

High-quality Development of the County-level Economy in Xianning City, Hubei Province from the Perspective of Chinese-style Modernization

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Abstract: The county-level economy serves as the fundamental unit of China's national economy and holds significant importance in the development of the New Rural Construction and socialist modernization. High-quality development has become the theme of China's economic and social development in the 14th Five-Year Plan period and beyond, as it relates to the overall goal of constructing a socialist modernized country. Therefore, adhering to high-quality development of the county-level economy is of practical significance in promoting rural revitalization and building a comprehensive socialist modernized country. This study combines the five development concepts and focuses on the specific reality of Xianning City to establish indicators for high-quality development. By exploring the path and strategies of high-quality development of the county-level economy through innovative development, coordinated development, green development, open development, and shared development, this study aims to provide decision support and practical guidance for local governments.

Keywords: High-quality Development; County-level Economy; Chinese-style Modernization.

1. Introduction

The concept of "county-level" was first proposed at the 16th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, and was further emphasized in the Third Plenary Session of the 16th Party Congress, which called for vigorous development of the county-level economy. In the report of the 19th Party Congress, the General Secretary put forward the strategy of rural revitalization and clarified its connotation. In China, due to the fact that the county-level economy is focused on agriculture and rural economy, the strategy of rural revitalization also encompasses the development of the county-level economy. With the accelerated process of economic reform in China, the development of the county-level economy has received increasing attention.

In the context of China-style modernization, the development of county-level economy is considered an important link in promoting national economic growth. In order to achieve the goals of building a comprehensive moderately prosperous society and a socialist modern country, the development of county-level economy needs to adhere to the five major development concepts of INNOVATION, COORDINATION, GREEN, OPENNESS, and SHARING, in order to achieve economic, social, and environmental coordination.

Firstly, INNOVATION is an essential driving force for the development of county-level economy. In the process of modernization, innovation capacity is an important indicator of a region's development level. Therefore, the development of county-level economy should focus on improving technological innovation capabilities, increasing support for the cultivation and development of new technologies, new industries, and new formats, and continuously optimizing and upgrading the industrial structure.

Secondly, COORDINATION is the key to achieving high-quality development of county-level economy. The development of county-level economy needs to pay attention

to coordination among regions, between urban and rural areas, and among industries, in order to achieve optimized resource allocation and reasonable flow of elements. This is manifested in promoting the integration of urban and rural development, strengthening the interconnection of infrastructure, promoting the coordination of industrial chains, supply chains, and value chains, as well as supporting the development of small and medium-sized enterprises and private businesses.

Thirdly, GREEN is an essential guarantee for achieving sustainable development. The development of county-level economy should pay attention to ecological protection, promote the adjustment of industrial structure and the change of resource utilization methods, in order to achieve a harmonious coexistence of economic development and ecological environment. This includes implementing green development strategies, promoting energy conservation and emission reduction, developing the circular economy, protecting the ecological environment, and advocating green lifestyles.

Fourthly, OPENNESS is the necessary path to improving the development level of county-level economy. The inclusive development concept of openness helps county economy integrate into domestic and international markets, and expand development space. Therefore, the development of county-level economy needs to actively participate in international economic cooperation and competition, promote foreign trade and investment cooperation, introduce advanced technology and management experience, as well as cultivate new advantages in international cooperation.

Lastly, SHARING is the key to achieving the results of county-level economic development. The development of county-level economy should focus on improving people's lives, promoting the benefits of economic development to all people, in order to achieve common prosperity. This includes increasing investment in public services such as education, medical care, housing, improving the social security system,

improving people's living standards, and promoting the comprehensive development of human resources.

Research on county-level economy has been mainly focused on development models, government roles, industrial structure, innovation drivers, and regional cooperation, both domestically and internationally. Domestic studies emphasize government guidance and social coordination, while foreign research focuses on innovation strategies and regional cooperation. Both aim to promote the sustainable development of county-level economies and achieve economic, social, and ecological harmony. These studies provide important theoretical support and practical guidance for the transformation and upgrading of county-level economies. In this article, taking the background of China's modernization as the context, we study the high-quality development of the county-level economy in Xianning City, combining the five new development concepts (innovation, coordination, green, openness, and sharing). We conduct an in-depth analysis of the current situation, challenges, and opportunities faced by the county-level economy in Xianning City. The goal is to provide theoretical support and practical guidance for the high-quality development of the county-level economy in Xianning City and similar regions, and promote the overall progress of county-level economies in China.

2. Literature Review

2.1. The Concept of High-quality Development

In 2007, the 17th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC) first changed "changing the way of economic growth" to "changing the way of economic development" in its report. The 18th National Congress of the CPC weakened the significance of quantitative indicators and introduced for the first time the goal of building a moderately prosperous society in all aspects. The concept of high-quality development was first proposed at the 19th National Congress of the CPC in 2017, indicating that the Chinese economy has shifted from a stage of high-speed growth to a stage of high-quality development. In March 2021, General Secretary Xi Jinping once again emphasized that "high-quality development is the theme of China's economic and social development during the 14th Five-Year Plan period and even longer, and it is related to the overall situation of China's socialist modernization construction.

2.2. The Mechanism and Path for Achieving High-Quality Development

Gao, P., et al. (2020) argue that high-quality development is a comprehensive concept, where the upgrading of element quality and innovation necessary for economic high-quality development should be premised on social and institutional high-quality. They propose that during the high-quality development stage, market mechanisms should begin to play a decisive role, and the industrial system should shift from being industry-led to service-led. Liu, Z. (2018) suggests adhering to the main line of supply-side structural reform and constructing an innovative and synergistic industrial system, as well as an efficient market mechanism, vibrant micro-subjects, and well-regulated macro-control - i.e., the "three capabilities" economic system. In terms of the specific path to achieving high-quality development, scholars have discussed aspects such as human capital allocation, participation in the global value chain, and the construction of national high-tech zones. Li, J., et al. (2019) propose that

combining the formation process of specialized human capital with the process of industrial structure adjustment is one of the important means to achieve a smooth transition and high-quality development in the new era. Lv, Y., et al. (2018) argue that building a modern economic system requires innovation leadership, which necessitates Chinese enterprises continuously enhancing their ability to absorb technology through participation in the global value chain and introducing external competitive mechanisms for a deeper engagement in global governance of international trade and economic rules. Liu, R., and Zhao, R. (2015) research shows that national high-tech zones are important carriers for implementing the innovation-driven development strategy in the new era and promoting China's economy to achieve high-quality development.

2.3. Construction of an Indicator System for High-Quality Development

Su L., et al. (2022) introduced an unsupervised feature selection algorithm based on literature research method to construct an evaluation indicator system for high-quality economic development. By drawing on relevant studies, the initial set was optimized using an unsupervised feature selection multi-subspace randomization collaboration model, resulting in an economic high-quality development evaluation indicator system consisting of 6 subsystems and 30 economic indicators. Wei J., et al. (2012) measured the quality of economic growth in different provinces of China in 2010 using the efficiency, structure, stability, welfare changes and outcome distribution, and ecological environment cost as five dimensions through principal component analysis. Zhu Q., et al. (2018) considered six dimensions: dynamic transformation, industrial upgrading, structural optimization, quality transformation, efficiency transformation, and livelihood development. Ma R., et al. (2019) explored five dimensions: high-quality supply, high-quality demand, development efficiency, economic operation, and openness to the outside world.

There are several issues in the current research that need to be addressed: (1) The development of county-level economy and characteristic industries is mainly limited to general logic, mechanisms, and mechanism research. Although there are empirical analyses focused on specific industries or counties, fundamentally, the development of characteristic industries and county-level economy relies on local comparative advantages, geographical conditions, and cultural environments. This leads to the inadaptability of these studies when applied to the economic development of Xianning County. (2) Current research on high-quality development is mainly focused on industries such as agriculture, industry, and services. Geographically, it primarily focuses on cities, the Yangtze River Economic Belt cities, the Changsha-Zhuzhou-Xiangtan urban agglomeration, and coastal urban agglomerations. There is a lack of research on high-quality development in county-level economy. In the political system of China, counties have always been an important foundation of the regime. The condition of the county-level economy not only affects the performance of county governance but also directly affects the stability of the entire national regime. The high-quality development of county-level economy is related to the overall development of the country and is crucial for the orderly advancement of rural revitalization and the effective implementation of the 14th Five-Year Plan.

3. The Current Development Status of Hubei Province and Xianning County's Economy

3.1. Total Quantity and Structural Perspective

This study examines the following indicators to explore the volume characteristics of the county-level economy in Hubei Province: regional GDP, the proportion of value-added by the primary, secondary, and tertiary industries to regional GDP, local general public budget revenue and expenditure, household savings deposit balance, and year-end balance of various loans by financial institutions.

Based on the situation in various counties in Hubei Province, the average regional GDP in 2020 was 27.7 billion yuan, with a minimum of 6.49 billion yuan (Hefeng County) and a maximum of 82.8 billion yuan (Xiantao City). In terms of the proportion of the tertiary industry to regional GDP, the proportions are generally reasonable. The average proportion of the primary industry is 20.166%, with a minimum of 8.26% (Yidu City) and a maximum of 36.82% (Jianli County). The average proportion of the secondary industry is 34.332%, with a minimum of 11.32% (Xianfeng County) and a maximum of 52.05% (Gucheng County). The proportion of the tertiary industry is 45.503%, with a minimum of 24.41% (Sui County) and a maximum of 65.32% (Xianfeng County). The average local general public budget revenue is 0.8932 billion yuan, with a minimum of 0.1842 billion yuan (Wufeng County) and a maximum of 3.2 billion yuan (Xiantao City). The average local general public budget expenditure is 5.35 billion yuan, with a minimum of 2.69 billion yuan (Xingshan County) and a maximum of 10.6 billion yuan (Xiantao City). The average household savings deposit balance is 23.9 billion yuan, with a minimum of 7.1 billion yuan (Hefeng County) and a maximum of 66.1 billion yuan (Xiantao City). The average year-end balance of various loans by financial institutions is 18.6 billion yuan, with a minimum of 4.51 billion yuan (Hefeng County) and a maximum of 57.6 billion yuan (Enshi City).

Looking at the various counties in Xianning (excluding Xian'an District), except for Chibi City, the regional GDP of other counties is below the average (Jiayu County is close to the average). In terms of industrial structure, except for Jiayu County, the proportion of the tertiary industry is higher than other industries in other counties. In terms of local general public budget revenue, except for Chibi City and Jiayu County, other counties are lower than the average. In terms of local general public budget expenditure, except for Chibi City, other counties are lower than the average. In terms of household savings deposit balance, it is lower than the average, and in terms of the year-end balance of various loans by financial institutions, except for Chibi City, other counties are lower than the average.

3.2. Revenue and Expense Perspective

From the perspective of per capita disposable income of farmers in various cities and prefectures in Hubei Province from 2014 to 2020: From 2015 to 2019, the per capita disposable income of farmers in various cities and prefectures in Hubei Province showed a rapid growth, with an average annual growth rate between 7.1% and 11%, and the growth rate was relatively even, with a difference of less than 2%. In 2020, due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the growth rate of per capita disposable income of farmers in all

cities and prefectures showed a significant decline, with approximately half of the cities and prefectures having a growth rate below 0.

Looking at the per capita disposable income of rural residents in various counties in Xianning in 2020: In Xian'an District, Jiayu County, and Chibi City, the per capita disposable income of rural residents exceeds the average value of various cities and prefectures in Hubei Province, which is 16,864.19 yuan (excluding Wuhan City). In terms of income structure, wage income has the largest proportion, ranging from 30% to 57%, followed by net operating income, ranging from 19% to 44%, and property net income has the smallest proportion, ranging from 1% to 4.8%.

Looking at the per capita expenditure of rural households in Hubei Province from 2014 to 2020: From 2014 to 2019, per capita living consumption expenditure showed rapid growth, especially in 2017 and 2018, with a growth rate exceeding 19%. The consumption expenditure on transportation and communication in 2018 even reached 39.6%. In 2020, due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, various consumption expenditures showed a significant decline, with the growth rate falling below 0. In terms of consumption structure, living consumption expenditure accounted for a relatively large proportion, ranging from 52% to 64%.

3.3. Industry Perspective

The development of county-level industries in Hubei Province is mainly measured by the following indicators based on data availability: fixed asset investment growth rate, foreign trade exports, total agricultural output, and grain production. In 2020, affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, the average fixed asset investment growth rate in counties in Hubei Province was -20.93%, with a minimum of -57.3% (Danjiangkou City) and a maximum of 4.6% (Wufeng County); the average growth rate of foreign trade exports was 15.46%, with a minimum of 0.03% (Laifeng County) and a maximum of 225.5% (Xiantao City); the average total agricultural output was 89.419, with a minimum of 26.9 (Xingshan County) and a maximum of 217.5 (Huangpi District); the average grain production was 33.462, with a minimum of 3.14 (Huangzhou District) and a maximum of 126.57 (Xiangzhou District).

From the perspective of indicators in Xianning: Except for Tongshan County, the growth rate of fixed asset investment in each county is basically on par with the provincial average. In terms of foreign trade exports, except for Chibi City, the export volume is significantly higher than the provincial average. However, the rest of the counties are significantly lower than the provincial average. Considering the distinct peak characteristics of the provincial foreign trade export data, further investigation is needed into the ranking of foreign trade exports in each county in Xianning. Chibi City ranks 19th, Tongcheng County ranks 35th, Xi'an District, Chongyang County, Jiayu County, and Tongshan County rank 39th, 40th, 54th, and 62nd, respectively. In terms of total agricultural output, both total agricultural output and grain production in each county in Xianning are lower than the provincial average.

4. The problem of High-quality Development of County-level Economy in Xianning City

4.1. Industry Structure and Development Model

1) Solidified industrial structure. The industrial structure of Xianning County has long been dominated by traditional agriculture and light industry, with insufficient emphasis on nurturing and developing emerging and high-tech industries. This phenomenon of solidified industrial structure limits the potential and speed of economic growth. Although the added value of high-tech industries in Xianning City has grown rapidly, its proportion in the total output is relatively small, resulting in a weak ability to drive economic development. The proportion of the primary industry has decreased slightly, but it still remains relatively large. In terms of industrial structure, the average proportion of the tertiary industry in Hubei Province is 45.5%. Jiayu ranks behind Xian'an District and Chibi City in terms of per capita GDP, but the proportion of the tertiary industry is only 33.36%, lower than the provincial average and ranking last among all counties in Xianning.

2) Lack of innovation-driven. Firstly, there is slow upgrading of traditional industries. Xianning City is dominated by traditional agriculture and light industry, but the development of these industries lags behind, lacking technological upgrading and product innovation. For example, the agriculture sector still heavily relies on traditional cultivation methods, lacking modern agricultural techniques and equipment. In the light industry, some enterprises still use outdated production processes and equipment, making it difficult to improve product quality and competitiveness. Secondly, there is insufficient development of emerging industries. Although Xianning City recognizes the importance of emerging industries, it faces many difficulties in the actual development process. For instance, the development of high-tech industries in Xianning City lags behind, lacking core competitive technology enterprises and products. At the same time, Xianning City's investment and support in emerging industries such as new energy and energy conservation and environmental protection are relatively low, making it difficult to attract and nurture excellent innovative enterprises and talents.

4.2. Factor Allocation and Market Mechanisms

1) Insufficient capital factors. The economic development of the county is constrained by insufficient capital factors, including problems such as limited financing channels and inadequate funding supply. This restricts the scale expansion and technological innovation of enterprises, and hampers the growth of the county economy.

2) Imperfect labor market. There are deficiencies in the construction of the labor market and talent cultivation in Ningxian County, resulting in a shortage of high-skilled labor. At the same time, there are difficulties for the surplus rural labor force to transfer employment, which affects the labor supply in the county economy.

4.3. Policy Environment and Institutional Support

1) Insufficient policy implementation strength. Despite the introduction of a series of policies by the national and local

governments to support the development of the county economy, there are issues in the actual implementation process in Xianning County, such as inadequate policy implementation and insufficient execution strength, resulting in limited policy effectiveness. For example, when it comes to illegal and irregular business practices, the government's regulatory and punitive measures are insufficient, allowing some enterprises to evade environmental responsibilities and continue engaging in destructive behavior. This ineffective policy implementation hampers the effective improvement of the institutional environment.

2) The need to optimize the institutional environment. The development of the county economy requires a sound institutional environment as a guarantee, including protection of property rights, market access, and fair competition. However, Xianning County still needs to strengthen its efforts in building the institutional environment, which hampers the healthy development of the county economy. For example, in Xianning's annual government work report, it was found that the county's e-commerce infrastructure system is not robust, with limited value in publicly available information, a lack of analytical and decision-making support for farmers' production, and a dearth of macro guidance information. Additionally, there are not many relevant websites, and their level of utilization is low. Most farmers lack professional knowledge and understanding of the internet, leading to the incomplete realization of the role of e-commerce in the production and sales of industries.

4.4. Regional Cooperation and Coordinated Development

1) Lack of regional cooperation mechanism. Xianning County lacks effective cooperation mechanisms and platforms for economic cooperation and coordinated development with other regions, making it difficult to achieve cooperation in areas such as resource sharing and complementary advantages. For example, in terms of education, healthcare, transportation, and other infrastructure, the cooperation between Xianning City and neighboring cities is not close enough, resulting in inefficient use of resources.

2) Unbalanced regional development. There are obvious differences in economic development level and industrial structure between Xianning County and the surrounding areas, which hinders the coordinated development of the county economy.

5. Countermeasure

5.1. Innovation

1) Technological innovation: Xianning City can strengthen its technological innovation and research and development capabilities by encouraging businesses to increase their investment in technology, attracting and nurturing high-level talent, establishing technological innovation platforms, and enhancing the core competitiveness of industries. For example, the Xianning Kangjian Pharmaceutical Industry Research Institute, jointly established by the Xian'an District government, Phoenix Investment, and Zhen'ao Group, is a scientific and technological innovation platform primarily engaged in research and pilot-scale production of high-end generic drugs and innovative formulations. Leveraging its advanced technology, the institute has successfully developed a series of spirulina products, filling the gap in the spirulina processing market in Xian'an District and providing new

growth points for local economic development.

2) Industrial transformation and upgrading: Xianning City can promote industrial transformation and upgrading by optimizing industrial structure and developing emerging industries and modern service industry. By leveraging local resources and industrial foundations, Xianning can develop characteristic industries and advantageous industries while cultivating new sources of economic growth. Additionally, efforts should be made to enhance the technological transformation and upgrading of traditional industries, improve product quality and added value, and enhance the overall competitiveness of the industries. For example, in recent years, Xiangyang City has taken a series of measures to promote industrial transformation and upgrading. Firstly, they have focused on advanced manufacturing, striving to develop industries such as automobiles and new energy vehicles, intelligent equipment, and electronic information, thus creating key industry clusters and enhancing the competitiveness of the manufacturing industry. Secondly, based on its agricultural resource advantages, Xiangyang City has ensured the security and stability of grain supply while developing agricultural industry chains such as tea, pigs, and poultry to promote agricultural modernization. Furthermore, Xiangyang City has attached importance to effective investment, establishing a large-scale repository of major projects for the "14th Five-Year Plan" period and promoting the construction of major projects in an orderly manner, thereby injecting new momentum into economic development. Through these measures, Xiangyang City has successfully promoted industrial transformation and upgrading, achieving high-quality economic development and providing valuable experience for the adjustment and transformation of old industrial bases in Hubei Province and even nationwide.

5.2. Coordination

1) Transportation infrastructure construction: Xianning City has convenient transportation, but there is still a need to strengthen its connectivity with other cities, such as high-speed railways and highways, in order to improve regional accessibility.

2) Integrated urban-rural development: To address the rural areas of Xianning City, there is a need to strengthen infrastructure construction, such as rural roads, water supply, and electricity. At the same time, promoting the adjustment of the rural industrial structure and enhancing farmers' income and wealth generation should be prioritized.

3) Promoting county-level economic development through holistic tourism: The focus of holistic tourism lies in the concept of "holistic," which converts the notion of small-scale tourism into a large-scale one. By leveraging holistic tourism as an advantage industry and optimizing and enhancing various aspects such as tourism resources, ecological environment, talent resources, infrastructure, service systems, and policies and regulations, the organic integration of regional resources can be achieved. Ultimately, this will promote a new concept and model of regional coordinated development that involves using the tourism industry to drive and promote the coordinated development of the economy and society. For example, through the integration of rural resources, holistic tourism transforms idle land into rural tourist attractions, combines characteristic theme industries with rural ecological tourism, and shifts the current development pattern of low-end rural tourism. This revitalizes

rural land, increases the livelihood capital of farmers, and maximizes the social benefits of rural land.

5.3. Green

1) Ecological conservation and restoration: Xianning City possesses beautiful natural landscapes and abundant ecological resources. In order to protect the green and pristine environment, efforts should be made to strengthen ecological conservation and restoration projects. For example, Xianning City's ecological conservation areas can learn from the Yangtze River ecological restoration efforts in the region.

2) Green industry development: Leveraging Xianning City's ecological advantages, efforts can be focused on developing green industries such as ecotourism and ecological agriculture, which will promote sustainable economic development. For instance, shaping an ecological cultural brand can contribute to elevating the overall level and competitiveness of the tourism industry. Based on research conducted on Xianning's tourism industry, the research team believes that efforts should be made in the following aspects to achieve the brand transformation of cultural eco-tourism:

Firstly, scientifically positioning eco-tourism cultural products. It was discovered during the study that Xianning's tourism development has mainly focused on sightseeing tourism and remains at a relatively low level. Although the National Tourism Administration has made adjustments in this direction since 1992, the changes have been minimal, partly due to the immaturity of the tourism market. Despite efforts made by various regions to change this situation, the results have often been unsatisfactory.

Secondly, correctly balancing development and utilization. The future benefits of large-scale tourism infrastructure development are often difficult to determine, which can lead to decision-making errors and environmental damage. Therefore, in the relationship between development and utilization, the government generally follows the principle of less development and more utilization. For resources with cultural elements, their cultural connotations should be fully explored, and resource integration should be carried out.

Thirdly, striving to build Xianning as a core city for ecological and cultural tourism. The development of tourism relies on the support of cities, particularly core cities. For Xianning City, the construction of infrastructure in the central urban area and tourism facilities is of great importance. However, the current development of Xianning's ecological and cultural tourism industry is hindered by insufficient supporting tourism resources. Therefore, its ability to radiate and drive surrounding cities is limited.

Lastly, strengthening human-centered tourism services. Culture is an important factor in ecological and cultural tourism. Visitors come to these areas primarily to experience local culture. If ecological and cultural tourism fails to prioritize the well-being of individuals and instead involves fraudulent consumption, offensive language, and administrative inaction, it will greatly influence tourists' experience. While the aforementioned behavior also negatively impacts tourists' experience in sightseeing tourism, it has an even greater impact in the context of ecological and cultural tourism.

5.4. Open

1) Strengthening cooperation and communication: Xianning City can actively participate in international cooperation and communication, learn from international

advanced experiences and technologies, and promote local industrial development and transformation. For example, Xuan'en County and Jiangnan District held a regional cooperation research symposium and signed multiple friendly cooperation agreements. These agreements cover various fields such as tourism, culture, and transportation, and aim to promote resource sharing and mutual benefit between the two parties.

2) Investment promotion: Strengthening investment promotion efforts and attracting domestic and foreign high-quality capital and projects to settle in Xianning, thereby promoting high-quality economic development.

5.5. Sharing

1) Balanced distribution of educational and medical resources: Strengthening the balanced distribution of educational and medical resources and improving the educational and medical standards in rural areas to ensure that the population has access to high-quality public services.

2) Improving the social security system: Xianning City can enhance the construction of social assistance, social insurance, and social welfare systems to improve the level of social security. By improving systems such as pension insurance and medical insurance, the basic living needs of residents can be met.

3) Promoting the construction of a new type of urbanization: Xianning City can accelerate the pace of constructing a new type of urbanization and optimize the urban-rural development layout. By implementing projects such as urban renewal and old city transformation, the living environment of residents can be improved, and urban quality can be enhanced. At the same time, rural infrastructure construction should be strengthened to improve the level of rural public services and achieve integrated urban-rural development.

4) Optimizing the agricultural industrial structure: Considering the over-reliance on agriculture in Xianning City, efforts should be made to promote the adjustment of the agricultural industrial structure by increasing the proportion of forestry, animal husbandry, and fisheries industries to achieve diversified development. Moreover, farmers should be encouraged to develop high-value-added agricultural products to increase their income.

6. Conclusion

Through an in-depth study of the high-quality development of the county-level economy in Xianning City, Hubei Province, China, we have gained a clear understanding that the Chinese-style modernization is not only a national strategic deployment but also a practical guideline for local economic development. Xianning City, as the focus of our research, provides valuable cases with its achievements and challenges throughout its development process. In this paper, we have depicted the current status of economic development in Xianning City in detail, analyzed the main problems it faces, and proposed practical and feasible solutions based on the five major development concepts. These solutions not only conform to the spirit of the central government but also take into consideration the local realities of Xianning, aiming to promote higher quality, more efficient, fairer, and sustainable development of the county-level economy in Xianning City.

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