

## China's Agricultural Plans in 2018

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2018 will certainly be an important year for China's agricultural development. This issue of Information Sheet gives a snapshot of the following key development plans:

- China is establishing the new Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, with more responsibilities in overseeing investment and development programmes in the rural areas.
- The No 1 Central Document 2018, released on 4<sup>th</sup> February, outlined the overarching guidelines for the implementation of the Rural Revitalization Strategy. Consequently, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs has produced specific action plans to guide the sectoral development in the year.

### Inauguration of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs

According to the [Institutional Reform Plan](#), released on 21 March, China is forming a new ministry, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, to push forward the development of the agricultural sector and the rural areas.

The new ministry will integrate the responsibilities of the Office of the Central Rural Work Leading Group, Ministry of Agriculture, Agricultural investment Projects of the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), Agricultural Comprehensive Development Projects (formerly administered by the Ministry of Finance, MOF), Farm land Renovation Projects (formerly administered by the Ministry of Land and Resources, MLR), Farm Land Water Conservancy Construction Projects (formerly administered by the Ministry of Water Resources, MWR).

The new ministry will study and implement strategies, plans and policies on agriculture, rural areas and rural people, regulate crop farming, livestock husbandry, fishery, agricultural reclamation, agricultural mechanization, quality and safety of farm produces, and agricultural investment administration.

Fishing boats inspection and supervision is now under the administration of Ministry of Transport.

The Ministry of Agriculture will be dismantled.

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## **The No 1 Central Document – Rural Revitalization**

As usual, China's "No. 1 Central Document" in 2018 is again devoted to agriculture, farmers and rural issues. This is the 15<sup>th</sup> consecutive No 1 central document focusing on devoted to agriculture, farmers and rural issues.

The theme of this year's No 1 Central Document is Rural Vitalization.

### **The Goals and Milestones**

The overall goals of the Rural Vitalization Strategy are to build rural areas with thriving businesses, pleasant living environments, social etiquette and civility, effective governance, and prosperity.

A specific timetable and tasks have been set and explained for the rural vitalization strategy:

- By 2020, an institutional framework and policy system should be established for the strategy. By that time, no Chinese people should be living under the existing poverty line, and rural productivity and agricultural supply should improve substantially.
- By 2035, "decisive" progress shall be made, with basic modernization of agriculture and rural areas. All Chinese, either in cities or rural areas, will have equal access to basic public services. Urban and rural integration will improve.
- By 2050, rural areas shall see all-around vitalization.

### **The Tasks and Actions**

To achieve the rural revitalization goals, the No 1 Central Document, from ten aspects, outlined a comprehensive package of practices.

#### **1. To enhance the quality of agricultural development**

- Consolidating agricultural production capacity
- Implementing the quality agriculture strategy
- Constructing the system for integrated development of the first, second and tertiary industries in rural areas
- Creating a new opening pattern in agriculture
- Facilitating the smooth connection between smallholder farmers and the modern agricultural development.

#### **2. To advance rural green development, to build the harmony between human and nature**

- Adopting a holistic approach to conserving the nature (mountains, rivers, forests, farmlands, lakes, and grasslands)
- Strengthening comprehensive management of pressing environmental problems in rural areas
- Establishing a market-based diversified ecological compensation mechanism
- Increasing the supply of agro-ecological products and services

#### **3. To Encourage a prosperous and rich rural culture**

- Strengthening rural ideological and moral construction
- Inheriting, developing and enhancing excellent rural traditional culture
- Strengthening the development of rural public culture

- Transforming established habits and customs

**4. To establish a new governance framework to manage rural areas**

- Strengthening the construction of rural grass-roots party organizations
- Deepening the practice of villagers' self-governance
- Constructing rule of law countryside
- Enhancing morality of the countryside
- Building safe rural villages

**5. To raise the level livelihood security in rural areas**

- Giving high priority to rural education
- Transferring rural labor force and increase farmers' income
- Upgrading rural infrastructure
- Strengthening the development of rural social security system
- Promote the public health in rural areas
- Continuously improving living environment in rural areas

**6. To win of battle precision poverty alleviation**

- Precision supporting to impoverished population
- Focusing on the development of destitute-stricken areas
- Inspiring impoverished population
- Strengthening the responsibility and supervision of poverty alleviation

**7. To promote institutional innovation and strengthen resource supplies in rural revitalization**

- Consolidating and improving basic management system in rural areas
- Deepening rural land system reform
- Advancing the reform on rural collective property right system
- Improving the supporting and protecting system for agriculture

**8. To enhance human capacity building to support rural revitalization**

- Energetically fostering new type of professional farmers
- Strengthening construction of rural professional personnel
- Displaying the supporting role of technical talents
- Encouraging all sectors of society to be devoted to rural development
- Innovating the talent training and employment system in the rural areas

**To open up the investment and financing channels for rural revitalization**

- Ensuring sustained growth of financial investment
- Broadening channels of fund raising
- Improving financial services

## **9. To adhere to and perfect the party's leadership**

- Improving party's leadership system in rural issues
- Studying and formulating the party's rural work regulation
- Strengthening construction of working team for "three rural issues" (agriculture, rural and farmers).
- Enhancing the instruction of the rural revitalization plan
- Strengthening rule of law for rural revitalization
- Creating good atmosphere for rural revitalization

## **Priorities for Crop Sector**

In January, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs released the [priorities for crop sector](#) in 2018, include:

### **Consolidate the foundation for grain production**

- Stabilizing the cultivation area for staple grains, ensure the area for rice and wheat at 800 million mu (53 million ha)
- Improving arable land quality. Implement most strict arable land protection policies, allocate 1.55 billion mu (103.3 million ha) as permanent arable land.
- Consolidating technology integration and innovation, push forward green and high quality development
- Enhancing disasters prevention and reduction, improve disasters monitoring and early warning.
- Enhancing major pests and diseases control.

### **Enhance structural adjusting, optimise the supply**

- Continuing to reduce the non-effective supply, reducing 10 million mu rice in Yangtze river catchment, continue to reduce the grain maize planting area
- Increasing the supply of high quality and green products.
- Enhancing development of potatoes as staple food.
- Enhancing the integration of industry sectors, promote cropping and livestock combination and enhancing each other.

### **Push forward green development, improve the environment and enhance rural more suitable for living**

- Continuing to carry out fertilizer and pesticides use reduction and improving use efficiency
- Accelerating water saving agriculture
- Enhancing fruits, vegetables and tea green development
- Protecting the black soil in Northeast China,
- Expanding the fallow and rotation pilot are to 24 million mu

### **Enhancing quality and efficiency to vitalize agriculture and improve farmers' wealth**

- Promoting standard production

- Improving the environment of the production areas
- Continuing the organic /chemical fertilizer substitute programme
- Strengthening branding development
- Strengthening quality and safety supervision

### **Enhance innovation drive, improve rural civilization**

- Fostering new agricultural operation entities, these include specialised crop planting household, family farms, cooperatives, dragon-head enterprises, agricultural industry association etc.
- Developing the multiple function and diversified service organisations which provide tillage, planting, field management (spray, fertilization), harvest and storage.
- Speeding up the fostering of new type of professional farmers, establish the professional farmers system

### **Promote the rule of law**

- Enforcement of the implementation of the pesticides administration regulation
- Speeding up the introduction of crop pests and diseases control regulations, revise fertilizers registration regulations.

## **Priorities for Livestock Sector**

In January, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs released the [priorities for livestock sector](#) in 2018, include:

### **Reshape the links between crop planting and livestock**

- Continuing to advance the utilization of livestock waste
- Replacing grain crop with feed crop cultivation in Northeast and the Huang-Huai-Hai Plain.
- Vigorously developing modern forage grass industry. Enhance forage germplasm resource protection, disseminating forage production technologies.

### **Upgrading livestock industry**

- Establishing the modern demonstration animal farms, particularly the pig and dairy cow farms.
- Advancing the modern livestock breeding industry. Conduct the research on the livestock breeding development in the foreign countries.
- Upgrading the management level for the medium and small livestock farms.

### **Optimise the livestock supply structure**

- Supporting the differentiation and specialisation development of the livestock, conduct the development research on horse, donkey, rabbit, bees, and dairy goats.

### **Consolidate the quality and safety of feed and fresh milk**

- Completing the feed safety and quality security system, by the end of 13<sup>th</sup> Five-Year-Plan 2016-2020), prohibit the use of diseases prevention medicine as the feed additives.
- Strict supervision on the feed quality and safety
- Strengthening quality and safety supervision on fresh milk

### **Continues pushing forward the revitalization of dairy industry**

- Implementing the national dairy industry development policies and practices
- Transforming dairy industry toward high quality development.
- Boosting the national dairy band development
- Promoting the dairy products consumption

## **Priorities for Science, Technology, Environment and Energy**

In February, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs released the priorities for [science, technology, environment, and energy work](#) in 2018, include:

### **Enhancing the level of science and technology supply**

- Launching the Action of Science and Technology Support for Rural Vitalization
- Consolidating the development of the modern agricultural industry technology system
- Strengthening the role of National Agricultural Science & Technology Innovation Alliance
- Developing Modern Agricultural Industry Technology Innovation Centres
- Continuing to support the existing Modern Agricultural Industry Technology Innovation Centres in Nanjing, Taigu and Chengdu
- Enhancing the long-term and fundamental work in agricultural science and technology
- Deepening the Reform on the Mechanism of Agricultural S&T System
- Strengthening the Safety Administration of genetically modified organism (GMO)

### **Speed up agricultural technology dissemination**

- Pushing forward innovation and reform of grass-root agricultural technology extension system
- Carrying out coordinated extension programme on major technologies
- Expanding the agricultural technology extension services through the “Special Appointment” Programme
- Promoting Green and High Efficiency Technologies
- Carrying out information services in agricultural technology extension

### **Training new type of professional farmers**

- Pushing forward the full establishment the Professional Farmers’ System
- Expanding the professional farmers team
- Improving the new model of professional farmers training
- Improving farmers training capacities and facilities

### **With aim of reducing environmental pollution and increase resource use efficiency, win the battle against agricultural non-point pollution**

- Implementing the action of comprehensive utilization of straw
- Strengthening the action on plastic mulch film recovering
- Strengthening soil pollution control on arable land

- Exploring the models of green and low carbon circular agriculture
- Developing rural renewable energy
- Strengthening agricultural biodiversity protection
- Carrying out agricultural environment monitoring and survey
- Enhancing agricultural resource and environment protection performance evaluation

## **2018, the “Year of Agriculture Quality”**

The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs assigned 2018 as the “Year of Agriculture Quality”.

In February, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs released the [priority actions to ensure quality and safety of agricultural products](#) in 2018, include:

### **Increasing the supply of green quality and safe agricultural products**

- Formulating and implementing national quality agriculture strategy plan
- Improving the standard system of green agriculture
- Strengthening the environmental protection and management in the places of agricultural production
- Strictly control and regulate on agricultural production process
- Vigorously promoting agricultural standardization
- Increasing scientific and technological support to agriculture production

### **Strengthening supervision and law enforcement**

- Strengthening the supervision of inputs (pesticide, veterinary antibiotics, additives)
- Strengthening the risk monitoring and early warning system
- Strengthen risk assessment and investigation
- Increase the intensity of law enforcement and handling cases
- Improving the emergency response mechanism
- Vigorously promoting the creation of agricultural quality and safety counties
- Speeding up the quality and safety of agricultural products traceability system
- Speed up Revision of the Law on Quality and Safety of Agricultural Products

### **Improving the value of agricultural brand**

- Strengthening green food mark approval and organic product certification management
- Protecting the geographical indications of agricultural products
- Promoting the transformation, upgrading and quality improvement of urban modern agriculture
- Promoting sound pollution-free agricultural product certification system adjustment and reform

### **Strengthening publicity and guidance**

- Promoting the consumers’ confidence on quality products
- Strengthening green food promotion

- Increasing Green Market Promotion of Quality Agricultural Products
- Vigorously promoting the construction of a credit system

## Conclusion

China is fully implementing the Rural Revitalization Strategy.

Formation of the new Ministry of Agricultural and Rural Affairs will provide a stronger and more coordinated institutional support to the implementation of the strategy, whilst the No 1 Central Document has outlined the overall roadmap with a package of comprehensive and detailed tasks and activities dedicated to rural revitalization. The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs also formulated priority actions in specific sectors and to champion quality development in agriculture.

There priority actions to be taken by the Ministry of Agricultural and Rural Affairs include green production, high quality food standard, high efficient resource use, reducing chemical input, greater recycling and minimising waste, training and certification of professional farmers, and brand development. These are also the areas where the UK has many years' experiences which can be shared with China.

The UK government is working toward a Green Brexit and is formulating more nature friendly farming policies. The [25 Year Environment Plan](#), published in January 2018, and the consultation paper [Health and harmony: the future for food, farming and the environment in a Green Brexit](#) published February 2018, outlined a number of policies and actions which share the same direction with Chinese initiatives. This further opens up a field for the two countries to share the knowledge and learn each other in agricultural green development.

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