



The Rural Turning Point: China in a Global Perspective

14th International Conference on Agriculture and
Rural Development in China (ICARDC XIV)

www.icardc.org

Yinchuan, China, 21-23 October 2018

Hosted by Ningxia University

Co-organized by:

Academy of New Rural Development
School of Economics and Management
School of Resources and Environment

Conference theme

Over the past decades, China has undergone a marked development, unprecedented urbanisation and industrialisation, as well as a profound transformation of the rural landscape. Simultaneously, this significant growth has had its toll: a widening rural-urban income gap, increasing distributional conflict over resources, widespread pollution and related health issues, financial bubbles and bad loans, and ecological degradation. Moreover, in recent years, China's domestic growth has clearly slowed down. In this context, many wonder whether Chinese development may have reached a critical turning point: in socio-economic, political, environmental and cultural terms.

In light of the above, ICARDC XIV and Ningxia University, have jointly launched this year's conference theme – **The Rural Turning Point: China in a Global Perspective**. We would like to invite Chinese academics and international

scholars, development practitioners and those from diverse policy arenas to contribute thoughts, papers and panels around the theme as stated above. The wider objectives of the conference involve not only a critical reflection on and rethinking of China's developmental status-quo, but also, on a historical and contemporary basis to compare it with developed and other developing regions of the world. More in particular, we encourage participants to consider similarities and differences with regard to the Chinese urban-rural divide or integration, the lessons that China can learn from such a comparison, and what contributions the Chinese experiences can make, theoretically, methodologically and empirically, to our understanding and knowledge of processes of development and change.

Topics under this broad conference theme may include, but not be limited to, the following:

- (1) China's experiences of agricultural development (农业发展的中国经验)
- (2) International Comparison on agricultural development (农业发展的国际比较)
- (3) Natural resource and environmental management, and property rights analysis (自然资源与环境管理和产权分析)
- (4) International experiences of increasing farmers' income and safeguarding livelihood (农民增收的国际经验)
- (5) International comparison on agrarian institutions(农地制度的国际比较)
- (6) International comparison and experiences of food and safety (农产品安全监管的国际比较与经验)
- (7) Experiences of and international cooperation on rural poverty reduction (农村减贫经验及国际合作)
- (8) Cooperatives as a means of organizing agricultural production (农业合作社和产业化)
- (9) Global agricultural cooperation and agricultural trade (全球农业合作与农产品贸易)
- (10) Institutional innovation and agricultural development (制度创新与农业发展)

When addressing the above topics, you may wish to discuss their specific aspects, for example:

- the market (of commodities, labour, credit and finance, property rights, ownership);
- the state (e.g. democratisation, civil society, governance, fiscal systems);
- society (e.g. poverty, inequality, social exclusion/inclusion);
- social support mechanisms, community organisation and participation);
- culture (e.g. changing values, norms and social practices, consumerism, discourse and power, shifting identities);
- technology (e.g. emerging forms of agriculture, including hi-tech farming, agro-industries, agro-businesses, skills development, scale, investment, extension and innovation, as well as commercial integration);

- environment and climate change (e.g. environmental degradation and the impact on natural resources, farming practices, ecologically sustainable farming and diversified management, organic agriculture and green products);
- social risk (e.g., its social context and public policy relevance, risk regulation and management regimes, and perceptions of and responses to societal and environmental risks).

Panel and/or paper proposals

It is possible to present an individual paper, or to propose a panel with several participants. We welcome any paper or panel proposal that touches on the theme of ICARDC XIV dealing with one or more of the above topics.

NOTE: A special session will be hosted on “Land, Housing and Natural Resources: Rethinking Property Rights and Institutions”, with particular reference to credibility theory and informality (see also: www.recoland.eu). A selection of high-quality papers from this special session is intended for publication as a special issue with an SSCI-rated journal (usual standards for peer-review apply). For those interested in submitting, please contact Prof. Peter Ho at icardc.secretariat@gmail.com.

The announcement of other special sessions will be done after proposals have been received and reviewed.

Registration and contacts

Participants who wish to present a paper and/or organise a panel must submit a paper and/or panel abstract (max. 250 words) **by 15 July 2018**. Participants must subsequently register for the conference. Those who want to take part in the conference, but do not wish to present are also kindly asked to register **by the same date**.

For registration, please mail to Prof. Zheng Qiang, upok@qq.com (mobile: 185.0951.6667) with a cc to Dr. Wang Zhongmei, wangzhongmei2@163.com (mobile 137.0957.6833). If you need an invitation letter for your visa, please notify the local organizers at Ningxia University as soon as possible.

Full conference papers and presentations

The full papers must be submitted to Prof. Zheng Qiang at upok@qq.com before **1 September 2018** so they can be made available for the discussants and other participants in good time. Those who cannot meet this deadline are kindly asked to bring sufficient copies of their papers to distribute to the other participants at the conference.

Publication

Special sessions at ICARDC XIV aim to publish a selection of high quality papers as an edited volume or a special issue of a quality refereed journal. For more information, please contact the panel organizers in which your paper has been included. Former ICARDC conferences have resulted in well-received edited volumes and special journal issues.

Registration and costs

The conference fee is 500 RMB Yuan per participant and 250 RMB Yuan per student/concession rate, which includes access to the conference, three lunches and a conference dinner (to be paid upon arrival).

About ICARDC

ICARDC was established in 1989 by concerned scholars and development practitioners to create a forum for exchanging research findings on agriculture and rural development in China, which was by then rapidly changing on a scale unprecedented in history. With currently over 350 members from China, other Asian countries, the various European Union member states, the USA, Australia and other developed and developing countries, ICARDC can rightfully be termed a major academic community and network focusing on China's development in general, and agricultural and rural development in particular. Successful ICARDC conferences were held inside and outside of China, which have also led to a series of well-received publications with leading international journals and academic publishers. We hope to welcome and meet you all in beautiful Yinchuan in October this year!

Membership and mailing list

You can become a member of ICARDC by subscribing to the mailing list at icardc.secretariat@gmail.com. Your name will then be included in the mailing list, after which you will be automatically updated with the latest news on ICARDC activities, including its biannual conferences, job openings and PhD scholarships, etc.

NOTE: Please do **NOT** email any correspondence about ICARDC XIV to the ICARDC Secretariat.

Further details about the ICARDC Network can be found on its website at www.icardc.org