

# China Development Forum 2021

## *China on a New Journey of Modernisation*

10:20-11:20, 20 March 2021

### Parallel Session 2 - Venue IV

#### Rural Revitalisation: Galvanising the Endogenous Dynamic

##### Moderator

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##### Speakers

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##### Key points

- Thanks to years of hard work, China has made considerable progress in addressing issues related to agriculture, rural areas and farmers. However, China's agriculture sector is not yet highly modernized, and issues around agriculture, rural areas and farmers remain the weak link in national economic and social development.
- To advance rural revitalization, China must identify the potential for rural revitalization and promptly remove institutional barriers that restrict the release of that potential; it should consider the larger picture of the entire national economy to stimulate the potential of rural revitalization.
- At present, China's agriculture has low returns, is basic, and its combination of agricultural factors is insufficient, which requires that priority be given first to the issue of rural land, then the growth of agricultural producers, and finally the recombination of agricultural factors.
- Financial enterprises should focus on rural construction, rural governance and rural industry. The National Rural Revitalization Administration plans to work out a specific framework agreement and implementation measures with financial enterprises.

- Whether China can improve rural education is crucial to rural revitalization. The government can build schools with highly-qualified teachers to enable rural students to receive high-quality educations.
- After decades of development, private entrepreneurs possess considerable financial capacity and experience, and should take concrete actions to play their part in helping less developed areas.

### Synopsis

The comprehensive advancement of rural revitalization should focus on three major tasks. The first is to draw a roadmap, that is, plan first, slowly and steadily execute the plan and make unremitting efforts. The second is to attach equal importance to hardware and software construction, by strengthening rural infrastructure construction to improve the rural living environment while enhancing access to basic public services, and promoting cultural and ideological progress in rural areas. The third task is to promote entrepreneurship, employment and industry: China should give full play to the role of new types of agribusinesses, encourage entrepreneurship to create more employment and drive the development of rural industry; it should boost employment through various approaches, including by enhancing technical training to improve skills; and should promote employment through labour exports and creating more local and nearby jobs.

To achieve two-way flow and the efficient utilization of high-quality resources in urban and rural areas, China should fully exploit the resource advantages of different regions and deploy these properly. It needs to formulate targeted policies to support industrial development, such as large-scale operations, rural land transfers, family farms, and new types of agricultural businesses. Weak links, such as cold chain logistics and sales channels, need to be strengthened. The primary task is to solve the problems of low returns, basic agriculture, and the inadequate combination of agricultural factors. This requires that priority be given first to the issue of rural land, then the growth of agricultural producers, and finally the recombination of agricultural factors.

Stimulating the endogenous dynamic of rural revitalization can start from tapping potential demand from the national economy for rural areas and agriculture. The first step is to satisfy demand for high-quality agricultural products. The inadequate development of rural areas in the past was largely due to the insufficient quantity and low quality of products. Therefore, it is vital to create opportunities to provide quality products and services to other sectors.

Second, urban residents' recreation and travel demand needs to be satisfied. Today, an increasing number of people are willing to go to the countryside for holidays, but

insufficient tourist facilities have hindered the development of rural tourism. China needs to further tap the potential in this area to facilitate rural revitalization. Third, new technologies can be applied in agriculture and rural areas. If science and technology are widely used in agriculture, agricultural competitiveness and farmers' incomes will improve.

The de-urbanization pattern of people born in the 1970s having to return to rural areas from cities should be discontinued, and they should settle in the cities depending on their capital resources. To address the issue of the elderly in rural areas, government needs to provide spiritual sustenance and cultural activities, and increase the supply of elderly care. It should build schools with highly-qualified teachers to provide rural children with high-level education, and targeted subsidy policies should be formulated to encourage college students to work in rural areas after graduation, as attracting and retaining high-quality talent will play a crucial role in galvanizing the endogenous dynamic of rural revitalization.

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