

New Education Development Blueprint Unveiled

Policy

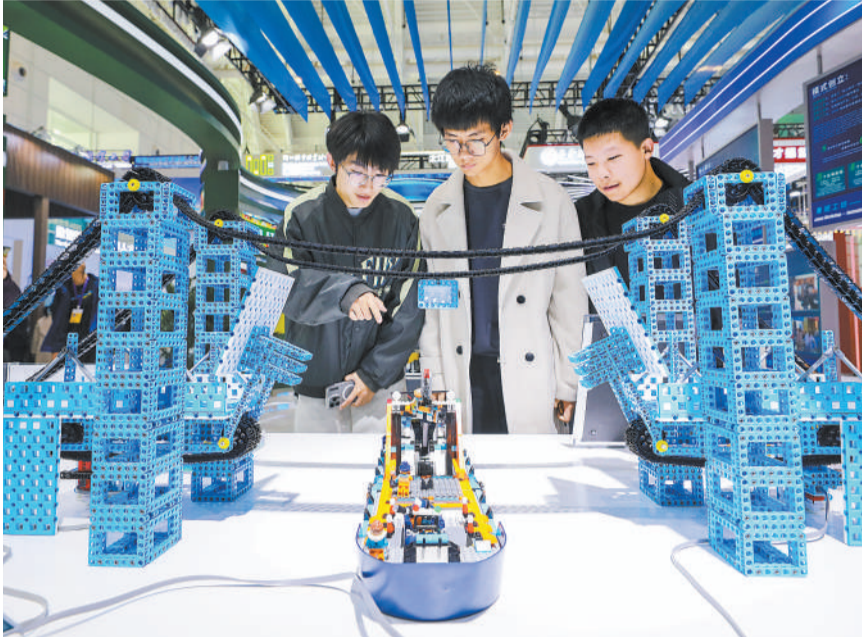
By ZHONG Jianli

The Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and the State Council recently issued a new education blueprint, outlining goals for building China into an educational powerhouse.

By 2035, the master plan seeks to establish a robust educational system that significantly enhances the nation's strategic capabilities and realizes overall educational modernization, effectively supporting the country's modernization drive and the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.

It emphasizes the cultivation and strengthening of national strategic sci-tech capabilities. A key feature of this plan is the implementation of breakthrough programs in fundamental and interdisciplinary disciplines. The initiative aims to position high-level research universities as the mainstay of national basic research and as originators of significant technological breakthroughs, enhancing the organization of basic research and establishing an effective mechanism for the mutual support of scientific innovation and talent training.

Moreover, the plan seeks to create collaborative innovation platforms



Students visit an exhibition at the 2024 World Vocational and Technical Education Development Conference held in Tianjin. (PHOTO: VCG)

among schools, enterprises, and local governments, improving major scientific infrastructure and resource banks, thereby cultivating top-tier scientific expertise and innovation teams to achieve breakthroughs in fundamental disciplines and lead interdisciplinary integration.

Youth development in science and technology is another crucial aspect of the plan. By fostering a spirit of scientific inquiry and tolerance for failure, the initiative aims to cultivate a new genera-

tion of high-level educators and academic masters.

In addition, the plan also highlights the need to improve the conversion efficiency of sci-tech achievements in higher education institutions. This will involve creating regional technology transfer centers based on national university technology parks and strengthening collaboration with various technology transfer platforms and innovation parks.

In promoting vocational education,

the plan advocates for a modern vocational education system that cultivates skilled artisans and high-level workforce expertises. There is a focus on shaping diverse educational forms and enhancing the integration of industry and education. This calls for the establishment of vocational education joint institutions at city level and encourages enterprises to engage in vocational education, thereby deepening cooperation in training and employment.

The creation of a "learning society" by pursuing a national digital education strategy, which emphasizes integration, intelligence, and internationalization, is another area of interest. This supports the development of education frameworks driven by AI, revising curricula, and enhancing teacher training to adapt to a digital society.

To position China as a significant global educational hub, the plan includes strategies for improving talent cultivation and attraction on a global scale. It encourages the selection of outstanding individuals to study in top international universities and facilitates youth exchanges.

Bolstering international academic exchanges and research collaborations is also on the plan's agenda, advocating for China's active participation in global education governance and support of the establishment and development of international STEM education institutions.

Comprehensive Plan for Rural Revitalization

By CHEN Chunyou

China aims to increase the level of grain supply and other vital agricultural products, as it pushes grain production capacity to steadily reach 700 million metric tonnes.

That's according to a recent comprehensive rural revitalization plan, spanning 2024 to 2027, released by the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and the State Council, aiming to address issues such as food security and agricultural modernization, and improve the quality of life in rural areas.

At its core, the plan prioritizes technological innovation, industrial growth, green transformation, infrastructure up-

grades, and the development of digital villages.

According to the plan, by 2027, China aims to achieve significant progress in rural revitalization, laying a solid foundation for agricultural modernization by 2035.

Reducing the urban-rural divide

The plan seeks to bridge the urban-rural gap by improving rural infrastructure. Investments will focus on upgrading water supply systems and energy networks, while also enhancing housing and rural public services. Initiatives such as a rural roads improvement campaign will be implemented to boost connectivity and accessibility for rural communities.

It also encourages the flow of tal-

ented personnel and related technologies to rural areas, and calls for coordinated urban and rural planning and the equalization of basic public services across both regions.

To ensure sustainable economic growth in rural regions, China will step up its efforts to cultivate a modern rural industrial system. The plan stresses fostering industries based on local specialties, upgrading agricultural processing capabilities and expanding rural tourism.

Moreover, the integration of primary, secondary, and tertiary industries is encouraged to create value-added supply chains and enhance farmers' incomes. Agricultural e-commerce and logistics systems will also be put in place to boost market access for rural products.

Tech innovation prioritized

The plan prioritizes technological innovation as a cornerstone for modernizing agriculture. Key measures include enhancing research on critical technologies, advancing smart agricultural equipment, and promoting precision farming techniques.

To strengthen agricultural productivity, China plans to implement projects such as the National Black Soil Protection Program and develop high-standard

farmland. Efforts will focus on building national seed resource platforms and supporting innovative enterprises in the seed industry.

To modernize governance and economic activities in rural areas, an upgrade is expected in digital infrastructure, implementation of smart agriculture solutions, and expanded access to e-government services. Programs such as the Digital Village Development Action Plan will be implemented to integrate technology into education, healthcare and cultural activities, ensuring that rural residents benefit from digital advancements.

China is intensifying its efforts to transition toward green and low-carbon agricultural practices, harmonizing ecological protection with economic growth. Key steps include promoting organic fertilizers, reducing chemical inputs, and advancing water-saving farming techniques.

Tackling agricultural pollution, strengthening biodiversity conservation, and encouraging circular agriculture are also included in the plan, which aligns with the broader goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and mitigating climate change impacts in rural areas.



A woman harvests sugar tangerines at a village in Liujiang district of Liuzhou city, south China's Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region. (PHOTO: XINHUA)

China Upgrades Data Annotation Sector

By Staff Reporters

To accelerate China's data sector's growth, and establish goals for 2027 that target advancements in professionalization, intelligence, and innovation within the sector, new guidelines were recently issued by the National Development and Reform Commission, the National Data Administration, and other relevant departments.

The guidelines also aim to enhance the high-quality development of the data annotation industry. Data annotation, involving professional data governance activities such as screening, cleansing, categorizing, annotating, labeling and quality inspection, plays a crucial role in enhancing the quality of data supply. It can improve the quality of data supply and is a key component in the develop-

ment of AI.

The guidelines anticipate a substantial increase in the scale of the data annotation industry with an annual compound growth rate exceeding 20 percent.

In addition, they detail nurturing influential technology-focused data annotation companies, promoting closer collaboration across industries, universities, research institutes, and end-users, and establishing distinctive data annotation bases. These efforts aim to form a comprehensive industrial ecosystem.

The guidelines outline four key tasks:

- Enhancing Demand-Driven Initiatives: This involves releasing public data annotation demands and promoting AI applications across various sectors such as government services, urban management, and rural revitalization. The guide-

lines also support industrial transformation by exploring enterprise-level data annotation needs and implementing actions to improve data efficiency in state-owned enterprises.

- Boosting Innovation: Efforts will focus on achieving breakthroughs in key technologies like cross-domain and multi-modal semantic alignment, 4D annotation, and large-model annotation. National R&D plans and major science projects will support these efforts. The development of intelligent tools for annotation review, quality assessment, and expert annotation, along with platforms integrating data, models, tools, and scenarios, is also a priority.

- Cultivating a Thriving Ecosystem: The guidelines propose nurturing leading enterprises to promote scaled, standardized, and intensive development. Ef-

forts will be made to facilitate the coordination among data collection, annotation, and AI application industries.

- Strengthening Security Measures: Establishing norms for identifying security risks related to data annotation, setting up monitoring and warning systems, and preparing emergency response mechanisms are critical. Assigning safety responsibilities throughout the data annotation process, protecting the rights and interests of data annotation enterprises during data circulation, and enhancing privacy protection, AI alignment, and safety assessment capabilities are also stressed.

Moving forward, relevant government departments will strengthen top-level planning for the industry and address critical challenges to ensure the successful implementation of the guidelines.

Case Study

Jinchang's Forage, Sheep Farming Go Hi-tech

By YU Haoyuan & XIE Manbin

In recent years, Jinchang city, located in northwest China's Gansu province, has successfully reshaped its agricultural sector by focusing on high-quality forage production, particularly purple alfalfa, moving away from its past focus on traditional crop cultivation. This shift takes advantage of its favorable location and the nourishment provided by snowmelt from the Qilian Mountains.

With policy incentives and market-driven mechanisms, Jinchang has scaled up its forage production, adopting mechanized and standardized practices. Today, it is not only Gansu's largest commercial alfalfa base but also a key national supplier of premium forage.

Now, from forage cultivation to dairy sheep breeding, Jinchang is leveraging technological innovation to drive high-quality development in animal husbandry.

Standardized forage cultivation

As another dawn breaks, busy scenes unfold at Gansu Yuansheng Agricultural and Animal Husbandry Technology Co., Ltd. in Yongchang county. Flat-bed trucks loaded with forage line up, waiting to be weighed. The forage undergoes dust removal and compression, transforming small bales into large cubes weighing 0.45 tonnes each, which are then transported to neighboring provinces within 48 hours.

"The alfalfa grown in Yongchang is rich in crude protein content. Professional testing institutions have evaluated that the overall feeding value of Yongchang alfalfa meets the standards for first-grade and superior-grade forage," said Zhang Jinsheng, administrative director of the company.

The company has established long-term strategic partnerships with major ranches such as the China Youran Dairy Group and Mengniu Dairy, along with numerous medium- and small-sized ranches across the country.

Diversifying industrial chain

By fostering new types of business entities and improving the production and operation system within the forage industry, Jinchang has developed 45 forage planting entities, 16 processing enterprises, and five feed production enterprises. These efforts involve over 1,000 farming households and have achieved an annual production capacity of 1.14 million tonnes, forming a fully integrated industrial chain from cultivation to processing and sales.

According to Wang Yan, director of the local sci-tech bureau, technological innovation plays a crucial role in the rapid development of the forage industry. Enterprises have strengthened their cooperation with institutions such as Lanzhou University and Gansu Agricultural University, inviting experts to demonstrate and promote technologies related to planting, storage, pest control, forage processing and quality inspection.

Additionally, Jinchang has estab-

lished municipal and county-level forage industry associations to connect all parties involved and provide comprehensive services throughout the process. By forming an industrial alliance and setting technical standards for the production and processing of premium forage, Jinchang is promoting the healthy development of the city's forage industry.

Smart sheep farming

At the core breeding farm for dairy sheep of Gansu Yuansheng, high-standard sheep sheds are neatly arranged, and expansive premium forage planting bases stretch as far as the eye can see.

Here, the application of "sheep face recognition system" was observed. Leveraging AI algorithms, the system automatically identifies detailed facial features of the sheep. It swiftly and accurately identifies individual sheep, creating unique tags for each, and records data including breed, age, and health status. Based on this information, the farm's smart management system can automatically adjust feeding plans to meet the nutritional needs of sheep at different growth stages, ensuring precise and optimal delivery of nutritious forage.

Recently, the breeding farm adopted data-driven, automated, and intelligent management. Real-time data on milk production is uploaded to the smart management system and ultimately integrated into the big data platform of the farm.

Zhang explained that the company has established three ecological dairy sheep farms, with a total stock of 39,200 dairy sheep. These farms have achieved a daily milk production of 11 tonnes. Fully incorporating digital technology, the farm implements intelligent management practices such as electronic ear tag identification, automatic flock separation, and automated weighing, ensuring precise care for every dairy sheep — from birth to daily feeding, health management, and milk production.

To promote the high-quality development of the dairy sheep industry chain, Gansu Yuansheng collaborates with institutions to cultivate new varieties of dual-purpose dairy sheep, suited for both meat and milk production. Through continuous efforts, the company's sheep milk has been successfully included in the national list of specialty and high-quality agricultural products.



Gansu Yuansheng's dairy sheep breeding farm. (PHOTO: XIE Manbin)

Tech Empowers 9th Asian Winter Games

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Ji Yanqi, an expert from China Unicom's Heilongjiang branch, emphasized the technology's critical role in enhancing event security and operational efficiency.

Additionally, advanced technologies such as the 5G-A network have been deployed to further enhance the event's security capabilities.

Despite the tight preparation period, the event has received high praise.

"We are very happy and very pleased. The organizing committee had only one year to prepare for the Games and they've done a marvelous job," said Vinod Kumar Tiwari, deputy director general of the Olympic Council of Asia.

Yu Zaiqing, an International Olympic Committee member, said the Games will contribute to the growth of winter sports across Asia, inspiring more participation in the years to come.