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**Report Name:** China 2026 Strategic Roadmap for Agriculture and Rural Development

**Country:** China - People's Republic of

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**Report Highlights:**

Senior Chinese Communist Party leaders set national agricultural priorities at the annual Central Rural Work Conference held in December. Targets for 2026 include increasing grain production capacity by 50 million metric tons and strictly safeguarding 120 million hectares of cultivated land. The strategic roadmap also calls for expanded research in agricultural technologies, improved income support for farmers, and new financing mechanisms for rural development. The title of this report has been edited.

**Background**

THIS REPORT CONTAINS ASSESSMENTS OF COMMODITY AND TRADE ISSUES MADE BY USDA STAFF AND NOT NECESSARILY STATEMENTS OF OFFICIAL U.S. GOVERNMENT POLICY

The Central Rural Work Conference (CRWC) convened in Beijing on December 29-30, 2025, setting the stage for agricultural development in 2026. During the CRWC senior leaders of the Chinese Communist Party Central Committee and the State Council reviewed the agricultural and rural work of the past year and formulated overarching guidelines related to agriculture and rural development for the coming year. The key tasks listed below provide some of the top-line efforts reportedly discussed during the meeting and included in follow-up reports from the CRWC. Many of these updates are iterations of key themes from [2025](#).

## **Key Tasks in 2026**

### *1) Strengthen the foundation of food security: shifting from quantity to quality improvement and capacity*

The conference placed food security at the forefront, emphasizing the need to stabilize grain and oilseed production and to enhance agricultural capacity and quality. This will be achieved through integrated and efficient use of high-quality farmland, improved seeds, advanced machinery, and scientific farming methods. Specifically, the conference called for accelerating the implementation of a new initiative to enhance grain production capacity by an additional 50 million metric tons. It also highlighted the importance of optimizing grain varieties and improving quality, expanding the diversity of the food supply, and strengthening agricultural disaster prevention and mitigation capabilities through the construction of water conservancy infrastructure and meteorological monitoring.

### *2) Strictly adhere to the cultivated land “red line”: integrated management of land quantity, quality, and use.*

Recognizing land as the “lifeline” of grain production, the conference made systematic arrangements for cultivated land protection. It reiterated the importance of strictly safeguarding the red line of 120 million hectares of cultivated land, facilitating the construction of high-quality farmland, and improving the quality of the current cultivated land. [Note: the red line policy of safeguarding cultivated land originated from the 11<sup>th</sup> Five-Year-Plan in 2006. Recent data from China’s Ministry of Natural Resources indicates China’s cultivated land was 129 million hectares at the end of 2024).

### *3) Develop new productive forces and place high importance on agricultural technologies.*

The conference explicitly proposed the development of new productive forces in agriculture tailored to local conditions and to unlock agricultural potential through science and technology. It suggested devoting efforts to strengthening research on critical agricultural technologies, promoting the transformation and application of technological achievements, and improving the agricultural technology innovation system.

### *4) Promote increased farmer income by broadening channels and improving support mechanism.*

The conference stressed the importance of promoting stable income growth for farmers. It proposed several measures, including improving the income guarantee mechanism for grain farmers through coordinated support such as subsidies, procurement prices, and insurance. The conference also called for strengthening employment and entrepreneurship support by enhancing services for migrant workers and assisting returning workers in starting businesses. Additionally, it emphasized the need to cultivate county-level industries, such as agricultural product processing, to help generate income for rural residents.

### *5) Consolidate poverty alleviation achievements: shifting from transitional assistance to normalized mechanism.*

2026 marks the first year after the transition period (2021-2025) of consolidating poverty alleviation achievements. The conference proposed establishing a regular mechanism to prevent large-scale relapses into poverty among rural residents. This framework incorporates monitoring and early warning systems, dynamic assistance, and risk prevention and control systems. It called for continued support to less developed areas and assistance to help develop rural industries for the poverty-stricken population.

*6) Deepen rural reform.*

Reform remains a primary driver for rural revitalization. Key initiatives for 2026 include expanding pilot programs that extend land contracts for an additional 30 years across entire provinces and creating innovative financing and investment mechanisms to fund rural development.

**Attachments:**

No Attachments.