

# System and Realization Path of Xi Jinping's Eco-poverty Alleviation Concept under the Vision of Green Development

Xieyu XIONG\*, Jialin LIU, Wanxuan WU

School of Business, Hunan University of Humanities, Science and Technology, Loudi 417100, China

**Abstract** Since the 18<sup>th</sup> National Congress of the Communist Party of China, General Secretary Xi Jinping delivered a series of speeches on ecological environment and poverty governance, forming the Xi Jinping's eco-poverty alleviation ideology. In this paper, the Xi Jinping's eco-poverty alleviation ideology is taken as the research object. Using the methods of literature analysis and comparative analysis, the origin of eco-poverty alleviation theory is explored from the common prosperity theory and the theory of ecological capital, and the practice foundation is found out from practical cases. The relationship between the ecological damage and poverty is systematically analyzed, and the mechanism of ecological poverty is explored in detail. The basic connotation of Xi Jinping's eco-poverty alleviation is expounded, and it consists of three parts: guiding ideology layer, implementation layer, and guarantee layer. By perfecting and innovating the market mechanism, social management mechanism, performance evaluation mechanism, integration mechanism with other poverty alleviation methods, and ecological immigration mechanism of ecological poverty, the realization of Xi Jinping's eco-poverty alleviation concept could be guaranteed.

**Key words** Green transformation; Xi Jinping's eco-poverty alleviation; Ecological capital

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The problem of poverty is not only an international challenge, but also a stumbling block to the construction of a socialist modernized strong country in China. The deterioration of the ecological environment has led to a series of issues, such as social instability, health damage, and poverty, which have become a key focus of attention for China to solve. Green transformation is a fundamental judgment made by the international community on the current changes and development trends of the ecological environment, and it is also a basic condition for China to maintain sustainable development in the future. Practice has proven that there is a high degree of alignment between ecologically fragile areas and poverty-stricken areas, which has sparked enthusiasm in academia and politics to explore how to achieve the integration and balance of ecology and poverty. After the 18<sup>th</sup> National Congress of the Communist Party of China, Xi Jinping proposed that ecology and poverty can develop in a coordinated manner, believed that lucid waters and lush mountains are invaluable assets, and protecting ecology means protecting productivity, and presented a series of eco-poverty alleviation viewpoints, such as achieving precise poverty alleviation through ecological compensation and other means<sup>[1]</sup>. This has very important theoretical significance and practical guidance for guiding China's economic and social construction, promoting the construction of a socialist modernized strong country, and so on.

## 1 Literature review

Xi Jinping's poverty alleviation concept is gradually formed in his book *Getting Rid of Poverty*<sup>[2]</sup>. Overall, it mainly focuses on three aspects. In recent years, the academic community has conducted a series of studies on three aspects of Xi Jinping's poverty alleviation concept. Firstly, implementation of Xi Jinping's poverty alleviation. Jiang Yongmu *et al.* systematically expounded the Xi Jinping's poverty alleviation ideology from seven aspects: "poverty alleviation requires strengthening the management system innovation of poverty alleviation and development work, eliminating poverty is the essential requirement of socialism, the success or failure of poverty alleviation lies in precision, poverty alleviation leads to wealth and prosperity lies in determination, society works together to build a large poverty alleviation pattern, development is the general method to get rid of the poverty hat, and winning the battle against poverty alleviation, ethnic regions are the main battlefield", reflecting the collective wisdom crystallization of the Party and the people<sup>[3]</sup>. Huang Chengwei systematically expounded the ideological system of Xi Jinping's poverty alleviation and development from nine aspects: the idea that poverty alleviation and development are the essential requirements of socialism, the idea that rural poverty alleviation is the most arduous task in building a moderately prosperous society in all respects, the idea of scientific poverty alleviation, the idea of precise poverty alleviation, the idea of endogenous poverty alleviation, the idea of social poverty alleviation, the idea of clean, honest and sunshine poverty alleviation, the idea of adhering to leveraging political and institutional advantages in poverty alleviation and development, and the idea of building a community with a shared future for mankind without poverty<sup>[4]</sup>. Wang Jinyan elaborated on the concept of Xi

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\* Corresponding author.

Jinping's poverty alleviation and development from six aspects: innovative ideas, coordinated ideas, green ideas, open ideas, shared ideas, and supportive ideas<sup>[5]</sup>. Zhang Zhanbin comprehensively sorted out the idea of Xi Jinping's poverty alleviation and development from six aspects: the essence of socialism, the importance of the top priority, the internal and external forces, the precise poverty alleviation, the innovation of institutional mechanisms, and the social synergy<sup>[6]</sup>. Li Tian elaborated on Xi Jinping's poverty alleviation theory from the perspective of international contributions, contributing Chinese wisdom, concepts, solutions, and experiences<sup>[7]</sup>. Secondly, Xi Jinping's targeted poverty alleviation. Tang Renwu organized Xi Jinping's targeted poverty alleviation into three concepts: refinement, phased classification, and spiritual poverty alleviation, clarified the relationship between the three, and promoted the realization of targeted poverty alleviation through two measures: workflow design and policy system<sup>[8]</sup>. Yi Mianyang has extracted the connotation of Xi Jinping's targeted poverty alleviation strategy from three aspects: precise identification, precise assistance, and precise management. It was suggested that the targeted poverty alleviation strategy should be achieved through two ways: social poverty alleviation synergy and endogenous force for poverty alleviation<sup>[9]</sup>. Hong Mingyong *et al.* summarized five aspects of precision identification, precision assistance, precision management, precision exit, and innovative targeted poverty alleviation system and mechanism in response to the spirit of Xi Jinping's targeted poverty alleviation series speeches, forming a scientific system for Xi Jinping's targeted poverty alleviation<sup>[10]</sup>. Wang Sangui *et al.* believed that the key to poverty alleviation in rural China is to implement targeted poverty alleviation, which means poverty alleviation should be carried out from households to individuals, adhering to the "six accuracy", and doing a good job in targeted poverty alleviation<sup>[11]</sup>. Yang Xinhua believed that the basic strategy of Xi Jinping's targeted poverty alleviation mainly includes: targeted poverty alleviation is the essential requirement of socialism, targeted poverty alleviation requires the coordinated efforts of "provinces, cities, counties, and rural areas", targeted poverty alleviation requires seeking truth from facts, adapting to local conditions, and providing classified guidance, targeted poverty alleviation requires looking at the real poverty, helping the real poverty, and truly alleviating poverty, and targeted poverty alleviation requires combining the support of aspirations and wisdom<sup>[12]</sup>. Shi Yucheng explored the integration of targeted poverty alleviation into ecological protection in poverty-stricken areas from the perspective of sustainable development, achieving an organic integration of ecological protection and targeted poverty alleviation, and the unity of poverty improvement and a good ecological environment<sup>[13]</sup>. Ma Huilin summarized the historical value of the original contribution of the Xi Jinping's targeted poverty alleviation strategy from both theoretical and contemporary perspectives<sup>[14]</sup>. Thirdly, Xi Jinping's ecological poverty alleviation. Wang Kui introduced the basic connotation, formation basis, development issues and practical effects of Xi Jinping's ecological

poverty alleviation in the form of interviews<sup>[15]</sup>. Liu Jialin systematically explored the cognitive level and influencing factors of ecological poverty alleviation policies from an empirical research perspective, and sought solutions from the government, impoverished households themselves, grassroots organizations, and social organizations<sup>[16]</sup>. Liu Xuemin summarized from the perspective of the two mountains theory that ecological poverty alleviation is the process of capitalizing the ecological resources of ecologically fragile areas and ecologically rich areas<sup>[17]</sup>. Yan Ruihua examined the digital work in the process of ecological poverty alleviation from the perspective of empowerment, and the relationship between digital empowerment effectiveness promoted new development in Xi Jinping's ecological poverty alleviation<sup>[18]</sup>.

Throughout the above literature, research on Xi Jinping's poverty alleviation ideas has mainly focused on 2016 and beyond, with less research conducted in the past. In terms of specific research content, there is a lot of research on poverty alleviation and development ideas and targeted poverty alleviation ideas, discussing the Xi Jinping's poverty alleviation ideological system from different perspectives. However, there is relatively little discussion on the Xi Jinping's ecological poverty alleviation concept. Currently, there are only scattered and fragmented literature that briefly discusses the basic connotation and development issues of the Xi Jinping's ecological poverty alleviation concept. There is a lack of research on its scientific system construction, mechanism of action, and implementation mechanism, which is also the area that needs to be further studied in this paper.

## 2 Theoretical origins and foundations of the evolution of Xi Jinping's ecological poverty alleviation concept

### 2.1 Theoretical origins of the evolution of Xi Jinping's ecological poverty alleviation concept

**2.1.1 Theory of common prosperity.** Common prosperity is the essential requirement, basic principle, and goal of a society with Chinese characteristics. This requires people to live a prosperous and happy life, and resolutely eliminate social poverty. Any deviation from the track of "common prosperity" may lead to the loss of the cornerstone of the theoretical system of socialism with Chinese characteristics. It can be seen that the fundamental principle of common prosperity has become the theoretical source of ecological poverty alleviation. In November 2015, Xi Jinping pointed out at the Central Poverty Alleviation Work Conference that "eliminating poverty, improving people's livelihoods, and gradually achieving common prosperity are the essential requirements of socialism"<sup>[19]</sup>. The Xi Jinping's conclusion is to actively carry out poverty alleviation work, lift low-income people out of poverty and become prosperous, and implement the sharing of reform achievements to benefit more people, which is also an important manifestation of the Party's service to the people ideology. To this end, on March 8, 2015, when attending the Guangxi delegation of the third session of the 12<sup>th</sup> National People's Congress, Xi Jinping

pointed out that "poverty alleviation must be grasped and implemented promptly. . . no ethnic minority or region should be left behind"<sup>[20]</sup>. Subsequently, this statement was further elaborated in more detail, giving it new connotations. In February 2016, during the inspection in Zhejiang, Xi Jinping pointed out that "on the road to poverty alleviation, we cannot leave behind a poor family"<sup>[21]</sup>. This reflects the specific practices of the concept of common prosperity in social practice, providing actionable solutions for poverty alleviation work, and making the positioning clearer and poverty alleviation more precise.

**2.1.2 Ecological capital theory.** Professor Liu Sihua first proposed the concept of "ecological capital" in the field of ecological economics in 1997<sup>[22]</sup>. Ecological capital refers to the circulation and trading of ecological resources through ecological markets, in order to realize their value and achieve the goal of ecological resource appreciation. The realization of ecological capital value follows the transformation trajectory of ecological resources – ecological assets – ecological capital, and its core is to regard ecological environment resources as "capital" that can generate economic benefits and value<sup>[23]</sup>. General Secretary Xi Jinping pointed out that "we want both lucid waters and lush mountains, as well as invaluable assets. We would rather have lucid waters and lush mountains than invaluable assets, and lucid waters and lush mountains are invaluable assets"<sup>[24]</sup>. The Xi Jinping's "two mountains theory" is actually a concrete manifestation of the ecological capital theory in practice, equating the value of lucid waters and lush mountains with the value of invaluable assets, and even higher than the value of invaluable assets. This indicates that lucid waters and lush mountains have their due value in the market and can be transformed into economic benefits through the market, thereby increasing people's income and achieving poverty reduction. Currently, the poverty-stricken population in China is mainly concentrated in revolutionary old areas, ethnic minority areas, and border areas, especially in contiguous special zones. These areas have relatively abundant ecological resources, and local residents could only focus on "lucid waters and lush mountains" and could not transform them into "invaluable assets" in the past. Therefore, the ecological capital theory scientifically analyzes the value connotation of ecological resources, effectively solves the problem of realizing their inherent economic value, and can provide theoretical guidance for the coordinated development of ecological environment and poverty governance in poverty-stricken areas.

**2.2 Practical foundation of Xi Jinping's ecological poverty alleviation concept** Ecological poverty alleviation was first piloted in provinces such as Guizhou and Guangxi, and the Bijie model in Guizhou and the Baise model in Guangxi have sparked nationwide discussions. In 1986, Hu Jintao, the then Secretary of the Guizhou Provincial Party Committee, proposed the idea of establishing an ecological poverty alleviation experimental zone in poverty-stricken areas during his research on poverty issues in Bijie. In 1988, the State Council officially approved the establishment of a development poverty alleviation and ecological construc-

tion experimental zone in Bijie, exploring how to achieve leapfrog development in karst poverty-stricken areas and achieve harmony between humans and nature. The benign development of ecology and poverty alleviation in Bijie City has generated tremendous energy. From 1988 to 2015, the GDP of Bijie City increased from 2.34 billion yuan to 146.13 billion yuan, with an average annual growth rate of 11.55%; the forest coverage rate has increased by 48% from 8.53%; the per capita disposable income in rural areas has increased from 376 to 6 945 yuan, with an average annual growth rate of 11.42%<sup>[25–26]</sup>. Through the coordinated development of ecology and economy, more than 5.22 million people have been reduced in poverty, and a big harvest of economic, social and ecological benefits has been achieved. The ecological poverty alleviation project has been implemented in the Baise area of Guangxi, striving to eliminate the contradiction in coordinated development of ecology and economy. The implementation results showed that the GDP increased from 1.787 billion yuan to 91.792 billion yuan from 1988 to 2014, with an average annual growth rate of 11.7%; the forest coverage rate increased by 67.02% from 5.4%; the per capita net income in rural areas has increased from 218 to 6 145 yuan, with an average annual growth rate of 13.5%; the incidence of poverty has decreased from 68% to around 30%<sup>[27–28]</sup>. The ecological poverty alleviation model is a relatively feasible poverty alleviation plan that has been validated in social practice, and has received attention from the Party and the state throughout history. At the same time, it has also been highly valued by governments at all levels, actively exploring ways to adapt to local ecological poverty alleviation. These experiential explorations have laid a solid practical foundation for the formation and improvement of the Xi Jinping's ecological poverty alleviation concept.

### 3 Mechanism of Xi Jinping's ecological poverty alleviation concept

**3.1 Coupling relationship between ecological damage and poverty** Poverty and the ecological environment complement each other, and the deterioration of the ecological environment can lead to an exacerbation of poverty, forming a vicious cycle (Fig. 1). The weakening of the ecological environment will lead to a decrease in the carrying capacity of the regional ecological environment, a decrease in the self purification ability of the ecosystem, and an increase in the dependence of the public on the ecological environment. Due to technological backwardness and lack of funds, the people's production methods are also relatively backward. Therefore, the people only adopt extensive methods to cultivate and develop resources that are easier to develop, and they are powerless to develop resources that are not easy to develop. This leads to the underutilization of resources in poverty-stricken areas, resulting in waste, backward economic development, and poverty. The lack of production technology and low labor skills lead to low production efficiency, resulting in an increase in labor demand, which in turn increases population pressure and reduces per capita resources. In order to survive, it is necessary to increase resource

development efforts, which in turn exacerbates ecological environment damage, leads to a decline in land productivity, and exacerbates poverty problems. This is a vicious cycle of poverty caused by environmental destruction. Similarly, the improvement of ecological environment can also promote poverty reduction and achieve the goal of poverty reduction.

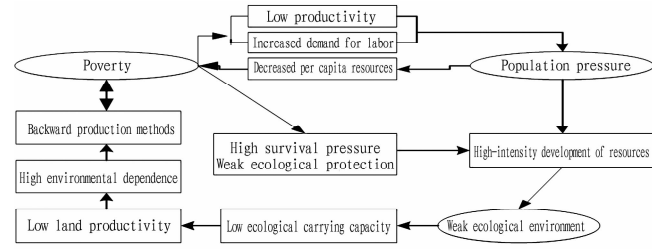


Fig. 1 Vicious cycle of weak ecological environment - poverty - weak ecological environment

**3.2 Mechanism of ecological poverty alleviation** The concept of green development is one of the five major development concepts determined by the Fifth Plenary Session of the 18<sup>th</sup> Central Committee of the Communist Party of China. It is a major strategic measure taken by the Party and the state to assess the current situation of economic and ecological environment development. Green transformation is a common practice adopted globally in the current international ecological environment development trend, which echoes the green development concept advocated by China. The Xi Jinping's ecological poverty alleviation concept follows the concept of green development, maintains the coordination and unity of ecological construction and economic development, and achieves positive interactive situation of poverty alleviation through ecological protection and maintaining ecological environment in poverty alleviation. The positive interaction between ecology and poverty requires a certain process and the completion of various procedures in coordination to achieve the goal (Fig. 2). Firstly, ecological resources must be capitalized, following the process of

ecological resources – ecological assets – ecological capital, which mainly provides ecological products and ecological consumption services to the ecological market through two ways: ecological industries and ecological resource service functions. Secondly, consumers purchase ecological products and services through the ecological market, realizing the value of ecological resources and generating currency flow. Thirdly, the emergence of monetary flow will lead to two problems. On the one hand, the realization of ecological resource value will lead to an increase in capital flow, which in turn promotes the income of residents in poverty-stricken areas and achieves poverty reduction. After the income increase brought by ecological environment protection, residents will enhance their awareness of ecological environment protection and be willing or actively participate in ecological construction. On the other hand, the value realization of ecological resources will trigger a profit stream, which in turn induces social capital to actively participate in ecological investment, thereby expanding the scale of ecological construction and adding more ecological resources. Fourthly, the current government is still the main body of ecological construction, and it should actively use the function of fiscal transfer payments to promote ecological environment protection, closely unite with social capital and the people in poverty-stricken areas to vigorously strengthen ecological investment and environmental protection, promote the transformation of the ecological environment to a good state, and enhance the carrying capacity and ecological service functions of the ecosystem. Finally, the improvement of ecological environment can provide more ecological products and services for ecological market transactions, thereby providing more currency flow and promoting the wealth creation of the poor. In this way, the improvement of the ecosystem can better integrate ecology with economy, not only effectively solving poverty problems, but also strengthening the function of ecological environment protection.

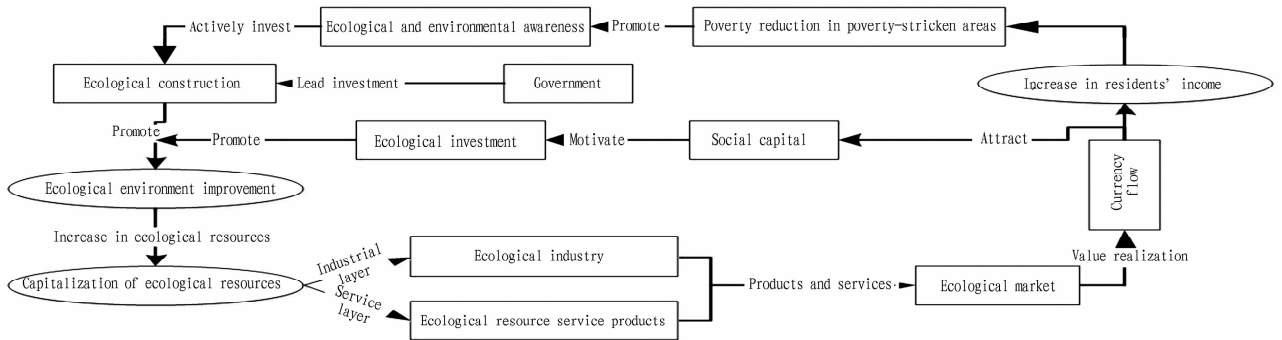


Fig. 2 Basic connotation of Xi Jinping's ecological poverty alleviation concept

## 4 Basic connotation and content system of Xi Jinping's ecological poverty alleviation concept

**4.1 Main connotation of Xi Jinping's ecological poverty alleviation concept** "The 13<sup>th</sup> Five-year Plan" points out that "green development, along with economic development, have be-

come the two wings of building a moderately prosperous society in all respects, regardless of its importance". Therefore, the concept of green development has become the basic guiding ideology of Xi Jinping's ecological poverty alleviation concept, which is formed based on the requirements of green development and has strong

guiding significance for the development of poverty-stricken areas. Xi Jinping pays attention to the relationship between ecological environment and poverty, and believes that ecology and poverty are not opposite, but rather complement and promote each other's development. During an inspection in Qinghai Province on August 23, 2016, Xi Jinping specifically pointed out that "practice has proven that restricting and prohibiting development in the Three Rivers Source is not a hindrance to development, but rather beneficial to development"<sup>[29]</sup>. From this, it can be seen that the Xi Jinping's ecological poverty alleviation concept relies on the ecological environment resources of poverty-stricken areas. Taking capitalization of ecological resources as a poverty alleviation carrier and ecological market as intermediary, and fully utilizing the multiple utilization attributes of ecological resources, diversified ecological products and ecological service consumer goods are developed. Using ecological compensation as institutional guarantee, the balance of the ecosystem is maintained, and a new form of poverty alleviation that promotes the coordinated development of ecology and economy is realized. Ecological poverty alleviation is to adhere to the "walking with two feet" approach of ecological construction and poverty alleviation development, and to achieve the appreciation and preservation of ecological capital in poverty-stricken areas through ecological investment and ecological market methods, ensuring the healthy operation of the ecosystem, while also achieving poverty alleviation and prosperity. Therefore, only by maintaining efficient and coordinated development between ecology and poverty can the actual effect of ecological poverty alleviation be effectively improved.

**4.2 Content system of Xi Jinping's ecological poverty alleviation concept** Since the 18<sup>th</sup> National Congress of the Communist Party of China, Xi Jinping's a series of speeches on poverty alleviation have formed a unique ecological poverty alleviation concept. The Xi Jinping's ecological poverty alleviation concept is a summary of long-term poverty alleviation development and ecological environment protection practices, and is also a concrete crystallization of the sinicization of Marxism. The Xi Jinping's ecological poverty alleviation concept consists of three parts: the guidance layer, the implementation layer, and the guarantee layer. The guidance layer is a guiding ideology that regards the ecological environment as a productive force. The implementation layer is composed of three modes: ecological compensation poverty alleviation model, off site ecological poverty alleviation model, and ecological industry poverty alleviation model. The guarantee layer is composed of a diversified policy system and a diversified institutional system (Fig. 3).

**4.2.1 Guidance layer: ecological environment being productivity.** Since the 18<sup>th</sup> National Congress of the Communist Party of China, when participating in local delegations, Xi Jinping almost always mentions the issue of ecological environment protection. When participating in the Guizhou delegation during the 2014 Two Sessions, he pointed out that "lucid waters and lush mountains are not opposed to invaluable assets. The key lies in people and ideas.

The protection of ecological environment is to protect productivity, and the improvement of ecological environment is to develop productivity. Let lucid waters and lush mountains play an economic and social role"<sup>[30]</sup>. During a visit to Kazakhstan, he proposed that "we want both lucid waters and lush mountains, as well as invaluable assets. We would rather have lucid waters and lush mountains than invaluable assets, and lucid waters and lush mountains are invaluable assets"<sup>[24]</sup>. The Xi Jinping's theory of "two mountains" (lucid waters and lush mountains, invaluable assets) objectively solves the relationship between ecological environment and economic development. The current poverty-stricken areas in China are mainly border areas, ethnic minority areas, revolutionary old areas, and mountainous areas. The vast majority of poverty-stricken areas have abundant ecological resources. In the past, they held huge "wealth" but were powerless to convert it into actual economic benefits. Only by capitalizing ecological resources and promoting ecological products and services through ecological markets can local residents convert ecological resources into cash flow, increase income for residents, and achieve poverty reduction. Xi Jinping systematically discusses the relationship between ecological environment and poverty governance, and believes that the improvement of ecological environment can promote economic development and reduce poverty. Ecological environment is the fundamental basis for poverty alleviation in poverty-stricken areas. It must actively maintain the balance of the ecosystem and create more "ecological resource flows" for the economic development of poverty-stricken areas. To this end, when meeting with the Jiangxi delegation during the 2015 Two Sessions, Xi Jinping pointed out that "the environment is people's livelihood, lush mountains are beauty, and blue skies are happiness. We should protect the ecological environment like we protect our eyes, and treat the ecological environment like we treat life"<sup>[30]</sup>. In this discourse, Xi Jinping fully affirms the role of ecological environment in social livelihood, demonstrating that it is a valuable asset. This indirectly expresses the ecological service value that ecological capital can demonstrate. Therefore, protecting the ecology can safeguard one's own "wealth". The Xi Jinping's series of speeches on ecology and economic development provide solid theoretical guidance for ecological poverty alleviation, gradually becoming a true guiding ideology.

**4.2.2 Implementation layer: three poverty alleviation models.** Firstly, the ecological compensation poverty alleviation model. In November 2015, the Central Poverty Alleviation and Development Work Conference proposed the "five one-batch projects", one of which is the ecological compensation poverty alleviation batch. It emphasizes the need to continuously strengthen the protection of the ecological environment and self restoration of the entire poverty-stricken area, increase the amount of financial subsidies in key ecological functional areas, continue to expand the scope of existing policies implemented in poverty-stricken areas, and support capable impoverished individuals to become forest rangers and other ecological public welfare managers through ecological compensa-

tion methods such as financial transfer payments, in order to achieve the goal of poverty alleviation. For example, the Xizang Autonomous Region has arranged about 1.8 billion yuan of ecological compensation funds to support poverty alleviation, mainly to help 500 000 poor people achieve ecological protection employment. At the same time, Qinghai Province is actively carrying out ecological compensation and poverty alleviation. It has proposed to set up 35 000 ecological public welfare management and protection positions, and 43 100 impoverished people have been directly arranged employment, mainly engaged in ecological public welfare management and protection work<sup>[31]</sup>. These measures have achieved direct integration of poverty alleviation and ecological protection, and are the main ways to creatively solve specific poverty problems. Previous practice has also proven that ecological compensation for poverty alleviation has greater potential and role in practical operations, which can effectively eliminate regional poverty problems. Through ecological compensation such as transactions and cooperation, a "win-win" situation can be achieved between ecological environment protection and economic development, truly achieving the effect of poverty reduction.

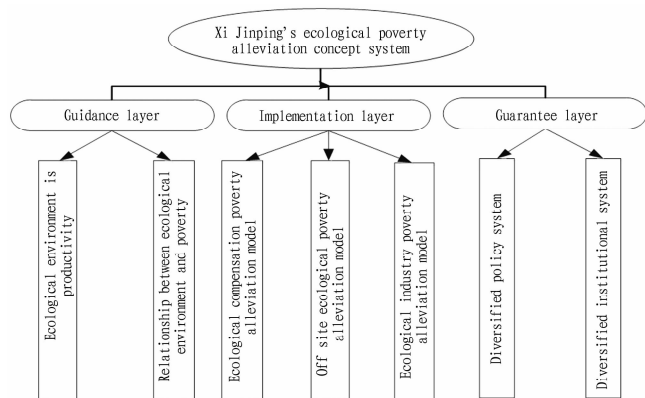
Secondly, the off site ecological poverty alleviation model. Areas with relatively fragile ecological environment have a high degree of overlap with poverty-stricken areas in China. The fragile ecological environment and scarce material resources are difficult to support the survival of the poor, and relocation to other places seems to be an effective way to alleviate poverty. Off site ecological poverty alleviation, also known as relocation poverty alleviation or ecological migration poverty alleviation, refers to the situation where impoverished individuals in poverty-stricken areas cannot solve their poverty problems in place and need to relocate from areas with poor ecological environment to areas with better ecological environment, in order to solve poverty caused by resource bottlenecks. The off site ecological poverty alleviation model (relocation from another location) has been implemented since the 1980s and has achieved good results. At the Central Poverty Alleviation and Development Work Conference in November 2015, Xi Jinping proposed relocation poverty alleviation in the "five one-batch projects" as one of the main ways of targeted poverty alleviation. According to statistical data, the central government has allocated a total of 40.4 billion yuan from 2012 to October 2015, resulting in various types of investments totaling 141.2 billion yuan, in order to solve the problem of 5.91 million relocating impoverished people. Local authorities have raised 3 billion yuan in special relocation funds to solve the relocation problems of over 5.8 million people. 2.49 million impoverished people would be relocated in 2016<sup>[31]</sup>.

Thirdly, the ecological industry poverty alleviation model. The best way to reduce poverty in poverty-stricken areas is to reduce poverty on the spot. By enhancing the intrinsic qualities and abilities of impoverished individuals and developing a combination of internal and external poverty alleviation, effective solutions can be achieved. Xi Jinping has always advocated for targeted poverty

alleviation through industries, with a particular emphasis on ecological industry poverty alleviation. During his tenure in Zhejiang, he emphasized the need to develop an "efficient ecological agriculture" strategy, and establish an ecological and safe agricultural development system, to help farmers lift themselves out of poverty and become prosperous. During an inspection in Xiangxi Prefecture of Hunan Province in 2013, he proposed that "poverty alleviation and development should be combined with agriculture... combined with ecological protection, and efficiency should be sought by enhancing the comprehensive production capacity of agriculture"<sup>[32]</sup>. In further elaboration, Xi Jinping believes that if ecological environment resources are transformed into ecological agriculture, ecological industry, and ecological tourism, making them ecological economic resources to generate benefits, then lucid waters and lush mountains will truly be transformed into invaluable assets. The development of ecological industries can promote economic development in poverty-stricken areas and drive employment for impoverished populations in these areas. Only when the ecological industry is developed can the ecological poverty alleviation projects be truly implemented, and relevant policies such as financial support be put into practice, thereby achieving the goal of promoting poverty alleviation and wealth creation in impoverished areas.

**4.2.3 Guarantee layer: diversified guarantee system.** Xi Jinping pays attention to the formulation of poverty alleviation policy guarantee measures, which have formed a series of systems in the overall poverty alleviation strategy layout, mainly reflected as a diversified policy system and a diversified institutional system. Firstly, the leadership responsibility system for ecological poverty alleviation. Xi Jinping proposes a three-level leadership responsibility mechanism that involves central coordination, provincial governments taking overall responsibility, and city (prefecture) and county-level governments implementing the plan. The work style that focuses on the region, goes deep into the village, and targets households for poverty alleviation should be formed. Governments at all levels should clarify their specific job responsibilities and complete various tasks with quality and quantity guaranteed. At the same time, he also emphasizes that the first responsibility of the ecological poverty alleviation work is the party and government leaders, and asks them to go deep into the poor households to investigate and master the real situation so as to guide the work efficiently. Secondly, strengthening the construction of grassroots organizations. Xi Jinping believes that the grassroots level is the foundation of ecological poverty alleviation work, so it is necessary to combine ecological poverty alleviation development with grassroots organization construction, select elite forces to settle in poverty-stricken villages, and guide poverty alleviation work. Poverty alleviation work teams are selected to guide grassroots poverty alleviation, and it should ensure that each village and household has a person responsible for providing assistance. Through the coordination and unity between the work teams and resident cadres, they can play an efficient role. Thirdly, a complete ecological poverty

alleviation policy system. Xi Jinping proposes that poverty alleviation should form a social synergy and a complete policy system to support it. This policy system includes multiple aspects such as financial support, social assistance, and ecological industry development, which is also the main lever for implementing Xi Jinping's ecological poverty alleviation.



**Fig. 3** Composition of the Xi Jinping's ecological poverty alleviation concept system

## 5 Implementation path of Xi Jinping's ecological poverty alleviation concept

To fully implement the concept of Xi Jinping's ecological poverty alleviation, it is necessary to strengthen the innovation of mechanisms and systems, with a focus on assessing whether various ecological poverty alleviation policies have been implemented in poverty-stricken areas to ensure that they have produced corresponding effects. This requires the establishment of corresponding scientific and reasonable guarantee mechanisms to safeguard and protect.

**5.1 Innovation and improvement of market mechanism for ecological poverty alleviation** To fully play the role of ecological poverty alleviation model, the first priority is to establish a sound ecological market mechanism. The purpose of ecological poverty alleviation is to achieve a win-win situation between ecological environment protection and poverty governance, and a key condition for this requires a sound ecological market. The key to poverty reduction in poverty-stricken areas still lies in regional economic development. Vigorously developing ecological industries is the only way, and it needs to accelerate the trading of ecological products and services by improving the ecological market mechanism. Firstly, it is necessary to establish an effective pricing mechanism. Ecological products and services differ from general products and services, which requires the construction of a pricing system that reflects the difference of actual value. Secondly, it is necessary to establish a sound market supervision and risk control mechanism. It should actively explore evaluation standards for the quality of ecological products and services, standardize market competition mechanisms, establish effective market supervision and risk control systems, and add momentum to the development of ecological industries. Thirdly, it should actively cultivate a con-

sumer market for ecological products and services. It should actively raise public awareness of ecological environment protection, enhance the consumption capacity of ecological products, and create a good ecological consumption market.

**5.2 Innovation and improvement of performance evaluation mechanism for ecological poverty alleviation** In the concept of green development, the performance evaluation system for ecological poverty alleviation will inevitably undergo significant changes, which requires continuous innovation in the performance evaluation mechanism for poverty-stricken areas to ensure greater effectiveness in ecological poverty alleviation. In the past, performance evaluation in poverty-stricken areas mainly relied on GDP accounting as its main measurement indicator. Currently, there is a need to shift towards evaluating the effectiveness of ecological poverty alleviation, with a focus on improving the income level of impoverished individuals and reducing the number of impoverished people in poverty stricken areas as the core indicators of performance evaluation. Changing this performance evaluation method will inevitably stimulate the active transformation of work style among party and government leaders and cadres in poverty-stricken areas, and make ecological poverty alleviation and development work an important part of their work. This will be conducive to improving the efficiency and quality of the entire ecological poverty alleviation work.

**5.3 Innovation and improvement of the integration mechanism between ecological poverty alleviation and other poverty alleviation methods** Poverty alleviation and development in poverty-stricken areas is a systematic and complex project, and the causes and forms of poverty vary greatly. This determines that not a single poverty alleviation method can solve all problems. It requires integrating various poverty alleviation methods and tailoring targeted solutions according to targeted poverty alleviation method. There are differences between different poverty alleviation methods, and the implementation environment and conditions are also different. To combine these methods, an effective integration mechanism needs to be formed. Firstly, it is necessary to establish a joint coordination mechanism among departments. The choice of poverty alleviation methods involves different departments, which requires the integration of different departments to build an effective coordination system with a common goal. It needs to continuously clarify the job responsibilities between various departments, promote mutual connections and cooperation among multiple departments, and effectively improve the efficiency of various poverty alleviation methods. Secondly, it needs to strengthen the linkage mechanism between grassroots cadres and impoverished populations. The key to implementing ecological poverty alleviation and other poverty alleviation methods lies in the active execution of grassroots cadres, as well as the active participation of impoverished individuals. For example, there are problems such as slow effectiveness and difficulty in implementing ecological poverty alleviation, which require the understanding and support of grassroots cadres and impoverished individuals.

**5.4 Innovation and improvement of social management mechanisms for ecological poverty alleviation** Poverty alleviation work must involve social mobilization, mobilize the entire so-

ciety to participate widely, and form a strong social force. So first, it is necessary to establish and improve a mechanism that encourages and guides social organizations to support ecological poverty alleviation. It should actively integrate various social organizations, non-governmental charitable organizations, non-governmental green environmental protection organizations, social poverty alleviation funds, *etc.*, to form an effective channel to support the development of ecological poverty alleviation. Secondly, it should actively explore a third-party ecological poverty alleviation performance evaluation mechanism. It needs to strengthen the assessment and consolidation of the effectiveness of ecological poverty alleviation, vigorously introduce third-party independent evaluation institutions for quantitative assessment, and focus on breaking the information monopoly between local governments and farmers, in order to avoid the problem of poor poverty alleviation results caused by information distortion. Thirdly, it needs to continuously improve various information disclosure mechanisms, actively build an ecological poverty alleviation information platform, and strive to provide information dissemination mechanisms for both the supply and demand sides of ecological poverty alleviation. Various social forces will be allowed to share information as long as they meet certain conditions, in order to avoid duplication and omission of assistance. Fourthly, it needs to establish a sound mechanism for ecological poverty alleviation services and resource optimization allocation. It needs to optimize the delivery of ecological service resources based on the information resources provided by the information service platform for various supply and demand sides of ecological poverty alleviation, and cooperating with the supporting physical stores in poverty-stricken areas, to meet the individual needs of all parties.

**5.5 Innovation and improvement of ecological immigration system** The model of off site ecological poverty alleviation involves a large number of ecological immigrants, and it is very important to further optimize and improve the relevant mechanisms. Firstly, it is necessary to actively establish and improve the inter provincial ecological migration management and liaison mechanism. It is necessary to clearly stipulate that provincial-level departments are responsible for overall management of employment, medical care, housing, and related social security issues for ecological immigrants. It is necessary to ensure that the basic living and residential land requirements of ecological immigrants are met, and to coordinate with various counties and cities to solve basic livelihood issues such as employment and children's enrollment. Secondly, it needs to improve the education and training mechanism for ecological migration. The key to poverty alleviation through ecological migration still lies in the improvement of employment capacity. Therefore, it is necessary to strengthen vocational skills training for ecological migration, integrate various forces to expand funding support channels and training channels, build a multi-level training management structure at the provincial, municipal, and county levels, and provide feasible solutions to serve ecological migration skills training. Thirdly, it needs to improve the social security system for ecological migration. It should improve and implement social guarantee systems for ecological migration such as medical insurance and rural pension insurance,

and carry out differentiated ecological poverty alleviation service strategies for different ecological migration groups, in order to provide necessary institutional guarantees under good livelihood conditions.

## 6 Conclusions

Poverty alleviation work is a long-term and arduous task, which requires to constantly innovate poverty alleviation mechanisms, actively create social development synergy, and create a new working atmosphere for the post poverty alleviation period. The idea of Xi Jinping's ecological poverty alleviation absorbs the essence of Marxist poverty alleviation and the traditional poverty alleviation and development of the CPC, and expands and solves the relationship between ecology and poverty governance. For the vast poor areas, they can make full use of their green ecological resources to continuously develop their green ecological industries, so as to obtain "green ecological profits" and achieve the most effective sustainable livelihood. Therefore, the Xi Jinping's ecological poverty alleviation ideology is the latest theoretical crystallization of sinicization of Marxism, the most effective theoretical guide for building a socialist modernized strong country in China, and the most effective way to integrate ecological environment governance with poverty alleviation and development.

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source and non-point source pollution. The ecological restoration of the land near the lake is realized mainly by the restoration of plant communities.

Plants are the most critical and active component in the ecosystem of an artificial landscape lake. For the restoration of plant communities in artificial landscape lakes, the transition in the horizontal direction should be fully considered, and the basic pattern of aquatic plants – hygrophytes – terrestrial plants should be followed from the water body to the land near the lake. Meanwhile, the combination of trees, shrubs and ground cover in the vertical direction should be paid attention to, so as to form a reasonable composite structure. The trees, shrubs and grass as terrestrial plants have different ecological functions. The composite structure of trees – shrubs – grass can effectively trap and decompose pollutants, and form good animal and plant habitats and rich plant landscape.

The restoration of plant community must be based on the comprehensive analysis of water form, water matrix, climate, hydrology, topography and other factors of artificial landscape lakes, and combine with the seasonal variability of dominant species to ultimately determine the size of plant population and the complexity of population structure configuration. Under the artificial positive intervention, a stable and harmonious ecosystem of an artificial landscape lake can be finally formed after a gradual process from simple to complex.

## 4 Conclusions

An urban artificial landscape lake is mainly composed of

water, lakeside zones and land near the lake, so nine kinds of ecological restoration technologies suitable for these three restoration units are introduced respectively, such as aquatic biological collaborative restoration technology, artificial wetland and plant community restoration technology. The above restoration technologies need to be comprehensively applied to restore the whole ecosystem of an artificial landscape lake.

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