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How Did Poverty Reduction in China Contribute to the World? Viewing from the Implementation of the UN MDGs and SDGs

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Countries all over the world are highly concerned about poverty. Both the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations set ending poverty and hunger as their top priority. Whether in its own modernization drive or in the implementation of the United Nations' MDGs and SDGs, the Chinese Government has always attached great importance to poverty issues, and actively explored measures to reduce poverty. This paper is designed to use relevant statistics to sum up China's achievements and experience in implementing the MDGs so as to provide a policy basis for poverty reduction in China and beyond. This paper discovers that China's achievements in poverty reduction involve four aspects: Eliminating hunger ahead of schedule, improving people's nutritional status, enhancing food security and laying a solid foundation for sustainable agricultural development; China's experience in poverty reduction includes the following: the government had paid high attention; economic development had served as the key to solve all problems; the development had been guided by planning and guaranteed by policies and regulations; the market mechanism had played its due role; emphasis had been placed on the pilot projects and step-by-step promotion strategy, as well as on development cooperation and experience exchanges. The Chinese Government had formulated specific plans to achieve the poverty reduction targets set in the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*. Besides, the Rural Revitalization Strategy proposed by the Chinese Government in 2017 has become the essential strategy to solve the poverty-related issues in China's development.

Keywords: Millennium Development Goals (MDGs); Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); poverty; hunger; China's experience.

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1. Introduction

Poverty reduction is a common goal shared by all countries in the world. In September 2000, world leaders gathered in New York and agreed to a set of goals and targets to be achieved by 2015 for combating poverty, hunger, disease, illiteracy, environmental degradation, and discrimination against women that have become known as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The primary goal of the eight MDGs[1] is "to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger". The year 2015 is the year to wrap up the implementation of the MDGs and also to launch a new sustainable development agenda. At the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit on September 25, 2015 at UN headquarters in New York, 193 member states officially adopted the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), among which the Goal 1 is "End poverty in all its forms everywhere" and the Goal 2 is "End hunger, achieve food security and improve nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture". Compared with the MDGs, the 2030 SDGs put more emphasis on the concept of sustainable development, highlighting the balanced development of economy, society and environment, and continue to focus on the primary development goal of ending poverty and hunger.

The Chinese government has always attached great importance to poverty reduction. First, multiple documents had been released to address poverty issues before the launch of the MDGs. In December 1982, the State Economic and Trade Commission, the Ministry of Civil Affairs, the Ministry of Finance and other six ministries jointly issued the *Notice on Supporting the Poverty-stricken Households in Rural Areas*, ushering in the stage of all government departments making coordinated efforts to advance rural poverty alleviation. In September 1984, the CPC Central Committee and the State Council of China issued the *Notice on Aiding the Poverty-stricken Areas to Improve their Economic Conditions at the Earliest Possible Time*, requiring active efforts to lift people in those areas out of poverty first and then help them catch up with the economic development pace in the rest of China. In April 1994, the State Council issued the *Seven-Year Program for Lifting 80 Million People Out of Poverty* (*1994–2000*), serving as a guideline for development-oriented poverty alleviation around China from 1994 through 2000. Second, after the launch of the MDGs, the State Council issued the *Outline for Development-Oriented Poverty Alleviation for China's Rural Areas* (*2001–2010*) in June 2001, and the CPC Central Committee and the State Council of China issued the *Outline for Development-Oriented Poverty Alleviation for China's Rural Areas* (*2011–2020*) in May 2011 to promote poverty reduction in full swing. Third, since the 18th CPC National Congress, General Secretary Xi Jinping had studied, deployed and supervised the poverty alleviation works, linking it politically to the mission of building a moderately prosperous society in all respects.

[1] The United Nations' eight Millennium Development Goals are: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger; achieve universal primary education; promote gender equality and empower women; reduce child mortality; improve maternal health; combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases; ensure environmental sustainability; and develop a global partnership for development. Each goal had specific targets and the eight goals were measured by 21 targets.

It is easy to see that China's practices in poverty reduction constitute an important component of poverty reduction around the world. After the end of the MDGs era in 2015, many studies (Huang and Lv, 2013; Xiong, 2014; Ni, 2014) have evaluated the implementation of the MDGs from various perspectives, and some (Marafa *et al.*, 2007; Zhu, 2015; Kuhn, 2016; Lv *et al.*, 2018; Ling, 2018) have evaluated China's implementation of relevant goals and its contributions. However, few studies had summarized China's experience in poverty reduction. At the opening of the SDGs era, it is necessary to review and summarize China's experience in poverty reduction, and evaluate them particularly from the implementation of the global poverty reduction goals. These efforts will not only help China better implement the 2030 SDGs, but also provide China's experience to poverty reduction worldwide, facilitating the realization of the great goal of "End poverty in all its forms everywhere." Section 2 of this paper will introduce China's achievements in poverty reduction; Sec. 3 will sum up China's experience in poverty reduction; and Sec. 4 is conclusions and prospects.

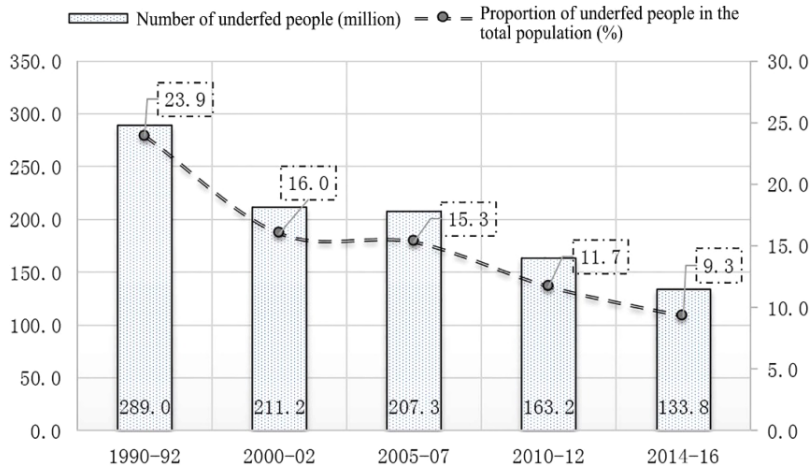
2. China's Overall Achievements in Poverty Reduction

From 2000 to 2015, China, fully committed to the MDGs, had made remarkable achievements and achieved or basically achieved 13 MDG targets. Between 1990 and 2011, China lifted 439 million people out of poverty, accounting for two thirds of the global poverty reduction during the period. Former UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has said on various occasions that without China's excellent contributions, the implementation of the MDGs worldwide would not have today's achievements. With its grain production growing since 2004, China had supported nearly 20% of the world's population with less than 10% of world's farmland. China had made significant efforts in advancing health, education and other projects to improve people's livelihood. Since 2000, China had provided safe drinking water to additional 467 million rural residents and kept the net enrollment rates of both boys and girls at primary-school age above 99%. While achieving self-development, China had been actively engaged in South–South cooperation and provided help with its capability to over 120 developing countries in their efforts to attain the MDGs (Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the PRC and the United Nations System in China, 2015). Instead of taking temporary measures, China had promoted poverty reduction as a systematic project. This paper will introduce China's overall achievements in poverty reduction from four aspects: (i) Eradication of hunger; (ii) improvement of people's nutritional status; (iii) food security level, a factor that directly decides whether it is possible to eradicate hunger, improve people's nutritional status or to realize the poverty reduction goal; (iv) the sustainable development level of agriculture, a factor that fundamentally decides the food security level.

2.1. *China achieved the poverty eradication goal ahead of the MDGs deadline*

2.1.1. *China's progress in hunger eradication*

Pursuant to Millennium Development Goals, it is required to halve the proportion of people who suffer from hunger between 1990 and 2015. Eradication of hunger is the most



Note: The right axis shows the proportion of undernourished people in the total population.
Source: FAO *et al.* (2015).

Fig. 1. Numbers (million) and proportions (%) of China's undernourished population in 1990–2016.

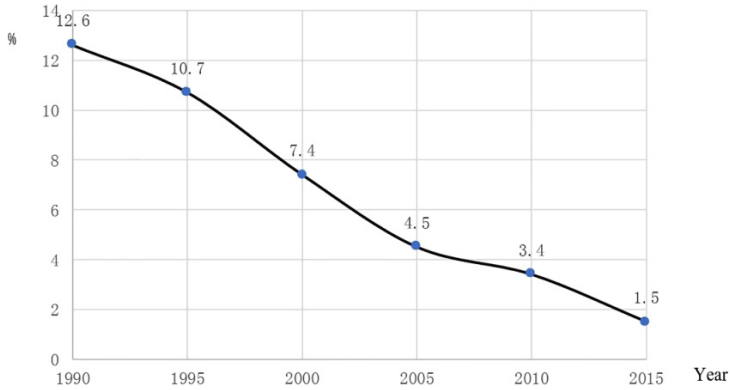
fundamental goal. The prevalence of undernourishment and the prevalence of underweight children under the age of five are internationally used to describe the implementation of hunger reduction.

2.1.1.1. The number of undernourished people dropped sharply

China has already halved the proportion of people who suffer from hunger ahead of schedule, having reduced the proportion of the population with a minimum food consumption level from 17% in 1990 to 7% in 2002 (Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the PRC and the United Nations System in China, 2018). According to the data from the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (Fig. 1), between 1990 and 2016, the proportion of undernourished people in China's total population kept declining quickly. From 1990 to 1992, 289 million people were undernourished, accounting for almost fourth quarter (23.9%) of China's total population. In 2000 when the MDGs were launched, the number of undernourished people fell rapidly to 211.2 million, accounting for 16% of the total population. In 2010–2012, the number of undernourished people fell to 163.2 million, which is 11.7% of the total population, and the target of halving the proportion had been achieved. By 2014–2016, the proportion further dropped to 9.3%, leaving about 133 million people who suffered from undernourishment.

2.1.1.2. Underweight rate of children under the age of five

From the perspective of the underweight rate of children under the age of five, China also delivered remarkable results. In 1990, the underweight rate of children under age five was 12.6%; by 2000, the rate fell down to 7.4%, and by 2010 dropped to 3.4% and to 1.5% in 2015 (see Fig. 2). If the target had been to halve the proportion of underweight children under the age of five, then China would achieve the target ahead of schedule.

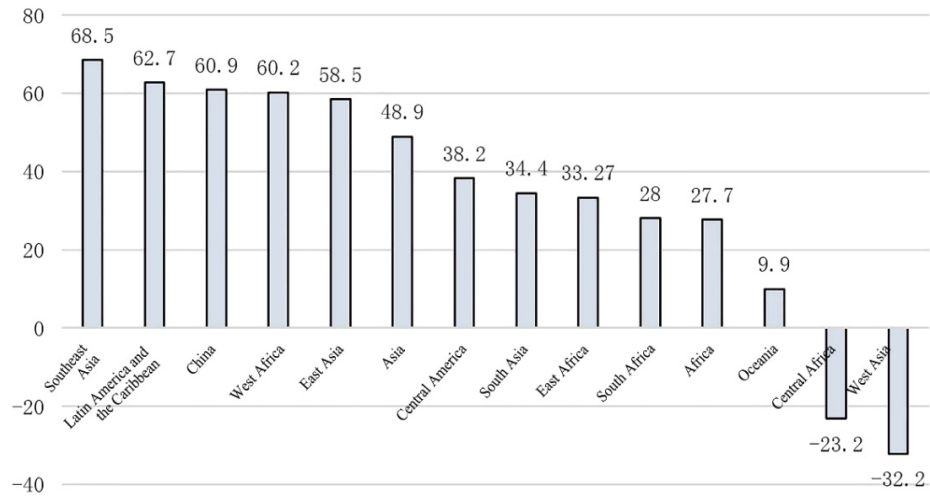


Source: Food and Nutrition Surveillance System of Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention.

Fig. 2. China's underweight rates of children under the age of five in 1990–2015 (%).

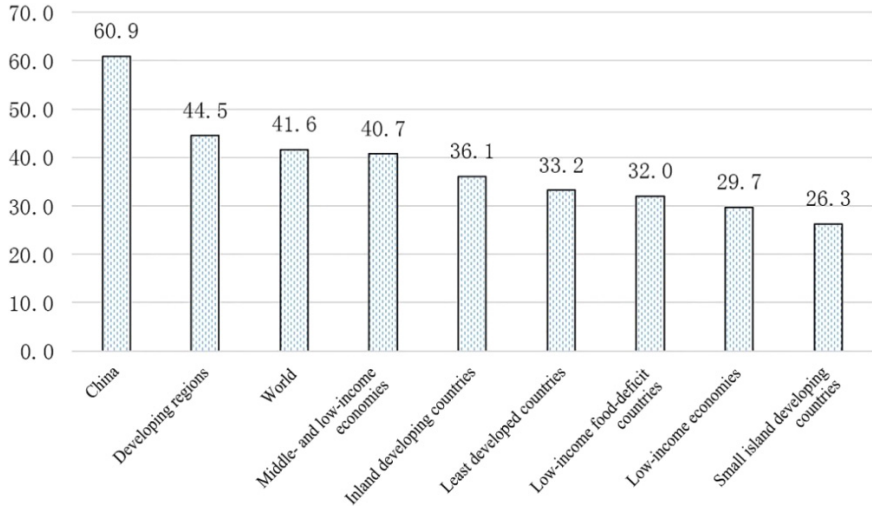
2.1.2. *China's contributions to the eradication of hunger around the world*

From the most basic aspect, the proportion of undernourished people, China has made prominent contributions to the eradication of hunger across the globe: (i) China stood out in its contribution compared with the continents. Regarding the decline in the proportion of undernourished people between 1990 and 2016, China fell by 60.9%, which is lower than Southeastern Asia (68.5%) and Latin America and the Caribbean (62.7%), but higher than the rest of the world, including the average levels of Asia (48.9%) and East Asia (58.5%). During this period, the proportion of undernourished people in Oceania only dropped by 9.9%, while those in Central Africa and West Africa, instead of falling, increased by 23.2% and 32.2%, respectively (see Fig. 3). (ii) China's contribution was more prominent



Source: FAO *et al.* (2015).

Fig. 3. Reductions in proportion of undernourished people in total population achieved by China and the continents of the world in 1990–2016 (%).



Source: FAO *et al.* (2015).

Fig. 4. Reductions in proportion of undernourished people in total population achieved by China and relevant regions of the world in 1990–2016 (%).

compared with the regions at different economic development levels. From 1990 to 2016, China's reduction in the proportion of undernourished people ranked the first among all regions, reaching 60.9%, 20 percentage points higher than the world average, 15 percentage points higher than the average of the developing regions and double the reduction achieved by low-income economies (see Fig. 4).

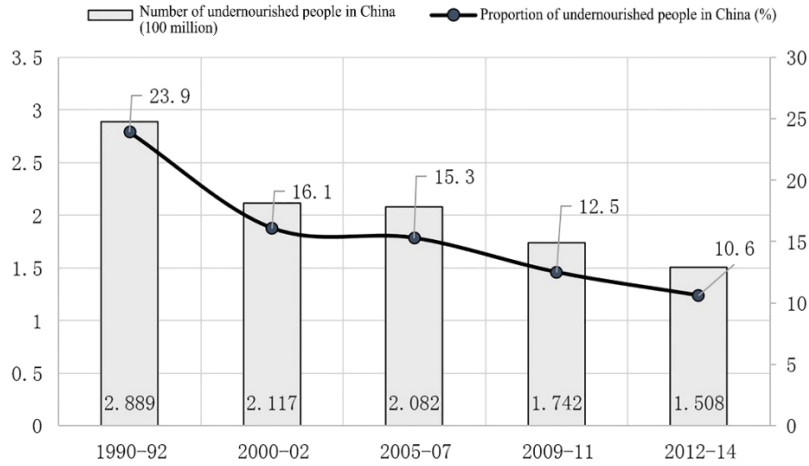
2.2. *China delivered remarkable results in nutrition improvement*

2.2.1. *The undernourished population in China decreased significantly*

According to the statistics of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, the number of undernourished people in China decreased significantly between 1990 and 2014 (Fig. 5). In 1990–1992, China had 288.9 million undernourished people, accounting for 23.9% or nearly one fourth of the total population. By 2000–2002, that proportion dropped to 16.1%, and by 2012–2014 to 10.6%. Both the number and proportion of undernourished people fell by half, representing a great achievement. Despite the notable improvement, China is still the second largest undernourished country (accounting for 19% of the world's total) in the world, next to India.

2.2.2. *Chinese residents' dietary pattern improved gradually*

Another manifestation of improving nutrition was that the dietary pattern of Chinese residents was also gradually optimized. The consumption of cereals and root vegetables had declined, while the average daily intake of animal food, in particular livestock, milk and eggs, had been increasing (Figs. 6 and 7). For example, between 2000 and 2014, the



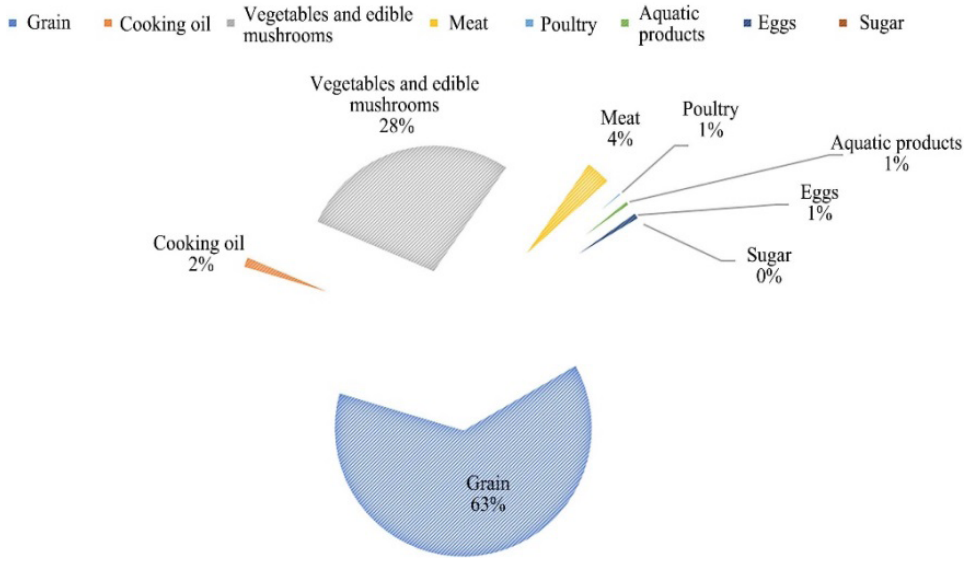
Source: FAO *et al.* (2015).

Fig. 5. Numbers and proportions of undernourished people in China between 1990 and 2014 (%).

proportion of cereals in dietary intake fell from 63% in 2000 to 46% in 2014; that of meat doubled from 4% to 8%; that of vegetables and edible mushrooms rose from 28% to 32%.

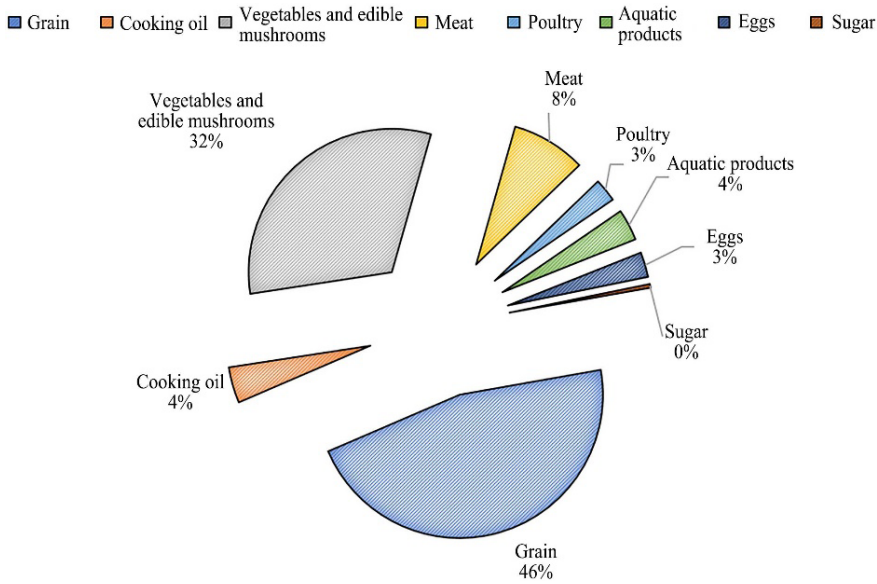
2.2.3. *Other improvements*

Since 1990, the weights of grown-ups and children in different age groups had been increasing. For instance, Chinese urban and rural children aged 2–5 years old all gained



Source: *China Statistical Yearbook 2001* (NBS, 2001).

Fig. 6. Dietary pattern of Chinese residents in 2000.



Source: *China Statistical Yearbook 2015* (NBS, 2015).

Fig. 7. Dietary pattern of Chinese residents in 2014.

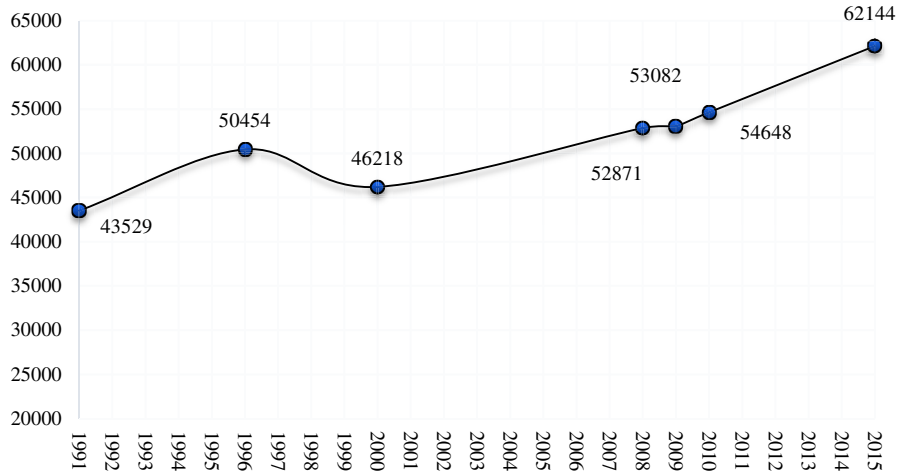
weight in 2013 compared to 2002, in which rural children gained more weight than the urban counterpart. The average weight of Chinese adult males also increased from 62.7 kg in 2002 to 66.2 kg in 2012. However, obesity was an issue that merits attention.

Another important nutrition indicator is the prevalence of stunted children under the age of five. China made significant progress in this regard, with the figure dropping from 33.4% in 1990 to 9.4% in 2015, a decrease of 71.9%.

Other issues such as anemia, diabetes, maternal and infantile malnutrition had also improved.

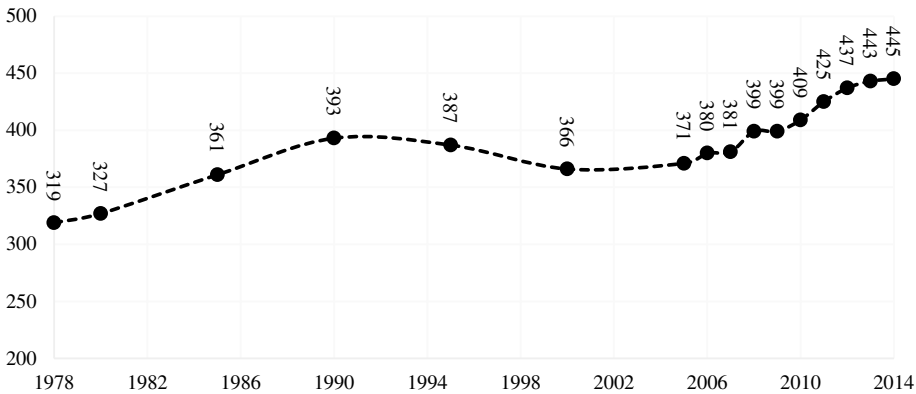
2.3. *China's food security level increased significantly*

Whether it is to eradicate hunger or poverty, adequate grain output is the most basic guarantee. Over the past 30 years of reform and opening up, China has addressed the food problem of nearly 20% of the world's population with about 9% of the world's farmland, making a great contribution to the world's food security. On one hand, since the launch of MDGs by the United Nations, China's grain output had increased year by year, up from 4.3 billion tons in 1991 to 6.2 billion tons in 2015 (Fig. 8), and registered a continuous increase for 12 consecutive years from 2004 to 2015. In 2015, China's grain acreage reached 113,340,500 ha (1,700,107,000 *mu*), an increase of 617,900 ha (9,269,000 *mu*) or 0.5% from 2014. The increasing food security level is also shown in per capita grain output, which jumped from about 319 kg in 1978 to 445 kg in 2014 (Fig. 9). In recent years, China's food self-sufficiency rate has remained above 95%, which can basically ensure the food security. On the other hand, with a steady rise in comprehensive productive



Source: *China Statistical Yearbooks* of previous years (https://www.chinayearbooks.com/china-statistical-yearbook.html).

Fig. 8. China's grain outputs in 1991–2015 (10,000 tons).



Source: *China Statistical Yearbooks* of previous years (https://www.chinayearbooks.com/china-statistical-yearbook.html).

Fig. 9. China's per capita grain outputs in 1978–2014 (kg).

capacity of grain, food supply had become increasingly abundant. For example, between 1991 and 2015, the outputs of cereals, oil-bearing crops, sugarcane, tea and fruits all increased to varied extents (Table 1) and basically met people's production and living needs, indicating a notably improved food security.

2.4. *The sustainable development of China's agriculture had a solid foundation*

Poverty reduction cannot always rely on exogenous power (like subsidies), but should stimulate the endogenous power of the poor, and by all means have them engaged with industries so that they can lead a moderately prosperous life by their own labor.

Table 1. Outputs of China's major farm products in 1991–2015 (10,000 tons).

	1991	1996	2000	2010	2015
Grain	43,529	50,453.5	46,217.5	54,647.7	62,143.9
Cereals	39,566.3	45,127.1	40,522.4	49,637.1	57,228.1
Rice	18,381	19,510.3	18,790.8	19,576.1	
Wheat	9,595	11,056.9	9,963.6	11,518.1	13,018.5
Corn	9,877	12,747.1	10,600.0	17,724.5	22,463.2
Beans	1,247.1	1,790.3	2,010.0	1,896.5	1,589.8
Tubers	2,716	3,536.0	3,685.2	3,114.1	3,326.1
Oil-bearing crops	1,638.3	2,210.6	2,954.8	3,230.1	3,537
Peanuts	630.3	1,013.8	1,443.7	1,564.4	1,644
Rapeseeds	743.6	920.1	1,138.1	1,308.2	1,493.1
Sesame	43.5	57.5	81.1	58.7	64
Cotton	567.5	420.3	441.7	596.1	560.3
Fiber crops	88.4	79.5	52.9	31.7	21.1
Jute and ambary hemp	51.3	36.5	12.6	6.9	5.3
Sugarcane	6,789.8	6,687.6	6,828.0	11,078.9	11,696.8
Beetroots	1,628.9	1,672.6	807.3	929.6	803.2
Tobacco	303.1	323.4	255.2	300.4	283.2
Flue-cured tobacco	267	294.6	223.8	273.1	260.6
Silkworm cocoons	58.4	50.8	54.8	87.3	90.1
Mulberry silkworm cocoons	55.1	47.1	50.1	80	82.4
Tea	54.2	59.3	68.3	147.5	224.9
Fruits	2,176.1	4,652.8	6,225.1	21,401.4	27,375

Source: *China Statistical Yearbooks* of previous years (https://www.chinayearbooks.com/china-statistical-yearbook.html).

The industry most closely connected to the poor is agriculture, of which the development level and sustainability directly determine whether a country can eliminate poverty for good or for a moment. The Chinese Government had done a lot of practical explorations to develop agriculture in a more sustainable way.

2.4.1. *The basic conditions for agricultural production kept improving*

China's agriculture is endowed with good and ever-improving production conditions (Table 2). (i) Irrigation conditions were developing rapidly. The effective irrigated area of China's farmland steadily rose from 24.493 million ha in 2000 to 29.415 million ha in 2010, and soon to 30.216 million ha in 2014. The number of diesel engines for agricultural drainage and irrigation increased from 6.881 million in 2000 to 9.361 million in 2014. (ii) Water conservancy facilities were constantly improving. Because of accelerated construction, the number of reservoirs jumped from 85,120 in 2000 to 97,735 in 2014. The number of irrigated areas rose from 5,683 in 2000 to 7,706 in 2014. The coverage of water-saving irrigation technology continuously increased. (iii) The ability to withstand natural risks grew stronger. The area of soil erosion under control increased from 80.96 million ha in 2000 to 111.61 million ha in 2014. The area of land protected by dikes also

Table 2. China's agricultural production conditions in 2000–2014.

Indicator	2000	2010	2014
Total power of agricultural machinery (10,000 kW)	52,573.6	92,780.5	1,08,056.6
Number of diesel engines (10,000 units)	688.1	946.3	936.1
Irrigated area (1,000 ha)	53,820	60,348	64,540
Number of reservoirs (unit)	85,120	87,873	97,735
Number of irrigated areas at year-end (set)	5,683	5,795	7,706
Effective irrigated area (10,000 ha)	2,449.3	2,941.5	3,021.6
Water-saving irrigated area (10,000 ha)	1,638.9	2,731.4	2,901.9
Areas with flood prevention measures (10,000 ha)	2,098.9	2,169.2	2,236.9
Area of soil erosion under control (10,000 ha)	8,096	10,680	11,161
Area of land protected by dikes (10,000 ha)	3,960	4,683.1	4,279.4
Electricity consumed in rural areas (100 million kW)	2,421.3	6,632.3	8,884.4

Source: *China Statistical Yearbooks* of previous years (https://www.chinayearbooks.com/china-statistical-yearbook.html).

increased from 39.6 million ha in 2000 to 42.794 million ha in 2014. (iv) The total power of agricultural machinery doubled from 625.736 million kW in 2000 to 1.080566 billion kW in 2014.

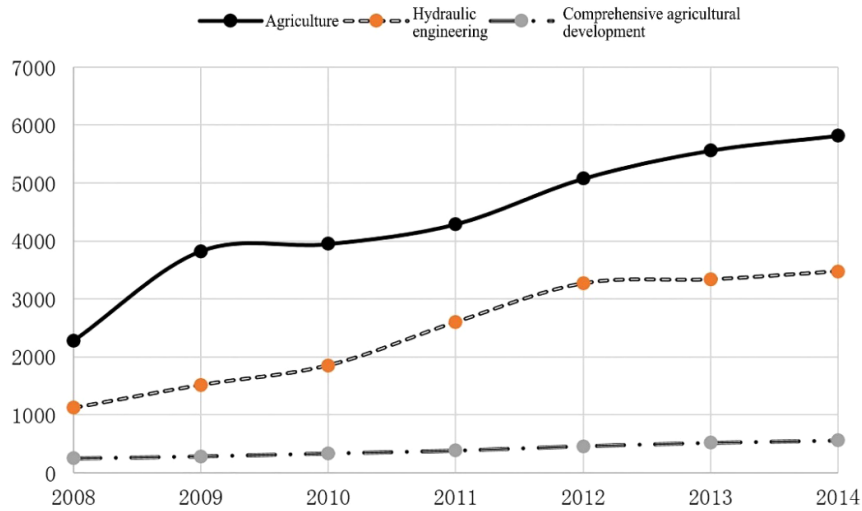
China's ever-increasing fiscal expenditures on agriculture, forestry and water conservancy laid a solid foundation for the continuous improvement of China's basic agricultural production conditions. The national fiscal expenditure on agriculture kept growing from RMB 227.89 billion in 2008 to RMB 507.74 billion in 2012, doubling the expenditure within four years, and further rose to RMB 581.66 billion in 2014, an increase of 15% over 2012. The fiscal expenditure in water conservancy also increased from RMB 112.27 billion in 2008 to RMB 347.87 billion in 2014, registering a two-fold increase. Comprehensive agricultural development is an important measure for improving agricultural infrastructure, on which the fiscal investment surged from RMB 25.16 billion in 2008 to RMB 56.07 billion in 2014, up by a factor of 1.2 (Fig. 10).

2.4.2. *Rural factor market was more developed*

The development level of the factor market decides the efficiency of resources allocation. Overall, China's rural factor market had developed rapidly, providing an important guarantee for sustainable agricultural development.

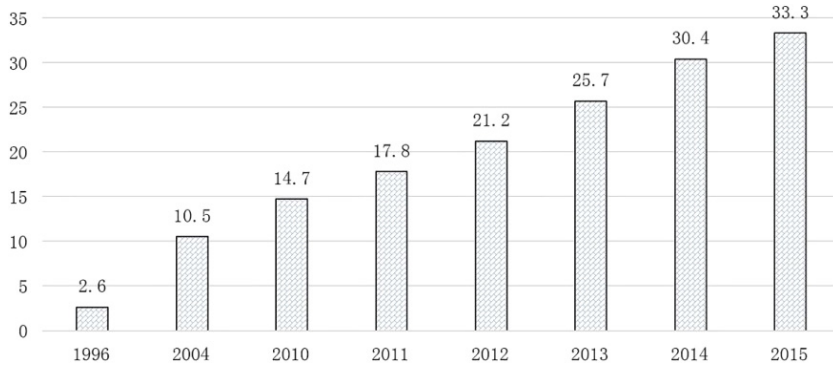
2.4.2.1. Rural land market

China's land transfer market experienced rapid progress. In 1996, only 2.6% of the farmland was transferred; by 2004, this figure increased to 10.5%, up by a factor of 3 from 1996, and followed by a steady rise in the subsequent years till 2015 when one third of the farmland had undergone transfer (Fig. 11). The development of China's land transfer market promoted the land allocation efficiency and created favorable conditions for scale agricultural operations.



Source: *China Statistical Yearbooks* of previous years (https://www.chinayearbooks.com/china-statistical-yearbook.html).

Fig. 10. China's fiscal expenditures on agriculture, forestry and water conservancy (RMB 100 million).

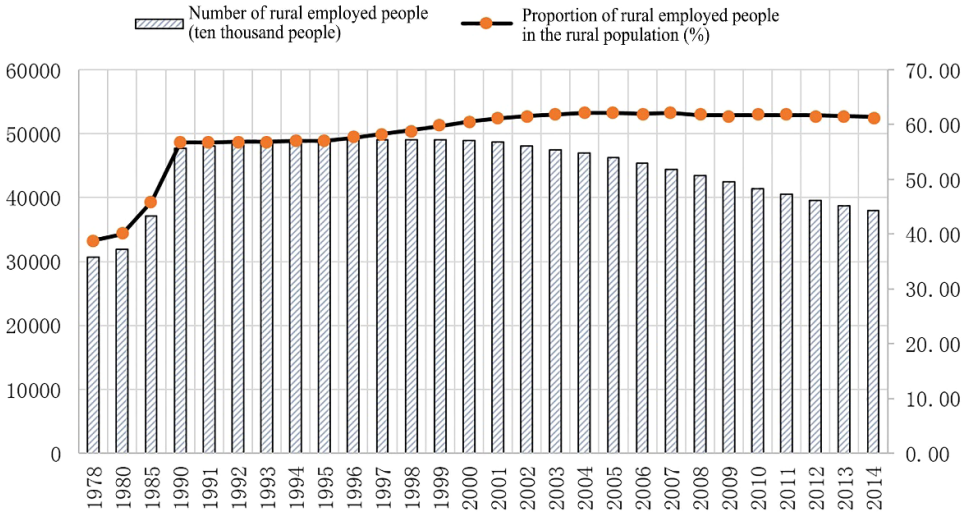


Source: Authors' survey and the data from the Ministry of Agriculture.

Fig. 11. Proportions of China's farmland transfer area in 1996–2015 (%).

2.4.2.2. Rural labor market

China's rural labor market also continued to move forward. (i) Between 1979 and 2014, the number of rural employed people in China had increased first and then decreased, but generally increased from 306 million in 1978 to 380 million in 2014, with its peak value maintained at 490 million in 1995–1998. The proportion of rural employed people in the total rural population maintained a steady growth, from 38.78% in 1978 to 56.70%, and then slightly rose to 61.33% in 2014 (Fig. 12). This demonstrates that China's ever-growing rural labor market plays an important role in the utilization of labor resources and the scale operation of agriculture. (ii) The development of labor market will enhance labor



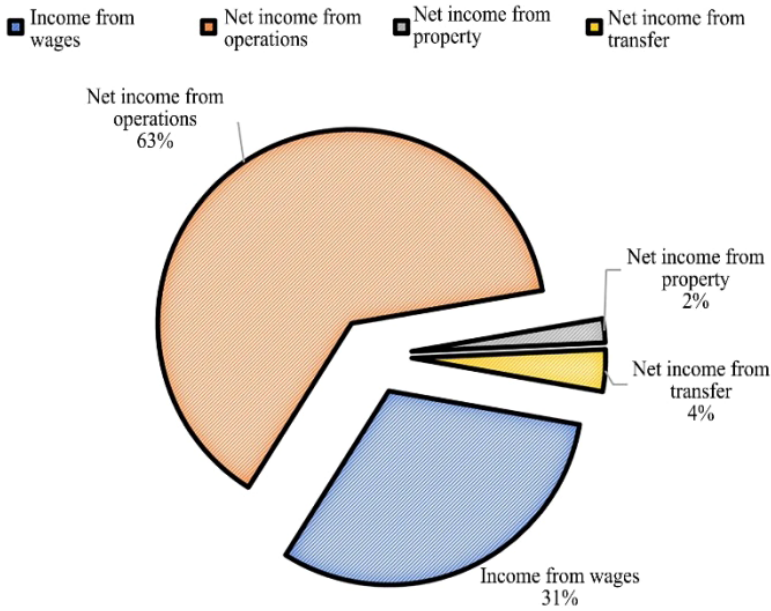
Note: The right axis shows the proportion of rural employed people in the total rural population.
Source: *China Statistical Yearbooks* of previous years (https://www.chinayearbooks.com/china-statistical-yearbook.html).

Fig. 12. Numbers (10,000 people) and proportions (%) of rural employed people in the total rural population.

productivity and increase the income of farmers. In 2000, the Chinese rural residents' income from wages accounted for 31% or less than one third of their total income (Fig. 13); by 2014, this figure reached 40%, up by 29% (Fig. 14).

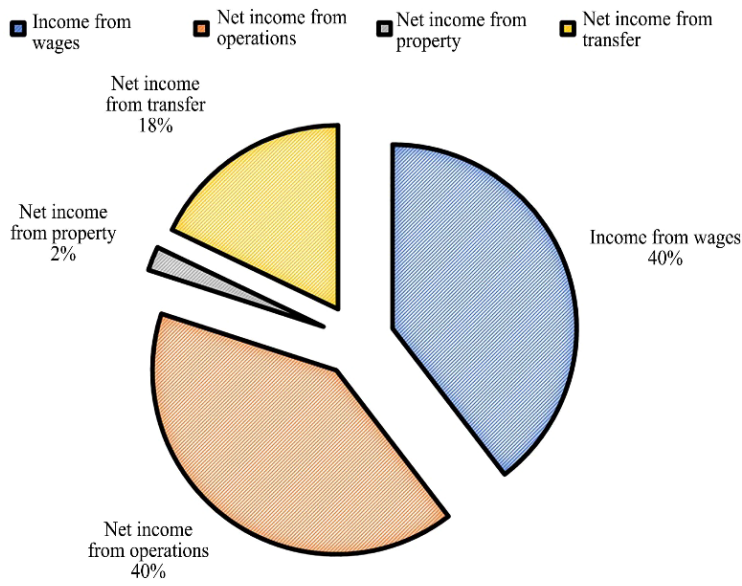
2.4.2.3. Rural financial market

China's rural financial market developed steadily. Since the launch of the pilot reform of rural credit cooperatives in 2003, under the leadership of the CPC Central Committee and the State Council, a new round of rural financial reform had been carried forward steadily, and a positive incentive and support policy system combining finance and taxation, monetary loan and regulatory policies has gradually taken shape. The rural financial services system had steadily improved, relevant innovations had continued to emerge, rural financial infrastructure construction had accelerated and the rural financial services had been effectively enhanced. (i) Agriculture-related loans in financial institutions had gradually increased. By the end of 2014, the outstanding agriculture-related loans (in both Renminbi and foreign currencies) stood at RMB 23.6 trillion, accounting for 28.1% of all loans (Fig. 15), with a year-on-year increase of 13%, 0.7 percentage points higher than the growth rate of various year-round loans on a comparable basis. Among them, the outstanding rural household loan was RMB 5.4 trillion, with a year-on-year increase of 19%, 6.7 percentage points higher than the average growth rate of various loans. On a comparable basis, since the establishment of statistics on agriculture-related loans in 2007, agriculture-related loans registered a cumulative increase of 285.9% and a growth rate of 21.7% within seven years, playing an important role in the support of grain production, agricultural development and increases in farmers' net income. (ii) The



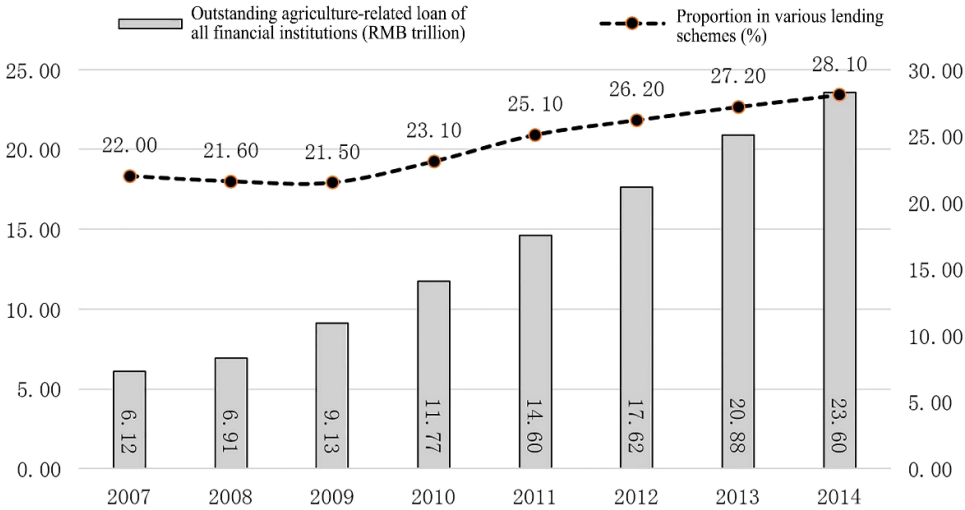
Source: *China Statistical Yearbooks* of previous years (https://www.chinayearbooks.com/china-statistical-yearbook.html).

Fig. 13. Composition of rural residents' income in China in 2000 (%).



Source: *China Statistical Yearbooks* of previous years (https://www.chinayearbooks.com/china-statistical-yearbook.html).

Fig. 14. Composition of rural residents' income in China in 2014 (%).



Note: The right axis represents the proportions in various loans. The "various loans" refers to the total loan of all financial institutions in both Renminbi and foreign currencies.
Source: *China Rural Finance Service Report 2014 (Summary)* (People's Bank of China, 2014).

Fig. 15. Outstanding agriculture-related loans of all financial institutions (RMB trillion).

increasingly-improved rural financial system effectively increased the coverage and penetration of services. Through years of sustained efforts, a multi-level, wide-covering and moderately competitive rural financial service system composed of banking financial institutions, non-banking financial institutions and other micro-financing organizations is taking shape in China, in which policy-based finance, commercial finance and cooperative finance can supplement and coordinate with each other to keep strengthening the convenience and accessibility of rural financial services. In addition, with the popularization of Internet technologies, Internet finance which carried out financial business through Internet channels and digital means developed rapidly, and financial forms such as crowdfunding, selling financial products online, mobile banking and mobile payment emerged quickly. Some Internet financial organizations had also conducted positive explorations in supporting agriculture, rural areas and farmers. (iii) Continuous efforts had been made to push forward the full coverage of basic financial services in remote rural areas and effectively promote basic financial services in villages and towns. By the end of 2014, the number of financial institution-free villages and towns decreased from 2,945 at the beginning (October 2009) to 1,570; the number of provinces (including municipalities with independent planning status) that achieved accessibility of both financial institutions and basic financial services in villages and towns increased from nine in October 2009 to 25. In 2014, the China Banking Regulatory Commission (CBRC) launched the Basic Financial Services for Every Village Project, and issued the *Guiding Opinions on Promoting Basic Financial Services for Every Village* to guide and encourage banking financial institutions to generally achieve the full coverage of basic financial services at the administrative village level in the coming three–five years. Financial services had been extended to

520,000 administrative villages through multiple service forms such as establishing standardized branches, providing handy services for the public on a regular basis and setting self-service terminals. By the end of 2014, the new rural financial institutions established across the country had invested over 92.9% of loans in agriculture, rural areas and farmers and small- and micro-businesses. Village banks were established upon approval in 1,045 county-level cities, covering 54.57% of the county territory (People's Bank of China, 2014).

2.4.3. *A new modern agricultural operating system was taking shape*

With the economic development, the issue of "who will undertake the farm work" has become a fundamental problem in agriculture development. Various drawbacks of retail operating since the household responsibility contract system had gradually emerged. To this end, China was developing a diversified agricultural operating system that was more adapted to the current reality, including the entities of both production and service. (i) Large grain-producing households and family farms are important operating entities. According to the statistics of the Ministry of Agriculture, the total number of family farms now reached 877,000 and the area of farmland is 176 million *mu*, accounting for 13.14% of the total contracted area. (ii) Farmers' cooperatives are the operating entity that can bind together and serve farmers. China is now home to 1.53 million rural cooperatives, of which 50% engage in planting industry and 25% in breeding industry. According to the statistics of the Ministry of Agriculture, more than 1 million peasant households participated in cooperatives, accounting for 40% of the 260 million peasant households. (iii) The industrialized leading enterprises are important operating entities who can play a leading role in manufacturing high-end agricultural products, and serve as a momentous force for the agricultural industrialization and modernization. By 2015, the number of leading enterprises at all levels amounted to over 120,000, including 1,245 national leading enterprises that have their own R&D center and play strong leading role in science and technology (Zhang, 2016).

2.4.4. *Agriculture had developed in a more modern way*

Guided by the development concepts featuring innovative, coordinated, green, open and shared development, China's agricultural development path is gradually changing to the agricultural modernization path featuring high efficiency, safe products, resources conservation and environmental friendliness. For example, the utilization efficiency of agricultural resources had increased steadily. Measures were taken to strictly control the occupation of cultivated land and the development and utilization of water resources; and to promote a number of new technologies, products or projects with high efficiency to protect resources so that the use efficiencies of water and land resources continue to increase. The proportion of water consumption for agricultural irrigation in the total water consumption fell from 61.4% in 2002 to 55% in 2013, and the effective utilization coefficient rose from 0.44 to 0.52 in 2013. In the context of land and water shortage, higher utilization efficiency of resources had contributed a lot to the effective supply of grain and other major agricultural products. Another example was the increasing efforts in ecological

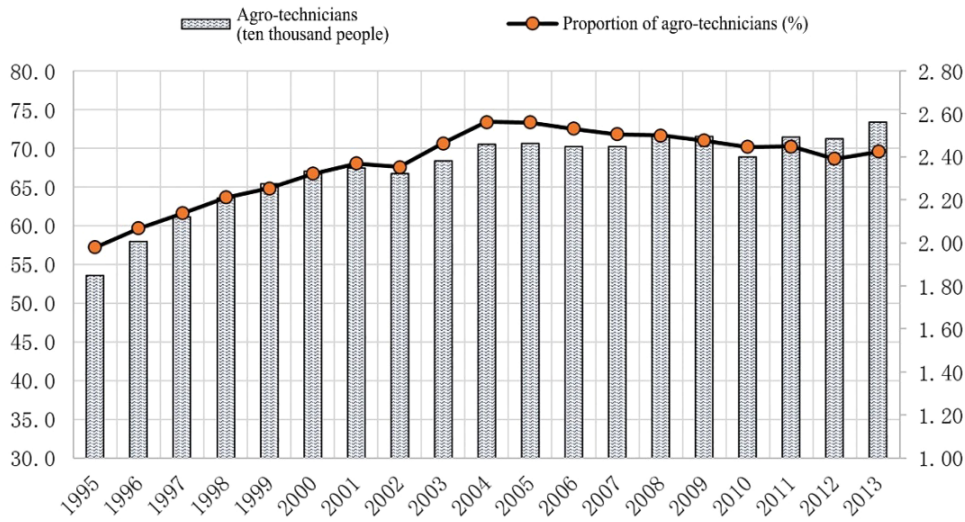
protection and construction. The central government had successively launched a range of major projects and subsidy policies such as soil and water conservation, returning farmland to forest and grassland, returning grazing land to grassland, prevention and control of desertification, treatment of stony desertification, subsidies and incentives for grassland ecological protection; strengthened the protection and construction of farmland, forests, grassland and marine ecosystems; taken stronger measures to prevent and control the invasion of alien species. Thanks to these efforts, the deterioration of the agricultural ecological environment in China had been controlled at the preliminary level and situations in some regions were improved. In 2013, China's forest coverage rate reached 21.6% and the vegetation coverage rate of grasslands reached 54.2%. The rural living environment had gradually improved. Active efforts had been made to promote the renovation of sub-standard rural houses, the settlement of nomads, the environmental improvement in contiguous rural areas, standardized large-scale farming, comprehensive utilization of crop straw and the construction of rural biogas and drinking water safety projects; to reinforce the building of ecological counties and beautiful villages, and the protection of traditional rural culture; and to develop leisure agriculture. All of these had gradually improved the rural living environment. By the end of 2014, 15.65 million sub-standard rural houses were renovated and 246,000 nomad households were settled down; environmental improvement was carried out in 59,000 villages, benefiting about 110 million people (DDP, 2015).

2.4.5. *Technological support exerted notable effects on agriculture*

The Chinese Government attached great importance to the supporting role of science and technology in agriculture. (i) The number of agro-technicians continued to increase. In 1995, there were 536,000 agro-technicians working in China's state-owned enterprises and public institutions, and this figure continuously increased to 733,000 in 2013, up by 37%. Besides, among all the technicians in these institutions, the proportion of agro-technicians also increased gradually from 1.98% in 1995 to 2.42% in 2013 (Fig. 16). (ii) Judging from the major technical achievements applied to farming, forestry, animal husbandry and fishery, agricultural technology had developed rapidly. In 2000, there were 4,147 major technical achievements applied to farming, forestry, animal husbandry and fishery across China, and by 2005 this figure increased to 5,123, and by 2013 to 7,311 (Fig. 17).

2.4.6. *Farm produce markets developed rapidly*

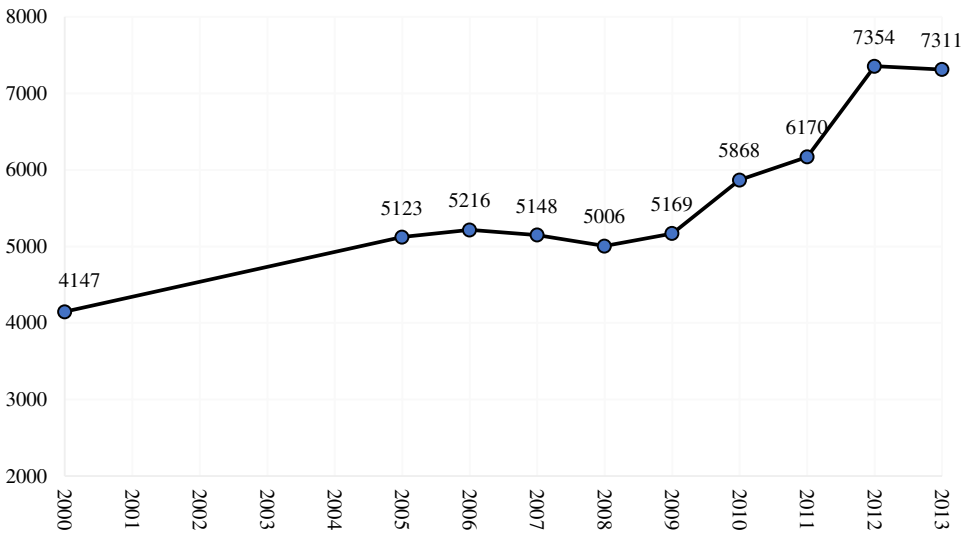
The scope, quantity and transaction efficiency of farm produce markets can seriously affect the earnings of agricultural producers and operators. China had made great achievements in developing farm produce markets, which gave strong support to sustainable agricultural development. (i) Remarkable results were delivered in construction of China's domestic farm produce markets, turning quantitative change into a qualitative change. Taking the farm produce comprehensive markets of transaction value over RMB 100 million for example, the numbers of trading markets and booths had declined by 16.7% and 13.2% from 820 and 488,108 in 2003 to 683 and 423,859 in 2014, respectively (Fig. 18). But such declines in number had been accompanied by an increase of 62.1% in business



Note: The proportion of agro-technicians, which is represented on the right axis, refers to the proportion in all technicians.

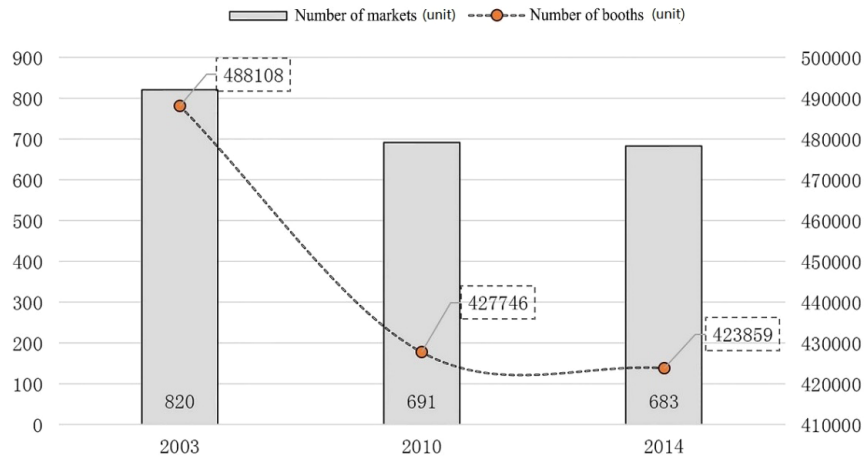
Source: *China Statistical Yearbooks on Science and Technology* of previous years (https://www.chinayearbooks.com/china-statistical-yearbook-on-science-and-technology.html).

Fig. 16. Number of agro-technicians working in China's state-owned enterprises and public institutions in 1995–2013.



Source: *China Statistical Yearbooks on Science and Technology* of previous years (https://www.chinayearbooks.com/china-statistical-yearbook-on-science-and-technology.html).

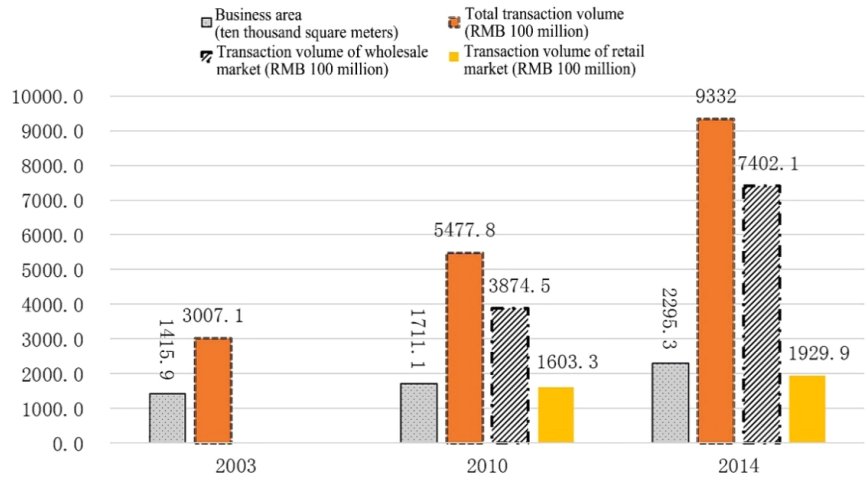
Fig. 17. Major technical achievements applied to farming, forestry, animal husbandry and fishery in 2000–2013 (pieces).



Note: The right axis shows the numbers of booths.
Source: *China Statistical Yearbooks* of previous years (https://www.chinayearbooks.com/china-statistical-yearbook.html).

Fig. 18. Numbers of farm produce comprehensive markets of transaction value over RMB 100 million in China in 2003–2014.

area from 14.159 million m^2 in 2003 to 22.953 million m^2 in 2014. Moreover, the total transaction volume of trading markets underwent an even more significant growth from RMB 300.71 billion in 2003 to RMB 933.2 billion in 2014, an increase of 210%. Between 2010 and 2014, the wholesale and retail markets had developed quickly (Fig. 19).



Note: The transaction volumes of wholesale and retail markets add up to the total transaction volume. Such three indicators were not available in 2003.
Source: *China Statistical Yearbooks* of previous years (https://www.chinayearbooks.com/china-statistical-yearbook.html).

Fig. 19. Basic conditions of farm produce comprehensive markets of transaction value over RMB 100 million in China in 2003–2014.

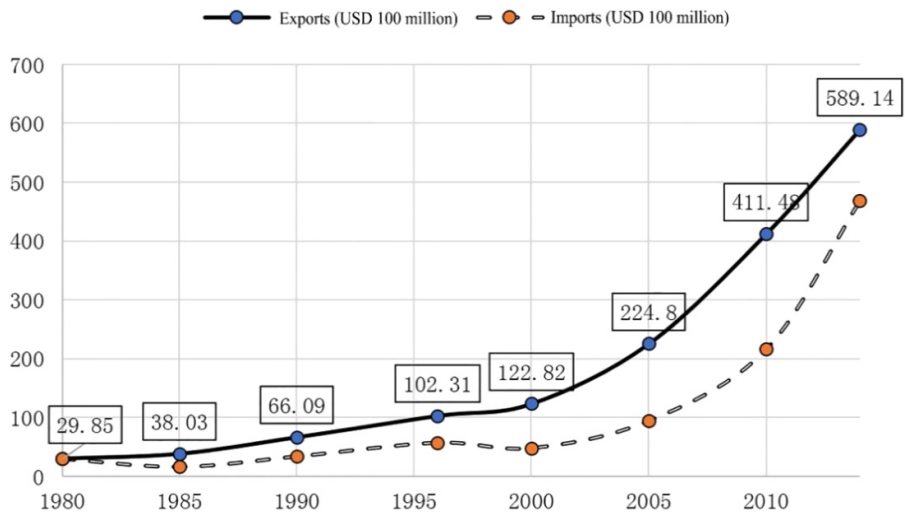
Table 3. Development of China's domestic market for agricultural products in 2003–2014.

Year	Name	Number of markets (unit)	Number of booths (unit)	Business area (10,000 m^2)	Transaction volume (RMB 100 million)	Wholesale market (RMB 100 million)	Retail market (RMB 100 million)
2014	**Comprehensive markets**	1,376	1,279,354	7,455.2	22,348.7	18,145.6	4,203.1
	Farm produce comprehensive markets	683	4,23,859	2,295.3	9,332	7,402.1	1,929.9
	Special markets	3,647	2,255,403	22,112.7	77,961.2	68,178.1	9,783.1
	Production markets	693	2,93,442	6,861.2	30,386.4	30,243.6	142.8
	Agricultural production equipment markets	20	5,744	148.7	211.5	211.5	
	Agricultural production markets	30	6,303	109	175.9	175.9	
	Farm produce markets	999	5,65,365	4,275.4	15,507.8	14,653.5	854.4
	Grain and oil markets	105	33,430	369.9	1,753.7	1,690.1	63.7
	Meat, poultry and egg markets	126	44,873	295.8	1,328.3	1,151.2	177
	Aquatic product markets	145	98,509	482.6	3,157.2	3,025.2	132
	Vegetables markets	304	2,12,648	1,551.7	3,771.6	3,656.4	115.2
	Dried and fresh melon and fruit markets	136	68,118	577.7	2484.5	2,479	5.5
	Cotton, local and livestock product, and tobacco markets	21	14,725	398.9	665.4	664.2	1.2
	Others	162	93,062	598.9	2,347.1	1,987.4	359.7
2010	**Comprehensive markets**	1,341	11,67,981	5,740.2	14,794.2	11,349.3	3,444.9
	Farm produce comprehensive markets	691	4,27,746	1,711.1	5,477.8	3,874.5	1,603.3
	Special markets	3,599	20,25,384	19,092.1	57,909.3	49,605.6	8,303.7
	Production markets	754	2,65,613	6,082.1	23,867.6	23,043.8	823.7
	Agricultural production equipment markets	17	4,855	146.0	148.0	148.0	
	Agricultural production markets	32	6,188	93.7	153.4	152.0	1.4
	Farm produce markets	981	5,36,794	4,063.7	10,593.2	9,990.9	602.4
	Grain and oil markets	109	31,978	455.1	1,467.7	1,417.7	50.0
	Meat, poultry and egg markets	124	38,070	311.3	813.5	682.8	130.7
	Aquatic product markets	150	88,346	378.2	2,096.6	1,958.1	138.5
	Vegetables markets	295	2,20,055	1,586.9	3,062.7	3,010.1	52.6
	Dried and fresh melon and fruit markets	147	76,665	579.2	1,682.2	1,662.7	19.5
	Cotton, local and livestock product, and tobacco markets	23	11,672	335.8	450.2	449.1	1.2
	Others	133	70,008	417.3	1,020.2	810.3	209.8
2003	**Comprehensive markets**	1,591	13,15,771	4,430.9	8,069.4		
	Farm produce comprehensive markets	820	4,88,108	1,415.9	3,007.1		
	Special markets	1,664	8,25,039	6,534.0	13,399.4		
	Agricultural production markets	8	3,729	18.1	33.0		
	Grain and oil markets	42	6,323	75.8	188.9		
	Dried and fresh melon and fruit markets	65	20,076	182.0	278.1		

Table 3. (*Continued*)

Year	Name	Number of markets (unit)	Number of booths (unit)	Business area (10,000 m^2)	Transaction volume (RMB 100 million)	Wholesale market (RMB 100 million)	Retail market (RMB 100 million)
	Aquatic product markets	64	27,170	139.6	443.8		
	Vegetable markets	152	1,04,099	511.3	656.6		
	Meat, poultry and egg markets	32	3,490	42.8	99.1		
	Local & livestock products markets	23	14,886	51.2	86.0		

Source: *China Statistical Yearbooks* of previous years (https://www.chinayearbooks.com/china-statistical-yearbook.html).



Source: *China Statistical Yearbooks* of previous years (https://www.chinayearbooks.com/china-statistical-yearbook.html).

Fig. 20. Imports and exports of China's food and live animals used mainly for food in 1980–2014.

In addition, between 2003 and 2014, all kinds of special markets also developed in different degrees, such as the business areas and transaction volumes of the agricultural production equipment markets and agricultural production markets increased to varying degrees, and so did the markets for grain and oil, meat, poultry and eggs (Table 3). (ii) The international market had been capitalized on at a much higher level. For example, in 1980–2014, China's imports and exports of food and live animals used mainly for food all presented an obvious growing trend (Fig. 20).

3. China's Experience in Poverty Reduction

The MDGs set by the United Nations in 2000 have received wide recognition and active responses from all over the world. Each country being committed to realizing the MDGs

has its own policies and practices. China's practice in this respect had attracted much attention and accumulated rich development experience.

3.1. *The government had paid high attention to poverty reduction*

Since the launch of the MDGs, the Chinese Government had attached great importance to them and actively promoted relevant work, laying a solid foundation for the rapid realization of relevant goals.

(i) The Chinese Government had integrated the MDGs into its national strategic development goals. In fact, the Chinese Government always takes development as the top priority and puts forward the goal of building a moderately prosperous society in all respects. This is basically in line with the MDGs. China had integrated its drive to meet the MDGs into its efforts to build a moderately prosperous society in all respects, and formulated various development strategies in practice. Furthermore, as a major developing country with one fifth of the world's population, China handling its own business well would be the greatest contribution to the world's stability and development and to the realization of the MDGs.

(ii) From 2000 to 2015, the Chinese Government had timely reviewed and summarized the implementation of the MDGs. Over the past 15 years, the Chinese Government had reviewed and summarized the implementation of the MDGs for five times, respectively in 2003, 2005, 2008, 2010 and 2013, and in each time published *China's Progress towards the Millennium Development Goals Report*, to ensure the implementation in the right direction. Finally in 2015, the *Report on China's Implementation of the Millennium Development Goals* (*2000–2015*), China's sixth report on MDGs, was published, which presents China's implementation of the MDGs and relevant experience that can be used to guide the implementation of SDGs.

(iii) The Chinese Government had continued to pay high attention to the progress towards the SDGs proposed in 2015. President Xi Jinping made a solemn commitment at the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit in September 2015 that China is willing to make concerted efforts with the international community to achieve the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*. On March 15, 2016, Foreign Minister Wang Yi presided over the first meeting of the Inter-agency Coordination Mechanism for implementing the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, to study and deploy China's relevant work in this regard. Wang Yi pointed out that the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* is the guideline document to promote the global sustainable development after the MDGs. As the world's most recognized country of implementing MDGs, China must take the lead in implementing the Agenda, play a constructive role and continue to be the pacemaker of international development cause. In April 2016, China published the *China's Position Paper on the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* and participated in the United Nations' First Voluntary National Review on Sustainable

Development Goals in July. Chairing G20 this year, China had promoted the *G20 Action Plan on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, which had been highly appreciated by the international community. In 2016, as the host of G20 Hangzhou Summit, China included inclusive and interconnected development as one of the four key topics of the Summit, with focus on the implementation of the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, and for the first time integrated development issues into the global macro-economic policy coordination framework at the summit level and enhanced development issues to a prominent position. On September 19, 2016, Premier Li Keqiang chaired the symposium of "The Sustainable Development Goals: A Universal Push to Transform Our World — China's Perspective" at United Nations Headquarters in New York and announced the release of *China's National Plan on Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*. The National Plan analyzes opportunities and challenges in implementing the *2030 Agenda*, and lays out the guiding thoughts, general principles and approaches as well as specific plans for the implementation. On December 3, 2016, to further the implementation of the UN *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* and give full play to the supporting and leading role of scientific and technological innovations in sustainable development, the State Council issued *The Development Plan of China's Innovation Demonstration Zone for the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, focusing on the implementation of the *2030 Agenda* and targeting the global development goals in poverty reduction, health, education and environmental protection in the next 15 years to coordinate social and economic developments under the guidance of sustainable development and with innovation as the primary driving force.

3.2. *Economic development had been regarded as the key to solve all problems*

Regarding economic development as the key to solve all problems is China's important experience for successfully achieving the goal of "end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture". In light of the domestic and international conditions, the Chinese Government and people had deepened their understanding of the nature of development, developed the Scientific Outlook on Development, set the ambitious goal of building a moderately prosperous society in all respects and firmly established the development concept featuring innovative, coordinated, green, open and shared development. China had made the overall plans of building socialism with Chinese characteristics and promoting all-round economic, political, cultural, social and ecological progress. Guided by such a development strategy, China underwent rapid economic development: its GDP had increased from RMB 367.87 billion in 1978 to RMB 8.93665 trillion in 1999, up by a factor of 23; from RMB 9.90661 trillion in 2000 to RMB 68.26351 trillion in 2015, up by a factor of 5.9 within 15 years. This is the most fundamental and important reason for which China successfully ended hunger, achieved food security and improved nutrition and promoted sustainable agriculture.

3.3. *The development was guided by planning and guaranteed by policies and regulation*

The Chinese Government had attached great importance to the roles that planning, policies and regulations can play to guide or guarantee the economic and social development and the implementation of the goal of "end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture".[2]

(i) Formulating and implementing mid- and long-term national development strategies and integrating the MDGs into national planning. The Chinese Government formulates five-year national plans according to the needs of economic and social development in different periods and mobilizes all kinds of resources for the implementation of these plans. For example, the development concepts proposed in the *13th Five-Year Plan for the National Economic and Social Development of the People's Republic of China* (the 13th Five-Year Plan) clearly highlighted the need to "pursue sustainable development". In its Chapter 53 "Assume International Responsibilities and Obligations" of Part XI "All-round Opening Up", it is clearly proposed that "we will actively implement the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*." In its Chapter 18 of Part IV "Agricultural Modernization", the Plan dedicated a section for "sustainable agricultural development".

(ii) Formulating various specific plans to poverty eradication. The Chinese Government had successively formulated and issued the *Seven-Year Program for Lifting 80 Million People Out of Poverty* (*1994–2000*) in March 1994, the *Outline for Development-Oriented Poverty Alleviation for China's Rural Areas* (*2001–2010*) in 2001, and the *Outline for Development-Oriented Poverty Alleviation for China's Rural Areas* (*2011–2020*) in 2011, all of which had served as guidelines to the poverty eradication cause.

(iii) Issuing a variety of planning outlines to improve nutrition and end hunger. In 2001 and 2011, the State Council released the *National Program for Children's Development in China* (*2001–2010*) and *National Program for Children's Development in China* (*2011–2020*), respectively, putting forward the main targets, policies and measures of children's development in children's health, education, legal protection and environment. In December 2014, the State Council issued the *National Program for Children's Development in Poverty-stricken Areas* (*2014–2020*) to map out the strategic improvement of children's health and education in contiguous areas of extreme poverty. In November 2011, the General Office of the State Council released the *Opinions on Implementing the Nutrition Improvement Plan for Rural Students in Compulsory Education*, giving important instructions on improving rural students' nutritional conditions and their health. In 2014, the State Council issued the *National Program for Food and Nutrition Development* (*2014–2020*), setting up goals from the aspects of food consumption, nutrient intake and nutritional diseases control by 2020. In 2016, the CPC Central Committee and the State Council issued the *Healthy China 2030 Plan*, formulating an all-round planning strategy for public health.

[2] Only the major plans and regulations that are closely related to this paper are listed here.

(iv) Formulating various plans and outlines for agricultural and rural development. The Chinese Government has always regarded the issue of agriculture, rural areas and farmers as the top priority, and Xi Jinping emphasized on many occasions that this issue is of utmost strategic importance to China's overall development in the future. By 2018, the CPC No. 1 Central Document had put focus on this issue for 15 consecutive years to push forward agricultural and rural modernization in all respects. In January 2012 and 2016, the State Council released the *National Plan for Agricultural Modernization (2011–2015)* and the *National Plan for Agricultural Modernization* (*2016–2020*), respectively, clearly setting forth the development goals and basic measures of agricultural modernization. In 2008, the State Council released the *National Medium- and Long-Term Program for Food Security* (*2008–2020*). In 2015, Ministry of Agriculture and other seven ministries and commissions jointly released the *National Sustainable Agriculture Development Plan* (*2015–2030*). In January 2018, the CPC Central Committee and the State Council issued the *Opinions on Implementing Rural Revitalization Strategy*, insisting on the priority of agricultural development. Agricultural and rural modernization has become the fundamental objective of rural revitalization and an important component of socialist modernization with Chinese characteristics.

3.4. *The market mechanism had played an appropriate role*

The Chinese Government had valued the role of the market mechanism in resources allocation. The socialist market economy has inspired the vitality in labor, knowledge, technology, managerial expertise and capital, propelled the sustained, rapid and sound growth of the Chinese economy and provided guarantee for the implementation of the MDGs. The Third Plenary Session of the 18th CPC Central Committee further pointed out the decisive role of market in resources allocation. In terms of the goal of "end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture", the Chinese Government had stabilized the rural land property right and facilitated the rapid development of land transfer market through land registration and certification; furthered the integration and improvement of labor market through household registration reform; and revived the rural financial market through rural financial system reform and rural asset-backed loan. The rapid development of these factor markets had offered a necessary guarantee for farmers' income growth and sustainable agricultural development.

3.5. *Emphasis had been placed on the pilot projects and step-by-step promotion*

The Chinese Government had paid special attention to the adoption of pilot projects and step-by-step promotion strategy in either reform and development or implementing the goal of "end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture". Pilot zones and experimental projects constitute an important institutional innovation in China's reform and opening-up process. In terms of poverty reduction, the *Outline for Development-Oriented Poverty Alleviation for China's Rural Areas* (*2001–2010*)

requires that while running pilot projects, the promotion of voluntary relocation should be carried out with specific plans phase by phase in a planned and organized way. In the *Outline for Development-Oriented Poverty Alleviation for China's Rural Areas* (*2011–2020*), it is clearly required to carry out poverty alleviation through pilot projects, create new development-oriented poverty alleviation mechanisms; to actively implement pilot projects in border areas, combination of endemic disease control with development-oriented poverty alleviation, post-disaster reconstruction and the poverty alleviation of extremely poor regions and population; to expand the scope of pilot projects related to mutual funds, development of contiguous areas, poverty alleviation by public lottery welfare funds and poverty alleviation by science and technology. To achieve MDGs and sustainable development, China had launched a series of experimental programs in economic, social and environmental protection fields. For example, it had set up the China (Shanghai) Pilot free-trade zone, sustainable development experimental zones and 42 low-carbon pilot provinces, autonomous regions and cities, with the aim of producing duplicable and scalable models for nationwide development. In addition, the *Development Plan of China's Innovation Demonstration Zone for the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* was released on December 13, 2016. This plan holds that science and technology innovation will play increasingly stronger role in supporting the development of social undertakings. It is necessary to establish 10 national innovation demonstration zones for the *2030 Agenda* in the 13th Five-Year Plan period, forming numerous examples and patterns of sustainable development so as to drive the sustainable development in the rest of China and provide other countries with China's experience in this regard.

3.6. *Attention had been paid to international cooperation and mutual exchange of development experience*

Another important experience in achieving the MDGs is strengthening international cooperation and promoting mutual exchange of development experience. The Chinese Government has always implemented the MDGs with an open-minded and win–win attitude. Over the past 15 years, it has strengthened in-depth, wide-ranging and multi-form exchanges and cooperation with foreign government agencies, international organizations, businesses, research and consultative institutions and civil society organizations, in order to share experiences and lessons with each other and jointly promote the realization of the MDGs.

4. Conclusions and Prospects

To sum up, China's achievements in poverty reduction involve four aspects: (i) Eliminating hunger ahead of schedule; (ii) greatly improving people's nutritional status; (iii) reaching a much higher food security level; (iv) laying a solid foundation for sustainable agricultural development. The latter two achievements have laid a solid foundation for achieving the 2030 SDGs with a high standard. What had facilitated these achievements in poverty reduction is a set of reasonable policies adopted by the Chinese Government:

(i) The government had paid high attention to poverty reduction; (ii) economic development had been regarded as the key to solve all problems; (iii) the implementation of relevant work was guided by planning and guaranteed by policies and regulations; (iv) the market mechanism had played an appropriate role; (v) the policy of initiating pilot projects and step-by-step promotion were adopted to address difficulties; (vi) attention had been paid to opening up and making full use of international wisdom to reduce poverty. These six policies constitute China's important experience in poverty reduction for the rest of the world.

However, as the largest developing country in the world, China had been confronted with both valuable opportunities and tough challenges in implementing the 2030 Agenda. In fact, the 19th CPC National Congress held in October 2017 proposed a package plan to build a modern socialist country. This plan clearly put forward that to build socialism with Chinese characteristics, it is necessary to promote all-round economic, political, cultural, social and ecological progress, adhere to the development concept featuring innovative, coordinated, green, open and shared development and follow the principle of harmonious co-existence between mankind and nature. These requirements highly accord with the tenets of the United Nations 2030 SDGs. Ending poverty is also an integrated part of the overall plan. Therefore, China proposed Rural Revitalization Strategy in order to thoroughly address the rural poverty issues through agricultural and rural modernization.

To achieve Goal 2 of 2030 SDGs "end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture", the Chinese Government had also made specific action plans. For example, for the Goal 2.1 ("By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round"), China's plan is "By 2020, maintain national grain production at above 600 billion kilograms, ensure ample supplies of wheat, grain, edible oil, meat, egg, milk, fruit, vegetable and tea, and ensure at least 97% of qualification rate in safety of major agricultural products. Strengthen the food security mechanism for needy groups, ensuring year-round safe, nutritious and ample food supply for all." For Target 2.4 ("By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality"), China's plan is "Implement the *National Plan for Sustainable Agricultural Development* (*2015–2030*). By 2020, ensure early positive results in sustainable agricultural development. By 2030, achieve notable progress in sustainable agricultural development and establish a new model of sustainable agricultural development featuring adequate supplies, high resource efficiency, fertile farmlands, stable ecosystem, prosperous rural households, and pastoral beauty. Vigorously promote eco-friendly agriculture by promoting zero growth in fertilizers and pesticides. Launch circular agriculture demonstration projects and set up pilot zones of sustainable agricultural development."

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