Innovative program digs deep to revitalize countryside of Guizhou

Current year seen as pivotal for the province’s economic and social development

BY CAI YONGYING

A new poverty alleviation program has been launched by the Guizhou Provincial Party Committee and government to revitalize the province’s countryside, starting Feb 2 and running to June 30.

According to the Guizhou government, the current year is seen as pivotal for the province’s economic and social development.

The poverty alleviation program is the key measure for the province.

The program has four major goals, the first being to build a stable structure of the agricultural sector during the whole of this year’s harvest season.

According to government plans, corn fields need to be harvested during the dry season while 90 percent of the areas under rice and cultivating vegetables is set to reach 500,000 hectares, with 200,000 hectares of rice paddy and 300,000 hectares of vegetable plants should coverage 370,353 hectares.

A total of 3,000 hectares of land for arable land should be newly planted and improving irrigation facilities while 1,500 hectares of land for arable land and 2,000 hectares of arable land for cultivating vegetables is set to reach 500,000 hectares, with 200,000 hectares of rice paddy and 300,000 hectares of vegetable plants to cover 370,353 hectares.

According to the Guizhou government, low-income villages in the countryside will be supported to form farmers cooperatives, such as livestock farmers cooperatives, which will take part in the cooperatives.

Officials said the government was placing great importance on applying practical measures for improvements at the village, family and farmer level.

To speed up road constructions in villages, Guizhou will raise investment by 10 billion yuan ($1.58 billion) in the current year to build 15,000 kilometers of new highways, for the benefit of 3,331 million people (locals including 320,000 impoverished residents).

Officials said the road improvement and maintenance will be the second major goal of the program.

The government will focus on improving the roads and specifications of roads to ensure the quality of highways, and will use data to help manage maintenance and improve road safety.

In addition, village bus services will be improved to provide rural transport network.

The third important action being taken in 2018 is that the Guizhou government will advance rural poverty alleviation programs, on a county-by-county basis.

Officials said that by the end of March, some 120 population relocation projects should be completed. The government said that 30 percent of the main infrastructure projects associated with the initiative should be completed by the end of June.

Last year’s resettlement programs were implemented involving new housing for 760,000 residents, 880,000 of them below the poverty line.

The Guizhou government has made a total investment of 15 billion yuan ($2.3 billion) in the construction of clinics in rural areas and primary and middle schools will also benefit from the program.

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Officials said plans to improve and function in 66 impoverished counties.

Financial aid to poor residents will be timely and the government’s plan will improve education standards in districts with ethnic communities.

In addition, it is estimated that 20 percent of these projects should be completed by the end of June.

Officials added that to ensure the smooth running of the projects, the Guizhou government would allocate sufficient project funding and encourage craftsmen and villagers to participate in the projects.

BY YUAN SHENGGAO

The prosperous Southwestern China province of Guizhou is considered by many to be the main battleground in China’s crucial fight against poverty. The province’s experts say major victories have been achieved, but more achievements are to come.

According to the latest data, in the five years to December 2017 the number of people living below the poverty line in Guizhou fell by 67 million, with the poverty rate decreasing significantly from 26.8 percent to 8 percent over the same period.

Despite these achievements, however, officials estimate that more than 2 million people still live below the national poverty line.

Experts say poverty is key to informing people out of the country.

Guizhou is home to 35.45 million people, 26.8 percent of whom are ethnic minorities, the largest share in the country's 31 provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities.

In 2013, the county was designated as a model by the China Poverty Alleviation Foundation because of the achievements it obtained in its nutrition improvement program. Last year, 16 million yuan ($2.5 million) in Guizhou was invested to improve facilities at schools in certain areas.

Young Ming, a manager responsible for sales and promotion at Jian Guizhou Agricultural Technology Co., Ltd., a company that signed a cooperation agreement on March 2 with the provincial government to continue poverty alleviation.

“Through the nutrition improvement program can also promote the development of the agricultural industry and the income of impoverished households,” Wang said. According to data provided to Office of the Guizhou poverty, a total of 500,000 children live in 200 million impoverished households.

In June, 2017, the provincial government said it had fully implanted poverty alleviation and has relieved rural areas in the province.

Wang Fengyou, former head of the Provincial Poverty Reduction Department of Education, said during the two sessions of Guizhou legislature and political consultation that more than 100,000 households in Guizhou’s counties and autonomous prefectures whose children havec

economic difficulties,” said Liu Bing, director of the Student Assistance Administration in Guiyang, and the local townships have participated in the projects.

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