

Chapter 24 Promoting Rural Development

Throughout our socialist modernization drive, we will prioritize rural development, optimize the production, living, and ecological spaces, and continue to improve the infrastructure and living environment in rural areas in order to make the countryside a more beautiful and pleasant place to live.

Section 1 Enhancing the Guiding Role of Rural Development Plans

Taking land use, industrial development, residential construction, the improvement of the living environment, ecological conservation, disaster prevention and reduction, historical and cultural heritage, and other wide-ranging factors into consideration, we will coordinate county-wide development plans for towns and villages. We will push counties to formulate sound plans for the layout of villages, advance rural development in a categorized way based on local conditions, launch county-wide standardized comprehensive land improvement, and protect traditional villages, ethnic villages, and rural landscapes. We will strictly prohibit the arbitrary merging of villages into big communities as well as instances of the excessive demolition and reconstruction of housing against the will of rural residents. We will optimize the layout of rural living spaces, ensure the strict protection of agricultural production spaces and rural ecological spaces, and pragmatically designate the areas suitable, restricted, or prohibited for livestock and poultry farming. We will encourage areas with appropriate conditions to compile practical village development plans.

Section 2

Improving Rural Infrastructure and Public Services

Taking the county as the basic unit of our plan to boost integrated urban-rural development, we will strengthen the comprehensive service capacity of county seats and the function of townships to serve the rural population. We will improve the mechanisms for unified planning, construction, and maintenance of urban and rural infrastructure as we promote the extension of municipal public facilities to suburban villages and large-scale central towns. We will improve roads, the postal service, as well as the supply of water, electricity, and gas to rural areas as we strengthen communications, radio and television, logistics, and other infrastructure there. We will ensure the quality of rural housing. We will promote the adoption of universal basic public service standards and systems for urban and rural areas, provide more services relating to rural education, healthcare, elderly care, and culture, and implement county-wide job rotation systems for teachers and doctors. We will encourage nongovernmental sectors to run rural public welfare programs. We will continue to raise scientific and cultural levels of the rural population and develop a skilled rural workforce.

Section 3

Improving the Rural Living Environment

We will launch initiatives to improve the rural living environment, and make steady progress in solving prominent environmental problems such as the growing heaps of rural waste and malodorous black water bodies. Prioritizing township government locations and central towns, we will promote on-site household waste sorting and recycling and progressively advance the treatment of household wastewater in rural areas. We will advance the Toilet Revolution in light of local conditions. We will carry out

a campaign for the comprehensive improvement of rural river systems. We will launch further village cleaning initiatives and afforestation drives to keep public areas, courtyards, houses, and the surroundings of villages clean and tidy.

Box 10 Modernization of Agriculture and the Countryside	
01 High-quality cropland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increase the area of high-quality cropland by 18.33 million hectares, 4 million hectares of which will be newly accessible to efficient water-saving irrigation; ▪ Apply conservation tilling techniques to 9.33 million hectares of chernozem soils in northeast China.
02 Modern seed industry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Build long-term national crop germplasm banks and medium-term crop germplasm nurseries; ▪ Improve national seed breeding and production centers in Hainan, Gansu, Sichuan and other provinces, and establish regional seed breeding and production centers such as soybean seed breeding and production centers in Heilongjiang; ▪ Build, renovate and expand national germplasm banks for livestock and poultry and aquatic products and related breeding protection sites and gene banks; ▪ Advance the construction of national-level core livestock and poultry breeding farms.
03 Agricultural mechanization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Develop 300 demonstration counties for the mechanization of the entire crop production process, and 300 counties to demonstrate the complete mechanization of protected agriculture and large-scale breeding; ▪ Promote the application of agricultural machinery to deep plowing and the facilitation of mechanization for farmland in hilly and mountainous areas.
04 Animal epidemic prevention and crop disease and pest control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Upgrade the facilities of national reference laboratories for animal diseases and regional centers for etiological monitoring; ▪ Improve specialized facilities for animal epidemic prevention and community-level cold storage facilities for animal vaccines in pastoral areas; ▪ Set up designated passages for animal epidemic prevention and facilities for the safe treatment of animals dying of illness; ▪ Build tiered epidemic monitoring centers and emergency prevention and control centers for crop diseases and pests, as well as pesticide risk monitoring centers; ▪ Establish prevention and control centers for forest and grass diseases and pests.
05 Treatment of agricultural pollution from non-point sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Develop 200 demonstration counties for comprehensive treatment of agricultural pollution from non-point sources in environmentally sensitive areas such as the key river basins of the Yangtze River and the Yellow River; ▪ Promote the recovery of resources from livestock and poultry manure; ▪ Develop aquaculture wastewater treatment in major aquaculture areas.

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06	<p>Cold chain logistics facilities of agricultural products</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Build 30 national key cold chain logistics bases for agricultural products and 70 regional bases; ▪ Improve the storage and preservation facilities of farm markets; ▪ Upgrade the cold chain storage and transportation facilities for designated slaughterhouses.
07	<p>Rural infrastructure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Where conditions permit, ensure that natural villages are linked by paved roads, and strengthen inter-village connectivity and intra-village road construction; ▪ Advance rural water source protection and water supply projects; ▪ Upgrade rural power grids; ▪ Upgrade rural broadband internet services and improve their operation, management and maintenance.
08	<p>Improvement of rural living environment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Systematically upgrade rural toilets in underdeveloped regions as well as high-altitude, cold, and water scarce areas; ▪ Support 600 counties in their county-wide campaigns to improve living environments; ▪ Build rural household waste and sewage treatment facilities.