

SPECIAL ISSUE ON CHINA'S COMPLETE VICTORY OF POVERTY ALLEVIATION

The Information Office, International
Department of the CPC Central Committee

China nsight



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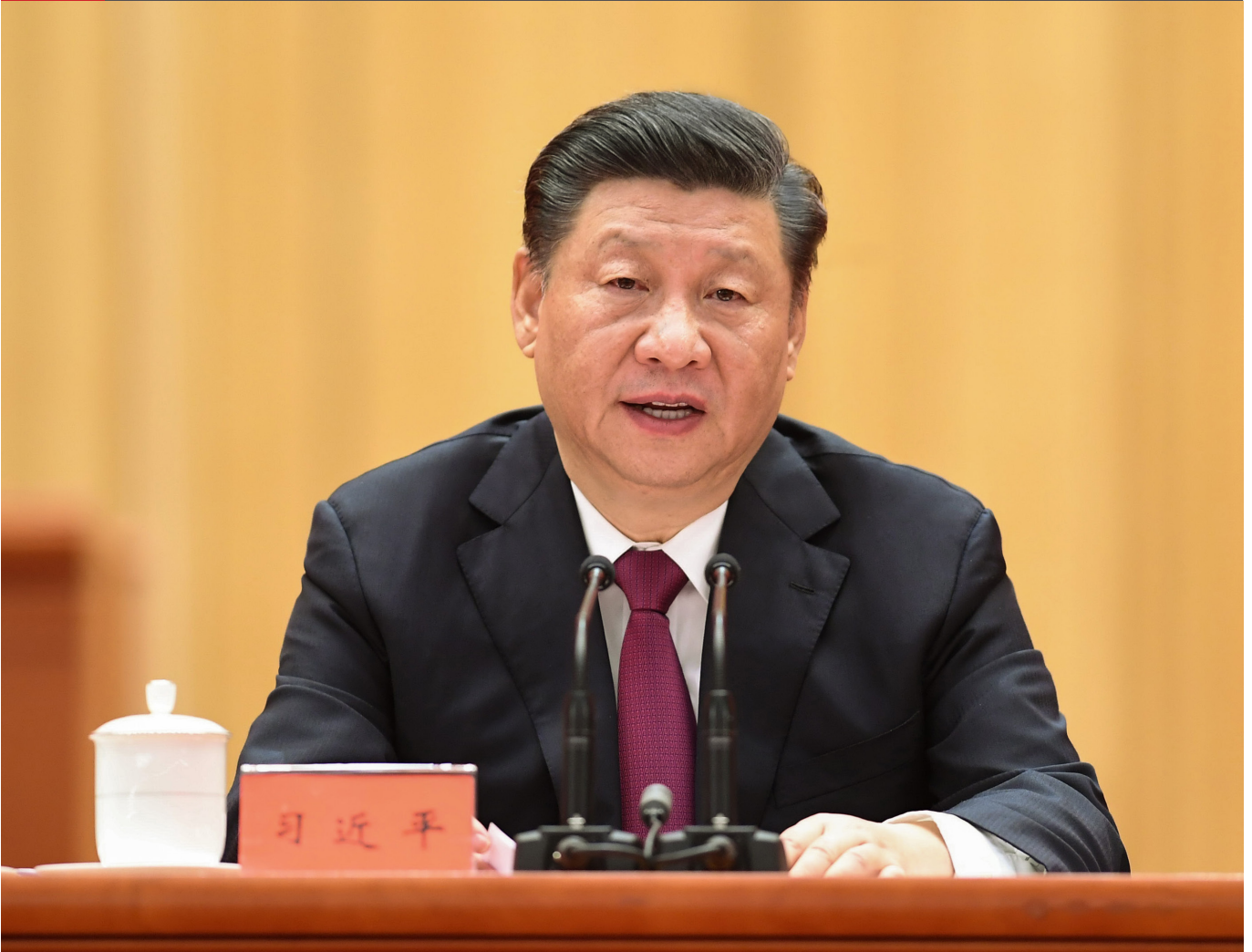
China's Poverty Alleviation
Contributes to Global Prosperity



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Workers Dedicating to and
Sacrificing for China's Poverty
Alleviation Campaign





Chinese President Xi Jinping, also General Secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and Chairman of the Central Military Commission, delivers an important speech at a grand gathering to mark the nation's poverty alleviation accomplishments and honor model poverty fighters at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, capital of China, on February 25, 2021. (XINHUA)

Xi Declares “Complete Victory” in Eradicating Absolute Poverty in China

Chinese President Xi Jinping announced on February 25 that China has secured a “complete victory” in its fight against poverty.

Xi, also General Secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and Chairman of the Central Military Commission, said absolute poverty has been eradicated in the world's most populous country, home to over 1.4 billion people.

Xi made the announcement while addressing a grand gathering held in the Great

Hall of the People in Beijing to mark the nation's poverty alleviation accomplishments and honor model poverty fighters.

With absolute poverty eliminated, China has created another “miracle” that will “go down in history,” Xi said in a televised speech.

The high-profile event was presided over by Premier Li Keqiang and attended by other senior Party leaders Li Zhanshu, Wang Yang, Wang Huning, Zhao Leji, Han Zheng—all members of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central

Committee—and Vice President Wang Qishan.

A Miracle

Under Xi's leadership, China launched a monumental anti-poverty campaign on a scale unseen anywhere in the world.

Over the past eight years, the final 98.99 million impoverished rural residents living under the current poverty line have all been lifted out of poverty. All 832 impoverished counties

and 128,000 villages have also been removed from the poverty list.

The country has met the poverty eradication target set out in the United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development 10 years ahead of schedule.

Combined with poverty-reduction results since the late 1970s, China is responsible for over 70 percent of the global reduction in poverty over the period, World Bank statistics have shown.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres acknowledged the success of China's anti-poverty campaign over the past few years, calling it "the most important contribution" to the global poverty reduction cause.

"No country has been able to lift hundreds of millions of people out of poverty in such a short time," Xi said.

At the gathering, Xi presented medals, certificates and plaques to role models from the country's anti-poverty fight. He also joined other Chinese leaders in presenting awards to individuals and groups for their outstanding achievements in the fight against penury.

The recipients include villagers, Party members dispatched to villages to fight poverty, grassroots officials and college researchers. Some of them were honored posthumously.

But not all of China's anti-poverty champions lived to see this day. Over the past eight years, more than 1,800 people died fighting poverty on the front lines.

Xi acknowledged these fallen heroes at the event, saying that their sacrifice and contributions "will never be forgotten by the Party,

the people and the republic."

Party, People, Pooling Resources, Precision

Summarizing China's experience in conquering poverty, Xi said the country has blazed a poverty reduction trail and formed an anti-poverty theory with Chinese characteristics.

He underlined the role of Party leadership, which has provided a "political and organizational guarantee" for China's poverty alleviation efforts.

Poverty relief work has been led by the centralized and unified leadership of the CPC with its 90 million members. Party chiefs at all levels were required to assume the primary responsibility for achieving the campaign's ambitious targets. Over 3 million public sector officials were sent from cities and towns to villages to fight poverty "on the front lines."

Funds were channeled to assist the fight. Nearly 1.6 trillion yuan (\$246 billion) of fiscal funds have been invested into poverty alleviation over the past eight years.

China also leveraged the political advantage of its socialist system, which can bring together the needed resources to accomplish great tasks. This enabled massive programs, such as those pairing up better-off provinces with others in need to tackle poverty.

The country's strategy of targeted poverty alleviation was also highlighted.

Xi said poverty eradication is an important embodiment of the Party's fundamental purpose of "whole-heartedly serving the people."

"Ending poverty, improving people's well-being and realizing common prosperity are

the essential requirements of socialism," Xi said.

Rural Vitalization

Building on its victory in eradicating poverty, China is moving on to push for higher-level development in its rural areas.


Shaking off poverty is not the finish line, but the starting point of a new life and new endeavor, Xi said in the speech, demanding efforts to consolidate poverty alleviation achievements and initiate a dovetailing drive of "rural vitalization."

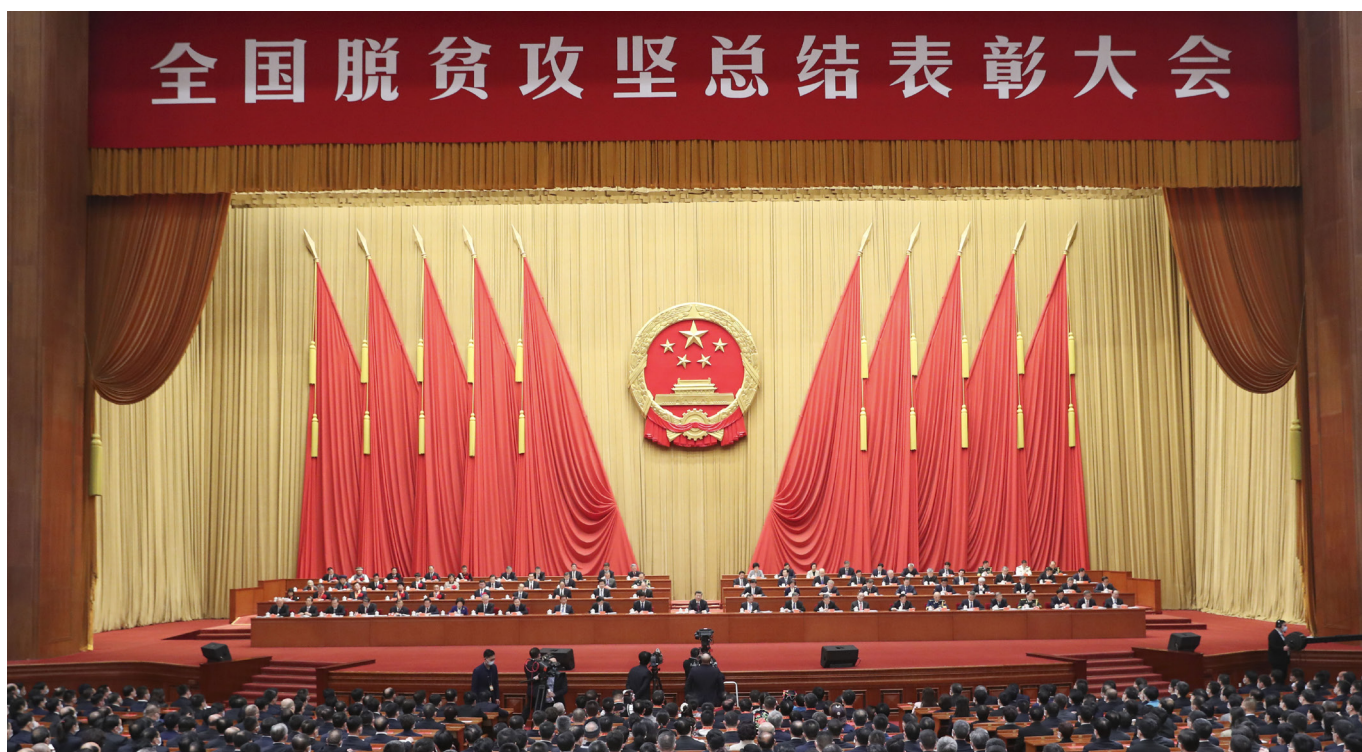
The rural vitalization strategy was proposed as a key move for the development of a modernized economy at the 19th CPC National Congress in 2017.

More detailed plans of the strategy were unveiled in the Party leadership's proposals for formulating an economic and social development plan for the 2021-25 period and long-term goals through the year 2035.

China on February 25 inaugurated a new cabinet body on promoting rural vitalization, which was transformed from the State Council Leading Group of Poverty Alleviation and Development.

In his speech, Xi said efforts must be made to prevent any large-scale relapse into poverty, and identifying solutions to problems concerning agriculture, rural areas and farmers must be the top priority of the Party's work.

"China will attach greater importance to the pursuit of common prosperity," he said. 



A grand gathering is held to mark the country's accomplishments in poverty alleviation and honor its model poverty fighters at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, on February 25, 2021. (XINHUA)

All Counties in China Removed From Poverty List

China has removed all remaining counties from the country's poverty list, as Guizhou Province announced on November 23, 2020 that its last nine poverty-stricken counties had officially eliminated poverty.

The nine counties, including Ziyun, Nayong, Weining and Yanhe, were the last group on the country's list of 832 impoverished counties that had been identified in 2014 by the State Council Leading Group Office of Poverty Alleviation and Development.

China has set a goal to eradicate absolute poverty by the end of this year. At the end of last year, 52 counties in the northwest, southwest and south of the country remained on the poverty list.

Guizhou, with 176,200 square kilometers of land—

92.5 percent of which are mountains and hills—was a main battlefield in the fight against poverty. In 2012, Guizhou had the highest number of impoverished people in China.

Since that year, the province has seen about 9.23 million people and 66 counties emerge from poverty, according to the Poverty Alleviation and Development Office of Guizhou.

A series of measures were taken to lift people out of poverty, such as developing suitable industries to increase incomes and create jobs, relocating people who lived in shabby places and improving public services.

The relocation project in Guizhou involved 1.88 million people, a record high in the country. **CI**

China's Poverty Alleviation: Two Phases

Phase I ● 1986-2013 Regional Poverty Alleviation

1986 National-level Poverty-stricken Counties

China established the State Council Leading Group Office for Poverty Alleviation and Development and introduced the list of 331 national-level poverty-stricken counties.

1986 Poverty Alleviation Policies

Providing loan interest subsidies.

Launching technological and social poverty alleviation.

1995 Compulsory Education

Aiding compulsory education in poor regions.

1996 Credit Loan

Launching pilots of micro-finance.

2001 The program of boosting the whole village toward poverty alleviation and development

Launching the whole-village-toward-poverty-alleviation-and-development program

Issuing the Outline for Poverty Reduction and Development of China's Rural Areas (2001-2010)

2004 Poverty Alleviation Plan

Promoting training for rural labor forces and industrial poverty alleviation
Initiating the “Two Basics” program for universal coverage of the nine-year compulsory education and eradicate illiteracy among middle age and young people in the western area of China.

2006 Mutual Assistance Funds

Promoting village-level mutual assistance funds for poverty-stricken villages.

2007-2013 Gradual promotion

2007 Launching the subsistence allowances system.

2011 Launching regional development.

2012 Implementing three special projects for students from poor and rural areas to enter key colleges and universities.

2013 Proposing targeted poverty alleviation.

President Xi Jinping first proposed the strategy of “targeted poverty alleviation” when visiting Shibadong Village, Hunan Province in central China in November 2013.

Phase II Targeted Poverty Alleviation**2014 Targeted Poverty Alleviation**

From 2013 to 2015, China allocated 24.78 billion yuan (\$3.78 billion) to extend power grids to areas without electricity, benefiting some 1.55 million people. By the end of 2015, China had achieved full electricity coverage for its entire population.

—In April 2014, the State Council Leading Group Office of Poverty Alleviation and Development issued a work plan on the registration of the poor population, mobilizing millions of grassroots cadres across the country to carry out poverty identification. During the process, 128,000 villages, 29.32 million households, and 89.62 million people were identified as poor, according to national standards and procedures on poverty reduction. A database was established for every single impoverished person.

—In October 2014, China observed the first National Poverty Relief Day on October 17.

—The Shibadong Village, the birthplace of “targeted poverty alleviation,” dropped its “poverty-stricken” label in 2016.

—In February 2017, Jinggangshan, the heartland of the early revolutionary activities of the CPC, announced that it had been officially taken off the list of impoverished areas.

—In October 2017, the 2017 Global Poverty Reduction and Development Forum kicked off in Beijing. UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres sent a letter of congratulation to the meeting commending China’s poverty-reduction strategy. He said that China had lifted hundreds of millions of people out of poverty and China’s poverty-alleviation experience could provide useful lessons for other developing countries.

—In 2017, China completed the renovation and upgrading of rural power grids in small towns and central villages, electrified motor-pumped wells, and supplied poor villages with electricity for industrial and commercial use, benefiting 78,000 villages and 160 million rural residents.

—In February 2018, the number of rural people living in poverty had dropped from 98.99 million at the end of 2012 to 30.46 million at the end of 2017, and 68.53 million people

Phase II Targeted Poverty Alleviation

had been lifted out of poverty in the past five years, a reduction of about 70 percent.

—In May 2019, Yan'an, a former revolutionary base of the CPC, was officially taken off the list of impoverished areas.

—Huang Wenxiu, who led the poverty-alleviation efforts in a village in Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, died in a rain-induced flash flood on June 17, 2019, at the age of 30.

Over the past eight years, over 1,500 poverty-alleviation cadres in the country had died in the battle against poverty.

—In 2019, China completed a new round of rural grid transformation and upgrading, achieving a supply reliability rate of 99.8 percent and an integrated voltage qualification rate of 97.9 percent.

—In March 2020, a symposium on securing a decisive victory in poverty alleviation was held in Beijing, the largest of its kind since the 18th CPC National Congress.

—In May 2020, the registered poor households of the village of Atulieer atop a cliff in Liangshan Yi Autonomous Prefecture, in China's Sichuan Province, moved to a newly built community.

Since 2016, more than 600 billion yuan had been invested in building new homes for 9.6 million people struggling in extreme poverty.

—In October 2020, China's Tibet Autonomous Region accomplished the historical feat of eradicating absolute poverty. By the end of 2019, Tibet had lifted 628,000 people out of poverty and removed 74 county-level areas from the poverty list.

—In November 2020, China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, with over 25 million people of various ethnic groups, bid farewell to absolute poverty, with the last 10 impoverished counties managing to end absolute poverty.

—In November 2020, Xihaigu, once one of the world's most uninhabitable places due to harsh environment, achieved a historic feat in eliminating absolute poverty, with the last poor county in the region removed from the country's list of poverty-stricken counties.

—In 2020, rural residents' per capita disposable income reached 17,131 yuan, up 6.9 percent in nominal terms and 3.8 percent in real terms from a year earlier. The nominal and actual rates for rural residents grew 3.4 percent and 2.6 percent faster than that of urban residents.

—By the end of 2020, nearly 100 million impoverished rural residents had escaped poverty. All 832 national-level poverty-stricken counties had shaken off poverty. More than 90% of registered poor received support for employment or technical training. More than two-thirds of poor population shook off poverty by migrant working and developing industries.

22 provinces in central and western China identified 116,000 poverty alleviation products. Over 19 million poor patients received treatment. Nearly 10 million households who were impoverished by illness have been lifted out of poverty.

Sources: State Council Information Office, Xinhua News Agency, and CGTN

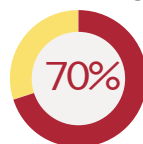
Poverty Alleviation in China

(1978-2020)

750 mln
Chinese
have come out of poverty since 1978



contributing



of global poverty
reduction efforts

This is more
than the
population
of Viet Nam



The furthest two counties are



They are scattered in

832
severely impoverished counties



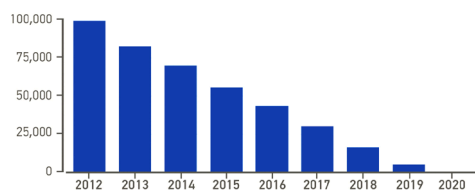
98.99 mln
poor Chinese



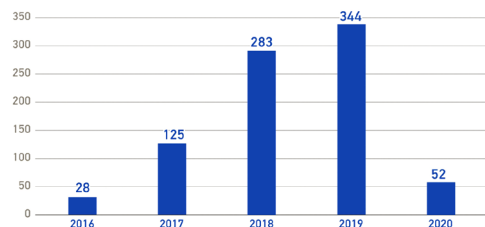
have shaken off poverty from 2013 to 2020

(Source: State Council Leading Group Office of Poverty Alleviation and Development; designed by Pamela Tobey)

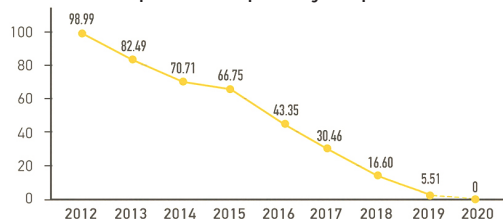
Number of people living in absolute poverty in China
(unit: thousand)



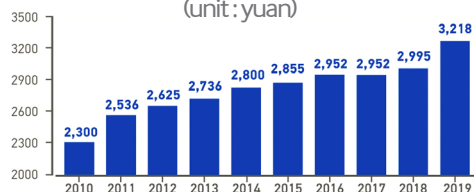
Annual number of delisted poverty-stricken
counties across China



Population in poverty drops



Rural poverty line in China
(unit: yuan)





Aerial photo taken on October 1, 2020 shows a view of the Jianhe-Rongjiang expressway in southwest China's Guizhou Province. (XINHUA)



Combo photo taken on September 29, 2020 shows a family from Qudeng village posing for photos in front of a residential building at a relocation site (L), and an aerial view of the relocation site, in Mangkam county, Southwest China's Tibet autonomous region. (XINHUA)

A staff member dries apricots at a cooperative in Yengisar County of northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, July 2, 2020. (XINHUA)



Farmer Qin Yongling displays eggs at a chicken farm in Renyuan Village of Jinji Township in Wuxuan County, south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, June 18, 2020. (XINHUA)



A villager harvests Chinese cabbages at a vegetable planting base in Gaoyuan Village of Xiji County, northwest China's Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, September 7, 2020. (XINHUA)



Yu Wulin of Nu ethnic group shares the scenery of Nujiang Valley via live-streaming from his homestay in Laomudeng village in Fugong county, Lisu autonomous prefecture of Nujiang, Southwest China's Yunnan Province, November 3, 2020. (XINHUA)



A woman shows the number of her new house during a ceremony for new houses of poverty alleviation relocation in Butuo County in Liangshan Yi Autonomous Prefecture, southwest China's Sichuan Province, June 21, 2020. (XINHUA)

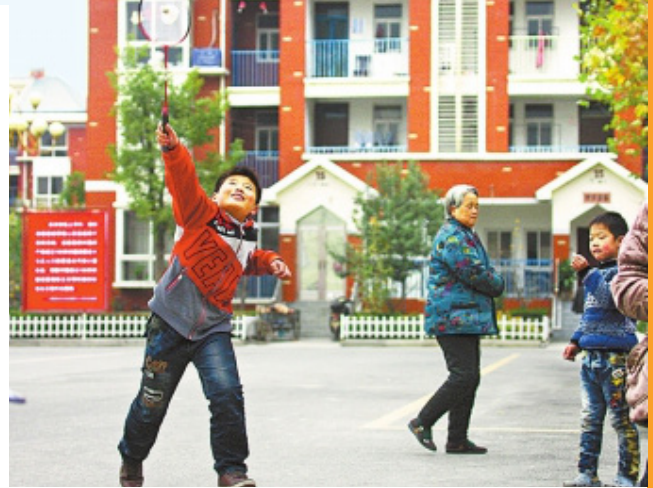


.Xia Jiye (L), a poverty-relief official in Longgou Township, guides a villager in making tea at a tea workshop in Longgou Township, Liangshan Yi Autonomous Prefecture, southwest China's Sichuan Province, August 14, 2020. (XINHUA)



Combo photo taken on September 23, 2020 shows a villager posing for a photo (L) and her working at a mushroom packaging workshop in Sayibage Township of Moyu County, northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region. (XINHUA)

Poverty Alleviation



Lankao County, Henan Province

Lankao County is located in the east of Henan Province in central China, with an area of 1,116 square km and a total population of 830,000. It was identified to be a key county for poverty alleviation and development at the national level in 2002. It was designated a key county in the contiguous poverty-stricken areas in the Dabie Mountain in 2011. In 2014, there were 115 poor villages in Lankao, with about 77,000 people living below the poverty line, and the incidence of poverty was 10 percent. In February 2017, Lankao was officially taken off the list of poor counties, becoming one of the first poor counties in China to be delisted.



Liangshan Yi Autonomous Prefecture, Sichuan Province

Liangshan Yi Autonomous Prefecture in the southwest of Sichuan Province is home to the largest Yi ethnic community in China. Affected by historical and geographical factors, it is a typical region with abject poverty. By the end of 2019, 805,000 people had been alleviated from poverty, 1,772 villages had been removed from the list of poor villages, and the incidence of poverty had fallen to 4 percent. In 2020, Liangshan will ensure that the remaining 178,000 people will get above the poverty line, 300 villages will be removed from the list, and seven counties will be delisted, thereby putting an end to abject poverty that has plagued the region for hundreds of years.



Tibet Autonomous Region

Tibet Autonomous Region was founded on September 1, 1965. Owing to its natural conditions and history, Tibet had the highest incidence of poverty in China. It was also the region where poverty was the most entrenched and poverty relief programs were most costly and challenging. Through the strenuous efforts of people of all ethnic groups in the region, all counties and districts in Tibet were removed from the list in December 2019.



Jinggangshan City, Jiangxi Province

The Jinggangshan region is a cradle of Chinese revolution. Given its mountainous terrain, inconvenient transportation and weak infrastructure, Jinggangshan was so poor that painstaking efforts were required for it to escape poverty. On February 26, 2017, Jinggangshan declared that it had got rid of poverty, becoming the first region in China to be removed from the list of poor counties and cities since the country introduced an exit mechanism to its poverty alleviation program.



Yan'an, Shaanxi Province

Yan'an, a holy place for Chinese revolution, is on the heavily dissected, ecologically fragile Loess Plateau. It was mired in extreme poverty in the past. Under the leadership of the CPC Central Committee, Yan'an launched a targeted poverty alleviation campaign. On May 7, 2019, with its last two poor counties—Yanchuan and Yichuan—being delisted, Yan'an said goodbye to absolute poverty.



Zunyi, Guizhou Province

Zunyi is located in the contiguous poverty-stricken areas in the remote Wuling and Wumeng mountains with poor infrastructure. In 2014, eight of the 14 counties, cities, and districts in Zunyi were poverty-stricken, with 922,200 people living in poverty. On March 3, 2020, the Guizhou Provincial Government announced that Zheng'an County had shaken off poverty, marking that poverty had become a thing of the past for the 8.12 million people in Zunyi.



Shibadong Village, Hunan Province

Shibadong Village is located in Huayuan County, Xiangxi Tujia and Miao Autonomous Prefecture, Hunan Province, with 225 households and 939 people. Most of the villagers had lived below the poverty line for years before Shibadong bid farewell to poverty in February 2017. The village is the place where President Xi Jinping first put forward the important idea of "targeted poverty alleviation." Bounngang Vorachith, then General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party and President of Laos, visited Shibadong on June 2, 2018.



Dulongjiang Township, Yunnan Province

Dulong is a mountain-dwelling ethnic group in southwest China. It is one of the least populous of China's 56 minority nationalities. It is also called a direct-transition minority ethnic group because the Dulong people didn't bid farewell to primitive life until the founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949 and since then they directly stepped into the socialist society. Most Dulong people live in Dulongjiang Township, where an inhospitable mountainous terrain had been thwarting the town's development for decades. After years of efforts, the Dulong ethnic group shook off poverty in 2018.

Xi Jinping on Poverty Alleviation

The poverty alleviation work is quite arduous, and its completion scheduled for this year has been affected by the novel coronavirus epidemic situation, making the tasks harder to be completed and more demanding. The CPC needs to remain true to its original aspiration, keep its mission firmly in mind, boost confidence and make tenacious efforts to win the battle against poverty across the board, which is a great cause of remarkable significance not only to the Chinese nation but all humans.



Chinese President Xi Jinping, also General Secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, speaks with villagers in the village of Shazhou, Rucheng County, central China's Hunan Province, on September 16, 2020. Xi inspected Hunan Province on that day. (XINHUA)

The 13th Five-Year Plan Period (2016-2020)

Excerpts from Xi's speech at a symposium on securing a decisive victory in poverty alleviation in Beijing on March 6, 2020
"It is a basic requirement and core indicator in our poverty eradication effort that by 2020 we will succeed in delivering the Two Assurances and Three Guarantees* for impoverished rural residents. This is key to the success of the final stage of our fight against poverty."

Excerpts from Xi's speech at a seminar on pressing problems related to the Two Assurances and Three Guarantees on April 16, 2019

"I have emphasized repeatedly that we should maintain the current poverty eradication standard, neither raising nor lowering it."

Excerpts from Xi's speech at a seminar on pressing problems related to the Two Assurances and Three Guarantees on April 16, 2019

The fight against poverty requires perseverance since only two years are left to meet the goal of eradicating extreme poverty by 2020. The task will be extremely arduous. There should be no retreat until a complete victory is won.

A firm hand in rectifying malpractices in poverty relief is needed. The practices of formalities for formalities' sake and bureaucratism hamper the effective advancement of poverty reduction.

Excerpts from Xi's speech at a panel discussion with deputies from Gansu Province at the second session of the 13th National People's Congress on March 7, 2019

"At its 18th National Congress in 2012, the CPC vowed to achieve moderate prosperity in all respects throughout the country. Accordingly, the CPC Central Committee has included development-driven poverty alleviation in the Five-sphere Integrated Plan and the Four-pronged Comprehensive Strategy, and made it one of the key tasks for realizing the First Centenary Goal."

Excerpts from Xi's speech at the Seminar on Targeted Poverty Elimination on February 12, 2018

"We have produced a raft of major strategies for the fight against poverty on all fronts. This is a fight of unprecedented intensity, scale and influence. But we have made decisive progress, significantly improving the working and living conditions of poor areas and poor people, and in so doing we have written a new chapter in the history of the fight against poverty."

Excerpts from Xi's speech at the Seminar on Targeted Poverty Elimination on February 12, 2018

"We uphold the strategy of targeted poverty alleviation to improve effectiveness. Targeted efforts are essential to fight against poverty."

Excerpts from Xi's speech at the Seminar on Targeted Poverty Elimination on February 12, 2018

"We identify the targets of poverty alleviation, determine who will carry out the work and how they should do it, and make clear how to apply an exit mechanism for those who have emerged from poverty. We do not spray preferential policies indiscriminately or 'kill fleas with a hand-grenade'. Instead, we adopt targeted measures for different villages, households and individuals according to their specific conditions, so that we can address the root causes of poverty."

Excerpts from Xi's speech at the Seminar on Targeted Poverty Elimination on February 12, 2018

The eastern region and central organizations should increase their support for severely impoverished areas and take more initiative concerning one-to-one assistance.

Poverty relief officials must go deep into the villages and work hard together with the locals. They must not make token efforts or be slack at work.

Excerpts from Xi's speech at a seminar on eliminating poverty in severely impoverished areas on June 23, 2017

China has lifted more people out of poverty than any other country, and it was the first to realize the United Nation Millennium Development Goals.

Our poverty relief goals for the 13th Five-year Plan period (2016-20) are as follows: By 2020, the rural poor will be guaranteed food, clothing, compulsory education, basic medical care, and safe housing; in poverty-stricken areas, the growth rate in rural per capita disposable income will surpass the national average growth rate, and major indicators of basic public services will approach the national average.

Taking targeted measures to help the impoverished means lifting them out of poverty. We should set a timetable, a step-by-step schedule to complete this poverty relief program, being neither over-conservative nor over-impetuous.

To eliminate poverty, the impoverished should rely on their own hard work. There is no mountain top we cannot reach; there is no voyage without a final destination.

The 12th Five-Year Plan Period (2011-2015)

Excerpts from Xi's speech at the Central Conference on Poverty Alleviation and Development in November 2015

Poverty alleviation of the impoverished rural population is our biggest area of weakness. Bringing about a moderately prosperous society in all aspects does not mean that each and every individual is ensured the same level of prosperity, but if the living standards of the currently impoverished rural population of over 70 million do not improve noticeably, our realization of a moderately prosperous society in all aspects will lack credibility.

Excerpts from Xi's speech at the second full assembly of the Fifth Plenary Session of the 18th CPC Central Committee on October 29, 2015

We should pay close attention to people in straitened circumstances, and extend care to them with respect and love. We should do our best to solve their problems and keep their needs and sufferings in mind, and bring the solicitude and concern of the Party and the government to the people in the impoverished areas.

With regard to completing the building of a moderately prosperous society in all respects, the hardest and most arduous tasks lie in the rural areas and the poverty-stricken regions in particular. We cannot say we have realized a moderately prosperous society if the rural areas, especially the backward parts of the countryside, are left behind.

We should work together with one heart to put the Party's policies into full practice, and make every effort to ensure a better life for our fellow-countrymen in the rural areas.

Excerpts from Xi's speech during an inspection of poverty-alleviation and development work in Fuping County, Hebei Province on December 29 and 30, 2012

*This refers to assurances of adequate food and clothing, and guarantees of access to compulsory education, basic medical services and safe housing for impoverished rural residents.



Chinese President Xi Jinping, also General Secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, delivers an important speech at a grand gathering to mark the nation's poverty alleviation accomplishments and honor model poverty fighters at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, capital of China, on February 25, 2021. (XINHUA)

Xi Charts Road Map for Rural Vitalization After Victory in Poverty Fight

Building on its victory in eradicating absolute poverty, China is moving on to push for rural vitalization along with renewed efforts to consolidate the achievements made in the fight against poverty.

Shaking off poverty is not the finish line, but the starting line of a new life and new endeavor, Chinese President Xi Jinping said on February 25, urging efforts to effectively integrate the consolidation of poverty alleviation achievements and rural vitalization.

Xi, also General Secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and Chairman of the Central Military Commission, made the remarks while addressing a gathering marking the country's accomplishments in poverty eradication and commending the efforts

of outstanding individuals.

The rural vitalization strategy was proposed as a key move for the development of a modernized economy at the 19th CPC National Congress in 2017.

The year 2021 marks the start of China's 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-2025) for economic and social development and the beginning of its new journey toward fully building a modern socialist country.

China detailed plans to fully promote the strategy of rural vitalization in the Chinese leadership's proposals for formulating the 14th Five-Year Plan for National Economic and Social Development and the Long-Range Objectives Through the Year 2035.

In his speech, Xi said efforts must be made to prevent the scenario in which residents slip back into poverty on a large scale.

In 2020, after eight years of efforts, all of China's nearly 100 million impoverished rural residents living below the current poverty line had shaken off poverty.

Xi also demanded continued efforts to place the solution of problems concerning agriculture, rural areas and farmers as a priority in the work of the CPC.

Work concerning agriculture, rural areas and farmers has remained a top priority for China for 18 consecutive years. China unveiled its "No. 1 central document" for 2021 on February 21, stressing the efforts to comprehensively push forward rural vitalization and accelerate the modernization of agriculture and rural areas.

"China will attach greater importance to the pursuit of common prosperity," Xi said in his speech. **■**



(Source: CGTN; designed by Wang Yajuan)

Xi's Footprints on Poverty Alleviation



Xi Jinping (R) visits an impoverished villager in the Luotuowan Village of Fuping County, north China's Hebei Province on December 30, 2012. (XINHUA)

Eliminating poverty, improving people's livelihoods, and realizing common prosperity are the essential requirements of socialism. Since the 18th Communist Party of China (CPC) National Congress, the CPC Central Committee, with President Xi Jinping at the core, has placed poverty alleviation in a prominent position, put forward new thoughts and ideas, and made new decisions and arrangements to advance China's poverty relief campaign.

Here is a look at the timeline of Xi's efforts on fighting poverty.

December 2012

During his visit to impoverished villages in north China's Fuping County, Chinese President Xi Jinping said the most arduous and heavy task facing China in completing the building of a moderately prosperous society is in the rural areas, especially the poverty-stricken regions.

March 2013

While joining deputies in panel discussions at the annual session of the National People's Congress, Xi said poverty alleviation should not be like "killing fleas with a hand-grenade" or resort to indiscriminate measures. The poor population should be accurately identified, assisted and managed.

November 2013

During an inspection tour in central China's Hunan Province, Xi visited Shibadong, a Miao minority village labeled poor at the time, where he put forward the concept of "targeted poverty alleviation." The term refers to measures that include a system to keep track of every household and individual in poverty to verify that their treatment is having the desired effect.

January 2015

Xi said no single ethnic minority group should be left behind in the country's building of a moderately prosperous society in all respects.

February 2015

During a meeting with Party chiefs of 24 counties and cities from Shaanxi and Gansu provinces and Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, Xi said a well-off society is incomplete if people in old revolutionary base areas cannot shake off poverty.

October 2015

Xi delivered a keynote speech at the opening ceremony of the 2015 Global Poverty Reduction and Development Forum, saying that China has lifted more than 600 million people out of poverty in the past 30 years, and China was the first developing country to meet the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) target of reducing the population living in poverty by half ahead of the 2015 deadline.

While striving to reduce poverty at home, China has also actively supported the cause in other developing countries. Over the past 60 years, China has provided 166 countries and international organizations with nearly 400 billion yuan in assistance.

November 2015

Xi led a conference on poverty

alleviation and development. The conference, attended by senior leaders of the CPC Central Committee and the central government, and major provincial-level officials, was the first such high-level meeting ever held at the time. Officials made a "soldiers' pledge" to the central leadership.

February 2016

During a trip to Shenshan Village, a poverty-stricken village in the city of Jinggangshan, in Jiangxi Province, Xi met with villagers and the village party chief to learn about the progress that had been made in poverty relief through "precision" measures.

"Not a single family living in poverty is to be left behind on our path to combating poverty," Xi told the Shenshan villagers.

July 2016

Xi urged developed regions in the east to help their partner regions in the west better fight poverty at a national conference on poverty alleviation through east-west cooperation in Yinchuan, capital city of China's Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region.

August 2016

During an inspection tour to Qinghai Province, Xi said relocation is an effective way to relieve poverty, and stressed the importance of listening to what the vil-



Chinese President Xi Jinping, also General Secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and Chairman of the Central Military Commission, talks to villagers who are participating in festive activities, and extends his New Year's greetings to people of all ethnic groups across the country, on a public square of Huawu Village, Xinren Miao Township of Qianxi County, Bijie, southwest China's Guizhou Province, February 3, 2021. (XINHUA)

lagers want and letting them participate in planning their new villages.

Xi said that the building of new villages should be integrated with measures to promote production and employment, improve basic public services and protect ethnic, regional and cultural features and styles.

● End of 2018

The Dulong ethnic minority group in China's Yunnan Province announced that it had been officially taken off the list of impoverished areas in 2018. When answering a letter from the Dulong people, Xi said that "poverty eradication is only the first step, better days are yet to come."

● May 2020

The Huanjiang Maonan Autonomous County in Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region was removed from the country's impoverished county list.

In an instruction on poverty elimina-

tion among the ethnic group, Xi called on the Maonan people to take poverty elimination as a new starting point for a better life, and continue with efforts to make their lives more prosperous.

● October 2020

Xi urged continuous efforts to win a complete victory in the battle against poverty as China marked the seventh National Poverty Relief Day, saying that 2020 was the decisive year for completing the building of a moderately prosperous society in all respects and eradicating poverty nationwide.

● December 2020

In a letter of congratulations to the International Forum on Sharing Poverty Reduction Experience held in Beijing, Xi said that the cause of poverty reduction is facing severe challenges as the COVID-19 pandemic rages across the world, and China is willing to work with all countries to promote international pov-

erty reduction and build a community with a shared future for humanity.

● December 2020

While delivering a televised New Year speech to ring in 2021, Xi said China had secured a great historic achievement for fully building a moderately prosperous society in all respects and a decisive victory in poverty eradication.

In 2020, after eight years of efforts, all of China's nearly 100 million impoverished rural residents living below the current poverty line had shaken off poverty.

● February, 2021

Xi visited Qianxi County in southwest China's Guizhou Province ahead of the Chinese New Year falling on February 11 on February 3. Guizhou, which used to be a provincial-level region with the biggest population of poor people, has lifted more than 9 million people out of poverty since 2012 with the GDP topping 1.78 trillion yuan (\$276 billion) in 2020. **CI**

Xi's Efforts on China's Poverty Alleviation Campaign



While attending the 70th session of the United Nations (UN) General Assembly and visiting the United States in 2015, Chinese President Xi Jinping delivered a speech in Seattle, Washington of the U.S., unveiling his simple wish more than 40 years ago of making people in Liangjiahe Village, Yan'an of Shaanxi Province in northwest China able to eat meat in their diets more often.

In his teens, Xi was sent from Beijing to work as a farmer in the small village. Impressed by the poverty situation in the rural areas, he has been focusing on poverty alleviation work over the past 40 years as he turned from the secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) branch of Liangjiahe Brigade to the Chinese president and General Secretary of the CPC Central Committee. Improving the well-being of poor rural residents in China has been his concerns.

On September 22, 2020, Xi attended the General Debate of the 75th Session of the UN General Assembly and made a statement. "We have every confidence to achieve our goals within the set time frame, that is, to finish the building of a moderately prosperous society in all respects, lift out of poverty all rural residents living below the current poverty line, and meet ten years ahead of schedule the poverty eradication target set out in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development," he said.

Xi's simple wishes have now come true. China eliminated absolute poverty nationwide by the end of 2020, making it the country reducing poverty of the largest population in the world.

New Year Greetings

Spring Festival marks the day when the Chinese people reunite with their families for thousands of years. Over the past years, Xi has kept visiting impoverished areas every year before the festival.

On February 3, 2013 before the Spring Festival, Xi visited the house of Ma Gang, a senior CPC member living in Yuangudui Village, Weiyuan County of Dingxi City, Gansu Province in northwest China.

As Ma recalled, Xi entered the house



and began to talk with him about his living conditions. After tasting the water stored at Ma's house, Xi inspected local water supply project construction site and stressed the urgency of allowing local people to get access to clean drinking water to related departments for water shortage remains a major hurdle for local poverty alleviation.

During the 7 years in Liangjiahe, Xi lived in cave dwellings and worked with his partners on repairing water projects. The experience drove him to set the goal of making China's poverty-stricken regions like Liangjiahe to shake off poverty at an early date. He visited the village before the Spring Festival in 2015.

Besides visiting Dingxi in Gansu in 2013 and Yan'an in 2015, Xi visited the houses of herdsmen in Xilin Gol League, Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region in north China in 2014, went to Shenshan Village, a poverty-stricken region in Jinggangshan of Jiangxi Province, an old revolutionary base in 2016, and visited Desheng Village in Zhangjiakou, Hebei Province in 2017 and impoverished

people of the Yi ethnic group in Daliang Mountains of Zhaojue County, Sichuan Province in southwest China.

With Xi's efforts on poverty alleviation over the past eight years, hundreds of millions of poor people in China have shaken off poverty. As he said when visiting a villager living in Sanjia Village, Baoshan in Yunnan Province, southwest China before Spring Festival this year, poverty alleviation only marks the start for rural residents to live a better life and further efforts are needed.

The People-Centered Messages

On January 20, 2015, Xi went to Kunming in Yunnan and met with several local government workers and residents of Gongshan Dulong and Nu Autonomous County in the province, further boosting their confidence towards a more prosperous life. More than a year ago, the county reported the opening of a highway tunnel in a letter to President Xi and received

congratulations and encouragement.

According to Gao Derong, the previous major of the Gongshan County, local villagers often had to spend half a month to climb over the Ligong Mountain to Gongshan County and return before 1949 when the People's Republic of China was founded. After 1949, a road for people and horses to travel was built, reducing the needed time to and fro to around seven days. It took local people seven or eight hours to reach the county after the building of a road for vehicles in 1999 and the tunnel which has opened to traffic allows them to get to the county in only three hours. By the end of 2018, the Dulong ethnic people shook off poverty.

President Xi replied again to the letter from the Dulong ethnic people on April 10, 2019, encouraging them to make further efforts for better life after shaking off poverty. He further expressed concerns on local people in the 2020 New Year speech on December 31, 2019.

After leaving the Liangjiahe Village in 1975, Xi wrote letters to the villagers for four times. In the letter unveiled on May 5, 2014, Xi encouraged local people to combat floods and strive towards a better life, which shows his people-centered philosophy.

Fulfilling Commitment

In April 1997, Xi who was Deputy Secretary of CPC Fujian Provincial Committee went to Xihaigu, Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region in northwest China for the first time and was deeply shocked by local poverty situation. He has taken the lead in boosting the cooperation between Ningxia and Fujian Province in southeast China to support the former with all-out efforts since then. With his efforts, technologies of edible fungi planting were promoted in Ningxia, which has now become a pillar industry in the region.

Xi who turned China's vice president and a member of the Standing Committee of the CPC Central Committee Political Bureau inspected Ningxia again in April 2008. In July 2016, he went to Ningxia for the third time and visited local poor households, encouraging them to improve their income through developing industries and ensuring children's education.

Over the past 50 years, Xi's footprints have covered impoverished regions across China, as he has been concerning on people's well-being. **C**

(Source: Xinhua News Agency)

From Local to Global—Xi Jinping's Devotion to Anti-Poverty Causes

Chinese President Xi Jinping, whose career has been closely associated with his country's war against poverty, declared on Thursday that China has scored a "complete victory."

The country has created a "China example" of poverty reduction and made great contributions to global poverty alleviation, Xi said when addressing a gathering marking the country's accomplishments in poverty eradication and commending role models in that cause.

During the race against impoverishment at home, the Chinese president is keenly aware that poverty eradication is a common ideal of humanity. He thus has urged his country to play an increasingly proactive role in global efforts to reduce poverty.

Xi calls it "the bigger perspective."

People-centered Development

In the late 1960s, Xi, who was then less than 16 years of age, came to a small village on the loess plateau of northern Shaanxi Province and worked on the land there for seven years.

Back then, peasants had nothing to offer but sweat and toil in hopes of living better, but due to a severe scarcity of resources, that still seemed a pie in the sky for the rural impoverished.

That experience has built enduring momentum in Xi's devotion to the anti-poverty cause.

By the end of 2010, China's economy was about \$6 trillion, overtaking Japan as the world's second-largest economy, while there remained nearly 150 million people whose income was less than one dollar a day.

When China's per capita GDP rose from \$4,551 in 2010 to 10,276 dollars in 2019—crossing the 10,000-dollar mark for the first time, Xi has repeatedly said "no single poor area or individual shall be left behind."

Over the past decade, the overarching goal of China's anti-poverty endeavor

was to realize the Two Assurances and Three Guarantees—to ensure the rural poor do not have to worry about food and clothing, and have access to compulsory education, basic medical services and safe housing.

"It is a basic requirement and core indicator in our poverty eradication effort that by 2020 we will succeed in delivering the Two Assurances and Three Guarantees for impoverished rural residents," Xi said during an inspection tour of southwest China's Chongqing municipality in April 2019.

"This is key to the success of the final stage of our fight against poverty," he said.

While the Chinese people are moving closer to realizing what has come to be known as the Chinese dream, hundreds of millions of people in other countries are still living in extreme poverty.

"We cannot but feel deep concern that more than 800 million still go to bed every day with an empty stomach," Xi said, addressing the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Summit 2015 at the UN headquarters in New York.

As a developing nation, China will share its development opportunities with other developing countries, Xi pledged on the same day at the High-level Roundtable on South-South Cooperation.

"China will closely link its development with the common growth of the developing world, connect the Chinese dream with the dream of all the people in the developing countries for a better life, and join hands with other developing countries to create a bright future for common progress," he said.

Targeted Poverty Alleviation

In 2012, there were still nearly 100 million people living below the national poverty line—2300 yuan (\$356 in the current value) or less per year, a new but tough period in China's anti-poverty war.

The idea of targeted poverty alleviation proves to be China's mighty weapon

in its final push against poverty, which was first put forward by Xi during an inspection tour in 2013 to Shibadong, a Miao minority village in the central province of Hunan.

Despite its location deep in the mountains, Shibadong abounds in ethnic charm and ecological resources. Therefore, the villagers decided to bet their future on six major industries, including Miao embroidery and rural tourism.

In early 2017, all the 533 impoverished residents in the village were lifted out of poverty, while the net per capita income grew nearly ninefold between 2013 and 2019.

In 2018, Lao President Bounnhang Vorachith led a delegation to Shibadong to learn from its playbook of fighting poverty.

As Laos is striving to reduce poverty, the village's success has become a model for his country, Bounnhang wrote to Shibadong villagers in 2019.

Having blazed a poverty reduction path with Chinese characteristics, China, under Xi's guidance, is helping other developing countries transform their resource endowment into development advantages.

In 2000, Xi helped launch the pilot Juncao project to help improve the livelihood of the Papua New Guinea people, when he was the governor of southeast China's Fujian Province.

Juncao, famed as "magic grass" and discovered by Chinese scientists, is an economical and environmentally friendly substitute for timber, which can be used as a substrate for growing mushrooms.

Eighteen years later, during Xi's visit to the Oceania country, the two countries signed another aid project using the grass technology. By 2023, the aid program is expected to lift 30,000 local people out of poverty.

At a UN meeting in 2019, former President of the General Assembly Maria Fernanda Espinosa Garcés described Juncao as "emblematic of China's Belt and Road Initiative," which, according to the World Bank's estimates, could contribute to lifting 7.6 million people out of extreme

poverty and 32 million out of moderate poverty.

Uphill Battle

Over the past eight years, China has lifted 98.99 million poor rural residents under the current poverty line out of poverty, with 832 impoverished counties and 128,000 poor villages removed from the poverty list, Xi said Thursday, hailing the country's achievement of eradicating absolute poverty as a miracle that shall "go down in history."

It was a hard-fought battle, particularly after the COVID-19 pandemic, which emerged in late 2019, tore through China's economy.

Thanks to China's dual efforts to prevent and control the spread of COVID-19 and stabilize economic and social development, its economy emerged as the only major economy to grow in 2020, with a 2.3-percent increase of GDP year on year, official data showed in mid-Janu-

ary.

Despite China's rebound, other emerging markets and developing economies, however, may trace diverging recovery paths, as the pandemic is still mauling many parts of the world, according to the World Economic Outlook Update released by the International Monetary Fund on January 26.

The quest to end poverty has suffered its worst setback for the first time in a generation.

The COVID-19 crisis is forecast to pull 32 million people back into extreme poverty and efforts to rebuild the economies of the world's poorest nations post-pandemic will fall significantly short, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development said in December.


It called for swift, significant and substantial policy action.

In his special address at the World Economic Forum Virtual Event of the Davos Agenda in January, Xi said as a steadfast member of developing coun-

tries, China will further deepen South-South cooperation, and contribute to the endeavor of developing countries to eradicate poverty, ease debt burden, and achieve more growth.

At the G20 Riyadh Summit on November 21, Xi said "we should keep our support for developing countries and help them overcome the hardships caused by the pandemic."

He pledged that China will increase the level of debt suspension and relief for countries facing particular difficulties and encourage its financial institutions to provide new financing support on a voluntary basis and according to market principles.

"Past a fallen ship, one thousand sail onward," Xi said, quoting a Chinese poem. "In that spirit, let us join hands to deliver a better life for our people and build a community with a shared future for mankind." 

Source: Xinhua News Agency



Emmanuel Ahimana, owner of a Rwandan company which applies Juncao technology to grow mushrooms, works at his workshop in Kigali, Rwanda, on September 9, 2020. (XINHUA)

Book on Xi's Poverty Alleviation Efforts



习近平扶贫故事


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The book on poverty alleviation efforts of Xi Jinping (PEOPLE'S DAILY)

A collection of stories about the poverty alleviation efforts of Xi Jinping, General Secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, was published by the Commercial Press in September 2020. The book consists of 67 stories describing Xi's poverty relief endeavors during his various

posts in Liangjiahe in Shaanxi Province, Zhengding in Hebei Province, Fujian Province, Zhejiang Province, and Shanghai before he began serving as General Secretary of the CPC Central Committee. While serving at these posts, Xi always made the interests of the people his priority, demonstrated

his long-term concern for the lives of impoverished people, and led them to combat poverty. The book records impressive stories of Xi attaching great importance to poverty alleviation and development and, in a vivid way, shows Xi's spirit of self-sacrifice in service of the people. 

CPC As the Mainstay

The good leadership of the Communist Party of China (CPC) provides the fundamental guarantee that the Chinese people will shake off poverty and enjoy a better life. The CPC leadership provides this guarantee through its upholding of people-centered principles.

Since the 18th National Congress of the CPC in 2012, the CPC Central Committee, with President Xi Jinping at its core, has attached great importance to poverty alleviation in national governance and has launched the largest all-out campaign for poverty alleviation in human history. With nearly 100 million poor people shaking off poverty since 2012, China has made notable progress in poverty alleviation that has been

lauded by other countries. Since the 18th CPC National Congress, more than 500,000 staff of public institutions have been selected as first secretaries, who are seconded from their usual positions and tasked with providing full-time poverty alleviation assistance in rural villages. Over the same period, more than 3 million other staff of public institutions have been sent to rural villages to provide additional poverty alleviation assistance. At present, there are more than 200,000 first secretaries actively working, and nearly 900,000 other government officials and staff of public institutions working on poverty alleviation projects in rural villages. **CI**

Ecological Conservation for Poverty Alleviation

"Lucid waters and lush mountains are invaluable assets" — this is a philosophy Xi Jinping cherishes on environmental protection and eco-environmental conservation. Based on his summation of the lessons and experiences of human development, it reflects Xi's profound thinking about civilization.

Acting on this understanding, people will give priority to conservation and pursue green development. Poverty alleviation must not proceed at the expense of the environment. New approaches will be explored so that the poor will benefit from eco-environmental conservation and restoration.

Guided by this philosophy, sustainable and environment-friendly development projects are supported in poor regions to boost the local economy without causing damage to the environment, and the eco-environment will itself be developed as a resource in a way to ensure local economic development, improve local living conditions and protect the eco-environment at the same time.

Relocation of Rural Poor for Poverty Alleviation

Relocating those living under adverse natural conditions is one of China's five targeted measures in battling poverty.

The Decision on Winning the Battle Against Poverty provides special plans on accelerating the relocation of rural poor who live under unfavorable natural conditions, in fragile eco-environments, or in areas suffering frequent disasters.

This relocation is a green pathway as it follows the natural rules and dynamics of the economy. For areas with fragile eco-environments, conservation is a wise tactic to avoid further damage caused by development while improving the living conditions of the poor by removing them to better locations. This can effectively promote local sustainable economic and social development.

China planned to relocate 10 million people registered as living below the poverty line during the 13th Five-year Plan period (2016-2020). By the end of 2019, it had roughly completed this task.

Strengthening Party Development in Poverty Alleviation

Strengthening Party development in poverty alleviation is a gained experience of China. Xi Jinping has proposed the idea of making Party development and poverty elimination mutually reinforcing, and assessing Party development by the results of poverty elimination.

Rural grassroots Party branches are the bases of the Party's rural work, and they play a decisive role in implementing the Party's plans for development-orient-

ed poverty alleviation. Poverty alleviation will advance with the development of grassroots organizations. Concurrently, village management organizations centered on village Party branches will be strengthened. Party branches will be the core that leads villagers to get rid of poverty, better themselves, and maintain rural stability. They will be service-oriented in serving the people, developing the local economy, and improving local living standards.

Poverty Alleviation Through Education

The CPC and the Chinese government attach high importance to education. They have endeavored to promote nine-year compulsory education, eliminate illiteracy among young people, create a balance in the quality of education resources, and provide targeted assistance to children from poor families.

Since 2012, Xi Jinping has put forward a series of new ideas and requirements on building a moderately prosperous society in all respects, including poverty alleviation through education. He told the Central Conference on Poverty Alleviation and Development in November 2015 that education is the best way to stop intergenerational transmission of poverty, and education is of far-reaching significance to poor areas and must be developed well. While increasing material



Workers trim mushrooms at a poverty alleviation industrial base in Xiuqi Township of Chengkou County, southwest China's Chongqing, Feb. 24, 2020. The poverty alleviation industrial base has resumed production amid epidemic prevention and control efforts. (XINHUA)

wealth, efforts are also needed to enrich people's knowledge.

According to the Guidelines on Poverty Alleviation Through Education, jointly formulated by a number of ministries in 2013, different goals are set for basic, vocational and higher education. Basic education will address such problems as poor school conditions, bad infrastructure, and lack of good teachers and educational funds, so that local education will meet relevant standards

and reach eligible children. Vocational education will enhance people's capacity for self-development in order to escape poverty, achieve prosperity, develop the regional economy, and help poor regions find ways to aid themselves. Higher education should play a role in promoting the economic, industrial and technological development of poor areas, and advance the upgrading of their industrial structure. Colleges and universities will also enroll more candidates from poor

areas and ensure their access to higher education.

Photovoltaic Projects for Poverty Alleviation

Photovoltaic (PV) projects have proved effective in China's poverty alleviation efforts. Supported by reliable technologies, such clean power projects can produce stable incomes for the poor and benefit local development. The necessary equipment can be easily installed in small solar stations run by households

or villages, or in large solar plants. They can also provide power for agriculture and forestry.

PV projects are especially suitable in places with a lot of sunshine. This also fits with China's strategy of developing clean and low-carbon energies.

Poverty Alleviation Through Creating New Economic Activity

This is a special policy devised to support poor regions. It targets the poor, gives them preferential treatment, and emphasizes the need to focus on local development.

China has relied on this strategy to help the poor increase their incomes and to end poverty in rural areas. This can be seen in a number of documents, including the Seven-year Program for Lifting 80 Million People Out of Poverty (1994-2000), the Outline for Development-oriented Poverty Alleviation of China's Rural Areas (2011-2020), and the Decision on Winning the Battle Against Poverty.

Welfare Jobs for Poverty Alleviation

Jobs that are welfare in nature are created especially for the impoverished people in poor villages and poor regions, so that they can support themselves while improving local public services as the government will buy their services with cash or benefits in kind. The welfare jobs are compulsory, part-time, non-technical and welfare nature.

The Health Program for Poverty Alleviation

According to the State Council Leading Group Office of Poverty Alleviation and Development, nearly 20 million people in China were victims of poverty or had returned to poverty because of illness by the end of 2015, accounting for 44.1 percent of the total number of poor population. Illness was the main cause of poverty. Of this total, 7.34 million had serious or chronic illnesses. Bad health may cause poverty, and poverty can in turn lead to bad health, thus forming a vicious cycle of "illness—poverty—illness" among the poor.

Naturally, protecting these people's right to health, preventing them from being trapped in or returning to poverty because of illness, and launching a health program are therefore very important features of China's poverty alleviation effort. The health program is part of China's targeted poverty elimination strategy, and an important measure to win the battle against poverty and achieve mod-

erate prosperity in all respects.

In response to this, relevant government departments worked out the Guidelines on Implementing the Health Program for Poverty Alleviation. The program echoes China's poverty alleviation goal of guaranteeing access to basic medical services, the Healthy China initiative and the strategy of rural revitalization. Efforts will be made to ensure that the poor can afford medical services and seldom fall ill, as they can expect help from serious illness insurance and chronic illness services, and government funds will cover the remaining cost of critical ailments after the relevant reimbursements.

Financial Measures for Poverty Alleviation

Financial measures are adopted in response to market demand. With more fund-raising channels, they help increase input and offer powerful support to China's poverty elimination campaign.

Under the guidance of the central authorities, local governments, financial institutions, enterprises and social organizations have played their roles in providing comprehensive financial services to poor areas and poor people, supporting low-income and poor rural households in production and business, and helping them escape poverty, increase income and enhance their economic and social status.

Relevant financial policies and mechanisms have improved, from soft loans to micro loans, from exploring the mode of financial assistance to devising a range of financial policies for poverty alleviation, and to targeted poverty alleviation supported by inclusive finance and financial technologies. Financial measures are applied extensively in China's development-oriented poverty relief, and have become an effective tool in the campaign of poverty alleviation.

Social Assistance in Poverty Alleviation

Social assistance refers to all kinds of aid, development help and social services provided by multiple actors to poor population and disadvantaged groups. Social assistance has since the mid-1990s been an important part of China's poverty alleviation campaign.

Development-Oriented Poverty Alleviation

Development-oriented poverty alleviation is different from the previous approach

of providing funds to the poor. It is China's core policy on poverty alleviation. Officials and residents in poor areas are encouraged to exploit local resources, expand commodity production, improve productive conditions, and increase their capacity for endogenous development.

It highlights development as the essential means to end poverty, and regards the poor as the main actors. China aims to reduce the size of poor population, enhance people's relevant skills and integrate them into wider society. In addition to lifting the poor out of poverty, it also works to lower the possibility of their becoming victims of poverty in the first place.

Development-oriented poverty alleviation produces the basic conditions for rural economic development, and guides the poor to enlist in the effort. This will help them escape poverty both economically and socially.

Transparency in Poverty Alleviation

Funds for poverty relief are intended to help those in need, and it is unacceptable that a single coin might be wasted or misused. There will be transparent management and strict auditing, and work-related crimes in poverty alleviation will be investigated and punished. Those who dare to misappropriate, retain, falsely claim, or squander poverty relief funds will be severely punished.

Development-oriented poverty alleviation is a matter of distribution of resources. Avoiding malpractice and plugging loopholes have remained a problem around the world. On the one hand, local governments and other organizations as the executors of relevant policies might try to use policies to benefit themselves first, thereby leading to waste of relief resources; on the other, asymmetric information can easily lead to passive execution of policies.

To increase transparency, discipline and rules will be strictly observed, with improved institutions, strict scrutiny, and effective prevention and penalties for violations. Public notification of the application of poverty relief funds and projects will be improved, as will the procedures for the poor to participate in every step of poverty alleviation. Media scrutiny, cross-reviews and supervision between provinces, and third party evaluation will also be introduced and encouraged to enhance the transparent usage of funds, project implementation, and evaluation of relevant outcomes. **C**

Source: China.org.cn



CPC Secretaries at Five Levels Responsible for Poverty Elimination


The CPC leadership is China's biggest political strength in its poverty elimination effort. The five levels refer to the Party committees of provinces, cities (prefectures), counties and townships, and the Party branches of villages. For Party secretaries at these five levels, poverty elimination is a serious political task that they must take on the responsibility to fulfill.

The CPC Central Committee has decided that in places with challenging poverty

elimination work, the heads of provincial-level Party committees and governments will assume overall responsibility and sign written pledges to the central leadership, and they and their subordinates at all levels will be responsible for poverty alleviation under their jurisdiction.

Poor people and poor regions will play a key role in poverty elimination. In addition to assistance from the CPC, the government and other social sectors, they need to rely

on themselves. They must be inculcated with an internal drive to better themselves.

Xi Jinping emphasizes giving top priority to the rural revitalization strategy, and having Party secretaries at five levels take charge of the implementation. The vision is to promote the overall upgrading of agriculture and progress of rural areas and farmers through developing economic activities, cultural progress, and eco-environmental conservation. 



Xi Stresses Agriculture, Rural Areas, Farmers as Top Priority for CPC

Chinese President Xi Jinping, also General Secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and Chairman of the Central Military Commission, delivers a speech at the central rural work conference in Beijing, capital of China. The central rural work conference was held from December 28 to 29 in Beijing. (XINHUA)

Chinese President Xi Jinping has stressed that solving issues related to agriculture, rural areas and farmers is the top priority for the Communist Party of China (CPC).

Xi, also General Secretary of the CPC Central Committee and Chairman of the Central Military Commission, made the remarks at the two-day annual central rural work conference which closed here Tuesday.

Efforts must be made to promote the efficiency and quality of the agricultural sector, make rural areas suitable to live and work in and ensure that farmers are affluent and well-off, he told the meeting.

With China at a historical juncture of marching toward its second centenary goal, the task of consolidating and extending the achievements of poverty alleviation, pushing forward all-round rural vitalization

and accelerating the modernization of the agricultural sector and rural areas is a major issue essential to the overall situation that deserves the high attention of the whole Party, Xi noted.

Consolidating the foundation for agriculture, rural areas and work relating to farmers is "the ballast" for the country to tackle the changing situations and open up new prospects, he said. **C**

Consolidate and Expand the Gains in Poverty Alleviation



Villagers harvest fresh peppers at Qinggangba Village, Tangtou Township in Sinan County of southwest China's Guizhou Province, on August 12, 2020. (XINHUA)

The Central Conference on Poverty Alleviation and Development was held in Beijing on December 29 and 30, 2020. Liu Yongfu, director of the State Council Leading Group Office of Poverty Alleviation and Development, reported the work of China's poverty alleviation at the conference. He also presented an analysis of the current situation and announced the government's next-step arrangements for dovetailing poverty alleviation and rural revitalization.

The year 2021 marks the 100th anniversary of the Communist Party of China and the first year of the 14th Five-Year Plan period. The meeting stressed that we should take consolidating our gains in poverty alleviation as top priority, make a smooth transition to rural revitalization and amplify our achievements. We must make sure that our people who have risen out of poverty not fallen back into poverty and help them move toward prosperity.

"We will consolidate our achievements in poverty alleviation, continue

our policies, and ensure our assistance in rural areas. Financial departments at all levels should increase their support and meet corresponding demands. We will also improve and effectively utilize mechanisms for monitoring and assisting people who fall back into poverty. Follow-up support, includes employment, will be provided to people relocated from inhospitable areas," Liu said. "We will encourage our people to lift their living standards by themselves and strengthen the establishment of poverty-relief funds and microcredit."

Liu Yongfu said that to effectively promote both poverty alleviation and rural revitalization, it is necessary to carry out targeted poverty alleviation plans. We will dovetail and implement poverty alleviation policies released by the central government, and optimize relevant regional policies. We will continue to promote both poverty alleviation and rural revitalization in an all-out effort through consolidating and expanding our results and further implementing measures

in the 14th Five-Year Plan. We will also support the industries in rural areas to flourish. We will create more channels for rural residents to find employment and increase their incomes, deepen collaboration on poverty alleviation between the eastern and western regions, and help rural residents seek employment or start a business in places close to their homes. We will as well build infrastructures in rural areas under the unified deployment of the government. Roads, railways, water conservancy facilities, and telecommunications facilities will greatly improve people's living and production conditions.

Besides, we will improve public services and continue to strengthen the conditions of compulsory education and healthcare in rural areas. Key counties in need of support in rural revitalization that are to be identified by central and local governments should be given special assistance. At the same time, the result of poverty alleviation will be taken as part of local officials' performance evaluation. **CI**

Vice-Premier Stresses Smooth Transition to Overall Rural Vitalization

Vice-Premier Hu Chunhua urged coordinated efforts to consolidate and promote poverty relief achievements and comprehensively boost rural vitalization, to ensure smooth transition with mechanisms and policy systems in place.

Hu, a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, made the remarks during an inspection to the State Council Leading

Group Office of Poverty Alleviation and Development on January 4 this year.

A good finishing touch to the battle against poverty, he said, requires completing general surveys, performance evaluations and related tasks on time.

It also involves creating a long-term mechanism for maintaining and spreading anti-poverty accomplishments, as well as enhancing monitoring and assistance to prevent a return to poverty.

To advance the shift to rural vitalization, Hu called for continued support in developing rural industries, building infrastructure and improving public services.

In addition, mechanisms targeting low-income villagers should be better designed to meet their basic needs and ensure there is no large-scale return to poverty, Hu said.

He urged in-depth research into related issues and improved work to support the transition. **C**



Photo taken on February 25, 2021 shows the inauguration ceremony of the new national administration for rural vitalization in Beijing, capital of China. China unveiled a new government body for the promotion of rural vitalization on Thursday as the world's most populous country declared an end to absolute poverty, shifting its policy focus to further boosting rural areas. The new national administration for rural vitalization is the successor to the State Council Leading Group Office of Poverty Alleviation and Development, which focused on overseeing China's poverty alleviation efforts. (XINHUA)



Aerial photo taken on February 20, 2021 shows a relocation site for poverty-stricken people in Huawu Village, Qianxi County of Bijie City, southwest China's Guizhou Province (XINHUA)

Poverty Eradication in China, Benefit for the World

To China, 2020 is definitely a year to remember. A moderately prosperous society in all respects is to be built with major progress toward a decisive victory; the Chinese nation reaches the milestone for conquering poverty as extreme poverty is to be eradicated completely. The achievement is also quite meaningful to the whole world.

"There is no other country that can help so many people out of poverty in such a short time." In the fight against poverty worldwide, China stands out with the greatest achievements. In 2000, 189 countries signed the United Nations Millennium Declaration. To halve the number of people under extreme poverty by 2015 is the first of the "Eight Millennium Goals", and China is the first developing country to make it happen. On September 15, 2015, the United Nations adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and eradicating extreme poverty is once again on top of the list. Bringing more than ten million people out of poverty each year, China is to achieve the goal ten years in advance.

Secretary-General António Guterres


noted, China has offered a satisfactory answer to the world in terms of eliminating poverty. Jim Yong Kim, former president of World Bank, thought that China's achievement in erasing poverty is one of the greatest events that happened in human history.

"We have accumulated a lot of valuable experience in the process of fighting against poverty." Apart from bringing benefit to its own people, China's fight against poverty also proposes a "China Plan" to the world. In 2019, the poverty alleviation fund to locals reaches 126.095 billion RMB. 2.78 million officials have been sent to poor villages in recent years. All actions above show China's determination to eliminate poverty.

Guterres once said, China's experience can offer beneficial insights to other developing countries. Ronnie Lins, director of the China-Brazil Center for Research and Business, pointed out that China's poverty reduction is with goals, plans and deeds, which deserves to be learned by all developing countries.

"Chinese people not only wish that they could live a good life, but also for people from other countries." As a country with great re-

sponsibility, China has been contributing to the global poverty eradication by offering help to more than 120 countries for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. Since 2016, the Ministry of Commerce of China has been conducting a yearly "Seminar on Poverty Reduction for Officials", providing insights regarding poverty alleviation to officials from developing countries. In May 2019, the Belt and Road Initiative Poverty Reduction International Cooperation Forum was hosted in China, further strengthening the cooperation between China and countries and regions along the silk road in poverty alleviation communication. In June 2019, the World Bank issued a report, stating that 40 million people could get rid of poverty if what the Belt and Road Initiative proposes is to be fully implemented.

We have good reason to believe that with extreme poverty being eradicated, China will engage in global poverty reduction with more experience, more confidence and more strength. The world will thus be benefited more widely, more deeply and more effectively. 

Is China's Poverty Cure Replicable?

Eradicating poverty is a war China must win, with the hardest and most arduous tasks lie in the country's rural areas and poverty-stricken regions.

In 2020, all of China's nearly 100 million rural residents living below the current poverty line shook off poverty after eight years of arduous efforts. The historical feat of eradicating absolute poverty as scheduled was a hard-won victory for the nation's 1.4 billion people led by the CPC Central Committee with Xi Jinping at its core, who have not only the vision but also the determination to win the war against poverty.

Poverty is one of the world's most vexing problems. Ending poverty in all its forms everywhere is the first goal in the United Nations (UN) 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The anti-poverty war led by the CPC has lifted over 700 million rural residents out of extreme poverty over the past 40-plus years, contributing over 70 percent to global poverty reduction.

China's poverty reduction success has been lauded by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, who called the country's achievements "very strong."

The secrets behind "one of the greatest stories in human history," if there are any, could be the pursuit of people centricity, the choices made in consideration of the coun-

try's actual conditions, and the establishment of a goal and working toward it with unshakeable will and unrelenting efforts.

This mentality and these ideas have for decades helped China score high against poverty.

Due to some Chinese policies and conditions, such as the strong leadership of the ruling party and the large-scale mobilization of social and economic resources among different regions and departments, are not easy to replicate in other countries where different economic and political systems are in place.

However, even though the overall Chinese strategy for poverty eradication is not easily replicable, it holds important lessons for the global fight. Some elements in its strategy—development, data and a down-to-earth spirit—can be learned.

All About Development

China's farming population has enjoyed political independence since 1949, as well as their own means of production—the land, through CPC-launched agrarian reforms. "Land to the tillers," an age-old lofty ideal of ancient Chinese philosophers like Mencius and modern revolutionaries like Sun Yat-sen, was finally achieved.

China adopted vital rural reform in the late

1970s, allocating contract rights for parcels of farmland to eligible households.

Decades of rapid economic growth and material accumulation have served as the bedrock of China's poverty eradication, which is a foundational task for meeting the landmark target of constructing a moderately prosperous society in all respects by the centenary of the CPC's founding.

Without economic development, eliminating poverty is just a fantasy. A characteristic of China's development over the past 70-plus years, particularly over the 40-plus years since the beginning of reform and opening-up, has been the simultaneous trending of its economic gain and massive poverty reduction.

Economic growth is a prerequisite for poverty alleviation, especially when the growth is pro-poor. But it's worth noting that economic development is no guarantee for the eradication of poverty. Experts believe that the key is to transform economic growth into income gains that are either widely shared or effectively targeted toward the poor.

It is equally important to note that China's poverty reduction will in return lead to sustainable and high-quality development.

By pulling hundreds of millions of people out of the poverty trap and integrating them into industrial and supply chains, China is not only unleashing their great potential to contribute to a new round of economic growth, but is also creating a huge internal consumption market under its new development pattern featuring "dual circulation."

China's poverty alleviation efforts, under its people-centered philosophy, aid human development by helping the impoverished build confidence and gain knowledge and skills to survive, and then thrive.

"Poverty alleviation requires a change of attitude and mentally wearing away at the poverty mentality," Xi wrote in his 1992 book titled "Up and Out of Poverty," which records his time as Party chief of the formerly impoverished prefecture of Ningde in east China's Fujian Province from June 1988 to April 1990.

More than two decades later, in November 2013, Xi was on an inspection tour of a poor Miao village in Hunan Province, where people continued to live hard lives due to the scarcity of arable land. It was in that village, Shibadong, that Xi put forward the idea of "targeted poverty alleviation."

He said that development is the general method to eliminate poverty, and governments in poverty-hit regions should suit their measures to different conditions and help locals find ways to shake off poverty.

The Power of Data

Thanks to the great strides China has made in big data and e-governance and, most importantly, the greater efforts made



Zigani Saturnin (L), a student from Burkina Faso, checks crop growth in the field at an agricultural experimental base in Quzhou County, north China's Hebei Province, on July 23, 2020. (XINHUA)

by the first group of some 800,000 poverty-relief cadres stationed in villages, a database of 128,000 poverty-stricken villages, 29.48 million destitute households and 89.62 million impoverished individuals was created in 2014 and has since been dynamically adjusted.

The vast quantities of data collected not only helped the government precisely identify impoverished residents, but also their specific causes of poverty such as income, education, illness or disaster. In most cases, there were multidimensional factors.

The power of big data in China's anti-poverty campaign also extends to an effective and accurate exit mechanism.

The Chinese government has made an effort to measure poverty, developing its own standards and studying a range of international methodologies as well, said Harvard China expert Nara Dillon, who regards the use of data as one of the key elements of China's poverty battle.

In Yunnan, local poverty alleviation authorities have established a big data platform, through which the government can find out in seconds accurate figures of each registered impoverished household.

Information technology has supported poverty alleviation efforts, and Yunnan has given full play to the advantages of data mining and data analysis in its anti-poverty campaign, said Tang Jiahua, deputy director of the provincial poverty alleviation and development office.

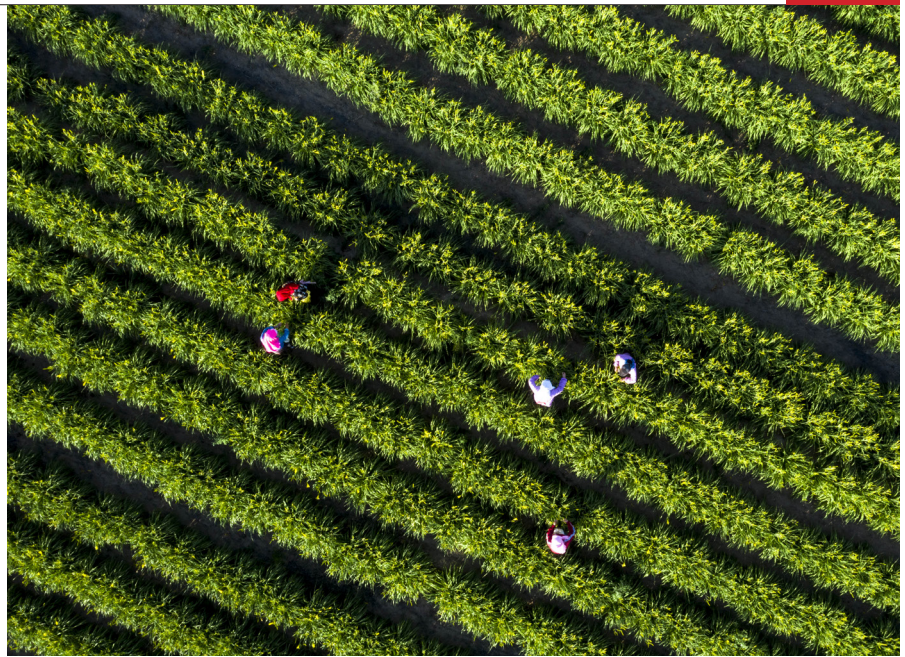
Down to Earth

Through decades of fighting against poverty—particularly since China began its war to conquer the “last bastion of extreme poverty” about eight years ago, lifting its remaining 98.99 million impoverished individuals out of poverty—the country has been cautiously wading across rivers by feeling for the stones, pinpointing problems and finding solutions.

From a tactical perspective, China's targeted poverty alleviation follows a five-batch approach, which refers to lifting people out of poverty through industry cultivation, relocation, eco-compensation, education and social security.

Through industry-led poverty alleviation, China has accelerated the development of new forms of poverty reduction based on tourism, photovoltaic power, e-commerce and other industries, thereby pushing forward local economic development. The country has also significantly improved the ecological environment of its poor regions through ecological and relocation-based poverty alleviation efforts, as well as returning farmland to forestry.

The hefty investment in infrastructure and



Aerial photo taken on July 16, 2020 shows farmers picking daylily flowers in Yanchi County, northwest China's Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region. Yanchi County has been developing daylily planting as a characteristic industry to help local people get rid of poverty. (XINHUA)

public services has also notably improved production and people's living conditions in these regions, particularly at the grassroots level, and has increased the potential for development.

Since the beginning of reform and opening-up in 1978, China has adjusted its standard for absolute poverty several times to keep it in line with the country's social and economic development.

The current rural poverty line is 2,300 yuan (\$355) per person per year at the 2010 price level. The specific figure is subject to adjustment as the country's price levels change.

China's poverty-eradication standard is never defined by income alone. In addition to lifting annual incomes, the country's basic poverty-eradication campaign also helps to ensure that the poor have sufficient food and clothing, as well as access to compulsory education, basic medical services and safe housing.

As the economy grows, China is raising its poverty standard step by step and extending its support to a larger population, according to Zhang Qi, head of the China Institute for Poverty Reduction at Beijing Normal University.

“Some say there are more people living in poverty as China makes more efforts to alleviate poverty, and that is not true. It's because the government has been constantly raising the poverty standard,” said Zhang, noting that standards also vary in different regions across the country—higher in the coastal east and lower in the landlocked west.

China's anti-poverty war is also about individual dedication and even sacrifices. During


the targeted anti-poverty campaign, more than 250,000 teams were dispatched to offer on-the-ground support. Over 3 million people were sent to the countryside as special commissioners for poverty relief and 1,800 among them lost their lives in the line of duty.

There is one thing that must be taken into account when it comes to China: population. A 1.4-billion population makes any problem, including poverty reduction, harder to fix for the country and its ruling party.

Through years of exploration, China has found a road to poverty alleviation with Chinese characteristics through development, proceeding from the country's realities with government-market coordination playing a key role.

As an active contributor to the implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, China has been assisting other developing countries in reducing poverty, boosting agricultural progress, supporting equal access to education, improving infrastructure, and speeding up industrialization, according to a white paper titled “China's International Development Cooperation in the New Era.”

China's strategy and wisdom in eradicating absolute poverty are about choosing a sustainable development path according to local conditions, taking actions within the country's capabilities, and giving full play to the people's subjective initiative.

No country's domestic approach can be replicable in an international setting, but the experience gained through trial and error does have the potential to offer lessons for others. 

Source: Xinhua News Agency

China Sheds Light on Global Poverty Eradication

China Sheds Light on Global Poverty Eradication

China has made historic achievements in eradicating absolute poverty. It was a problem that has plagued the Chinese nation for thousands of years. It is also a victory for humanity.

In 2020, all of China's nearly 100 million impoverished rural residents living below the current poverty line shook off poverty after eight years' efforts. All 832 poor counties have now been lifted out of poverty.

Eliminating poverty in a country with a population of 1.4 billion may sound too ambitious or be regarded as a mission impossible for some Western critics. But it is a mission that must be accomplished for China because achieving mutual prosperity is the goal of socialism. The Party has always come from the people and is rooted in the people. No individual or ethnic group should be left behind on the nation's way to a moderately prosperous society for all.

With the philosophy of putting people first, CPC members and government officials at all levels and the society have made concerted efforts to fight poverty. These efforts include releasing preferential tax policies, improving the use of anti-poverty funds, and establishing online platforms for selling agricultural products from poverty-stricken areas. It also includes launching workshops and recruitment campaigns to alleviate poverty, coordinating wealthy eastern regions to support impoverished western areas, and sending millions of cadres from government to these areas for the anti-poverty battle. These efforts are a manifestation of China's systematic advantage—the ability to mobilize resources and pool strengths to tackle critical issues.

Precision is key to the success of China's battle against poverty. The country precisely identifies real problems of different localities and individuals. It enables the government to take targeted measures to ensure substantive and sustainable outcomes. Localities across China have developed various

industries to support employment and increase people's income according to local conditions, relocated those living in uninhabitable areas, and participated in pairing-up aid programs, among other measures.

China's poverty-relief success did not come easily. By the end of 2019, 5.51 million people were still living in poverty. The COVID-19 epidemic has added an un-

precedented challenge to the country's efforts to lift those people out of poverty. However, the promise to the people had to be kept. A symposium on securing a decisive victory in poverty alleviation was held on March 6, the 300-day countdown for China to eradicate absolute poverty as promised. It demonstrated that the country never considered finding any excuse to retreat.



Ma Huihuang (L), leader of the poverty relief team of Shibadong Village, together with villager Shi Linjiao, promotes local products via live streaming at Shibadong Village of Xiangxi Tujia and Miao Autonomous Prefecture, central China's Hunan Province, May 15, 2020. (XINHUA)



A worker makes musical instruments at a musical instrument factory in Wuqiang County of Hengshui, north China's Hebei Province, June 2, 2020. Authorities in Wuqiang County have carried out a poverty-relief initiative which encourages local musical instrument industry to employ rural residents living below the current poverty line. (XINHUA)

Because of these efforts, China will achieve the goals set in the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development ten years ahead of schedule. Its practice and exploration have proved that if a country can follow a people-first approach, draw concerted efforts, proceed from its development realities, and seek a targeted and practical solution, it will successfully find a poverty reduction path suiting its own conditions and needs.

Despite the achievement in poverty alleviation, China remains the biggest developing country globally. It still faces acute problems caused by unbalanced and inadequate development and onerous tasks of consolidating and expanding poverty alleviation achievements. For

China, poverty alleviation is a success but not a full stop.

The country will improve the monitoring and assistance mechanism to prevent those who have shaken off poverty from falling back into destitution. It will work to beef up follow-up support for relocated people to ensure that they can settle down, stay employed, and steadily get rich and help families with semi-able-bodied members find jobs nearby to ensure their livelihood.

China's poverty alleviation cause has received a lot of support and assistance from the international community. The country has taken concrete actions and shared its experience and wisdom to contribute to global poverty reduction efforts.

Putting all the detailed measures aside, a glimpse of China's determina-

tion, persistence, and concerted efforts to protect every person's rights in pursuit of a happy life could give the world more reason to be confident in meeting challenges posed by poverty.

Extreme poverty is rising. The threat of famine looms. The world faces the biggest global recession in eight decades.

It is indispensable for countries to tackle this common challenge facing humanity with strong political wills, targeted policies, and close international cooperation. The international community must commit more decisively to working together and ensuring that no one across the globe is left behind along the path towards the world's final victory over poverty. **CI**

Source: Xinhua News Agency

Int'l Seminar Held on Poverty Eradication and Responsibility of Political Parties



Song Tao, minister of the International Department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (IDCPC), made a keynote speech at the International Seminar on Poverty Eradication and Responsibility of Political Parties, which kicked off in Fuzhou, capital of southeast China's Fujian province, on October 12, 2020. (Photo courtesy of IDCPC)

The International Seminar on Poverty Eradication and Responsibility of Political Parties opened in southeast China's Fujian Province on October 13, 2020.

Around 400 representatives of political parties from over 100 countries and diplomatic envoys, representatives of international organizations, media correspondents from developing countries based in China, as well as think tank experts attended in person or remotely.

The two-day seminar, consisting of discussions and visits in Fuzhou and Ningde city of Fujian province, aimed to introduce the poverty alleviation experience and insights of the Communist Party of China (CPC) to the world and pool global wisdom on poverty reduction practice worldwide, as well as serving as a platform to promote international communication and cooperation of political parties.

Chinese President Xi Jinping, in a congratulatory message to the seminar called on the international community, including political parties in all countries, to work together to accelerate the process of global

poverty reduction, as difficulties and challenges in this regard are still severe.

It was of special significance that the international seminar was being held just days before the 28th International Day for the Eradication of Poverty recognized by the United Nations as well as China's 7th National Poverty Relief Day on October 17, said Song Tao, minister of the International Department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China.

He noted that the CPC had put poverty eradication in a prominent place on its agenda and was making arduous efforts in this regard.

According to the World Bank, more than 850 million Chinese people have been lifted out of poverty, contributing over 70% to global poverty reduction.

"Despite the COVID-19 impact, we remain confident that we will, as planned, lift the entire poor rural population above the current poverty line and achieve the poverty eradication target set out in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development 10 years ahead of schedule," Song stressed.

State leaders from other countries

including Laos, Namibia, Zimbabwe, Argentina, and the Central African Republic also sent congratulatory messages either in writing or via videos to the seminar.

They spoke highly of China's achievements in poverty alleviation under CPC leadership and stressed that political parties of all countries should play a leading role.

Bounnhang Vorachith, general secretary of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee and president of Laos, said the Chinese people under the strong leadership of the CPC had made huge achievements in poverty alleviation.


He said poverty eradication, prosperity, and a better life for all was what the political parties of all countries strive for, and also their due obligations and responsibilities, adding that world political parties should have closer coordination and cooperation.

In the message of Zimbabwean President Emmerson Mnangagwa, he said that China has always making contributions to poverty reduction and development in Africa, especially in Zimbabwe.

"We thank the Chinese government for investing in several developmental projects. China's trade and investments have boosted Africa's economic development, improved the economic situation to a large extent, and reduced poverty."

Argentine President Alberto Fernandez believed the seminar would generate a positive synergy. He shared Argentina's practice of guaranteeing food security and people's livelihood in order to cope with the economic setback caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and ensure sustainable and inclusive growth as framed in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Participants conducted lively discussions and exchanges on poverty reduction around the world and human sustainable development.

The event was jointly hosted by the International Department of the CPC Central Committee and the CPC Fujian Provincial Committee. 



Foreign attendees experience ink painting of paper umbrellas native to Jiangxi Province, east China when participating in the governance experience exchange event of global political parties with the Communist Party of China in Nanchang, Jiangxi on November 27, 2019 (Photo courtesy of IDCPC)

Foreign attendees at the exhibition stall of traditional crafts of Henan Province, central China during the event on Henan's achievements in practicing Xi Jinping thought on socialism with Chinese characteristics for a new era rural revitalisation (Photo courtesy of IDCPC)



Foreign attendees of the International Seminar on Poverty Eradication and Responsibility of Political Parties, which kicked off in Fuzhou, capital of southeast China's Fujian Province, on October 12, 2020 visit the civil service center of the city on the same day (Photo courtesy of IDCPC)

China's Poverty Alleviation 'Biggest Success' in World Efforts Over 40 years:

Jim O'Neill

China's success in lifting 10 percent of the world's population out of poverty is "the biggest success in this regard over a 40-year period ever," renowned British economist Jim O'Neill, chairman of the London-based think tank Chatham House, told Xinhua News Agency.

His remarks came as China announced last Thursday that it has accomplished its poverty alleviation target for the new era on schedule and achieved a significant victory that has impressed the world.

It has been crucial for China to enable its strong gross domestic product (GDP) growth rate over the 40 years, said O'Neill, who in 2001 coined the acronym BRIC

that stands for Brazil, Russia, India, and China, a bloc of emerging economies that stood to have a significant impact on the world economy in the future.

Asked about what economic and social theory could be proven effective in China's efforts to eliminate poverty, O'Neill said it might be "due to a combination" of industrialization, especially urbanization, welcoming integration to the world trade system, including participation in foreign direct investment, and clear prioritization and commitment from the Chinese government.

Over the past 40-plus years of reform and opening-up, more than 700 million people in China have been lifted out of poverty — more than 70 percent of the

global reduction in poverty.

O'Neill, the former chief economist at Goldman Sachs and former commercial secretary to the British Treasury, said that it would be brilliant if China's success could be repeated by and shared with other nations, although there are challenges in replicating or sharing it.

"It is hard for other countries, seemingly to pull off the same success, but it would be very desirable if they could," he added, calling on all major countries to do their best in tackling global poverty.

"More countries leaving poverty and becoming prosperous, not only helps them, and their citizens, through international trade, and increased consumer spending, it also helps everyone else," he told Xinhua. **C**



File photo taken on September 13, 2018 shows Jim O'Neill, chairman of renowned British think tank Chatham House, speaking during a forum in London, Britain. (XINHUA)

Stronger Partnerships Brainstorming on innovations To reduce poverty



A book on China's poverty alleviation stories is released at the 2020 International Seminar on Global Poverty Reduction Partnerships in Longnan, Gansu Province in northwest China, on November 24 (COURTESY PHOTO)

On November 24, a day after the news came that the last nine impoverished counties, all in Guizhou Province in southwest China, had eliminated absolute poverty, the 2020 International Seminar on Global Poverty Reduction Partnerships was held in Longnan, Gansu Province, northwest China. The seminar was themed on global poverty reduction innovation and cooperation against the backdrop of the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. The participants discussed sharing digital innovation and strengthening partnerships for poverty reduction. Edited excerpts of their viewpoints follow:

Marie Roland Alain Wong Yen Cheong, Ambassador of Mauritius to China

We are now facing an unprecedented health crisis, one that has taken the lives of thousands of people around the world and has repercussions for all socioeconomic sectors. This crisis has transformed our everyday habits and behavior over the past seven months.

What this crisis has also demonstrated is that we cannot face such a global crisis alone in isolation. While each country

faces the effects of the crisis in its own way, according to its available means, it is more important than ever, to share each other's experiences, knowledge and technical know-how in order to mitigate its socioeconomic impacts, especially on the more marginalized and vulnerable populations.

Countries need to promote global economic recovery through greater openness and integration. The sooner all countries contain the virus, the sooner we can improve the movement of people and goods and keep the global supply chain stable.

Ron Hartman, Director of Global Engagement, Partnership and Resource Mobilization, International Fund for Agricultural Development

As two thirds of the world's extremely poor population are living in rural areas, agriculture is the key to ensure food security and to provide welfare to all. Investment in agriculture has proved to be an effective tool to reduce poverty and we have to continue to emphasize this to policymakers and political leaders.

With the right tools, small farmers can contribute a lot more to food production, nutrition and the climate.

We must put the small farmers onto the right stage, and they need to get the attention of decision- and policy-makers. They need to be empowered with voice to be heard in making policies that would affect their lives. We need financial services and infrastructure that enable small farmers to get access to key resources at the right time. We also need to provide them with better resources and technologies, which include digital innovation in rural areas. Finally, we need to strengthen partnerships, including the finance sector, to ensure inclusiveness and sustainability.

Stanlake Samkange, Senior Director of Strategic Partnerships, World Food Programme (WFP)

China has made great strides in rural transformation and poverty reduction, especially through leveraging digital solutions such as e-commerce. More than 800 million people have lifted themselves out of poverty since opening up of China began in 1978. Enabling government policies and investments, along with a robust private sector, played a critical role in enabling a path toward digital and sustainable growth in China.

The WFP and China's joint work has evolved, and we have embarked on a new era of partnership to end global hunger, eradicate poverty, and support the achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals globally by developing partnerships with public and private organizations. This goes beyond fundraising, and includes collaboration to develop cutting-edge digital solutions needed to solve complex development challenges.

It also includes piloting innovative and replicable programs to reduce food insecurity, reaching the last mile in China, as well as in other countries. We hope to learn from stakeholders in China at both the national and provincial level, on how to bring the key elements of China's experience to countries in Africa, Latin America and the Asia-Pacific. **C**

A Legacy of Friendship

Equatorial Guinea's funding helps bring modern education to a rural Chinese school

By Hu Fan

When told he was to visit a school in China funded by Equatorial Guinea, Daniel Oloo, a Kenyan studying at the Communication University of China, was somewhat skeptical. Oloo said he had never heard of any school in China funded by an African country.

In early September, together with his classmates Donatien Niyonzima, a Rwandan, and Vincent Mbonihankuye, a Burundian, Oloo joined a trip organized by ChinAfrica magazine to visit Yunnan Province in southwest China. On September 9, the fourth day of their trip,

they arrived at the China-Equatorial Guinea Friendship Primary School located in Jinping County.

First built in 1918, the century-old school was renovated with funding of around 4.9 million yuan (\$721,300) from Equatorial Guinea in 2016 and was re-named for the eighth time in its history.

At the school, the African guests were greeted by student representatives, who briefed them on the school's history, most notably the renovation under the banner of China-Equatorial Guinea friendship, and various programs of the school. In return, Oloo and Niyonzima gave students an English class.

Standing in front of the five-story teaching complex, Oloo was amazed by how China-Africa friendship is helping local communities. "The school is assisting some of the children living in poverty to be able to grow up and become productive members of society," he told ChinAfrica.

Mark of Friendship

The renovation of the school originated from a proposal made by Equatorial Guinean President Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo. During Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi's visit to Equatorial Guinea in January 2015, the president expressed his willingness to donate money to build a primary school in China.

"The leaders of Equatorial Guinea wanted to donate a school to thank China for its support to their country and to consolidate China-Africa friendship," said Ran Hongyan, Principal of the school.

In April the same year, during his state visit to China to celebrate the 45th anniversary of diplomatic ties between China and Equatorial Guinea, President Obiang and Yu Zhengsheng, then Chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), jointly inaugurated the school at a reception in Beijing.

The funding was allocated for the renovation of the school under the coordination of China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA). For 28 years, the MFA has been in a partnership with Jinping County to alleviate poverty there and has raised around 240 million yuan (\$35.5 million) from foreign



A student of the school plays Guzheng in the teaching complex built with Equatorial Guinea funding on September 9 (HU FAN)



Daniel Oloo (left) and Donatien Niyonzima teach English in the school (HU FAN)



Students walk out of the school on September 9 (HU FAN)

governments, international organizations and overseas Chinese, for this cause. The renovation of the school was just one of more than 900 projects initiated by the MFA in the county.

The renovation included a teaching complex and a playground, with construction beginning in May 2015 and completed in June the following year. In the teaching complex, a room is set aside to commemorate the friendship between Equatorial Guinea and China, where students' writings and drawings about solidarity and friendship are displayed. The room is also used by the school to educate its students to be considerate people and pass down the legacy of China-Africa friendship.

The two countries have enjoyed a solid friendship since the establishment of bilateral ties in 1970. From 1984 to 2018, President Obiang visited China on 10 occasions. In his visit to China in 2015, the two countries upgraded bilateral ties to a comprehensive cooperative partnership.

Solidarity was also shown between the two countries in the fight against COVID-19 this year. In February, the government of Equatorial Guinea donated \$2 million to China over the rampaging novel coronavirus outbreak in China. On May 25, China's anti-COVID-19 expert team arrived in

Equatorial Guinea's capital Malabo.

Better Education

Previously known as the First Primary School of Jinping County, the school has traditionally been the county's largest primary school with modern facilities providing the best education. Many parents in the county want to send their children to the school, however there are insufficient classrooms to accommodate all of them. According to Ran, the previous teaching complex was a one-floor building that could only accommodate 300 students. The number has risen more than seven-fold since the latest renovations.

But back in 2000, the county didn't have the money to renovate the school. Located in the southern mountainous areas of Yunnan Province bordering Viet Nam, it was severely impoverished. That year, the county's fiscal revenue was around 20 million yuan (\$3 million), while the expenditure needed was five times that amount.

The county realized that the root cause of its poverty was the lack of comprehensive quality of the population.

Therefore, the county made education a top priority in its poverty reduction

agenda. While increasing investment in education at a higher rate than economic growth, it set up a foreign aid office to raise funds from overseas sources with the help of the MFA.

The renovation program of Jinping's First Primary School in 2016 greatly improved the school's conditions. With a construction area of around 2,500 square meters, the new teaching complex provided more classrooms for the school. This allowed the school to expand from 1,600 students in 32 classes to now 2,267 students in 45 classes, and staff increased from 86 to 107.

There are also rooms for various extra curriculum activities such as calligraphy, music and chorus. To facilitate communication among students of different ethnic groups, the school ensures that each student learns at least a song, a dance, or a story about other groups and speaks at least one other ethnic group's language.

The school also now has more resources to help students from poor families. Of its 2,267 students, 278 are from registered poor households.

"The program contributed to meeting the needs of people of different ethnic groups for a better education," said Ran. ■



Nico Hansen prunes passion fruit vines in Zhadong Village, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region in south China, on August 28 (ZHANG WEI)

An Unusual Helper

Retired police officer from Luxembourg joins efforts to eradicate poverty By Liu Ting

Zhadong, a remote village in south China, has gone through notable changes in the past three years during a campaign against poverty. Every villager has witnessed the process, including 60-year-old Nico Hansen, a retired police officer from Luxembourg. He has stayed in the village since early 2018.

After retiring, Hansen came to China as a tourist in 2015. Stunned by the fantastic scenery and fascinated with the rich culture in Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, he settled down in Hechi.

In March 2018, a Chinese friend asked him to go to a nearby village to help with some farm work. He went there, not knowing that this small favor would end up in an over-two-year stay.

The village was like a heavenly retreat in Hansen's eyes. With mist cloaking the green mountains, its tranquility and

beauty looked surreal. But as he stepped into the villagers' houses, he was sad to find nothing but dire poverty.

"It broke my heart," Hansen told Beijing Review. "It gave me motivation to help these people."

Decision to Stay

The village had been struggling with poverty for years. When Hansen arrived there, half of the village didn't have a paved asphalt road. Walking was the only way to get to other places.

"No one could have imagined that at the end of the dirt road, there were houses and people lived there," Hansen said. With cracks in the wall and leaking roofs, many of the houses were dangerous to live in.

He also found that the villagers

fetching drinking water from a reservoir. "The water was dirty and the reservoir was full of frogs and snakes," Hansen said.

He decided to stay in the village to help with the poverty alleviation work and regarded it as the new goal of his life. He met Xie Wanju, First Secretary of the Communist Party of China Zhadong Village Branch, and expressed his idea.

Xie didn't take it seriously. This foreigner, holding a camera and wearing sunglasses, looked more like a tourist. The poverty alleviation work in the village was hard, even for the locals. What could a foreigner, who couldn't speak Chinese and knew nothing of the village, do?

He thought the foreigner made the decision on impulse and replied, "You can stay, but you won't get paid for whatever you do." Hansen agreed.

To get familiar with the village and

figure out what he could do, Hansen followed Xie everywhere in the village. At first, his appearance attracted many curious eyes as it was very rare for a foreigner to show up in the village. But gradually, they got used to him.

A Foreign Local

In the old days, the villagers relied solely on corn for their living. Xie encouraged them to take up niche income-generating activities such as growing passion fruit and yellow watermelon and breeding silkworm.

Road, water and housing were three key issues in the village. Among them, roads were of utmost importance. After walking around the village, Hansen mapped out what he could do for the road plan. He and Xie, a retired police officer and a veteran, spent four hours each day walking in the village, getting every detail of the geographical conditions. United by a common goal, they soon became bosom pals, despite the language barrier.

Based on their research, and along with financial support from the local gov-

ernment and donations, a paved road was finally built.

With the road, agricultural products can be more easily transported to markets. In Hechi, a vending station was set up exclusively for selling products from the village. At peak harvest season, they would set up street stalls in the city with Hansen pitching in to promote the products.

Villagers now regard him as a local. He followed Xie to every household and learnt to speak simple sentences in the Zhuang language. He saw Xie write down the problems of every family in his notebook and try his best to solve them even though some of the issues were beyond Xie's responsibility. "In Luxembourg, the government provides the poor with subsidies; they give money and do nothing more. Here, village leaders assist the poor to move out of poverty in person, giving them new ideas and cheering them up," Hansen said.

Now the village has taken on a brand new look compared with three years ago. The residents have access to tap water and the government built new houses for

the villagers living in cracked old houses free.

"The changes in Zhadong in the past three years demonstrate how successful China's poverty alleviation is. I believe the same changes have happened in many other villages all over China," Hansen said. "In Europe and in the rest of the world, everybody is talking about China's poverty eradication drive. This year, the United Nations said that the Chinese model should be adopted by other countries."

Despite all the energy and effort he has put into eradicating poverty in Zhadong, Hansen has never asked for a penny. The experience in the village is precious to him and makes him feel content and happy, which, in his own words, is far more precious than money.

Looking ahead, Hansen said Zhadong will develop ecotourism so that more people can visit this rural paradise. He also hopes that his efforts will pay off and that the younger generations now working as migrant workers in cities will come back to Zhadong and contribute to its revival. **CI**



Nico Hansen and Xie Wanju feed silkworms in Zhadong on August 28 (ZHANG WEI)

China Honors Role Models in Poverty Eradication Campaign

Chinese President Xi Jinping on February 25 announced that China has eradicated extreme poverty at a national commendation conference, during which he honored those who contributed to this remarkable achievement in human history.

Xi said that 770 million rural residents have been lifted above the current poverty line since the beginning of reform and opening-up over 40 years ago.

A total of 10 people and 10 collective units from different strata of the Chinese society have been awarded national honorary titles for their contributions.

Those honored come from diverse backgrounds, from a 98-year-old researcher to a young grassroots level official.

Xi hailed the country's achievements in eradicating extreme poverty, calling it a miracle of history. He said China's accomplishments also set a pioneering example for the international community.

"We have created a China model for poverty reduction. And we've made great contributions to the global reduction of poverty. Based on the current poverty standard, 770 million rural people have been lifted out of poverty in China since reform and opening-up began. And according to the international poverty line set by the World Bank, China accounts for 70 percent of the world's total which have been lifted out of poverty. China has achieved the poverty reduction goals set by the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development 10 years ahead of the deadline," President Xi said.

Over the past eight years, nearly 100 million impoverished rural residents living below the current poverty line have managed to escape extreme poverty.

Xi, also General Secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, presented medals, certificates and plaques to the following recipients:



Mao Xianglin, the CPC branch secretary of Xiazhuang Village, Zhuxian Town, Wushan County of Chongqing Municipality, spent seven years leading people to build a road linking the mountainous region to the outside world.



Liu Hu, the director of the Water Conservancy Bureau of Jiashi County, Kashgar Prefecture, Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, has been committed to bringing clean drinking water to the impoverished population and solve water shortages in the local area.



Zhang Xiaojuan, who died at the age of 34 in a traffic accident while on duty on October 7, 2019, devoted her life to local poverty eradication work. She was the deputy chief of the Zhouqu County's poverty eradication and development office in northwest China's Gansu Province and had visited every single household in 87 poor villages to help solve their difficulties.



Bai Jingying, inheritor of Wangfu Embroidery and head of the embroidery industry-driven poverty eradication team in Horqin Right Wing Middle Banner in north China's Inner Mongolia, has held many workshops to teach ethnic Mongolian embroidery to rural women as a way for them to generate income.



Huang Wenxiu, the Party chief of Baini Village in Leye County in Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, helped 88 poor households shake off poverty during her tenure between 2018 and 2019. On June 17, 2019, Huang was killed in a mudslide en route to check on villagers.



Xia Sen, a retired researcher from the Bureau of Foreign Affairs of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, has been involved in promoting children's education in poverty-stricken areas. She has sponsored 182 students from disadvantaged families to attend college.



Zhang Guimei is a teacher who dedicated 40 years of her life to helping and motivating young girls from impoverished families in the mountainous areas of southwest China's Yunnan Province to pursue higher education.



Zhao Yafu is an agricultural researcher who worked in the Chinese countryside for over 48 years, teaching farmers advanced planting techniques and helping them raise the yield and incomes.



Jiang Shikun, the late former secretary of the CPC Committee of Qinglong County, Guizhou Province, was a pioneer in devising plans for targeted poverty eradication in the county and promoting rural tourism. He died of a heart attack in 2016.



Li Yu from the Chinese Academy of Sciences has spent the last 30 years researching the science of fungi and edible fungus engineering technology and industrialization in Jilin Province.

The 10 outstanding groups are:

- Saihanba Mechanical Forest Farm of Hebei Province
- Dawan Village, Huashi Township, Jinzhai County of Anhui Province
- The CPC Xiadang Township Committee in Shouning County, Fujian Province
- Yeping Township, Ruijin City, Jiangxi Province
- Shibadong Village, Shuanglong Township, Huayuan County of Hunan Province
- Sanhe Village of Sanchahe Township in Zhaojue County of Liangshan Yi Autonomous Prefecture, Sichuan Province
- Department of Rural Electrification of Tibet Electric Power Company, State Grid
- Haojiaqiao Village, Zhangjiabian Township, Suide County of Shaanxi Province
- Banyan New Village, Wushi Township, Huzhu Tu Autonomous County, Haidong City, Qinghai Province
- Minning Township, Yongning County of Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region

Source: CGTN

On the Same Page

Veteran publishing house's hands-on participation shows broad base of poverty alleviation drive By Ma Li

Wen Huixian, Deputy Mayor of Zuoquan County in Shanxi Province, north China, has been a busy man. He has not only visited poor villages in the county, coordinating poverty alleviation projects, but also traveled to trade fairs to market local specialty products.

Over the past two years, the three animal breeding projects and four planting projects he led have brought a stable income to more than 1,200 poor households in the county.

Wen was sent to Zuoquan to work temporarily as a deputy county mayor by China Pictorial, a monthly magazine of the Beijing-based China International Publishing Group (CIPG). Since 2002, the publishing group has been sending its employees to the impoverished county for hands-on participation in the poverty

alleviation drive.

The drive to end poverty across the country by 2020 has seen a wide spectrum of participants, including staff members sent by government departments, state-owned enterprises and social organizations.

The CIPG has been one of the supporters of the campaign. It has assisted in education for children and training for county officials, promoted local industries and funded solar panels for clean energy. A special CIPG fund has been established for projects.

Hands-on Participation

For Wen, going to work in Shanxi was a homecoming since he was born there. Zuoquan, an old revolutionary base, had

a population of over 49,000 poor people. One of Wen's tasks was to develop local industries and promote their products outside.

The county had the potential to develop fruit orchards, especially apple orchards. However, the farmers lacked money to buy fertilizers and improve irrigation. In December 2019, a farmers' cooperative from the village of Shangwu asked Wen for help.

After an on-site investigation, Wen ascertained that fertilizers and drip irrigation could improve farmers' earnings by 30 percent. He obtained funds from the CIPG for the cooperative in under six months and the result proved his judgment correct. By October, the cooperative's apple orchards had produced nearly 40 percent more compared with the previous year.

Another village, Tianmen, had abundant forests, perfect for raising chickens. However, the farmers lacked funds to improve and expand poultry farming. With Wen's help, they received funding from the county government as well as a matching contribution from CIPG's special fund for poverty alleviation, with the pooled sum amounting to 600,000 yuan (\$89,702).

In two years, Wen had visited almost all the 129 impoverished villages in the county, helping to develop traditional agricultural and animal husbandry industries based on local conditions. Seven projects were started under his watch, funded by over 1.7 million yuan (\$254,000) from the CIPG poverty alleviation fund.

Two of the projects, raising ducks in Lichang Village and planting cherry in Shangkou Village, have become signature ones for poverty alleviation in Zuoquan, Wen said.

In April 2019, Zuoquan was officially declared to have shaken off poverty. However, though Wen's two-year tenure ended this year, instead of returning to Beijing, he has chosen to stay on till the end of the year, the deadline for the elimination of poverty, to help strengthen the results.

Going Deeper

In May 2018, Wang Peng from CIPG's general editorial office was assigned



Wen Huixian checks vegetables in a greenhouse in Zuoquan, Shanxi Province in north China, on October 22 (MA LI)

to support poverty alleviation work in Lichang, a village in the same county with fewer than 400 people. Many young people had left the village to look for greener pastures elsewhere.

Wang's work in the village includes improving the life of village elders, especially those left behind by their younger family members who work in cities. A daytime care center was established in 2014 to provide three free daily meals to people over 65. Almost 45 elderly villagers dine in the center regularly. Also, every year, the elderly are given free clothing and entertainment activities are organized for them.

The village provides 160,000 yuan (\$23,922) annually to cover the center's expenses.

For many villagers, raising ducks is a major means of livelihood but initially, many ducklings died in winter as the duck sheds had no heating. Today, three modern and automated duck sheds with heating have been built. Machines do most of the work there, including feeding the birds and cleaning the sheds. A duck breeder can earn around 7,000 yuan (\$1,046) a month, which is more than what many villagers working outside as migrant labor make.


Nearly 2.08 million yuan (\$310,995) has been invested in building the duck sheds, including 730,000 yuan (\$109,147) from the CIPG and 840,000 yuan (\$12,538) raised through micro bank loans. The local government paid the rest.

Wang said this year the villagers also planted 2 hectares of apricots, which will benefit 30 poor households.

When Wang's tenure in the village ends in December, another CIPG staff will take his place. "This will be continued to ensure long-term effects of the poverty alleviation work and further improve villagers' conditions even after absolute poverty is eliminated," Wang said.

Many more CIPG employees like Wang and Wen have taken part, first-hand, in the national initiative. Li Jin from China.org.cn, an online media outlet under CIPG, went to work in Liaoyang Town in the county a few months before her wedding after persuading both her and her husband's families.

A city girl, Li found it challenging at first due to her unfamiliarity with the rural environment and the poverty alleviation work, which for her includes explaining to the impoverished villagers the preferential policies available to provide them with benefits and how to access them.

Gradually, she has adapted to the new environment. "The work has enriched my life and experience," she said. 



Li Jin (left) visits a rural family in Zuoquan. The family relocated to a new home subsidized by the government (COURTESY PHOTO)



Wang Peng (left) with an elderly villager in Zuoquan on October 22 (MA LI)

The Unsung Hero Behind Qianxinan's Anti-Poverty Campaign

Qinglong county in Qianxinan Bouyi and Miao autonomous region, is home to some of the most impoverished people in the country. However, thanks to Jiang Shikun, its former Party secretary, the county has made great achievements in fighting poverty.

During his tenure, from 2010 to 2016, Jiang worked tirelessly to alleviate poverty in the county. It was under Jiang's guidance that the county underwent rapid urban expansion, the "Qinglong Model" of poverty alleviation paid dividends, and a small tourism industry experienced fast growth and now plays a major part in the local economy. Statistics show that during the implementation of the 12th Five-Year Plan from 2011 to 2015, the number of people classed as living in poverty in the county was cut by 86,000, and the urbanization rate reached 33 percent, compared to 23.5 percent in 2011.

However, the extraordinary changes required in the county brought with it a heavy workload, which took its toll on the late secretary's health. A cardiac arrest took his life on April 12.

"Secretary Jiang travelled nearly 90,000 kilometers each year to investigate the county's development and paid numerous visits to impoverished households. He finally broke down from constant work day and night," said Zhu Lijia, who had been Jiang's driver for six years.

Qinglong people now live a much better life compared with five years ago. Their beloved Party secretary might no longer be with them, but his selfless dedication to them will stay with them. **■**



Jiang Shikun (left), former Party secretary of Qinglong county, Guizhou Province in southwest China, talked with a local villager. Jiang passed away due to cardiac arrest on April 12, 2016 (XINHUA)

Zhang Xiaojuan's Dedication Inspires Poverty Alleviation Workers

"She was the child of her parents, the wife of her husband, the mother of her kids — and she was also a fighter against poverty and the pride of all poverty-alleviation workers." These were the sorrowful words of Liu Xiaowei, a poverty-relief worker in Qiangtuo Village in Dongxiang County, after hearing that Zhang Xiaojuan, Deputy Director of the Poverty Alleviation Office in Zhouqu County in northwest

China's Gansu Province, died at her post.

Zhang had worked in poverty alleviation since September 2008. On October 7, 2019, Zhang died in a car crash after she had finished inspecting the work of poverty alleviation in a village.

Zhang was praised as a "mobile database" by local residents because she was so familiar with the situation in impoverished households and had conducted

in-depth research in identifying poverty, poverty withdrawal, poverty alleviation fund management and project construction.

As the liaison person for poverty alleviation matters in counties, villages and departments, she visited every poor household and put forward suggestions for the development of poverty-stricken villages.

She set up Zhouqu's WeChat account for poverty alleviation, publicizing policies in easy-to-understand language.

Zhang's deeds touched many government staff and common workers, who vowed to learn from her and try their best in their work in order to win the battle against poverty and make a contribution to the better future of Gansu.

"Zhang remained true to her original aspiration and kept her mission firmly in mind. She always put other people's interests first, and achieved extraordinary things in an ordinary job. We can learn a lot from her," Liu said.

Li Wei, Deputy Director of Poverty Alleviation at the Workstation of Houchuan Town in Huining County, said: "Through her actions, Zhang displayed the original aspirations that poverty alleviation officials should insist on. Although she can't work together with us anymore, her courage and selfless dedication will stay with us forever as we work to alleviate poverty." This year is a crucial year for Huining County's battle against poverty. The local workers will spare no effort to fight against poverty with the encouragement of Zhang's spirit.

"After learning of her death, I felt sorry for the loss of her young life, and I was also deeply moved by her spirit," said Sun Zetao, team leader and first secretary of the village supporting team and teacher at Gansu Vocational & Technical College of Nonferrous Metallurgy.



Zhang Xiaojuan (2nd, R) talks with local people in Zhouqu County, in northwest China's Gansu Province. (XINHUA)

"As someone who is the same age as Zhang, I will learn from her selfless devotion and do more for the happiness of people, bringing hope to people in poverty," Sun added.

Liu Wei, an official of the Organization Department of the CPC Lanzhou's Chengguan District Committee, added: "Zhang visited every corner of Zhouqu and dedicated herself to helping impoverished families in Zhouqu shake off poverty. Such a down-to-earth working

style deserves every CPC member to learn. In the future, we should keep people's interests first in mind at any time, try our best to fulfil every task and create a better life for the local people."

Because of Zhang's selfless dedication to poverty alleviation, the All-China Women's Federation decided to award Zhang the honor of the National March 8th Red-banner Holder in December 2020. **C**

An Ordinary Hero

People recall the life of a grassroots Party worker.

Huang Wenxiu didn't know the rainy night in the mountains surrounding the Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region's Baise city would be her last. She instead expected it'd be a homecoming to the village where she began her career after graduation.

Huang released a video on social media around midnight of June 16 that showed lightning and thunder, and roads covered in water. Some of her colleagues commented: "Watch out! Be careful!" Some asked her to quit the trip and stay in a safe place. After 1 am, they lost contact with Huang, whose body was found in a car washed into a valley by the flash flood.

The 30-year-old was Party chief of

Baini village in Baise's Leye county. She led the local poverty-relief work. Her death drew huge attention among the locals and netizens on social media, who mourned for her because she devoted her life to the well-being of others instead of her own.

That night, her father, Huang Zhongjie, who was recovering from a liver-cancer surgery, noticed the bad weather and persuaded her to stay until the next morning. But she told him: "That's why I have to go now. The village could be flooded tonight."

Road Less Taken

In 2016, Huang Wenxiu graduated from Beijing Normal University with a master's degree. Instead of seeking a

career in the capital city, she decided to work in Baise, her hometown, and was employed by the municipal publicity department. In 2018, she was sent to Baini, which is in a remote area.

Hao Haiyan, her university teacher, tells *Guangming Daily* that Huang Wenxiu had good English skills, and it wouldn't have been difficult for her to stay in Beijing or go abroad if she'd wanted.

Huang Wenxiu had tasted the bitterness of poverty herself. A bed and a sofa made of tires and planks were once all the furniture in her house in De'ai village in Baise's Tianyang county.

Huang Aijuan, her elder sister, tells *People's Daily* that Huang Wenxiu got a government subsidy when studying in high school and university.

"She always said she wanted to help develop her hometown and bring hope to more people."

Baini is about 200 kilometers, or four hours' drive, from the urban area of Baise.

When she was appointed Party chief

in March 2018, about 23 percent of the village's 472 families lived in poverty. Now, the figure is 2.71. The area also has four new reservoirs and 17 street lamps.

Young Dreamer

She soon realized the job was by no means easy. To figure out solutions to help the poor families, Huang Wenxiu needed to visit each household to learn more about them. But some villagers refused to talk and some even refused to let her in, according to a Xinhua report.

Some said: "We have been poor for so many years. Is it possible to change?" And others said: "Is she really coming to help? Maybe she just needs some grassroots experiences to get a promotion."

After spending some time without success, Huang Wenxiu approached Liang Jiannian, a former Party chief of the village, for help.

Liang told her to make friends first. "If they know you, they will accept you."

Then she entered villagers' homes and occasionally cleaned their yards or washed vegetables with them. If they

were not at home, she would go to the farmlands to help them plant seeds and pick fruit. She even learned the local dialect to chat with them.

Huang Bangxuan, who's also from one of the poor families, didn't open the door for her at first. Huang Wenxiu visited his house three times to tell him that "an allowance can only meet basic living needs. To shake off poverty, we should use our own hands", according to a Xinhua report. She then helped him get a subsidy of 7,000 yuan (\$1,023) to begin his own business of growing fruit.

Wei Naiqing, who's from a poor family, says Huang Wenxiu helped him to plant tea oil trees on a discounted loan. "She was like my daughter," the 53-year-old says.

Huang Wenxiu promoted the development of agriculture based on fir, oranges, star anise and loquats.

She invited experts to tell the villagers about improving production and quality, and contacted customers online and offline to boost local sales. During her stint, the area growing oranges increased

from 33 hectares to 133 hectares. Buyers from the nearby provinces of Yunnan and Guizhou sent trucks to the village. An e-commerce service station was also opened. The income of poor families growing oranges increased by 2,500 yuan annually on average.

Spirit Never Dies

Over 100 people attended her funeral on June 22. The story of how a young woman sacrificed her life on the way to help a poor village is inspiring. Activities were held on the campus of Beijing Normal University to mourn the loss. Qiu Jianzhong, a student there, tells Guangming Daily that Huang Wenxiu has become a role model.

"She had a spirit that's rarely seen but most needed in our modern times—dedication to the country."

Sui Lulu, a teacher at the university, encouraged students to "combine individual dreams with Chinese dreams" when speaking about Huang Wenxiu, the paper reports.

Yan Jianhua, a teacher at Changzhi University in Shanxi province, where Huang Wenxiu studied as an undergraduate student, tells the paper that she had strong faith as a member of the Communist Party of China. She loved the country, was loyal and shouldered responsibility with no fear of difficulties.

Huang Wenxiu once wrote: "Whoever works for poverty alleviation should be as proud as soldiers during wartime."

Qin Weifeng, deputy director of the publicity department of Baise, says: "She achieved the goal of poverty relief in the poor village. We call her a role model because she devoted herself to the battle against poverty and the improvement of people's livelihoods."

Meng Lei, an official from the publicity department in Guangxi's capital, Nanning, who is now working as a village Party chief, adds that officials should become involved in local communities to better understand people's lives when working on poverty alleviation.

Huang Wenxiu was named a "national model for poverty alleviation" by the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security, and the State Council Leading Group Office of Poverty Alleviation and Development in late June. ■



Huang Wenxiu visits an apiary in a village in Guangxi to introduce bee raising to the low-income village of Baini. (XINHUA)

County Party Chief's Inspiring Legacy Lives On

When Huang Shiyan, then 48, took office as Party secretary of Yanling county, Central China's Hunan province, in 2011, the county located deep in the mountains was mired in dire poverty with an average annual income of only 2,970 yuan (\$453).

He took food as he visited poor villages and people. He labored alongside them and talked with them, and realized that, due to the isolated location, lack of resources and outdated industrial development, the county was struggling to bring in an income. As a result, he proposed to develop green agriculture, the ecological industry and tourism to alleviate poverty, according to Xinhua News Agency.

After eight years, 54 impoverished villages in the county were all lifted out of poverty, according to People's Daily, but the devoted Party secretary died of a heart attack after participating in a meeting to talk about poverty alleviation work in 2019. He was conferred as a poverty alleviation model by the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security and the State Council Leading Group Office of Poverty Alleviation and Development in October.

When Huang checked the actual situation and conditions in the homes of villagers in 2011, he found many of them were growing yellow peaches, even though it didn't bring them much economic benefit. The agriculture major was surprised to find that many crops would not grow in the county but yellow peaches were suited to the particular soil and tasted good, so he decided to "turn the sparsely grown fruit into a commodity to help lift people out of poverty".

He then led a design and development plan to grow yellow peaches, and established an office in the local government to manage development of the business.

He encouraged people to grow the fruit, promoted advanced cultivation techniques, organized activities to sell the fruit and promoted online sales. He named the local fruit Yanling yellow peach, and made it a brand by applying for it to be listed as a protected product



Huang Shiyan examines a plantation of yellow peaches in 2011 (XINHUA)

under China's national geographical indications in 2016.

"Everyone in Yanling knows secretary Huang paid a lot of attention to the yellow peach business. The 62,824 peach trees in our village have enabled nearly all households to build new houses and buy new cars," says Zhu Jinghua, Party secretary of Xinshan village, Yanling county, where more than 40 poor households were lifted out of poverty through the peach business.

According to Tan Zhongcheng, secretary of Yanling's yellow peach association, "the county now has an area of 5,933 hectares growing yellow peaches. The general yield reaches 51,800 metric tons, and the 34,200 peach farmers enjoy an average income increase of 2,976 yuan this year."

In 2014, 14,900 people in Yanling still lived in houses that had potential safety problems. It would cost 600 million yuan to solve them, but local government revenue was only 700 million yuan that year.

"How can people shake off poverty without living in a safe house? Even if we give up the last shot in the locker, we should enable people to live in safe houses," says Huang firmly.

As a result, he tried all possible means

to raise funds and cut down expenditure in government officials' daily work. Finally, 1,250 households were relocated to new houses, and the dilapidated houses of more than 11,000 households were renovated.

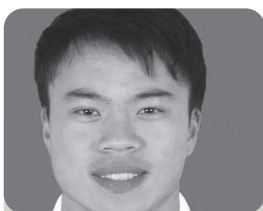
"I moved from deep in the mountain to a new resettlement area in 2017. Secretary Huang visited my house 19 times, and recommended jobs for my family members. He cared for us more than our relatives," says Zhang Lianjun from Shangcun village, Yanling county.

Led by Huang, the poverty alleviation work in Yanling achieved great progress. Altogether 7,224 households, 24,056 people have shaken off poverty, and local poverty incidence has dropped from 19.5 percent to 0.45 percent.

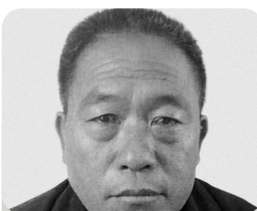
After Huang's death, an old yellow peach tree which inspired him to develop peach business in Yanling died as well, says villager Chen Yuangao, owner of the tree. "Although the tree died, infrastructure improved when he worked here. The road he built still remains. And the orchard of yellow peaches has been enlarged. His efforts helped us to live a better life, and we will remember him," says Chen. **C**

Over 1800 Sacrificed in China's Poverty Alleviation Fight

(partly listed in alphabetical order by pinyin of last names)



Cheng Fuyao, a late official on poverty alleviation of Xiushui County, Jiangxi Province in east China



Duan Dinghua, the late former Secretary of the General Party Branch of Mangwang Village, Heyuan Township, Shidian County in Yunnan Province, southwest China



Fang Xuan, the late former Deputy mayor of Qingshan Township, Guidong County of Hunan Province, central China



Guo Caiting, the late former business person in charge of the Economic Development Office of Houqiao Town, Tengchong City in Yunnan Province, southwest China



Guo Mingliang, the late former Secretary of the Party Branch of Dongliuji Village, Dawa Town of Ningjiang District, Songyuan City in Jilin Province, northeast China



He Xiaohong, the late former Deputy Director of Poverty Alleviation Office, China Telecom Nuijiang Branch of Yunnan Province, southwest China



Huang Jingjiao, the late former First Secretary of Diping Village, Lalie Township, Duan Yao Autonomous County in Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, south China



Huang Wenxiu, the late former Party chief of Baini Village in Leye County in Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, south China



Wang Xinfa, the late former honorary village mayor of Xuejia Village, Nanbei Town, Shimen County in Hunan Province, central China



Jiaba Wuge, the late former Member of the Party Committee of the Public Security Bureau of Butuo County, Liangshan Yi Autonomous Prefecture in Sichuan Province, southwest China



Jiang Shikun, the late former secretary of the CPC Committee of Qinglong County, Guizhou Province, was a pioneer in devising plans for targeted poverty eradication in the county and promoting rural tourism. He died of a heart attack in 2016



Ju Yanjun, the late former Mayor of Yangjiao Township, Zuoquan County of Shanxi Province, north China



Lan Biaohe, the late former Deputy County Mayor of Rongan County, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region in south China



Li Fei, the late former Party committee secretary of Chishiqiao, Township, Qinquan County of Shanxi Province, north China



Li Guifang, the late former First Secretary of Lanzi She Village, Yaojia Township in Hengfeng County of Jiangxi Province, east China



Li Wenzhi, the late former instructor of Economic Investigation Brigade, Public Security Bureau of Wuding County in Yunnan Province, southwest China



Li Xia, the late former Secretary of the Disciplinary Committee of Jingzhou Township, Jixi County in Anhui Province, east China



Liu Jianguang, the late former First Secretary of Honggou Village, Sishilipu Town, Yishui County of Shandong Province, east China



Liu Ping, the late former Secretary of the Party Branch of Yangjiawu Village, Pubang Town, Xiangyun County in Yunnan Province, southwest China



Liu Zhengming, the late former First Secretary of Changqing Village, Chaoyang Town of Huinan County, Jilin Province in northwest China



Long Jun, the late former First Secretary of the Village Work Team of Yangping Village, Maogou Town, Baojing County in Hunan Province, central China



Luo Yupeng, the late former Deputy Secretary of the Party Committee of Daxing Township, Gengma Dai and Wa Autonomous County in Yunnan Province, southwest China



Meng Han, the late former Deputy Director of the Standing Committee of the People's Congress of Huaihua City of Hunan Province, central China



Nima Tashi, the late former Member of the Party Leadership Group of the Tibet Autonomous Region Poverty Alleviation and Development Office, Tibet Autonomous Region, southwest China



Qiu Jun, the late former Deputy Mayor of Huachi County, Qingyang City, Gansu Province in northwest China



Sa Fenghu, the late former Deputy Chief of Project Unit of Xiji County Poverty Alleviation and Development Office Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region in northwest China



Shi Xionsun, the late former Deputy Secretary of the Party Branch of Nanchun Village, Maogan Township, Baoting Li and Miao Autonomous County, Hainan Province in south China



Su Qingliang, the late former Deputy Director of the Leading Group Office for Poverty Alleviation and Development in Daiyue District, Tai'an City in Shandong Province, east China



Tang Qian, the late former First Secretary of the work team in Sihuping Village, Tongjinpu Town, Cili County in Hunan Province, central China



Wang Qiuting, the late former staff of Daguan County Commission for Discipline Inspection in Yunnan Province, southwest China



Wang Xiaoquan, the late former Deputy Secretary of the Party Committee of Laotun Township, Taijiang County, Qiandongnan Miao and Dong Autonomous Prefecture, Guizhou Province in southwest China



Wang Xinjie, the late former First Secretary of Chaizhuang Village, Huanggang Town, Shan County in Shandong Province, east China



Wen Weihong, the late former First Secretary of Daping Village, Zhongzhai Town, Yanhe Tujia Autonomous County in Guizhou Province, southwest China



Wu Wanzhen, the late former Secretary of the Party Leadership Group of the Agriculture and Rural Bureau of Tunchang County in Hainan Province, south China



Wu Yingpu & Fan Zhenzi, a couple and late former officials at Xiushui County, Jiangxi Province, east China



Xia Qiang, the late former First Secretary of the Village Work Team of Gaoshi Village, Peixing Town, Dianjiang County in Chongqing, southwest China



Xia Yunsheng, the late former First Secretary of Wanwei Group Company in Baizhipeng Village, Jinzhai County of Anhui Province, east China



Xiang Wen, the late former captain and first secretary of the village work team in Migou Village, Buchui Township, Huayuan County in Hunan Province, central China



Xie Rui, the late former Member of the Party Committee of Qingping Town, Xianfeng County in Hubei Province, central China



Yang Hua, the late former First Secretary of the Village Work Team of Fuba Village, Jinji Town, Zhong County in Chongqing, southwest China



Yang Liqun, the late former Director of Project Management Department of Gansu Communication Industry Engineering Supervision Co., Ltd. in Gansu Province, northwest China



Yang Zengshan, the late former Secretary of the Party Branch of Shapolong Village, Yuewang Township, Malong District, Qujing City in Yunnan Province, southwest China



Zhu Xinwen, the late former Deputy Mayor of the Party Committee of Dunggu Town, Bobai County in Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, south China



Yi Xiaofeng, the late former First Secretary of Sulu Village, Laxiu Town, Yushu City in Qinghai Province, in northwest China



Yu Binghua, the late former Secretary of the Party Branch of Dongjiahe Village, Zhangcunping Town, Yiling District, Yichang City in Hubei Province, central China



Yu Jian, the late former First Secretary of Caolin Village, Yueba Town, Foping County in Shaanxi Province, northwest China



Yue Min, the late former Secretary of the Party Branch of the 9th Company of Pishan Farm, 14th Division of Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps, Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region in northwest China



Zeng huixiang, a late official on poverty alleviation in Luhui Village, Zhihe Township of Yongqiao District, Suzhou City in Anhui Province, east China



Wu Guoliang, the late former Executive Deputy Director, Tangdan Township Poverty Alleviation Office, Dongchuan District, Kunming City in Yunnan Province, southwest China



Zhang Hua, the late former First Secretary of Tangliang Village, Anning Township, Jingxi City in Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, south China



Zhang Jianjun, the late former First Secretary of the Village, Xiangxi Village, Banqiaotou, Jixi County in Anhui Province, east China



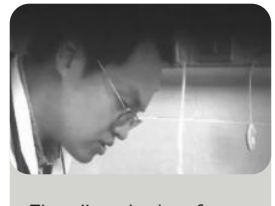
Zhang Jinming, the late former Member of the Standing Committee of Langzhong Municipal Commission for Discipline Inspection in Sichuan Province, southwest China



Zhang Lin, the late former team leader of Xinghua Village, Fuxing Town of Wangqing County in Jilin Province, northwest China



Zhang Xiaojuan, the late former deputy chief of the Zhouqu County's poverty eradication and development office in northwest China's Gansu Province



Zhao Jian, the late former pediatrician from the Children's Hospital in Shanghai and a member of the medical team from Shanghai to Xigaze, Tibet Autonomous Region, southwest China

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