

PR China

The National FOOD AND NUTRITION Situationer

2007 - 2011

China Association for NGO Cooperation

(CANGO)

Section 1- National Policies on Food Security and Nutrition

1. Nature of the Problem

- Up to the October 2006, the cultivated agricultural area nationwide (not including Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan) occupied 121,775.9 thousand hectares ("The Second National Agricultural Census Main Data Communique" published on 21th Feb. 2008). The western, eastern, the middle and northeast areas accounts for 36.9%, 21.7%, 23.8% and 17.6% respectively. The latest data published by the National Statistics Bureau on 26th Dec. 2010 is 121,720,000 hectares. There is a slight decrease compared to 2006.
- In the last 30 years, 0.5 billion Chinese have been lifted out of poverty (http://news.xinhuanet.com/world/2012-06/09/c_112167166.htm). According to the 6th National Population Census in Nov. 2010, China has a population of 1.339 billion, at a growth rate of 0.57% per annum in the previous 10 years, which is 0.5% fewer than the growth rate between 1990-2000. By the end of 2011, the data from the National Statistics Bureau shows that the rural population is reduced to 49%.
- According to figures released by the National Statistics Bureau, the total output of national summer grain crops has a experienced a reduction of 0.3% in 2010 compared to 2009. This is the first summer grain reduction which occurred in the last seven years. The causes can be attributed to natural disasters and a reduction of agricultural acreage. (<http://www.huangjiu.com/zhuanti/finance/foodsecurity/>) (see **Error! Reference source not found.**).



Figure 1: National total output of summer grain crops from 2004-2010.

- The self-sufficiency of grain in China has been above 95% in the last 10 years (<http://finance.huangniu.com/articles/2010-09/1107650.html>). Nevertheless, according to “China’s Sustainable Development Strategy Report 2012”, China still has big pressure with the development of the population. The population below the poverty line is estimated at 0.128 billion, that makes the poverty rate 9%¹. The number of rural citizens living below the national rural poverty line fell from 94.2 million people (10.2% of the rural population) in 2000, to 26.88 million (2.8%)² in 2011, according to figures released by China’s State Council. The living standard and food security degree is under the average level of the rural population due to lower income and fewer income resources, especially those who live in remote areas or families with insufficient labour forces (more women and children) and low educational level.
- In 2008, agriculture (in terms of added value) took up a share of 11.3% of the national GDP and 36.6% of national employment. It plays an increasingly important role in produce supply, food safety, and environment protection.
- According to the latest economic data of the National Statistics Bureau in July 2012, food price has a year-on-year growth rate of 2.4%, while the national consumer price index (CPI) has a rate of 1.8%. A report from the Macroeconomic Research Department of the State Council in 2011 shows that CPI has continuous increase since 2007 with two stages,

¹ According to 2011 governmental standard, the national poverty line is around 2300 RMB Yuan for one person for one year with their expenditure.

² According to 2010 governmental standard, the national poverty line is around 1274 RMB Yuan for one person for one year with their expenditure.

stage one is from Jun. 2006 to Feb. 2008, while stage two is from Jan. 2010 to today. They are all mainly induced by food price rises (see **Error! Reference source not found.**).



Figure 2: Food and consumer price developments 2006-2010: (note: Dark blue: food; Pink: CPI Light blue: non-food)

2. Shift in the Government Development Goals and Strategies

- The Part II of the “Twelfth Five-Year Plan” concerning agriculture development aims to strengthen and benefit the farmers and to accelerate the construction of socialist new countryside: 1. accelerate the development of modern agriculture (with national food security as the paramount goal), 2. expand the channels for farmers income, 3. improve the rural production and living standards, and 4. improve the institution for rural development.
- There are many policies and public investment supporting the agriculture sector and promoting food security and nutrition since 2007. The “Twelfth Five-Year Plan” mentioned above provides the guidelines and principles for these actions.
- In 2010 the government made the following policies to promote grain-production: 1. Improve agriculture subsidy system and market regulation system, 2. Secure stable development of staple farm production, 3. Expand high standard farmland.
- Also in 2010, the State Council decided to provide special subsidies for 11 winter wheat growing regions (in total 53 million hectares) which suffer from longtime low-temperatures, and for 25 million hectares cornfields using tectorial membrane techniques in Southwest China. The government provided subsidies of 15.5 billion RMB this year to promote application of farm implements. Subsidies were also given to paddy land in the Northeast and stockbreeding in Inner Mongolia.
- In addition to the “Twelfth Five-Year Plan”, the State Council released on 13 Jan. 2012 “Planning for National Modern Agriculture Development 2011-2015” (<http://www.gov.cn>). One of the main targets is that “grain, especially staple

production has to be effectively safeguarded". The in 2008 released "Medium and long-term Planning Outline of National Food Security" (2008-2020) states that China has to improve grain production capacity, utilize non-grain food resources, strengthen international cooperation, establish a more completed circulation, storage and processing systems of grain, through the following six agricultural policies: 1. strengthen food security responsibilities, 2. protect resources of production, 3. promote agricultural technology support, 4. more financial support for agricultural development, 5. improve macroeconomic regulation system, 6. tighten up the agricultural legal system, etc. (<http://finance.huanqiu.com/articles/2010-09/1107650.html>)

- In view of the continuous stagflation for agriculture products as well as CPI in the previous year, which has a great negative impact for the poor living both in rural and urban areas, on 19 Jan 2010 the State Council released the Announcement (2010 No.40) (<http://www.gov.cn>) concerning the stabilization of CPI and protection of people's basic life. Effective measures were taken including reduction of logistic costs, interim subsidies for poor students, people with basic living allowances, etc.

Section 2 – Agricultural Programs for Food Security and Nutrition in the country

Programs that aim to reduce hunger and malnutrition

Government programs

- The government's "Planning for National Modern Agriculture Development 2011-2015" set the following targets: improve integrated agriculture production capacity, increase farmers income, safeguard food security and reduce hunger and malnutrition. (1) Improve the modern agriculture industrial system, (2) Strengthen agriculture technology, (3) Improve agriculture infrastructure and implements standards, (4) Improve the system for ensuring the quality of farm produce, (5) Improve agriculture industrialization and appropriate scale of operation, (6) Facilitate agriculture socialized service, (7) Improve agriculture resources and ecological environmental protection, (8) Create national modern agricultural demonstration zones, (9) Empowerment of farmers. (<http://www.gov.cn>)
- China Nutrition Association launched the "Children's Nutrition Improvement Project in Poverty-Stricken Areas" in 2012.
- Activities supporting sustainable agriculture practices: 1. Development of low-carbon agriculture, based on the concept of a harmonious co-existence of human, society and the nature. 2. Transformation of the mode of agriculture development, from extensive farming to precision and economized farming. 3. Develop Green-agriculture and Healthy-stockbreeding.
- In the last 25 years, WFP has supported China with 1 billion dollars food-aid programmes. Now China has become a major contributing nation to WFP, up to 2011, China has supported WFP with 64.50 million dollars food-aid

(http://news.xinhuanet.com/world/2012-06/09/c_112167166.htm). The Agriculture Department and the Commerce Department of China are cooperating with WFP.

- Problems arising from government and inter-governmental policies and action that affect smallholders
 - No observation of policies or action that affect smallholders.

Section 3 – Mechanisms and Institutions (programs and activities on food and nutrition security)

1. The following are examples of Chinese CSO programs and advocacies on pursuing food security and nutrition and their status (whether successful or not, issues encountered and recommendations on how to improve these programs).

(1) Supported by the Asia-Pacific Research Network (APRN), CANGO's China Civil Climate Action Network (CCAN) has done a research on "Food Crises and Climate Change" in North China and East China. Combining their analysis of food production models in different areas and the relevant government policies and measures, the project made policy recommendations on how small-farm agriculture in China should respond to climate change and food crises. Due to budget limit, such research activities of CSOs unfortunately cannot be done in a larger scale.

(2) "Participatory Training on Rights Protection, Gender and Practical Skills for Poor Minority Women", a project implemented by CANGO, which provided community trainings on crop planting, livestock breeding, gardening, health care, etc. Through such poverty alleviation projects it has proven difficult to choose suitable participants who truly need these trainings. CANGO's recommendation is to work closely with local institutions such as Women's Associations in this case and ask them to help assess and control the participation.

(3) The "Free Lunch for Children" project launched in 2011 by the media and China's Social Welfare Foundation aiming to improve nutrition of school students in Middle-and West China. The project is so far successful and draws great attention from society and the government, which led to annual funding of 13 billion from the central government for the nationwide "Nutrition Improvement Program for Compulsory Education Students in Rural Areas". Issues encountered include lack of transparency and food-safety issues. More systematic monitoring and evaluation mechanisms have to be developed for such projects.

2. What dialogue or implementing mechanisms are in place where CSOs are participating in the discussion of government programs and policies to improve food security and nutrition in the country? What are the roles and contributions and CSOs in these mechanisms?

The current dialogue mechanisms for CSO's participation are mainly policy recommendations, roundtable discussions between Government, CSOs and other stakeholders, or policy proposals by Deputies of the People's Congress. CSOs represent voices and interests of the average people, and build the bridge between the people and the government; they provide compensation of insufficient government public services.

Section 4 --- Recommendations on the possible role of the Alliance (at national & regional)

For AAHM planning in China, what would be priority advocacies for food security and nutrition based on what CSOs can also work on with other stakeholders including government?

- (1) food security with "quantity, quality and affordability";
- (2) sustainable agriculture and adaptability of food production to climate change;
- (3) development of rural cooperatives on the one hand, on the other hand large-scale food production and trainings of "professional farmers";
- (4) more cooperation between CSO and the government in nutrition improvement programs;
- (5) release of laws and regulations, monitoring and evaluation mechanisms concerning nutrition improvement, especially in the respect of food safety;
- (6) advocacy for-profit pro-poor development policies.