



From left: Modern agriculture machinery sweeps across farmland in Jilin province. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY



A farmer harvests melons in Mingdong village. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY A harvest gets underway in Songyuan city. ZHANG HAIFENG / FOR CHINA DAILY

Higher yields planned for Jilin’s farming sector

Province pledges to accelerate rural modernization in bid to increase industry's output value and improve food production systems

By YUAN SHENGGAO

Northeast China's Jilin province has announced it will further speed up the construction of agricultural modernization and strengthen weak links in the work on agriculture, rural areas and rural people.

Agriculture is one of the most significant advantages of Jilin province and it has a sound foundation to promote modern agriculture, according to the recent seventh plenary session of the 11th Jilin provincial Party committee.

By the end of China's 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-25), the total annual grain output of Jilin is expected to reach 40 billion kilograms and will upgrade more than 3 million hectares of farmland into high-standard plantations.

Meanwhile, the sales revenue of the agricultural products processing industry is expected to reach 400 billion yuan (\$58 billion) annually. The comprehensive mechanization level of crop cultivation and harvest will have reached more than 90 percent, achieved by Jilin taking a lead role in realizing the modernization of agriculture.

As a key commercial grain production base in the country, Jilin has seen burgeoning development in agriculture over the past few years. Official data showed that in 2020, the grain-planting area in Jilin reached 5.67 million hectares, up 23,200 hectares year-on-year.

Grain production in Jilin province has been stable at 35 billion kg for seven consecutive years.

By the end of 2019, the province had 54 major national-level enterprises in the agricultural sector. And



Local farmers are busy harvesting grain with modern agricultural machinery on farmland in Northeast China's Jilin province. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

its 576 provincial-level enterprises generated a revenue of 180 billion yuan. Their production bases have helped create more than 1.9 million jobs for local farmers.

These enterprises also helped establish 2.3 million hectares of plantations. Other bases have handled about 320 million animals

through livestock and poultry raising, contributing 6.2 billion yuan to farmers' incomes, according to the Jilin government.

The province has established 206 projects worth 10 million yuan aimed at agricultural industrialization. An average annual growth of more than 5 percent has been main-

tained for the agricultural products processing industry's output value.

In recent years, Jilin has built a series of agricultural product brands such as "Jilin Coarse Cereals" and "Changbai Mountain Ginseng". Fusong ginseng and 11 other brands of agricultural products have been rated as nationally

famous regional public brands by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs. In addition, the province has improved its production systems. Over the past five years, Jilin province has built 2.42 million hectares of standard farmland. In 2019, the province added 50,000 hectares of high-efficiency water-

35 billion kilograms

of annual grain production has been maintained for seven consecutive years in Jilin province.

saving irrigation area. Its 14 demonstration counties have taken the lead to build high-standard farmland, adding up to more than 133,333 hectares for three consecutive years. For example, in Lishu county, the local authority has adjusted its planting structures and tutors farmers in planting wheat using new techniques.

In recent years, the use of superior crop varieties in the province has nearly doubled. And the utilization rate of agricultural science and technology has grown 58.6 percent.

In 2019, the comprehensive mechanization rate of crop cultivation and harvest in Jilin province reached 89 percent, 1.5 percentage points higher than that of 2018, according to the Jilin government.

In January, the province launched its first provincial-level professional agricultural cooperative. Its founders are young farmers with vocational training.

In 2019, the number of family farms in the province reached 31,200, with a year-on-year increase of 16 percent. The number of farmers' cooperatives reached 89,400. In addition, Jilin has organized for 135 farmers to receive training in countries including Japan, South Korea, France and Germany. To date, the province has trained 15,099 farmers in total.

Han Junhong contributed to this story.

Business strategies help counties beat poverty and boost economies

By YUAN SHENGGAO

With consistent alleviation efforts, a total of 15 counties in Jilin province escaped poverty as of April.

This achievement has led to the province receiving a positive evaluation in its annual working assessment, local officials said.

Home to the Yanbian Korean ethnic group, Mingdong village of Longjing city is the epitome of Jilin's progress in poverty alleviation over the past few years.

"Mingdong village has a profound historical culture. We have been developing revolutionary-themed tourism based on the village's advantages in these resources," said Han Baoning, first Party secretary of the village.

In addition to this, the village has developed its rural tourism through operating homestays and fruit and vegetable-picking businesses.

"In the past two years, we launched the Mingdong cultural tourism festivals featuring the dragon boat races, which attracted many visitors and helped enhance the village's reputation," Han said.

"Now, the village can receive up to 100,000 visits annually," he added. Moreover, the village has also

been focusing on its all-round development.

"In the past, there were no industries in the village and locals lacked the opportunities to escape poverty.

"They stuck to established practice and refuse to change," said Liu Yuandong, director of the village committee.

Resources in the village, including grasslands and mountains, have given it an edge to develop certain industries, Liu said.

Between 2016-18, the village mobilized more than 7 million yuan (\$1 million) to support industrial projects including calf rearing, rice wine production and photovoltaic power generation.

These helped increase the income of the village collective by more than 500,000 yuan every year, which is now five times higher than that in 2015, according to Liu.

Xuan Changhao is a local villager who returned to Mingdong in 2016 to start his own business after learning about the local policies for tackling poverty that supported industrial development.

"I earned 450,000 yuan last year," Xuan said. By running cattle-rearing businesses and managing contracted lands, Xuan has helped many locals seek their fortunes in

recent years. After years of development, the village has seen an all-around improvement in its environment, facilities and industrial development. Several years ago, the local authority built a new house for Nan Jixue, 79, a local villager and his wife, helping the couple move away from the mud hut where they lived for years. Nan lost his left hand through an injury when he was young, which made life difficult. With the help of the local authority, Nan got a job as a cleaner and now earns about 800 yuan per month.

"Life has become more promising thanks to the new house, medical insurance and ample support," Nan said. The couple said their annual family income can reach more than 10,000 yuan thanks to subsistence allowances and village dividends.

In 2017, Mingdong was taken off the impoverished village list and went on to help 70 residents escape poverty in 2019.

"As the environment, industries and living conditions have improved, I hope all the migrant workers can come back to Mingdong to make money at home," Han Baoning said.

Han Junhong contributed to this story.



A vast stretch standard farmland rolls into the distance in Shulan city of Jilin province. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

Pilot area updates its agricultural practices as part of revitalization

By YUAN SHENGGAO

A series of reforms carried out in the rural areas of Jilin have helped modernize the province's agriculture.

As one of three nationally designated pilot provinces for rural collective property rights reform, the province completed the assessment of its rural collective assets in 2019.

A total of more than 10 million hectares of collective resources property in its rural areas have been assessed, according to the Jilin province.

To promote the reform of management in rural areas, the province has organized related counties and villages to join in the construction of pilot management zones.

As the only rural financial reform pilot area in China, Jilin

1,840 financial

service stations had been built in many villages in Jilin province by the end of 2019.

has also forged ahead. By the end of 2019, the province had built more than 1,840 village-level financial service stations, established more than 40 property rights institutions.

It also promoted more than 600 primary outlets for various rural property rights transfer.

The coverage rate of the administrative villages for primary financial services has reached about 98 percent.

In 2019, Jilin province proposed that by 2025, Changchun and its nine other national modern agri-

cultural pilot zones and cities will play leading roles in modernizing their agriculture.

By 2030, Jilin is expected to have achieved the general modernization of agriculture with an improved planning system.

Responding to this goal, the province said it will roll out institutions to promote the reform of rural areas.

It will establish combined organizational structures, set up teams for different works and carry out projects in 14 pilot counties for rural revitalization.

The province will continue to ramp up efforts in reforming major sectors in rural areas, promote the efficiency of reform and fuel a driving force for agricultural modernization, local officials said.

Han Junhong contributed to this story.



Rice paddies at the foot of Fenghuang Mountain in Shulan city, Jilin province. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY