

**CHINA'S RURAL LAND REFORM
TRIALS (2015-2017): EXPERIENCE
AND CHALLENGES**

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Executive Summary

1. In 2015, trial programmes in rural land management were launched nationwide in China to form a practical basis for further institutional reforms, particularly for amending the Land Management Law. The programmes also aimed to pave the way for increasing land supply and foster a unified construction land market between urban and rural China.
2. The Chinese government has employed three different trial programmes in 33 places. First, 15 trial places have been designated to examine the scope and ways for rural collective construction land for business and operation to enter the market with rights and prices equaling those for urban land.
3. Second, another 15 localities have worked on innovating ways of managing rural collective construction land for homestead and providing methods for voluntarily quitting the homestead system.
4. Third, three places have experimented with land expropriation reforms particularly on defining expropriation scope, normalising procedures and increasing the level of compensation to the expropriated.
5. From 2015 to 2017, 31 mainland provinces each had participated in at least one trial programme at a county level place and made remarkable progress. Pidū district in Sichuan province stood out among them.
6. The case of Pidū indicates a possible approach to coordinating the three trial programmes, which the state called for in the next round of reform. Rural collectives can transfer the homestead to available construction land for trade, reducing the opportunity for land expropriation by local governments.

7. According to the trial practices in the past three years, land reforms may contribute to rural development but only in the short term and in certain regions. Such reforms also face resistance from local governments, which largely depend on land finance under the current tax-sharing system.