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The Sustainability of Agricultural Development in China: The AgricultureEnvironment Nexus

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Discussion Research ID	DPR-2026-1088
Year	2018
Field	Social Sciences
DOI	10.3390/su10061776
Author ORCID	0000-0002-9615-157X
Licence	CC-BY
Original source	Sustainability
Permanent link	https://discussionpublishers.com/research/8f21e680-43f8-41d8-ad25-919247d8065f
Publisher	Discussion Publishers discussionpublishers.com

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Cite as: Jialing Yu, Jian Wu (2018). The Sustainability of Agricultural Development in . Discussion Publishers, DPR-2026-1088.

Abstract

The article aims to provide an overview of Chinas agricultural development and itssustainability by focusing on the agricultureenvironmental nexus. We first review literatureregarding trends in agricultural development and driving forces. China has made impressiveprogress at providing food for 22% of the worlds population. At the same time, severe environmentalimpacts have been incurred which not only affect future food security but also have impacts on othersocio-economic aspects. The agricultural policies that have been put into practice have direct orindirect impacts on such environmental outcomes. We review the impacts of agricultural policiesas well as conservation policies, their effectiveness, some unintended consequences and conflicts.The article concludes that technology and institutional innovation in China should emphasize moreintegrated sustainable development considering the agricultureenvironment nexus, instead ofsetting incoherent and sometimes incompatible policy goals for each separate side.

Keywords: sustainable agricultural development, agricultural policy, environmental impact of agriculture, food

Full text

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Original record: https://doi.org/10.3390/su10061776
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