



**From left:** Clouds shroud the landscape in the Laotudingzi national nature reserve at the county-level city Linjiang of Baishan. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY A fisherman casts a net on Longshan Lake, Baishan city. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY Visitors take photos of a waterfall at Wangtiane scenic area in Changbai county. WANG CHUNBAO / FOR CHINA DAILY

# Baishan uses its natural resources to encourage economic growth

Clean environment enriches farmland, tourism industries

By YUAN SHENGGAO

The prefecture-level city of Baishan in Northeast China's Jilin province is making the most of its heavily-forested natural environment to promote agriculture, medicinal herbs and tourism. Meaning "white mountain", Baishan is situated in the heartland of the famous Changbai Mountain, which has the largest stores of natural medicinal herbs in Northeast Asia.

The city is a core production area for Chinese ginseng with plantations covering more than 2,500 hectares and an output of 21,000 metric tons annually, according to news portal The Paper.

Maintaining arable farmland, the city has introduced a series of measures to make sure the soil remains fertile, including rotating crops and reducing the use of pesticides and fertilizers.

Today, from mountains to plains, the city has more than 17,000 square kilometers of organic plantations.

By utilizing its precious natural environment of green mountains, water, ice and snow, Baishan has been able to realize a considerable economic transformation, said Wang Bing, Party secretary of the city. "We have focused on ecologi-



**Clockwise from top:** Camping is a popular activity in Changbai Mountain. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY Jinjiang Muwu village of Baishan is known for its log cabins and rustic architecture. SUN LIMIN / FOR CHINA DAILY A sea of flowers at the Baoma bridge in Baishan city. LIAN CHENGHAO / FOR CHINA DAILY

cal protection and are guided by a green philosophy in our high-quality development."

The harmonious integration of the city and its natural ecology has

also led Baishan to become a center for green tourism.

In 2018, Baishan issued a guideline on developing tourism centering on the natural environment and

health. The city's White Mountain Resort, the Changbaishan Luneng Resort and the Changbaishan culture industrial park, have developed rapidly and attract considerable

numbers of visitors every year.

In 2019, its administrative counties of Fusong and Jingyu were listed among the top 10 summer tourism destinations and tourism

**17,400**  
sq km

of organic plantations have been developed in Baishan.

models in China. Changbai county has ranked No 1 for air quality in China for the past three years, local officials said.

Official data showed that in 2019, Baishan received more than 12.9 million visits and generated 20.8 billion yuan (\$3 billion) in tourism revenue.

In developing its integrated green industry, the city is sparing no effort to establish an industrial network with more support and diversified development in sectors incorporating green products, resource processing, all-round tourism, its business environment and digital information, Wang said. To this end, the city is using its ecological resources to benefit industrial and economic development, he added.

Baishan, with a forest coverage of 84.1 percent, has become China's first national-level tourist resort which is predominantly forest, ranking top among prefecture-level cities in the country.

It is also internationally recognized as a natural biosphere and species gene bank with the largest number of biological species for its latitude on Earth.

*Han Junhong contributed to this story.*



**From left:** Farmers pick leek flowers at the Huangjiawaizi village in Fusong county. Fungus planting in Linjiang city is expected to provide 300 job opportunities for local villagers. PHOTOS PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY



## Modern agriculture fostering green development

By YUAN SHENGGAO

Playing a key role in green development, modern agriculture has been a highlight in Baishan's all-round transformation in recent years.

Under the guidance of the Baishan city government, local authorities have rolled out supportive policies allowing the building of bases for specific local industries and developing cooperatives or family farms.

At Xinfeng village in Fusong county, 87 new commercial crops have been introduced including quinoa, ice wheat, upland rice and kiwi fruit.

In 2019, Fusong county invested 280,000 yuan (\$40,500) in building a pilot base for planting new varieties of crops.

Zhang Jinpeng, a resident from Changbai county, chose to start a business growing jade fungus in



Farmers pick organic strawberries in Jiangyuan district. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

his hometown after graduating from Jilin Agriculture University. Adopting modern agricultural technology and management, Zhang said his greenhouses can produce nearly 10 metric tons of jade fungus a year.

The sound ecology of the Chang-

bai Mountain area benefits the production of high-quality jade fungus, Zhang said.

The city's development of its organic and medicinal herb industry is bringing new opportunities for companies, Zhang said.

By 2019, Baishan had granted 116 million yuan in financial support to promote the local agricultural transformation.

In Weishahe town of Linjiang city, there are more than 100 hectares of blueberry plantations managed by a local cooperative.

"We don't need to transport our blueberries to market for sale," said Wang Xiaowu, a manager of the cooperative.

"Regular clients from places such as Hebei and Shandong provinces contact us and buy our products online," Wang said.

"Planting safflower is one of our projects in the agricultural development plan," said Xu Zhongguo,

Party secretary of Cuocaogou village in Weishahe town.

"With the guidance and support of policies, villagers are also planting plums and raising cattle.

"These industries featuring local characteristics help increase the income of the locals," he said.

Focusing on promoting green development in agriculture, Baishan city has launched a plan to replace chemical fertilizer with organic fertilizer. By 2019, the use of pesticides and fertilizers in the city decreased by 54.7 percent and 59.3 percent, respectively, according to the Jilin government.

In addition, Baishan is dedicated to building organic agricultural brands, as part of its effort to promote more of its agricultural products to the market, according to local officials.

*Han Junhong contributed to this story.*

## City promotes host of key ecological assets

By YUAN SHENGGAO

Home to a wealth of natural resources, Baishan is aiming to mobilize its ecological treasures to develop industries, improve the business environment and encourage innovation, local officials said.

The city aims to boost its economic development by promoting organic products and medicinal herbs, said Wang Bing, Party secretary of the city.

The city plans to do this by connecting to economic belts including the Bohai Economic Rim area and the Belt and Road Initiative, as part of the effort to build Baishan as an economic hub city in Northeast China, Wang said.

This year, Baishan issued a guideline to promote the city's high-quality development and boost its economy.

It has rolled out more than 30 incentive measures ranging from supporting the development of small and medium-size enterprises and establishing a collaborative working mechanism to setting up

comprehensive financing systems.

"The government should be more effective in providing services for companies," Sun Weidong, director of the administration center of the Baishan industrial park, told Chinanews portal.

As of March, the city had agreed a total of 46 projects, with a planned investment of 26.86 billion yuan (\$3.9 billion), according to the Jilin government.

Focusing on the ecological economy, Baishan is developing five new industries of green food, medical and healthcare services, mineral new materials, tourism and logistics. Official data showed that these industries account for 62.1 percent and 55.2 percent of the city's GDP and fiscal revenue.

By 2025, the city said it is expected to welcome 50,000 new market players, 30 provincial entrepreneurship incubation bases, 56 science and technology-based SMEs and 35 national high-tech enterprises.

*Han Junhong contributed to this story.*



An organic corn field is ready for harvest at a village in Changbai county. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY