



中國農業大學
China Agricultural University

Prospect and Challenges of Urban Agriculture in China

Baoming LI

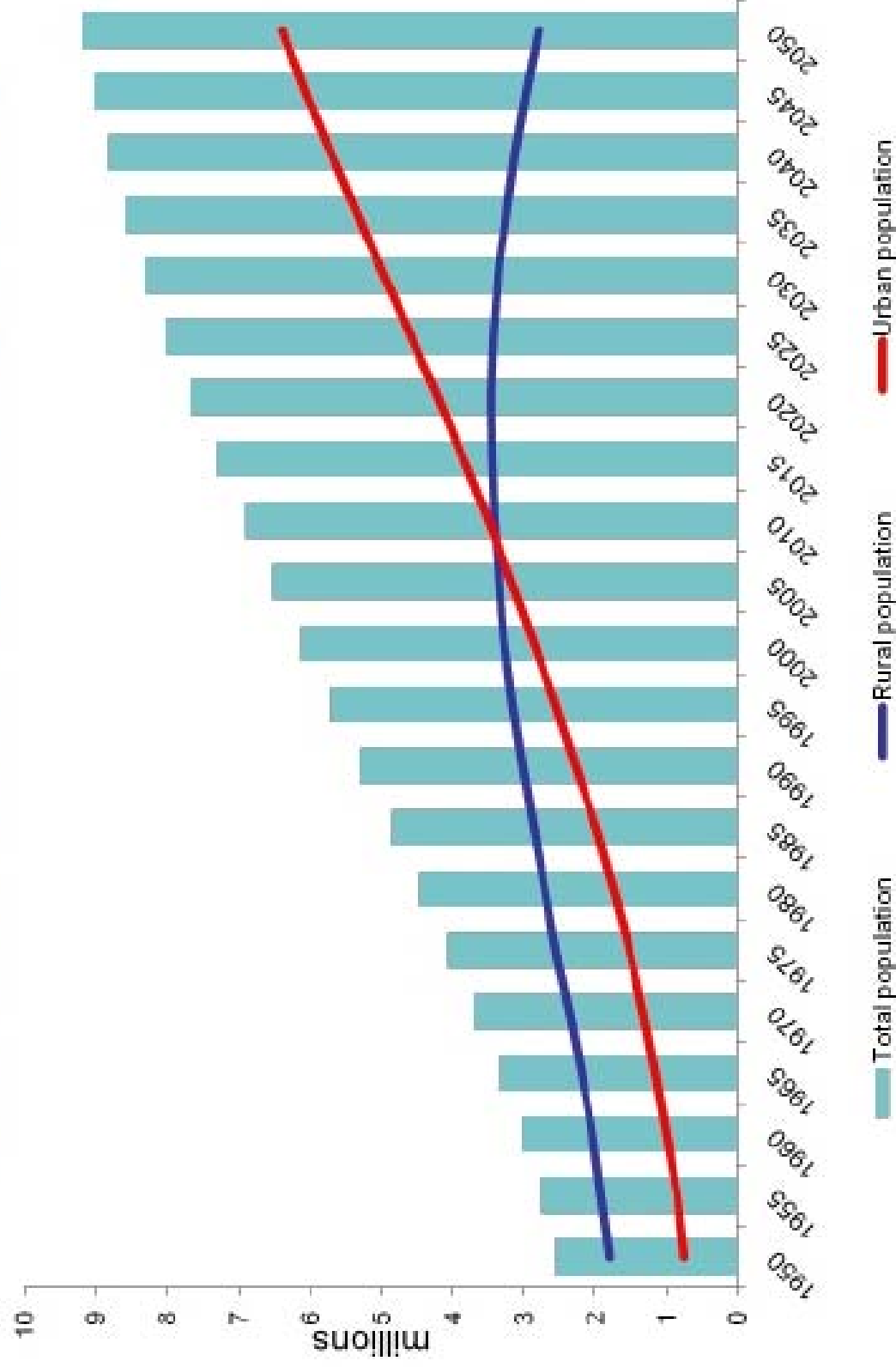
**Professor & Ph.D.
College of the Water Resources and Civil Engineering, CAU
Email: libm@cau.edu.cn
October 10, 2013**

Contents

- Urbanization in China
- Development of Urban Agriculture in China
- Challenges for Urban Agriculture



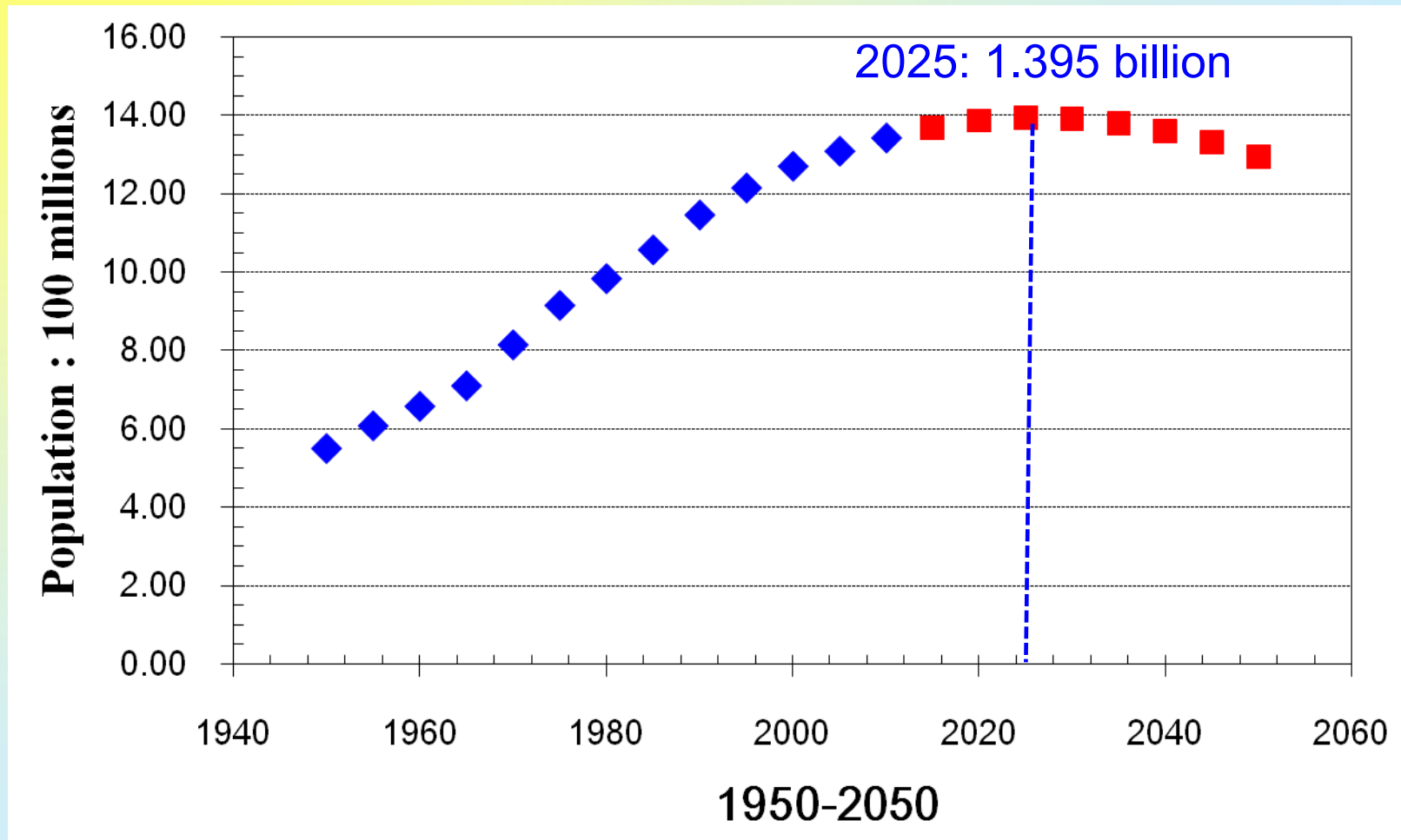
Urbanization is growing rapidly



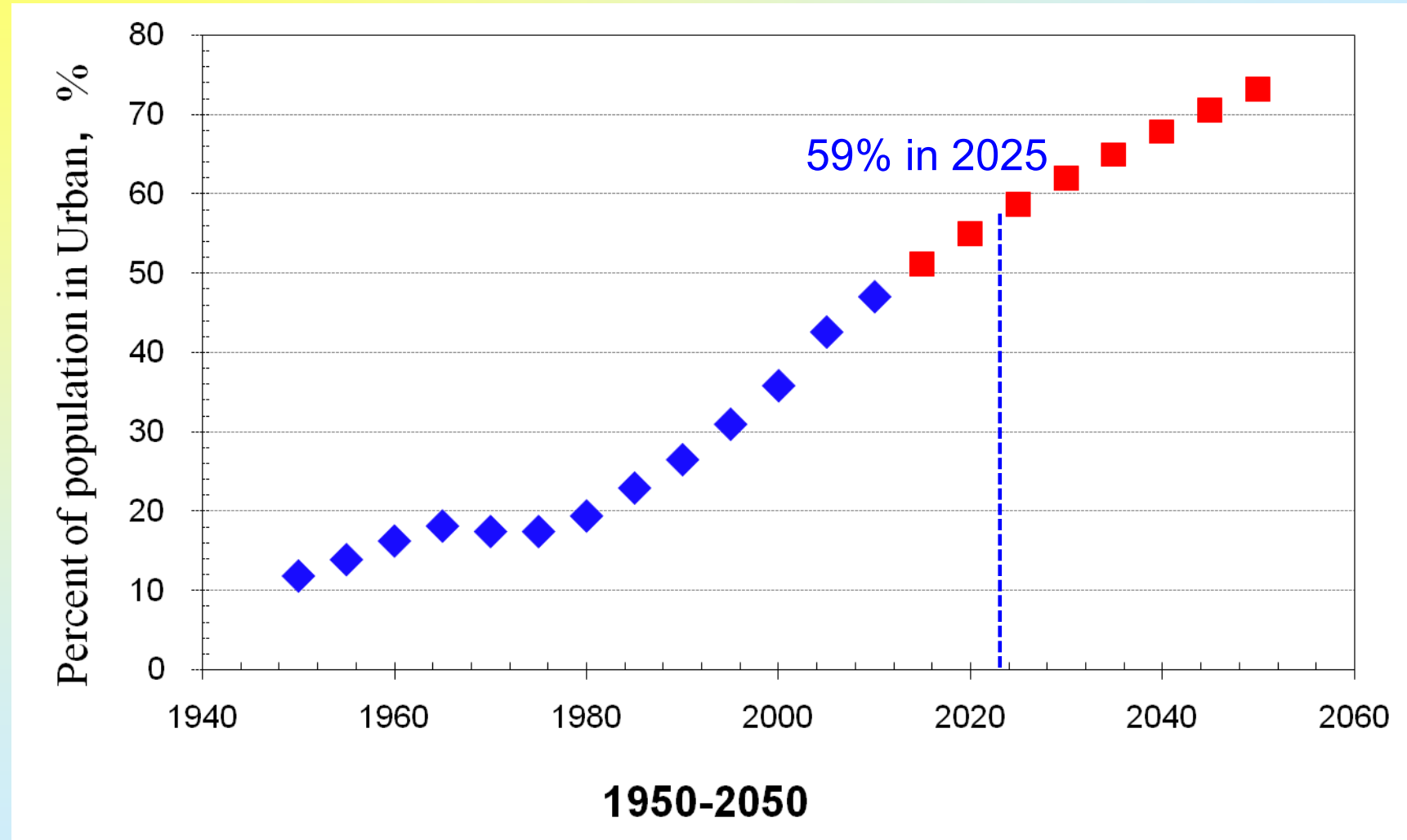
Source: UNDESA



Populations in China



Urbanization increasing



Urban Agriculture

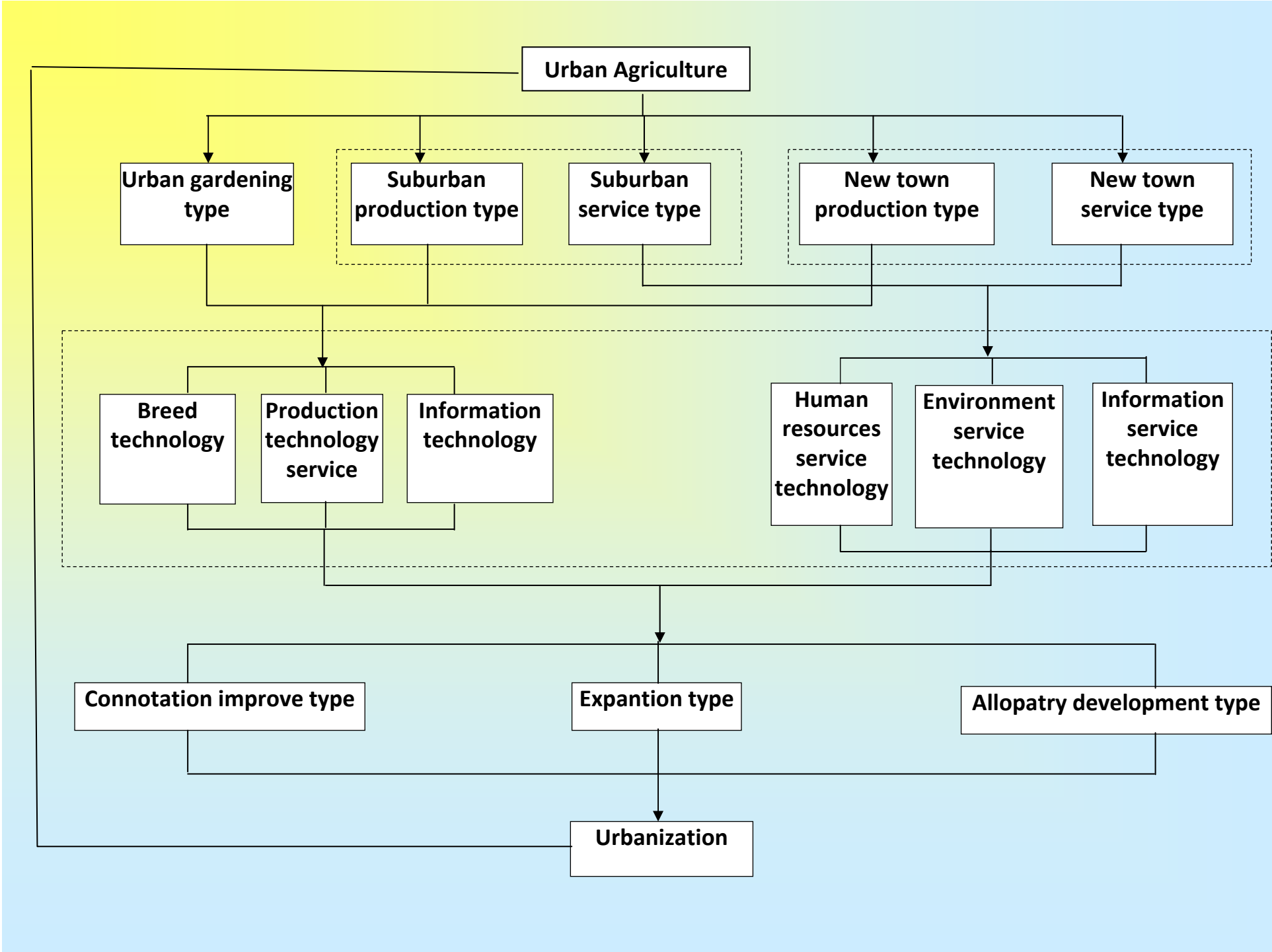
- With the rapid growth of urban population, the demand for fresh agricultural products in urban areas is getting bigger and bigger. The safety of the supply should be guaranteed.
- Urban agriculture is highly needed for the metropolis, Beijing and Shanghai in particular, to supply over 20 million population with daily fresh vegetable.
- Small pieces of lands scattered around the urban areas are playing the important role in urban agriculture.
- Urban agriculture must be low input, non-toxic, water efficient and soil fertility must be carefully managed.



Development of Urban Agriculture in China

- Development strategies on urban agriculture for most cities have been made in China.
- Urban agriculture is growing with the development of the large- and medium-sized cities.
- Lack of supporting technology constraints the development of urban agriculture.
- The establishment on the technology servicing system for urban agriculture is urgently needed.





Urban Farm Enterprise

- Territorial units are grouped into municipal administrative Urban Farm Enterprise
- Determines appropriateness of different technologies for its subunits
- Urban Farm Enterprise:
 - **Coordinates urban agricultural activities in the municipality**
 - **Dispenses extension and technical assistance**
 - **Links farmers and gardeners**
 - **Links education, research and service centers**



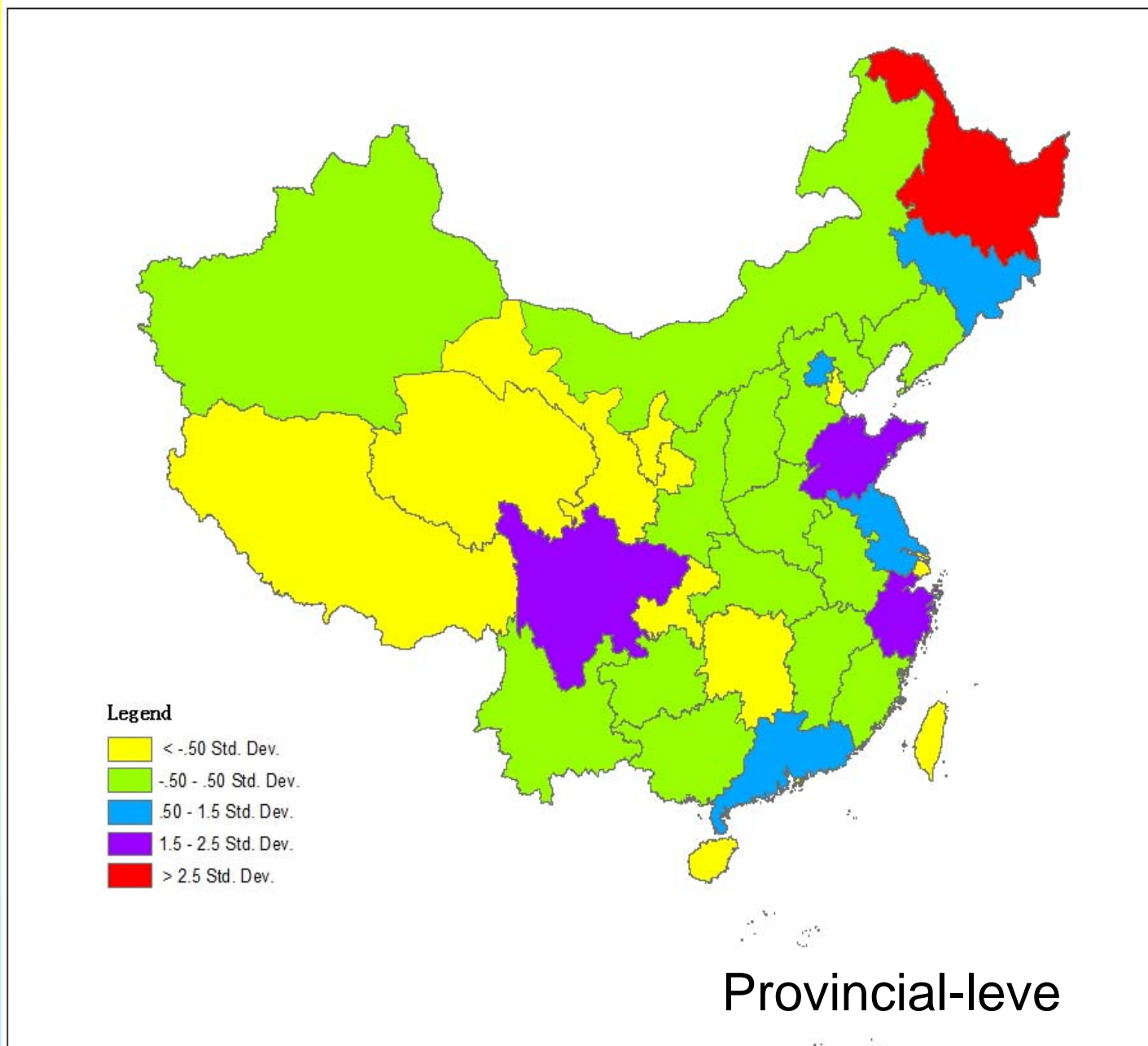


Fig. The overall distribution of organic agricultural enterprises

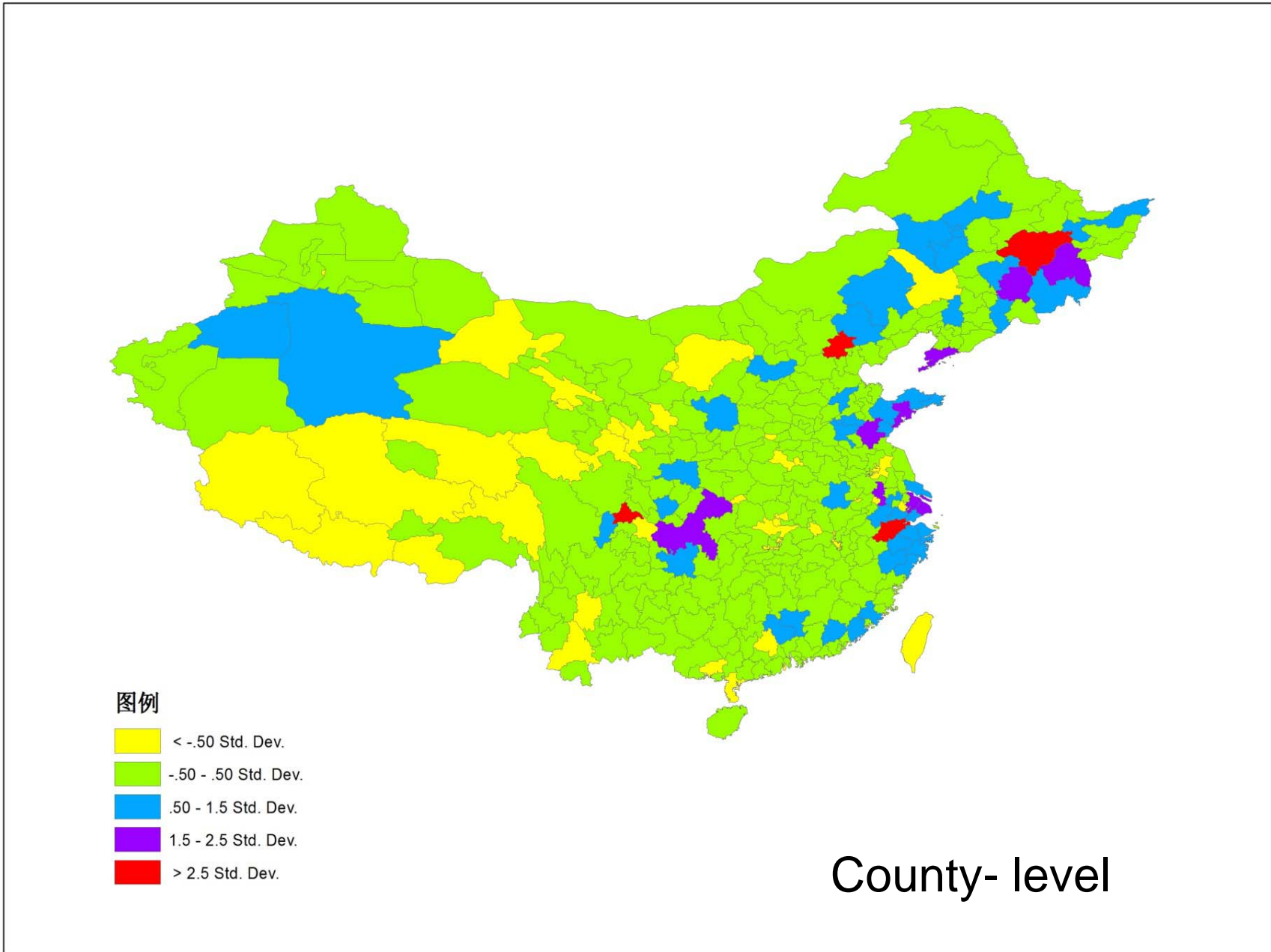


Fig. The overall distribution of organic agricultural enterprises

图例

综合等级

- IV级
- III级
- II级
- I级

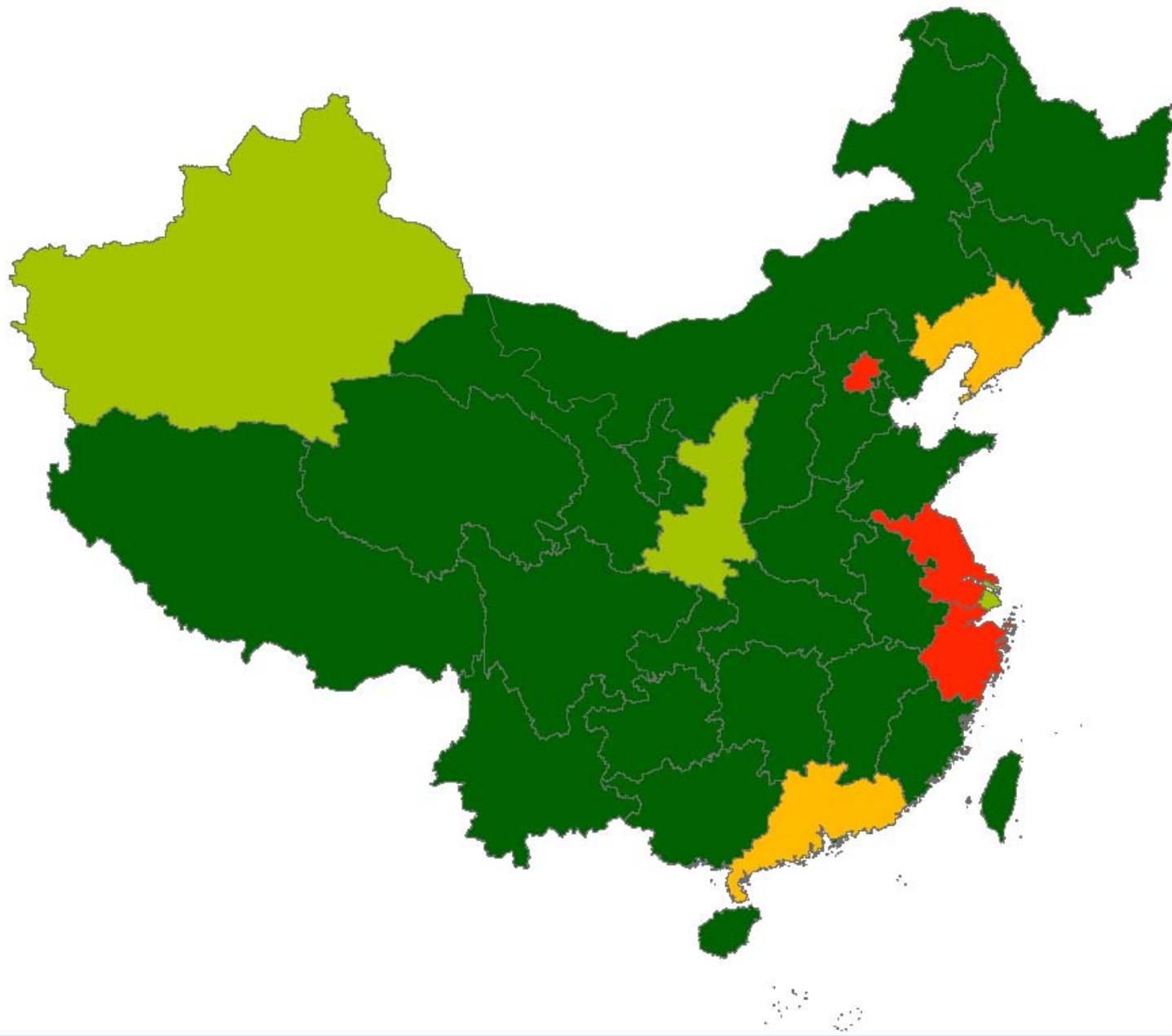


Fig. Spatial scale distribution of organic certification center in 2012

Basic Principles

- Uniform distribution throughout the country
- Intensive use of organic matter to boost and preserve soil fertility and biological pest controls
- Use of each patch of available land to produce food, guaranteeing intensive production and high yields of crops and animals
- Multidisciplinary integration and the intense application of science and technology
- A fresh supply of good quality products, offered directly to the population, guaranteeing a balanced production of not less than 300g of vegetables daily per capita and an adequate variety of animal protein sources
- Maximum use of the potential to produce food, such as labor force available and the recycling to wastes and by-products for plant and animal nutrition



Vegetables and Fresh Herbs

First and most developed and successful initiative

■ Organoponics:

- located in areas with infertile soils and production constraint
- container is filled with mixture of organic matter, substrate and soil

■ Intensive Vegetable Gardening:

- practiced on good soil.
- Organic matter is applied directly during preparation for planting



Science Technology and Training

- Focus on practical on-site training
- Extensions system the depends on the participation of extension agents, research center, experienced farmers and gardeners and other individuals and institutions related to urban agriculture



Integrated disease and pest management

- Characterized by low pest and disease incidence because of small plot sizes and generous application of organic material to soil
- Biological pesticides
 - The development of new technology and it's artisanal and semi-industrial production are critical for urban agriculture
- Cultural techniques:
 - Site selection
 - Planting dates
 - Crop varieties
 - Elimination or alternate hosts of pests and diseases
 - Crop rotations



Urban Agriculture and Sustainability

- To achieve sustainability must be rationalized and integrated
- Have developed sustainability indicators:
 - Amounts of organic matter collected, processed and applied
 - Degree to which varieties and breeds are adapted to local conditions
 - Degree of crop-livestock integration
 - Local water availability and soil moisture
 - Efficiency of water use
 - Use of integrated pest and disease management systems
 - Degree of participation of farmers in training courses and extension activities



THANK YOU

for your attention!



中國農業大學
China Agricultural University