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Explanatory Notes

In the articles Chinese (traditional) units are used:
1 mu equals around 1/15 ha
1 Rmb or yuan equals around 1/8 US$ (in 2002)

For a good understanding of the articles, it is necessary to give some explanation of the administrative organization of the state and the collective. The Chinese state is divided into two echelons: a national and a local level. The local level includes the province, the municipality or prefecture, and the county. The term ‘collective’ or ‘rural collective’ refers to the successor of the so-called people’s commune that was established in 1958 and disbanded in the mid-1980s. Apart from regional variations, the people’s commune generally consisted of three levels: the commune, the production brigade and the production team. After decollectivization, these were replaced respectively by the township, the administrative village and the natural village or villagers’ group (see figure below).