

Review on "CICA Industrial Poverty Alleviation Model Training and Workshop"

1. Background

Anti-poverty is a common mission of the mankind. Poverty elimination, improved people's livelihood, and the vast majority of people benefiting from bonus of reform and development are the main goals of China for promoting targeted poverty alleviation in the new era. China attained a comprehensive victory in fighting against poverty in 2020, and has entered into a new stage of effective connection between consolidating the results of poverty reduction and achieving rural revitalization. China's models, practices and experience of poverty alleviation by industry development are worthy of spreading in the worldwide, especially in the developing countries in Asia.

The Agricultural Information Institute of the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (AII/CAAS) undertook the project "The Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) Industrial Poverty Alleviation Model Exchange and Training", supported by Asian Regional Cooperation Fund of the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China. The project mainly carries out exchanges and training on models and

applied technologies of industrial poverty alleviation, as well as organizing a seminar on industrial poverty alleviation. It aims to improve the effectiveness of industrial poverty alleviation in CICA member states by discussing mechanisms, theories, models, and experience of industrial poverty alleviation, and increase China's influence in regional poverty reduction by promulgating China's good models, practices and experience of industrial poverty alleviation.

2. Basic Information on the Event

With the guidance of the Secretariat of CICA and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs of the People's Republic of China, AII and the Center for International Agricultural Research of the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CIAR/CAAS) co-organized the "CICA Industrial Poverty Alleviation Training and Workshop" in Beijing on October 25-26, 2021. Due to the pandemic, the workshop was held online.

Chi Fang, Deputy Executive Director of the Secretariat of CICA, Zhang Shuai, Deputy Chief of Division of Bilateral Relationship of Department of International Cooperation of CAAS, and Nie Fengying, Deputy Director General of AII and CIAR of CAAS, delivered speeches at the opening ceremony.

20 experts and scholars from World Bank (WB), United Nations

Development Programme (UNDP), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), International Poverty Reduction Center in China (IPRCC), China Development Bank (CDB), Poor Area Industry Development Fund (PAIDF), Central Asian Institute for Regional Economic Cooperation, Minzu University of China, Beijing Technology and Business University, Southwest University, Yunnan Academy of Agricultural Sciences, and from enterprises of Pinduoduo, Benlai Group, Xiaojin Agricultural Development Co., Ltd, Chinese local governments such as Chifeng City of Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region and Wuding County of Yunnan Province, as well as Thailand, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Iran, made presentations relevant to industrial poverty alleviation. The representatives discussed the theories, mechanisms and models of industrial poverty alleviation, and shared the practices, achievements and problems of industrial poverty alleviation in their countries, with profound comprehension of China's practices in industrial poverty alleviation.

More than 100 industrial, academic, and research representatives from 14 CICA member states participated in the workshop, including Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, China, Egypt, Iran, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Pakistan, South Korea, Thailand, Turkey, and Vietnam. The Foreign Agricultural Cooperation Public Information Service Platform (www.facisp.cn) conducted a live broadcast of the

workshop in Chinese and English, and the number of online visitors reached over 240.

3. Achievements/ Effectiveness

The workshop positively enhances the selection of adaptable models for industrial poverty alleviation, and development of mechanisms for assessing its reduction among CICA member states, as well as promoting cross-regional cooperation for industrial poverty alleviation, with global influence and profound significance. The main achievements reflect in three aspects. First, it creates an effective platform for exchanges and cooperation in the field of industrial poverty reduction among CICA member states. Second, it boosts the favorable development of industrial poverty alleviation among CICA member states and cross-regional cooperation through discussion on mechanisms, models, experience of industrial poverty alleviation in CICA member states. Third, it enhances China's influence in the field of regional poverty reduction.

This workshop drew the attention of Chinese mainstream media, and nearly 10 medias carried comprehensive and in-depth reports, including Economic Daily, Science and Technology Daily, Farmers' Daily, China Science Daily, Beijing News, etc. More than 10 network media reprinted the articles, including China.org.cn Sannong channel, Sohu.com, Sina.com, Tencent.com, and The Paper.cn, etc. In addition,

the official website of CICA also reported on this event in both English and Russian. The knowledge and scientific discoveries presented over the course of the workshop will further be shared throughout the vast space of the CICA area.

A Case on Poverty Alleviation in China

——Story from Wuding County of Yunnan Province

With 11 towns, 136 villages (communities) and 1,578 villager (residential) groups, and a population of 239,000, Wuding County has a land area of 3,322 square kilometres, of which 97% is mountainous. It is the only county with deep poverty in Chuxiong Prefecture and one of the 27 counties with deep poverty in Yunnan Province.

In line with China' recent in-depth poverty alleviation work, local organisations for women have been making real efforts and working actively to develop women's employment. They have promoted women's entrepreneurship and re-employment by improving their individual quality. Regarding the industries that women are good at and the need of preserving the local special craft, these organisations have devoted themselves to exploring and developing the embroidery industry, thus innovating a new way of increasing their income,

namely the special industry which can help them “inherit the culture, work at home, and then increase the income”.

After years of efforts, the County now has more female embroiderers and embroidery leaders with better ability, and these talents are clustered together in the industry now. Up to now, there is one Yi Embroidery association, two Yi Embroidery cooperatives, five poverty alleviation factories, 38 embroidery products or embroidery clothing production/marketing enterprises (operators). The number of embroidery workers in the County has reached more than 2,600, with one National-Level Yi Embroidery Inheritor, one Provincial-Level Inheritor, two Prefecture-Level Inheritors, and four County-Level Inheritors.

More than 10,000 women in rural areas of the County have participated in the development of other industries closely linked to embroidery, creating an output of tens of millions of yuan. This has greatly promoted the development of the embroidery industry, solving the employment problem for women left at home in rural areas at the same time. They now have more opportunities to increase their income.

In the past three years, Wuding County has invested 2.3 million yuan in embroidery industry development funds, 1 million yuan in

embroidery industry “start-up loans”. All Africa Chinese Woman Association and other organisations have donated 607,000 yuan to develop the embroidery industry and help those who are ambitious of entering the industry and leading the development of the workers. 350,000 yuan more has been invested in the construction of 5 Poverty Alleviation Factories. Based on Yi Embroidery, Miao Embroidery, and Lisu Embroidery, these embroidery factories are operated by co-operatives and adopt the “new business entity + purchases by orders + impoverished family” model to link up different parties in the industry. As a result, people and impoverished families in this region can shake off poverty by inheriting and developing the embroidery industry.

The Yi Embroidery Association of Wuding County has enrolled 105 embroidery leaders from 11 townships as members, driving more than 2,600 female embroiderers in the county to join the “Association + Members + Embroiderers” model. The County organised the 12 most representative embroidery leaders to help turn the county's ethnic cultural square into an “Embroidery Square”, where embroidery products are sold and people can come to place orders. It is indeed a platform for cooperation and exchange with businesses outside of the County.

Not long ago, CMBC ordered 120,000 hand-embroidered “CMBC

Blind Bags” from the County, worth over 2 million yuan. The County also received another order of “Panjin embroidery” worth over 3 million yuan.

At present, more than 2,600 female embroiderers in Wuding and tens of thousands of families involved in the embroidery industry have all been lifted out of poverty. As the embroidery industry in Wuding County continues to develop and grow, orders are coming in from home and abroad. These female embroiderers are now truly crafting and embroidering a new life of prosperity.