



## **Background Policy Report - Extract**

# **Collection of Documents - Setting up, Evaluating and Supporting National Modern Agriculture Demonstration Zones in PR China**

**Report by  
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Translated by  
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**Beijing, July 2017**

## 1. Introduction

The German-Sino Agricultural Center (DCZ) is a joint initiative of the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL) of the Federal Republic of Germany and the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) of the People's Republic of China. Since its operation started in 2015, the DCZ has proven to be a central point of contact, information and coordination for bilateral cooperation in the areas of agriculture.

Besides regular “Newsletters”, DCZ's product portfolio consists of “Mission reports” of short-term expert assignments, “Background information reports” (e.g. translations of Chinese policy guidelines), hosts the website [dcz-china.org](http://dcz-china.org) with latest news, downloads and a scientific database, and commissions “Study reports” to local and international experts and extracts “Policy Briefs” of various agricultural policy-related issues.

In the framework of DCZ's Agricultural Policy Dialogue of 2016, several preparatory sessions had been organized to learn more about the Chinese Agricultural Policy Framework. Besides discussions on the interpretation of Document No. 1, the sessions also delivered an overview presentation of the “National Modern Demonstration Zones of Agricultural Modernization” in China. The expertise was provided by the Institute of Agricultural Economics and Development (IAED) of China Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS). The Demonstration Zones have specific objectives to carry out agricultural reform and modernization on a trial and error basis in a specified region. Subsequently they share successful accumulated experiences with other geologically similar regions. Questions which had been directed to the experts included the process of application and decision of such zones, stakeholder involvement, selection criteria, allocation of funds and regional and rural development plans as prerequisites.

The present background policy report is a translation of various compiled guidelines issued by the MOA regarding “National Modern Demonstration Zones of Agricultural Modernization”. It served as a source of preliminary information for the involved APD discussion partners, especially for those from German partner institutions, who participated in the first APD working group meeting in 2016 covering the topic of agricultural sustainability indicators.

This compilation has been commissioned by DCZ to the Institute of Agricultural Economics and Development (IAED) of China Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS) and was further revised by DCZ.

We appreciate any valuable feedback and comment to further improve our service.

## 2. Summary

At present China is in a critical stage towards modifying traditional agriculture and taking the road towards agricultural modernization with Chinese characteristics. Modern agricultural demonstration zones are seen as a key to strengthen guidance and increase production and farmers' income, and leading agricultural modernization.

In 2009, the Ministry of Agriculture issued the Opinions of the Ministry of Agriculture on Constructing National Modern Agriculture Demonstration Zones proposing that modern agriculture demonstration zones are to serve as pilots propelling regional development of modern agriculture, promoting higher agricultural yields and efficiency, and raising the income of farmers. The zones shall be seen as exhibition areas for agricultural scientific achievements and modern equipment, and as a training base for expanding the function of agriculture and training of farmers.

In a move to implement the central government's decision on constructing modern agriculture demonstration zones, the first batch of 50 counties and districts and a second batch of 101 demonstration zones at city (prefectural), county (district) and township levels have been recognised as national modern agriculture demonstration zones in accordance with the Opinions of the Ministry

of Agriculture on Constructing National Modern Agriculture Demonstration Zones and the Administrative Measures for the Recognition of National Modern Agriculture Demonstration Zones.

A National Modern Agriculture Demonstration Zone Management Office under the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) was established to develop regulations and assessment indicators. It is responsible for the demonstration zone application, review and publicity as well as the release of annual progress reports.

An expert committee under the management office is in charge of consultation, evaluation and technical guidance. The Provincial Departments of Agriculture are responsible for selection, preliminary review, recommendation and application of demonstration zones as well as follow up and supervision, following an approval by the provincial people's government. A mechanism featured "target based dynamic management" is adopted. For those zones, which fail to pass the assessment, the title of "modern agriculture demonstration zone" will be revoked. Every year a development conference of all Demonstration Zone projects is held at national level to discuss major results.

According to the central government planning, the majority of the demonstration zones took the lead during the 12th Five-Year Plan period in undergoing agricultural modernisation, while the remaining minority not possessing the right conditions currently will have to basically meet the overall requirements of agricultural modernisation during the 13th Five-Year Plan period. In order to achieve the above mentioned targets, all the demonstration zones have to organize special funding, proactively integrate existing investments in supporting agriculture, and attract financial capital and social capital to participate in the construction of demonstration zones. Provincial agriculture departments have to actively seek the support of relevant departments for the demonstration zones to ensure that the inputs in these zones are markedly higher than those in other areas. Meanwhile, all demonstration zones should quicken their pace in fostering new operators such as professional farmers, large farms, specialised farmer cooperatives and leading enterprises engaged in industrialisation of agriculture. Greater support would be given to land transfer, popularisation of agricultural technology, and market development. Efforts would also be made to keep enhancing the level of agricultural production in terms of large-scale operation, specialisation, standardisation and intensification.

Referring to the table of content, this compilation of guidelines of the MOA provides an overview of the basic principles, objectives, eligibility, selection and application criteria, funding scheme as well as monitoring and evaluation responsibilities of Modern Demonstration Zone projects in China.

**The full translation is available upon request under [info@dcz-china.org](mailto:info@dcz-china.org).**

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