



FOLLOW-UP OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WORLD FOOD SUMMIT PLAN OF ACTION

NATIONAL REPORT

The World Food Summit (WFS) Plan of Action under Commitment Seven (Objective 7.3) called upon governments in partnership with all actors of civil society, in coordination with relevant international institutions and, in conformity with ECOSOC Resolution 1996/36 on the follow-up to the major international UN conferences and summits, *inter-alia*, to:

- Report to the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) on national, sub-regional and regional implementation of the WFS Plan of Action, drawing upon a food insecurity and vulnerability information and mapping systems, once established, as an analytical aid.
- Monitor through the CFS the national, sub-regional, regional and international implementation of the WFS Plan of Action, using reports from national governments, reports on UN agency follow-up and inter-agency coordination, and information from other relevant international institutions.

This Report documents the country progress in the implementation of the WFS Plan of Action. It consists of two sections. Sections I and II constitute the substantive parts of the Report on progress made, policies adopted and actions taken. In particular, Section II deals with programmes and measures taken by the country for each of the seven Commitments under the Plan of Action.

In order to facilitate the completion of the report, the Secretariat has prepared a set of Guidelines which are enclosed herewith.

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Section I: Priority Food Security Issue and Progress Towards the World Food Summit Goal

(for completion of Section I of the report please refer to paragraph 5 of the Guidelines)

The state of the country's food security situation, in term of food availability, stability of supplies and access to food and the progress in reaching the hunger reduction targets are described below:

China is a developing country, which has the largest population and the biggest food consumption in the world. The Chinese Government has committed and devoted itself to strengthening agriculture and feeding the 1.3 billion people. In the latest two decades, China has fed more than 200 million rural poverty people successfully. The proportion of rural poverty-stricken population who have no access to adequate food and clothing in the total rural population has dropped from 30.7% in 1978 to 3.1% recently. At present, the amount of the per capita grain availability and the per capita daily calorie and protein in-take has achieved the average level of the world respectively.

China is a country in which the rural population takes a great proportion, and the poverty population is mainly distributed in the rural areas. According to the data from the government department concerned, when the per capita net income is less than 668 Yuan in one year, the Chinese Government will provide the aid to them. In the end of 2004, the low-income poverty population in the rural China is 26.1 million, accounting for 2.8% of the total rural population. The low income and the slow growth of the income lead to the astonishing poverty in the rural areas. From 1997 to 2003, the growth of per capita net income generated by farmers nationwide has not exceeded 5% for the continuous 7 years. In 2004, the growth of per capita net income of the farmers was 6.8%, and it achieved about 6% in 2005 on the relative high basis of 2004. Meanwhile, it is obvious that there are many difficulties to promote the constant increasing of the income of the farmers. In the rural areas, especially the mid-west poverty-stricken areas, malnutrition problem still exists. According to the estimation by Chinese Academy of Preventive Medicine and State Statistical Bureau, due to the serious malnutrition, the rate of slow growth of the children in the rural areas is 39.1% and the rate of low weight is 7.8%.

In the recent years, three "reduction" tendencies on the grain production of China have appeared. Firstly, cultivated area has reduced from 130.0 million ha. in 1997 to 122.4 million ha. in 2004; Secondly, sown area of the grain has reduced from the peak point of 113.8 million ha. in 1998 to 101.6 million ha in 2004. Thirdly, the amount of the per capita grain

availability achieved the peak of 412 kilogram in 1996, and dropped to 390 kilogram in 2004.

Both from the total quantity indices and the average indices indicate the drop tendency.

In a word, in the latest two decades, through the efforts of the government, the food security situation in China has been improved. But we cannot be excessively optimistic. From the data above, it is obvious that the gravity of the situation still confronts China. Therefore, Chinese Government will continue to pay more attention and devote itself to it and implement a series of policies and projects aimed at eradicating poverty to improve the stern situation.

Evaluation studies (such as impact assessment, comparison between results and objectives) of programs or projects related to the WFS Plan of Action are attached to this report and listed below:

Towards the World Food Summit, China has adopted a series of the food security measures and implemented some poverty alleviation projects. The evaluation studies of the projects are as follows:

1. **Economic Benefits Evaluation.** After completion of the projects, the grain yield of most of the project areas has been significantly improved. The gross output value is 1,328.2 million Yuan and the per capita net income of local farmers has reached 822.3 Yuan in the project areas which is much more than that in the non-project areas.
2. **Social Benefits Evaluation.** As the implementation of the projects, on one hand, it is helpful to increase the income of local farmers and the revenue of the government; on the other hand, it has created more employment opportunities which have encouraged the participation of women and youths in the project areas, and improved the technological level of the local farming and the livelihoods of the farmers. What's more, the impetus effect of the projects is obvious.
3. **Ecological Environment Benefits Evaluation.** The average vegetation coverage ratio has been improved by 5.3 points compared that before the implementation of the projects. The average effective irrigation ratio has increased by 20-50 points. Meanwhile, the amount of the pesticide and chemical fertilizer used in the farmland has reduced. The amount of organic fertilizer has increased 40%-60%, and the amount of chemical fertilizer has reduced 30%.

Information on external assistance programs, including a description of their impact on hunger reduction and lessons learned, is given below:

WFP (World Food Program) is the biggest UN aid agency to China.

1. The description of WFP Project.

From 1979 to 2005, WFP provided China for 70 projects, delivered some 3.8 million tons of wheat at the total value of about US\$ 1 billion. The projects covered 31 provinces and cities in the mainland of China with the exception of Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan. The direct beneficiaries of WFP projects were over 30 million poor rural people according to the estimation of MOA. The WFP food aid projects for the development were implemented in the forms of FFW and PFT. The WFP projects covered all the areas of agricultural sectors: crop farming, forestry, animal husbandry, fisheries, water conservancy and the farm products processing as well as non-agricultural sectors, road construction, education and health care etc.

2. The effect and achievement of WFP Projects.

According to the survey to 31 WFP development projects in 18 provinces and cities by MOA in June 2005, the WFP projects have achieved remarkable results.

- ◆ **Economic Benefits.** After the completion of the projects, the obvious economic benefits have been achieved in the project areas. According to the statistics from 33 projects in 15 provinces and cities, the grain production per ha increased by 196.2%, the food availability per capita increased by 69.1%, the net income per capita increased by 330% on average than that before the projects.
- ◆ **Social and Ecological Benefits.** With the remarkable economic benefit gained by the WFP projects, good social and ecological benefits also achieved in the project areas. According to the sample survey carried out by MOA in June 2005 in 17 project areas of 12 provinces, the illiteracy rate decreased by 60.5% among the young and middle-aged adults; the enrollment rate of school-aged children increased by 21.2%; the number of hospital beds increased by 115.6%; the number of people having access to clean drinking water increased by 1.6 million over that before the projects, up by 103.6%; the number of people having access to rural roads increased by 1.2 million, up by 77%; the area of soil erosion reduced by 269,400 ha, down by 36.1%; the area under vegetation coverage increased by 75.6%.

3. The Experiences and Lessons from WFP Projects

There are many successful experiences gained from the implementation of WFP projects in China which include: (1) Good co-operation and trust was established among the Chinese Government, donors and WFP; (2) Chinese Government has always played an important role in the management of the WFP projects; (3) WFP and IFAD jointly financed the projects in China; (4) The use of PRA Method for the project-design got a good result; (5) WFP projects stressed the strong involvement of women; (6) Various kinds of training courses were helpful for the implementations of the projects; (7) WFP projects were integrated with the local actual conditions, and so on.

However, at the same time, some lessons for the WFP projects also existed. For example, there were some shortcomings in the project-design at the early stage. Before 1990, WFP projects were single emergency relief operations or single item development projects. Food aid project only solved the problem of a single issue, but there was not a complete package of integrated development schemes.

World Bank

In addition to the above, the World Bank invested a total of USD 10,395 million in agricultural related projects in China during 1981-2006, about 26% of the total loan, among which hard loan USD 5,106 million, and soft loan USD 5,289 million.

List of the Most Important Program Contributing to the WFS Plan of Action:

Program	Year Initiated	Duration (year)	Total Budget (million yuan/year)	Status
Seed Project	1996	10	150	ongoing
Crop Protection Project	2000	6	200	ongoing
Soil Engineering Project	2001	5	30	finished
Traditional-commodity-grain -production Base Project	1997	8	40	finished
Large-scale Commodity-Grain Production Base Project	1997	8	400	finished
High-quality Grain Project	2004	7	1000	ongoing

The policies, strategies and initiatives implemented, and their outcomes:

As the follow-up of the WFS Plan of Action, the Chinese Government has adopted some policies and strategies aimed at eradicating poverty, reducing hunger and promoting the overall social and economic development.

1. Food security strategies. The main points are as follows:

- ◆ Give the highest priority to the agricultural development throughout the developing of the national economy; establish and improve the agriculture support and protection systems; increase the agricultural inputs constantly; pay more attention to the grain production.
- ◆ Push forward the reform of the rural areas, persist in and improve the household contract responsibility system with remuneration linked to output, empower the farmers with the right of land use and independent management, and arouse and protect the initiative of farmers.
- ◆ Strengthen the construction of the rural infrastructure and the ecological environment, improve the agricultural production condition, and enhance the resistance ability against the natural disasters.
- ◆ Promote the application of the advanced technology and the improved seed, improve the scientific and cultural level and the scientific farming skill of the farmers, push forward the transformation from the traditional farming mode to the modern practice, and strengthen the ability of the farmers to resist the market risk.
- ◆ On the basis of food security being guaranteed, pay more attention to improving the food quality. From 2004, China has implemented the high quality food project.

2. Poverty alleviation program of ten years. The main elements are as follows:

- ◆ **The goal.** From 2001, through ten years efforts, Chinese government will make efforts to provide adequate food and clothing for the poor as early as possible, improve the basic production and living condition of the poverty-stricken areas, enhance the living quality and standard of the poor, strengthen the infrastructure construction of the poverty villages, improve the ecological environment, and promote the overall social and economic development of the poverty-stricken areas gradually.

- ◆ **Persist in the policies** including the poverty alleviation through comprehensive and sustainable development, relying on one's own effort to revive, ensuring the lead of the government and the participation of the entire society.
- ◆ Give top priority to those still in subsistence difficulties, and take the poverty-stricken counties in the national level as **the key point** in the efforts of poverty alleviation.
- ◆ **Contents and ways:** Take the crop production as the key point in reducing poverty; Promote the operation of the vertical agriculture ; Improve the basic production and living condition in the poverty-stricken areas; Make more efforts on reducing poverty through training on technology and improve the technical and cultural level of the local poor farmers; and encourage the outflow of the labors from the poverty-stricken areas to other developed areas or countries.

As the implementation of the policies and the strategies, the number of the poverty population in the countryside of China has decreased greatly. From 1978 to 2003, the rural poverty-stricken population who have no access to adequate food and clothing has reduced from 250 million to 29 million, and the proportion of poverty population in the total rural population has dropped from 30.7% to 3.1%.

Section II: Follow up of the WFS Plan of Action

(for completion of Section II of the report please refer to paragraph 6 of the Guidelines)

This section describes the actions taken under all of the seven Commitments adopted at the World Food Summit. Information is included on policies pursued and/or action programmes implemented, demonstrating, where possible, their impact in terms of contributing to overall social and economic development, poverty alleviation and hunger reduction.

The full text of the WFS Plan of Action is available online at the FAO internet site http://www.fao.org/monitoringprogress/summit_en.html, under the section "Key documents, Rome Declaration on World Food Security".

a) Commitments

- One** We will ensure an enabling political, social, and economic environment designed to create the best conditions for the eradication of poverty and for durable peace, based on full and equal participation of women and men, which is most conducive to achieving sustainable food security for all.
- Two** We will implement policies aimed at eradicating poverty and inequality and improving physical and economic access by all, at all times, to sufficient, nutritionally adequate and safe food and its effective utilization.
- Three** We will pursue participatory and sustainable food, agriculture, fisheries, forestry and rural development policies and practices in high and low potential areas, which are essential to adequate and reliable food supplies at the household, national, regional and global levels, and combat pests, drought and desertification, considering the multifunctional character of agriculture.
- Four** We will strive to ensure that food, agricultural trade and overall trade policies are conducive to fostering food security for all through a fair and market-oriented world trade system.
- Five** We will endeavour to prevent and be prepared for natural disasters and man-made emergencies and to meet transitory and emergency food requirements in ways that encourage recovery, rehabilitation, development and a capacity to satisfy future needs.
- Six** We will promote optimal allocation and use of public and private investments to foster human resources, sustainable food, agriculture, fisheries and forestry systems, and rural development, in high and low potential areas.
- Seven** We will implement, monitor, and follow-up this Plan of Action at all levels in cooperation with the international community.