

National Sustainable Agricultural Development Plan (2015- 2030) 全国农业可持续发展规划（2015—2030年）

China's "National Sustainable Agricultural Development Plan (2015- 2030)" was officially released on 27 May, 2015.

The plan was jointly issued by the Ministry of Agriculture, National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST), Ministry of Finance (MOF), Ministry of Land Resources (MLR), and others. The plan is an important guide for sustainable agricultural development in the future.

Three Development Zones

The Plan divides China into three zones named optimized development areas, moderate development areas, and protected development areas. The categories take into account factors such as agricultural resources, environmental capacity, and ecological types.

Optimized development areas include the Northeast region, the Huanghuaihai region, the Yangtze River area and South China, which are the main areas for agricultural production. They benefit from good production conditions and excellent potential.

Moderate development areas include the northwest region, southwest region and regions along the Great Wall, which have distinctive features of agricultural production but limited resources and environmental capacity.

Protected development areas include the Qinghai Tibet region, Tibet, and marine fishery areas. These are placed in a special strategic position addressing aspects of ecological protection and construction.

Five Development Tasks

The plan puts forward five key tasks from 2015 to 2030 in promoting sustainable agricultural development.

- Optimize development and enhance agricultural productivity.
- Protect arable land resources and promote the sustainable utilization of farmland.
- Use water efficiently and ensure the safety of agricultural water.
- Curb environmental pollution and improve the agricultural and rural environment.
- Restore the agricultural ecology, enhance ecological functions, protect the grassland ecosystem and biological diversity and restore the aquatic ecosystem.

Some policy goals

- Irrigation water use will be limited to no more than 372 billion m³ by 2020 and 373 billion m³ by 2030. No less than 64% of irrigated farmland will be equipped with water saving facilities by 2020, and rising to 75% by 2030.

- By 2020, the technology of soil fertilization testing will be applied in no less than 90% of farmlands. Chemical fertilizer use efficiency will be increased to 40%. Chemical fertilizer use will peak by 2020.
- By 2020, coordinated and integrated pest management will be applied in 40% of farmlands, and pesticides use will no longer increase by 2020. Low-toxic pesticides are encouraged.
- By 2020, 75% of animal farm wastes will be treated or utilized, increasing to 90% by 2030. Animal farms will be excluded from drinking water source areas, scenery resorts and other sensitive areas. Existing animal farms in these sensitive areas shall be moved out or closedown by end of 2017.
- By 2020, 85% of crop straws will be utilized and 80% of agricultural plastic film will be recovered. All the crop straw will be utilized properly by 2030.
- Forest coverage rate will be increased to 23% by 2020. The wind-break trees on the edges of farmlands will be installed for 90% of farmlands by 2020.

(The full text (in Chinese) of the (The “National Sustainable Agricultural Development Plan (2015-2030) is available at: http://www.gov.cn/xinwen/2015-05/28/content_2869902.htm)

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