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# Countermeasures for Advancing Agricultural and Rural Modernization in Xiaohaotu Township, Yulin City, under the "Rural Revitalization Strategy"

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## Abstract

Agriculture provides a fundamental underpinning for national stability and people's livelihoods. As a major agricultural country, China has long attached strategic importance to agriculture in its national economy. With the continued implementation of the rural revitalization strategy, traditional modes of agricultural production and operation have become increasingly inadequate to meet the requirements of large-scale, mechanized, green, and modern agricultural development. In recent years, Xiaohaotu Township in Yulin City, Shaanxi Province, building on its established strengths in grain production and livestock farming, has continuously promoted the construction of high-standard farmland, water-saving irrigation, agricultural mechanization, and the development of new agricultural business entities. As a result, its comprehensive agricultural production capacity has steadily improved, rural residents incomes have continued to rise, and notable progress has been made in agricultural and rural modernization. Nevertheless, several constraints remain, including insufficient modern agricultural management capacity among farmers, the limited driving role of new agricultural business entities, and a mismatch between financial support and the funding needs of modern agricultural development. Against this background, this study examines the current state and major constraints of agricultural and rural modernization in Xiaohaotu Township and proposes corresponding countermeasures in three areas: strengthening farmers modern agricultural management capacity, fostering and expanding new agricultural business entities, and improving the agricultural financial support system. The study is expected to provide useful reference for advancing comprehensive rural revitalization and agricultural and rural modernization in Xiaohaotu Township.

### Keywords

rural revitalization, agricultural and rural modernization, agricultural industrialization, Xiaohaotu township

## 1. Introduction

### 1.1 General Profile of Xiaohaotu Township

Xiaohaotu Township is located in the northwestern part of Yulin City, Shaanxi Province, at the northernmost end of Yuyang District and along the southern edge of the Mu Us Desert. Situated at the junction



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of Shaanxi Province and the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, it is approximately 65 kilometers from the urban area of Yulin and is characterized by a typical sandy grassland landscape. In December 2001, Erlin Township was incorporated into Xiaohaotu Township. The township currently administers 17 administrative villages and 94 villager groups, with a population predominantly composed of Han Chinese. It covers a total area of 57,376.60 hectares, including 4,866.67 hectares of cultivated land,18,176 hectares of forest land, and 33,752 hectares of grassland. The township features an extensive territory and relatively diverse terrain. Its abundant sunshine, deep soil layers, and favorable conditions for cultivation provide important natural advantages for agricultural production, making it one of the important grain-producing areas in the region. Table 1 presents an overview of the major economic indicators of Xiaohaotu Township in 2023 and 2024.

*Table 1: Major Economic Indicators of Xiaohaotu Township,2023–2024*

| Year | Gross Agricultural Output Value (10,000 yuan) | Total Grain Output (tons) | Number of Sheep Raised (head) | Number of Cattle Raised (head) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2023 | 51,000 | 52,800 | 143,500 | 12,000 |
| 2024 | 67,703 | 39,968 | 145,377 | 9,389 |

*Data source: Compiled from the 2023–2024 statistical bulletins on the national economic and social development of Yuyang District and materials published by Yuyang publicity authorities.*

## 1.2 Basic Conditions of Agricultural and Rural Modernization

In recent years, the government of Xiaohaotu Township has attached great importance to issues concerning agriculture, rural areas, and farmers, continuously implemented national policies aimed at strengthening agriculture and benefiting rural residents, and accelerated the transformation of agricultural production and rural industrial development in accordance with local resource endowments and the existing industrial base. With an emphasis on large-scale, standardized, mechanized, and green development, the township has focused on grain production, livestock farming, and specialty agriculture. Through improvements in agricultural infrastructure, the cultivation of new agricultural business entities, and the development of agricultural socialized services, its comprehensive agricultural production capacity and level of modernization have continued to improve.

In 2024, the township recorded a gross agricultural output value of RMB 677.03 million and a total grain output of 39,968 tons. The number of sheep raised reached 145,377, while cattle numbered 9,389, and total meat production amounted to 3,212.79 tons. Per capita disposable income of permanent rural residents reached RMB 24,707. Overall, agricultural production conditions have continued to improve, agricultural business entities have become increasingly diversified, farmers'incomes have risen steadily, and the foundations for agricultural and rural modernization have been further consolidated. These developments are mainly reflected in the following three aspects..

### 1.2.1 Accelerated Development of New Agricultural Business Entities and Gradual Improvement of the Modern Agricultural Industrial System

With the continuous advancement of agricultural and rural modernization, the structure of agricultural business entities in Xiaohaotu Township has gradually expanded from traditional large-scale farming and livestock households to include agricultural enterprises, farmers'specialized cooperatives, and village collective economic organizations. Meanwhile, supporting agricultural services and industrial chains have continued to improve.

In 2024, the Mingdingchang Drip Irrigation Equipment Processing Plant project in Yuyang District, Yulin City, was established in Baotu Village, providing supporting facilities for large-scale cultivation and water-saving agriculture. Building on this foundation, the agricultural industrial chain has gradually expanded toward procurement, drying, storage, and specialty breeding. Yulin Tanzhihui Biotechnology Co., Ltd., for example, integrates corn procurement, drying, and storage. Covering more than 20 mu of land, the company has a daily corn-drying capacity of over 300 tons and can complete the drying of wet corn in approximately four hours. This has effectively reduced post-harvest drying losses and eased pressure caused by the concentrated sale of grain during harvest periods. The Aquaculture Specialized Cooperative of Daotu Village, meanwhile, has utilized local sandy-land lakes and ponds to develop ecological aquaculture. In 2025, the cooperative constructed 20 mu of new fish ponds and stocked 40,000 carp and grass carp fingerlings together with 4,500 Chinese mitten crabs, further diversifying specialty agricultural production and creating additional channels



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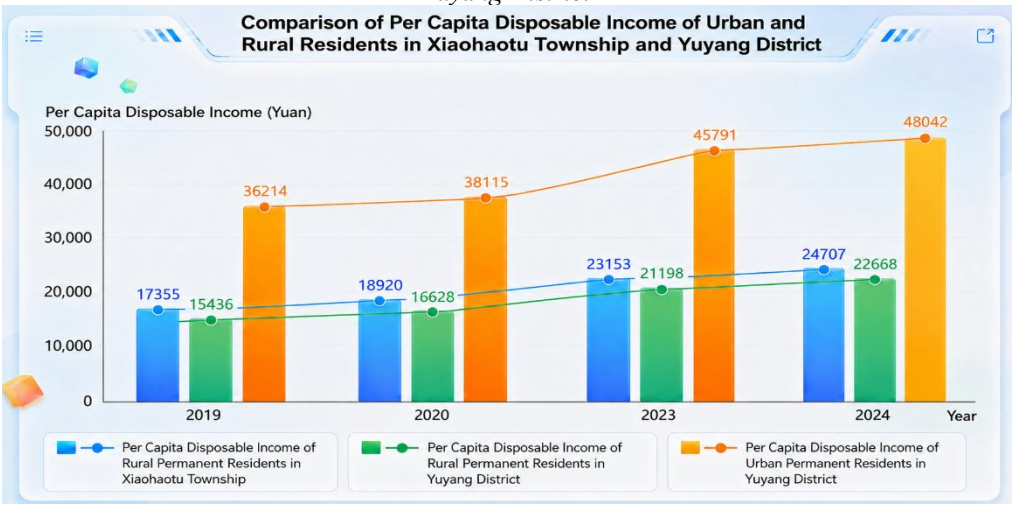
for increasing farmers'incomes. Overall, Xiaohaotu Township has gradually developed a modern agricultural structure based on grain and specialty crop cultivation, supported by agricultural production services and post-harvest grain handling, and complemented by livestock and aquaculture. The continued development of new agricultural business entities has contributed to higher levels of organization and modernization in local agricultural production.

### 1.2.2 Steady Growth in Farmers' Incomes and Increasing Livelihood Benefits

The advancement of agricultural and rural modernization has not only improved agricultural productivity, extended agricultural value chains, and diversified income-generating channels, but has also provided important support for increasing farmers'incomes in Xiaohaotu Township. As shown in Figure 1, the per capita disposable income of permanent rural residents in Xiaohaotu Township was RMB 17,355 in 2019, RMB 18,920 in 2020, RMB 23,153 in 2023, and RMB 24,707 in 2024, demonstrating a sustained upward trend. Between 2019 and 2024, per capita disposable income increased by RMB 7,352, representing cumulative growth of 42.36%. During the same years, per capita disposable income of permanent rural residents in Yuyang District stood at RMB 15,436, RMB 16,628, RMB 21,198, and RMB 22,668, respectively. Xiaohaotu Township therefore remained above the district-wide rural average throughout the period, suggesting that the development of large-scale agricultural operations, new agricultural business entities, and agricultural socialized services has contributed positively to rural income growth.

With higher levels of agricultural mechanization and the continuous improvement of post-harvest services such as corn procurement, drying, and storage, farmers have been able to reduce production costs and post-harvest grain losses to some extent. The development of specialty crop cultivation and livestock and aquaculture industries has also broadened the sources of income available to both rural households and village collectives. Nevertheless, a substantial urban–rural income gap remains. In 2024, the per capita disposable income of permanent rural residents in Xiaohaotu Township was RMB 24,707, equivalent to only 51.4% of the RMB 48,042 recorded for urban residents in Yuyang District, leaving a gap of RMB 23,335. This indicates that although agricultural industrialization in Xiaohaotu Township has achieved some success in promoting farmers'income growth, considerable potential remains to strengthen its income-generating effects. In particular, shortcomings remain in the spillover and driving capacity of leading agricultural enterprises, the benefit-sharing relationships between new agricultural business entities and farmers, the application of agricultural science and technology, and financial support. These factors have constrained the extent to which progress in agricultural and rural modernization can be translated into sustained income growth for rural households.

*Figure 1: Comparison of Per Capita Disposable Income of Urban and Rural Residents in Xiaohaotu Township and Yuyang District*






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### 1.2.3 Continued Implementation of Key Projects to Strengthen the Foundations for Agricultural and Rural Modernization

In recent years, Xiaohaotu Township has continuously improved the basic conditions for modern agricultural development through the implementation of key projects involving high-standard farmland, water-saving irrigation, and large-scale livestock farming. In 2025, Xiaohaotu Township was included within the scope of Yuyang District's high-standard farmland construction program. The project focuses on land consolidation, irrigation and drainage systems, field roads, and soil fertility improvement, thereby providing stronger infrastructure support for large-scale and standardized agricultural production. At the same time, Jiamingcaidang Village was incorporated into a high-efficiency dryland water-saving agriculture project, under which traditional flood irrigation is being replaced with drip irrigation to improve the efficiency of water and fertilizer use. In the livestock sector, the Baotu Village Shareholding Economic Cooperative has promoted a new low-carbon pig-farming demonstration project. With a planned investment of RMB 15 million, the project is designed to establish a finishing pig farm with a capacity of 5,000 head, together with supporting facilities including an organic fertilizer plant, biogas digesters, and feed storage facilities. The project aims to integrate large-scale livestock production with the resource utilization of animal waste. Overall, the implementation of these key projects is gradually shifting agricultural development in Xiaohaotu Township away from a model centered primarily on expanding cultivation and livestock production toward a more integrated model combining improved infrastructure, technological application, and green production. This transformation provides important support for increasing agricultural productivity and industrial carrying capacity. Nevertheless, most existing projects remain concentrated in production infrastructure and primary cultivation and breeding activities. Greater efforts are still needed to strengthen industrial coordination among projects and enhance their long-term spillover effects. Constraints also remain in funding, technology adoption, and the participation of agricultural business entities.

## 2. Countermeasures for Agricultural and Rural Modernization in Xiaohaotu Township

To address the major problems currently confronting Xiaohaotu Township—including insufficient modern agricultural management capacity among farmers, the limited driving role of new agricultural business entities, and an inadequate match between financial support and development needs—the township should build on its existing strengths in grain cultivation, livestock farming, and specialty agriculture. Greater efforts should be made to enhance farmers' modern agricultural management capacity, cultivate and expand new agricultural business entities, and improve the agricultural financial support system. Through the coordinated transformation of agricultural production modes, business organization, and resource allocation, the overall level of agricultural and rural modernization can be further improved.

### 2.1 Strengthen Training and Agricultural Services to Improve Farmers' Modern Agricultural Management Capacity

Farmers are key participants in agricultural industrialization, and their production and management capabilities directly affect the overall level of agricultural development. In response to weaknesses in standardized production, access to market information, cooperative management, and the adoption of new technologies, Xiaohaotu Township should further enhance the relevance and effectiveness of agricultural training and service provision. First, agricultural production and technical training should be strengthened. Agricultural enterprises, specialized cooperatives, and agricultural machinery service organizations can be utilized to provide technical training and on-site guidance related to grain cultivation, water-saving irrigation, mechanized operations, livestock farming, and other key areas. Such measures would improve farmers'capacity for standardized production and the adoption of modern agricultural technologies. Second, greater attention should be given to market-oriented management and digital skills. Farmers should be provided with timely information on agricultural product prices, market demand, production technologies, and related issues in order to strengthen their market assessment, cooperative management, and risk-response capabilities. Third, the agricultural socialized service system should be further improved. The demonstration and service functions of agricultural enterprises, specialized cooperatives, and agricultural machinery organizations should be fully utilized to integrate technical training, production services, and business guidance. In this way, farmers can be encouraged to transition from traditional production and management practices toward larger-scale,



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specialized, and industrialized agricultural operations, thereby enhancing their capacity to participate in modern agricultural development and rural revitalization.

## 2.2 Foster and Expand New Agricultural Business Entities to Strengthen Their Industrial Driving Capacity

Leading agricultural enterprises play a distinctive role in modern agricultural development because they connect farmers with markets and organize the integration of production, processing, circulation, and sales. Their development is therefore essential not only for improving agricultural market participation but also for strengthening benefit-sharing relationships between agricultural industries and rural households. The scale, organizational capacity, and market competitiveness of leading agricultural business entities directly influence the quality and level of agricultural and rural modernization. Given the relatively limited scale of existing agricultural business entities in Xiaohaotu Township and their insufficient capacity to integrate agricultural value chains, further efforts should be made to enhance their organizational, coordinating, and industrial development functions. First, competitive agricultural business entities should be cultivated and expanded. Building on existing agricultural enterprises, specialized cooperatives, and village collective economic organizations, Xiaohaotu Township should focus on its comparative advantages in corn production, livestock farming, and specialty cultivation and breeding, and foster a group of agricultural business entities characterized by stable operations and strong farmer-linkage capacity. Second, the agricultural industrial chain should be extended toward processing, storage, marketing, and brand development. Agricultural business entities should be encouraged to undertake technological upgrading, develop differentiated agricultural products, and expand market channels. These measures would increase the added value and market competitiveness of agricultural products while strengthening coordination among upstream and downstream activities along the industrial chain. Third, benefit-sharing linkages between agricultural business entities and farmers should be strengthened. Mechanisms such as contract purchasing, agricultural production services, and cooperative operation can be adopted to increase farmers'participation in agricultural industrialization and establish more stable arrangements through which business entities benefit and support rural households. Through the coordinated advancement of business-entity development, value-chain extension, and farmer–enterprise benefit linkages, Xiaohaotu Township can further strengthen the organizational, demonstration, and spillover effects of leading agricultural business entities and enhance the role of agricultural industrialization in promoting agricultural and rural modernization.

## 2.3 Improve the Agricultural Financial Support System to Strengthen Financial Support for Modernization

Modern agricultural projects are generally characterized by relatively large initial investments and long capital recovery periods. As Xiaohaotu Township continues to advance high-standard farmland construction, water-saving agriculture, large-scale livestock farming, and post-harvest agricultural services, agricultural business entities will face an increasing need for stable, long-term financing. Financial policy should therefore shift from an emphasis on merely "increasing the amount of lending" toward improving the alignment between financial supply and the actual needs of agricultural industrial development. On the one hand, information sharing and coordination among local government, financial institutions, and agricultural business entities should be strengthened. Differentiated financial services should be provided in accordance with the characteristics of large-scale crop producers, specialized cooperatives, agricultural enterprises, and village collective economic organizations. On the other hand, financial products should be better designed around the funding requirements of facility agriculture, agricultural machinery, grain storage and drying, and large-scale livestock farming. Loan maturities should be appropriately extended, credit evaluation and guarantee mechanisms should be improved, and financing costs for agricultural business entities should be reduced.

At the same time, fiscal funds and government agricultural project funds should play a stronger guiding and leveraging role, while qualified private capital should be encouraged to participate in agricultural projects with sound development potential. Through these measures, Xiaohaotu Township can gradually establish a diversified agricultural investment mechanism integrating fiscal support, financial credit, and private-sector investment, thereby providing stable financial support for the sustained advancement of agricultural and rural modernization.



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## Conflicts of Interest

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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