

The way forward

Some non-profit organisations and foundations are experimenting with promoting rural entrepreneurship by donating cows or other livestock to rural communities. Organisations like Heifer International provide cows, along with training about how to raise them and profit from animal husbandry.

But the impact of these programmes is relatively limited. In Malawi, for instance, Heifer International is implementing a programme alongside USAID that is designed to stimulate a dairy industry. But it serves only 180 smallholder farmers.

The lesson from China's experience is that development must be viewed as an expression of human potentialities, not as a product of external interventions.

By 1995, China's village enterprises had helped bring about a revolution in the country's agriculture. They had evolved to account for approximately

25% of GDP

66% of all rural economic output

more than 33% of total export earnings.

