



## **Background Policy Report**

# **The “13th Five-Year Plan” for Cultivating New-type Skilled Farmers in PR China**

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With the aim to implement the Outline for National Medium & Long-term Program for Talent Development (2010-2020) and the National Agricultural Modernization Plan, facilitate in the development of new-type skilled farmers and emphasize on the role of talents in supporting modern agriculture and new countryside development, we have formulated a development plan as follows.

## **1. Development Situation**

A new-type skilled farmer is a modern agricultural practitioner whose career lies in agriculture, has necessary professional skills and receives income mainly from agricultural production and operation of a considerable scale. Since 2012, in accordance with the deployment of the CPC Central Committee and the State Council, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Finance and other committees and ministries have initiated the Project of Cultivating New-type Skilled Farmers with intensive efforts across the country that support establishing a working mechanism and system, resulting in tremendous progress in cultivating new-type skilled farmers.

### **1.1. Development outcome**

New-type skilled farmers are becoming a dominant force in the development of modern agriculture. With the rapid development of modern agriculture and effective education and training for farmer, the number of new-type skilled farmers is growing rapidly. A group of highly-qualified young farmers start to manage large and specialized agricultural family operations, family farms, farmers' cooperatives and agricultural enterprises. Migrant workers, secondary school and university graduates, ex-servicemen, scientific and technical personnel, among others, return to the countryside to join the group of new-type skilled farmers. Industrial and commercial capitals flood into the agricultural sector. "Internet Plus" modern agriculture and other new forms of business gave rise to a number of new farmers. New-type skilled farmers are gradually becoming the main practitioner of appropriately scaled-up operations, bringing fresh blood into the development of modern agriculture. As of the end of 2015, the number of new-type skilled farmer in China reached 12.72 million, an increase of 55% over 2010 which shows how fast the process of skilled farmer cultivation has been.

A system for cultivating new-type skilled farmers with Chinese characteristics has been established. To meet the requirements of cultivating new-type skilled farmers, we have conducted innovative research and pilot projects to determine an institutional framework consisting of three pillars, i.e. education & training, standardized management and policy support, three types, i.e. production & management, professionally-skilled and service as well as three levels of qualification, i.e. primary, intermediate and advanced. The establishment of the framework helps lay the foundation for standard and systematic cultivation of new-type skilled farmers.

A system for cultivating new-type skilled farmers that is "one main body with multiple actors" has taken shape. We will coordinate and optimize resource allocation to enhance the working mechanism featuring leadership of the CPC committee and the government, organization by agricultural authorities, and close cooperation among related government agencies, in an effort to engage various types of education institutes and social resources in cultivating new-type skilled farmers. Give play to the role of agricultural broadcasting and television schools, agriculture-related schools, research institutes, agriculture popularization agencies in training farmers. Encourage and support agricultural enterprises, agricultural parks, farmers' cooperatives and other market players to establish bases for practical training and farmer field schools. Support agricultural technology

promotion agencies in following up with the development. Thus, we are forming a system for cultivating new-type skilled farmers that is “one main body with multiple actors”, i.e. not-for-profit agriculture-related training organizations as the main body with engagement of a variety of resources and market players.

## 1.2. Challenges

In external environment: The gap between urban and rural development remains large. Rural social facilities and public services are lagging behind, while existing and new conflicts in agriculture continue to intertwine. Due to the rising production costs and the declining prices of certain agricultural products, the comparative profit in agriculture is decreasing, adding pressure to realize sustained income increases for farmers. In addition, rural labor force, especially young people, lack motivation to remain in the sector. The cultivation of new-type skilled farmers is facing an unstable foundation and a lack of human resources. There is a long way to go before farming becomes a decent career choice.

Internal challenges: Cultivation of new-type skilled farmers shall be more targeted, standardized and effective. There is a lack of highly-qualified teachers, while the infrastructure for practical trainings, entrepreneurship incubator base and IT remains weak. The mechanism for engagement of social resources and participation remains ineffective. The overall cultivation input lacks precision and is not suited to the needs of rapid development of modern agriculture and the booming emerging forms of agribusiness.

## 1.3. Strategic necessity

Cultivating new-type skilled farmers is the fundamental way to solve the problem of “who will get into farming”. With the new and rapid industrialization and urbanization process, a large number of rural young and middle-aged labor force are seeking employment in cities, causing a drastic drop in the number of agricultural labor force. It is common that farmers “are engaged only part-time in farming, aging and lack skills”. In many places, the average age of agricultural labor force is over 50 years old, whose education level is mostly primary school or below. “Who will get into farming” and “how to farm well” have become persistent issues. It is a pressing task to speed up the cultivation of new-type skilled farmers, attract a large number of young people to farming and form a high-quality talent force for agricultural production and management, with the aim to ensure sustainable agricultural development.

Cultivation of new-type skilled farmers is a strategic task for speeding up the development of modern agriculture. The key to the development of modern agriculture is people. Cultivating new-type skilled farmers is to cultivate the future of agriculture in China. During the “13th Five-Year Plan” period, it is necessary to make significant progress in agricultural modernization, build a modern agricultural industrial system, production system and management system, take the path of productive efficiency, product safety, resource conservation and environmental-friendly towards national food security and sufficient supply of key agricultural products, improve the international competitiveness of agriculture, shift the mode of agricultural development to rely on scientific and technological progress as well as improvement of labor force quality, and speed up the cultivation of new-type skilled farmers who are capable and highly-skilled with management expertise.

Cultivating new-type skilled farmers is an important measure that guarantees promotion of integrated urban and rural development. For a long time, China’s labor force, capital, land and other key resources flow from rural areas to towns and cities, leading to an imbalanced development between industry and agriculture as well as urban and rural areas. It has become an outstanding issue in China's economic and social development. To promote integrated urban and rural development, the fundamental task is to ensure equal exchange of key elements between urban and rural areas and to achieve balanced allocation of public resources. There is an urgent need to vigorously cultivate new-type skilled farmers, improve the scientific and cultural qualities as well as



production and management capacity of farmers, promote “farming” as an occupation instead of an identity and gradually develop it into a decent career choice, so that farmers could have an equal opportunity to participate and benefit from the modernization process. Efforts shall be made to attract migrant workers, secondary school and university graduates, ex-servicemen and scientific and technical personnel to rural areas to innovate and start businesses. Guide financial capitals, technologies and management resources to flow into rural areas for the development of new industries and forms of business, with the goal to achieve vitality in rural development, prosperity of the rural economy and a narrowing gap between urban and rural areas.

Cultivating new-type skilled farmers is a major measure to build a well-off society in an all-round way. Building a well-off society in an all-round way faces its most arduous task in developing rural areas and farmers, especially in poverty-stricken areas. A well-off countryside requires the continuous growth of farmers’ income as a key. At present, sources of income for farmers remain limited, so is farmers’ capability. A long-term and effective mechanism for income growth has not yet been established. It remains an urgent task to cultivate new-type skilled farmers with strong capability in innovation and entrepreneurship so as to transform and upgrade rural industries and lead poverty-stricken farmers towards income growth and prosperity. Thus, we ensure that rural areas would not hold back the process of building a well-off society.

## **2. General Provisions**

### **2.1. Guiding principles**

We must thoroughly implement the guiding principles of the 18th CPC National Congress, and the third, fourth, fifth and sixth plenary sessions of the 18th CPC Central Committee, put into practice the guiding principles from General Secretary Xi Jinping’s major policy addresses, firmly establish the new development concept and adhere to the development of agriculture through science and education, talent cultivation and new-type skilled farmers as a key strategy. We must improve, support and bring prosperity to farmers. Focusing on attracting young people and cultivating new-type skilled farmers in the agricultural sector, we will establish a dedicated policy mechanism with the aim to enhance and improve the cultivation system, so as to establish a talent pool of new-type skilled farmers that are well-educated, technologically-skilled and experienced with management and operation through training and guidance. Thus, we will provide a solid talent base and foundation for the modern development of agriculture.

### **2.2. Basic principles**

The government shall take the lead. Cultivation of new-type skilled farmers is a public, fundamental and social task. It shall be integrated into the overall plan of economic and social development with coordinated efforts and supportive policies. The government shall increase financial input in the sector to improve conditions for a sound environment.

The market shall play its role. The market shall play its critical role in resource allocation that respects farmers’ wishes, highlights coherent problems and meets the demand of farmers, so that farmers are increasingly motivated to receive training. Put in place effective mechanisms that engage social forces and market players in the process, so as to improve and enhance outcome of such training and cultivation efforts.

Focus on the industrialization of agriculture. Cultivation of new-type skilled farmers shall aim to serve the development of modern agricultural industry as a starting point. Focusing on the main task of supply-side structural reform and green growth, its goal shall be improving efficiency and farmers’ income with support for emerging forms of agribusiness. It shall speed up the transformation and upgrading of agriculture, and promote leading, specialty and competitive industries.

Accurate and targeted cultivation is key. Cultivation of new-type skilled farmers shall select training objects in a scientific way, and conduct education as well as training that is specific for the industry, type, level and module in concern. Management, policy support and follow-up efforts shall be enhanced so as to cultivate skilled farmers into the dominant force in the development of modern agriculture.

**2.3. Development goals**

By 2020, the number of new-type skilled farmer shall exceed 20 million with significant improvement in the skill level of farmers. The overall cultural qualities, skill level and management capability of new-type skilled farmers would be improved tremendously. Agricultural vocational training would be a common and widespread practice, both online and offline. We will complete the initial round of trainings for leaders of emerging forms of agribusiness. Cultivation of new-type skilled farmers shall cover all the agricultural counties and cities with its well-established, flexible and effective system. With necessary and adapted capacity, not-for-profit education and training institutions will be the main body in farmer cultivation, with engagement from diversified resources and market players. A comprehensive system for cultivating new-type skilled farmers will thus be established.

<b>Key Indicators for the “13<sup>th</sup> Five-Year Plan” for Cultivating New-type Skilled Farmers</b>				
<b>Indicator</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>Average annual growth</b>	<b>Indicator feature</b>
Number of new-type skilled farmer	12.72 million	20 million	1.46 million	Expectation
Percentage of farmers with high school education and above	30%	≥35%	1 percent	Expectation
Number of modern young farmer	13,000	≥63,000	≥ 10,000	Binding
Number of rural leading practical	67,000	167,000	≥ 20,000	Binding

talent				
Number of trained farmers that lead large operation and cooperatives with agricultural machinery	Mostly with demonstration training	≥ 50,000	10,000	Binding
Number of trained leaders for emerging forms of agribusiness	Mostly with demonstration training	Minimum one time training for most of the leaders for emerging forms of agribusiness	≥600,000	Expectation
Online education and training	Pilot development	Improve online education platform and carry out at least 30% of training course online; follow up on online training courses	≥6%	Expectation

### 3. Major Tasks

#### 3.1. Select trainees for individual cultivation plans so as to improve the relevance of efforts for cultivation of new-type skilled farmers

Select target trainees. Conduct thorough investigation at the county level with a focus on modern agriculture development, emerging forms of agribusiness and implementation of major agricultural projects, so as to select target trainees and include them in a corresponding database. The selection of trainees will start with candidates from the state demonstration zones of modern agriculture, rural reform pilot zones, functional areas for grain production, protected areas for key agricultural products, special areas for specialty agricultural products, demonstration zones for sustainable agricultural development and modern agricultural industry parks. Candidates from the information platform of emerging forms of agribusiness will be directly included as target trainees. In terms of training types, in accordance with the development of emerging forms of agribusiness and social services for agriculture, we will focus our selection of trainees for production and operation in large and specialized agricultural family operations, family farm operators, leaders of farmers'

cooperatives, agricultural enterprise elites and agricultural entrepreneurs. Employees with a stable career in emerging forms of agribusiness (agricultural employees) will be selected for cultivation of professional skills, while key personnel engaged in the operational services throughout the agricultural production process will receive training for service-type skilled farmers. In terms of industries, according to the demand of agriculture, we will focus on selecting practitioners from scale production of grain and major agricultural products, transformed the crop cultivation industry, animal husbandry, fisheries, agricultural products processing industry, recreational agriculture and rural tourism, rural primary, second and tertiary industries as well as service industries including agricultural machinery, plant protection, veterinary, quality and safety, rural information, etc. Poor households that have been archived and registered in the national poverty alleviation information network will be given the priority to receive training for skilled-farmers. In terms of training channels, farmers with experiences will be set as the main target for improvement, while efforts will be made to attract migrant workers, secondary school and university graduates, ex-servicemen and scientific and technical personnel for trainings. Farmers that are receiving secondary and higher vocational education as well as students of agriculture-related majors will be regarded as potential trainees.

Design the training in a scientific manner. Centering around enhancing the overall quality, production skills and management capability of new-type skilled farmers, we shall design the training content in a scientific manner. In terms of overall quality, the focus shall be on work ethics, teamwork and scientific development. In terms of production skills, we shall emphasize on new knowledge, technologies, varieties, achievements and equipment application with information about the market, IT, standards as well as quality and safety. In terms of management capability, we shall include content on innovation, entrepreneurship, brand creation, sales, marketing, business management, financing, etc. As for vocational education for farmers, it is necessary to reform the curriculum and include modules on work ethics, entrepreneurial practice and industrial integration, so as to establish a systematic and scientific training system and meet the demand of cultivating high-quality new-type skilled farmers.

Conduct training for different types and levels. Formulate training standards that are specific for different types, industries and levels. Develop training modules and courses accordingly. Establish training courses for teachers and allocate teacher resources appropriately for accurate training. Ministries, provinces, cities and counties shall coordinate and cooperate in the task. At the ministerial and provincial level, the focus shall be on the training of business management, entrepreneurship and teachers' training, while cities and counties shall focus on training of technical skills. Ministerial focus shall be on the training of farmer entrepreneurs, national agricultural industrialization leading enterprises and leaders of demonstration cooperatives, provincial key focus shall be on the training of young farmers, provincial agricultural industrialization leading enterprises and leaders of demonstration cooperatives, while cities and counties shall focus on the training of leaders of emerging forms of agribusiness, farmers, agricultural workers and service personnel.

### **3.2. Innovate on the system with multiple measures for effective cultivation of new-type skilled farmers**

Innovate on the system of farmer cultivation. We will establish an education and training system for cultivating new-type skilled farmers that is "one main body with multiple actors", and make full use of not-for-profit resources including agricultural broadcasting and television schools, agriculture-related schools, research institutes, agriculture popularization agencies in training new-type skilled farmers. We will give full play to the role of market to encourage and support qualified agricultural enterprises, farmers' cooperatives and other market players to take part in the training process through government procurement of services and market-oriented operations, among others. Thus, cultivation of new-type skilled farmers will be industry-oriented, integrated and developed for the industries. We will further promote alliance between the industry and education and school-enterprise cooperation, give play to the role of agricultural vocational education groups, support development of farmers' training organizations with local resources and expand channels for



cultivating new-type skilled farmers. Encourage agricultural parks and enterprises to apply their resources to the establishment of practical training bases and incubator bases for cultivating new-type skilled farmers. Guide farmers' cooperatives to establish farmer field schools so as to provide new-type skilled farmers with local learning facilities, teaching observation, practice and entrepreneurship support.

Explore the cultivation mode. We shall integrate theory with practice, combine intensive training with on-site practical training and apply both online and offline training sessions. Taking the overall industrial development as a foothold, we will work on enhancing both production skills and management capability and organize intensive training, practice training, study tours and production practice at different stages of at least one industrial cycle. Encourage localities to vigorously promote farmer field schools and explore different methods including menu-style learning process, internship training and business incubation. Encourage qualified local organizations to organize cross-regional and international exchanges for new-type skilled farmers.

Make use of IT-based tools. We will establish IT-based platforms for cultivating new-type skilled farmers and integrate them with the 12316 agricultural comprehensive information service platform for pooling agricultural experts, agricultural popularization services and other online resources. We will make full use of cloud computing, big data, the Internet, smart equipment and other modern information technology means to provide farmers with flexible, convenient, intelligent and efficient online education and training services, mobile Internet services and following-up guidance to enhance outcome of training.

### **3.3. Regulate and manage qualifications assessment in a scientific manner for standard development of cultivating new-type skilled farmers**

Regulate management of qualifications. In principle, the people's governments at the county level or above shall formulate measures for qualification management, which mainly identify skilled farmers of the production and management type using reference factors including professional qualification, education and training, knowledge and skill level, production and operation scale as well as production and management efficiency. Thus, qualification identification criteria and standards could be determined for qualification management. Localities with ready conditions may explore to establish a 3-tier qualification system consisting of primary, intermediate and advanced levels. We must fully respect farmers' wishes and not force or assign them to participate in the process. Farmers of professional skills type and service type shall be encouraged to take part in the national vocational skills appraisal.

Regulate management of the cultivation process. Under the leadership of agricultural authorities at all levels, we shall rely on the specialized organizations and management institutions such as the farmers' science and technology education and training center (agricultural broadcasting and television schools) to build a foundation platform for the cultivation of new-type skilled farmer while carrying out tasks including demand research, trainee selection, training programs and plans, qualification management, database maintenance, training standard formulation, teacher resource management, textbook development and performance appraisal. We will engage various social resources and market players with tracking services and policy support to improve the overall quality and standard development of cultivating new-type skilled farmers.

Manage relevant information. Improve the information management system for new-type skilled farmers as well as relevant information archives and databases. Timely record basic information, education and training, industrial development, policy support and other information related to cultivation of new-type skilled farmers and promptly update yearly changes so as to enhance IT-based management and services for information collection, reporting and review, process monitoring, online assessment and other information. All localities shall, taking into consideration of local conditions, actively explore a registration system for new-type skilled farmers and encourage farmers to complete the registration procedures for dynamic management of the group.

### **3.4. Tracking services and targeted support enhance further development of new-type skilled farmers**

Enhance tracking and guidance services. Relying on the Project of Cultivating New-type Skilled Farmers, we will mobilize training institutions and practical training bases to offer tracking and guidance services to farmer trainees for one production cycle. We will promote not-for-profit organizations including agriculture-related schools, research institutes and agriculture popularization agencies to include training of new-type skilled farmers into the performance appraisal with a long-term tracking service mechanism. We will support emerging forms of agribusiness and socialized agricultural service organization in offering market-oriented services to new-type skilled farmers.

Increase policy support. New-type skilled farmers shall be covered by the support policy for emerging forms of agribusiness. We shall sort out existing support policies for emerging forms of agribusiness and ensure coverage of new-type skilled farmers. Encourage new-type skilled farmers to take the lead in setting up family farms, farmers' cooperatives and other emerging forms of agribusiness. Develop appropriately scaled-up operations in diversified forms and promote integrated development of new-type skilled farmers and emerging forms of agribusiness through policy measures including land transfer, industrial support, financial subsidies, financing and insurance, social security, talent incentives, etc. New-type skilled farmers shall enjoy support policy for innovation and entrepreneurship. New-type skilled farmers shall receive support for innovation and entrepreneurship and enjoy policy measures that include easy market access, financial services, fiscal support, land use support, electricity consumption support as well as entrepreneurial skills training. New-type skilled farmers shall be able to join urban social security plan. Localities with ready conditions shall support new-type skilled farmers to join social security plans for urban workers including pension and healthcare plans, so as to ensure a worry-free future of the farmers.

Strengthen exchange and cooperation. We shall review how new-type skilled farmers take the initiative to establish cooperative organizations and exchange experiences, so as to facilitate their future joint efforts in industrial development, production services as well as marketing and promotion. We shall strengthen guidance and services for new-type skilled farmers' associations, federations and entrepreneurship alliances, improve the management system and operational mechanism and promote common development of skilled farmers. We will encourage and support new-type skilled farmers to participate in various forms of exhibitions, innovation and entrepreneurship project road shows and technical skills competitions.

### **3.5. Consolidate the foundation and improve conditions to secure cultivation of new-type skilled farmers**

Cultivate the teaching staff. Improve the management system for teacher selection and recruitment. Establish an open teacher database for the cultivation of new-type skilled farmers, with a focus on increasing the number of teachers in work ethics, management and operation, entrepreneurship guidance, brand building, quality and safety, marketing, sales and e-commerce. We shall strengthen evaluation of teachers and establish a direct evaluation mechanism for trainees that support dynamic management of teachers. We will increase teacher training and support a variety of teaching competitions, job trainings and other activities to guide both part-time and full-time teachers to consciously enrich their knowledge. We shall promote excellent teachers and outstanding courses, and continuously improve the education and training capacity.

Improve infrastructure and basic conditions. We will support education and training institutions to increase necessary teaching facilities and equipment, improve conditions for schools and adopt IT-based teaching methods. We will also strengthen development of training bases with selection and establishment of a number of national training demonstration bases for new-type skilled farmers, support development of local key practical training bases, business incubator base and farmer field schools. According to the needs of tiered training for new-type skilled farmers, ministries and provinces shall focus on strengthening teaching resources and IT-based development for better

vocational education and management capacity. Cities and counties shall focus on improving on-the-spot teaching, online learning, internship and practical trainings for better basic training and service capacity.

Optimize teaching and training resources. We shall improve the system for selection and development of teaching materials and curriculum. The Ministry of Agriculture is responsible for the general national textbooks, audio and video teaching materials and online courseware. Provinces are responsible for developing regional teaching resources, while cities and counties are responsible for teaching resources development with local features. Thus, we will put in place a resource system for cultivation of new-type skilled farmers with integrated input from different levels of government. We shall also carry out evaluation and promotion activities for premium teaching materials and online courseware so as to encourage priority use of quality teaching resources that ensure quality of training.

## **4. Key Projects**

### **4.1. Project of Cultivating New-type Skilled Farmers**

The central and local governments financially support the implementation of the Project of Cultivating New-type Skilled Farmers, the implementation of demonstration projects across the board in provinces, cities and counties, and the complete coverage in all agriculture-based counties (cities and districts) step by step. During the 13th Five-Year Plan period, we will focus on implementing the Program of Providing Training in Rotation for Leaders of Emerging Forms of Agribusiness, the Modern Young Farmer Training Program and the Rural Leading Practical Talent Training Program. We will step up efforts to cultivate a contingent of new-type skilled farmers featuring large scale, rational structure and high quality.

The Program of Providing Training in Rotation for Leaders of Emerging Forms of Agribusiness is targeted at large and specialized agricultural family operations, family farm operators, leaders of farmers' cooperatives, responsible persons of leading agribusinesses and socialized agricultural service organizations. In accordance with the program, we will strive to spend 5 years in carrying out a round of training in rotation for them to improve their overall quality and professional capacity. We will strengthen the regulated management, policy support and tracking service for leaders of emerging forms of agribusiness, support them to develop appropriately scaled-up operations in diversified forms, and play the major role of new-type skilled farmers in leading the development of modern agriculture.

The Modern Young Farmer Training Program is geared towards migrant workers returning to hometown or going to the countryside, secondary school and university graduates, ex-servicemen and young rural farmers with secondary school degree or above and aged between 18 and 45. Under the program, 3-year training will be carried out, including 2-year cultivation and 1-year follow-up tracking service. We will strengthen training guidance, start-up incubation, qualification management and policy support for modern young farmers, attract young people to start agribusinesses, and improve their entrepreneurial and business capacity. During the 13th Five-Year Plan period, over 10,000 modern young farmers will be cultivated every year in the country.

The Rural Leading Practical Talent Training Program is targeted at employees of village CPC committees and villagers committees, leaders of industrial development, and village government employees newly graduated from universities in poor areas, and rely on villages which play a model role in the development of modern agriculture and the new countryside. The program implements the training model of "taking villages as classrooms, village government employees as teachers and worksites as textbooks". According to the program, expert lectures, on-the-spot teaching and exchange and discussion will be organized to continuously improve rural leaders' ability in leading farmers to realize sustained increases in income and achieve prosperity.

## **4.2. Project of Enhancing Curricula Education for New-type Skilled Farmers**

We will support agriculture-related vocational schools to carry out curricula education for new-type skilled farmers, mainly targeting large and specialized agricultural family operations, family farm operators, responsible persons of farmers' cooperatives, managers of agribusinesses, rural government employees, agricultural entrepreneurs returning to hometown or going to the countryside, rural information workers and employees of socialized agricultural service organizations. We will take the forms of countryside-school integration, flexible schooling and delivering educational resources to the countryside to carry out secondary and higher vocational education for farmers. We will focus on the cultivation of leaders of emerging forms of agribusiness and employees of socialized agricultural service organizations who have scientific literacy, innovative spirit and business capacity and can play an exemplary and leading role, so as to effectively improve new-type skilled farmers' comprehensive quality and educational level. We will establish credit banks, convert training programs into credits based on periods, and build the "overpass" to connect vocational training for farmers with secondary and higher vocational education. We will create favorable conditions for new-type skilled farmers to help them diversify their choices and become practical talent in many ways. We will encourage agriculture-related universities to vigorously implement the Program Of Providing Education and Cultivation for Outstanding Talents in Agriculture and Forestry, innovate on the education and cultivation model, and cultivate leading skilled farmers serving modern agriculture.

## **4.3. Project of Promoting IT-based Cultivation of New-type Skilled Farmers**

We will aim to improve services in promoting IT-based cultivation of new-type skilled farmers and focus on improving education and training and management service conditions. We will establish the 3-tier (national, provincial and county-level) IT-based platform for cultivating new-type skilled farmers and provide online learning, management assessment and follow-up and guidance services. Regarding the National IT-based Platform, we will focus on developing hardware, software and cloud storage facilities, including the national cultivation resources production base, the information exchange center, the online learning management center and the mobile interconnected information service system. Regarding the Provincial IT-based Platform, we will focus on the construction of provincial resource production bases, resource dissemination centers and online learning centers. Regarding the County-level IT-based Platform, we will focus on building multimedia resource bases, two-way satellite remote stations, modern multi-media training classrooms and farmer field school information service stations.

## **5. Safeguard Measures**

### **5.1. Strengthen the organizational leadership**

We will further improve the working mechanism featuring leadership of the CPC committee and the government, organization by agricultural authorities, and close cooperation among education, human resources and social security, finance and other related government agencies, in an effort to create synergy in cultivating new-type skilled farmers. Agricultural authorities at all levels shall put the cultivation of new-type skilled farmers in the prominent position of agricultural and rural economic work. The "top leader" shall be responsible for "first resources". Leaders with specific duties shall be responsible for specific affairs, identify the responsible person, develop the road map and the timetable, and ensure implementation step by step.

## **5.2. Increase support**

We will give priority to investment in human resources and put in place a sound government-led diversified input mechanism. The central government shall continue to allocate special subsidies to support the cultivation of new-type skilled farmers. Local governments shall increase their input, raise standards and implement differential subsidy policies. Efforts shall be made to establish a not-for-profit farmer cultivation system, include the vocational education for farmers in the country's policy of assisting vocational school students, and encourage farmers to receive vocational education in local or surrounding areas by participating in the farming-study program and other means. We shall seek the support of the Development and Reform Commission and other government agencies, include IT-based cultivation of new-type skilled farmers in basic development planning, improve education and training conditions, and refine improve education and training capacity. We shall make full use of policy tools such as project, credit, insurance and taxation, and guide all walks of life to participate in the cultivation of new-type skilled farmers.

## **5.3. Strengthen supervision and assessment**

Local governments shall integrate the cultivation of new-type skilled farmers into the assessment index system targeting both the provincial governor responsibility system for agricultural modernization and food security and the mayor responsibility system of the "Shopping Basket Program", establish the supervision system and strengthen classified guidance. Efforts shall be made to develop the performance evaluation index system targeting the Project of Cultivating New-type Skilled Farmers, establish the mechanism in which the performance of provincial governments is evaluated by the central government and that of municipal and county governments is evaluated by provincial governments. It's necessary to take the satisfaction degree of trainees as an important index of assessment and use information technology to conduct the satisfaction assessment. The application of evaluation results shall be intensified, and the evaluation results of the year shall be directly linked with the funding arrangements of the following year.

## **5.4. Create a sound atmosphere**

Efforts shall be made to enhance the publicity of models of new-type skilled farmers and incentives and motivation for them, continue with selection and funding activities, such as National Top Ten Farmers, Fengpeng Action — New-Type Skilled Farmers, National Leading Rural Young People in Helping Farmers Achieve Prosperity, Outstanding Rural Practical Talents, National Excellent Rural Leaders in Entrepreneurship and Innovation. We shall encourage major market actors, such as agribusinesses, to provide subsidies and services to new-type skilled farmers. We shall summarize local practice and exploration in time, accumulate useful experience, publicize exemplary models and apply efficient modes. We shall set a development benchmark, make full use of the radio, television, newspapers and other traditional media, as well as networks, WeChat, Weibo and other new media to enhance publicity. We shall play an exemplary and leading role and strive to create a sound atmosphere where the whole society shows understanding for and renders support to the development of new-type skilled farmers.