

## **Women and Poverty Reduction**

Cui Yu, Director of Women Development, All-China Women's Federation

Alleviation and reduction of poverty and common prosperity are the constant goals of Chinese Government. It is an important task for women's federations at all levels to address the shortage of food and clothing for women and children in poor areas and to promote local efforts helping women and children in poor areas. Over the past years, the government, with poverty issues that affect women on top of its agenda, formulated preferential laws and policies to eliminate women's poverty and mainstreamed gender equality to the overall planning for poverty reduction. With the support and encouragement from the government, women's federations at all levels have expanded the activities among women of learning knowledge, science and technology, contesting progress and contribution, helped poor women out of poverty, increased their income, with remarkable results. The number of rural poor predominated by women declined from 80 million in 1994 to 21.48 million by the end of 2006, 58.52 million less.

### **1. China formulated preferential laws and policies to eliminate poverty for women**

Chinese Government regards poverty of women a critical issue and drew preferential laws and policies to eliminate poverty of women. In the Program for the Development of Chinese Women (2001-2010) promulgated by the government, it was

specified in the general goals that women's rights for equal employment opportunities and share of economic resources should be guaranteed and their economic status should be enhanced. In the chapter of women and economy, it was taken as one of the specific goals to reduce the seriousness of poverty for women and the number of women in poverty. It was demanded in the countermeasures chapter that first, policies and measures should be made to reduce women's poverty and to increase their income, and efforts to support poor women should be increased in the Western Development Strategy to include preference in projects that benefit women, support to the development of entities that target women poverty, so that poor women may become in a real sense the receivers and direct beneficiaries of poverty reduction achievements; Second, rural women should be guided and supported to move to non-agricultural sectors. Skill training courses should be provided to drive them from traditional planting to other occupations. In the process of urbanization, labor exports should be carried out to give them more opportunities of working otherwise. To guide farmers in a better way in their employment, the government set up a joint meeting for rural workers. As one of the member agencies, All-China Women's Federation was commissioned with six major functions, namely, protecting the legitimate rights of women workers and minor workers, managing the transfer employment of women farmers, gathering surplus women labor force in rural areas into training, establishing basis to export and receive rural women workers, gearing up community-based women federations to serve them, and advocating for a favorable climate to care about them. The Policy Statement of Poverty Alleviation and Reduction by Chinese

Government, as one of the papers produced by the Shanghai Global Conference on Scaling-Up Poverty Alleviation in 2004, indicated that in the principle of preference under equal conditions, poor women should be actively supported to take part in the execution of poverty reduction projects and their ratio to the total participants should be no less than 40%.

The government started to shed its lights on the right and interest of women in 2003 when the Law of the People's Republic of China on Land Contract in Rural Areas was rolled out to include gender equality as a basic principle, stipulating that women enjoy the same contract right as men and clarifying the rights of married, divorced and widowed women to land contract, so that women's poverty caused by the loss of land can be reduced. The government also took policies to protect the right and interest of rural women who work in urban areas. Since 2000, it produced a package of policies and measures to lift the restrictive regulations upon farmers looking for jobs in cities, focused on the solutions to problems like income default, occupational safety and social security, and addressed the difficulties of these workers in residential management and children schooling. By a diversity of means, the government has been trying its best to protect the right and interest of these women.

## **2. With government support, women's organizations are helping poor women out of poverty**

Chinese government supports non-governmental organizations, especially women's organizations in their efforts to help women out of poverty. All-China Women's Federation is the largest non-governmental organization in China by, of and for women. Its main functions are to represent women, protect their right and interest

and enhance gender equality. There are about 60 thousand branches of the Federation at national, provincial, prefectural, county and township levels, altogether five levels, with 980 thousand committees of women representatives at village level and more than 50 thousand specialized officers working for women. As the biggest women organization, the Federation and its branches put on top of their agenda the resolution of food and clothing shortage for women and children and the expansion of efforts to help women and children living in poor areas.

The Seven-Year Priority Program for Poverty Reduction (1994-2000) cleared stipulated that women organizations should further mobilize women in poor areas into activities of learning knowledge, science and technology and contesting progress and contribution, should lead them to develop household or yard business; design and implement labor-intensive poverty reduction projects that fit the particularities of women; organize women to study practical techniques and skills to enhance their capability. In 1996, China State Leading Group Office of Poverty Alleviation and Development (LGOP) joined All-China Women's Federation in launching the Poverty-Reduction Action for Women, in which a goal was set to lift 1 million poor women out of poverty during the period of Ninth Five Year Plan for National Economic and Social Development. It required governments at all levels to integrate the Action into local plans for poverty reduction, required women's federations at all levels to initiate projects with low cost and fast effect that directly solve the problem of food and clothing for poor women, and required that all relevant resources should be channeled to provide training for women, so as to raise their capability of self-development and getting out of poverty. In 2002, the two agencies jointly promulgated the Comments on Furthering Up Poverty Reduction Action for Women to their lower levels and hosted a range of training workshops targeting officers of

women's federations in poor western region, to make them more competent in leading local people out of poverty. The implementation of Poverty Reduction Action for Women yielded significant economic and social benefits.

Over the past few years, with the support from government, women's federations at all levels have expanded the women activities of learning knowledge, science and technology and contesting progress and contribution, and helped them out of poverty by education, training, projects, partnership, employment support and regional cooperation. Their efforts turned out to be sufficiently paid back.

## **2.1 A diversity of measures to help women out of poverty**

**Frist, education and training to enhance their capability to get out of poverty.** Poverty reduction is in real sense illiteracy reduction. All-China Women's Federation delivers training on science and technology, and practical skills for women, to sustain the results of poverty reduction. The Federation joined the government agencies of finance, education and agriculture, totally seven agencies to issue the document on increasing education and training to rural women, stressed the preference to women, supported poor women participating in the execution of poverty reduction projects. The document clearly stipulated that in the implementation of training plans, resources and policies should be tilted to women, to ensure the proportion of women in the whole trainees above 40%. Branches of the Federation throughout China set up more than 150 thousand schools targeting rural women, giving training on practical skills, policy and regulation, health and sanitation and environment protection to rural women, especially those living in poor areas of mid and western China. They also built up more than 200 thousand exemplary basis of

agricultural and forest technology at all levels to help poor women. The questionnaires involving more than 10 thousand rural women who participated in new village development showed that: 73.4% women are engaged in agricultural production, nearly a half of family income comes from women, more than 80% family business is managed by women alone or with their husbands, 78.6% women take part in the voting for village committees and almost a half of women are willing to contest for officials of the committee, more than 60% women feel happy and about 80% of women have confidence in the future. All these results imply that with training these women have enhanced not only their awareness of participation and rights but also their living quality.

**Second, speed up women poverty reduction relying on projects.** To liberate women from shortage of projects, finance and skills, the Federation and its branches nationwide have strived for government financial support and resources from all possible channels, and improved their working mechanism, standardized the operation of projects and innovated modes of poverty reduction, to adapt the projects to the practical demands of women and local particularities in economic development. As an approach for poverty reduction funds to directly reach poor households, microfinance is playing a key role in reducing poverty for low incomers in rural and urban areas. There are so far 28 federations at provincial, prefectural and municipal levels implementing microfinance projects of various sizes, involving more and more poor women as participants and beneficiaries of the projects. Federations at all levels are soliciting funds from home and abroad. To better manage the funds, they set the

system to manage credit, formulated regulations, standardized the four key steps of project including application, approval, delivery and reception of loans, provided women with services of training, information and sales, helped them develop production, increase income and reduce poverty. The branch of the Federation in Chifeng City of Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region was for six years approved in its application to UNDP for poverty reduction projects, providing 28.8 million RMB to 8500 poor households, increasing their income by 1435 RMB each household, with returning rate as high as 100%. Their achievements were greatly recognized by UNDP. It is proved by practice that microfinance is an effective way to reduce poverty for women.

**Third, improve the organization of women.** Women's federations at all levels are exploring the ways of maximizing the roles that can be played by grassroots federations in establishing specialized cooperative organizations for rural women. On the purpose of poverty reduction for women, the federations guided households that are competent in planting, breeding, processing and circulation, and competent women to organize associations and cooperative agencies, so that rural women can be gathered in a better way. There are so far more than 50 thousand specialized technical associations for rural women at various sizes and of various types, and almost 10 thousand cooperative agencies. The partnership between women's federations and associations combined the advantages of both, rolled out a big group of poverty reduction forerunners, so that poverty of women can be largely reduced.

**Fourth, increase regional cooperation.** As the government is developing the

western region, revitalizing the old industrial basis in northeast, promoting the rise of mid region, encouraging early development of eastern region, All-China Women's Federation conducted inter-provincial cooperation of women's federation in the principle of mutual benefit, spot their support to poor areas and pair off with poor areas, to realize common development of women in east, mid and west parts of China. In this process, federations throughout China were exploring various modes of cooperation, for example, women development cooperation in Yangtze River Delta, Pan Pearl River Delta, Bohai Sea Rim Economic Zone, and more than that, partnership between urban and rural areas, partnership between women entrepreneurs, women talents and poor women. In the process, attention was given to the sharing of women labor resources between poor areas and employers, and the combination of training according to orders placed in exporting areas and tracking services in importing areas.

**Fifth, mobilize all walks of life into caring for women and children in poor areas.** All-China Women's Federation for many years hosted a number of public welfare activities concentrated on poverty reduction by integrating social resources. It has been playing helpful roles to improve the living conditions of women and children in poor areas. From 2000 to the end of 2006, a sum of 170 million RMB was injected to the Project of Mother Cellar, constructing more than 100 thousand mother cellars and more than 1100 small water suppliers, and addressing the problems of drinking water for almost 1.3 million women in the 23 provinces and cities located in mid and west of China. This is an important contribution to the seventh goal of MDGs to

ensure the sustainability of environment.

Since 2003, the Federation has sent off 413 Mother Health Expresses mainly targeting poor areas of the west, to convey knowledge about health to poor women, to provide medical services, and to bring down the rates of gynecological diseases and maternity deaths, benefiting about 8.74 million women. This is an important contribution to the fifth goal of MDGs to improve maternity health in China.

For girl drop-outs to return to school in poor areas and finish basic education and nine-year compulsory education, All-China Women's Federation initiated a Spring Buds Program in 1989. By the end of 2006, a total sum of 600 million RMB was collected to help more than 1.7 million girls back to school and to train about 416 thousand women and elder girls. This program was highly regarded by the society and public for it contributed a lot to the realization of the Millennium Development Goal of proliferating basic education.

The Federation attached great importance to the poverty reduction and employment of migrant women in the Three-Gorges Reservoir Areas. It organized activities like the transfer of knowledge, science and technology and health to rural areas, visits of women entrepreneurs to the reservoir areas and partnership between the reservoir areas with developed areas. It also launched a circulating fund for women in the areas to set up their own business. So far, the Federation has pooled 28 million RMB of social donations to address the problems of water, employment and girl schooling in Three Gorges Reservoir areas and Jinshajiang River Reservoir areas. These projects of public welfare have improved the living conditions of poor women

and promoted local economic development.

## **2.2 Transfer poor women labor force by various means**

It is an important approach of poverty reduction to develop human resources, to improve training for labor transfer and to facilitate employment of surplus labor force in poor areas. It gives them a better life and more harmonious family relation. It is also an effective way to develop economy and stabilize society in poor areas. For the employment of women, the Federation rolled out eight new approaches of labor transfer after investigations and exploration.

**First, conduct training and labor transfer according to market demands.** As training courses to enhance women's occupational skills are the foundation for faster transfer and higher income, these courses should be more targeted, at various dimensions and levels, with more government support. In terms of the subjects for training courses, the focus should be on those subjects that fit women's particularities and meet market demands, including electronic information, domestic services, catering, garment processing and knowledge about law and health, so that their awareness and occupational skills can be improved. In terms of the mode of training, the courses should be combined with demands from enterprises and with employment, by means of self-funding, joint-funding or co-funding between training agencies and employers. The federation in Suzhou City of Anhui Province organized training according to orders placed by enterprises, with its five training basis closely connected to some prime enterprises, exporting 10228 sewing workers to more than 50 enterprises in Guangdong Province and others from 2004 to 2005 alone. In terms

of training channels, federations at all levels rely on both the government resources, like the agencies hosting activities of learning knowledge and technology and contesting progress and contribution, and also social resources. The federations at provincial level in 14 provinces including Jilin, Anhui and Jiangxi have been accepted as member agencies of the leading group for conducting Sunlight Project. In 2005, Jilin Provincial Women's Federation started the project of Training 10 Thousand Domestic Service Workers, which was included as a component of the activity of Promoting Local Employment by provincial government, producing 10658 domestic service workers. Five women employment centers, backed by provincial women's federation, won the bidding for training under Chuanmeizi (Sichuan Grils) Brand of Sichuan Province, taking on 35% of the training tasks.

**Second, take the initiative to serve women and guide their transfer.** Blind transfer should be avoided and risks should be minimized to bring about sound transfer of surplus women labor force in poor areas. To this end, labor transfer/export service organizations should be set up to facilitate the transfer. First, a network of information should be built up to provide guidance for employment. Based on the shortage of information and the practical need for employment guidance, women's federations in exporting areas, with the information of women labor resources at hand, took the initiative to learn about labor markets in areas in large demand of labor forces, inspected employers, set up networks of labor information and guided women out for working with targeted employers. Federation in Hubei Province did a profound work collecting information about the labor resources, training preference,

employment preference, labor qualification and family situation, altogether five facets to master the basics of local labor force and make them into records. Second, intermediaries should be organized to serve as a platform for labor export. Intermediaries like employment guidance centers, service centers and domestic service centers were established by women's federations at all levels to provide jobs for surplus women laborers. There are 77 institutions at county level or above providing services for labor transfer, all established by women's federations in Shaanxi Province, with 1124 importing and exporting basis, 1859 contact persons, resulting in the number of transferred women laborers of about 25.7 thousand. Third, job fairs should be hosted to connect employers with labor forces. With support of relevant government agencies, women's federations at all levels jointed employers in organizing sizable job fairs and labor negotiation meetings to connect demand with supply, and to provide women laborers with more opportunities. At the International Women's Day (March 8) each year, federations would carry out an activity providing women with information about employment, policies and self-business projects. Rough statistics show that nearly 700 thousand jobs were provided in 240 cities during the period of the activity in 2007, benefiting 970 thousand people, of which 300 thousand were women.

**Third, develop projects to expand channels of employment in local areas.** To meet the various demands of women employment, federations at all levels keep exploring the possible ways to expand labor transfer, for examples, attraction of commercial investment, development of local projects suitable for women, etc, so that

even those women who have difficulty to leave home for working in urban areas can be transferred. All-China Women's Federation set up an office specialized in managing the project of Market Leading Thousands of Villages, which includes exemplary training to produce businesswomen, connection of local labor to the jobs of processing supplied materials and so on. The project was widely spread to 16 provinces and cities, engaging nearly one million women, getting payment for processing from markets of Yiwu for nearly three billion RMB.

**Fourth, forge brands to raise the quality of labor force.** A range of famous brands were produced like Chuanmeizi (Sichuan Girls) in Sichuan Province, Mizhipoyi (Women of Mizhi County) in Shaanxi Province, Baguiyuesao (Domestic Service Workers in Bagui County), to raise the quality of services that women can provide. Hubei Provincial women's federation established Magnolia Domestic Services Company Limited and cooperate with other federations in the form of conditioned franchise, so that a unified management can be imposed on the company, to jointly build up the brand and help more surplus women labor in rural areas find better jobs outside their hometown. Heilongjiang Provincial Women's Federation implemented a project of labor transfer for one million local women and girls during the period of Eleventh Five Year Plan for National Economic and Social Development, to forge up a labor service brand for the province and expand its share of labor market.

**Fifth, regional cooperation for a win-win result.** Regional cooperation should be conducted to increase the connection between labor importers and exporters and to

boost sound flow of surplus women laborers between regions. Employment of women was mainstreamed by women organizations into the framework of inter-governmental regional cooperation and development among nine provinces in Pan Pearl River Delta, Hong Kong and Macao. The Framework Agreement on Cooperation for Women's Development in Pan Pearl River Delta Area was signed by the parties which specified that a meeting to discuss cooperation on women's development in the Delta areas was to be held each year, to create favorable conditions, increase guidance and promote exchanges on women employment. In the second meeting of this type hosted in Nanning City, Guangxi Province in March 2006, the 111 employers coming from 11 provinces provided 190 thousand jobs. Jilin Provincial Women's Federation joined provincial labor and social security offices and others in implementing the project of Labor Exports for 10 Thousand Jilin Women, targeting Shenzhen City of Guangdong Province as the importing area while extending to the Pearl River Delta and Yangtze River Delta areas. It was planned to export 10000 Jilin local women to Shenzhen City and other labor importing areas within three years.

**Sixth, guarantee the rights of women laborers and concentrate on human needs.** All-dimensional services should be provided to women working in urban areas, including understanding of their situation, establishment of supportive organizations, hotline services and proliferation of legal knowledge, to protect women's legitimate rights in the process of export and employment and to make sure that they can not only be exported but also can settle down and keep developing in urban areas. ( 1 )

**Focus should be given to right guarantee during the whole process.** Women's

Federation in Changzhi City of Shanxi Province managed to do a good job in providing the following five key aspects, namely, ethic, mentality, family, health and training, to women individuals, their families and their villages. In order to put in place the awareness of legal responsibility, the federation also pushed for contracts to be signed among women's federations, the village, labor exporters and intermediaries, with timely surveys and revisits. **( 2 ) Rights of women out of hometown should also be guaranteed.** Women's federation in Yushui Prefecture, Xinyu City, Jiangxi Province set up a mobile federation to work with federations outside the prefecture regularly providing training courses on laws and other relevant knowledge to women working outside. That was regarded by these women as a mobile home for them. The federation in Chifeng City of Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region built a Home for Migrant Workers in Beijing, that helped export more than 12000 workers and addressed more than 300 events of disputes and emergencies. **( 3 ) Concerns on the mind of women workers should be relieved.** A one-stand health-check system was extensively shaped up in Guangyuan City of Sichuan Province to cover the registration, signing of contracts, escorts along the way, and regular visits. Local committee of women's representatives was also mobilized to set up groups to take care of the elderly and children and to support land cultivation for those families with women working outside. Xinyu City of Jiangxi Province tried to solve the problem with children left alone at home by extensive propaganda, establishment of family education guidance center for families with children left alone at home and the production of relevant laws and regulations. **( 4 ) New citizenship was to be**

**fostered.** Training courses on laws, regulations and health care were delivered in many places and exchanges on these subjects were encouraged between highly-qualified urban workers and women laborers. Appraisal of and awards for excellent workers were carried out to stimulate women workers better adapted to city life.

**Seventh, good models should be set.** The demonstration given by good models can be an effective way to lead women into voluntary transfer. Awarding meetings, circuit lectures by successful transferred workers, special columns in news media, proliferation of successful experiences can help rural women break away from outdated traditions and stimulate their enthusiasm to engage in labor transfer. After listening to the practical experiences depicted by beneficiaries of labor transfer and successful businesswomen setting up business back to hometown, and witnessing transferred women increasing income and building new houses, the trainees participating in the training courses hosted by Hunan Provincial Women's Federation was much impressed and expressed their desire to be involved in labor transfer organized by the federation.

**Eighth, supports should also be given to women setting up business back to hometown.** By soliciting loans and simplifying procedures, successful women equipped with relatively sound sense of market economy and good management expertise should be encouraged and supported to return to hometown, investing in or leading the investment in medium and small sized enterprises to help their hometown and to drive more local women out of poverty by working locally. Women's

federations at all levels of Hunan Province treated successful transferred women back to hometown for business equally as foreign investors, giving them preferences in terms of finance, taxation and administrative procedures and creating favorable conditions for their business. Over the past few years, there were about 30 thousand transferred women workers in the province returning to hometown to set up self-funded, jointly-funded or private enterprises numbering more than 5000, absorbing more than 60 thousand surplus women workers.

The efforts of the All-China Women's Federation and its branches have made remarkable achievements, providing finance, technology and projects to women in poor areas, enhancing their qualification, increasing their income, getting them out of poverty, making them rich and raising their positions in agricultural production, household economy and social life. Therefore, the Federation with its branches were highly acknowledged by poor women and government leaders. As commented by Wen Jiabao, Chinese Premier on the Poverty Reduction Report of All-China Women's Federation, women is an important force to promote economic and social development in rural China, and the roles of women's organizations should be maximized in poverty reduction.

### **3. Difficulties and Problems**

Poor women in China are now faced with many new challenges and problems. The tasks for women's federations to reduce poverty are still arduous. Surveys show that there may be four problems. **First, low qualification.** Women are generally lagging behind men in their education background. The rate of rural women with

education level of junior high school or above in the total is 41.2%, 21.9 percentage points lower than that of men. And illiteracy rate of women is 13.6%, 9.6 percentage points higher than that of men. **Second, lack of finance, the biggest problem for women engaged in agricultural production.** Surveys show that finance is what is most needed for 57.6% of rural women. **Third, lack of practical technique and talents who master techniques, a bottleneck constraining rural women from getting rich.** About 48.3% women believe the most needed in villages now is the practical techniques that accelerate their process of getting rich and talents who master these techniques. **Fourth, lack of information services, the support much wanted by rural women.** About 57.7% of rural women are in the greatest need of information services regarding getting rich, sales and so on. About 41.6% of women require technical guidance. The shortage of finance, techniques and information that women face in production is a big obstacle in the context that women's roles as pillar forces are required to be expanded in the construction of new villages and the project of Western Development. The fact that the women respondents of the surveys are leading an unsatisfactory life is denying the achievements of building an all-round well-off society and coordinating the development of all regions.

#### **4. Countermeasure and Recommendations**

It was recommended as follows regarding the difficulties and problems facing poor women:

**4.1 The leadership of government should be put to play to increase training for rural women.** In the implementation of training for Action Plan for Raising

Farmers' Scientific Qualification and Sunlight Project, the government should integrate training for rural women into the overall planning and ensure a certain proportion of women trainees. The government should formulate supportive policies, push for skill training courses that provide both basic and senior skills, that are conducted according to orders placed, and that are oriented for setting up business. The training should be aimed at developing these women into new types of farmers mastering knowledge and skills. At the same time, the government should expand training for women talents in rural areas, for them to be the models stimulating other women.

**4.2 Specific measures should be drafted taking into consideration of the context that the government is proceeding with poverty reduction campaign, western development, middle rise and revitalization of old industrial basis in the northeast.** Projects with low investment, fast effects and easier access to women, including ecological agriculture, yard economy, green food processing, hand knitting and household-based tourism services, should be developed in large amounts for more women to be employed locally and increase their income.

**4.3 Government policies of constructing new villages should be put in place to benefit rural women with pro-farmer financial policies.** At the same time, measures should be enforced to expand the size and coverage of microfinance, to detect and solve new problems, to summarize new experiences and to raise the credibility and fund efficiency of the users, relying on rural credit cooperatives and social groups.

**4.4 Preferential policies should be drawn to support women labor transfer by various channels.** There are now 130 million surplus labor forces in rural China. It is an important component of agricultural modernization and urbanization of rural areas how to achieve transfer employment of the labor force. Surveys show that among the total number of women staying in rural areas, 67.6% of them are tied up with the responsibility to take care of the elderly and children, with no possibility to work outside. It is recommended to promote eight modes of labor transfer during the process, which on the one hand meet the employment desires of most women and on the other hand allow them to keep taking care of agricultural production, the elderly and children. This should be an advisable way to harmonize family relationship and stabilize social orders in rural areas.

**4.5 Legitimate rights of women should be protected, complimented by the reforms to rural cooperative medical services and pension insurance.** Protection of women's right and interest is a common responsibility for the whole society. Governments at all levels are expected to better guarantee the rights of women and children in the process of building new villages. Surveys show that what women expect most from government is regarding cooperative medical services, pension insurance and preferential policies for collage students from rural families. It is recommended that relevant government agencies should on the one hand act up to solve the problems of medical care, education fees and the construction of rural social security system that are deemed the most urgent by farmers, so as to avail farmers of medical care and pension insurance as soon as possible, and on the other hand, open

green passage for college students from poor families to help them enter the universities and colleges and finish the study.

Since the federations are advantaged not only in its close contact with families and women, but also in its complete network and active players, they are a great helper for the government to support women and people, based on their practical experiences for many years. There are so far 60 thousand women's organizations at and above the block level and 980 thousand committees of women's representatives at grassroots. Surveys show that the activities engaging and benefiting the largest numbers of women are the activity of learning knowledge and technology and contesting progress and contribution, and the activity of fostering families excellent by five criteria, and that what are most required from women's federations are providing information for getting rich and protecting women's rights. It proves that the focus of the federation's effort is consistent with general demands from women and the hopes and requirements from government. However, in light of limited resource and funds, it is recommended that relevant government organs and agencies can give a bigger role to federation's advantages of propaganda, organization, education and services to women, and impose it with tasks along with corresponding financial resources. It is also recommended that the government gives more support to training institutions targeting rural women, service agencies like technology guidance centers, stations for protecting right of rural women and children, basis of labor import and export and parent schools for children left alone at home, so that the functions of the federation to serve the society and to serve women can be maximized.

Poverty reduction is a time-consuming program. Women predominate the current 21.48 million poor population. They are a big number, much more difficult to be lifted out of poverty. All-China Women's Federation will as usual organize women actively into the practice of poverty reduction, help more poor women out of poverty and make the way to prosperity and civilization, leaving ignorance and blindness far behind.