

rose by 0.4 percentage points over the previous year.

The economic environment was improved. In 2002, 448 provincial administrative approval items were decreased. Because of the reform in tax and fee in rural area, the burdens of farmers were lightened. The organs of political and law continued to carry out "Strike-Hard" to crack down relentlessly on criminal activities according to law, the crimes committed by evil cult gangs and taking advantage of duty were strengthened so as to resolve the ingredient of insecurity.

Work on employment was strengthened. By the end of 2002, the number of laid-off workers of state-owned enterprises was 394.9 thousand, a decrease of 14.4 percent compared with that at the end of 2001. Of this total, 252.2 thousand were employed in urban areas. The urban unemployment rate through unemployment registration was 4.0 percent at the end of 2002.

Main problems that remained in economy performance and social development included: the situations of employment and re-employment were still severe, the income of rural residents and urban low income group went up slowly, the export increasing lacked power.

II Agriculture and Rural Economy

Agriculture developed steadily in structure adjustment. In 2002, the total output of grain amounted to 25.01 million tons, decreased by 7.4 percent; the output of cotton amounted to 153 thousand tons, increased by 19 percent; the output of oil-bearing seeds was 1.19 million tons, decreased by 13.3 percent; flue-cured tobacco 175.1 thousand tons, increased by 15.8 percent; the output of tea reached 60.4 thousand tons, had an increase of 3.3 percent; fruits were 4.33 million tons, decreased by 12.8 percent. The number of slaughtered fattened hogs amounted to 64.61 million heads, grew by 3.3 percent; the number of slaughtered beef cattle was 1.52 million heads, up by 12.2 percent; the sheep and goats 6.58 thousand heads, up by 15.7 percent; the total aquatic products amounted to 1.5 thousand tons, up by 6.1 percent.

Further optimized in agriculture and rural economic structure. The sown areas of grain crops were 4652.6 thousand hectares, decreased by 150.2 thousand hectares over the previous year, of that, the early rice decreased by 136.6 hectares; the areas of the high quality rice 1336.5 thousand hectares, increased by 148.4 thousand hectares. Among the economical crops, the sown areas of rami and medical herbs were 56.7 thousand hectares and 64.4 thousand hectares, increased by 17.2 percent and 15.2 percent respectively. The sown areas of cotton were 118.5 thousand hectares, decreased 20.7 percent. The sown areas of vegetables and melons were 1024.4 thousand hectares, increased by 6.8 percent. Hogs production developed steadily. The herbivores, fowls and high quality aquatic products were quickened. The gross output value of animal husbandry and aquatic products covered 46 percent of that of the whole agriculture, up by 0.6 percent over the previous year. According to statistics from the township enterprises bureau, the total value-added of the township enterprises was 158.98 billion yuan, up by 10 percent over the previous year.

The construction of rural infrastructure facilities and zoology environment was strengthened. 539 thousand water conservancy projects were started working in all province, 402 thousand of those projects were finished. 2.8 billion yuan was invested and 1.09 billion earth-stone cubic metres was finished. Newly increased irrigated areas