CHINA

Editor's Note: China Daily is running a series of articles on China's revitalization in rural areas with profound history. The series aims to reveal how local people changed their mindset and worked hard to improve their livelihood in the new era.

---

**Guizhou focuses on chile pepper bonanza**

Plan to raise quality, processing to transform province into major producer of spicy delight

By YANG JUN in Guizhou and YE ZHIZHEN

Zunyi, Guizhou province, is developing its chile industry to consolidate poverty alleviation efforts. Having played a pivotal role in the history of the Communist Party of China, the city was the location of the Zunyi Conference, a crucial turning point in the Long March (1934-36), which led to the ultimate success of the revolution.

By Jan, the chile trading center in Zunyi’s Xun Ni District is already bustling as farmers and merchants try to break the deadlock.

“The center provides a business platform for local farmers to sell their goods and tourists to purchase chile peppers,” he said, adding that he bought seeds from Guizhou to the autonomous region.

During a trip back home in 2017, Jan gathered farmers in his village carrying homemade dustpans to sell in town. “I took five days to make eight dustpans and sold each for 3 yuan,” he said.

Jan felt that he should move his business to home province to provide better opportunities for his fellow villagers.

Today, he manages chile plantations with an area of about 2 acres, in Guizhou. Their yields are sold to Guizhou province’s Chengdu in Sichuan province and Changning, known for their spicy foods.

“Officials, the picking and cutting of chiles is done by hand to ensure the best quality,” Wu said.

Two years ago, he set up a chile processing company, which provides job opportunities for villagers.

“Cutting chiles and processing can be done by people of different ages,” he said. “Those who can’t do physical labor can also make chile for 110 yuan a day.”

The site of the Zunyi Conference in Zunyi, Guizhou province.

---

**The short, but important life of the Hunan revolutionary base**

Centered around Hunan’s picturesque Zunyi region, the Hunan-Hubei-Chengdu-Guizhou Revolutionary Base flourished briefly during the mid 1930s.

Nevertheless, it made its mark on the Communist Party of China’s history as it was the last foothold south of the Yangtze River after the Central Red Army’s Long March began in October 1934, and it successfully coordinated with the Long March while serving as one of the pillars of the Red Army.

In the early 1930s, CPC-led forces faced attacks by the Kuomintang, or Nationalist Party, and the Chinese Nationalist Party, or Kuomintang, on multiple bases.

The Hunan-Western Hubei Revolutionary Base — which straddles the border of the two provinces and was set up by the Red Army in early 1930 — faced attacks by the Kuomintang, or Nationalist Party, on multiple bases. The number of soldiers decreased sharply and the base was unable to defend itself: The Third Red Army, which was in charge of the base, fought its way out in May 1934 and began to create a Red base in eastern Guizhou. By September that year, the Eastern Guizhou base comprised 67 village-level Soviet governments.

Around the same time, the Sixth Sichuan-Red Army from the Hunan-Hubei-Chengdu-Guizhou Revolutionary Base, headed by political and military leader Li Bo (1904-50), managed to escape KMT encirclement in the eastern Guizhou base. The two corps began a journey that changed the course of history.

The CPC launched land redistribution campaigns, and training sessions were organized to conduct the campaign. The family members of those who joined the Red Army were given preferential policies. By mid January 1935, the Soviet area had a population of about 100,000, and the two corps had about 10,000 soldiers.

The KMT launched massive encirclement campaigns in 1935. During months of resistance, the two corps struggled to survive and attempted to find new areas on various occasions.

Meanwhile, as the Central Red Army — led by Mao Zedong (1893-1976), who guided the troops toward the base in Zunyi — moved northward together and in late October, the Second Red Army arrived in Angiang in today’s Ningxia Hui autonomous region, which joined forces with the Central Red Army, or the First Red Army, completing their Long March.