



The Bawuli Farm, located in the city of Hulun, is the largest rice growing area in Heilongjiang province.

ZHAO YUEHUI / FOR CHINA DAILY

Modernization to boost rural development

By WANG XIAODONG

The government of Northeast China Heilongjiang province will focus its goals on agricultural production and develop the rural area. It targets total grain production of 60 billion kilograms with a 12 percent increase of income for rural residents in 2012.

The construction of two of the largest agricultural development zones in the province is expected to play a leading role in improving the livelihoods of rural residents, while steps will be taken to develop water resources, speed up mechanization and science and technology applications for the agriculture sector and promote cooperation between agricultural producers to meet targets.

"Heilongjiang enjoys advantages of land and water resources, science and research, solid industrial capacity while boasting of a sizeable agricultural sector with high-quality products," said Ji Bingxuan, Party secretary of Heilongjiang

province. "Our agriculture can fulfill its bright prospects as long as we give full play to these advantages."

In 2011, Heilongjiang made great achievements to local agriculture. Total crop production reached 57 billion kilograms, dwarfing all other provincial regions with per capital net income for rural residents increasing to 22.2 percent compared with the previous year.

"Model modern agricultural industries and prosperous towns and villages in rural areas have emerged in large numbers in the province and the whole country in the past three decades, which provide us with experiences for our future work related to agriculture, rural areas and farmers," Ji said.

The government will establish a more modernized and sizeable agriculture sector with major tasks including the development of water resource, to accelerate mechanical applications along with science and technology innovations that,

promote agricultural cooperation, marketization and ecological development.

A large proportion of fixed asset investments will go to water resources to lessen the impact of droughts and floods. Water conservation irrigation will develop to increase water usage efficiency. Mechanization efforts will focus on developing modern agricultural equipment manufacturing to increase competitiveness.

The government plans to speed up science and technological applications to make new breakthroughs in agricultural technology. Integration of technological research and manufacturing will quicken so advanced technologies can transform into better production capacity.

New breakthroughs will be made to increase industrial capacity to deepen the agricultural production process to transform Heilongjiang from a big producer of agricultural goods to a province that excels in agricultural production.

Organic farming will increase to provide enough materials for agricultural processing. Modern husbandry industry will develop to build the province into a national base for high-quality meat to boost exports, as well as expand on meat processing production.

The government will speed up agricultural marketization and progress with facilitating a stronger agribusiness to expand its market. Brands featuring green, safe and organic products will be fully supported. Development of export-oriented agriculture will expand to meet global demand.

The province will boost urbanization to establish more balanced development between urban and rural areas. Clusters of small cities and towns will develop to excel in manufacturing, commerce, trade and tourism. Meanwhile, this development is expected to increase land use efficiency.

Ecological conservation and



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Jianshan Farm in Nenjiang county is located in a major soybean region in Heilongjiang province.

development will move forward with new breakthroughs. Re-forestation can provide an ecological barrier to modern agricultural expansion. Investing in clean energy in rural

areas would promote the low-carbon agricultural economy. "Work related to agriculture, rural area development and farmers should always be our priority," said Wang Xiankui,

governor of Heilongjiang province. The government places its priorities on grain production to contribute to grain security for the whole country, he stressed.

Green urbanization makes harmony

By ZHUAN TI

Urbanization in Heilongjiang province has made remarkable progress in recent years and the urbanization rate hit a record high by increasing to an annual rate of 80 percent.

Approximately 278 projects in 14 provincial tourist towns are under construction, such as Jingbo Lake and Heixiazhi Island, which are expected to be among the calling cards of Heilongjiang.

In 2008, the province outlined an overall strategy focusing on the construction of eight economic zones and 10 projects. The plan intends to guide the development of cities with the principles of harmony and ecological stability.

In practice, harmony means urban-rural integration and

striving for rural development. Thirteen forestry bureaus have signed cooperation agreements with urban areas to work together for future integration.

Heilongjiang is focusing on environmental protection to achieve sustainable development and build green cities and towns. The investment in environmental protection has grown from 4.43 billion yuan (\$700 million) to 10 billion yuan. The urban green coverage rate has increased by 9 percent, which is equivalent to 3,000 hectares of green space.

New forestry growth in the area has reached 310 million cubic meters.

Heilongjiang is working to develop its tourism by building scenic spots that highlight the special environmental landscape of northern China.

Total tourism revenues have increased from 42 billion yuan to 110 billion yuan, nearly doubling the GDP growth rate in the same period. Tourism is propelling economic growth and its societal transformation.

The breakthrough of urbanization would be the construction of small towns in rural areas. The "One Hundred Towns Construction Project" has been launched to shape Heilongjiang into a province with a metropolis as the core, middle-sized cities as backbones and small towns as the base. Until now, the plan has dismantled and merged over 300 residential areas and relocated 100,000 residents.

Heilongjiang puts great importance on investments from State-owned enterprises in its course of urbanization.

In 2010 and 2011, Heilongjiang received a total investment of 418.6 billion yuan from State-owned enterprises, which has instilled new energy for its development.

The Beidahuang Group, the largest grain base in China with the best modernization and the strongest productivity, will be listed as one of the world's Top 500 enterprises in 2012.

Urbanization brings great changes to the 38 million people of Heilongjiang. The province is progressing quickly with its urbanization through the road of scientific development. Its average annual GDP from 2008 to 2011 increased by 12.2 percent. In 2011, its growth rate surged to 13 percent, the highest record for Heilongjiang in the past 40 years.



ZHAO TIANHUA / FOR CHINA DAILY

The massive ice sculpture named, "Snow Dance Style", a 26-meter-high, 24-meter-wide statue of a girl dancing with snow attracts many tourists.

Heilongjiang to cash in on tourism

By ZHOU HUIYING

In the snowy regions of northeastern China lies Heilongjiang, a province with a wintry landscape that draws millions of tourists to visit each year.

According to official statistics, the province hosted 202 million domestic visitors and received more than 103 billion yuan (\$16.3 billion) in tourism revenue last year.

In the same period, more than 2 million tourists from overseas visited the province and spent more than \$918 million.

These tourism dollars have been a boon to economic growth.

The annual Heilongjiang International Skiing Festival and the Harbin Ice and Snow Sculpture Festival are among the renowned attractions that draw swarms of tourists annually.

About 14 million tourists brought more than 8.6 billion yuan tourism revenue to Heilongjiang during the Chinese New Year holiday, making the province one of the most popular destinations for Spring Festival.

The province is working to restore its numerous wetland areas to attract tourists and protect important ecological assets.

In Harbin, the city government said that under its program, the wetlands located along the Songhua River will be protected and developed.

Harbin's wetlands cover a 125,000-hectare area that includes Sun Island, Jinhe-wan, Binjiang, Mouth of the Hulan, Volga Manor and the Baiyupao wetlands, accounting for around one-third of the city's total area.

In 2011, the wetlands hosted 6.1 million tourists, and wetland tourism has become

a crucial part of Harbin's tourism branding.

In 2012, Harbin will focus on creating a "Charming Summer of Harbin", which includes five main parts — Wetland Festival, Beer Festival, Harbin Economic and Trade Fair, Harbin Summer Concert and Wuhua Mountain Travelling.

The province is also promoting the development of famous tourist towns.

This year will be an important time during which the province will encourage the development of its 14 famous tourist towns.

Millions of tourists visit Heilongjiang not only for its ice and snow in the winter but also for its charming and distinctive scenery in the other three seasons. Tourism has grown into a pillar industry, and the province is creating a new model for tourism development.



Apartment houses for Jiusan Farm's employees in Nenjiang county.

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