

Department of Applied Social Sciences
The Hong Kong Polytechnic University

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Project Title : Research on Solidarity Economy, Cooperatives and Social Enterprises in International Context

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Research Team : [Dr KU Hok Bun, Ben](#) (PI), [Miss YIP Sui Kan](#) (Co-I)

Abstract : This research project endeavors to explore new theory and practice model of social development in rural China to the issue of food security crisis and unsustainable agricultural development in the context of capitalist globalization. The project includes three major components: systematically reviewing the theories and policies of social economy in the age of globalization; conducting a comparative study of cooperatives and social enterprises projects in Europe, Asia including Japan, Taiwan and Hong Kong; and conducting a study of the pilot social economy projects will be conducted in Sichuan, Yunnan, and Guangdong.

Social Impact : In this project, we seek to contribute to local practice of community development and policy making. First, the underpinning research will reveal the needs of local community and identify the problems of mainstream economic development which cause to unsustainable development of China. The finding will inform local community, local government and NGOs, and help them searching alternative way of rural development in next step. Second, through evaluating the effectiveness of local practices of social economy in China, this project hopes to have a genuine policy impact in terms of supporting grassroots experiments in community economy and sharing the findings and policy suggestions at a broader scale.

