

Brief Introduction on the Key Policy of “Agriculture, Rural Areas and Farmers” (San Nong) in Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region  
---Speech at the Seminar on Trade Development of Regional Agricultural Product in  
Central Asia

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Ladies and Gentlemen:

Good morning!

According to the conference arrangement, please allow me to brief you the agricultural policy in Xinjiang. Due to time constraints, I will only introduce the major policies in developing “Agriculture, Rural Areas and Farmers” in Xinjiang, as well as the key measures taken to promote the social undertakings in rural areas.

I. Major Policies in developing “Agriculture, Rural Areas and Farmers” (“San Nong”) in Xinjiang

The development of “San Nong” has always been attached high importance by the Party Committee of Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region and the Municipal Government. Especially when it enters the new century, a series of policies and measures, closely related to Xinjiang’s situation, have been formulated centering on the development of “Agriculture, Rural Areas and Farmers”(San Nong), which are guided by the major policies that are “give more, take less and loosen control”, “overall planning for urban and rural development” as well as “scientific development view” proposed by the Party Central Committee and the State Council, effectively promoting the fast growth of agriculture and rural economy and improving rural undertakings in a comprehensive manner.

“Give more” means that both central and local governments should increase inputs in agricultural production, rural economy and social undertakings development. The inputs

should especially be increased in public financial funds and public services.

“Take less” means to reduce farmers’ expenses, particularly to strictly carry out the national policies of rural tax-fee reform and charges that affect rural people and agricultural development, etc., thus relieving farmers’ burden in real earnest.

“Loosen control” means to respect farmers’ independence in the production management and their creation. Three relations should be well handled, namely: first, the relation between respecting farmers’ willingness and finding the way out; second, the relation between diversified development and industrialized operation; third, the relation between urbanization and rural modernization.

“Overall planning for urban and rural development” means to adjust national income distribution structure, conducting the policy of “industry nurtures agriculture, cities support rural areas”, promoting comprehensive and harmonious development in urban and rural areas, which includes the coordinated development of urban and rural economy and society. Overall planning for urban and rural economic development includes those for urban and economic growth, urban and rural industrial development, urban and rural enterprises development as well as urban and rural production-element allocating, etc.; overall planning for urban and rural social development includes those for urban and rural population development, scientific, educational and cultural development, social welfare guarantee, resources environmental protection, etc.

“Scientific development” means to “put people first, keep sustainable development in a comprehensive and harmonious way”, which includes two parts: first, “human” development of rural residents, with the key points being to guarantee all the rights and interests of rural residents, to improve their health level as well as scientific and technical cultural quality; second, sustainable development in a comprehensive and harmonious way, in which the key points are to promote the harmonious development between people among rural residents, people and the entire society, people and nature as well as rural economy and social undertakings.

## II. Major policies and measures taken to promote agricultural development in Xinjiang

In 2005, the document No.3/2005 of Party Committee in the autonomous region was formulated through discussion in the region's rural work conference, which is focusing on the enhancement of integrated agricultural production capacity in order to address the issues in agricultural development; in 2006, the document No.1/2006 was issued, mainly focusing on the promotion of comprehensive and coordinated development of rural economic and social undertakings and the solution of rural development problems; in 2007, the document No.1/2007 was issued focusing on the promotion of sustained and fast growth of farmers' income so as to address issues in farmers' development. These three documents are the programmatic ones instructing the current work of "San Nong" in our region. Under the guidance of these three documents, the region has also formulated several concrete development policies in rural industries and social undertakings, constantly improving the policy system of "Support, Benefit and Strengthen Agriculture" in our region. To improve agricultural integrated production capacity and development of agricultural modernization, and based on the fundamental starting point and foothold of "ensuring effective supply of agricultural products, keeping farmers' and herdsmen's incomes increasing", the Party Committee of the region and the municipal government have adopted the following key policies and measures:

### 1. Support the agriculture production base construction

(1). Support the grain production base construction. Key support and protection is given to the main grain production area to strengthen the integrated grain production capacity, transferring the balance from single area to the whole area. Efforts have been taken to ensure the stable increase of total grain production and the grain security by the means of optimizing product structure and enhancing the yield per unit area. Measures are taken as follows: the first one is to conduct financial subsidy policies for farmers who sale wheat and rice, based on the consideration of the farmers' interests as the starting point and foothold and the fact that grain production bears comparatively low profit. The second is that the special support fund for grain production has been allocated annually since 2005 by the

region's financial provision, and 60% of the fund and newly added part for the integrated agricultural exploitation and land control were requested to be mainly used in major grain production areas so as to support the growth of integrated grain production capacity in the major grain production counties and towns. The third is to increase the price subsidies for seeds of wheat with high quality. The fourth is to institute direct subsidies for grain producers on integrated agricultural materials by financial department since 2006, responding to the situation of rising price of agricultural production resources as well as soaring grain production costs. The fifth is to allocate special fund annually since 2008 by financial department on "seeds improvement project", "high-yielding project" and "plant protection project".

(2) Support cotton production base construction. Main efforts are made to keep the area sown to grain crops stable, increase the yield per unit area and the agricultural output, improve cotton industrial structure, so as to participate in domestic and international market competition with the cotton of high quality, low cost and reasonable price. Measures are taken as follows: 1. The improved seeds of cotton will be introduced and bred and the financial subsidy will be widely carried out. 2. The effort is made to promote the technology for high-yielding cotton cultivation pattern and high efficient water saving irrigation. 3. The policy-oriented agriculture insurance for cotton will be implemented, with financial subsidy covering 60% of the total insurance fee (among which, 35% from central finance, 25% from the region). 4. The railway transportation fee for cotton to the inland is reduced or exempted by the Central Government.

(3) Support special forest and fruit production base construction. The highlights include: stressing the character, emphasizing in quality, enlarging the scale for harmless and green production, improving fruits' processing and transformation. Measures are taken as follows: First, special fund is provided annually for forest and fruit industrial development in order to support high-quality seedling and seed breeding base construction and the promotion of the advanced practical technology; technical skills training project is conducted for millions of fruit farmers (free charged for those who have economic

difficulty); the scientific and technical staff are supported to deliver technical service on forest and fruit in rural areas. Second, the right to the use of barren lands, which are used for developing forest and fruit, remains unchanged for 50 years, and right to use land can be inherited and transferred by law. Third, the affiliated water facilities for forest and fruit base construction should be integrated into the water project construction planning so as to safeguard water supply. The water rate is charged as per the standard for agricultural products. Fourth, preferential policies for certain land use shall be granted for those who use the unutilized state-owned lands for forest and fruits processing, storage and fresh keeping, market construction projects etc.

(4) Support the construction of production base for livestock products. It highlights the following fields: refinement of livestock variety, optimization of the structure of livestock breeds and group, establishment of unregulated epidemic disease zones, transformation of production method in livestock industry. Measures are taken as follows: First, special fund is allocated to support the introduction and breeding of superior variety of livestock as well as the promotion of refinement technology. Second, the practice of financial subsidy is conducted for herdsmen settlement. Third, forage grass base construction is strengthened, establishing 10 million mu of high-qualified grassland and 10 million mu of forage grass bases in the herd area, and 10 million mu of forage grass bases in the agricultural area. Fourth, policy insurance on milk cow and live pig production is carried out and 60%-80% of insurance fee is subsidized respectively for insurance on milk cow and breeding pig.

(5) Support facility agriculture production base construction. The stresses are put to highly promote the facility agriculture technology, enlarge the area of facility agriculture and improve the safety level of its production, strive to increase the construction area of greenhouse by over 100,000 mu per year in the region, and reach a target of over 1 million mu by the end of “the 11<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan”. Measures are taken as follows: First, special fund is allocated to support the construction of scientific and technological production demonstration base and centralized breeding center of facility agriculture, new variety introduction and cultivation, new technology research and development, technical training,

etc. Second, the fund delivery structure of agricultural projects is adjusted in the region and the construction of public infrastructure as well as the greenhouse of facility agriculture is supported. Third, micro-finance and middle/long term finance is provided for farm households. Fourth, in compliance with the land use general planning and under the safeguard of water sources, priority approval and land use right is proceeded for those who develop facility agriculture on the barren mountain, lands and desert which are the unutilized state-owned lands, and they could benefit from related land policies in the new industrialization construction of the region with the exemption of land compensation fee. Fifth, technical personnel of facility agriculture are encouraged to be introduced.

(6) Energetically develop regional agricultural advanced resources. The key point is to facilitate the construction of special high-quality agricultural production base and superior variety breeding base, to develop regional special agriculture in depth with affiliated water saving facility and ecological safety guarantee as the pre-requisite. Annual special fund is allocated to support the special agricultural production base.

2. Accelerate the pace of industrialization of agriculture. The key efforts are to support the food processing industry by taking grains as the main original materials, continuously strengthen the livestock products processing industry, vigorously develop fruit processing and fresh-keeping storage, transportation and sales. Measures are taken as follows: First, special fund is allocated to nurture the development of leading enterprises. Certain subsidies are granted to the leading enterprises, which provide various services, conduct technical trainings and marketing publicizing for farmers, do the research and development to introduce new variety and technology as well as undertake the construction of base facility and waste management. The discount interest loan would be given to the key leading enterprises for the technical update of competitive products. Second, the leading enterprises of agricultural industrialization enjoy corresponding preferential policies of land use that is for newly industrialized construction in the region. Third, the opening up of agriculture shall be extended, by actively introducing fund, personnel, technology and advanced processing techniques from both home and abroad, jointly developing special agricultural resources in

our region. In line with *the Provisions on Several Policies Concerning Attracting Investment in Xinjiang Autonomous Region*, preferential policies shall be granted for the enterprises coming to Xinjiang for investment and development of agricultural production procession. Fourth, farmers are allowed to take shares by utilizing land contract operation right and land use right as well as their products, technology and capital fund, forming the community of interests with the leading enterprises. Fifth, “Green pass” policy is taken for fresh and live agricultural products transported for market sale, with exemption of road toll and bridge toll. Sixth, farmers are advocated to establish specialization cooperative economic organization and agricultural products industrial association. Seventh, special fund is allocated to strengthen the construction of agricultural products market system in the counties and towns.

3. Intensify the safety production for agricultural products. Measures are taken as follows: First, as per the requests of Good Agriculture Practices (GAP) and Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP), the intensified, large-scale and standardized cultivation management for crops and fruits and the breeding mode of livestock is highly promoted. The key points are, to strengthen the authentication of production base for harmless, green and organic products; to keep strict supervision on agricultural production inputs, to promote the fertilizer application according to formulation based on soil test, to prohibit the sales and utilization of pesticides with high residues of chemical, to popularize the biological technology of prevention and control on insect pests diseases of crops and forest and fruit; to advocate the healthy breeding technology for livestock with special fund allocated to construct the prevention and quarantine system for animal epidemic diseases, including the establishment and improvement of veterinary administrative management, law enforcement and technical support institutions, as well as epidemic prevention infrastructure, etc. Second, special fund is allocated to strengthen the infrastructure construction for examination and tests of agricultural products, establishing comparatively well-developed system for agricultural products examination and tests. Third, the key leading industries are supported and encouraged to perform the agricultural products processing as per the

international standards, unified form will be implemented in all-round way, covering brand, standard, training, service, purchase, processing, examination and tests. Fourth, market access system is conducted for the sales of agricultural products and the processed ones.

#### 4. Enhance the construction of agricultural infrastructure

(1) Keep increasing the inputs to the construction of agricultural infrastructure. Measures are taken as follows: First, the newly added fiscal delivery and the fixed assets investment should give tangible support to agriculture, rural areas and farmers, the newly added fiscal input for agriculture in the whole region should amount to over 15% of the annual local additional financial resources, the rate for the government land transferring fee used in the rural areas should be over 50%. Second, preferential policies like discount interest loan, subsidy and tax revenue etc. are adopted to encourage and channel all types of social and private capital to move towards the agricultural development and rural construction.

(2) Further enhance the water resources construction. The key issues are, to increase inputs for the fundamental construction of small and medium sized farmland water conservancy works, to facilitate the successive construction of the subsidiary project in the irrigation areas, to strengthen the supporting facilities construction for branch and last channel; to improve management of saline-alkali land and the reconstruction of cultivated field with medium and low yield, to develop and provide affiliated facility to the farmland drainage-irrigation system; to promote the well irrigation and construction of well irrigation areas bearing favorable conditions for underground water development. To extensively undertake the water saving project construction and promote new technology such as drop irrigation, spray irrigation, low-pressure pipe diaphragm irrigation, etc. To establish the special subsidy fund for small-scaled water conservancy construction and facilities as well as water saving irrigation, mobilizing farmers' fund-raising and labor-input towards the construction of small-scaled water conservancy facilities.

(3) Provide fiscal subsidy for the purchase of large and medium sized agricultural machinery.

(4) Continue efforts in eco-environmental construction. The two projects of sand prevention and control at the fringe of Gurbantonggut and Taklama-gan Desert will be continued; the projects of the natural forest protection of Altay Mountain and Tianshan Mountain, as well as the one for forest recovery and reconstruction in front range of the mountain would be pushed forward; the project on conversion of farmland to forests is in steady progress; the fourth phase construction of the Three North (North, Northwest and Northeast of China) Shelterbelt Program would be facilitated; the land use within the farmland windbreak network would be guaranteed and protected, shaping the oasis ecological barrier. The project for ecological construction and protection of natural grassland would be continued, gradually recovering grassland ecology. The implementation of comprehensive management project of Aibi lake area and wetland protection project would be accelerated.

#### 5. Advance the agricultural scientific and technological progress

(1) Increase the inputs and improve the work for agricultural scientific research. The key issues are, to conduct research on infrastructure, application and development of seeds, production technology regulation and management, agricultural products processing, storage and transportation, packaging, etc. The introduction of agricultural technology, major scientific technology breakthrough, assembly and matching research and tests shall be well handled and organized. The facilities condition and technical level of equipment for agricultural scientific research institutions would be improved, emphasizing particularly in the construction, management and opening of the key laboratories, further raising the utilized level of lab research equipments.

(2) Promote the transformation from agricultural scientific & technological results to production forces. The key issues are: to establish and improve the mechanism of close relations between scientific research and production as well as link-up between results and promotion; to further promote agricultural technology. Special fund is allocated for the demonstration and promotion of agricultural science and technology so as to support the scientific and technological staff from agriculture scientific research institutes to deliver

technical services deep into the agricultural and herds area, demonstrating, promoting and popularizing all the key measures of agricultural technology. The technological measures may cover the following fields, for instance, high-density and high-yield cultivated technology in cotton, modeled cultivation techniques of good-quality and high-yield wheat, fertilizer application according to formulation based on soil test, cultivation technology for protected land in facility agriculture, storage and fresh-keeping technology for fruits and gardening products, dwarfing and closing culture of high quality and high-yield cultivation technology of forests and fruits, grafting and improving technology, modern livestock breeding management technology, high-efficient water saving irrigation technology and new machinery technology, etc.

6. Strictly protect the farmland. First, to enhance the protection of basic farmland, to control the farmland acquisition for non-agriculture construction, to ensure the basic farmland area, its quality and function to be unchanged; second, to strictly prohibit the occupation of basic farmland and activities destroying the farmland layers; third, to conduct reform for the land requisition system and to improve land requisition procedure, to implement new compensation standard by law and to realize all compensation policies under the principle that farmers' interests and rights should be guaranteed and the land requisition scale should be controlled.

7. Stabilize and improve household contract responsibility system. First, to carry out *the Law of the Peoples Republic of China on Land Contract in Rural Areas*, ensuring farmers' contractual operation right of land 30 years unchanged; second, to transfer the contracted land lawfully, voluntarily and for compensation, gradually developing moderate scale operation.

8. Cancel the agricultural tax and animal husbandry tax

9. Enhance the capacity building for farmers' self development. The key issues are, to allocate special fund from all levels of financial department to perform trainings of agricultural science and technology and employment transfer technical skills, so as to improve farmers' scientific planting and breeding level and the capacity for income increase

in employment transfer, etc.

**□ Major policies and measures for the development of rural social undertakings in Xinjiang**

1 . Increase inputs to rural social undertakings. 70% of the newly increased operating expenses for education, health care and culture will be mainly used in the areas below the county level.

2. Waive the tuition fees and expenditures of textbooks for rural students under 9 Years' Compulsory Education and grant living subsidy for rural students under boarding who have family financial difficulties.

3. Conduct rural cooperative medical system in an all round way, 80% of the cooperative medical operational expenses shall be subsidized by financial department.

4. Adopt the fiscal subsidy and perform social security systems including the lowest living security system and old-age social welfare insurance for rural residents.

5. Take fiscal subsidy measure to implement the seismic safe buildings project, bringing along the improvement of rural housing conditions.

6. Enhance the infrastructure construction of water, electricity, road, communication, broadcasting and television, improving rural living conditions.

7) Carry out *the Law of Organization of Villager Committee of the P. R. of China*, ensuring farmers' democratic rights.