

Call for Papers

# ICARDC NETWORK

## China's Rural Futures: New Movements, New Technologies, and New Institutions

17<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Agriculture and Rural Development in China  
(ICARDC XVII)

Singapore, 29-30 July 2024  
Hosted by School of Social Sciences,  
Singapore Management University

### Conference theme

By launching the “Rural Revitalization Strategy” (RRS) in 2017, the central government of China has identified rural development as a key target in the national project of “rejuvenating the Chinese nation”. As the first term of the RRS has recently been concluded, now may be a good time to take stock of its implementation and impact, and evaluate what kind of revitalized rural futures are emerging (or not).

While continued urbanization, rural-urban integration, and expansion of “modern” agriculture and industries remain key targets in the rural revitalization strategy, new priorities have also been added to the agenda, especially ecological improvements and cultural revitalization. In fact, together with the initial launch of the RRS during the 19<sup>th</sup> Party Congress, President Xi’s “theory of ecological civilization” was also added to the Party Charter, signaling an ideological shift from single-mindedly pursuing economic growth to embracing ecological rationality.

With the increased attention devoted to rural issues and new priorities identified, what rural future is envisioned and pursued in the RRS, and what has come out of these visions and pursuits? What institutional reforms and policy changes are being implemented on the ground as part of rural revitalization, and to what effect? Furthermore, are there alternative visions of the rural future being developed and alternative strategies being pursued by scholars, activists, rural residents, entrepreneurs and non-governmental actors? What roles do new technologies such as digital, bio-, and energy technologies play in creating new alternatives in rural development and shaping alternative rural futures?

Against the backdrop of all of the above, ICARDC XVII invites empirically grounded and/or theoretically innovative papers (8-10,000 words) from Chinese and international researchers, development practitioners, and those from diverse policy arenas to contribute papers and/or panels around the theme of how the RRS and other new developments are creating new visions of China’s rural futures and diverse pathways of development. Topics under this broad conference theme include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Societal, political, cultural and intellectual debates around the competing visions of China’s rural future;
2. Theories, methods and practices of “ecological civilization”;
3. Environmental and nature protection as a new policy priority and its impact on agricultural development, rural industries, and rural livelihoods;

4. Decline (or resilience) of household farming, expansion of agribusiness and market integration, and practices of sustainable agriculture;
5. New trends in urbanization (and counter-urbanization), migration (and return migration), and rural-urban linkage;
6. Novel developments in family, gender, marriage, labour, and demography;
7. Changes in (and contestations over) land-rights , land use practices and natural resource management;
8. The use and impact of digital technologies and devices in agricultural production and marketing, rural consumption, and social lives;
9. Energy use and energy production in rural China, especially renewable energies;
10. Global developments, transnational flows and their local impact;
11. The use of biotechnologies (GMOs, new seed varieties and animal breeds) and the related social and political dynamics;

We welcome both individual papers and proposals for panels. A selection of contributors will be invited to present their draft papers at the ICARDC XVII Conference in Singapore. From these contributions, a collection of high-quality papers will be invited to join to a special issue on the theme of rural revitalization and rural futures with a SSCI-rated journal (subjected to the regular peer-review process).

### **Paper and panel abstracts**

If you are interested in contributing a paper, please send us a long abstract (100-300 words) before **31 January 2024**. (For panel proposals, please indicate the name and institutional affiliation of each participant and include an abstract and title for each paper.) The abstracts for papers and/or panels can be sent to [ICARDC2024@gmail.com](mailto:ICARDC2024@gmail.com) with CC to [icardc.secretariat@gmail.com](mailto:icardc.secretariat@gmail.com). Selection of abstracts and panels for presentation at the conference will be announced before **29 February 2024**. Those whose abstracts have been accepted will need to submit the full papers no later than **30 June 2024**.

### **Submission deadlines and guidelines:**

- 31 January 2024: Submission of abstracts and panel proposals;
- 29 February 2024: Selection announced;
- 31 March 2024: Registration for the conference;
- 30 June 2024: Submission of draft paper;
- 29-30 July 2024: ICARDC XVII conference;
- 31 October 2024: Submission of revised papers for those selected to contribute to the special issue.