th Five-Year Plan*** issued by the State Council made it clear that it was necessary to include e-commerce development into poverty alleviation and development undertakings, focus on documented impoverished villages and enhance the ability of poor households to start up e-commerce businesses and increase their income by developing e-commerce. It was also noted in the ***Instruction on Promoting Targeted Poverty Alleviation through E-commerce*** by the State Council Leading Group Office of Poverty Alleviation and Development that projects for targeted poverty alleviation through e-commerce should be expedited to gradually cover poverty-stricken areas with suitable conditions in three aspects, expand the channels for selling specialty agricultural products and their quality by-products from poverty-stricken areas, increase income for impoverished people to become well-off, and benefit more poor areas and people with the development of internet.

The Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Commerce and the State Council Leading Group Office of Poverty Alleviation and Development have carried out comprehensive demonstrations of rural e-commerce for five consecutive years from 2016 to 2020 and introduced them into national poverty-stricken counties. In 2019, e-commerce was accessible to 832 national impoverished counties across the country, with an online sales volume totaling RMB 239.2 billion, up by 33% year-on-year. The government led a total of 21 e-commerce enterprises to deepen poverty alleviation through public welfare e-commerce for over 600 poor counties, serving more than 10 million impoverished population and increasing income for over 3 million poor people through comprehensive demonstrations.

The Longnan Model of Poverty Alleviation Through E-commerce

Du Linlin from Langgoumen Village, Wangmo Town, Chengxian County, Longnan, an online platform-based seller for agricultural tools and local produce from a former documented impoverished household in targeted poverty alleviation, has lifted his family out of poverty and helped over 70

villagers in his town to shake off poverty and become well-off. "A whole year's sales volume in 1970s or 1980s was still no match for that of 'Double 11'," sighed with emotion by Zheng Wenshan, the "King of Mountain Products" from Kang County. Despite being nearly 60, the man shook off poverty and became rich himself and also led 76 impoverished households to get rid of poverty completely through "e-commerce + specialized industries + impoverished households".



Zheng Wenshan, the "King of Mountain Products" from Kang County, purchasing black fungus from impoverished people

Improve the Poor Sales of specialty Agricultural Products in Poverty Alleviation through E-commerce: Narrow the Gulf between Production and Marketing

Longnan, located in the south-eastern part of Gansu province, lies in the transition zone from Northern subtropical to warm temperate zones. As the province's only prefecture-level city situated completely within the Yangtze River basin, it is endowed with a pleasant ecology and rich resources, with over 10 million mu of specialized industries coexisting with subtropical forest plants, and treasured local specialties such as walnuts, Sichuan pepper, olive and traditional Chinese medical herbs. For a long time, these products were mostly traded in small baskets on street markets or among petty dealers due to the poor access to transportation and information in remote and mountainous areas. They failed to establish a brand and secure a good price. The locals were like beggars with golden bowls caught in a dilemma of being richly endowed with resources yet incapable of monetizing them in real terms.

Since 2013, the Longnan Municipal Government has been vigorously developing e-commerce for agricultural products by bringing products from remote areas to netizens in order to promote sales of specialty agricultural products. The green treasures of Longnan have become accessible to consumers outside the mountainous regions, throughout the country and even around the world through e-commerce. A pattern of online sales featuring transboundary and differentiated marketing on all platforms has been established, aligning Longnan's superior resources precisely to market demands. In doing so, the city has explored the Longnan model in poverty alleviation through e-commerce and created synergy across government impetus, market function, public entrepreneurship, associate regulation and micro-media promotion.

Innovations in the "Industry + Farmer Households (Impoverished) + Cooperatives + E-commerce + Market" Model to Help farmers

Throughout the course of poverty alleviation through e-commerce in Longnan, from Taobao Stores and Houses, at the very beginning, to 1688 Industrial Zones and multiple platforms like Tmall, JD.com, Pinduoduo and TikTok, it has realized transboundary integration, cross-border distribution and intra-city deliveries and become increasingly stronger in keeping abreast of the times with continuous innovations.

In recent years, specialized farmers' cooperatives have been challenged by such difficulties as "less-developed planting and breeding industries", "small scale with poor economic performance" and "lack of knowledge on how to sell high-quality products to consumers or identify consumers". To solve these problems, the municipal government has taken great effort to promote "Dangchang model" to help the soaring cooperatives open online stores and accounts on TikTok, Kuaishou and other We-Media platforms to promote their products in the wave of internet development. The e-commerce teams became shareholders of the cooperatives under its guidance and e-commerce skills trainings were strengthened to connect poor sellers to consumers. It encouraged the cooperatives and leading enterprises to scale up and increase their profits through various online and offline channels. 249 cooperatives across the city have joined hands with e-commerce operators. The application of e-commerce in cooperatives has been spreading, with their sales increasing from 10% to 30%. While promoting cooperatives to develop e-commerce, more attention has been paid to deepening the integration of cooperatives and poverty alleviation through e-commerce. The cooperatives have helped farmers (poor households) to become better-organized under an interest linkage mechanism between the poor households and cooperatives. The cooperatives, acting as bridges, have paved a path featuring "industry + farmer households (impoverished) + cooperatives + e-commerce + market" for farmers to increase their income and further promote poverty alleviation through e-commerce.

In 2019, there were over 300 e-commerce enterprises (cooperatives) engaged in poverty alleviation throughout the city. In particular, Hadapu Town of Dangchang County pooled superior resources by introducing professional e-commerce teams to the association in the "Dangchang model" for one-stop e-business including production, procurement, processing, sales and after-sale services. The association opened "Emangou Herb Town Store" on Tmall and saw its online sales total more than RMB 5.3 million only within six months, benefiting 3,794 people of 903 impoverished households. By means of dividends from industrial poverty-reduction funds, land investment, labor service investment, purchase and sales of agricultural products, e-commerce cooperatives have helped impoverished households make steady progress in finding a way out of poverty.



Jia Yuhua, a skilled user of live stream of Yuhe Town, Wudu District, Longnan City, selling online honey produced by farmer households



E-commerce operation area of the association in Hadapu Town, Dangchang County

Strengthening Platform Services of Longnan Industrial Zone and Shift the County-level Platform from a Displayer to a Promoter

Longnan City has greatly stimulated the enthusiasm of traditional agricultural producers in e-commerce with related services, such as technical guidance, trusted operation and marketing promotion, provided by the platform of industrial zone to its stationed businesses (enterprises and cooperatives). The online wholesale business has grown with greater market influence and begun to have an influence in the market and pricing system of Longnan agricultural products. It has scaled up specialized industries, driven a standardized development with its own brand and in turn pushed industrial development forward. In 2019, the 1688 store of Shengxin Specialized Farmers' Cooperative for Plantation in Wudu District yielded RMB 32 million for online herbal medicine sales alone and its counterpart, the 1688 store of Fuyuan.



Sun Haiping, head of Shengxin Specialized Farmers' Planting Cooperative, Wudu District, Longnan

While strengthening platform services in industrial zones, Longnan City has vigorously promoted county-level platforms to shift their functions from display to promotion for the common development of small and medium-sized online businesses. In addition, the government has selected some competitive teams to support their market-oriented operation and built a regional online goods supply platform and comprehensive service center. In 2019, nine platforms in the city changed themselves from the displayer to promoter and gathered over 40,000 WeChat distributors. It not only solved the usual problems of small and medium-sized online merchants, which include the lack of storage, goods and capital, but also addressed the pains of insufficiency in incubating and serving county-level e-commerce centers. In the same year, the "Longxiaonan" team of Chengxian County organized more than 110 enterprises with over 500 high-quality online goods to station at the distribution platform, promoting the online sales up to RMB 22.3 million.



Official launch of "Alibaba Longnan Industrial Zone"

E-commerce Helps Lift People Out of Poverty and Creates New Economic Growth Points in Poor Areas

The core of Longnan model is to make government centralized breakthroughs in poverty alleviation through e-commerce, develop online marketing systems for specialty agricultural products through market operations, create online stores with poverty reduction in mind, develop talents through multi-level skills training, establish and improve a system of services for poverty alleviation through

e-commerce, and cultivate online local brands through micro-media marketing.

In 2019, e-commerce in Longnan City generated a total of RMB 4.323 billion in online and offline sales, adding up to an accumulated RMB 18 billion. The contribution of poverty alleviation through e-commerce reached RMB 840 per capita and cross-border e-commerce sales totaled RMB 190 million. People in the city own 14,372 online stores, in which there are over 33,000 e-commerce operators running 94 online goods supply platforms, 201 township service stations, and 1,521 village-level service sites; 85% of the poor villages have such a service site. Over 70 e-commerce enterprises engage in such services as export, online shopping, packaging design, quality tracing, branding, training and publicity, supply and distribution, warehouse and logistics, and delivery to the village. Involved in the network are also 296 logistics companies with their 1,618 branches.

The Longnan model of poverty alleviation through e-commerce has solved the difficulty in selling local agricultural specialty products. It has also innovated the way cooperatives assist farmers and played an important role in boosting income continuously for the poor and lifting them out of poverty on schedule. It has been proven in practice that poverty alleviation through e-commerce can generate new economic growth points in poverty-stricken areas, help the poor people to increase income and reduce expenditure, alleviate the difficulties in the circulation of agricultural products in poor rural areas, and promote the structural reform of agriculture on the supply side. More importantly, poverty alleviation through e-commerce can change the mindset of the cadres and general public in poor areas and fully stimulate their self-drive.

The Practice of Poverty Alleviation through Industrial Development with "Enterprise + Farmer Household" Model: A Story of How An Enterprise Lifted Farmer Households Out of Poverty

The poverty relief and development model of "Enterprise + Farmer Household", based on industrial development, encourages leading enterprises to guide scattered smallholders in lockstep with modern agriculture and realize poverty alleviation and prosperity. In 2019, the General Office of the CPC Central Committee and the General Office of the State Council issued *Opinions on Promoting the Organic Convergence between Smallholders and Modern Agricultural Development*. It encouraged leading enterprises to extend the industrial chain, guarantee the supply chain and improve the interest chain to bring smallholders into the modern agricultural industrial system in models like "Enterprise + Farmer Household". It also specified measures of order-based purchase, guaranteed dividend, second rebate, stock cooperation, employment and village-enterprise connection to drive smallholders for common prosperity.

According to statistics, 854 listed companies disclosing their efforts in poverty alleviation in Shanghai and Shenzhen stock exchanges carried out more than 4,300 projects of poverty alleviation through industrial development in 2017, with an investment of RMB 20.8 billion, which directly lifted more than 540,000 documented poverty-stricken people out of poverty. In addition, small and medium-sized companies in various provinces have also played an important role. As a major agricultural province, Jilin Province promoted the "Enterprise + Farmer Household" business model and industrialized agricultural enterprises which drove more than 2.3 million farmer households in 2019, increasing their income by RMB 7.8 billion. The "Enterprise + Farmer Household" model is wide in coverage, large in investment and remarkable in poverty alleviation effect. It is a long-term mechanism for farmers to get out of poverty and become rich and an important means to build a modern industrial system for agriculture and realize rural revitalization.

Song Taiwei, a villager in Dafen Village, Ruilin Town, Ruijin City, Jiangxi Province, comes from a 15-person family. Although possessing a forestry land of more than 100 mu, he was unable to exploit the land. In 2010 or so, upon hearing news that the government was implementing a cooperative forestation policy, he took a stake in Lüyexuan with 25.2 mu of forestry land and joined the "Enterprise + Farmer Household" model in its early stage. In 2014, when the oil-tea camellia trees began to bear fruits, Song received a dividend of RMB 2,671. Later, the Ruijin municipal government optimized the "Enterprise + Farmer Household" model of Lüyexuan with poverty alleviation funds for greater income and dividends to impoverished households. After 2016, the family enjoyed an annual dividend of over RMB 50,000. In addition to the salaries of Song and his son, his family moved into a two-storey building and the son bought a new car, which had been beyond their imagination in the past. The model was highly recognized by Song, who said that if his remaining private plot was suitable for

planting camellia oil trees, he would invest all of it in cooperation with the enterprise. Like Song, many impoverished households engaged in the camellia oil industry have also shaken off poverty in this model and now live a better-off life.

Idle Resources in Seriously Poverty-Stricken Capital of Revolutionary Areas Ready for Development

In 2012, the State Council issued ***Several Opinions of the State Council on Supporting the Revitalization and Development of Central Revolutionary Base Area Such as South of Jiangxi Province***, in which Ruijin was listed as a national poverty-stricken county. After three years of poverty alleviation and development, in 2014, the city remained in severe poverty with the whole city's per capita GDP being only 47% of the provincial average and per capita disposable rural income only 71.5%. Meanwhile, the rich mountain resources of Ruijin City were barely developed. Despite the local tradition of planting camellia oil trees since ancient times, farmers in Ruilin, Gangmian, Dingpi and other towns left their planted trees in barren mountains poorly managed or unmanaged at all, resulting in low yields and poor quality. Many farmers owned tens, or even hundreds, of acres of forestry land and yet were still trapped in poverty.

In-depth Development of "Enterprise + Farmer Household" Mode to Assist in Poverty Alleviation

In order to activate idle mountain and forestry resources and promote Ruijin's camellia oil industry, an agricultural enterprise named Lüyexuan was established in 2007. It specializes in camellia oil cultivation, processing and product development of camellia oil, employing a new technology to extract oil via the medium of water instead of the traditional camellia oil production method, and innovatively explores the business model of "Enterprise + Farmer Household". In the early stage of its establishment, Lüyexuan adopted the mechanism for a one-off 30-year forestry land circulation, which increased the farmers' income still with meagre profit. With the advancement of the strategies for poverty alleviation through industrial development in Ruijin City, Lüyexuan, encouraged and supported by the local government, has gradually deepened the model to help lift impoverished households out of poverty.



A farmer picking the oil-tea camellia fruits

First, Lüyexuan practiced a 20/80 split in revenues in the model of the enterprise + the base + the farmer households. The poverty-stricken households became shareholders with their trees under the trusteeship of the enterprise for plantation and management. As the trees bear fruit, the farmers receive a 20% share, which can be sold to the enterprise at a discount or sold to others, or squeezed for camellia oil by themselves. According to the head of Lüyexuan, "Farmers do not have to participate

in production. Our company will cover all the costs. The 20% share is equivalent to 70% of the profits." In this way, the farmer households keep a remarkable share of profits. In case of bad harvest, the company also promised a minimum annual income of RMB 100 per mu. In a bumper harvest season, though, each household can get a dividend of more than RMB 8,000.

In order to further explore the poverty alleviation potential of the "Enterprise + Farmer Household" model, the government incorporated Lüyexuan into its high-yield demonstration base construction project with the participation of banks. According to the requirements of driving 13 poor households out of poverty for each 100 mu of land, Lüyexuan developed a base covering 11,000 mu of camellia oil trees with low interest loans to include 1,430 poor households in 2017. The company issued 30% of the revenue of the camellia oil trees to impoverished households through the leading group office of poverty alleviation and development. From 2017 to 2019, each of these households could receive subsidies above RMB 8000 on average per year. Meanwhile, the company employed some of the impoverished to take care of camellia oil trees. The salaries, together with subsidies, increased their annual income by over RMB 10,000.



A camellia oil production base at farmer's doorstep

In addition, Lüyexuan signed the "bank-government poverty alleviation credit link" with some poor households to introduce the model of "Government + Enterprise + Farmer Households + Bank" in 2016. The poverty-stricken households took a stake in the enterprise with subsidized loans and benefited from dividends at an annualized interest rate of 4.75% for three consecutive years. The company also provided jobs for them as an additional source of income.

In the stage of tackling difficulties in poverty alleviation, Ruijin municipal government also launched a special municipal fund of RMB 45 million as the industrial development fund to purchase fruit-bearing forestry land in Lüyexuan and leased them back to the company with 20-year property rights in an upgraded "Government + Enterprise + Farmer Households" model. Since 2016, the company has paid an annual asset income of RMB 6.75 million, benefiting 3,547 poor households, with the lowest benefit of RMB 1,903 per household and 533 per capita. In doing so, it has secured a 20-year stable income for impoverished households, which will continuously improve income and consolidate the existing achievements.

Shake Off Poverty for Moderate Prosperity via Sustainable Industrial Development

In the poverty alleviation mechanism of "Enterprise + Farmer Household", industrial development plays a central role, with benefits for poor households critical to its success and sustainable poverty alleviation as the ultimate purpose. Ruijin City has developed its camellia oil industry according to local conditions and in this process leading enterprises have engaged local households in an industry of scale with standardized management, upgraded production technology and developed back-end industrial

chain. It has not only made effective use of mountain resources but also created jobs with integrated economic, social and ecological benefits. Meanwhile, the Ruijin municipal government has played a leading role in linking poverty alleviation funds, companies and poor households. By combining special funds for poverty alleviation with specialized industries, it has not only promoted the camellia oil industry and supported leading agricultural companies, but also ensured the effective appreciation of poverty alleviation funds and provided more sustainable and stable income for poor households.

Since 2015, Lüyexuan has helped more than 5,500 documented poverty-stricken households and about 20,000 people were able to get out of poverty and become well-off every year, helping Ruijin City become the first in Ganzhou to get rid of poverty. In the international practice of poverty reduction, various nations can develop industries in the light of their own resource advantages and local conditions. They can employ multiple models like leading enterprises driving the poor population, increase the value of poverty alleviation resources with market mechanisms and upgrade direct transfer payment to long-term mechanisms to help SMEs toward sustainable development and lift people out of poverty in the long run.

Poverty Alleviation through Cooperative-based Industrial Development: Specialized Laying Hen Breeding Cooperatives in Wangjialing

Organizing thousands of impoverished households scattered across a region and helping them gain access to the market remains a formidable challenge in alleviating poverty. One of the most important methods to win the battle against poverty in China is the organization of thousands of households together by means of cooperatives with the support of poverty alleviation through industrial development policy.

Since 2016, in order to implement the ***CPC Central Government and State Council's Decision on Winning the Battle against Poverty***, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs and other eight ministries have jointly released the ***Instructions on Targeted Poverty Alleviation through the Development of Specialized Industries in Poverty-stricken Areas***. The document vowed to empower new business entities like farmers' cooperatives to develop specialized industries in poverty-stricken areas in relation to scale and competitiveness. These efforts include providing poor people with support services throughout the entire industrial chain, enhance production value and absorb impoverished laborers into these industries.

The farmers' cooperatives, rooted in rural areas and built in rural communities, are inherently bound with impoverished households. They are regarded as the most efficient anti-poverty economic organizations for their institutional arrangements that are naturally favorable to poverty-stricken people. Since the implementation of the ***Law on Cooperatives*** in 2007, farmers' cooperatives have flourished as never before. By February 2019, legally registered cooperatives in China had reached as many as 2.186 million, covering nearly 50% of the farmers nationwide, thus becoming important organizations for scattered rural households to jointly stand up to market challenges. As the battle against poverty rages on, the growing farmers' cooperatives, as the biggest new agricultural business entity in China, have become the key to covering the "last mile" of targeted poverty alleviation in rural areas and leading smallholders onto the path of modern agriculture.

After giving his self-produced eggs to the cooperative, Li Zhonghe, a laying hen breeder in Wangjialing Village, Yuanling County, received extra income. Now without worrying about clothes or food, he felt like living in a dream, since his family was a typical impoverished household in the local area just two years ago. In 2017, the laying hen breeding cooperative in Wangjialing Village accepted him as its member and gave him a mutual aid loan of RMB 70,000 as start-up capital for his laying hen breeding farm. Now, Li has 5,800 laying hens on his farm and earns up to RMB 100,000 each year.

Building a Platform for Specialized Farmers' Cooperatives and Developing the Laying Hen Breeding Industry

The Wangjialing Village in the national poverty-stricken county of Yuanling, Hunan Province, suffered from particularly severe poverty with a poverty incidence of 23.23%, which is way beyond the national average. In July 2009, in order to lift its villagers out of poverty and lead them to a better life, Wang Tiegang, Secretary of the Village Party Branch, initiated a specialized laying hen breeding cooperative. The cooperative conducted uniform management of brooding, feeding, pandemic prevention, branding and marketing within the organization and established a market-based pricing mechanism. In cooperation with multiple sales companies for agricultural produces in other regions, the cooperative commands and influences the market dynamics. Presently, the price of eggs from the cooperative has become an important index to egg pricing in Yuanling County and even the entire Huaihua City. Furthermore, the cooperative has intensively extended its industrial chain. In terms of problems like the undegradable and polluting chicken manure faced by hen breeders, it raised RMB 870,000 to establish a manure processing factory to turn the waste into valuable organic fertilizers. It also established a vegetable greenhouse base of 75 mu to develop inter-linked industrial chains in an ecological circle. To date, the laying hen breeding cooperative in Wangjialing has launched four business lines, namely, laying hen breeding, chicken brooding, organic fertilizer processing and vegetable planting.



Seat of the laying hen breeding cooperative in Wangjialing

Explore a New Mechanism for Poverty Alleviation through Industrial Development in the Model of "Classification + Precision"

In recent years, the laying hen breeding cooperative in Wangjialing came up with a new mechanism for poverty alleviation through industrial development featuring membership enrollment, industrial guidance, mutual aid loans and equity investment.

I. Membership enrollment: the cooperative enrolled impoverished households with labor capacity and a desire for a better life as its members, provided them with baby chicks and fodders, arranged technicians to give one-on-one instructions and purchased their products at market price. Thus, the households face low risks and enjoy a high return.

II. Mutual aid loans: the cooperative established the department of mutual aid in venture capital in November 2014 for the impoverished members to apply for mutual aid loans with the amount of RMB 10 for breeding a hen and RMB 5,000 for growing vegetables per mu with an interest rate lower than that of local rural credit cooperatives.

III. Equity investment: the cooperative allowed impoverished households without labor capacity and funds to use micro-credit subsidized bank loans of RMB 20,000 to 50,000 as their equity capital for

membership and distributed dividends based on their shares. In addition, by means of the circulation of contracted land at the price of RMB 600 to 800 per mu, poverty-stricken households may receive income from land transfer.

IV. Employment: the cooperative gave priority to impoverished households of comparatively poor employability and provided them with paid jobs in its hen breeding farms, warehouse centers and organic fertilizer plants.



The laying hen breeding cooperative conducting win-win cooperation through mutual help

Years of Hard Work Paid Off: Poverty Alleviation through Laying Hen Breeding in Wangjialing Yielded Remarkable Achievements

Wangjialing was once a poverty-stricken village in every sense. By the end of 2012, nearly 30% of its rural households lived in an annual net income of less than RMB 2,300 per capita and nearly half of its migrants cultivated arable farmland of less than 0.3 mu. Around 40% of its villagers had difficulty in obtaining drinking water and only less than 12% of the villagers received education above high school.



Impoverished community members out of poverty with a stable income by joining the cooperative

Now the village emulates great vigor because of the cooperative. Since 2016, new impoverished cooperative members have bred 24,000 laying hens with an income exceeding RMB 20,000 on average. Impoverished laborers have seen their annual income up to RMB 16,000 on average from jobs provided by the cooperative in hen breeding farms and organic fertilizer plants. Those poverty-stricken households without labor capacity or financial support are entitled to bank loans and government subsidies. The households also receive a year-end equity dividend of no less than RMB 6,000 per household according to their shares with risks undertaken by the cooperative and government in the model of joint guarantee from breeders and the cooperative. By the end of 2018, the cooperative had lifted 229 people in 75 households across the village out of poverty with a stable income.

Specialized Farmers' Cooperative Helped to Build a Long-term Effective Mechanism for Targeted Poverty Alleviation

As an important connection between industries related to poverty alleviation and the market, the farmers' cooperatives offer a major platform on which to build a long-term effective mechanism for targeted poverty alleviation. The practice of the farmers' cooperative in Wangjialing is inspiring in a number of ways. First, poverty alleviation needs to be based on industrial development. The breeding cooperative in Wangjialing did so and laid a solid industrial foundation for poverty alleviation and economic prosperity. It lifted impoverished households out of poverty completely through industrial development and enhanced their self-development abilities with technology and financial support. Second, poverty alleviation needs to be based on organizations such as cooperatives. Organizational assistance from entities like cooperatives is the only way to effectively connect smallholders with the massive market. The construction and improvement of farmers' cooperatives will help offset the impact of periodic fluctuations of the market economy on rural production, safeguard farmers' revenues from value-added industries and increase the share of rural social capital to improve the possibility of successful industrial development and the sustainability of poverty alleviation. Third, poverty alleviation needs to be supported through financial innovations. With funds sourced from the outside, the breeding cooperative in Wangjialing targeted impoverished households precisely based on their different characteristics and took full advantage of diversified investments like debt financing and equity to maximize the labor revenues for competent poverty-stricken households.

Section IV New Mechanisms for Poverty Alleviation in Pandemic Response

The Battle against COVID-19 and Poverty in Worst-Hit Areas

The year 2020 marks a glorious conclusion in China's battle against poverty. As the whole nation made the final push to the destination overcoming all obstacles, a pandemic suddenly hit the world. It's a formidable double challenge of finishing the tough goal of winning the battle against poverty as scheduled and fighting the raging COVID-19 pandemic. On March 6, 2020, President Xi attended a forum on winning the decisive battle against poverty and made an important speech, in which he stressed the need to overcome the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, stay united as one to win the fight against poverty as scheduled and build an all-around moderately prosperous society. He pointed out that in severely affected regions, while focusing on pandemic prevention and control, we should also innovate working methods to make an overall plan for targeted poverty alleviation. In areas relatively less affected or unaffected, the governments should focus on accelerating poverty alleviation. We should give priority to the employment of poverty-stricken laborers, encourage enterprises to employ more people from impoverished areas, especially those documented impoverished households, effectively promote the sales of agricultural and animal husbandry products, organize production and marketing procedures, carry out poverty alleviation through consumption, use the Internet to expand sales channels, and explore various methods to promote unsellable agricultural products. We should help poverty alleviation industries to resume production, resume poverty alleviation projects at accelerated speed and help the people not to fallback into poverty as a result of the pandemic.

According to the above requirements, all parts of China, based on their own circumstances, should make efforts to overcome the impact of the pandemic and commit to the fight against poverty. Hubei Province, as the hardest-hit area of the COVID-19 pandemic, made every effort in pandemic response, conducted monitoring and investigation, promoted employment and resumed work and production. By innovating working methods and overcoming difficulties, the government tried to contain the outbreak while fighting against poverty.

Adjacent to Wuhan City and with a population of 7.5 million, Huanggang City ranks only second to Wuhan in population in Hubei Province. It was also one of the hardest-hit areas during the pandemic. As a large quantity of people returned to their hometown, further complicating pandemic response, Huanggang was faced with the dual heavy tasks of outbreak control and poverty alleviation. During the outbreak, how should the city continue fighting against poverty? Here is Huanggang's answer.

Focus on Impoverished People and Improve the Mechanism that Will Prevent a Return to Poverty

"Thank you, Communist Party! Thank you, Chinese government! With so much rice, flour, oil and other food, I can sustain myself for ten to twenty days. Don't you worry. I'll do as I was told, I will not visit others, family or friends, and will just stay at home as required. I will not make any trouble in any means." said Xu Chuanwen, whose family enjoys the five guarantees, when receiving government generosity from Hong Weimin, the Secretary of the Party Committee of Sanhekou Town, Huanggang.



Fuxinghao, the high-speed train, left Huanggang East Station in March 2020, with leaders of the local government seeing off 1171 migrant workers returning to their jobs in Shenzhen in the special train

As a large town in an impoverished mountainous area, Sanhekou is home to 9,289 poverty-stricken people of 3,129 households. Despite the heavy responsibility of daily checking on 45,000 people and an overwhelming returning population, the Party committee of Shanhekou never forget people in difficult circumstances in the fight against the pandemic. They raised over RMB 50,000 to purchase rice, flour, oil, and other urgently needed supplies in 620 portions and delivered them in time to families with special difficulties.

Due to pandemic response restrictions, it was difficult to transport goods and materials and the income of most impoverished population fell sharply. The Huanggang municipal government called on government personnel at all levels to lead by example and all cadres to show care for the poor. The plight of people who had fallen back to poverty in the pandemic was investigated into and timely documented for further intervention. The village targeted every single household and individual to supplement their shortage. Social assistance was provided to families living on minimum living allowances, especially those in dire poverty, the left-behind women, children and older people, the older people living alone and the unattended children. No one was left behind in difficulties.



A scene of the poverty alleviation workshop of Runsheng Electronics Co., Ltd in Shujiafan Village, Sanhekou Town, Macheng City, Huanggang City

The Farming Season Was Not Missed Even in the Pandemic to Safeguard the Breadbasket

"If a farmer misses the season, the whole year will be lost for him." Chen Shi, head of the Runde family farm in Huanggang, together with over 400 households in the neighborhood, grew 2,000 mu of rapeseed and 800 mu of wheat. The COVID-19 pandemic trapped numerous peasants like him at home. They couldn't make preparations for spring ploughing.

"It is estimated that the current traffic control and road closures across villages will more or less dampen peasants' enthusiasm for agricultural work." Mei Jianxin, head of Huanggang Agricultural and Rural Bureau, noted that we should attach equal importance to both pandemic control and agricultural production, have science-based management with strengthened guidance and make reasonable plans. It is important to actively come up with a yearly agricultural production plan and try every means to ensure grain output.

Thanks to the sound guidance and support from the government in many unaffected or less affected villages in Huanggang, peasants, like Chen Shi, were properly protected and went to the field with hoes on their shoulders. As pandemic response reached its most crucial moment, it was important also to ensure timely spring farming. By March 28, 2020, Huanggang had seeded early rice and ratooning rice of 44,000 mu for a transplant area of over 1.5 million mu and grown vegetables and other crops, like medical herbs and spring corn of 350,000 and 281,000 mu, respectively. These will significantly secure the agricultural production and sustain the income of peasants.

Promote Employment via Well-organized Work Resumption

In the company of Hubei Huangguan Non-Woven Fabric the machines roar incessantly in the workshop. Producing protective garments is the specialty. The company is located in the industrial park in the south of Tuanfeng County, Huanggang. Since the resumption of production on February 7, 2020, employees have been working overtime to speed up production on a tight schedule. "Despite the difficulties in work resumption, to produce one more set of protective gear is to protect one more medical worker and make one more contribution in the fight against the pandemic." said Qin Chunli, who is from an impoverished household in the neighborhood. She added, "We are looking forward to returning to work as soon as possible, so that we can relieve some economic burden of our family."



Agricultural machines went to the fields to help with early rice farming

It is necessary to conduct pandemic prevention and also ensure poverty alleviation at the same time. In order to prevent poor families from slipping back into poverty due to the pandemic, Huanggang, on the premise of pandemic prevention, mobilized all enterprises across the city to produce goods and materials. According to statistics from the Administration of Market Regulation in Huanggang, 36 enterprises had resumed production by March 4, 2020. These enterprises shared one thing in common: they produced urgently needed supplies in pandemic response. Huanggang arranged special working groups to serve enterprises, including monitoring of body temperatures and sterilization at least twice a day. The city spared no effort to coordinate labor, raw materials, logistics and transportation to ensure success on both fronts.

"The timely work resumption of these enterprises has not only fully supported pandemic prevention but also increased income for a batch of poor workers," said Liu Xuerong, Secretary of the Municipal Party Committee. Bearing this in mind, Huanggang has taken detailed measures to help address the real problems faced by enterprises in work resumption.

Point-to-Point Targeted Transport of Migrant Workers Back to Work

Around 8 a.m. on March 20, 2020, three buses carrying 60 migrant workers departed Xima Town, Xishui County, Huanggang, Hubei Province and headed for Shenzhen, Guangdong Province. Over 1 million people from Huanggang work in other provinces all year round and their salaries contribute a great amount to their household income. As the situation improves, Huanggang has gradually sent them back to work in batches in a well-targeted manner. Since March 15, 2020, when the first group of peasant-workers from five counties returned to their posts in other cities in chartered buses, Huanggang has made arrangements for 17,303 peasant-workers in 95 batches to go back to work. Meanwhile, Huanggang encouraged workers to drive their own cars back to work and issued permits to 13,993 people and 45,483 cars to leave the city. By March 25, 2020, through point-to-point and one-stop direct trips, Huanggang had organized 157,296 migrant workers to leave the city for work resumption.

Local Government Officials Promoted Products via Live Streaming during the COVID-19 Pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic has crippled economic growth and social development, yet it has also encouraged many new business formats. "The digital economy has become a new agricultural asset, mobile phones as a new agricultural tool, and live streaming a new agricultural job." On April 20, 2020, President Xi went into a live streaming chat room in Jinmi Village, Xiaoling Town, Zhashui County, Shaanxi Province to show his support for the local fungus industry. He stressed that e-commerce has great potential in lifting people out of poverty and realizing rural revitalization.

It has become a new trend and highlight to promote the sales of agricultural products through live streaming. It is an innovative way for agricultural marketing and also ameliorates the weakness of traditional product promotion. In order to revive the dead stock of agricultural products during the pandemic, promote the development of poverty-stricken areas and increase the income of poor households, many heads and secretaries of counties turned to live streaming for sales promotion of their local agricultural products. Since the outbreak of COVID-19, over 400 heads of counties and cities have been engaged in live streaming to sell overstocked products, facilitate industrial development and increase peasants' income, setting an example to motivate more peasants.

Qin Fengju, Deputy Head of Baishui County, walked into a live-streaming chat room to sell apples online with great enthusiasm, saying "Baishui apples taste crispy with thin skin, juicy flesh yet little dreg. It is sweet and delicious. Please have a try and you will not regret it. Just buy it. Come on!" It was the county's first live-streaming event out of a series aimed at fighting the pandemic and promoting agriculture. Dang Yubo, head of the County Rural and Agriculture Bureau, and Zhao Jian, Director of the County Apple Industry Development Center, also joined in to recommend the local apples. With the number of viewers growing from 50,000, to 80,000, 120,000 and then 210,000, it set off a craze for Baishui Apple purchases and helped orchard workers increase their income. The event alone helped Baishui County sell over 100 tons of apples.

Front Stage: Local Officials as Live Streamers

As a transition between Guanzhong Plain and northern Shaanxi plateau, Baishui County is richly endowed by nature to grow the best apples in the world. It is also the largest base in China to produce organic apples with a world-renowned reputation. On February 27, 2020, with the approval of the People's Government of Shaanxi Province, Baishui County was formally removed from the list of poverty-stricken areas.

The first 15 days of the lunar January is the prime time for selling Baishui apples every year. However, due to COVID-19 this year, since the Spring Festival, agricultural products have had poor sales performance across the country to varying degrees. Baishui Apples were particularly affected, with a dead stock up to 200,000 tons. Orchard workers, facing such a great challenge, were under great pressure in the country, and the county needed to address the problem and secure its achievements in poverty alleviation.

To address overstocking caused by the pandemic, government officials in Baishui County became live streamers to sell local products. They had an obvious advantage over professional anchors and peasants since they have been engaged in poverty alleviation for a long time, they are well aware of the productivity of impoverished households and the real situation of local products. Their personal credit and even credit of the local government made it easier to convince customers to buy and their outstanding ability to organize, coordinate and mobilize resources help align the production, supply and marketing of agricultural products. As a result, peasants and local merchandisers now enjoy more profits.



Officials like Qin Fengju and Dang Yubo from Baishui County were on live streaming and brought more discounts for netizens

Behind the Scenes: Improve Digitization of the Whole Production-Marketing Chain

Shaanxi is a major fruit planting province where the fruit industry plays an important role in generating more income for peasants. As the pandemic continues as part of life, promoting the sales of agricultural products and securing the results of the anti-poverty battle have become an urgent problem for local governments. Apart from selling apples from Baishui County in live steam, other officials also brought dead stock of their local agricultural products online for promotion. Shaanxi localities like Zhashui fungus, Yanliang melon, and Tongchuan cherry suddenly became hot-selling products.

"As the battle against COVID-19 reaches its most crucial moment and non-contact marketing becomes a new business format, local officials in other regions have followed the footsteps of live streamers in Baishui County to develop live e-commerce rapidly in Shaanxi and help peasants sell overstocked products through online retail. A digital connection has been built between the field and our table," said Fan Linghan, head of Market Information Bureau for the Department of Agriculture and Rural Affairs of Shaanxi Province. The Online Shaanxi Tea Expo is a proof of this digital strategy, in which over 20 leaders from provinces, municipalities, counties and prefectures helped to sell Shaanxi Tea with a total value of over RMB 2 million, greatly expanding its branding and influence.

Many regions in Shaanxi Province have been accelerating the development of live e-commerce with supportive policies and measures. They have set up live stream institutions, fostered online influencer brands and trained live streamers. According to Wei Yan'an, head of Shaanxi Fruit Industry Center, Shaanxi will launch its plan to have "100 media companies, 1,000 live broadcasting rooms and 10,000 relevant jobs" this year. It will not only train new agricultural talents in the country and make live streaming a new agricultural job, but also change the whole mindset of local people and improve the supply chain system for agricultural products.

Live Stream Marketing by Local Government Officials: from a Makeshift to a Long-term Solution

The sustainable and rapidly growing digital economy is becoming the new engine that drives the rural economy and plays a significant role in poverty reduction with great vigor. With in-depth implementation of the digital village construction, promotion of e-commerce in rural comprehensive demonstration areas and poverty alleviation through e-commerce, rural e-commerce has gained great momentum in China with fast growing online retail in rural areas. The development of rural e-commerce has created a strong demand for logistics. E-commerce platforms have increasingly become an important part of the new infrastructure featuring intelligence, systemic design and large scales to facilitate the logistics of agricultural products.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, local governments have been engaged in live e-commerce to sell products in tens of thousands of vegetable greenhouses across the country. In doing so, they have discovered new ways to sell their agricultural products and to stimulate new economic growth in poverty-stricken areas. Secretary of County Committee of Yichuan, Shaan'xi, showcased through live stream natural landscapes like Hukou Waterfall and folk cultures, including a local popular melody and paper cuts, attracting wide attention and recognition.

To make the best of new business formats like e-commerce in poverty alleviation, it is important to explore the great potential of e-commerce platforms and promote them to achieve a new high through a robust system. During the COVID-19 pandemic, we should seize the opportunity to cultivate e-commerce talents in rural areas, nurture local operation teams, and build reputations for local business to change the temporary practices in the pandemic into long-term solutions to lift populations out of poverty and increase their income effectively.



Chapter II Coordination

Economic development does not benefit poverty-stricken populations automatically. The Chinese government pursues comprehensive poverty alleviation by combining various mutually supportive forces and measures, such as special projects, industrial development and social assistance. It is committed to promoting development everywhere and coordinating development across regions and sectors. Divided into five sections, this chapter elaborates on coordinated practices between all models of poverty alleviation, including east-west cooperation, pairing support, urban and rural coordination, labor cooperation and enterprise participation.

Based on the national regional development strategy, east-west cooperation for poverty alleviation gradually transfers various industries from eastern China to western China. In the process, there have been extensive mutual exchanges and learning across different industries and people in terms of technologies, concepts and working styles. It is not only an important measure to promote coordinated common development of different regions, but also an important aspect of social poverty alleviation.

Fixed-site poverty alleviation is a practice with Chinese characteristics. It mobilizes the organizational resources of institutions to support designated poverty-stricken areas. Departments of the central government carry out national policies and guidelines on the levels of county, village and household to fulfill the targeted poverty alleviation task. Meanwhile, the people's opinions, needs and suggestions are learned to inform and improve the work of all departments and serve the overall cause of poverty alleviation.

Labor-intensive industries should be developed according to local conditions and poor people should be supported to work locally in order to keep labor forces in their hometowns and promote the coordinated development of urban and rural areas while decreasing poverty. Labor transfer cooperation promotes employment in poverty-stricken areas and contributes to the exchange and sharing of regional resources through the cooperation between eastern and western parts of China and the pairing support mechanism. Enterprises and other sectors of society are encouraged and mobilized to participate in poverty alleviation together.



Section I East-West Coordinated Poverty Alleviation

A New Model of Poverty Alleviation Jointly Created by Hangzhou and Enshi

Given the economics in eastern and western China, east-west collaboration is an important measure to boost poor areas in the west into becoming moderately prosperous together with the whole nation. Over the years, China has implemented the policy of east-west poverty alleviation cooperation and pairing assistance and explored a path involving poverty alleviation and cooperation through joint promotion, pairing assistance, industry driving, mutual learning and assistance, and social participation.

The document ***Guiding Opinions on Strengthening East-West Poverty Alleviation Cooperation*** issued on October 27, 2016, highlighted that it is imperative to adhere to the basic strategy of targeted poverty alleviation and eradication, further strengthen accountability, optimize pairing relations, deepen pairing assistance, focus on poverty alleviation and improve poverty alleviation cooperation and pairing support. The implementation of the ***Guiding Opinions*** adjusted the original pairing relationship, expanded the scope of assistance to improve the inter-provincial pairing relationship and implemented and enhanced assistance forces in some of the worst-hit western areas, covering all ethnic autonomous prefectures and worst-hit cities and prefectures in the west. Meanwhile, the ***Guiding Opinions*** put forward the key tasks of developing industrial cooperation, organizing labor cooperation, strengthening talent support, increasing financial support and mobilizing social participation.

With active mobilization and utilization of human, material and financial resources in the eastern developed areas, and policies and measures of pairing support and targeted assistance, efforts have been made to accurately improve the weaker western regions and effectively integrate their resource endowment. East-west coordinated poverty alleviation can transpire the western regions' potential and help them catch up with the more developed areas in the east.

Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province and Enshi, Hubei Province have been paired up for east-west cooperation. According to the principle of "government guidance, market operation and social participation", Hangzhou, with its own advantages, has carried out a series of programs to boost the consumption of products from poor areas in Enshi, explored five new models for poverty alleviation via consumption, expanded the sales channels of special agricultural products from Enshi in Hangzhou, and built a new sustainable and reproducible consumption-based poverty alleviation mechanism.

Pooled Consumption: Accurately Targeted Cooperation

First, the government and enterprises are coordinated to carry out order-based consumption. The two places have actively worked together to build a sales platform to connect Enshi's enterprises with Hangzhou's platforms, such as Hangzhou E-commerce Public Service Centre and the Hangzhou Agricultural Poverty Alleviation Exhibition. A list of Enshi's famous and high-quality agricultural products were produced and regularly released to Hangzhou citizens for them to place on-demand orders on the platforms. Over 20 institutions such as the district governments, canteens, chambers of commerce, among others, have purchased 39 tons of selenium-rich rice from Xianfeng County, worth RMB 350,000. Enterprises in Hangzhou have taken the initiative to help Enshi by ordering and purchasing its tea and other products, contributing to destocking and poverty reduction.



Government procurement cloud platform contributed to poverty alleviation via consumption





Trucks delivering direct-supply fresh food

Second, villages and enterprises pair up to boost consumption. Hangzhou encouraged powerful enterprises to pair up with Enshi's poverty-stricken villages and invited their owners to serve as the "honorary village head" of their paired villages to continuously drive consumption. So far, 112 enterprises in Hangzhou have signed "village-enterprise pairing agreements" with 218 poverty-stricken villages in Enshi, contributing to a revenue of more than RMB 450 million in 2019.

Third, enterprises cooperate to develop direct-supply consumption. Enterprises in the two cities were encouraged to carry out investment cooperation in building bases and workshops, training technical personnel, and optimizing product sourcing. On April 25, an opening ceremony of "CR Vanguard - Hangzhou Yicheng Fresh Food Base and Enshi Special Agricultural Products Direct-Supply Area" was held online.

Poverty Alleviation via Experiential Consumption: Joint Efforts by All Levels

In order to introduce high-quality products from Enshi into Hangzhou, the two cities have created an experiential consumption model of "1 + 8 + X" involving a pair between city and prefecture, 8 pairs of districts and counties, and X experiential sites. At present, Hangzhou has set up off-line experiential stores for special and agricultural products, such as Enshi's Agricultural Products Exhibition and Sales Center, World Selenium City Expo Hall, Selenium Tea Exhibition and Exchange Center, among others. Eight counties and cities in Enshi Prefecture have set up selenium product exhibition and sales centers in their pairing districts in Hangzhou with an area of about 2,000 square meters and more than 1,000

products in total. As the "1 + 8 + X" experiential consumption model is rolled out, selenium products from Enshi have been brought into governmental institutions, supermarkets, farmers' markets, canteens and communities, laying down a solid foundation for the long-term and stable supply-marketing relationship of Enshi's products in Hangzhou.

Poverty Alleviation via Consumption Agreements: Coordinated Actions

Enshi Prefecture organized local outstanding enterprises to participate in various exhibitions and marketing activities, such as EBE China, Tea Expo and Agricultural Expo in Hangzhou, and actively guided powerful enterprises in Hangzhou to participate in activities such as Selenium Expo that they organized. These activities presented Enshi features, in all aspects, and several different product purchase agreements were signed. In the 6th EBE China, there were 42 enterprises from Enshi Prefecture with more than 300 products and various activities were held to introduce selenium products in Hangzhou to attract investments. A total of 22 intention agreements were signed.



Enshi's booth on the site of EBE China in Hangzhou

Poverty Alleviation via Tourist Consumption: Tourism and Healthy Living

As Tujia and Miao autonomous prefecture, Enshi is the home to 29 ethnic minorities rich in natural and cultural resources. The tourism industries of the two places have actively joined hands with tourism promotion activities. Many travel agencies in Enshi have set up branch offices in Hangzhou and reached long-term cooperation agreements with their Hangzhou counterparts. At the same time, they offer a discount of 55% on tickets to scenic spots and accommodation fees for Hangzhou citizens. In 2019, there were 850,000 tourist arrivals to Enshi from Hangzhou. In addition, the two cities have signed the ***Agreement on Deepening Exchange and Cooperation between Enshi Prefecture and Hangzhou City*** for workers in Hangzhou to enjoy retreat at Enshi. Enshi Prefecture has built 14 health resorts and received 40,000 Hangzhou trade union members as guests. While retreating in Enshi, the Hangzhou visitors also visited poor villages and spent money by dining, lodging and shopping in the hope that their consumption could drive local tourism and combine tourism with assistance for the locals.



Help also came from tourists in retreat





Help also came from tourists in retreat

Poverty Alleviation via Online Consumption: "Cloud" Connection between Hangzhou and Enshi

As the world's e-commerce capital, Hangzhou has attracted Alibaba, Beidian and other e-commerce platforms to cooperate with Enshi's leading agricultural enterprises, professional cooperatives and e-commerce enterprises. In addition, Enshi and Hangzhou have actively explored and cultivated various e-commerce companies to explore new models and drive sales. Yao Honghua, deputy mayor of Enshi City seconded from Hangzhou, and Qiu Kai, deputy county head of Xuan'en County on second from Hangzhou, also personally participated in live streaming via Hangzhou e-commerce platforms to promote Enshi's agricultural and special products as brand ambassadors.

Inspirations of the Hangzhou-Enshi Collaboration

As an eastern coastal city with a developed economy and market, Hangzhou is an important e-commerce center in China. Located in the mid-west of China and with strong resource endowments, Enshi is one of the 14 contiguous poverty-stricken areas in China. At the end of 2013, all eight counties and cities in Enshi were among the national poverty-stricken counties, with poor people accounting for nearly 30% of the population. By the end of 2019, all counties and cities in Enshi were lifted out of poverty. Through collaboration in a paired relationship, Hangzhou and Enshi have fully integrated their respective advantageous resources, strengthened industrial forces and mobilized all sectors of society with positive results. They initiated the poverty alleviation through consumption model, used new promotion and marketing methods involving media publicity, on-site experience and displays. Different departments, e-commerce operators and enterprises have all been mobilized. These have not only provided new ideas for poverty alleviation via industrial development and consumption, but also fostered a model of sustained growth in underdeveloped areas. By exploring the potential of impoverished areas, cooperating with and engaging in mutual support with developed areas, it is possible to build a long-term and stable path to poverty reduction and development.

Section II Fixed-Point Poverty Alleviation

Ministry of Foreign Affairs Helps Two Counties Shake Off Poverty

An important part of the poverty alleviation and development course with Chinese characteristics involves the fixed-point poverty alleviation campaigns by the Party, government and military organizations, enterprises, public institutions and social organizations. These campaigns usually focus on existing conflicts and problems in economic and social development in poverty-stricken areas and aim at the whole villages through industrial development, population relocation, training of grassroot cadres and labor forces, and organizational construction. With the belief that poverty will only be eradicated through development, these campaigns focus on improving the self-development capacity of impoverished villages and people. Meanwhile, efforts are made to strengthen infrastructure construction, improve basic services, cultivate leading agricultural sources of revenue and promote coordinated and sustainable socio-economic development in poverty-stricken areas.

In January 2017, with the help of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Zhou Fengling, a villager from Manma Village, Daping Town, Malipo County, obtained an interest-free industrial loan from the Renshan Poverty Relief Foundation of Hong Kong to build his Tongxin Chinese Ginseng Specialized Cooperative, Chinese ginseng primary processing plant and base. Zhou Fengling led 156 poor households to plant more than 4,000 mu of Chinese ginseng, enabling over 50 people from impoverished households to get stable jobs in his ginseng primary processing plant. In March 2018, Shen Xingming, another villager from Nadeng Village, Babu Town, Malipo County, registered for working in Japan organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. After his one-month Japanese training in Dalian, he went to work in Japan with a monthly salary of more than RMB 12,000. He worked in Japan for more than eight months and got a net income of nearly 100,000 yuan, which equaled to his three-year domestic income. In addition, he took the opportunity to master the advanced technology of agricultural planting, packaging and transportation. With the start-up funds, he was determined to go back to his hometown to develop agriculture and pursue wealth together with fellow villagers.



Wider employment channels for the impoverished

Zhou Fengling and Shen Xingming are representative of many beneficiaries of the fixed-point poverty alleviation projects launched by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The projects were started in 1992 in two national poverty-stricken counties, Jinping and Malipo in Yunnan Province. In the spirit of "wholeheartedly alleviating poverty", the ministry has constantly explored and innovated a path to poverty alleviation and development with its own characteristics.

"Love Knows No Borders" International Charity Sale Assists the Fight against Poverty

In order to call for generosity from all walks of life at home and abroad, carry forward the universal virtue of poverty alleviation and improve the lives of people in poverty-stricken areas and the disadvantaged in society, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has been sponsoring a yearly international charity sale called "Love Knows No Borders" in the name of the wife of the foreign minister since 2009. Foreign embassies in China, representative offices of international organizations and domestic enterprises participated in the activity, displaying and selling unique handicrafts and special delicacies from all over the world. Funds raised have been used in poverty-stricken areas in central and western China, such as Yunnan, Hebei, Henan, Guizhou, Guangxi, Shaanxi and Gansu. A total of RMB 23.04 million was raised for Jinping and Malipo counties, and more than 2,300 primary and secondary school teachers on special posts in poverty-stricken areas were subsidized. Seven village-level clinics, one township health center, two teaching buildings, six sports grounds, two drinking water projects and infrastructure renovation of two villages were completed.



"Love Knows No Borders" International Charity Sale

Alleviating Poverty by Building Up People's Confidence: Skills Training for Women in Poverty-Stricken Areas

In line with the idea that people must have access to education and the confidence resulting from it can help them rise above poverty, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has continuously strengthened capacity-building in education, health, industry and other fields in Jinping and Malipo counties, uprooted poverty in thought and ability, and cultivated excellent models and leaders, including through a number of training programs to improve women's abilities in poor areas.



Professional female embroiderer weaving

In 2012, with the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Bestseller Foundation of Denmark, Jinping County established Rainbow Handicraft Specialized Cooperative in order to sell embroidery products with ethnic motives on e-commerce platforms. The platform helped the cooperative to gradually receive orders. Due to the lack of professional female embroiderers, the supply was far less than the demand. To address this, the Ministry of Foreign



Health training for women and children

Affairs and Bestseller conducted systematic embroidery training for embroiderers of the cooperative so that they could meet the demand and improve their skills. At the same time, the excellent traditional handcraft elements were integrated with the fashion, and dozens of products with local ethnic characteristics, such as handicrafts, notebooks and woven bamboo products, were developed and won market interest. Sales volume increased steadily, guaranteeing the embroiderers' income. Through embroidery training, women can get a livelihood without leaving home. Thus, they can take care of their families while making money.

In 2018, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Australian Human Rights Commission implemented a training program to improve women's abilities in the two counties that includes lessons on law for the protection of women's and children's rights and interests, property, marriage, as well as abilities in communication, execution and preschool children's education and guidance, among others. The 32 deeply impoverished village committees in Jinping County have set up "homes for women and children" to carry out training courses for directors of women's affairs. Ninety-six lecture sessions on women's health care, 128 sessions of practical technology training, preschool children's education and training, and "homes for women and children" management training have also been held; reaching more than 70% of the documented poverty-stricken households in Jinping County and cultivating a group of capable female leaders with management abilities and appeal. In addition, local women learned professional skills, which facilitated their job-hunting opportunities. They abandoned the ideas of waiting for, relying on and begging from others and realized the concept of casting off poverty with their own hands and pursuing a better life.

Building Local Green Brands Produces Results in Poverty Alleviation

In recent years, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, with its advantages in connecting to the outside world, has explored new channels of poverty alleviation through industrial development by introducing cattle and sheep, kiwi fruit and fungus from New Zealand, and promoted Hong Kong Liantai Group to sign cooperation agreements with Malipo and Jinping counties to assist in poverty alleviation through planting and breeding industries.

By identifying a specialty for every town and a product for every village, the Ministry helped Diaoyutai Food Technology Company to set up joint venture companies, establish standardized systems for special products and construct tropical fruit planting bases in Malipo and Jinping counties. In addition, it has helped the Chinese herbal medicine processing plant in the Honghe Mi-le Food Industrial Park and reached an agreement with relevant companies on the establishment of Chinese herbal medicine planting demonstration bases and purchases of Chinese herbal medicine in the two counties.



Demonstration base for Chinese medicine planting

Adopting the assistance model of "industrial poverty alleviation funding + cooperatives + documented impoverished households", the Ministry of Foreign

Affairs has invested RMB 22.44 million for industrial development in Jinping and Malipo counties. The Ministry also introduced industrial projects, supported 21 promising cooperatives and increased the income of more than 12,000 people.

Strengthening Vocational Training and Promoting Poverty Alleviation through Employment

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs attaches great importance to poverty alleviation through employment and actively widens the channels of vocational training and employment of villagers in the two counties by using its own advantages. Its internal services unit has agreed to cooperate with Malipo Ethnic Vocational High School and signed training agreements with the latter in property management and hotel management, with a view of cultivating talents for the county. In addition, outstanding graduates may be employed by the unit or other affiliated agencies of the ministry. Meanwhile, the ministry has actively assisted Malipo County to carry out labor service cooperation with relevant national institutions in Japan and other countries, and assisted in skills training and work abroad. By so doing, it has enabled the locals to shake off poverty with increased income and improved abilities.

Section III Explore a New Way of Poverty Alleviation through Labor Service Cooperation

Fuzhou-Dingxi Partnership Assistance Model

From early 1980s to the early 21st century, economic and industrial development in the eastern coastal areas, especially the manufacturing clusters, attracted a large number of laborers. As the war against poverty rages on, in order to achieve the goal of accurate east-west alignment and stable employment, many provinces have carried out labor cooperation, especially between economically developed areas and poverty-stricken counties through counterpart cooperation and east-west coordination.

Since 2016, China has actively guided human resource service institutions and various enterprises to participate in poverty alleviation through new jobs creation, labor cooperation, skills training, employment services, and rights and interests protection. All localities have actively promoted labor cooperation for poverty alleviation by setting up special working groups and formulating work plans. Counterparts in eastern and western regions have signed labor cooperation agreements. Remarkable progress has been made in organizing the export of poverty-stricken labor. Poverty alleviation through labor transfer has involved 19 provincial and municipal labor-receiving areas and 28 provincial and municipal labor-exporting areas through cooperation and support mechanisms.

Through continuous inter-provincial, intra-provincial and special labor cooperation, the number of migrant impoverished workers has been significantly increased to 27.29 million in 2019 from 12.02 in 2016. Remuneration has constituted the majority of impoverished households' income. President Xi pointed out that migrant workers from these households contributed around two-third of their family income and they took up about two-thirds of the documented impoverished population.

"I have earned more money since coming to Fuzhou. My debt has almost been repaid completely. The work environment here is alright. I live a better life now and have spare money to spend as I want." These are the words of Wei Xueping, a woman from a documented impoverished household in Huangjiaqu Village, Maying Town, Tongwei County, Dingxi City. In early 2017, she participated in the job fair for seasonal workers in Fuzhou, which was held in Tongwei County. Her wish was fulfilled. She bid her goodbye to her family and went to work in Fuzhou, a city thousands of miles away from her hometown.

Exploring New Models of Poverty Alleviation through New Assistance Mechanisms

Located in the central part of Gansu Province, Dingxi City is arid and its soil is barren. The six counties and one district under its jurisdiction are all contiguous poverty-stricken areas in Liupan Mountains. As early as 1983, Dingxi was identified as the first key area to implement regional poverty alleviation policies in China, with a large impoverished population, a heavy alleviation task and great difficulties. In 2016, Dingxi's poverty-stricken population reached 464,000, poverty incidence hit 17.66% and the rural net income was RMB 6,289.

In October 2016, the ***Instruction on Strengthening East-West Poverty Alleviation Cooperation*** paired Fuzhou City in Fujian Province with Dingxi City in Gansu Province. In February 2017, the governments of Dingxi and Fuzhou signed the ***East-West Framework Agreement on Poverty Alleviation Cooperation***, which laid out precise labor cooperation and promoted labor transfer for employment as an important starting point of east-west poverty alleviation cooperation.



People in Dingxi learning employment-related information

However, in the early stages of assistance, the poor laborers were not used to working in Fuzhou. Compared with Jiangsu and Zhejiang provinces, Fuzhou lacked obvious advantages in terms of salary and treatment. With a weak foundation for labor cooperation, the labor-transferring work between the two cities suffered frequent setbacks. As a result, two major problems emerged, the huge gap between the workers demanded by enterprises and the actual quantity of employees, and the high outflow rate of migrant employees. In view of these problems, Dingxi City coordinated regularly with the human resources and social security bureaus in Fuzhou's counties (cities) to carry out investigations, understand the situation and coordinate work. Through drilling down to the roots by investigating villages, towns and households, they tried to sort out the crux of the problem.

Determine Demands and Motivate Migrant Workers

In order to attract people from poor households like Wei Xueping of Dingxi to work in Fuzhou and promote labor cooperation between the two cities, Fuzhou has issued 11 intensive targeted and operational policy documents to attract poor laborers to leave their hometown, which marked the first step. In this regard, Fuzhou issued RMB 500 of one-time traffic subsidies and RMB 1,000 of one-time living subsidies to attract documented poor laborers from Dingxi to Fuzhou for the first time so that they could move without any burden. In order to meet the employment needs in a more accurate manner, Dingxi's human resources and social security bureau has also established an information-input system for migrant workers. After they were properly transferred to various employment bases, the employment center of the bureau would track them during whole process and update their information in time.

In terms of guiding enterprises to accept poverty-stricken laborers in Dingxi, Fuzhou has specially introduced incentive policies such as replacing subsidies with awards and driving enterprises by demonstration. For example, enterprises were encouraged to create a poverty alleviation demonstration base to accept poor laborers in Dingxi for a one-time reward of RMB 100,000 for every 50 retained employees from the city. In addition, learning from the experience of poverty alleviation through public welfare posts, Fuzhou explored and implemented its ***Plan for Targeted Poverty Alleviation through the Employment of Workers from Dingxi with a Thousand Jobs*** to annually develop 2,000 suitable posts in the poverty alleviation and employment base in Fuzhou in order to bring in a labor force from documented poverty-stricken households in Dingxi. In addition to the enterprise salary, the government subsidized each person with RMB 600 per month for a maximum of 6 months.

According to Wei Xueping, she had suffered from poor family conditions, with two young children to support, and a debt burden of over RMB 200,000 due to illness. In previous days, she completed farm work at home and served as day laborer, exhausting herself with an unstable income of just a few thousands a year. After working for a short time in Fuzhou in 2017, she returned home for the Spring Festival with her wages. Soon after the festival, she returned to her post without delay. "My company provides me with free food and accommodation, a transport subsidy, and a high-temperature subsidy in summer. I often send money home to improve my family's life."



Dingxi's migrant workers receive a transportation subsidy in Fuzhou

Joint Efforts to Lift People Out of Poverty

The labor cooperation for poverty alleviation is one of the important tenets of poverty alleviation cooperation between east and west China. In essence, it is also a problem of supply and demand in the human resources market. Enterprises need workers, and poor laborers want to be employed. Government departments are responsible for organizing, connecting and transferring laborers. Through in-depth investigation and research into Fuzhou enterprises and Dingxi grass-roots units, the government departments of the two cities have formulated and issued a series of policies and measures to resolve difficulties. They have built a strong supporting framework of policies on standardizing labor transportation and transfer, accurately connecting and guiding enterprises to accept laborers, encouraging stable employment and clarifying assessment standards. In addition to the policy support of the labor-receiving areas, governments at all levels in Dingxi also send officials to work in the labor stations of paired counties cities, and districts of Fuzhou all year round in order to jointly provide "intimate and stable" services such as job placement, implementation of assistance policies, real name management, rights and interests protection and life care. By the end of 2018, 141 job fairs of various types have been held in 107 towns and villages in Dingxi's most poverty-stricken counties, in which 264 Fuzhou enterprises and public institutions have employed 7,041 poverty-stricken laborers, including 3,879 people from documented impoverished households. Nearly 10,000 poor people were directly lifted out of poverty. The "Fuzhou-Dingxiding model" of east-west labor cooperation boasts a strong demonstration of success for the whole country.

Section IV Coordinate Urban-Rural Development in Poverty Alleviation through Employment

Poverty Alleviation Workshops in Villages and Towns

Poverty alleviation workshops are built in rural communities, also known as a "community factory" or "satellite factory" in some places. As an emerging entity involving the government, enterprises, and village communities, it is an attempt made by enterprises to bring capital and its production back from the city to the countryside under governmental guidance. Through developing labor-intensive industries such as primary processing of agricultural products, handicraft, and processing and operation of supplied materials according to local conditions, it helps to meet the local employment needs of the poor and solve social problems such as empty nesters, left-behind children and the idle female labor force in rural areas. It conforms to the current trend of industrial transfer and is also a practical form of promoting common prosperity and social equity.

According to incomplete statistics, there are more than 30,000 poverty alleviation workshops in China, with more than 2 million employees. Poverty alleviation workshops have become a win-win carrier and path for poverty alleviation.

For a long time, due to the lack of industrial development support in many rural areas in China, some young and strong rural laborers had to face the dilemma of earning money far from home or taking care of their families at home. "Working adjacent to my home on a flexible schedule, I can take care of the elderly and children, and still earn over 60 yuan a day." Sun Hui, a villager from Penglou Village, Penglou Town, Juancheng County, was very satisfied with such a job. In the past, she only had to rely on the income from the fields and lived an austere life. Now, she could earn a monthly wage of nearly RMB 2,000 in the workshop and her life has improved significantly. Sun Hui was just one example of benefits from the development of poverty alleviation workshops in Juancheng County. More and more local people changed from working far away to nearby and shook off poverty.

The Change of Juancheng County from "Poverty Model" to "Poverty Alleviation Model"

Juancheng County, Heze City, Shandong Province, is located in the Yellow River beach area and has been plagued by floods for a long time. By the end of 2015, the typical poverty-stricken county had 103 poverty-stricken villages at the provincial level, 25,134 poor households and 65,808 poverty-stricken people. In the past, industries in Juancheng County were not prosperous. Many young people

left their hometown to find work elsewhere, leaving behind a large number of children, women and elderly people. Taking Dongkou Town as an example, despite the tradition of handicraft processing such as hair products, wicker weaving and thread spinning, and the fact that some manufacturers transferred the labor-intensive work with low skill requirements to the village in order to reduce production costs, most of these were processing sites in "small shacks," failing to scale to meet the demands for local employment.

Since 2015, Dongkou Town in Juancheng County has built a poverty alleviation workshop of about 300 square meters for each of its 33 administrative villages by using the former sites of the village primary school, collective activity sites and empty residential buildings. By cultivating and expanding the traditional handicraft industry in these "small shacks" and introducing external industrial projects, the left-behind women and elderly with certain labor capacity in the village gathered to work at their houses' doorstep. Once the poverty alleviation workshop was launched, it was welcomed by the local people. Dongkou Town's experience and practice was rapidly promoted, and Juancheng County realized the transformation from "poverty model" to "poverty alleviation model."



Poverty alleviation workshop in Daitang Village, Dongkou Town

Poverty Alleviation Workshops Help Address Unemployment in Rural Areas

The model of poverty alleviation workshops in Juancheng County originated from a field investigation by Li Yuru, Secretary of the Party Committee of Dongkou Town, Juancheng County, where he found that a majority of the impoverished people across the town were unable to work outside due to various reasons. They were mostly competent laborers with a strong desire for employment, rather than idle personnel, but appropriate jobs were lacking.

The local government noticed that handicraft processing in the existing small shacks were less skill demanding and responded to the local need for work in the neighborhood, where the limited scale determined their weak drive. Therefore, the Juancheng County Government, based on its circumstances, decided to upgrade these small shacks. The county renovated or established a new batch of poverty alleviation workshops from uninhabited houses and the sites of old primary schools and playgrounds in the village with the support of county financial bureaus, the First Secretary, departments directly under county administration and leading enterprises. Given people's need to take care of their families, the workshops were located no further than 200 meters away from the village highway and easily accessible



Workers assembling data cables in poverty alleviation workshops in Shenweizhuang Village, Dongkou Town

to public places like kindergartens, primary schools and healthcare clinics. The workshops practice a flexible working schedule to allow impoverished women to go to work after sending their children to schools, attending the elderly and finishing farm work so that they can learn to balance work and home care.

The ownership of poverty alleviation workshops was transitioned to the administrative village upon completion and the rental income belongs to the collective group after being rented out. For enterprises running these workshops and hiring more impoverished people in this way, the local governments offered preferential power supply, provided post and training subsidies and favored their loan applications.

Poverty Alleviation Workshops Build a Model Benefiting All Parties Involved

In the development of specialized industries with competitive edges, poverty alleviation workshops built a model to benefit all parties involved. Its core approach assumes that when taking on a comparatively competitive industry with an edge in rural areas, poverty alleviation workshops also satisfy the demands for industrial transfer of the labor-intensive companies and tap the full potential of rural human resources among the left-behind populations. Meanwhile, villages can grow their collective economies and effectively prevent themselves from being hollowed out. As for laborers, being part of an industry and nearby employment can increase their income and lift themselves out of poverty. Ultimately, it integrates work and home care properly for rural families and vitalizes rural development.



People making wigs in poverty alleviation workshops in Zangzhuang Village, Dongkou Town

So far, Juancheng County has built 544 poverty alleviation workshops with 13,000 local employees, of which over 3,000 are impoverished people. The problem mentioned above of left-behind families in rural areas is not exclusive to Juancheng. With advancing urbanization, a great quantity of the rural workforce has flooded cities. Cities face pressure in accommodating migrant workers while villages risk losing human capital, with a series of social problems concerning both urban and rural residents subsequently emerging. The practice of poverty alleviation workshops can effectively resolve the unemployment problem of the left-behind people in rural areas by offering jobs in their neighborhood and significantly increasing the income of impoverished households, which is of great importance for coordinated development between cities and rural areas.

Section V Encourage the Whole Society to Participate and Make Concerted Efforts in Poverty Alleviation

A Boost from Enterprises to Successfully Lifting Bijie Out of Poverty

It is an integral part of China's rural poverty alleviation policies to mobilize all sectors of society to participate in rural poverty alleviation. It is important to include governmental leadership and social involvement in our policies to make remarkable achievements in poverty alleviation. Private enterprises and other social forces have played a great role in fighting poverty in China.

In November 2015, the ***Decision of the CPC Central Committee and the State Council on Winning the Battle against Poverty*** specified the requirements to improve mechanisms for social involvement, encourage private enterprises, social organizations, and individuals to participate in poverty alleviation and development and make the best of social assistance to effectively implement targeted poverty alleviation. The private enterprises involved in targeted poverty alleviation add crucial strength that invigorates regional poverty relief and elimination in the general pattern of poverty alleviation under the leadership of local governments.

Statistics from the All-China Federation of Industry and Commerce show that by the end of June 2020, 99,900 private enterprises have been engaged in targeted poverty alleviation for 116,600 villages.

In September 2016, Zhou Xiaojun, a man with disability from a family of five, moved from two shattered old houses built in the 1980s into a small building in Happy Village II, constructed under the sponsorship of Evergrande in Dafang County. Zhou bore the debt for the sickness of his parents and unfortunately became crippled after a car accident. With the education fees of two young children to cover, his family was a typical impoverished household in the village with their only source of income coming from his wife working in the neighborhood. However, with the practice of targeted poverty alleviation through paired assistance between Evergrande and Bijie, Zhou moved out of the mountainous area as an industrial worker, instead of being a farmer, and became the assistant to his village head.

After training for some time, Evergrande arranged for Zhou Xiaojun a managerial position for irrigation in the cooperative of vegetable greenhouses. One and a half year later, Zhou was employed again as Village Committee staff, and his wife as dorm manager in Fengshan Primary School. Now the family has a monthly income of about RMB 4,000, a dividend of about RMB 4,000 from corresponding vegetable greenhouses paired with Evergrande, countryside tourism projects, and an additional income of about RMB 1,000 by renting out uninhabited houses in tourist rush seasons. It is expected that by the end of 2020, Bijie will have had over 1 million impoverished people like Zhou Xiaojun out of poverty with stable income.

From the Poorest of the Poor to a Typical Case of Poverty Alleviation

Bijie, located in the north-western part of Guizhou province, consists of 7 counties and 3 prefectures with 46 ethnic groups like Han, Yi, Miao, and Hui. By the end of 2015, it had 1.152 million impoverished people, accounting for 23.36% and 2.12% of the provincial and national volume respectively, with a poverty incidence of 14.14%. Once one of the poorest of the poor areas surrounding Wumeng Mountains, Bijie was long plagued by a vicious circle of poverty—childbirth—land reclamation—graver poverty. With a large poverty-stricken population and coverage of poor areas in extremely poor conditions, the city has been challenged by adverse natural conditions, weak economic foundations and lagging social services. In particular, lifting the impoverished people in mountainous areas in the Karst region out of poverty is the hardest problem to solve in the fight against poverty for Bijie, Guizhou, and even the whole country.

Over the last two years, Dafang, Qianxi, Zhijin and Qixingguan have been successively lifted out of poverty. With the poverty rate decreasing to 1.54% in 2019, there remained 125,000 poor people in rural areas. These cases have vividly exemplified our success in the fight against poverty.



The "Sun City" residential compound built with Evergrande assistance in Bijie for relocated settlers

Comprehensive Poverty Alleviation of Evergrande Ended Bijie's Entrapment in Poverty

How did Bijie successfully shake off poverty? In addition to national policy support, private enterprises played a crucial role. Since December 2015, when Evergrande started paired assistance with Bijie, it has voluntarily allocated RMB 11 billion for comprehensive poverty alleviation through industrial development, relocations, employment, education and social security. By May 18, 2020, it had donated up to RMB 7.5 billion and assisted party committees and governments at different levels to get 905,000 people out of poverty. In addition to financial assistance, Evergrande dispatched teams of 2,108 people in total to



Job fairs with Evergrande for poor migrant laborers

cooperate with governments and local cadres and the masses in poverty alleviation, playing an essential role in poverty alleviation in Bijie.

Poverty alleviation through industrial development helps cultivate the ability to realize sustainable development in impoverished households. Evergrande invested RMB 4.5 billion voluntarily to help 700,000 people in 200,000 households develop specialized industries, like vegetables, cattle, Chinese traditional medical herbs and fruit trees, building Bijie into one of the largest bases to produce vegetables and fruits and beef cattle in south-western China. It additionally introduced 79 leading enterprises in the upper and lower production chains to form a model of assistance featuring "leading enterprises + cooperatives + impoverished households + bases" for an integration of supply, production, and marketing.

Seeing that one place cannot sustain the living of its people, Evergrande invested RMB 5.7 billion voluntarily to construct 17 communities and 50 new rural units in 10 counties and prefectures in Bijie to help relocate 221,800 people there, supply them with necessities like house properties and electrical appliance for each household, equip communities with supporting education and commercial facilities and provide projects suitable for the employment of the relocated population. This has enabled the poor people to lift themselves out of poverty in the long term with stable income.

Through job training and recommendation, Evergrande enhanced the skills of impoverished laborers and provided platforms for them to gain employment for their further development. By early 2020, 113,217 people across the city had received skill training organized by Evergrande and 75,462 were recommended to work in local industries and other regions with an annual income of RMB 42,000 per capita, realizing the goal of one employee helping the whole family in poverty relief.



New countryside and its supportive industries built in Bijie with the assistance of Evergrande

Evergrande implemented poverty alleviation through education and sustenance for special groups with particular difficulties in Dafang County, Bijie. It invested RMB 400 million to establish 11 primary schools, 13 kindergartens, 1 complete middle school, and 1 vocational college. It introduced remote teaching platforms and other excellent educational resources. A fund for education awards was set up

to make up for the lack of educational resources in Dafang County. A hospital, a nursing home, and a welfare institution for abandoned children were established to strengthen social assistance for people most in need and ensure that no one is left behind in the fight against poverty.

Social Involvement in Poverty Alleviation is An Important Additional Boost to Win the Battle against Poverty

By comprehensive means of poverty alleviation through industrial development, relocation, employment and education and social security, Evergrande significantly helped Bijie shake off poverty in a precisely targeted manner and found effective ways to prevent it from returning to poverty. The case of Evergrande provides an important lesson on how to best leverage social assistance resources for poverty alleviation. The key is to conduct cooperation between enterprises and the governments and specify their scope of work. The government should actively call upon society for participation, establish a system for the joint meeting of enterprises and their officials, and disclose its progress, discussions and plans for poverty alleviation on a regular basis. Evergrande was directly engaged in poverty alleviation by inputting talents and technologies and made rapid progress based on the integration of their own advantages and concepts with poverty relief undertakings. This model lends some valuable reference on the establishment of partnerships in poverty alleviation between public and private sectors in international communities.



Chapter III Green Development

Environmental protection forms an important part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. That clear waters and lush mountains are invaluable assets is a critical concept guiding China's development. In practicing poverty reduction through green development, China abandons the outdated industrialization path of "polluting while developing" or "polluting first and treating it later" and dispels the notion that poverty reduction, which relies on economic development, always contradicts environmental protection. Attaching equal importance to poverty alleviation and ecological development, China has achieved coordinated development by protecting the environment while pursuing development and conversely promoting development and reducing poverty by environmental protection. This chapter provides a brief on China's experience and practices in eliminating poverty through ecological resources and reducing poverty with ecological compensation and demonstrates the dialectical relationship between environmental protection and poverty reduction.

The case of Hebian Village concerns a poverty-stricken border village of minority ethnic groups that turned its green resources, such as climate, environment, and folk culture into development resources and shook off poverty by developing compound industries, mainly new kinds of tourism. In the photovoltaic poverty alleviation case of Kangbao County, the local people turned abundant sunshine and heat into economic resources and secured sustainable poverty reduction for local farmers. The case of Makit County achieving poverty alleviation through ecological compensation proved the feasibility of synergetic development of environmental protection and economic growth.



Section I Poverty Alleviation with Ecological Resources

Poverty Alleviation through Tourism: a Yao Mother's Guesthouse Lifted the Family Out of Decades of Poverty

While many poverty-stricken areas in China are endowed with a favorable ecological environment and unique folk culture, the geological remoteness, poor infrastructure as well as the lack of talent and modern concepts have cut them out of markets and trapped them in poverty. With the aim to capitalize on city dwellers' yearning for authentic village life under a blue sky with white clouds and surrounded by lush mountains and clear waters, poverty alleviation through ecological tourism turns poverty-stricken areas' natural, geographical, and cultural resources into income-earning assets. It focuses on promoting the rapid development of villages- and ecology-based economy and consumption, such as rural tourism, ecological agriculture, forestry healthcare, and nature-based education.

The promotion of eco-tourism is an important approach in China's poverty alleviation endeavor. It includes implementing plans and strategies involving eco-tourism for poverty alleviation, improving tourism infrastructure, developing boutique tourism programs, enhancing tourism advertising and marketing, training talent and establishing demonstration zones. To support poverty alleviation through tourism, the Chinese government issued a series of policies on infrastructure, funding and planning and actively guided capital, human resources and intelligence resources of all involved parties to prioritize tourism programs for poverty alleviation purposes. During the 13th Five-Year Plan period (2016-2020), regarding poverty alleviation through tourism, China has aimed at raising 2 million people out of poverty each year and lifting a total of 10 million people out of poverty by 2020. According to the statistics disclosed by the national rural tourism monitoring center, of all people out of poverty, approximately one-third escaped poverty through the development of rural tourism.

Panniesa, a 34-year-old woman of the Yao group with hearing and speaking difficulties, has been living in Hebian Village for nearly a decade since she got married. After her husband and son died, Panniesa has been living an extremely hard life with her daughter, who is now in primary school. "She barely had enough money to send her daughter to school." In 2018, with the help of other villagers and the local government, by running "A Yao Guesthouse," Panniesa made nearly RMB 10,000. She no longer needs to worry about her daughter's school expenditure. In 2019, Panniesa and her second husband saw the birth of a little daughter. This hardworking woman and her clean and bright guesthouse always impress the guests. She herself also feels amazed that this "poor place," where she couldn't find any attractiveness at all, is "a type of life yearned for" by outsiders. So, she is determined to provide excellent services to secure her guests a worthy trip.



The night view of Hebian Village

A Brand-New Hebian Village

One day in September 2019, owners of more than 40 guesthouses in Hebian Village received their income for the last month. The manager and accountant of the village cooperative calculated each household's income and distributed accordingly. Panniesa, a Yao mom with hearing and speaking disabilities, received RMB 2,000 for guesthouse services for several consecutive months this summer. Other villagers running restaurants have made even more. On this day, villagers who have moved into their renovated houses with unique Yao features happily relived their memories of singing and dancing with East and South Asian guests and African students.



The villagers work together to build houses

It is hard to imagine that five years ago, Hebian Village was still an impoverished, extremely remote village in Mengla County, Xishuangbanna Dai Autonomous Prefecture of Yunnan Province. The isolated village, not far from China's border with Laos, had only 57 households, or 200 residents of the Yao ethnic group. Most villagers lived with their pigs and chickens in shabby wooden houses without any windows, kitchen or toilet, and even without sunshine. Worn down over the years without repair, the houses were on the verge of crumbling. An eight-kilometer long unpaved mountain road connected the village with the outside world. However, in each rainy season, the road would become too muddy to traverse, leaving the village completely isolated and the farmed sugarcane rotting in the fields. Many villagers were illiterate and junior middle school graduates were regarded as having a "high degree." The villagers also could not speak Mandarin well, so few of them could leave the village to work as migrant workers. Adjacent to the Xishuangbanna Tropical Rainforest Nature Reserve, Hebian Village is endowed with crystal clear sky, clear waters, and lush mountains. The winters are warm and summers are breezy. Dubbed a "natural oxygen bar," it also boasts various wild animals and unique ethnic customs. Each of these would be enough to make city dwellers long for an escape from urban lives, though they are nothing more than plain descriptions for Hebian villagers. For a typical Hebian villager, the annual income of RMB 4,000, expenditure of RMB 5,000, and debt of RMB 3,000 condemned them to chronic poverty.



All wooden furniture is handmade by the farmers themselves

"A Yao Guesthouse" Lifts the Family Out of Decades of Poverty

The turning point came five years ago. As the tough battle against poverty gathered speed, the remote mountainous place of Hebian Village was included in the poverty alleviation project. An expert team formed by Mengla County Government, universities in Beijing, and local public welfare organizations worked together with Hebian villagers to identify the causes of poverty and look for solutions. Finally, a consensus was reached: sound ecological environment is the natural asset of Hebian Village and poverty alleviation through tourism is the best approach to eliminating poverty. Targeting Hebian Village's natural resources, geological location, and cultural features, the team designed a poverty alleviation program centered on developing new industries featuring the integration of "A Yao Guesthouse" and combing small-sized conferences, nature-based education and high-end leisure.

With the government's infrastructure construction funding, the village improved the roads leading to and within the village. In addition to the government's funding for dilapidated house renovation and poverty alleviation through industrial development, the village raised social funds to launch "A Yao Guesthouse," its first poverty alleviation project. The villagers' shabby wooden houses were renovated into Yao houses with guestrooms. This not only improved the villagers' living condition, but also enabled them to earn more income by receiving tourists.

Within two years, the experts helped villagers to design wooden stilt Yao houses and encouraged

villagers to build new houses with their own hands. There is one guestroom, a stand-alone bathroom, and a modern kitchen in every new house. Five households run restaurants in the village to offer food and beverage for the tourists. The experts provided training on tourism industry standards to the villagers, in order to boost their service capabilities, ranging from facilities, hygiene condition, food and beverage to room services. By the end of 2018, all 57 households in the village had moved into brand-new houses, of which 45 had finished the decoration of built-in guestrooms. In 2018, the average annual income of each household increased by RMB 13,000 and some earned over RMB 30,000.



Young people are the major force in Hebian Village's renovation

Providing guestrooms is only the first step; steadily attracting tourists holds the key. For this purpose, Hebian Village designed a poverty alleviation program by developing new tourism focusing on the conference economy. The village constructed a conference room that could accommodate 50 people, capable of undertaking domestic and international conferences as well as various nature-based and ecology-oriented education and exchange activities. The villagers also started to run mini-bars and convenience stores to enrich the tourists' living experience. Drawing strength from traditional farming, the villagers developed side products such as rainforest chicken eggs, pigs fed with white gourd, papaya, banana, honey, Chinese medical herbs, winter vegetables, and Yao ethnic cultural products. The rainforest chicken eggs were directly sold at metropolitan markets including markets in Beijing and Shanghai, and handmade Yao ethnic dresses have been extremely popular among tourists.



The villagers discuss the construction plan

As the path towards poverty alleviation broadened, in 2019, Hebian Village established a professional cooperative where excellent young villagers took over leadership from the expert team and achieved autonomous management of the village's new tourism.



The villagers welcome foreign guests

New Tourism Unleashes Great Potential in Poverty Alleviation

Hebian Village's story of overcoming poverty through new tourism development provides valuable experience for other communities with unique geological, natural, ecological or cultural features. The key to its success is to fully appreciate and leverage local conditions, turning ecological environment and cultural customs into income-earning resources. During the process, it was important to integrate resources on various fronts and cultivate endogenous strength among the poor themselves. Located in tropical rainforests near China's border, Hebian Village is a natural oxygen bar adjacent to the Wangtianshu national scenic site and others. Its authentic Yao ethnic customs have added more value to its market potential. In the meantime, its remoteness, small area and small population mean that the village couldn't pursue scaled operation but should focus on developing "small and boutique" services. Therefore, Hebian Village customized a new tourism-centered poverty alleviation program with the conference economy as a breakthrough point and ecology and cultural features as its brand. Rather than scale and frequency, this program focuses on quality and strength, aiming at markedly increasing the villagers' income. Additionally, leveraging the strength of various parties is another important factor contributing to the poverty reduction of Hebian Village. On the basis of integrating funds, intelligence, and human resources from the government, universities, and public welfare organizations, the village works to involve local farmers in various construction and industrial activities and make them managers by gradually enhancing their ability in working in modern industries. Today, Hebian Village's model of poverty alleviation through new tourism has been copied in many other places, including Enshi of Hubei Province and Chuxiong of Yunnan Province. Some East and South Asian visitors also noted that they would "bring Hebian Village's development experience back to their home country."

Poverty Alleviation Through Clean Energy: Photovoltaic Power Stations in Kangbao County

Lifting impoverished people out of poverty relies on industrial development and social security. It is also important to expand their income sources. In the latter aspect, turning poverty-stricken people's assets into income-earning assets is key. Photovoltaic poverty alleviation is another new attempt in China's fight against poverty through developing industries and earning returns on assets. It helps to ease impoverished households' difficulty in increasing income and the overall low income of poverty-stricken villages; thus, injecting new motivation in the fight against poverty. Photovoltaic power generation is clean and environment-friendly, technically reliable and promising to create a stable income. In places with abundant solar resources, promoting photovoltaic poverty alleviation according to local conditions not only suits the strategy of targeted poverty alleviation and poverty reduction but also conforms to the national strategy of developing clean and low carbon energy. Furthermore, it bolsters the photovoltaic market while stabilizing and increasing the income of impoverished people.

To explore different channels facilitating photovoltaic poverty alleviation, in 2014, China launched pilots in 30 counties within six provinces (autonomous regions) including Hebei, Anhui, and Shanxi. Since 2015, several policies and documents including the ***Decision of the CPC Central Committee and the State Council on Winning the Tough Battle against Poverty, Opinions on Implementing Poverty Alleviation Work with Photovoltaic Power Generation***, and ***Thirteenth Five-Year Plan on Poverty Alleviation*** have been issued to specifically direct the acceleration of photovoltaic poverty alleviation projects. For poverty-stricken villages with favorable solar resources that are included in pilots, efforts should be pursued in photovoltaic poverty alleviation throughout the whole village, so that poor households without working ability can increase their income by more than RMB 3,000. For other poor areas, targeted measures should be taken to advance photovoltaic poverty alleviation projects according to local conditions and targeted poverty alleviation requirements. From this time on, photovoltaic poverty alleviation has been gradually expanded to the whole country.

By the end of 2019, over 1400 counties in 27 provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities had been involved in photovoltaic poverty alleviation projects, which cover around 60,000 impoverished villages with the capacity of 15 million KW by photovoltaic power stations that generate around RMB 13 billion annually. The projects have played a significant role in boosting the collective economy in impoverished villages, promoting income growth and poverty alleviation and securing achievements of poverty relief.

Huang Chengman used to live a poor life with his wife in Guojiawei Village, Kangbao County, Hebei Province. Their two daughters had moved out after getting married. In the past, Huang Chengman had to leave the village to make a living, yet his income was less than RMB 100 a day and he had to pay for

food and shelter himself. As he grew older, he found it harder and harder to find any job. Now, he and his wife work as security guards and cleaners in the photovoltaic power station near his house, making RMB 150 a day plus a lunch. It is a sound income for the couple. When talking about this job created after the construction of the photovoltaic power station, Huang Chengman always has a smile on his face.

Poverty Caused by Weak Labor Force is Tackled through Photovoltaic Industry Development

Kangbao County, located in the Bashang area of Hebei Province, is a key national county for poverty alleviation and development and also one of the province's ten counties in deep poverty. By the end of 2017, there were 41,197 poor people in 21,424 poor households, with a poverty incidence rate of 18 %. The average age of these impoverished people was 56, 50.9% of the impoverished households had been receiving subsistence allowances and 55.2% of them fell into poverty due to diseases or disabilities. The county faced a challenging task of lifting these people out of poverty, because most of them were semi-able-bodied laborers or lacked the internal will to shake off poverty. Instead of "asking for food but ignoring the golden bowl in the hands," the party committee and local government of Kangbao County fully leveraged local resources and decided to make photovoltaic development the mainstay of poverty alleviation through industrial development. Annual sunshine hours in Kangbao County reach up to 3,100 hours, which could generate 7.8 GW electricity. By the end of 2019, the county had constructed 253 village-level or distributed photovoltaic power stations and five centralized photovoltaic power stations. The total installation capacity reached 183,000 KW and thus returned RMB 115 million each year. In the meantime, the county has used the income generated by photovoltaic power stations as village-level collective asset returns for collective assistance awards and subsidies as well as labor subsidies. This has brought stable income for weak laborers trapped in poverty and explored a new way for win-win development for ecological protection and stable poverty alleviation in areas of deep poverty.



A photovoltaic power station jointly built at Houbuzi Village, Zhongyi Towanship, Kangbao County

The Innovative "Three All" Model Stimulates New Motivation in Poverty Alleviation

Kangbao County actively reformed its photovoltaic income distribution mechanism and created a "three all" poverty alleviation model to encourage poor people to rise out of poverty:

Firstly, all poor households with weak laborers are provided with public welfare jobs. A total of 16,000 public welfare jobs, including cleaner, security guard, road maintainer, and elderly caretaker, were created with the salary of RMB 300 to 500 per month based on the model of "basic salary +

performance" and enabled 16,478 laborers in poverty to make stable incomes through their own efforts. Hu Xingyu, a 72-year-old poverty-stricken man from Sanyitang Village, Zhangji Town, also a beneficiary of public welfare jobs said that "I am too old to find any job outside the village. Now I am working on a public welfare post. I can make money near my home. I can make more than RMB 300 each month. That is quite enough for me to make a living. My kids don't have to worry about me. I am very satisfied with my life now."

Secondly, all villages are covered by sanitation and cleaning project. Over 9400 public welfare jobs were created in 326 administrative villages for rural environment improvement. All areas within and outside the villages and along the roads were divided into a number of responsibility zones; more than 90,000 dilapidated houses were dismantled and over 1.2 million tons of accumulated garbage was cleaned out. The county established the first urban-rural integrated environmental sanitation mechanism where "the wastes are collected from villages, transferred by townships, and disposed of by counties." Through these efforts, all villages of Kangbao County have a brand-new look.

Thirdly, all villages enjoy increases in their respective collective incomes. By constructing photovoltaic power stations, each village register an annual collective income of RMB 50,000 to 130,000. This has completely relieved the villages from the dilemma of being unable to take actions due to zero collective income. Wang Tianwei, the party secretary of Xisanmian Village of Zhangji Town, said that "the increase of the village's collective income has enabled us to serve the villagers, enhance income increases and help villagers shake off poverty. All villagers have the same thinking and do the same thing. We have seen people being prouder of this community and feeling more satisfied."



Photovoltaic facilities in Kangbao County

Villages Welcome New Changes as Poverty Alleviation Secures New Advancements

Making the best use of the county's abundant solar resources, Kangbao County has fully implemented the photovoltaic poverty alleviation strategy starting in 2017, and thus earnestly solved the typical difficulty of deeply impoverished counties where "there is no industry to develop and no strength to shake off poverty." From 2013 to 2019, Kangbao County's poverty incidence rate declined from 38.53 % to 0.64 %, the per capita disposable personal income in rural areas increased from RMB 5,271 to 11,210, and the impoverished population decreased from 88,000 to 1,468. At the end of 2019, all 195 impoverished villages in Kangbao County benefited from photovoltaic power.

For Kangbao County, there is the photovoltaic income for salary payment, public welfare jobs for employment and hard-work for poverty alleviation. Different villages determine their salary standards according to labor intensity and provide salary subsidies of RMB 50 to 300 per month to each job. The

subsidies are calculated month by month and paid quarter by quarter. In the meantime, the county has designated specialized personnel to check attendance and evaluate the performance of those holding public welfare jobs in order to avoid sloppy work and inspire the poor people's internal will. Public welfare jobs in public sanitation have made the villages cleaner, which in turn enhanced harmony among villagers. The villagers have completely left behind the days of living in dirty, disorderly and bad conditions and taken on a brand-new outlook. The village-level collective photovoltaic income has reached RMB 12 million, providing capital guarantee for small-scale public welfare endeavors, and it has enhanced the cohesion, effectiveness and service capacity of leading groups within the village. Their practices and experience are inspiring for regions with abundant solar resources to shake off poverty.

Section II Ecological Poverty Alleviation

Green Ecological Barriers Bolster Poverty Alleviation

Ecological poverty alleviation composes an important measure to consolidate poverty alleviation achievements, enhance poverty alleviation quality and practice the conviction that "clear waters and lush mountains are invaluable assets." It also serves as a long-term guarantee mechanism in securing a sound victory in the dual combat against poverty and pollution. In the ***Ecological Poverty Alleviation Program*** released on January 18, 2018, it is stipulated that continuous efforts should be made to improve the transfer payment system, explore a diversified compensation mechanism for ecological protection and establish an equitable interest distribution mechanism for ecological protection in impoverished areas. According to the Program, the goals are to realize a marked increase in the income of impoverished people, create significant advancement in their working and living conditions, effectively improve the ecological environment of poor areas, and encourage enhanced productivity in ecological product supply and stronger ability in achieving sustainable development.

Through measures such as ecological compensation, afforestation, ecological industry development and eco-environment protection, China has unswervingly stimulated the internal drive of the poor, engaging the poor to work in local areas and thus promoting income growth and poverty relief. According to the ***Action Plan on Establishing a Market-oriented and Diversified Ecological Protection Compensation Mechanism*** unveiled in December 2018, in impoverished areas boasting important ecological functions and abundant ecological resources, great efforts will be made to develop ecological industries in an active and sound manner and turn ecological advantages into economic strength in a diversified and market-oriented way. When presiding over the fifth meeting of the Central Committee for Financial and Economic Affairs in August 2019, President Xi Jinping emphasized that the country should establish an ecological compensation system at full scale, improve the inter-region interest compensation mechanism and vertical ecological compensation mechanism and perfect the fiscal transfer payment system. With these measures, effective transfer payments for key ecological function zones, major agricultural production bases and distressed areas are provided.

Ecological poverty alleviation serves to coordinate and unify ecological protection and economic development and charts a course for economically underdeveloped areas to achieve dual goals of poverty reduction and eco-environment protection.

"The saplings were only thumb-thick when they were planted six years ago; but now, they are as wide as a bowl. They have grown into a forest with abundant vegetation." Wang Yufeng, head of the Planning and Natural Resources Bureau and the Forestry and Grassland Administration Bureau of Makit County, Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, said in comfort. To ensure successful afforestation, Wang Yufeng has stationed in this stretch of barren land with his colleagues for six years.

Poor Counties in the Desert Embrace Green Hope

All 12 counties and county-level cities under the jurisdiction of Kashgar Prefecture, Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, are national key counties for poverty alleviation and development, among which ten counties experience extreme poverty, composing one of China's 14 contiguous poor areas and areas of extreme poverty. Makit County is the only county in China enveloped in desert, namely the Taklimakan Desert, the largest desert in the country. With 90 % of its land covered in sand, the extremely poor Makit County has 44 documented impoverished villages, among which 22 are destitute, and a total of 45,651 people of 13,763 households are documented as impoverished, with a poverty headcount ratio of 23.08 %. The main contributing factors pushing Makit County into poverty are harsh natural conditions, remote location, blocked information channels, underdeveloped industries, inadequate education of the poor on average, insufficient planting and breeding techniques, and market awareness, as well as the frequent incidence of illness and disasters. Local people have long suffered from sands and can only live off cotton, dates, or walnuts planted in the last oasis. Generations of local people have fought the desert and made every effort to delay the adage that "as sands advance, people retreat." However, due to harsh natural conditions, not a single stretch of forest took shape after years of tree planting and the desert advanced towards the oasis at a speed of seven to ten meters a year.

In adherence to the principle of "prioritizing environmental protection and developing the area in an ecological way," and following the path of "ensuring sustainability in resource development and ecological environment," Makit County focuses on creating a pleasant living and working environment. In July 2013, the Chinese government and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) launched a desertification prevention project in Xinjiang, which aimed to plant over one million mu forest biomass for energy near the Taklimakan Desert. In this project implemented in Makit county, the UNDP provided technical assistance and expert instruction, the Chinese government secured funds and policies and the China Petroleum Bio-Energy Company Limited (CPE) undertook construction. The project pioneered a new model of ecological poverty alleviation where "the government leads, the enterprise undertakes, and the general public engages in the construction."



The forest for wind prevention and sand fixation

A Myriad of Measures is Taken to Secure Win-Win Results in Poverty Reduction and Ecological Protection

Under the support and guidance of the county government, the CPE undertook the construction of the forest biomass base for energy and actively advanced relevant work. As of 2019, the CPE had invested a total of RMB 480 million for the construction of 330,000 mu of forest biomass for energy in the Taklimakan Desert. The plants included ecological trees such as the Xinjiang poplar, Wutun

poplar, populus euphratica and tamarisk, as well as commercial crops such as elaeagnus angustifolia, Russian nonthorny big fruit seabuckthom and shiny-leaved yellowhorn; licorice, apocynum, and other Chinese herbs were also interplanted. Notably, by transplanting cistanche deserticola at the root of haloxylon ammondendron, the county developed a set of sand industries boasting an annual output value of RMB 80 million.



Shiny-leaved yellowhorn cultivated by local farmers

The forest biomass base for energy provides permanent management and protection jobs for 120 documented impoverished households. Each household was responsible for the management and cultivation of a stretch of forest, for which they earned an income of over RMB 30,000 a year. With the government's favorable policies and supporting funds, another 1,200 poor people worked in the sand industry for three months a year and earned an average of more than RMB 9,000, which enabled them to successfully rise out of poverty.

Aside from creating jobs for local rural households, in particular the poor ones, the local government also provided production technique training to 100 households with nurseries (including 20 impoverished ones) that were willing to participate in seedling production. The government granted funds to these households to purchase production materials by placing purchase orders in advance and provided guidance on seedling production throughout the whole process. By the end of 2018, a total of RMB 120 million worth of seedlings had been purchased and the annual income per household amounted to RMB 240,000.



A farmer digs cistanche deserticola in the forest

These specialized households sparked motivation in other rural households to cultivate seedlings. To ensure the quality of seedlings and protect farmers from price competition, under the guidance of the county government, 20 specialized households initiated over 10 professional cooperatives of farmers dedicated to seedling production, with a special focus on involving documented impoverished households without land resources. These cooperatives not only provided seedlings for relevant programs, but also cultivated apple trees, Xinjiang apricots, willows, and other economic and landscape trees, making the cooperatives' seedling production a real sense. The Makit County government encouraged the CPE to develop the industry of haloxylon ammodelndron-hosted cistanche deserticola. As local farmers proactively engaged in the development of under-forest economy, 15,000 mu of a total of 35,000 mu haloxylon ammodelndron-hosted cistanche deserticola in the base were allocated to 13,000 impoverished households in the county under CPE's centralized management. In the first three years, the revenue went directly to impoverished rural households and the enterprise encouraged them to engage in direct management of the cistanche deserticola; when the three-year

term matured, any rural household willing to continue cultivating cistanche deserticola would have the priority to extend their contracts. In this way, the county pioneered a new approach to lift the poor out of poverty by sustainably increasing their income.

Multi-partnership to Nurture the Endogenetic Impetus for Income Generation

The Makit County government paid high attention to developing ecological industries, which it regarded as an important approach for creating economic benefits. In this endeavor, it joined hands with relevant international organizations and enterprises, and made efforts including growing ecological forest bases, developing the sand industry, improving infrastructure in forest areas, encouraging rural households to engage in forestry construction and sand industrial production, and driving social involvement. Through these efforts, the extremely poor county of Makit in the Kashgar Prefecture promoted ecological restoration, economic development and ethnic solidarity. It created jobs for poverty-stricken rural households, upgraded their skills, and formed an industry with ecological advantages. The cooperatives proved to be helpful in building the spirit of contract among local farmers, letting the rural households fully benefit from the government's supporting policies in credit, taxation and technologies and standardizing enterprises' practices during their cooperation with rural households. The transition from specialized households to cooperatives not only marked significant progress for the production management model but also laid the foundation for the formation of advantageous industries in the rural area. Enhancing the endogenous development capacity of poverty-stricken households was a promise of win-win results in ecological protection and poverty alleviation.

Ecological Public Welfare Jobs in Antu County

To reduce poverty in poor areas with a fragile ecological environment and avoid further ecological damage, a common practice of the international community was to compensate eco-environmental services, more specifically, to compensate ecological function zones for giving up development opportunities. The Chinese government had made conducive innovations in this regard, including the creation of public welfare jobs for ecological management and protection. By securing stable incomes for those who work as mountain guards, forest rangers and water protectors, the government secures a win-win situation for ecological construction and poverty alleviation.

In 2016, the central government issued the ***Notice on Selecting and Recruiting Ecological Forest Rangers from Documented Impoverished People***, announcing an allocation of RMB 2 billion from the central budget to purchase ecological services and select and recruit ecological forest rangers from documented impoverished people. In the following year, a total of RMB 2.5 billion was allocated for this purpose and 370,000 documented impoverished people assumed the posts. In January 2018, according to the ***Ecological Poverty Alleviation Program***, altogether RMB 3.5 billion was used for ecological forest rangers mainly in 22 provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities in central and western China. In June 2018, the ***Guiding Opinions of the CPC Central Committee and the State Council on a Three-Year Poverty-Relief Plan*** was released. According to the Opinions, efforts should be made to reduce poverty through ecological protection, including the addition of 400,000 jobs by 2020 to recruit impoverished people who are able to work as ecological forest rangers and grassland guards. From 2016 to the end of 2019, the Chinese government allocated RMB 14 billion from the central budget and another RMB 2.7 billion from the provincial budget to bolster the selection and recruitment of one million ecological forest rangers from documented impoverished people in the poor areas. Solid results were yielded. Working as an ecological forest ranger has become a crucial way for many distressed areas to secure jobs for the poor and also an important channel for many poverty-stricken rural households to augment family income.

It was still early in the morning when Huang Yujin, a farmer living in the Gucheng Village, Wanbao Town, Antu County, Jilin Province, put on his red armband reading "Ecological Forest Ranger," turned on the engine of his motorbike and headed for the forest, starting the daily routine work of mountain ranging. As he proceeded, various sounds emerged in the serene mountain forest — the sound of a breeze blowing through leaves, the chirp of magpies, ravens, and other birds as well as the roar of roe deer from afar. Huang Yujin was responsible for the management and protection of this stretch of woodland, 95.17 hectares in total. He had become quite familiar with each and every gully, trail, fork, tree and grass in the area.

Working as an Ecological Forest Ranger Brought Great Changes to His Life

Huang Yujin, 58 years old, came from a poverty-stricken household in Antu County. Suffering from a waist injury, he found it impossible to engage in heavy labor despite being able to walk. Falling into poverty due to his injury, Huang Yujin once lived a hard life, eking out an existence with his children's support and some income his wife earned by taking odd jobs. Nevertheless, since March 2017 when Huang Yujin was hired as an ecological forest ranger by the government of Wanbao Town, his life started to change.

Huang Yujin took charge of the daily ranging of the mountain, checking if there was any trace of fire in the wild, illegal and excessive deforestation, illegal picking and excessive harvesting of protected plants, or animal hunting with traps. Sometimes he ranged the area under his guard alone and sometimes with another five forest rangers in the village to carry out the inspection. Normally he would walk approximately 10 kilometers of mountain roads every day. During the periods of high risk of forest fire, he would station himself at the mountain pass to examine the kindling and publicize information regarding forest protection and fire prevention. After work, he would give out leaflets to other villagers and publicize knowledge of forest fire prevention as well as laws and regulations such as the ***Forest Law of the People's Republic of China***. He noted every single hidden danger, even the slightest one, in each woodland or mountain gully. Day by day and corner by corner, the area he guards has gradually resumed nature's inherent tranquility.

Since 2017, not a single forest fire broke out in the management and protection area in which he worked, no incidence of illegal and excessive deforestation was identified nor was any wildlife hunted. In 2018, he was awarded the Outstanding Ecological Forest Ranger by the Antu County Forestry Bureau. As an ecological forest ranger, he earned an annual allowance of RMB 8,000, which guaranteed the couple's basic living standards. "Since I became an ecological forest ranger, we have bought a washing machine and a motorbike. With this stable source of income, adding some income earned by taking odd jobs, I believe our live will become better and better." A stable income not only assured Huang Yujin of his life, but also enhanced his determination to protect the woodland well.



Ecological forest rangers patrol the mountains in Wanbao Town, Antu County

"Ecological Forest Ranger +" Introduces New Models of Poverty Reduction

There are altogether 600 documented impoverished people like Huang Yujin who have been selected and recruited as ecological forest rangers in Antu County. The pieces of woodland they watch over totaled over 60,000 hectares. The county government provide all ecological forest rangers with rangers' vests, armbands and logbooks, arranged accident insurance and constructed make-shift houses for them in several towns and villages. To ensure that these ecological forest rangers were fully capable of woodland management and protection, the government of Antu County strengthens pre-job training with a focus on forestry policies,

laws and regulations and knowledge of fire prevention and pest control in the forest. Forestry stations of subordinate townships also carry out training seminars on an ad hoc basis. By establishing and improving the rangers' archive and entrusting the Forestry Bureau and Poverty Alleviation Office to review the health, income and other information of the rangers as members of a documented impoverished population, the government exercises a precise and dynamic management of the ecological forest rangers. Furthermore, the county government organizes the forestry stations of subordinate townships to step up day-to-day management and performance appraisal and requires the ecological forest rangers to carry with them management and protection journals at all times and keep good records of ranging activities. In the year-end assessment of 2018, each of the 31 outstanding ecological forest rangers were awarded RMB 1,000 as incentives, and 7 rangers assessed as unqualified were dismissed, which further optimized the team of ecological forest rangers.

The government of Antu County also worked to lift the ecological forest rangers out of poverty by developing industries. Aside from extending direct help to some documented impoverished people by selecting and recruiting them as ecological forest rangers, the Forestry Bureau has constructed several bases for the production of blueberries and lonicera edulis, the cultivation of lonicera edulis seedlings and Chinese medicinal herbs, as well as the demonstration of forest fruits, and organized ecological forest rangers and other documented impoverished people with labor abilities to work in such bases. In this way, the county government has explored several channels to increase the income of the poor and advance poverty relief in a stable manner.

Various Ecological Public Welfare Jobs Produce Multiple-Fold Effects

The years from 2017 to 2019 witnessed a continuous increase in subsidies allocated from the central budget, and a growth from 370,000 to 1 million for the team of ecological forest rangers. In addition, the coverage of wetland, desertified land, and grassland under ecological management and protection expanded at a steady pace and the number of people earning more money and thus shaking off poverty by working as ecological forest rangers rose from 1.08 million to 3 million. By selecting and recruiting ecological forest rangers, the government of Antu County has helped the poor with no access to jobs or skill to increase their income out of poverty through labor and further addressed the urgent problem of having insufficient people working on the front of ecological protection. This has served to develop a tightly woven and sturdy safety net for China's ecologically vulnerable areas.

With public welfare jobs for ecological management and protection, the employment of impoverished rural households was combined with ecological protection. Jobs have been created and ecological protection promoted, thus realizing dual goals of ensuring ecological protection while pursuing growth. The distressed population was encouraged to enjoy welfare through their own labor, instead of solely depending on or "waiting for, relying on and asking for" government assistance. By setting up public welfare posts in an open, fair, and impartial manner, the government has made sure that the poverty-stricken population with labor abilities could earn subsidies through labor and the non-impoverished population will not feel jealous, which ultimately decreases the incidence of social conflicts at the community level. Ecological forest rangers are only one example of various ecological public welfare

jobs. As of now, China has created many kinds of ecological public welfare jobs, including ecological forest rangers, ecological wetland and grassland rangers, desertified land enclosed protection rangers, aquatic ecosystem protection workers, and rural ecological protection workers, among others.

By providing subsidiaries that are higher than the poverty line, ecological public welfare jobs further stimulated the initiative and motivation of the poor and effectively improved the duty performance capacity and poverty reduction and wealth creation skills of ecological public welfare workers. In poverty-stricken areas, a batch of large family businesses dealing in forests and grasslands, industry experts and entrepreneurs emerged. Beyond the marked improvement in their livelihood in material terms, the once distressed people embraced great changes in their spiritual outlook and significantly increased their sense of pride and the awareness of responsibility in ecological protection and contributions to society.

Chapter IV Shared Prosperity

Overcoming inequality is a challenge faced by all countries in their development. It is an essential requirement of socialism to lift people out of poverty and improve their livelihoods for ultimate common prosperity. A moderately prosperous society in all respects is not complete without prosperity in rural areas, especially in poverty-stricken regions. The Chinese government has been committed to the philosophy of people-oriented development and attached great importance to shared benefits. It has worked unremittingly to enable more people to share prosperity and balance unevenly distributed benefits occurring from development so that everyone can participate in and share opportunities of these benefits. China has provided preferential policies and resources for impoverished people and intensified efforts in poverty alleviation for women and the old, weak, sick and disabled to guarantee their absolute standard of living, and promote equal access to education, health care and other public services, with no minorities or individuals left behind.

Guizhou Province has vigorously developed preschool education in rural areas, which offers more and more children of school age from poverty-stricken families in rural Guizhou access to public preschool education to break the cycle of intergenerational poverty. Likewise, the Dewdrop Project has provided poverty-stricken people with specialized and employment-and-entrepreneurship-oriented technical trainings and funds. The Gannan Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture has implemented the three guarantees - guarantee of access to basic medical insurance, insurance for severe diseases, and medical assistance - across the region to cover all impoverished people through getting them insured and subsidized, visiting their community for public treatment and publicizing related policies. Zhenba County, Shaanxi Province, has explored a new path featuring precise recognition, service, and treatment for the ultimate goal of targeted poverty alleviation. The system for minimum living standards in Lujiang has enhanced social security networks for people most in need through institutions for hearings, publicity, verification and review. Since the beginning of the 21st century, China has intensified its efforts in poverty alleviation through social guarantees with increased investment in public services like health care and education. It has guaranteed basic subsistence for the poor, enabled people throughout society to share the benefits of development in a more full and fair manner, and laid a solid foundation for a long-term effective mechanism against relative poverty after 2020.



Section I Poverty Alleviation through Education

Develop Preschool Education in Rural Areas to Prevent Intergenerational Transmission of Poverty

"Poverty alleviation requires a change of attitude and the support of education." Poverty alleviation through education is a fundamental policy in overcoming poverty. President Xi has repeatedly stressed the need to vigorously develop education in poverty-stricken areas so that children can receive a good education and the intergenerational transmission of poverty can be blocked.

Raising a child is the beginning of promoting all-round development of human beings and preschool education is the starting point of lifelong education. Affected by the level of economic development, natural environment and other factors, the development of preschool education in rural areas, especially in western China, lags behind. In particular, the difficulties facing rural children who should be enrolled in kindergarten need to be solved in a more effective way. China attaches great importance to rural preschool education. Since 2010, three phases of the *Three-year Action Plan on Preschool Education* have been implemented in counties nationwide. The gross enrollment rate of preschool education in the three years has increased from 56.6% in 2010 to 81.7% in 2018.

Several Opinions of the CPC Central Committee and the State Council on Deepening Reform and Regulating Development of Preschool Education issued in November 2018 emphasized that we should take the development of inclusive preschool education as a key task, focus on expanding inclusive resources in rural areas and poverty-stricken areas, improve the child subsidy system and give priority to central and western rural areas and poverty-stricken areas in order to ensure that children with financial difficulties (including children from documented impoverished households and families supported by subsistence allowances, and children who are in extreme poverty and supported by government), orphans, and disabled children are subsidized. The *Opinions* points out that by 2020, the national gross enrollment rate of the three-year preschool education will reach the goal of 85%, the coverage rate of inclusive kindergartens 80%, and that the three-year preschool education will be fully popularized by 2035.

Mou Qinfeng (elder brother) and Mou Yuting (sister) are from Shangba Village, Pingyuan Town, Dejiang County, Guizhou Province. The vast majority of the villagers suffer from poverty due to harsh geographical conditions and backward infrastructures. Like most of the young people in the village, their parents work far away from their hometown, leaving them at home to be cared for by their grandparents. It would take them half an hour to reach the nearest kindergarten and their elderly

grandparents were unable to pick them up. Going to kindergarten became a dream beyond the reach of these two children. In 2018, their mother found a job as a cleaner in the property of Dalong Development Zone, Yuping County, their father was employed as a worker by Dalong Zhongwei Group and the children could also enter the Dalong Town Third Kindergarten in the newly-built community. The family could unite and the parents will have more time to see their children grow up. "After entering the kindergarten, they pay attention to hygiene and etiquette and sometimes remind us to wash our hands before eating and take a bath every day." Xiang Guohong, their mother, said excitedly, "In the kindergarten, my kids can enjoy a nutritious lunch and state subsidies. Thanks to the Party and the government for such a good policy. All of us feel very happy."

Moving to New Houses and Entering New Kindergartens

Located in Southwest China, Guizhou is the province with the largest impoverished population, the widest range and the deepest degree of poverty in China. In the past, most of the scattered children in remote rural areas were unable to enter kindergartens for preschool education due to inconvenient transportation. Since moving into the newly-built communities, children can go to kindergartens built in their communities and receive public welfare and inclusive preschool education, ending the trend of no kindergarten education for children in remote rural areas. During the 13th Five-Year Plan period, Guizhou invested nearly RMB 5 billion to build, reconstruct and expand nearly 300 matched kindergartens in residential areas, covering an additional area of more than one million square meters. It helped nearly 80,000 children enter kindergartens in remote and poverty-stricken areas, granted children access to preschool education in their neighborhood, overcame the difficulties of preschool education for school-age children in remote mountainous areas and promoted educational equality.



Inclusive kindergartens in the newly-built community in Huishui County

Inclusive Kindergartens in the Neighborhood

Since 2011, Guizhou Province has implemented preschool education breakthrough projects successively. According to the principle of giving priority to public kindergartens in rural areas, Guizhou Province has continuously strengthened the construction of rural public kindergartens in poverty-stricken areas. In 2015, each town in Guizhou Province possessed at least one public kindergarten, realizing the national goal five years ahead of schedule. In order to solve children's difficulties in accessing kindergartens in remote and poor rural areas, the provincial Party committee and government of Guizhou Province

put forward the goal of building 2 public kindergartens in towns with more than 30,000 permanent residents and public kindergartens in large villages with over 2,000 permanent residents. By the end of 2019, kindergartens have been built in nearly 70% of the administrative villages and public kindergartens have been built in 50% of the administrative villages. The provincial gross enrollment rate of the three-year preschool education has reached 88% and the coverage rate of inclusive kindergartens 79.8%, both of which exceed the national average level. A public service network of rural public welfare and inclusive preschool education has been preliminarily established, with central kindergartens in towns and smaller sites in villages. In the Spring Festival of 2015, 3,300 children in Tongren City, attracted by the new public kindergartens in rural areas that were as beautiful as those in cities, returned to the countryside from other places and some from cities.



Central kindergarten of Lushan Town, Kaili City

High-quality Kindergartens for Children in Mountainous Areas

In order to improve preschool education in rural poverty-stricken areas from "being enrolled by kindergartens" to "enjoying high-quality kindergartens", Guizhou adopted various ways to regulate the kindergarten administration behavior and improve the quality of preschool education. First, special funds are arranged yearly to promote the quality of preschool education. In 2018 and 2019, a total of RMB 80 million was invested to improve the quality of responsibility zones for teaching and research guidance and central kindergartens in towns. Second, with high-quality kindergartens taking the lead, 400 management sharing communities of kindergarten have been established to cover all public and private kindergartens throughout the province. They resolved nonstandard management problems in weak, new and private kindergartens by adopting methods such as teachers' rotation, pairing assistance at selected sites and delegating headmasters. Third, the province has established a responsibility zone of teaching and research guidance under the leadership of high-quality kindergartens. Through centralized teaching and research, on-the-spot guidance, action-oriented research, and other means, rural preschool teachers in the responsibility zone are assisted to improve their professional skills and teaching performance. Fourth, the management resource center for rural kindergartens was established based on township central kindergartens to provide guidance on health care and education, curriculum resource support, and teaching management demonstration for kindergartens in villages in order to promote the integrated management of township and village.




The kindergarten in Kaitian Village, Wanshan District

Ensuring Good Appetites in Kindergartens

Most of kindergartens in villages are attached to the primary school campus and transformed from idle school buildings. They have difficulties in supplying healthy and nutritious meals conforming to scientific dietary habits. In 2016, Guizhou extended the nutrition improvement program from compulsory education to preschool education, taking the lead in implementing the nutrition improvement program for rural preschool children in China. The government provides RMB 3 (RMB 600 a year) of nutrition and dietary subsidies for each rural preschool child every day, scientifically arranges their recipes, standardizes procurement procedures and safeguards food safety, which has not only improved children's physical conditions but also reduced the burden on poor families. Since the implementation of the 13th Five Year Plan, Guizhou has invested a total of RMB 1.627 billion in the nutrition improvement program for rural preschool children, benefiting 3.1838 million students and achieving full coverage of rural preschool education institutions in this program in 2018.




Nutritious Food for Preschool Children

By strengthening the construction of rural public kindergartens in poverty-stricken areas, children can receive high-quality preschool education in their own neighborhood, which not only solves the problems of being "difficult to enter the kindergarten" and "far away from kindergarten" for school-age children in remote mountainous areas but also make full use of urban education resources to realize the locals' long cherished wish to send children to a nearby "high-quality kindergarten". It

promotes educational equity, grants children in poverty-stricken areas high-quality education from an early age, blocks the intergenerational transmission of poverty and provides a valuable reference to rural preschool education in remote areas.

The Dewdrop Project Promoted Poverty Alleviation

The Dewdrop Project is a state-funded human resource development project included in the household-to-household poverty alleviation policy to lead emerging laborers from poverty-stricken families to access modern vocational education and reduce poverty through the development of skills. Since its implementation in 2004, the goal of the policy has shifted in accordance with the requirements of poverty alleviation in different stages, from mainly providing short-term job trainings for labor transfers from impoverished households to supporting secondary and higher vocational education for laborers emerging from poverty-stricken families. The impoverished population can directly benefit from the One Card Link instead of previously gaining indirect benefits from government-subsidized training institutions. As the battle against poverty raged on in 2015, the Dewdrop Project has become an inclusive policy to benefit impoverished families with all their children receiving secondary and higher vocational education, which covers all that needed to be benefited.

Remarkable achievements were made in the first year since the Dewdrop Project was launched across the nation, with over 2.8 million emerging laborers from impoverished households gaining access to vocational education in 2019. Thanks to the project, these students from poverty-stricken families received the opportunity to distinguish themselves by attaining new skills; their family shook off intergenerational poverty; the goal to lift the entire family out of poverty and help people live a well-off life by "educating and training one person from an impoverished family for employment and entrepreneurship" was realized; and it laid a solid foundation for the new industrialization and urbanization process with the support of technical talents. The fully implemented Dewdrop Project has marked a new stage in efforts in poverty alleviation and development, changing from heavily depending on the development of natural resources to featuring simultaneous development of natural resources and human resources.

Chen Lili from Jiangguantun Sub-district Office of Liaocheng Hi-tech Industrial Development Zone was born in a rural poor household. Her parents supported her and her brother's schooling with meager income from farm work. Due to financial difficulties in the family, she once thought about dropping out to work. However, because of the Dewdrop Project, she managed to further her study in Liaocheng Technical College of Electromechanical Engineering with tuition and accommodation fees exempted and an annual grant-in-aid of RMB 1,500 for two-year schooling. After graduation, Chen was assigned to work in Kyocera Shanghai, with a monthly salary of over RMB 4,000 to support the daily expense of her family and her brother's schooling. Within less than two years, Chen became the head of the whole production line, where she was in charge of its production and operations. Chen said that she would never forget the help from the Project and that she would help others and contribute to society in return with gratitude. In 2019, the daughter of Chen Shilan, another student from the documented impoverished household in Wutang Village, Shouzhang Town, Yanggu County, was also admitted by Liaocheng Technical College of Electromechanical Engineering under the scholarship of the Dewdrop Project. She is pursuing her own self-development like Chen.

Access Education Needed by Junior and Senior High School Dropouts for Poverty Alleviation

Shandong is one of the most populous poverty-stricken provinces in eastern China. By the end of 2015, there were 9,000 or 1.68 % households that fell into poverty due to schooling across the province. Ren Zhiqiang from Xianfeng Sub-district Office of Linqing, Liaocheng, a child of a four-person rural family, had to drop out after junior high school for a lack of financial support from his family. Fu Chao from Zhaozhaizi Town, Gaotang County, Liaocheng, shared a similar experience. He was a straight-A student in junior high school; however, due to the financial difficulties from his grandmother's medical bills, he could not afford further education and was forced to drop out. It has become an important task for Shandong Province in its poverty alleviation and development to allow access to excellent education for junior and senior high school dropouts with financial difficulties so that they can obtain academic success and support their family.

Target the Right Groups and Ensure Academic Success for Junior and Senior High School Dropouts

In March 2007, Liaocheng Technical College of Electromechanical Engineering was decided by the State Council Leading Group Office of Poverty Alleviation and Development as the only demonstration base for the national Dewdrop Project in Shandong Province. It has provided opportunities to more junior and senior high school dropouts due to family difficulties like Ren Zhiqiang and Fu Chao since then. In 2012, the government of Shandong Province launched trainings on the transfer of impoverished laborers for employment based on the Project and implemented the new ten-year plan for poverty alleviation and development. The first experimental class of Dewdrop Project in Shangdong was opened in the fourth campus of Liaocheng Advanced Engineering College with 30 students admitted from extremely poor rural households in five prefecture-level cities, including Dezhou, Binzhou, Linyi, Heze and Liaocheng. The class was intended to cultivate talent with intermediate skills in CNC machines and programming under a three-year schooling schedule. Shi Yan, a beneficiary of the Dewdrop Project from Lun Town, Yucheng City, was admitted by Technician College of Liaocheng City for a three-year education in CNC processing including theory and practice under scholarship in 2015.



Students in the college learning CNC skills and practical applications

The experimental class of the Dewdrop Project enjoy special management and preferential policy assistance. The expenses of tuition and accommodation, textbooks, experimental materials, medical insurance for residents in towns and urban cities, and post-graduation certificates are all covered by subsidies for poverty alleviation during school years. Students are supplied with free daily necessities, like quilts. In accordance with national laws and regulations, every student enjoys a national grant-in-aid of RMB 1,500 every year and is subsidized a living allowance of RMB 450 per month during their school years. Those from the extremely poor families can also apply for transportation allowance.



Students learning practical skills in the automobile manufacturing industry

Some students in the experimental class are from single-parent or disabled families with special difficulties. Therefore, the college made tracking files for every student, opened the green corridor from admission and enrollment-to-employment and settlement and provided special services and poverty alleviation policies to benefit those from extremely poor households in real terms and empower them with skills. The college also implemented work-study programs in cooperation with enterprises like Haier and Hisense in Qingdao for students to earn a salary of RMB 6,000 to 7,000 during summer vacation so that these thoughtful children can support their family instead of asking for money.

So far, 600 students from extremely poor families have been enrolled in the experimental class and settled graduates gained employment with an average monthly income of over RMB 5,000 or even as high as nearly RMB 6,000. The employed students help their family rise out of poverty once and for all. It is like a dream coming true for one well-off individual lifting the whole family out of poverty.

Innovate Training Mechanisms to Meet Market Demands

The Dewdrop Project in education is an important means to prevent the intergenerational transmission of poverty and effectively implement targeted poverty alleviation. In light of new circumstances and tasks in national poverty alleviation through education, the Liaocheng municipal government has intensified school-system-based vocational education and skill training for junior and senior dropouts from documented impoverished rural households. It has vigorously conducted trainings on practical skills and management and operation expertise for young laborers from documented poor rural families to connect training and labor transfer with poverty alleviation and prosperity. Meanwhile, a system for follow-up services has been established for students to monitor their employment, salary, career development, and changes in salary and family financial situations and poverty alleviation sustainability to ensure the stable employment of students from documented impoverished households in rural areas. The Dewdrop Project provided all-in-one services from training, certification, recommendation, employment to rights protection and practiced a recall system for settled graduates. That is to say, those who cannot adapt to the new work environment or need further education are always welcome to return to the college for free training and business instructions. The refinement of technical skills and the example set for students in college drive home the sense of a promising future and great benefits with on-hand skills and make the college a lifelong refueling station for self-development in poverty alleviation through education with the support of the Dewdrop Project.

Section II Poverty Alleviation through Healthcare

Gannan Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture: Poverty Alleviation through Healthcare Removes People's Worries and Triple Guarantees of Medicare Access Warm Hearts

Medical security is an important institutional undertaking aimed to lessen the medical burden of people, enhance public welfare and maintain social harmony and stability. It purchases medical services on behalf of the insured and provides financial guarantees for patients; thus, safeguarding people's health. China has established a basic healthcare insurance system nationwide with 95% of its population covered as of 2019, weaving the largest health care safety net in the world to prevent returning to poverty as a result of illness.

China attaches great importance to poverty alleviation. It has focused on poverty caused by disease as a hard problem with intensive efforts, continuously advanced the reform of the national healthcare system and experienced breakthroughs in addressing the difficulties and high costs of medical care. In 2018, the ***Three-year Action Plan for Poverty Alleviation Through Medical Security*** (2018-2020), the ***Guiding Opinions on Resolutely Fulfilling the Difficult Task of Poverty Alleviation through Healthcare***, and the ***Notice on Winning the Battle of Poverty Alleviation through Healthcare with High Quality*** were issued successively. Aimed at alleviating disease-caused poverty and a relapse into poverty, and centered on the goal of ensuring that documented impoverished people can access healthcare, the government has generally planned the systems of basic medical insurance, critical illness insurance, and medical aid, subsidized individual's medical insurance premium, encouraged insurance participation and ensured that the insured have access to medical care as much as possible. In addition to the three systems mentioned above and successive measures to relieve the financial burden of impoverished patients, the government has implemented a "one-stop settlement" of medical bills and facilitated medical treatment across provinces to provide convenient settlement of medical treatment for the impoverished. Policies that give preferential financial support, encourage the "Internet +" healthcare initiative and ensure the same treatment as a registered region of medical insurance for reasonable transfer of patients between hospitals within the province are adopted to make high-quality medical services more accessible to poverty-stricken areas.

According to July 2020 statistics, 9.98 million impoverished households, as a result of illness and those returning to poverty due to disease, risen out of poverty and the impoverished had access to basic medical insurance in general. In 2019, over 99.9% of the documented impoverished people nationwide were included in the healthcare system with the government subsidizing 70% of the premium per capita. Policies on poverty alleviation through healthcare have benefited impoverished outpatients and inpatients, numbering nearly 200 million instances, with a reduced medical expense of nearly RMB 136 billion for the impoverished, and they have lifted

4.18 million people out of poverty within a year.

Gannan Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture (hereinafter referred to as "Gannan Prefecture"), located in the northeast edge of the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau, is one of the main battlefields in poverty alleviation as a result of its harsh natural environment and underdeveloped agriculture and animal husbandry. In accordance with the general requirements of "ensuring access to basic healthcare", the whole Prefecture has been committed to winning the battle against poverty through healthcare and made solid efforts to improve people's lives with heartwarming projects, effectively reducing expensive medical bills and improving access to quality medical services.

Triple Heartwarming Guarantees of Access to Medical Security

In early 2018, Danzhicairang from Amuquhu Town, Xiahe County, was diagnosed with uremia caused by chronic kidney disease and had a kidney transplant surgery. Later, due to his body's rejection of the transplanted kidney and other reasons, he suffered a relapse and made multiple trips to hospitals in many places for treatment. The overwhelmingly expensive medical bills burdened his family and the follow-up treatment was also expensive. The policy of three guarantee systems of "basic medical insurance, critical illness insurance, and medical aid" and the successive burden-reducing measure included in poverty alleviation through healthcare brought hope to this poverty-stricken household with a subsidy of over RMB 360,000 towards the total expense of over RMB 430,000. In addition, his daily outpatient medical expenses were covered in the scope of reimbursement for outpatient care of chronic and special diseases. Since 2019, RMB 59,950 out of the total outpatient expense of RMB 67,550 has been reimbursed, which was a great financial relief for his family in his subsequent treatment.



Danzhicairang Undergoing Treatment

In order to continuously raise people's senses of fulfillment and happiness, Gannan Prefecture has issued an overall plan for basic medical insurance with eight supporting measures to further improve corresponding policies. It has set the deductible lines of intra-provincial tertiary hospitals, intra-prefecture Grade A secondary hospitals, intra-prefecture Grade B secondary hospitals, and intra-prefecture primary hospitals as RMB 2,000, 600, 500 and 200 with a reimbursement expense ratio of 60%, 70%, 75% and 85%, respectively. From January to June 2020, the basic medical insurance expense for the documented impoverished population throughout the Prefecture reached RMB 38.86 million. The triple-level system, consisting of basic medical insurance, preferential critical illness insurance and subsequent medical aid, has reduced the financial burden of impoverished people receiving medical treatment and effectively prevented people from falling into poverty or returning to poverty due to illness.

Comprehensive Coverage of Subsidy Policies

Naorilamao from Awancang Town, Maqu County, is the only breadwinner of his family with three children to support. Without other labor or economic sources, his family remains one of the 39 impoverished households in the county. The annual premium for basic medical insurance for the whole family costs RMB 1,000 (RMB 250 per family member), a large expense given their meager income. However, thanks to the assistance policy for insured documented impoverished people, they only pay RMB 400 with a government subsidy of RMB 600, which has greatly reduced their burden.

In fact, Naorilamao is one of the numerous beneficiaries of the policy. In addition to inclusive fiscal subsidies for urban and rural residents included in the basic medical insurance system, the government of Gannan Prefecture also subsidizes the impoverished in their personal contributions to the premium. In fact, it pays the full premium for the extremely poor and orphans and a fixed proportion for the documented impoverished population. These subsidies under different standards were deposited in "smart cards" issued by the financial department to ensure that the money can be given in a timely manner to the people in need and in full amount. By August 2020, a total of 193,918 people throughout the Prefecture had been granted subsidies of RMB 31.56 million in aggregate for personal contributions.

Public Benefit Measures to Add Convenience for People

Gericao, an old man in his 80s living in Kajiadao Township, Hezuo City, suffered from diabetes, but failed in the application for the reimbursement of his medical bills for chronic diseases. He lacked a certificate from corresponding medical institutions for the chronic disease since his children work away from their hometown and he had difficulties in mobility. In light of this, the official from Hezuo Healthcare Security Bureau opened a green channel for him and dispatched medical personnel to collect blood samples at his home and sent it to the Gannan People's Hospital for testing. They completed the procedures for a chronic disease certificate and explained the medical insurance policy to him. China has established a guarantee mechanism for outpatient medicines for high blood pressure and diabetes, which also pleased the old man and he said with excitement, "It's really great. With the chronic disease certificate, I can get reimbursement for my medical costs. I don't have to worry about the expenses anymore."



Experts visiting mobility-impaired patients with chronic diseases from the documented impoverished households to identify their diseases

In Gannan Prefecture, there are many mobility-impaired older people like Gericao who are suffering from chronic diseases and can't go to medical institutions by themselves. Therefore, the Prefecture opened a green channel for the identification of chronic diseases for people from documented impoverished households and organized experts to visit them for disease identification. The Prefecture also implemented measures including "payment after treatment", "one-stop" settlement of medical

bills under the triple guarantee systems and application for chronic disease certification at any time in order to provide convenience for impoverished patients to the greatest extent and ease their burden. As of May 2020, 156 chronic disease certificates have been delivered to the documented impoverished households, bringing them the real benefits of the poverty alleviation policies.

Policy Publicity to Answer People's Doubts

For ordinary people, the most practical questions close to their life tend to be their primary concerns in healthcare. The most concerned and frequently asked questions include how to get insured, who to visit in case of illness, how to transfer patients to other hospitals for the treatment of critical illness, and how to receive reimbursement. To address these questions, Gannan Prefecture has taken multiple approaches to constantly introduce policies, answer people's questions personally, and receive feedback peer-to-peer in order to help more people understand these policies.



Distributing brochures to people

The government has compiled standard, correct and concise brochures on medical insurance policies and conventional procedures of medical treatment with focuses on publicizing subsidies for premiums, medical treatments, reimbursement processes, outpatient treatment for special and chronic diseases, multi-level medical systems and the filing and reimbursement of medical treatment in other places for migrant patients. The government has also intensified the promotion of policies through media such as radio stations in villages, CDs, text messages, LED screens on cars, and WeChat official accounts as well as printed materials including ***FAQs about Medical Insurance Policies in Chinese and Tibetan***. In addition, Luqu, Maqu, and Xiahe counties produced the Tibetan versions of videos on FAQs about medical insurance policies in broad circulation, effectively helping the documented impoverished people understand policies.

By May 2020, all documented impoverished people in need living in the Prefecture had been covered with medical insurance and subsidies, and the three guarantee systems of basic medical insurance, critical illness insurance, and medical aid have been fully implemented in order to ensure that the impoverished population can enjoy the benefits of policies on poverty alleviation through healthcare.

Zhenba County of Shaanxi Province: Do More with Less Money and Achieve Moderate Prosperity with Better Healthcare

In December 2014, when President Xi Jinping visited the Health Center in Shiye Town, Zhenjiang City, Jiangsu Province, he first put forward the idea that there is no general wellbeing without universal access to healthcare. He noted that medical and health services are directly related to people's health. It is necessary to shift the focus and resources of medical care down to the grassroots level, grant equal access to basic public services in urban and rural areas and provide safe, effective, convenient, and cost-efficient public health and basic medical services for our people in order to truly solve the difficulties of limited access and high costs of medical treatment at base level.

Since 2016, policies such as the ***Guiding Opinions on Implementing Poverty Alleviation through Healthcare, Action Plan of Three Batches of Poverty Alleviation through Healthcare, Notice on Promoting Contracted Services of Family Doctors, and Notice on Contracted Service of Family Doctors for the Treatment of Chronic Diseases of Poor Population*** have been successively issued. It is required to accurately identify the people falling into poverty due to disease and help them in a targeted way using the Three Batches approach (centralized treatment for a group of people with serious diseases, contracted services for chronic diseases, and basic treatment for severe illnesses) in order to implement standardized management, provide health services for people suffering chronic diseases such as hypertension, diabetes, tuberculosis and serious mental disorders, effectively prevent chronic diseases from turning into serious diseases, and relieve the medical burden on the poor.

According to the above requirements, all parts of China have actively explored the path of poverty alleviation through healthcare and the service model using contracted services of family doctors based on their real situations. Efforts have been made to promote contracted services of family doctors as an effective means of poverty alleviation via healthcare in a specific and down-to-earth manner for the regulation, management and effective control of chronic disease.

Zhenba County in Shaanxi Province is located in the contiguous poverty-stricken area among the Qinling-Dabashan Mountains, known as a provincial-level seriously impoverished county. In early 2016, there were 129 poverty-stricken villages in the county, including 10 extremely poverty-stricken villages, 19,572 documented poor households and 54,411 people, with a poverty headcount ratio of 24.11%. Among them, there were 22,751 people in 9,862 households returning or falling into poverty caused by disease, accounting for 38%.

In light of the status quo of a huge population suffering from poverty caused by disease and the shortage of primary medical resources, Zhenba County has focused on implementing a precise identification method using four-step screening in order to figure out the recipient of support. It has

innovated the 2+2+1 model of contracted family doctor team services in order to identify the provider of support and established a working system underpinned by services and knowledge publicity to find the way for support. Through accurate identification, services and treatment, targeted poverty alleviation and well-managed exit can finally be achieved.

Four-Step Screening to Accurately Identify Patients

In order to identify accurately patients and varied treatment from person to person, Zhenba County took the lead in implementing the four-step screening in the first round of data cleaning. The first step is to set standards, namely to formulate physical examination standards and screening programs, assign experts, and organize training in a centralized way for regulated screening and identification. The second step is to carry out physical examinations, namely to conduct comprehensive physical examinations for the poor people in the county by combining centralized and on-site physical examination. The third step is to conduct comparison and verification, namely to inspect each person and household to compare the data with that of the national system for poverty alleviation and development; thus, straightening out the primary and secondary causes of poverty and publishing the final list of people who have fallen into or returned to poverty due to illness. The fourth step is to evaluate and classify the groups, namely to ensure cooperation of county, town, and village doctors for analysis and assessment to accurately classify the patients and implement targeted treatment according to the Three Batches strategy.



Zhenba County implemented the four-step screening, a method for accurate identification, in poor people's physical examination

Promoting the "2 + 2 + 1" Model to Improve the Quality of Contracted Services

To bring high-quality medical resources to the poverty-stricken mountainous areas, Zhenba County innovated and implemented the "2 + 2 + 1" (one village doctor and one village cadre on healthcare





"2+2+1" contracted doctor team conducted services in Zhenba County

plus one township doctor and one township cadre on healthcare plus one county-level instructor) model of contracted family services. First, they established a contracted team and clarified its responsibilities and tasks. The health and medical resources of the whole county were integrated, with 866 doctors selected for 178 teams to provide contracted family doctor services and 31 county-level core physicians for the Guiding Physician Team on Chronic Diseases to provide specified contracted services by certain frequency. Second, they enriched the connotation of contracted services and standardized the service process. The contracted service was combined with hierarchical diagnosis and treatment, basic ability improvement, etc., and the related processes such as home service and follow-up visits after discharge were also clarified. Third, they strengthened the assessment and incentives to improve the quality of service. Each year, it raises RMB 2.9 million as the fee for contracted service to develop 178 village-level public welfare posts on healthcare and selects star teams of contracted service on a quarterly basis.

Experimenting with the Internet Plus Poverty Alleviation through Healthcare Project for Higher Service Efficiency

The model of Internet Plus Poverty Alleviation through Healthcare should be actively explored, so that people in mountainous areas can benefit from the latest medical technology. The first step is to build the Internet Plus Poverty Alleviation through Healthcare data platform to introduce data related to chronic disease management service into medical treatment in order to enhance the accuracy of medical diagnosis. Research and judgment with big data should be strengthened to support the decisions for the mechanism of poverty alleviation through healthcare. The second step is to develop the mobile management system of contracted family doctor services, so that the contracted doctors can record their service process. The residents' management portal should be opened for self-health management. The third step is to vigorously carry out remote diagnosis and treatment services by building an online education and training system, strengthening business training at the grassroot level and promoting the construction of a medical and health information platform.



Big data platform for Internet Plus Poverty Alleviation through Healthcare in Zhenba County

Organizing the Three Teams to Publicize Knowledge about Health and Promote Public Health Literacy

In order to improve the health literacy of the whole population and control the incidence of poverty caused by disease, the medical staff set up the Three Teams to carry out health education and publicity activities. First, both health and literary arts should be delivered to rural areas. The Literary and Art Publicity Team for Poverty Alleviation through Healthcare was organized to publicize related policies

and health expertise through cultural programs like Yugu (a percussion instrument made of bamboo) and Kuaiban (traditional ballad of talking and singing) that people love to see and hear. A total of 145 performances were presented in villages, benefiting more than 200,000 people. **Second, publicity should be conducted in public institutions and schools**. The Health Expertise Publicity Group and Sunshine Youth Health Guidance Group were set up to give lectures in institutions, enterprises, schools, and other places, with a total of more than 100 shows benefiting more than 70,000 people. **Third, it is necessary to have dual propagations both online and offline**. While organizing the above-mentioned activities at the grassroot level, the teams also spread cultural programs widely on new media platforms such as WeChat, Tik Tok, etc.





BThe Literary and Art Publicity Team for Poverty Alleviation through Healthcare gave performances in villages to publicize health knowledge in Zhenba County

Establishing the One-Two-Five Guarantee Mechanism to Lay a Solid Foundation for the Construction of a Healthy Zhenba County

The goal of constructing a healthy community in Zhenba should be established, with efforts made to grasp the two key points of reducing stock and controlling increments, building five major systems. **The First is the overall design, planning and coordination system**. In this system, the County Party Committee and Secretary General of the Town Office take the lead; the county, bureau and town chiefs shoulder the main responsibility; and township cadres, First Secretaries, designated focal points and contracted doctors play a major part. Overall coordination should be achieved between the government, business and associations at the county level, with coordinated plans at the township level in a comprehensive work scheme, business alignment, personnel arrangement and funding, and a six-in-one approach at the village level combining study and work, implementation, training attendance, received supervision, information sharing and performance assessment. **The second is a service security system**. The "3 + X" medical security system of basic medical insurance plus serious illness insurance, medical assistance and other means should be implemented and



The National On-site Promotion Meeting of Contracted Service for Poor People with Chronic Diseases was held in Zhenba County in October 2018

medical security standards for the poor population should be effectively improved. Third, a system for ability enhancement. Each year, the county budget has included RMB 2 million as a special fund for health workforce development. In the past three years, 460 health professionals have been recruited and trained and more than 190 medical institutions in counties, towns, and villages have been built or renovated. Fourth, a health management system. It is necessary to implement the Precise Medicine Research, a key national R&D program, and strengthen health education and promotion. And fifth, a supervision and performance assessment system. Poverty alleviation through healthcare should be conducted under the supervision of the Party committee, government, and People's Congress. The assessment results should be linked to the appointment of cadres, award assessment and performance appraisal.

Exploring the Zhenba Path for Poverty Alleviation through Healthcare and Share its Experience to Benefit All

After several years of exploration and practice, Zhenba County has blazed a path for poverty alleviation through healthcare, in which they learned to do more with less money and achieve moderate prosperity with better healthcare. The hospitalization rate of the poor population in the county reached 93 %, the special treatment rate of serious diseases 100 %, the standardized management rate of chronic diseases more than 88 % and the health literacy of residents increased from 8.7 % in 2018 to 14.7 % in 2019. Households in the county that fell into poverty or returned to poverty will have decreased from 22,751 in 9,862 households in early 2016 to 48 people in 21 households by the end of 2020 and the rate of health-related poverty down from 38 % to 1.5 %. The Zhenba Path has been widely applied in many parts of the country.

Section III Poverty Alleviation through Social Guarantees

Transparent and Targeted Social Assistance to Fight Poverty in Lujiang

The subsistence allowance system is a social security system initiated by the Ministry of Finance and local governments to subsidize impoverished households with an average per capita income below local minimum living standards to sustain their daily needs. In the 1990s, China implemented the subsistence allowance system for urban residents on a full scale and continued to explore the model, and gradually promoted one for rural residents. In 2007, the ***Notice of the State Council on Establishing the Rural Minimum Living Standard Security System across the Country*** expanded the subsistence allowance system for rural residents nationwide. Since the launch of the fight against poverty, poverty alleviation through rural subsistence allowance has become one of the most important measures to ensure social subsistence security in the "five-pronged initiative" for targeted poverty alleviation. A series of documents including the ***Instructions on Connecting Rural Subsistence Allowance System with Poverty Alleviation Policies*** and the ***Opinions on Earnestly Implementing Social Subsistence Assistance for People in the Three-Year Action Plan to Win the Battle against Poverty*** were issued to support poverty alleviation through the subsistence allowance system and stimulate the will power of impoverished people to rise out of poverty and increase their income instead of simply giving them financial support. Specific measures in this regard include strengthening the connection between the subsistence allowance system for rural residents and poverty alleviation and development, improving the system and the corresponding evaluation and identification methods, implementing the supporting system for the extremely poor in all respects, intensifying temporary assistance and strengthening the connection among related poverty alleviation policies.

So far, the subsistence allowances for rural residents in all counties (municipalities and districts) across the country have reached the national poverty alleviation standard, which increased from RMB 2,434 in 2013 to RMB 4,833 in 2018. By the end of 2019, 34.56 million farmers nationwide had enjoyed the subsistence allowance and 4.39 million received subsidies for rural residents living in extreme poverty. The subsistence allowance in rural areas is the bottom line of defense against poverty to ensure that the old, weak, sick and disabled incapable of work have access to stable social assistance in the fight against poverty.

Building a Tightly Woven Network of the Subsistence Allowance System for Poverty Eradication

Xu Zihai from the Shangen Group, Mingsheng Village, Yefushan Town, Lujiang County, had two sons

and a daughter. He and his wife lived a comfortable life with their youngest son as their daughter started her own family after marriage. Unfortunately, nothing good lasts forever. In 2010 and 2013, Xu's two sons both died from liver cancer. The old couple were devastated and always in tears, seeing the fragmented family and their young grandson.

Mingsheng Village categorized Xu's family as an impoverished household in Category A, granted minimum subsistence allowance for the three people in his family and then provided him with a public service position as a village cleaner with an income that will sustain a normal life. In 2017, Xu's family was no longer in poverty. He was very grateful for the subsistence allowance policies, "had it not been for the thoughtful policies of the Party and the government, my family wouldn't have gotten through the tough days!"

On the other side of Lujiang County, the family of Li Youlin from Lizhuang Group, Yongqiao Village, Wanshan Town, lived a relatively comfortable life with a modest income. However, in 2016, then 34-year-old Li Youlin, breadwinner of his family and father of two school-aged children, was diagnosed with stomach cancer. The medical bills hollowed out the family and incurred heavy debt. His wife had to work in a factory to support the family, yet they failed to make ends meet. In 2018, after the village officials investigated their situation, they affirmed that Li's family was qualified for the application of the subsistence allowance and filed the application for them so that they could receive an allowance of RMB 1,229 every month, providing a strong support to the family that fell into poverty due to illness.

The stories of Xu Zihai and Li Youlin are the epitome of poverty alleviation through subsistence allowance in Lujiang County. By March 2020, 44,965 people from 29,739 households lived on subsistence allowance in Lujiang, of which 2,255 from 1,686 households were urban residents and 42,710 from 28,053 households were rural residents. While establishing a new mechanism to discover problems, meet demands, and conduct targeted assistance, Lujiang County has increased investment in the subsistence allowance system and adopted other poverty alleviation measures to make subsistence allowance related policies more effective in improving impoverished people's livelihood and their sense of fulfillment and happiness.

Make Remarkable Achievements in Poverty Alleviation and Preventing People out of Poverty from Returning to It

As a county of Hefei, Anhui Province, Lujiang has about 1.2 million registered people with an average disposable income of nearly RMB 27,000 per capita in 2019 and over 80,000 documented impoverished people lifted out of poverty. As a less developed county in Hefei, despite taking the lead in fulfilling the tasks of poverty alleviation, Lujiang still needs to consolidate its achievements by strengthening the social security system, in which subsistence allowance for urban and rural residents plays a key role. To prevent people who have risen out of poverty from being impoverished again, Lujiang County has implemented an innovative classified management system for the households that were lifted out of poverty. In the system, all households, excluding those enjoying the five guarantees, have been categorized into three types: households incapable of development (Category A), households of average capability to develop (Category B), and households of strong capability to

develop (Category C) after being lifted out of poverty according to their employment status, health conditions, educational burdens, sources of income and basic living conditions. Each household has been given different subsidies based on their levels and types of subsistence allowance for urban and rural residents. Furthermore, the Lujiang county government has adopted measures of poverty alleviation through industrial development to provide jobs and trainings for households categorized as B and C; and it has followed up on the development of households in Category A to guarantee their basic living conditions with a forward-and-withdraw system for subsistence allowance in order to make sure that they can build a better life with government support without worrying about falling back into poverty.

Building a Network of Transparent Subsistence Allowance to Safeguard Justice and Fairness

On March 19, 2020, after lunch, villagers of Shangchong Group, Ling'an Village, Longqiao Town, Lujiang County, came to the bamboo house in twos and threes for the democratic review meeting on subsistence allowance. Members of the working groups of Longqiao Town, officials of the Village Party Branch Committee and Villagers' Committee of Ling'an Village, and 13 representatives from the households attended the meeting. "I have only one daughter. She married a man who later died and became a widow. I am too old to work and can't sustain my life," said He Changying, an 81-year-old villager who was the first to make a statement. Then Liu Sanjiu followed, "I have no children and live by myself. I am half-blind and crippled, unable to do farm work or work outside. I have to live on the government subsidies." After the statements of candidates for subsistence allowance, the villagers began to comment and review. After review, the staff distributed a form for voting at the meeting. The representatives present cast a secret ballot on the candidates. Then the votes were counted and the results were announced at the meeting. The lists of qualified and disqualified households for subsistence allowance were published in villages with telephone numbers disclosed for complaints and public supervision to build "a transparent subsistence allowance system" with openness, fairness, and justice.



The hearing for subsistence allowance in Shangchong Group, Ling'an Village, Longqiao Town, Lujiang in March 2020



Informative leaflets distributed to the locals

Apart from precisely identifying households entitled to subsistence allowance through a civilian meeting of democratic review, towns in Lujiang have published their lists of households included in the subsistence allowance system and the corresponding amount of subsidies on their official websites every month for public inquiries

and supervision and corrected any errors in a timely manner. The official website of Lujiang county government receives letters from time to time about subsistence allowance. On March 24, 2020, a netizen sent an online letter to complain that Wang Tunbao and Jiang Daochuan from Quanxi Village, Nihe Town, should no longer enjoy the subsistence allowance. On April 22, after an in-depth investigation, the town responded with a specified statement. The above-mentioned two people had previously applied for subsistence allowance for the treatment of critical diseases. As they have already recovered from the disease, they would be disqualified from the subsistence allowance system this year. Complaints and inquiries delivered to the column of people-government interaction have all been addressed within a month with an over 90% satisfaction rate for the results. In doing so, the subsistence allowance system was made more targeted, transparent, and democratic.

Long-lasting Effective Guarantees in the Era Post-Poverty Alleviation

Lujiang has established an effective system for the evaluation and supervision of subsistence allowance and adopted other poverty alleviation measures to form a tight-knit net for targeted poverty alleviation with the direct participation and supervision of the people. Through the institutional arrangements of hearings, public disclosures, visits and complaint letters, the government has expanded people's rights to information, supervision and decision-making; thus, making subsistence allowance and its associated process transparent to the public and effectively providing social subsistence guarantees. The subsistence allowance system is a long-lasting social security assistance that serves as the last defense against poverty in targeted poverty alleviation. After 2020 when absolute poverty is eradicated, unlike other poverty alleviation projects that gradually fade out, subsistence allowance for poverty relief needs to continue playing an important role in social guarantees to improve the life of impoverished people without labor capacity or resources. Therefore, it is necessary to establish a long-lasting and effective poverty alleviation mechanism to continuously improve the procedures of review, supervision and evaluation of subsistence allowance for urban and rural residents; and set up a dynamic management system to ensure that people should be insured and have full access to social guarantee and households already out of poverty should be removed from the list.

Chapter V Opening Up

Openness brings progress, while seclusion leads to backwardness. Over the 40-odd years of reform and opening up, China has grown from an impoverished and backward developing country into the world's second largest economy. China keeps an open mind with regard to poverty reduction. Poverty alleviation in China benefits from the introduction and learning of relevant advanced ideas and experience across the world, as well as the full utilization of both domestic and international markets and resources. By means of opening up, China has promoted reform, development and innovation, and achieved mutually beneficial results with other countries. China, while advancing its own poverty reduction process, is also devoted to contributing to the global cause of poverty alleviation with its own wisdom and approach and assisting other developing countries to the best of its abilities.

China has proactively advanced the international community to place high importance on development in international macro policy coordination, and prioritized poverty reduction in the implementation of the ***2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development***. It is committed to fully implement the major initiatives of deepening South-South cooperation proposed by President Xi Jinping which include: establishing the China-UN Peace and Development Fund and the Assistance Fund for South-South Cooperation; strengthening experience exchanges in exercising governance with other developing countries and enhancing the complementarity between development strategies; building special programs and demonstration projects for poverty alleviation; implementing the ***Cooperation Initiative on Poverty Alleviation in East Asia*** and the results of the Beijing Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation; and lastly deepening South-South cooperation in poverty reduction and sharing relevant experience and practices with Latin American and South Pacific Islands and countries. Such efforts like China's labor-intensive projects based on planting technologies in Tanzania, the development projects of comprehensive demonstration villages in three South-east Asian countries, the Juncao Technology Project in Fiji under the China-UN Peace and Development Fund, and the poverty alleviation exchange and training programs between China and Latin American countries included in this chapter epitomize the landscape where China and a wide range of developing countries jointly face poverty challenges and share development opportunities.



Section I China-Africa Cooperation on Poverty Eradication

Small Technology, Big Harvest: China-Tanzania Village-level Learning Center for Poverty Reduction

China-Africa cooperation is a good example of South-South cooperation. Both China and some African countries take on the missions of developing their economy and improving people's livelihood. Over the years, the two parties have long shared a common fate and supported each other. China has offered African countries all possible assistance in poverty alleviation by providing food aid to countries, promoting the construction of agricultural demonstration centers, sending agricultural expert teams, and conducting training and exchanges on poverty reduction.

In 2015, President Xi Jinping announced the China-Africa cooperation plans in such fields as "poverty reduction and people's welfare" and "agricultural modernization" at the Johannesburg Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC). He promised that China would share its experience in agricultural development with African countries, transfer its readily applicable technologies, increase its aid and carry out 200 "Happy Life" projects on the continent as well as poverty reduction programs focusing on women and children. In 2018, President Xi declared at the FOCAC Beijing Summit that China would, on the basis of the ten cooperation plans already adopted, launch eight major initiatives in close collaboration with African countries in the next three years and beyond. China would work with African countries to formulate and implement a program of action to promote cooperation on agricultural modernization, implement 50 agricultural assistance programs, send 500 senior agriculture experts to the continent and train young researchers in agricultural science and entrepreneurs in agricultural business, among others.

By the end of 2019, China had built 24 agricultural technical demonstration centers in Africa, with which over 500,000 local people benefited. It had also held more than 100 training workshops on poverty reduction, cultivating nearly 3,000 professionals on poverty alleviation for 116 developing countries.

As Bishanga, an agricultural promoter in the Peapea Village of Tanzania, recalled, in the past, the climate alone would determine harvest no matter where the seeds were sown. It was not until the arrival of Chinese expert teams that he found the maize planting technologies from China helped double the yield, which was beyond his imagination.

Starting from the Peapea Village in Tanzania

The Peapea Village is a typical village in Tanzania. Despite a population age structure showing high incidence of younger individuals and a large labor force, the village had a relatively high illiteracy rate. Additionally, it had a rather low grain yield though agricultural production was the main industry in the village. Take maize planting as an example, they don't use a superior strain and the tillage method of extensive cultivation adopted by local farmers led to a serious low maize planting density, with only 6,000 to 9,000 individual plants per acre, equivalent to an average yield of just 0.96 to 1.60 tons per hectare. Therefore, the low level of agricultural production resulted in widespread poverty among local villagers.

Establishment of the Village-level Learning Center for Poverty Reduction

In 2011, China initiated the program of Village-level Learning Center for Poverty Reduction in Peapea Village, Tanzania. Considering the fact that chemical fertilizer was unaffordable for local farmers in the village, experts from College of Humanities and Development Studies of China Agricultural University, based on intensive agriculture experience in China, designed a whole labor-intensive scheme for maize close planting which centered on rational close planting and was supplemented by such labor-based approaches as thinning and gap filling with seedlings, weeding during cultivation, and soil moisture preservation and hilling. With a view to changing villagers' random estimation of plant spacing and row spacing in the past, Chinese experts exerted special efforts to customize a type of "sowing rope" in local shops: a colored ribbon was knotted every 30 cm to mark the sowing site. During sowing, the two ends of the "sowing rope" were tied to a wooden pile in the ground, and at each end of the pile, a stick of about 75 cm was placed perpendicular to the "sowing rope"; after a row of seeds was sown, farmers at both ends simultaneously moved the pile to the other end of the stick, and rearranged the stick after they put the pile into the ground so as to ensure rational and fixed row spacing. Such plant spacing and row spacing not only increased the planting density, but also facilitated weeding and other follow-on tasks.



Local peasant households in Tanzania used technologies from China for sowing

Technologies from China began to spread slowly with experts' unceasing efforts. For five consecutive years from 2012 to 2016, leaders and farmers in Peapea Village, under the guidance of the program focusing on the main crop of maize and economic crop pigeon pea, learned from the small-scale peasant households' production experience of intensive agriculture in China and formulated technical plans suitable for local production, including using superior strains and adopting sowing ropes for standardized planting, ensuring density and sufficient labor forces for weeding and hilling and employing a limited amount of chemical fertilizer in the first two years. In addition, a demonstration

was implemented in each demonstration household's own plot. In recent years, the program has exerted its influence on a larger range, with planting technology demonstrations implemented under the program's direct support for over 180 households out of the 450-odd residences in Peapea Village. By 2014, the number of core demonstration households in the village reached 44, with the demonstration areas amounting to 240 mu (1 mu equals to around 666.7 m2) and the maize yield almost tripling from 66 kg per mu three years ago to 183 kg per mu. By 2015, nearly 200 households directly benefited from the program covering the areas up to more than 1,000 mu.



Intercropping of maize and pigeon pea



Comparison of maize yield before and after the implementation of the program (left-before, right-after)

During the program, an implementation group of program management, headed by the village committee and joined by the mayor, village director, and governmental promotion agents, was established to cooperate with experts to formulate annual work plans and criteria for demonstration household selection, organize the implementation of the program and related supervision and inspection work and help solve problems arising from the implementation. In this way, the principal position of the village committee was enhanced, the leading role of village officials was given full rein, and, through activities including training and visiting as well as institutional guarantees, the self-development capability of village officials and villagers was improved.

Development from One or Two Villages to 1,000 Households and 10,000 Mu"

In 2018, the program welcomed a new stage: with the Tanzanian government's support, the Demonstration Project to Increase Maize Yield was launched to help 1,000 households covering an area of 10,000 mu in ten villages belonging to ten counties in Morogoro, Tanzania, to increase maize yield. By now, the program was still promoted and implemented in eight villages in seven districts within Morogoro. According to the data released in January 2019, the yield reached 1,200 kg per acre, far higher than before, despite a large armyworm pest in the fall and drought in the previous year, which many villages suffered.



Professor Li Xiaoyun of China Agricultural University having a discussion with a local official and a villager

The program developed step-by-step: first practiced in just one village, it was then promoted to another and finally implemented in ten villages. Local people's attitudes also changed as time passed. At the very beginning, nobody believed that the program could make any progress, later on one person emerged willing to try it. And at last, many were engaged in the program witnessing a rich harvest. The credit goes to Chinese experts; they not only shared their experience but also paid great attention to two-way capacity building: they helped improve the capacity of local governments, colleges and universities, and peasant households all around. They also enhanced China's capacity for technical agricultural R&D and development service supply in Africa. Under the two-way mechanism, a new technology ("labor-intensive technical system for household maize planting") and a new mechanism ("sustainable mechanism for the sharing of China's practical agricultural technologies with Tanzania") gradually came into being. China, in this way, succeeded in sharing it poverty reduction experience on a global scale and transforming from "bringing in" poverty reduction experience to "outbound experience-sharing," and from "talking about" and "observing" to "implementing" poverty reduction abroad so as to enable a wide range of developing countries to try out the Chinese methods and achieve general development.



Launch of Program "Small Technology, Big Harvest

Section II Poverty Reduction Cooperation to Jointly Build an Asia-Pacific Community with Shared Future

Demonstration Program of Poverty Reduction Cooperation in Cambodia: Targeted Poverty Alleviation and Whole-Village Advancement

Poverty reduction is an important field in China-ASEAN cooperation. In November 2014, Premier Li Keqiang attended the 17th ASEAN + 3 Summit and officially proposed a cooperation initiative on poverty alleviation in East Asia. The Chinese government would offer RMB 100 million for a plan to facilitate poverty alleviation in rural areas together with relevant countries and set up demonstration programs in poverty reduction cooperation in East Asia. The "Demonstration Program of China-East Asia Village Poverty Reduction Cooperation" was launched for the purposes of promoting the construction of rural infrastructure, public services, environment, and training in Cambodia, Laos, and Myanmar, helping all countries concerned improve their people's livelihood. Thus, advancing economic and social development and achieving poverty alleviation. So far, most of the programs have been accomplished. In addition, China also implemented grain processing and storage facilities programs in East Timor, and through the ASEAN+3 Village Leaders Exchange Program, enhanced the capacity construction of village leaders in East Asia.

China actively conducted poverty reduction cooperation with other Asia-Pacific countries, including holding regional forums on poverty reduction cooperation within the framework of China-South Asia Cooperation Forum, cooperating with Pakistan under the memorandum of understanding on cooperation for poverty alleviation, and social development and distributing "care packages" in Nepal to solve the problem of backward education. Additionally, the Belt and Road Initiative proposed by China has increased interconnection between many countries, including those in the Asia-Pacific region, and made positive contributions to poverty reduction.

Mao Tith, 65 years old, was among the most impoverished households in Svay Ampear Village, Cambodia. His 35-year-old daughter used to work in Phnom Penh, 40 kilometers away from home, but later returned home because of illness. Abandoned by her husband, his illness-stricken daughter and her two children squeezed into a primitive house of only 30 m2 with her parents. Their house was in disrepair with the roof leaks. Whenever there was a thunderstorm, the whole family could do nothing but shiver in the shabby house, and sometimes had to take shelter from rain in others' homes. The most valuable "furniture" in their house was a USD-37.5 lighting battery and five big water tanks for storing rainwater. In the past, Mao's daughter could earn six dollars every day as a handywoman.

However, she got too sick to work and she was behind in a payment of USD 200 from her company, leaving the whole family struggling to make ends meet. In July 2017, the China-Aid Demonstration Program of Poverty Reduction Cooperation in Cambodia was launched in the Chheuteal Phlos Village and Svay Ampear Village, Svay Ampear Commune, Mok Kampoul District, Kandal Province, Cambodia, helping poor families like Mao Tith's gradually improve their living conditions.



Original housing conditions for Mao Tith and his family

Investigating Villagers' Living Conditions and Caring for Each Household

The Mao family was the epitome of the status quo in impoverished rural areas in Cambodia. Most of the families in the two villages where the program was implemented were living in underdeveloped environments without access to electricity, water, toilets, or livestock pens. They suffered not only from hunger and poverty, but also from disease.

After arriving at the villages, Chinese expert teams held a meeting with the staff of the China-Cambodia Joint Program Management Unit (JPMU) and commune officials to learn what peasant households needed. With the goal to ensure that villagers' demands were met by the program and achieving a targeted and effective result, the teams conducted research to figure out living conditions and specific needs of each household, and formed an electronic archive of impoverished households; the two villages in total had 112 households without access to electricity, 337 without safe drinking water, 245 without toilets, and 685 without livestock pens. With this detailed and accurate data acquired, the program team took measures to improve the community environments starting from housing, including improving sanitation for 100 impoverished households, enabling 82 poor families to gain access to electricity for lighting, providing 500 peasant households with two stoves and one cooktop and building new houses for 11 extremely impoverished households. These heartwarming actions greatly improved Cambodian people's living environments and quality of life, which preliminarily embodied the effect of the China-aid poverty alleviation program in Cambodia.



In-home survey and registration of impoverished households to improve villagers' living environments

Community Centre Built to Enhance Public Services Delivery

The Svay Ampear Commune government, located in the Svay Ampear Village, is responsible for managing political, economic, and cultural affairs for the whole village. However, the Commune never held any large-scale activities for villagers due to the lack of decent venues and equipment. Even for elections, villagers could only queue on the lawn in front of the government building for voting.

With the support of the Demonstration Program, a community center covering an area of 400 m2 was built inside the government building in December 2018, equipped with six computers, many printers and projectors, office desks and chairs, and file cabinets, as well as 100 sets of tables and chairs in the training room and canteen. Since then, all officials moved into spacious and bright offices and they can conveniently hold villager mobilization meetings. The center provided suitable places for deliberation, training, and activities for the whole village. The level of public services has constantly improved since then.



Community center after completion and office equipment



Village official meetings, villager meetings, and course workshops held in the village-level center

Conducting Skills Training to Encourage the Public to be Self-reliant

Many villagers in the Svay Ampear Village, due to the lack of education and skills, were left unemployed at home or employed yet poorly paid. In order to address the unemployment issue, the JPMU held training workshops on labor skills to create opportunities for them to start their own businesses and increase their income. The program team invited Chinese bakers, housekeeping professionals, and relevant program officials to carry-out skill training for villagers. At the end of the training session, a total of 38 trainees completed all the learning tasks as scheduled and were awarded certificates of training completion issued by the Department of Rural Economy, Ministry of Rural Development of Cambodia. Since Chinese experts shared relevant information with Chinese-funded enterprises in Phnom Penh, six trainees were offered jobs by these enterprises in the city as bakeries, Chinese food restaurants, and salons on the day of training completion.

According to the trainees, they had never been engaged in such training programs before. Through this training, they not only learned basic skills for employment but also gained enlightenment. In the future, they would actively seek more job opportunities. Mr. Tong Sivmy, Governor of Mok Kampoul District, told Chinese expert teams that the villagers were grateful for such an opportunity. They would like to participate in more training activities like this and help their families increase their income and become rich through what they have learned.

Sharing Targeted Poverty Alleviation Experience and Cooperating on Poverty Reduction Development

In October 2018, the program team funded the Mao family to build a new house, improved toilet facilities, delivered stoves, cooktops and other articles for daily life, and helped the villagers gain access to electricity for lighting and drinking water. In early 2019, the program team returned to Mao's home to see their living conditions. The family warmly received the team, and Mao and his wife squeezed Chinese experts' hands to express their heartfelt gratitude: "Welcome, welcome!"



Mao Tith and his wife welcomed Chinese experts

Through the three-year Demonstration Program in Cambodia, China, based on its experience in whole-village advancement in poverty alleviation and development and guided by the community's development needs, has provided Cambodia with financial and technical support and implemented targeted poverty relief toward impoverished households. In addition, it has helped demonstration villages with such infrastructure construction as roads and water supply, established rural clinics, learning centers, and other public service facilities, and supported villagers in developing technologies in cultivation and production, among others. In this way, this program has achieved both poverty alleviation and a change in local people's attitude, and provided a feasible and effective example for all countries to eradicate poverty and improve people's livelihood, for not only it improved the living conditions of people in the villages concerned in Cambodia, but also enhanced the self-development capability of these communities.

Chinese Grass Spreading Love in Fiji: Juncao Technology Demonstration Center in Fiji

In November 2018, President Xi Jinping met leaders of Pacific Island countries in Papua New Guinea. Both parties agreed to forge a comprehensive strategic partnership based on mutual respect and common development, thus heralding a new stage in bilateral relations. Sino-Pacific relations are developed on the basis of valuing both friendship and justice as well as shared interests, with more importance placed on the former, ultimately delivering mutually beneficial results. Upholding the principles of "passing on fishing skills rather than handing out fish" and meeting people's urgent needs, China is devoted to helping Pacific Island countries enhance their capacity for independent development and achieve favorable economic and social development. With Juncao and upland rice planting technologies promoted in Papua New Guinea and Fiji, an integrated system of "planting-breeding-bio gas production" and the tropical greenhouse vegetable planting technology in Samoa, Chinese experts have not only guaranteed local grain and daily food supplies but also cultivated a large number of agricultural talents to help local people continue to increase their income.

With the joint attention and promotion by leaders from both countries, the China-Fiji Juncao Technology Cooperation Project has had a positive impact on poverty reduction and climate resilience. On June 4 and 5, 2018, the Capacity Building Workshop on Juncao Technology was jointly hosted by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations (UN DESA), the Ministry of Agriculture of Fiji, and Fujian Agriculture and Forestry University (FAFU) of China, boosting sustainable agriculture development in developing countries located on small Pacific islands. China would gradually promote the "full coverage" of the Juncao planting technology in Pacific Island countries over the next five years.

In September 2014, the China-Aid Juncao Technology Demonstration Center Project in Fiji was officially launched. Based on the actual conditions of nature and social economy in Fiji, Juncao experts from FAFU focused on two aspects of the local Juncao industry: fungus and animal husbandry production, which would solve the problems of market supply, and growth in rural income. In the past, all the fungi consumed in Fiji was imported at a high price. Additionally, a severe lack of green feed in dry seasons restricted the development of local animal husbandry in Fiji. Currently, the China-Aid Juncao Technology Demonstration Center Project in Fiji has entered its second phase, effectively helping local people rise out of poverty and become rich. The Fijians affectionately call Juncao the "Chinese grass."

Technology for People's Needs: Making the Chinese Grass Juncao Effective in Poverty Eradication and Prosperity Achievement

With the climate characteristics of Pacific islands and all difficulties overcome, Fiji harvested ***Pleurotus cornucopiae***, the first edible fungus in its history, by means of artificial cultivation in less than two

months. Later on, the program team cultivated some new varieties of edible fungi and medical fungi suitable for introduction by selecting varieties in line with Fiji's natural conditions and local consumers' preference.



A child from a local peasant household was excited to see fresh pearl oyster mushrooms for the first time

However, it was impossible for Fiji to promote local fungus production and achieve poverty eradication and prosperity achievement simply with fungi varieties that meet its people's needs. After conducting in-depth research, Chinese experts formulated a set of implementation strategies featuring "indigenous and foreign methods combined" and "ambitious in thinking but down-to-earth in action" based on Fiji's natural climate as well as its social and economic development. It applied a batch of advanced manufacturing equipment including automatic mixers, bagging machines, vacuum autoclaves, sterile inoculation lines and thermostatic cultivation and mushroom fruiting systems, and introduced a Juncao-mushroom production line with annual output totaling 300 tons, creating a center for the development of the Juncao industry in Pacific Island countries. The program team also adopted technologies with the lowest costs and the simplest operations in order to rapidly promote and spread edible fungus production technologies in Fiji.

Since local residents had no access to advanced control equipment for temperature, light, humidity, or air and no money to build modernized mushroom fruiting chambers, Chinese experts made use of coconut palms and mango forests to serve as natural mushroom fruiting chambers. To solve the problem of high temperatures, they resorted to a traditional approach by creating 20-cm deep furrows in the ground, covering the fungus bags in the furrows with a layer of soil, and relying on the canopy of mango trees to block direct sunlight. To cope with the dry air that fails to meet the humidity requirements of fungus production, the experts humidified the edible fungi by regularly watering the soil on the fungus bags. These economical and practical cultivation technologies, though not so advanced, won the favor of local farmers and gained instant results in lifting local people out of poverty. With these traditional approaches applied, farmers could harvest mushrooms in seven to ten days, amounting to 1,200 kg fresh mushrooms in an area of 10 m2 per year. This is of great appeal to farmers in impoverished areas since such approaches are comprehensible, learnable, affordable and effective.

For those households already out of poverty and wanting to increase their income with certain financial ability, the Program also initiated another planting scheme by repurposing discarded containers. With only a small amount of money spent, the households could build their own thermostatic mushroom fruiting chambers by repurposing the refrigerating units in inexpensive second-hand containers sourced locally, and equipping them with light bulbs, ventilating fans, simple mushroom fruiting racks,

and automatic spray systems. In this way, a total of 16,000 fungus bags can be cultivated annually, amounting up to FJD 80,000. Such chambers can not only function regardless of the climate but also keep mushrooms fresh, receiving a huge welcome in Fiji. Mr. Marshall from Suva took advantage of this scheme to build an advanced mushroom fruiting chamber out of containers, cultivating 3,000 bags of Juncao and pearl oyster mushrooms for the first time whose output reached a value of FJD 15,000.

In light of local conditions and with the support of localized technologies meeting people's needs, Chinese experts assisted Fijian farmers in cultivating never-eaten-before edible fungi and mushrooms in just a few years and promoted the rapid development of the fungus industry in Fiji. At present, the Demonstration Center has established a two-hectare recycling demonstration area where fungi are intercropped in mango orchards. In addition, a one-hectare training, demonstration production and processing area has been set up, in which 12 varieties of fungi have been successfully produced and multiple fruiting models including fruiting under trees, fruiting under soil, fruiting in greenhouses and fruiting in refrigerators have been applied. This has cultivated over 1.2 million bags of edible fungi in Fiji with an output value preliminarily estimated to be more than FJD 5 million.

Coordination of Industrial Development Promotion and Climate Adaption Enhancement

Blue sky, clear waters, as well as primitive local conditions and customs are the characteristics of Fiji. To rise out of poverty and become rich, local people must not step on the path of "destruction first and treatment afterward." Instead, it is of Chinese experts' top concerns to protect local natural environments and realize sustainable development.

Given the fact that Fiji is often hit by hurricanes, minimizing the impact of disastrous climates on agricultural production was a challenge for Fijian agriculture ministries. Before the introduction of Juncao, managers of the Yaqara Pastoral Company in Ra Province, the largest state-owned pasture in Fiji with grasslands of over 18,000 mu, struggled with the lack of green feed due to low-lying terrain, which resulted in bad floods in rainy seasons and withered grass in dry seasons. In 2016, confronted with huge losses brought by Cyclone Winston, the company tried to plant giant Juncao as green feed in the 42 mu of its land in the beginning. By the June of the same year, the grass had grown so exuberantly that farmers started to harvest fresh Juncao to feed their cattle and sheep, and then attempted to graze the livestock directly on the Juncao grassland. A year later, they were quite pleased at the benefits brought by Juncao: it neither suffered from lodging nor died down after floods; it remained green and luxuriant instead of withering in dry seasons; and there was always



The giant Juncao introduced by the Juncao Technology Demonstration Center can grow up to 7.6 meters

enough forage grass even in dry seasons, since Juncao was quite resilient after being harvested. As a result, managers of the pasture decided to expand the planting area of Juncao to 6,000 mu. Currently, the number of livestock raised in the pasture has increased from around 1,000 heads of cattle to 5,700-odd cattle and 300-odd sheep. Additionally, the company has applied to relevant departments in Fiji for the certification of organic beef and mutton and plans to export beef cattle to neighboring island countries including the Solomon Islands.

In 2019, with the support of the China-Aid Juncao Technology Demonstration Center Project in Fiji, the Ministry of Agriculture of Fiji considered "optimizing and utilizing Juncao to improve the animal husbandry productivity" as one of the five new measures to promote Fiji's agricultural development, with such specific support measures as providing mechanical equipment launched to assist Juncao planters in plowing and offering free-of-charge Juncao seedlings. Today, there are over 1,000 households planting giant Juncao in Fiji, covering a planting area of 7,000-odd mu, which not only greatly lowers the mortality of cattle and sheep in dry seasons, but also effectively reduces water and soil losses. The 19 Juncao seedlings brought from China to Fiji that very year have been deeply rooted in Fiji, playing a positive role in lifting Fijian people out of poverty.

Helping Those in Need with No One Left Behind

Ms. Litia, who uses a wheelchair, lived in Nausori and was the President of the Rewa Disabled People Organization. She contacted the expert teams via multiple channels to request training workshops on Juncao technology for the physically challenged community. With the goal to alleviate the issues faced by those in real need, Chinese experts held special training workshops targeted at physically challenged people like Litia and sent them pearl oyster mushroom bags and supporting materials. Meanwhile, experts on the program team also took targeted support measures to provide on-site technical guidance for the physically challenged in every critical growing period for Juncao and mushroom cultivation on a regular basis.

Such stories about helping the physically challenged also took place in a small island near the estuary of the Rewa River in Fiji. A young man named Maika Saurara suffered from a leg disability resulting from a fall in his childhood and because of this he was unable to work outside as other young people in the village did. Therefore, he lived an extremely impoverished life. Informed of his situation, Chinese experts invited him to attend training, during which they gave him pearl oyster mushroom bags and provided technical guidance throughout the course. After three months of careful tending, Maika harvested 115 kg of fresh mushrooms in a 4-m2 land and earned more than FJD 1,400. At the first harvest, he was excited: "Mushroom planting is not quite labor-demanding, which is suitable for crippled people like me. People here generally earn FJD 400 to 500 a month. But by planting Juncao and mushroom, I earn a decent living. I would have never imagined this without Chinese experts' help."

So far, the China-Aid Juncao Technology Demonstration Center Project in Fiji has held 33 technical training workshops throughout Fiji, benefiting 1,424 people, including 807 women and 68 people with disabilities. Furthermore, 45 Fijian agricultural management officials and technicians received training in FAFU. The Demonstration Center has received a total of 4,414 person-time visits for study tours in

268 batches, providing 2,488 local students with experiential teaching for the "Juncao Course." In addition to themed lectures on ***The Study of Juncao*** at the Fiji National University, the expert teams also, after the Cyclone Winston, went to hard-hit areas and provided stricken households, teachers and students with free edible fungi and mushrooms to help them through difficulties. After COVID-19 hit Fiji, the expert teams started to actively offer remote technical guidance to local farmers. Dr. Mahendra Reddy, Minister for Agriculture, Waterways, and Environment of Fiji, said: "During COVID-19, the animal husbandry and edible fungus industry in Fiji are able to maintain production thanks to Juncao technology and other planting projects which yield quick returns with a relatively low investment. These guarantee people's demands for meat and fungus."

Section III Poverty Alleviation Exchange and Cooperation Between China and Latin America

Joint Achievements of China and Colombia: Open to Share Experience

Despite the large distance between China and Latin America, the river of their friendship runs a long course from a remote source. Both sides are in a similar stage of development, face the same tasks and share a common desire to enhance understanding and cooperation. In the 21st century, China and Latin American countries maintain frequent high-level exchanges, with an increasingly deep political mutual trust. On November 5, 2008, the Chinese government issued the first ***China's Policy Paper on Latin America and the Caribbean***, which stated that the Chinese government was willing to strengthen exchanges and cooperation with Latin American countries on poverty reduction and narrowing the gap between the rich and the poor, and to expand the cooperative relations between poverty alleviation agencies belonging to each side of the partnership. In 2014, President Xi Jinping attended the China-Latin America and Caribbean Countries Leader's Meeting, and issued a joint statement to establish a comprehensive partnership of equality, mutual benefits, and common development with the leaders of Latin American and Caribbean countries (hereinafter referred to as Latin American). In January 2015, the First Ministerial Meeting of the China-CELAC Forum was held in Beijing, which formulated the ***Cooperation Plan between China and Latin America and Caribbean Countries (2015-2019)***. It proposed that China and Latin America would promote sustainable and socially inclusive development and poverty eradication and facilitate dialogue and sharing of best practices between their agencies on poverty alleviation, hunger eradication, and social assistance.

China has actively promoted practical cooperation with Latin American countries in poverty reduction and carried out exchanges and cooperation with relevant countries through high-level exchanges, bilateral dialogues and human resources training programs. So far, China has provided 6,000 scholarship placements and 6,000 training placements for CELAC members, invited 1,000 leaders of Latin American political parties to visit China and initiated training programs for 1,000 young leaders from China and Latin America with a view to assisting in poverty reduction and development of Latin American countries.

In November 2006, Luis Alfonso Hoyos, senior advisor to the Colombian President for Social Development, visited China to attend the Seminar for Senior Officials of Poverty Alleviation Departments of Developing Countries. He wrote to the director of the International Poverty Reduction Center in China (IPRCC), expressing his wish to strengthen cooperation and share experiences with the Chinese government in poverty alleviation. In June 2010, IPRCC and the Social Action Office of Colombia's Presidency signed a memorandum of cooperation at the National Pavilion of Colombia

in the World Expo Park. At the end of 2011, Colombia reorganized its institutions and established two new departments, namely the Department for Social Prosperity (DPS) and the Colombian Presidential Agency of International Cooperation (APC-Colombia), respectively responsible for social inclusion and harmonious development and international exchange and cooperation in poverty reduction and development, in order to continuously implement the agreement with China.



International Poverty Reduction Center in China signed a memorandum of cooperation with the Social Action Office of Colombia's Presidency

Based on the cooperation memorandum, China and Colombia carried out a series of activities such as comparative studies, delegation exchange and capacity building. In 2011, the two sides first conducted a comparative study on poverty reduction between China and Colombia, through which the two participants shared their respective poverty situation, poverty reduction policies and strategies and discovered a number of key policies that both found interesting. Colombia's practices such as "Family Action" (a conditional cash transfer program), "SISBEN" (an identification and information management system for poverty reduction), "UNIDOS" (targeted impoverished family assistance strategy based on information system), and cooperation between public and private sectors, display the conception and practical experience in poverty alleviation and social development in Latin American countries. Meanwhile, China's distinctive tasks of rural development, development-orientated poverty alleviation, and post-disaster reconstruction have also interested the Colombian delegation. Subsequently, the two sides conducted exchanges and interactions on specific topics of interest, with the theme becoming increasingly distinct and the conversation gradually deepening.



In the seminar of comparative research carried out in 2011, a Colombian speaker introduces their work on documenting the impoverished



In the same seminar, a Chinese speaker introduces strategies on rural poverty alleviation and development

Colombia has practices and experience that are worth learning about regarding identifying and monitoring poverty-stricken groups and building a national poverty information system. China is particularly interested in their experience of entering targeted poverty alleviation. Colombia attached great importance to this demand. In 2013, Colombia held a special experience exchange activity on

its poverty reduction monitoring information system for China and invited Chinese representatives to Colombia to learn the details, including identification and targeting, information collection, software design, and practical assistance actions of its "UNIDOS" assistance strategy. Chinese representatives not only understood the design of the Colombian information system through these explanations, but also visited the designated poverty-stricken families with UNIDOS teams to learn their work on site. "Colombia's poverty reduction target system is comprehensive and quantifiable," said one Chinese representative about the visit. "Their experience and practices are significant lessons for China to carry out the 'great poverty alleviation' in the new phase and achieve the goal of multi-dimensional poverty reduction."

At the end of 2013, China proposed establishing a targeted poverty alleviation mechanism. The first problem to be solved was to establish a unified national poverty alleviation information system. In March 2014, IPRCC held a special international seminar on targeted poverty alleviation and multi-dimensional poverty, providing participants with an opportunity to learn poverty-assessment methods and share international experience in targeted poverty alleviation. The Chinese delegates invited a policy design consultant from the DPS to share Colombia's experience at the meeting, and in turn introduced China's practice on rural development-oriented poverty alleviation, which has always been of great interest. The visit to Hubei deeply impressed the Colombian delegation.



Ms. Tamayo, policy design consultant of the DPS, visiting a tea cooperative in a village of Hubei Province



Ms. Tamayo, policy design consultant of the DPS, learning the development of nursery stock industry in a village of Hubei Province

In 2016, China entered a critical period in promoting the documentation for targeted poverty alleviation. China organized special training courses to visit Colombia again to learn from experience on documentation of impoverished households and targeted poverty alleviation. With Colombia's thoughtful design, Chinese trainees not only learned the complete process of project design, operation, management, and evaluation, but also conducted field research on typical cases. After the study in Colombia, the Chinese delegation said, "We have improved our own capacities in learning the dynamics and innovative practices in international poverty reduction."



UNIDOS staff visiting impoverished households at regular intervals

Taking the opportunity of the annual "Global Poverty Reduction and Development Forum", China has continuously invited Colombian representatives to visit China, and invited Latin American trainees to participate in workshops on foreign poverty reduction. In 2014, workshops for specific regions were organized in China. The two delegations are constantly deepening communication in these existing fields, while expanding the areas of dialogue, and promoting exchanges in multi-dimensional poverty, social poverty alleviation, and poverty alleviation via industrial development, as well as a public-private partnership for poverty reduction.



In October 2013, Mr. Jose Guillermo Tellez, then director of the Family and Community Management Development Branch of the National Bureau for the Eradication of Extreme Poverty in Colombia, addressing the "Global Poverty Reduction and Development Forum"

Dialogue and exchanges are important parts of the China-Latin America cooperation on poverty reduction. China and Latin American countries have their own advantages and characteristics in poverty reduction. China could share its experience in targeted poverty alleviation with Latin American countries. Meanwhile, Latin American countries, as middle-income countries, could also provide useful reference on poverty reduction for China. Dialogues and exchanges between the two sides are completely based on the principle of wide consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits. With great goodwill and with a demand orientation, the two sides share their best practices and realize two-way interaction and learning, boasting the best example of South-South cooperation on the basis of equality and mutual benefits.

Afterword

The Chinese people have blazed a path in poverty alleviation with Chinese characteristics through determined exploration and unremitting efforts based on national conditions. All roads lead to Rome, as the saying goes, and as such there is no single solution to poverty. However, China's experience and practice in ending extreme poverty may somehow provide some food for thought to inform other countries' poverty alleviation endeavors.

First, it is important to follow one's own path. As a complicated and huge systematic project, poverty eradication must be based on each country's national conditions and be implemented on the basis of broad political consensus and strong political commitment. It is necessary to mobilize the whole society, unite as one, follow the rule of development, tap the full potential of the country, leverage on its comparative advantages and formulate scientific poverty alleviation strategies suited to national conditions.

Second, it is important to focus on development. All countries, especially the developing ones, face development challenges. To eradicate poverty, it is important to seize the opportunities provided by economic globalization and the new round of scientific and technological revolution as well as industrial transformation, to accelerate economic growth and social progress so as to pool the resources needed for poverty alleviation. Meanwhile, efforts shall be made to promote development in economic, social and environmental dimensions in a balanced way to end poverty with the master key of "development".

Third, it is important to follow a people-centered approach. To realize the sustainable development goal of eradicating extreme poverty and leave no one behind, all countries need to participate in the global poverty alleviation endeavor. Poverty eradication should be for the people and by the people. It is important to motivate people to get out of poverty through their own efforts, unleash their potential and enable them to benefit from poverty eradication progress.

Fourth, it is important to precise and pragmatic. Countries should formulate macro-strategies for poverty alleviation. More importantly, importance should be attached to getting the policies and approaches right so that treatment is tailored to the symptoms, policies can drizzle down to the right place and right person, cures are targeted and promises are delivered. Output should be maximized

through efficient and intensive input, and poverty alleviation goals be met with sustained and unremitting efforts.

Last but not least, it is important to remain open to the outside world for win-win results. Countries should actively engage in the economic globalization process, deepen international development cooperation and establish a new type of global development partnership in the spirit of openness, inclusiveness, and mutual learning so as to share opportunities, address challenges together and achieve common prosperity.

The international community has provided China with strong support and help in its battle against poverty. In return, China will contribute to the global cause of poverty alleviation with concrete actions. We will continue to deepen South-South cooperation on poverty alleviation with other developing countries, enhance exchanges on governance experience and forge synergy of respective development strategies. We will launch more flagship poverty alleviation programs and demonstration projects to help other developing countries break development bottlenecks. In today's world where the impact of COVID-19 pandemic resonates with the unprecedented changes unseen over the last century, China stands ready to join hands with the rest of the world, help and support each other through thick and thin, build a world free from hunger and poverty, and forge a community with a shared future of prosperity and common development.