

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

Date: July 17, 2026

Report Number: CH2026-0091

Report Name: China Publishes New Five-Year Plan to Boost Agriculture and Rural Development

Country: China - People's Republic of

Post: Beijing

Report Category: Agriculture in the News, Agricultural Situation

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Report Highlights:

China's 15th Five-Year Plan for Accelerating the Modernization of Agriculture and Rural Areas (2026–2030) targets grain production capacity of 725 million metric tons and elevates technology as a core engine of agricultural growth. On the global stage, the plan seeks to diversify agricultural imports and cultivate internationally competitive domestic enterprises. The document marks a strategic shift from a “transition period” to a phase of systemic modernization aimed at becoming an agricultural powerhouse by 2035.

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On June 2, 2026, China's State Council published the [15th Five-Year Plan for Accelerating the Modernization of Agriculture and Rural Areas \(2026-2030\)](#). The plan serves as the foundation for achieving agricultural and rural modernization by 2035, a long-term goal adopted by the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party in October 2020.

Main Tasks of the 15th Five-Year Plan for Agriculture and Rural Development

1) Ensuring Food Security and Improving Quality: The plan prioritizes intensifying supply capacity of key grain and oilseed crops through efficiency improvement that integrates upgraded farmland, superior seeds, advanced machinery, and modern farming practices (Refer to GAIN report [CH2026-0022](#) for policy priorities in 2026). It calls for optimizing the layout and structure of major grain and oilseed crops with a focus on producing products that meet market demand. The plan suggests implementing a “broader food view,” with diversified food sources including forests, rivers, and seas. To supplement domestic supply shortfalls such as in the oilseeds sector, the plan facilitates the diversification of import sources and support for large domestic enterprises with international competitiveness.

The plan outlines some key projects for implementing the task on food security and quality improvement. For example, China has kicked off a new action plan to increase grain production capacity by an additional 50 million metric tons (MMT). Focusing on 720 key designated counties, the initiative promotes technical models such as moderate high-density planting, precision seeding, and integrated water-fertilizer management. Another major project is to upgrade all permanent basic farmland to high-standard farmland across 720 major grain-producing counties by improving irrigation and drainage systems and accelerating soil fertility monitoring, among other agronomic improvements.

2) Cultivating "New Quality Productive Forces": This is the primary focus of the plan. A central priority is the revitalization of the seed industry through the development of commercial breeding systems and strict IPR protections. Additionally, the plan focuses on the creation of advanced agricultural machinery, specifically targeting high-end intelligent equipment for diverse terrains and the development of new energy machinery. Finally, it seeks to integrate AI and smart agriculture by building high-quality data infrastructure and an integrated observation network to drive digital productivity in rural sectors.

The plan outlines several key projects such as an “agricultural bio-manufacturing enhancement initiative” to promote novel feed ingredients such as microbial protein, insect protein, oils, and amino acids. It aims to develop new products including compound microbial fertilizers, bio-organic fertilizers, soil regulators, and RNA or peptide-based pesticides. Another important project is “AI plus agriculture” which facilitates innovation in agricultural AI technology and its application scenarios such as biological breeding, pest and disease monitoring, epidemic prevention, etc. The project also involves research, development, and promotion of key smart agriculture technologies and support for “smart” farms, ranches, and fisheries.

3) Upgrading Rural Industries: The strategy emphasizes enhancing rural industries by integrating agriculture with tourism, culture, and e-commerce, while simultaneously upgrading processing

technologies and cold-chain logistics to increase product value. It further aims to boost farmer incomes and employment through vocational training, entrepreneurship support, and the expansion of social services like elder and childcare. Additionally, the plan focuses on fostering county-level integration, which involves coordinating infrastructure, ensuring equal access to public services, and protecting the land rights of farmers who migrate to urban areas.

One of the key projects, for example, is to build 500 cold-chain assembly and distribution centers at production sites and 50 agricultural wholesale markets co-sponsored by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (MARA) and the provincial governments.

4) Promoting Green and Low-Carbon Transformation: The plan details a multi-faceted strategy to modernize farming through environmental sustainability and resource efficiency. It calls for strengthening resource conservation by implementing fishing bans, enhancing water-saving measures, and protecting endangered aquatic species. It further promotes green production methods, such as reducing the application of fertilizers and pesticides, managing agricultural waste through recycling, and remediating contaminated soil. Finally, the strategy emphasizes converting ecological value into economic assets by exploring carbon trading and fostering green, low-carbon industrial chains to ensure long-term sustainable growth.

5) Building a Beautiful and Harmonious Countryside: The plan outlines a comprehensive strategy to transform rural areas into livable and business-friendly environments by integrating physical, social, and cultural improvements. The approach begins with optimizing village layouts and infrastructure, focusing on high-quality modernization of roads, water, energy, and digital networks. Meanwhile, the plan emphasizes environmental stewardship through waste and sewage management, alongside a robust expansion of public services in education, healthcare, and social welfare to ensure equitable access for rural residents.

6) Consolidating Poverty Alleviation Achievements: The plan prioritizes maintaining basic living standards while implementing a policy framework that combines industrial upgrades and vocational training with social security nets to ensure long-term stability and self-reliance. Additionally, it emphasizes tiered support for underdeveloped regions through concentrated resources for key counties to promote sustainable development and prevent large-scale poverty recurrence.

Quantified Targets to Be Accomplished by 2030

Indicator	2025 value / baseline	2030 target	Average growth
Comprehensive grain production capacity (million metric tons)	715	725	—**
Total meat output (10,000 metric tons)	> 9500	> 9500	—**
Contribution rate of agricultural scientific and technological progress (%)	64	67	+3 (accumulative)
Self-sufficiency rate of core agricultural seeds (%)	81	85	+4 (accumulative)
Comprehensive mechanization rate of crop ploughing, sowing, and harvesting (%)	76.7	> 80	—**

Added value of agriculture and related industries (trillion yuan)	20.6*	25.8	3.8%
Agricultural labor productivity (10,000 yuan per person)	6	8	5.9%
Level of green agricultural development (%)	79.5*	83	+3.5 (accumulative)
Ratio of agricultural product processing industry output to total agricultural output value	2.65*	3	+0.35 (accumulative)

Source: FAS China based on the 15th 5-year plan and 14th 5-year plan

Note: *statistics in 2024 **not provided in the 15th Five-Year plan

Grain Capacity: The plan aims for the country's grain production capacity to reach approximately 725 MMT annually. Note that this target refers to production capacity, not actual production. The government policy aims to achieve sustainable capacity for grain and oilseed crops through upgraded farmland, superior seeds, advanced machinery, and modern technologies. (Note: official statistics indicate China's grain production reached 715 MMT in 2025.)

Technological Advancement: China expects technological advancements to contribute 67 percent of agricultural growth by 2030. In other words, the central government is pushing for agriculture progress to rely on technology-driven methods, devices, practices, etc. Currently, technological advancements contribute 64 percent of the agricultural growth, according to MARA.

Self-reliance in Agricultural Germplasm Resources: The plan aims for an 85 percent self-sufficiency rate for China's core agricultural germplasm resources (parent seeds of grain crops, foundation-stock breeds of livestock and poultry, and original parent stocks for aquatic species). MARA statistics indicate that the self-sufficiency rate of agricultural germplasm resources was 81 percent in 2025.

Mechanization: China plans to reach a comprehensive mechanization rate of over 80 percent for crop cultivation and harvesting. At this point, the overall mechanization rate stands at 76.7 percent for ploughing, planting, and harvesting of agricultural crops.

Rural Living Conditions: The plan targets a rural sewage treatment rate of 70 percent (currently 55 percent) and 80 percent coverage for elder care service centers (60 percent in 2024).

Key differences between the 14th Five-Year Plan (2021–2025) and the 15th Five-Year Plan (2026–2030)

Food Security – From Volume to Capacity: Under the 14th Five-Year Plan, the bottom line for food security was maintaining grain production at 650 MMT. The emphasis was on quantity, the “red line” for arable land, and basic supply stability. The 15th Five-Year Plan raises the target to 725 MMT and adopts a "Broader Food View." This approach shifts the focus from “eating enough” toward "eating well" and ensuring supply chain resilience by diversifying food sources from forests, rivers, and seas, while optimizing crop varieties and quality.

Technological Innovation – "New Quality Productive Forces": During the 14th Five-Year Plan, technologies served as a support mechanism, focusing on the basic application of seeds and the

promotion of existing farm machinery. Digital agriculture was largely limited to small-scale pilot demonstrations. The 15th Five-Year Plan elevates technology to the core engine of growth by introducing the concept of “new quality productive forces.” It systematically lays out emerging and future industries, such as AI-driven smart agriculture, agricultural drones, bio-manufacturing, and intelligent machinery.

Green Development and Ecological Value: The initiatives in the 14th Five-Year Plan largely focused on pollution control, such as reducing the use of fertilizers and pesticides and managing rural waste. The 15th Five-Year Plan transitions to a systemic low-carbon transformation. A key difference is the pursuit of ecological product value, which includes developing agricultural carbon sequestration and carbon trading. Green growth is no longer just about reducing pollution; it is about turning ecological assets into an income source for farmers.

Rural Construction – From Single-Point Fixes to Cluster Modernization: Rural construction under the 14th Five-Year Plan was characterized by rectification and renovation of individual villages to solve basic needs. The 15th Five-Year Plan adopts a cluster-based planning model. This involves coordinated development across villages to share infrastructure and public services, such as integrated rural-urban healthcare and elder care centers. The goal is for rural areas to possess relatively modern living conditions.

Potential Impact on China's Agriculture Production and Trade

Production

Higher Yields and Resilience: Focusing on per-unit yield increase and AI-driven farming, production will become less labor-dependent and more resilient to climate risks.

Diversified Supply: The "broader food view" will expand production beyond traditional grains to include protected agriculture (such as greenhouse), deep-sea production, and forest-based foods.

Trade

Import Diversification: To ensure supply chain safety, China will actively diversify the sources of imported agricultural products (e.g. soybeans).

International Cooperation: China will deepen agricultural cooperation with Belt and Road countries, involving shared technology, joint industrial parks, and global food governance.

Competitive Enterprises: The plan aims to cultivate international-level agricultural enterprises that can compete globally and stabilize international supply chains.

Attachments:

No Attachments.