



INTERNATIONAL FOOD
POLICY RESEARCH INSTITUTE
sustainable solutions for ending hunger and poverty
Supported by the CGIAR



CHINESE ACADEMY OF
AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES
(CAAS)

IFPRI'S CHINA STRATEGY SUPPORT PROGRAM

Despite remarkable economic growth in the past 30 years, China remains a developing nation. More than 135 million people live on less than \$1 a day, with the majority of those living in rural areas. Emerging challenges include increased regional inequalities, more vulnerable populations, land and water scarcity, environmental degradation, and rising food safety concerns. China is also experiencing many demographic transitions, such as an aging population, gender imbalances, and dietary changes. Chinese policymakers are eager to find solutions to these challenges and are increasingly learning from other international development actors. Similarly, they are sharing their experiences with other developing countries as they design policies and strategies to address agricultural and rural development, food security, and poverty reduction.

To enhance these collaborations and meet government demand for policy-relevant knowledge, IFPRI launched its China Strategy Support Program in 1996. Subsequently, in 2003, IFPRI and the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences jointly established the International Center for Agricultural and Rural Development (ICARD). ICARD is the primary research base for IFPRI's China Program, supporting evidence-based, pro-poor decisionmaking and the Program's research and development objectives.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

- Conduct joint research with Chinese institutions on the challenges and opportunities facing China's agricultural and rural development sectors, and develop relevant policies and strategies to advance these sectors.
- Engage in policy dialogue and communication to encourage evidence-based policymaking.
- Facilitate and promote mutual learning among Chinese researchers and policymakers and their counterparts in other developing countries.

RESEARCH THEMES

The Program focuses on research in the following areas:

- **Analyzing Global Trends**
Urbanization, globalization, technological progress, food safety concerns, and rural industrialization are among the global trends affecting China's agricultural and rural development sectors. The Program's research takes a



closer look at China's policies in response to these trends, and their impact on China and the rest of the world.

- **Improving Local and National Governance**
The China Program provides knowledge for policies, institutions, and strategies to improve governance in support of food security and agricultural and rural development. At the national level, governance issues include the need to reform agricultural research and development (R&D) and the extension system and set priorities for public investment strategy and land reform. Governance issues at the local level include land rights, enabling collective action, rural social security, and nutrition and health for vulnerable groups—such as children, ethnic minorities, and women.
- **Promoting Food Safety and Market Access**
The China Program focuses on policy options to see that the benefits of global and integrated food supply chains are passed along to small farmers. It examines market compliance, such as sanitary and phyto-sanitary measures; measures to cope with risk; institutional innovations that involve smallholders; and the potential of public-private partnerships.
- **Integrating Rural-Urban Development**
China has prioritized the development of the nonfarm sector in rural areas, which now accounts for over 60 percent of total income in these communities. The Program studies the experience and mechanisms of rural industrialization, the promotion of rural-urban linkages in China, and policy options for closing income

gaps between both rural and urban communities and between coastal and western regions.

- **Mitigating and Adapting to Climate Change**

The frequency of extreme weather events in China due to climate change is increasing, with water scarcity and land degradation constraining future growth, food security, and poverty reduction. The Program explores sustainable policy options and strategies to ensure that China's farm sector can continue to support economic growth and poverty reduction while minimizing adverse environmental impacts.

- **Comparing International Approaches**

China's successes and its increased role in global affairs have important implications for other developing countries. The Program's research focuses on how China and other countries can learn from each other's experiences in agricultural growth, nonfarm sector development, sustainable development, and poverty reduction.

Gender equality and food security are also explored as cross-cutting research areas within these themes.

COLLABORATION

The China Program carries out its research agenda by interacting with policymakers and collaborating closely with Chinese institutions and individuals at national and provincial levels. The Program's partner institutions are based in provinces ranging from Guizhou and Gansu—two of the poorest regions in China—to Zhejiang, one of the most developed. IFPRI's main research partners in China include

- Development Research Center of the State Council
- Rural Economy Research Center, Ministry of Agriculture
- Institute of Macroeconomic Research, National Development and Reform Commission
- Institute of Agricultural Economics and Development, Chinese Academy of Agricultural Science
- Center for Chinese Agricultural Policy, Chinese Academy of Sciences
- China Academy for Rural Development, Zhejiang University
- School of Economics and Trade, Gansu Agricultural University
- Institute of Economics and Management, Guizhou University
- Institute of Economics and Management, Henan Institute of Light Industry
- School of Economics, Yunnan Normal University
- Sichuan Academy of Social Science
- College of Economics and Management, Nanjing Agricultural University

POLICY COMMUNICATION

IFPRI strives to promote dialogue between Chinese researchers, policy advisors, decisionmakers, civil society organizations, and international organizations. This dialogue takes place both at the national level, where most policies are formulated, and at the local level, where Chinese administrative systems have been decentralized. The Program communicates its policy research findings through a wide range of tools, such as media outreach, publications, and events. The latter include national and international policy conferences, country-level workshops, roundtable discussions, and high-level policy dialogues.



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www.ifpri.org/themes/chinaprog/chinaprog.htm

www.ifpri.org/country/china.asp

ICARD: www.iae.org.cn/xueshutt/ICARD/ICARD1.htm

ICARD—Research Arm of IFPRI's China Program

The International Center for Agricultural and Rural Development (ICARD) was jointly launched by the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Science (CAAS) and the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) in 2003. With the sponsorship of both CAAS and IFPRI, ICARD is uniquely positioned to support evidence-based, pro-poor decisionmaking in China, as well as to promote policy dialogue and mutual learning between China and other developing nations. ICARD is the primary research base for IFPRI's China Program. It focuses on policy research, capacity strengthening, and communication to support the design and implementation of agricultural and rural development strategies that will help achieve food security, poverty and hunger reduction, and overall economic growth in China.

IFPRI is part of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research, which is supported by more than 50 countries, private foundations, and aid agencies, including China.