

Innovative Paths to Increase Wealth for Chinese Peasants

Zhao Hongzhong Wang Qi Wang Changxi

School of Economics, Wuhan University of Technology, Wuhan, P.R.China, 430070

(E-mail: zhaohz@whut.edu.cn, huolongguo2003@hotmail.com, wangchxi@whut.edu.cn)

Abstract The peasants are the main part in the new rural construction, whose final target is to further develop the rural areas and increase the wealth of the peasants. Chinese peasants have strong innovative consciousness and innovation ability and China has its own agricultural reality and the dual economic structure in urban and rural areas which are different from the western various countries, believes that China must stimulate peasants' innovative consciousness and innovation ability in the process of new rural construction with the system and mechanism innovation. This research gets the conclusion that the organic combination of peasants, newly-style agricultural cooperative, basic and leading agribusiness will lead the Chinese peasants onto a path of innovation to get rich.

Key words Chinese peasants, innovative consciousness, innovation ability, development model

1 Introduction

In the era of science and technology with rapid progress, the study on peasant's innovation ability, has already become the focus of studying contemporary rural economic and social development. A lot of western peasants are farmers, so the research of innovation regarding peasants in western countries mainly concentrates on the innovative behavior among the scientific research institution and self-employed farmer. The small-scale peasant economy current situation in most areas in China brings up the individual peasant in inferior position. The "characteristic" of China makes Chinese researches focus mainly on how to popularize the innovative achievements of scientific research institutions and how the peasants interact with scientific research institutions as to the innovation, etc, which lacks researches on the development of peasants and agricultural innovation.

2 The Enormous Energy in the Masses of Peasantry

Chinese economy has made the brilliant achievement with rapid development in the past 30 years, the living standards of people get greatly improved, and in the meanwhile the national income raise notably. However, peasants' income grows slowly, the enlargement of the gap between the rich and poor and rural market demand is not prosperous. The chronicity of the dual structure in urban and rural areas and the enlargement of the gap between the rich and poor, have already become the important obstacles of the comprehensive construction of Chinese well-off society, and the new rural construction has become the crux of the further development of Chinese society. It is an important task in front of us how to let peasants participate in the new rural construction and give full play to creativity and subject function.

Reviewing Chinese history, before the foundation of new China in 1949, with the strong hope of the peasantry that they looked forward to the national independence and that they could charge their own affairs by themselves, they participated actively in the revolution and became the mainstay of the new democratic revolution; On the earlier stage of reform, peasants created the systems of contracted responsibilities on a household basis with remuneration linked to output, for purpose of harvesting grain and of having enough to eat, being first of reform; After solving the adequate food and clothing, peasants need political democracy and villager's autonomy can be popularized.^[1]

On the initial stage of reforming and opening up to the outside world, peasants excavated fully the productive potentialities of small-scale peasant economy and had got the higher growth of incomes than the urbanites, adopting system innovation- Household contract responsibility system. After the 1989, combining with the system of subsidizing industry agriculturally under the dual structure in urban and rural areas, the total release of potentiality of small-scale peasant economy result in the slow income increase of peasants. After 1996, even the negative growth appeared in peasants' income, which had been the realistic reason of the five "File No. ones" of CCPC and central government in consecutive five years since 2004, with reference to the issues of the agriculture, countryside and farmers.

As the subject in the development of countryside, the peasantry is the most active factor of rural labor force and the main pusher of rural social progress. The peasantry subject ability in new countryside

construction means peasants serve as the protagonist in it, giving voluntarily play to their intelligence and creativity.

After peasants' adequate food and clothing are basically solved, peasants' life is still very arduous. The infrastructure in the countryside is obsolete, peasants' culture life is dull. Rural workforces between twenty and fifty ages, go out to work as temporary laborers in cities, replenishing the life in the countryside, having strong desire to comprehensively realize the well-off society.

In view of the great historical function of peasants in the foundation and development of new China and according to its subjective role in the new rural construction, the masses of peasantry, who take Chinese most population, have great desire to the construction and enormous creativity.

3 Realistic Obstacles of Giving Play to Peasants' Creativity

First of all, the dual structure of rural and urban areas makes peasants in a very unfavorable status in the comprehensive construction of socialist well-off society. Now, China is in the industrialized era, whose economic complexity determines the dual structure is unable to be changed within one chronic period. Under such a system, although rural workers can raise their own income by working honestly in the city, meanwhile they lose their basic living guarantee by reason of limits of the local social insurance. Having given their most efficient years to the factory, their labor capacity will be in a greatly reduced state compared with what is used to be. Without living guarantee, many of them will return to the poverty. In new rural construction, the unchangeable overall situation determines that the peasantry will be also in a weak status for a long time.

Secondly, numerous peasants go out to work as temporary laborers, and the new rural construction lacks workforce. In recent years, when lots of agronomists go to the countryside and coach peasants to develop production, they often meet the aged, women and innocent children left-in village, who are unable to be charged with the construction as main force by reason of lack of knowledge and physical power. It causes the unbalanced phenomenon that the employment strained and surplus and shortage of workforce. The workforce's shortage in the new rural construction will influence its progress and result.

Moreover, the poor quality of peasants influences directly the growth of their incomes. According to statistics, only accounting for 13% of Chinese peasants have the education in high school and university, 49% just in junior middle school, 38% in primary school, 7% illiterate and only 5% having agricultural vocational education. Because of lack of culture and knowledge, peasants are very difficult to learn completely and use limberly studying and practicing various agricultural science and technology and skills. So the added value of peasants' labor is limited, and the space of increase of incomes is hard to be expanded.

Finally, it is difficult for small-scale peasant economy to tackle the competition of market economy after entering into WTO. Under the small-scale peasant economy condition, the individual produce of peasant lacks cooperation, uses difficultly agricultural science and technology and is very difficult to get the support of the agricultural insurance. The small-scale peasant economy seems very fragile faced with the natural calamity. Chinese peasants have no strength of resistance in the face of the impact of import of foreign agricultural products with high allowance. The equal distribution of rural land according to population, occupying households of property right according to each family, the institution of Chinese characteristics fastens surplus peasantry, avoiding from forming large-scale slums in other developing countries because of the great liquidity and from initiating the social crime and political turbulence^[2]. The current land institution will be chronic, that has determined the small-scale peasant economy of China will exist for a long time and the growth of peasants' incomes will be very difficult to be realized under the small-scale peasant economy condition.

4 Increasing Peasants' Incomes Is the Crux to Give Play to Peasants' Creativity

Promoting peasants' incomes is not only the key goal and crux, but also it is the crux of the comprehensive construction of well-off society and the most important and basic one of standards of realization of well-off society in rural areas. 800 million peasants live in the countryside in China, taking the overwhelming majority of all population. Increasing peasants' incomes will influence the steady foundation of the whole Chinese society. There will be no setting-up and non-development of the whole well-off society without steady development of vast rural areas.

Increasing peasants' incomes can well promote to the urbanization in progress. The growth of peasants' incomes can excite their potential purchasing power, promote the development of urban economy and increase employment opportunities in cities. The attraction of a large number of

employment opportunities will accelerate the pace of peasants' migration. The forming of the good interactive relation certainly will accelerate the urbanization process of our country between rural and urban areas, which develop commonly and steadily, harmoniously.

Increasing peasants' incomes expands the demand of Chinese domestic market in the way of wide range with profound level. Economic development is closely related to social demand, particularly to domestic market demand. Our country is a continent type country whose area is large and population is numerous, that is the distinct characteristic of the economic development of our country which is also different from Japan, South Korea and Singapore, etc. The greatest potentiality and basic guarantee of Chinese economic development lie in the huge population and the great potential demand which can be excavated, and it is the basic route by which our country realizes economy increases fast and steadily for a long time to expand domestic demand. More than 800 million peasants in our country are the biggest consuming groups, it is the most basic and most effective strategic way to expand domestic demand to increase peasants' incomes and let them have more disposable incomes. At present, the new rural construction is the focal point and highlight of the new round of economic work of the Party Central Committee, whose focal point is to increase practically peasants' incomes. The improvement of the purchasing power of rural market offers a "new powerful engine" for economic development of our country", changes the high ratio of dependence on foreign trade of economic development of our country and provides the strong guarantee for economic security.

5 The Path that Gives Play to Peasants' Creativity to Become Rich

The path to become rich in Chinese countryside is to improve greatly the modern agriculture, to make continuously Chinese agriculture develop and peasants' incomes increase only by forming extensive modern agriculture, and the modern agricultural mode with Chinese characteristic should be: Peasant households+ cooperatives+ bases+ enterprises, which are the most effective mode of Chinese agricultural development at present. It solves the following problems to realize the development model.

5.1 The Government Strengthens fund Supporting and Policy Guide.

The nation government finance has increased agriculture aid funds by a wide margin in recent years, which have rose to 339,700 million Yuan in 2006 from 77,400 million Yuan in 1996, increased by 3.4 times. However, the increasing degree of the central fiscal revenues was larger in the same period, to 2,045 billion Yuan from 366,100 million Yuan, having increased by 4.6 times. So, the expenditure in issues concerning agriculture, countryside and farmers has reduced its proportion in the central general financial revenue, from 21.1% to 16.6%.^[3] This indicates that the central government has the capability to offer more financial resources to support the new rural construction.

Since 2004, the CCPC and central government have issued five "File No. one" about the issues concerning agriculture, countryside and farmers. The government is increasing the input into new rural construction constantly, whose purpose is very clear, to raise peasants' incomes by every possible means, according to the abolition of agricultural tax in 2006 and to the implementation of new rural cooperative medical service and the foundation of the system of subsistence allowances for the rural poor. In the "File No. one" of each year, the government has clearly proposed raising really peasants' incomes clearly.

China has the tradition of "centralizing strength to undertake major events" and the capability of centralized allocation of resources. In recent years, the government is strengthening the supportable funds to all the rural constructions constantly, helping peasants to improve one's own living environment and to develop production by strengthening infrastructure construction in rural areas, helping them to improve agricultural products quality and the scientific and technological added value of agricultural products with the input of agricultural science and technology and the assist of agribusinesses, and offering them the basic living guarantees by several abolitions and the setting-up of the living security system.

The government should play a positive role in small-scale projects involving the countryside and agricultural production. Because they are very difficult to get the loan from the commercial bank, but the "small, unraveled, scattered" projects do not only concern peasants' life and production, but also can let peasant get incomes from non-agricultural working.

The government should also give play to the role of positive promotion and guide in the setting-up and operation of the new-style agricultural cooperatives, meanwhile, it should bear itself in function of the communication and coordination between peasants and leading agribusinesses.

5.2 Increasing Opportunities of Employment of Peasants In or Near the Locality.

Because of lower incomes of agriculture, peasants are unwilling to till land, but go down town to work as a temporary laborer in order to obtain the higher incomes. This phenomenon exists in all developing countries in the whole world, not peculiarly in China.

A large number of peasants pouring into the city, it causes great pressure on employment and a great deal of social concerns in cities. Peasants working as a temporary laborer in the city, for reasons of the low educational level and poor professional quality of jobs, get mostly labor-intensive works, obtaining the meager incomes. The living cost in urban areas is too high, their life state is more difficult to improve especially after the price rose by a wide margin last year. They mostly come to cities alone. In the splendid city, they are often marginalized. First of all, far away from the hometown, lack of the family, in sombrous street and suburban areas, enormous peasant workers live in simple and crude rooms whose life is dull which certainly will seriously influence the long-term stability of the Chinese society. Secondly, the cost that children receive education is too high in the cities, which makes the masses of rural workers' children to obtain a great discount by the quality of education. If the parents want that their children receive better education, they must pay more wealth under the current system of education, and their real revenue will be reduced greatly. Moreover, the appearance of a large number of "children and aged left in village" buries deeply hidden danger in the stability in the vast countryside. "Filial piety above all well-doings", without the company of children, the "aged left in village" will feel spiritually solitary and repressed. Without the bring-up of parents, the "children left in village" have certainly the lack of psychological developments, and very difficult to form correct personality, healthy philosophy and sense of worth. "It takes ten years to grow trees, but a hundred to rear people", more than ten years later, when they will become gradually the main members of the rural society, how to construct townships with favorable atmosphere? How to inherit honest folkway?

In the coastal provinces in the east, because of the prosperity of improvement trade and flourishing development of economy, local countryside does not only solved local peasants' employment problem, but also attract ecdemic peasants to work as a temporary laborer in a large amount in the local countryside. In vast central and west regions, each of provinces of the export of labor services, creates chances actively to let peasants in locality or nearly obtain employment, which can relieve the difficult problems of the above-mentioned social development. Meanwhile, these provinces, , make a large number of workforces between twenty and fifty to take on main force and give play to the role of positive subject in new rural construction.

5.3 Developing the New-Style Agricultural Cooperative in a More Cost-Effective Manner.

The new-style agricultural cooperative is the economic organization in which peasant member becomes a shareholder and are joint tenant and controlled by members who get profit, its management is the modern managerial system implementing democracy. Single peasant can become a shareholder with one's own land contracted, obtaining corresponding distribution of profit according to burst. In the new-style agricultural cooperative, the individual interests of peasant members and the interests of cooperative can well reach consistence.

After joining the newly-style agriculture cooperative, peasants no longer go to face the market singly. In the purchase of producing materials and the sale of agricultural product, cooperatives will have greater strength and more right of words^[4]. It can also obtain more information, making peasant members evade the economic losses by occasion of planting blindly. Under organizational forms such as agricultural cooperative and professional association of agriculture, the agricultural production aid fund of the government can be used better, whose benefits will be greater, avoiding the situation with low utilization efficiency, "spreading the ground pepper" in the past. Meanwhile, agricultural science and technology can more favorably serve each peasant members through the cooperative society, and the innovation of agricultural science and technology can be better implemented too. The new-style agricultural cooperative acts with a well-defined objective in mind in peasant's education and skills training and improves peasant's scientific and cultural qualities step by step, according to the actual conditions.

5.4 Setting up the Venture Base of Agricultural Science and Technology.

The main task of the venture base of agricultural science and technology is to foster the peasant entrepreneur, to train large quantities of agricultural technical staff and agricultural skilled workers who master modern agricultural technology and to promoting transformation of the agricultural scientific and technical results. It not only should develop modern agriculture but also should form the intact industry chain, which is a prominent characteristic different from the modern agricultural demonstration base. The venture base of agricultural science and technology should not have a courtyard wall, besides

several concentrated centers of agricultural new and high technology research and development and several centers of breeding, whose proving ground and base of achievement transforms are the vast countryside. The setting-up of the venture base of agricultural science and technology can effectively solve predicaments in the process of introducing the advanced technological achievement, not high ratio of conversion and popularizing rate.

In the construction of the venture base of agricultural science and technology, the government should attract outstanding talents, workforces between twenty and fifty in the local countryside, who give play to their own potentiality and creativity. Their ability to accept knowledge and to study is strong, and they can faster and better grasp modern agricultural technologies with higher exactitude. Meanwhile, the government can also consider sending some people with stronger ability from the staff members of government bodies, because a lot of local peasants can't meet the requirement engaged in agriculture's high-tech business administration in knowledge structure and in ideas for the moment. The youths from the government bodies, well educated and high ability, are offered a platform of development, which drive local peasants to participate in the venture base by their own practice and development.

5.5 Create the Venture "Seed" Fund of Peasants.

In the vast rural area of Midwest, the development of the market economy is unripe, whose economic development will also rely mainly on guiding in the government within some time. The venture "seed" Fund of peasants is set up by the government and it invests in some agricultural new high-tech enterprises on the initial stage, taking a proportion of share. In the less developed areas, the investment of the government in the agricultural high-tech enterprises can well drive participation enthusiasm and confidence of the social resources in it, having great promotion to develop the local high-tech industry. The venture "seed" Fund of peasants of the government will quit enterprise by selling its share, after it will have been developed, and then will put funds into the new high-tech enterprises of agriculture that the government plans to support again, circulating so.

5.6 Fostering Leading Agribusinesses.

The country needs supporting large quantities of leading agribusinesses. The advantages of leading agribusinesses are that their sharp sense of smell, flexibility and further actual information that they obtain in the face of market competition. In the export trade of agricultural products, their advantage is more obvious. Because of the very strict standards of inspection and quarantine to importing agricultural products in Europe, American and Japan, it expects very much in equipments of deep processing of agricultural product and fund input, which only agribusinesses on the large scale have capability to accomplish. Leading agribusinesses, following market demand, can instruct peasants how to produce agricultural products which have more demand on market, through the cooperative society, and they have more interests demand and loud impetus to the innovation of agricultural science and technology. Moreover, the development of leading agribusinesses can create more employment opportunities, enabling peasants in the locality to obtain employment near.

6 Conclusions

By the innovation of mechanism, supporting funds and policy guide offered by the government, it makes the development model of Chinese modern agriculture: peasants, newly-style cooperatives, venture bases of agricultural science and technology and leading agribusinesses can realize benign interactive and cooperative, makes Chinese agriculture on the way to a benign sustainable development and makes Chinese peasants on the way of innovation to become rich. Peasants are sure to give a more full play to the role of subject and creativity in new rural construction.

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