

Research on Farmers' Sense of Gain in Southwest Border Areas in China

Based on the Survey of Yunnan Province*

Mingyang Ruan

Kunming University
Kunming, China 650214

Abstract—In the view of social governance in China's border areas, the farmers' sense of gain is an important issue that must be concerned. This research reveals the important factors that affect the rural residents' sense of gain in China's border areas through the factor analysis and regression analysis of farmers' sense of gain, and finds that relative to urban residents, the level of farmers' sense of gain in southwest border areas is not high, and age is an important factor that affects farmers' sense of gain in southwest border areas. Also, the income level will affect the satisfaction of rural residents to the participation of rural social organization in social governance.

Keywords—southwest border; farmers' sense of gain; rural social governance

I. INTRODUCTION

James C. Scott warned that "the existence ethics of human lies in the farmers, and the lasting political stability lies in the countryside". The report of the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China pointed out that "China should deeply carry out poverty alleviation to ensure that the whole people have more sense of gain in the development of joint construction and sharing". Since 2015, with the gradual deepening of the Opinions on the Pilot Work of Rural Land Acquisition, Group Constructive Land Entering the Market and Homestead System Reform (hereinafter referred to as the "three plots of land" pilot reform work) issued by the State Council of China, the rural areas in southwest border ethnic minority have made encouraging progress, but compared with the developed areas, the promotion of farmers' sense of gain in pilot reform is still facing the bottleneck. Starting from the spirit of important speech delivered by general secretary Xi Jinping in 2013 about "the hope that Yunnan will become a national unity and progress demonstration area, a bellwether in the construction of ecological civilization and a radiation center facing South Asia and Southeast Asia", it should closely focus on the overall development policy of "one belt and one road", stress agriculture and consolidate the root, and solve the

*Fund: This paper is one of the phased achievements of the western project of the national social science foundation of China "the research on farmers' sense of gain in the reform of 'three plots of land' in the rural areas of the southwest border ethnic minority areas" (19XSH008) and the joint project of basic research of local undergraduate colleges and universities in Yunnan Province "the research on the evaluation of urban and rural residents' sense of gain and promotion path in Yunnan Province" (2018fh001-071)..

regional overall poverty in border areas, which has a positive meaning in enhancing the farmers' sense of gain in the reform of "three plots of land" in the rural areas in the southwest border areas.

II. REVIEW OF THE RESEARCH ON FARMERS' SENSE OF GAIN

"Who gets what, and why?" (Lenski, 1988), and the word is a classic interpretation of the sense of gain in western academic circles and also provides a social stratum perspective for the research of the sense of gain. Since the reform and opening up, the sense of gain of the peasant stratum has gone through a process of "ascending slightly prior to declining intensively". China's reform and opening up was initiated by marginal population. The first to enter the market was the farmers. Since 1978, the establishment of the rural household contract responsibility system has liberated the farmers' land use rights, and the farmers' income has begun to increase. Therefore, the farmers are generally benefited at the early stage of the reform (Sun Liping, 1998; Li Qiang, 2000). For all this, the return advantages of the peasant stratum have not continued. With the deepening of the reform, the market-oriented effects have caused economic stratification and widened the gap between the rich and the poor of all social strata. The income return of the peasant stratum has begun to decline sharply, and the peasant stratum has become the population with fewer gains in the reform, obviously ranking behind the top ten strata in China (Li Qiang, 1997; Lu Xueyi, 2003). Over the past 30 years, the reform trajectory of the household contract responsibility system is to strengthen the right to use, to continuously extend the contract period, and to improve the powers and functions of the right to contracted management of agricultural land. However, the ownership, the right to contract and the business right are still not clear, which results in that the existence of the "collective" in the system is strong, while the "sense of gain" of individual farmer is declining.

For this purpose, the reform of "three rights separation" of the ownership, contracting right and business right is a beneficial exploration for the framework of Land tenure. Based on this, the reform of "three rights separation" can clarify the relations between ownership and management, strengthen the attribute of land property right, and then improve the income level of farmers and motivate the farmers' sense of gain (Yang

Lulu, 2017; Wu Qun, 2017; Zhou Yingheng, 2017; Zou Wei, 2017; Huang Zhengxue, 2017; Wang Shiyuan, 2018). Therefore, farmers are the practitioners and beneficiaries who start the "first kilometer" of reform. In order to realize the "last kilometer" of the "sense of gain" project, it is necessary to continue to improve farmers' income, adjust the "three subsidies" policy of agriculture and strengthen the construction of village civilization in order to enhance farmers' sense of gain (Wang Laixi, 2017). Only by sticking to improving farmers' sense of gain can people finally realize the sharing development of every citizen (Wang Min, 2016).

Through combing, it is found that the existing researches have basically constructed the research foundation of farmers' sense of gain and pointed out the future for the follow-up researches. However, there are still three problems in the research on farmers' sense of gain: first, the amount of research is relatively small, especially the research on land pilot reform and farmers' sense of gain is very poor; second, the researches are obtained on the basis of general researches and are ignored on the points of rural revitalization in China's social governance: border areas, ethnic groups and poverty-stricken areas; third, the countermeasure researches on improving farmers' sense of gain is too few. The above-mentioned problems are exactly the direction of this research.

III. DATA SOURCE AND VARIABLE OPERATIONALIZATION

The research is based on the project of Institute of Strategic Studies of the Ministry of Science and Technology of the

People's Republic of China "survey on the quality of life of residents in western China", and adopts the method of sampling survey to collect data at home. The survey was conducted from October 23, 2019 to November 18, 2019. The respondents were rural residents (residents living in rural areas, including counties, towns and villages (communities)) in 16 prefectures and cities of Yunnan Province. A total of 27,032 valid questionnaires were obtained. The distribution of research variables will be further explained below.

A. Social Population Variables

The sociodemographic characteristics of the samples questioned are reported in "Table I". In this survey, there are 27,032 respondents, 61.48% of whom are male and 38.52% of whom are female. The educational status is generally at junior high school or above (93.36%). The sample structure is not consistent with the total population structure of rural residents in Yunnan Province, and there will be a certain deviation in representativeness. Therefore, in the following statistical analysis, the methods are used for posting stratification of weight, amending the samples and the corresponding variables, so as to improve the representativeness of the sample to the whole. Among them, the premise of using the method of post stratification is to master the distribution status of the whole. In this research, the distribution status of rural residents in Yunnan province comes from the data of the sixth population census in 2010.

TABLE I. SOCIODEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SAMPLES QUESTIONED

	Frequency Times	Frequency Rate
Gender		
Male	16,618	61.48
Female	10,414	38.52
Age group		
16-19 years old	2,686	9.94
20-29 years old	12,631	46.73
30-39 years old	6,580	24.34
40-49 years old	3,377	12.49
50-59 years old	1,375	5.09
60-64 years old	383	1.42
Education level		
Primary school and below	213	0.79
Junior middle school	1,583	5.86
High school (technical secondary school)	17,598	65.10
Junior college (higher vocational school)	5,717	21.15
Undergraduate or above	1,921	7.11
Marital status		
Unmarried	14,394	53.25
Married	11,323	41.89
Remarriage	195	0.72
Divorce	642	2.37
Widow	162	0.6
Other	316	1.17
Household register		
Village (city /district) of the province	11,580	42.84
Town (city /district) of the province	9,731	36
Village (city /district) of foreign province	3,215	11.89
Town (city /district) of foreign province	2,257	8.35
Other	249	0.92

B. Measurement of Farmers' Sense of Gain

In this research, eighteen questions in total are designed to measure farmers' sense of gain, including nine questions on sense of land acquisition, seven questions on sense of government governance, and two questions on sense of social participation. In order to analyze the reliability of index of farmers' sense of gain, the research further

calculates the item-rest correlation and calculated its Cronbach α coefficient. "Table II" contains the results of the reliability analysis. It is found that Cronbach α coefficient of social governance subjective evaluation index is 0.889, which has a high reliability. Specifically, the correlation coefficients of the potential variables of the eighteen questions are relatively high, and present the positive trends.

TABLE II. ANALYSIS ON THE ITEMS OF FARMERS' SENSE OF GAIN

Items	Direction	Correlation Coefficients of Potential Variables	Alpha
Land acquisition satisfaction	+	0.490	0.884
Homestead satisfaction	+	0.510	0.884
Collective land use satisfaction	+	0.436	0.886
Education satisfaction	+	0.509	0.884
Housing satisfaction	+	0.589	0.881
Medical satisfaction	+	0.498	0.884
Social security and relief satisfaction	+	0.622	0.880
Economic and social development	+	0.543	0.883
Rural government affairs development	+	0.503	0.884
Local public security situation	+	0.527	0.883
Local ecological environment	+	0.506	0.884
Local food and drug safety	+	0.605	0.880
Production and life safety	+	0.571	0.882
Local government's dispute resolution mechanism	+	0.550	0.882
Family harmony	+	0.401	0.887
Neighborhood harmony	+	0.467	0.885
The role of rural social organizations in social governance	+	0.528	0.883
The role of social workers in social governance	+	0.540	0.883
Alpha value of scale			0.889
Sample size			22,510

IV. FACTOR STRUCTURE OF FARMERS' SENSE OF GAIN AND REGRESSION MODEL ANALYSIS

Through the exploratory factor analysis of 18 items of farmers' sense of gain by SPSS 17.0, it can be found that the results show that each index is more suitable as the structural index of farmers' sense of gain. The principal component analysis method is adopted to carry out exploratory factor analysis on each index, and the method of variance maximization is adopted to carry out orthogonal rotation on factor loading. There are four factor combinations whose

eigenvalue is more than 1. From the results of principal component analysis, in the sample questioned, there are four factors whose eigenvalue is more than 1, indicating that the scale can be mainly expressed as four factors. Among them, the eigenvalues of factors 3 and 4 are slightly greater than 1, which reflects that factors 3 and 4 are marginal factors. According to the loading of each variable, it can be judged that factor 1 is the sense of land acquisition, factor 2 is the sense of government governance, and factor 3 is the sense of social participation. (See "Table III").

TABLE III. RESULTS OF FACTOR ANALYSIS: FACTOR LOADING

Items	Factor 1	Factor 2	Factor 3	Factor 4
Land acquisition satisfaction	0.718			
Homestead satisfaction	0.666			
Collective land use satisfaction	0.632			
Education satisfaction	0.639			
Housing satisfaction	0.610			
Medical satisfaction	0.506			
Social security and relief satisfaction	0.520			
Economic and social development		0.433		
Rural government affairs development			0.490	
Local public security situation		0.668		
Local ecological environment		0.658		
Local food and drug safety		0.680		
Production and life safety		0.693		
Local government's dispute resolution mechanism		0.641		
Family harmony				0.851
Neighborhood harmony				0.807
The role of rural social organizations in social governance			0.831	
The role of social workers in social governance			0.827	

Accordingly, the first three common factors are retained and the items with factor loading less than 0.6 are deleted. Farmers' sense of gain is ultimately composed of three dimensions: the sense of social participation, the sense of government governance and the sense of land acquisition. Among them, the sense of social participation consists of two items, the sense of government governance consists of five items, and the sense of land acquisition consists of five items, totaling 12 items.

In order to further explore the specific factors that affect the farmers' sense of gain in the southwest border areas of China, eight variables are introduced, including gender, age, marital status, years of education, residence status, annual income, socioeconomic status and housing type, into the linear regression equation of the overall subjective sense of gain and its integration factors. (See "Table IV")

TABLE IV. REGRESSION MODEL OF FARMERS' SENSE OF GAIN IN SOUTHWEST BORDER AREA (NON STANDARDIZED COEFFICIENT B VALUE)

Variable	Overall Sense of Gain	Sense of Land Acquisition	Sense of Government Governance	Sense of Social Participation
Individual factors				
Gender	-0.523	1.635	-0.213	-3.68**
Age	-.103***	-0.430***	-.123**	0.026
Marriage (reference group: unmarried)	-1.03	0.236***	0.528	1.429
Household registration (reference group: cities and towns of the province)				
Rural areas of this province	-0.847***	-1.491***	-1.623**	-0.248***
Cities and towns of other provinces	-0.931***	-1.605***	-0.538***	0.231***
Rural areas of other provinces	-1.876***	-1.412***	-0.248***	0.324***
Years of education	-0.212	-0.532	-0.226	0.156
Annual income	-0.297	-0.538	-0.181	1.202**
Socioeconomic status	0.245	1.432*	-0.291	-0.621
Housing type (reference group: bungalow)				
Villa	1.658	4.505	3.08	1.437
Building	0.429	2.305	0.231	-0.984
F test value	7.234***	8.593***	3.106***	2.888**
Constant term	33.753	43.973	37.19	36.184
Adjusted R2	0.173	0.168	0.054	0.021

^a Note: *p<0.05, **p<0.01, ***p<0.001

It can be seen from "Table IV" that the explanatory power of independent variable to the overall sense of gain is much stronger, the goodness of fit $R^2 = 0.173$ and the explanatory power reach a significant level ($P < .001$). From the perspective of individual factor, gender has a significant impact on the factor of the sense of social participation, which indicates that women psychological experience in social organizations' participation in rural governance is significantly higher than men; age has a significant impact on the overall sense of gain, sense of land acquisition, sense of government governance, and the regression coefficient is negative, which shows that with the increase of age, the farmers' sense of land acquisition in southwest border areas

and their satisfaction with local government governance are on the contrary declining; marriage status to the factor of social identity is 0.236, which indicates that married people (other forms of marriage in addition to single) have a higher sense of land acquisition compared with the unmarried people; annual income has a more significant impact on the sense social participation, which indicates that rural social organizations have a significant impact on increasing farmers' income.

In terms of structural factors, household registration is the main factor that affects farmers' sense of gain. Compared with the urban residents in this province, the overall sense of

gain, sense of land acquisition, the sense of government governance and the sense of social participation of rural residents in this province are decreasing; compared with the urban residents in this province, the overall sense of gain, the sense of land acquisition, the sense of government governance and the sense of social participation of urban residents and rural residents are also decreasing.

There is no statistical significance between the years of education and the types of housing on the overall sense of gain and its various factors.

V. CONCLUSION

Through the evaluation of the sense of gain of urban and rural residents in southwest areas, the following conclusions can be drawn.

Firstly, household registration is the main factor that affects the farmers' sense of gain in the southwest border areas. The overall evaluation of the sense of land acquisition, the sense of government governance and the sense of social participation of rural residents and foreign residents is lower than that of urban residents. For this reason, the possible explanation is that under the integrated influence of the policy preferences such as "poverty alleviation", "rural revitalization" and "one belt and one road", the economic development and infrastructure construction in the rural areas and the vast central and western regions have made great progress. For all this, with the rapid promotion of urbanization, farmers' land interests have been infringed, and the disputes surrounding land have been upgrading. On the contrary, the quality of life has been declining.

Secondly, age is an important factor to affect the farmers' sense of gain in the southwest border areas. Age has a significant influence on farmers' overall sense of gain, sense of land acquisition and sense of government governance. With the increase of age, farmers' overall sense of gain, sense of land acquisition and sense of government governance are all declining. Therefore, the possible explanation is that age, as an important indicator of human socialization, deeply reflects the structural factors of social vicissitude. The village vicissitude brought about by China's urbanization movement has a certain impact on farmers' interests, and the deficiency of farmers' sense of gain reflects this reality.

Thirdly, income is another important factor that affects farmers' sense of gain. The income level has a significant and positive effect on farmers' sense of social participation. The higher the income level is, the higher the farmers' sense of social participation will be. For this reason, the possible explanation is that the income level of farmers has facilitation on the participation of rural social organizations in social governance. With the increase of farmers' income, the spontaneous rural social organizations are more effective in rural governance, and further promote the improvement of farmers' sense of gain.

REFERENCES

- [1] Gerhardt Lenski, Power and Privilege [M]. Social Sciences Academic Press, 1988:53-54 (in Chinese)
- [2] Li Qiang, "Brain Body Hanging upside down" and Two Stages of China's Market Economy Development [J]. Sociological research, 1996, (06) (in Chinese)
- [3] Li Qiang, Current Four Interest Groups in Chinese Society [J]. Academic circle, 2000, (02) (in Chinese)
- [4] Sun Liping, Shen Yuan, et al. The Medium and Near Trends and Hidden Dangers of China's Social Structure Transformation [J]. Strategy and Management, 1998, (04) (in Chinese)
- [5] Lu Xueyi, Differentiation and Mobility of Social Strata in Contemporary China [J]. Jiangsu Social Sciences, 2003, (04) (in Chinese)
- [6] Yang Lulu, Evolution of "Three Rights Separation" from the Perspective of Farmers' Sense of Gain [J]. Reform, 2017, (01) (in Chinese)
- [7] Wu Qun, Farmers' Sense of Gain and Theoretical Explanation of "Three Rights Separation" [J]. Reform, 2017, (01) (in Chinese)
- [8] Zhou yingheng, International Case of Gain Sense and Farmland Property Right Allocation [J]. Reform, 2017, (01) (in Chinese)
- [9] Zou Wei, Correlation between "Three Rights Separation", Sense of Gain and Government Behavior [J]. Reform, 2017, (01) (in Chinese)
- [10] Huang Zhengxue, Four-dimensional Choice to Enhance Farmers' Sense of Gain [J]. Reform, 2017, (01) (in Chinese)
- [11] Wang Shiyuan, Let People Have More Sense of Gain -- Understanding and Suggestions on Three Pilots of Rural Land System Reform in Yujiang District, Yingtan City, Jiangxi Province [J]. China Land, 2018, (12) (in Chinese)
- [12] Wang Laixi, Research on the Connotation and Theoretical Significance of Farmers' Sense of Gain in China [J]. Economic Research Guide, 2017, (03) (in Chinese)
- [13] Wang Min, Explore and Analyse Practical Ways to Enhance Farmers' "Sense of Gain" under the Concept of Shared Development [J]. Reform and Opening-up, 2016, (20) (in Chinese)
- [14] Runciman, W.G. Relative Deprivation and Social Justice. London: Routledge, 1966
- [15] Walker I., Smith, H. J. Relative Deprivation: Specification, Development, and Integration. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2002
- [16] Peragine V. Ranking Income Distributions According to Equality of Opportunity. Journal of Economic Inequality, 2004