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Nota di contenuto	Cover; Acknowledgements; Table of contents; List of tables; List of figures; List of abbreviations and acronyms; List of Chinese terms and expressions; Zusammenfassung; Summary; 1 Introduction; 1.1 Background; 1.2 Objectives; 1.3 Hypotheses; 1.4 Outline of the thesis; 2 Hebei province; 2.1 Location, population and natural conditions; 2.2 The rural areas of Hebei province; 2.3 Summary; 3 Development and state of rural institutions in China; 3.1 Transition in rural China; 3.2 Rural China prior the period of communism; 3.3 Collectivization 3.4 Policy changes during the transition and the development of market institutions3.5 Farm households in China and Hebei; 3.5.1 General overview; 3.5.2 Part- and full-time farm households; 3.6 Alternatives to small scale farming?; 3.7 Summary; 4 Theory and methodology; 4.1 Development economics and measures of poverty and well-being; 4.1.1 Decomposition of income inequality; 4.1.2 Estimation of income inequality; 4.1.3 Poverty development and differences in poverty inequality for different population subgroups; 4.2 Labor allocation; 4.3 Agricultural household models 4.3.1 The concept of utility maximization of agricultural households4.3.2 Separability of households' labor decisions; 4.3.3 Theoretical model for the assessment of a household's labor allocation; 4.3.4 Theoretical model for the assessment of farm structure persistence; 4.4 Summary; 5 Data; 5.1 Working with panel data; 5.2 The household data set; 5.3

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