

Green development becomes new drivers of Yunnan's economic transformation

Green Development

Reputed as a kingdom of animals and plants, Yunnan is a province of abundant ecological resources. How does it translate its ecological advantages into development edges? This has been the task for the provincial government over the years. In January 2018, the provincial government and CPC committee officially set the development goals of building green food, green energy and health care industries in a bid to realize quality development of the province.



Zuxiang organic tea garden in Puer, city Southwest Yunnan Province (File Photo)

At present, Yunnan's agricultural sector is carrying out industrial structure optimization to promote green production, agricultural processing, ensure the quality of green products and building their brands.

Foster health care industries to promote health tours

Li Malin, vice governor of the province who used to serve as president of Yunnan University of Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM), said that Yunnan is promoting the integration of TCM with health care, pension and tourism industries through expanding domestic and international cooperation, and building TCM service and R&D centers targeting South Asian and Southeast Asian markets.

To establish Yunnan as a destination of healthy life, it is crucial to foster a whole health care industry chain by focusing on the development of a health care complex which integrates medical services, R&D, education and more. Through promoting all-in-one smart phone tourism services, Yunnan is also striving to upgrade and transform its tourism, attracting tourists to travel, work and live in Yunnan. "We are trying to bring health to the locals, and attract those who wants to be healthy."

(Guangming Daily / Zhang Yong)

Three green industries

The three green industries are largely dependent on Yunnan's rich ecological resources. As an important ecological barrier of China, Yunnan has a forest land area of 391 million mu, ranking second in China, a forest accumulation rate of 1.895 billion m, also second in China, and a forest coverage rate of 59.3% which takes the seventh place. The exploitable hydropower resources and installed power capacity of Yunnan rank third and sixth, respectively nationwide.

Different parts of Yunnan have been promoting green growth focusing on these three areas based on their local conditions. Zhang Zhizheng, a deputy of the National Peo-

ple's Congress and mayor of Lincang City, said, "Lincang has just been rated as one of the National Forest Cities last year. There are good conditions to develop hydro, wind and solar energies, agricultural products such as tea and nuts, as well as health care industries relying on its good climate, abundant hot spring and forest resources."

Green food on green plateau

Thousands of seedlings of red-flower magnolia, Verbena, rose, golden grapefruit and American cherry thriving on the rocky hills, vegetable base fully covered with automatic sprinkling system, green-tech future center, rainwater col-

lection and activation system... these were among what we had seen at the China-Australia Center for Sustainable Research and Development of Biological Resources in Yanshan County, Wenshan City of Yunnan. Chinese and Australian scientists here join hands to study farm-to-table organic farming in the hope of building an ecological agricultural park for scientific research and sightseeing.

"To develop green food, we have to ensure food safety. The soil has to be healthy in the first place, however, soil pollution is very serious today and we need to start with improving soil quality and use organic fertilizers we develop to replace chemical ones," introduced Dr. Yang Yun, the lead scientist of the center.

On the southern slope of Baizhushan Nature Reserve, Chuxiong, thousands of acres of tea gardens extend over the rolling mountains. Yao Zhiben, technical director of a local tea producer, told us: "Our tea gardens are at 2300 meters above sea level. Good climate, good vegetation and good soil ensure great production."

Currently, Yunnan has 21 famous agricultural brands and more than 2000 certified green organic agricultural products. Flowers, Pu'er tea, pseudo-ginseng and many other regional brands have gained global reputations. The plantation areas of walnut and macadamia in Yunnan rank first worldwide. Yunnan's export of agricultural products has topped China's western provinces for many years.

IPR protection benefits Yunnan flower growers

Intellectual property

Last year, Kunming exported 170 million U.S. dollars worth of flowers to more than 40 countries and regions. Not long ago, however, it was not easy for Chinese growers to explore international markets.

According to Yang Yuyong, chairman of Kunming Yang's Rose Horticulture Company, the European, American, Japanese and other markets have long had their own plant patent protection laws. Flowers sold on the international market must be legally grown, and patent royalties must be paid. Thus, in the past, most Chinese flower growers chose to focus on varieties that had been eliminated abroad. The costs were low, but the products could not meet export requirements.

In recent years, however, Yunnan province issued a series of policies to encourage innovation and strengthen the creation, protection and application of intellectual property rights for its flower industry. In 2009, the province promulgated "Regulations on the Development of the Flower Industry in Yunnan" to promote the development of new varieties.

"Independent research and development of new varieties requires a lot of manpower and financial resources, and the government has intensified support in recent years," said Yang Yuyong. He added

that the government now exempts enterprises from income tax fees and encourages them to develop new varieties.

To date, Yunnan province has cumulatively cultivated 560 new flower varieties and registered more than 100 innovative technologies and patents associated with the industry.

In 2006, the Kunming International Flower Auction Trading Centre (KIFATC) introduced a tripartite cooperation model. Under this framework, agreements were signed among breeding companies, flower growers and auction markets so that growers do not have to pay royalties before growing patented varieties. Instead, the royalties are deducted when the flowers are sold at auction.

By the end of 2017, according to the statistics provided by KIFATC, 3,781 flower growers had turned to patented rose varieties. This has led to acreage under cultivation increasing to more than 220 hectares, involving 98 patented varieties, such as Schirus and Deruytery. KIFATC collected patent royalties of 8.47 million yuan for Yang's Rose, Yunxiu Flowers and other domestic breeders last year.

(Xinhua / Yao Bing)

Sunbird Mother wins Best Original Music Award in USA

Culture

The 15th Universe Multicultural Film Festival recently ended in Los Angeles, USA. The music, Sun Bird Mother, created by the Xichou County of Wenshan Zhuang and Miao Autonomous Prefecture won the Best Original Film Music Award.

Over 1,000 films from 43 countries were registered to participate in the Festival. The eight-minute film "Sun Bird Mother - Dance Spirit" and the original music, Sun Bird Mother, submitted by Xichong County were both selected. Sun Bird Mother

was awarded the best original film song award by the committee.

Xichou County is rich in ethnic culture. Manlong Hualuo Hulusheng dance and Tangu Village Female Sun Mountain Worship ceremony have been included on the national intangible cultural heritage protection list. According to expert research, The Female Sun Festival of Zhuang people originated from a matriarchal society and has a history of thousands of years.

(Yunnan Daily)

American man growing fruits in Dali for 20 years

Foreigners in Yunnan

"I was born in Iran. I'm a U.S. citizen. And my home is in China," 60-year-old Faraz always introduces himself like this. He has been living in Dali, southwest China's Yunnan Province for almost twenty years and has been dedicated to fruit planting here.

Back to the year of 1997, in charge of the Asian business of an international fresh fruit trading company, Faraz first visited Dali Bai Autonomous Prefecture on business and the climate here caught his attention.

"With its different elevation, Dali is suitable for planting diverse kinds of fruits." Having this idea in mind, Faraz and his family moved to Dali two years later. And he tried to plant avocado and raspberry at first, but failed. In 2005, he cooperated with local villagers in Midu County, Dali Prefecture and successfully planted about 10 acres of yellow lemons.

In 2002, Faraz began plant-

ing cherries in his Dali SOL Farm in Midu. The 15,000 cherry trees in his farm are currently at an average height of 2 meters, covering more than 10 varieties and the annual production is five to six tons. This year, Faraz's cherry harvest came in late February and early March, at least one month earlier than others'. And the price of his cherries reached over 200 yuan per kilogram, much higher than that of imported cherries which were sold at 80 yuan per kilogram.

"Our goal is not to export cherries to other countries. With growing demands for high-quality food in China, I believe that safe, nutritious and tasty organic food will become more and more popu-



Faraz and his cherries in Dali, Southwest Yunnan Province (Online Photo)

lar in the country," said Faraz.

In addition, Faraz has produced fruit yogurt by using local fruits. His yogurt products have gained popularity among tourists to Dali.

Faraz said that when he first came to Dali 20 years ago, he has difficulty in communicating with local people because of the language barriers. But now, as his work and life are closely associated with Dali, he feels like he is a local.

China well on its course of reforms

Voice

"I wish to emphasize that with regard to all those major initiatives of opening-up that I have just announced, we have every intention to translate them into reality, sooner rather than later," said President Xi Jinping during a recent speech at the Boao Forum on Asia.

Chinese President Xi talked about new reforming and opening up measures including "significantly broadening market access," "creating a more attractive investment environment," "strengthening protection of intellectual property rights" and "expanding imports" from around the world.

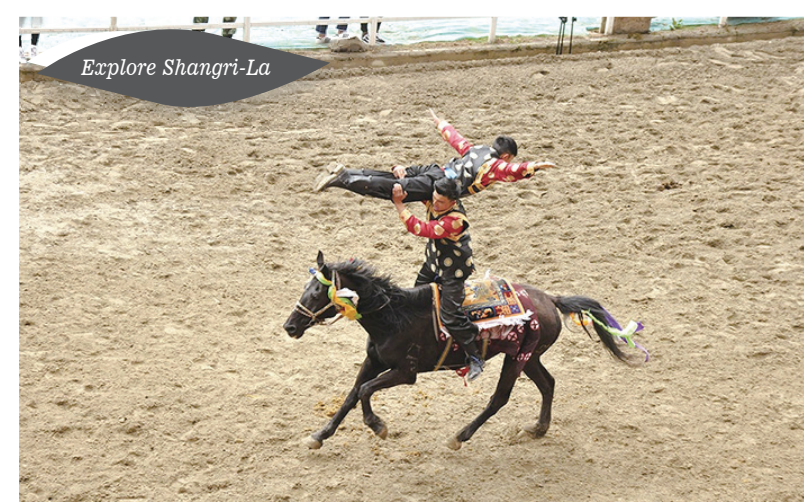
There's been warm response to that message of further opening up. But there are also questions and suspicions, such as whether China would truly follow a path of reforms after 40 years of opening up to the rest of the world.

Now, those suspicions are being dispelled as more and more concrete reforms are unveiled by the Chinese government. On April 17, China's top economic planner - the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) - announced that China will end shareholder limits for new energy vehicle firms this year, including those that produce

electric cars. Three days later after his Boao speech, Xi Jinping announced another big move of plans to turn the Province of Hainan into a pilot free trade zone and then into a free trade port.

With its firm commitment to more reform and opening up, China, the second largest economy in the world, shoulders a massive responsibility to promote free trade and globalization.

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Explore Shangri-La

The three-day horse racing festival is held in Shangri-La, Yunnan Province concurrent to the Dragon Boat Festival every year. The local people of all ethnic groups would gather in the forests around the race course, staging cultural shows and having picnic. The riders would try their best to show off various tricks, sometimes kneeling on the horse back and sometimes hanging on side of horses. Besides horse racing, traditional sports such as crossbow and archery would also take place. (Yunnan Daily)