

Study on the Causes of Poverty in the Northwest Contiguous Poverty-Stricken Area and its Anti-Poverty Measures

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Abstract—To solve the lagging agricultural modernization, obvious urban and rural dual system obstacle, urban and rural development, and large residents income gap in the northwest contiguous Poverty-Stricken area of China, this paper studies the poverty causes in northwest contiguous Poverty-Stricken area and the significance of anti-poverty through literature, comparative analysis and field investigation. The poverty alleviation work in northwest contiguous Poverty-Stricken area will affect the national poverty alleviation work, conducive to the innovation of anti-poverty theory and model. Research finds that China's northwest contiguous Poverty-Stricken area has a lot of issues, such as bad natural environment, land fragmentation, weak infrastructure, and slow industry development, mutual restriction of ecological protection and economic development, weak self-development ability. To solve these issues, we need to propose anti-poverty measures from aspects of infrastructure investment, land reverse, industry system construction, ecological environmental protection, professional farmers training.

Keywords—Poverty, cause, countermeasures and advice

I. INTRODUCTION

The Outline of China's Rural Poverty Alleviation and Development (2011-2020) divides 14 concentrated contiguous Poverty-Stricken areas (hereinafter to be referred as contiguous Poverty-Stricken areas). In this paper, we have studied 148 counties (the particularity of southern Xinjiang region is not included in the study of the paper). Of which, Qinba region includes 38 counties in provinces and cities such as Shaanxi and Gansu, Liupanshan region includes 61 counties in provinces and cities such as Gansu, Shaanxi, Ningxia, Qinghai, four-province Tibetan region includes 42 counties in provinces and cities such as Gansu and Qinghai, part of which interlap the Sanjiangyuan region. Lvliang region includes 7 counties in Shaanxi province, with a total area of 1003,950 square kilometers and a population of 37.6233 million people. The weakest link in China's modernization construction is the lagging agricultural modernization, the most prominent contradiction in the economic and social system is obvious urban and rural dual system obstacle, the most serious restriction of the construction of a well-off society is an all-round way is urban and rural development and large residents income gap. Northwest contiguous Poverty-Stricken area is the

typical "three most" region with weak ecology, bad living environment and living conditions.

II. THE POVERTY ALLEVIATION OF NORTHWEST CONTIGUOUS POVERTY-STRICKEN AREA IS OF GREAT SIGNIFICANCE

Poverty is a problem affecting the development of the world. Anti-poverty is the common concern of human society, and poverty causes many social problems. As a responsible global player, China's anti-poverty action not only has important political significance, but also has far-reaching influence for the promotion of action against poverty in developing countries and the survival and development of mankind. It is undoubtedly of profound theoretical significance and important practical significance to analyze the cause of poverty in contiguous Poverty-Stricken area, explore its anti-poverty measures, and improve the comprehensive production capacity and ability to resist various risks of the poor populations and poor communities in contiguous Poverty-Stricken area.

Firstly, poverty alleviation in contiguous Poverty-Stricken area is conducive to the innovation of anti-poverty theory and model. From Malthus' "Two Series" argument on poverty, to George Henry's "How To Remove Poverty From The System", Nurkse's "Vicious Circle Of Poverty" theory, Nelson's "Low Level Equilibrium Trap". Myrdal put forward "Asian Drama" taking South Asia as research object, Amartya Sen focuses on poverty issue from the perspective of right, and Duan Shunshan, Xu Jianhua, Ding Wenguang, Chen Fahu, Nan Zhiren, Fan Huaiyu, Xian Liquan, Zhang Lijie, Chen Bo and Yuan Ronghua have conducted research on the poverty and anti-poverty issue of Gansu. The anti-poverty of contiguous Poverty-Stricken area has certain representativeness. Actively exploring the way out of poverty, encouraging market orientation and developing industry, is also the spirit of Adam Smith's "The Wealth of Nations". Encourage the eastern and western poverty alleviation collaboration and counterpart support; give full play to the management function of government in economic operation, enriching the poverty alleviation economic theory under the background of socialist system, the poverty governance system and the poverty alleviation and development theory system with Chinese characteristics.

Fund Program: Phased achievements of the national social science fund funded project "study on the construction of new agricultural management system and innovative agricultural operation mode in northwest contiguous Poverty-Stricken area" (14XJY014)

Secondly, the poverty alleviation work in contiguous Poverty-Stricken area has affected the progress of poverty alleviation work in the whole country, which is of great practical significance. The overall poverty alleviation in contiguous Poverty-Stricken area helps improve the status of poor areas and improve people's living conditions. Poverty alleviation is the first livelihood project. Northwest contiguous Poverty-Stricken area has various minorities; its anti-poverty is not only an economic issue, but also a sensitive political issue. The poverty alleviation in northwest contiguous Poverty-Stricken area helps get the people's heart, promote unity and develop together. Poverty alleviation is the fundamental interests of most people. Realizing the poverty alleviation in northwest contiguous Poverty-Stricken area is an important step to promote national governance system and scientification of governance ability, fully embodying the political superiority of the leadership of the Chinese Communist Party and China's socialist system. Eliminating poverty is a common pursuit of human development. Under the background of the Belt and Road, highly integrate foreign poverty alleviation and "going out" of Chinese enterprises, helping promote the reduction of global poor population, the anti-poverty actions in developing countries and the survival and development of mankind.

III. THE CAUSE OF POVERTY IN NORTHWEST CONTIGUOUS POVERTY-STRICKEN AREA

A. *Bad natural environment*

First, special geographic location. Qinba region has complex terrain, with more than 7 million mu of forest area and little arable land; Liupanshan region is located in China's three-level topographic transition zone, where the energy resource is overdeveloped, and the terrain is fragmented; Lvliang region is the hinterland of loess plateau with low vegetation coverage; Sanjiangyuan region is densely covered with rivers, and has fragile ecology. Huangheyuan region, Changjiangyuan region and Lancangjiangyuan region respectively accounts for 46%, 44% and 10% of the total area of the Sanjiangyuan region, and there is no arable land at all. Second, changeable climate. The climate is drought in Liupanshan region, its per capita water resources per capita in 2015 is only 16.7% of China's per capita water resources. Third, serious water and soil erosion. There are 64 counties in Liupanshan region belonging to the national serious soil erosion county. The land area with a slope of more than 35 degrees in Huating county occupies 85.24% of the total land area, and the development of national agricultural mechanization technology is only concentrated on the cultivated land with a slope of under 15 degrees. In 2014, soil erosion area in the region accounted for 60.09% of the total land area. Fourth, frequent natural disasters. Zhouqu, Gansu, and Qinba region are China's top six areas with frequent debris flow, which have serious disaster-caused poverty phenomenon.

B. *Land is fragmented and difficult to reverse*

First, land is fragmented. Land fragmentation refers to the fact that farmers have more than one mutual unconnected land, and the land area is small and can only be grown in traditional ways or use small machinery. The fragmentation of farmland is the inevitable result of China's traditional agricultural development. In 1982, after the issue of central 1 document, the

land of the same grade was equally allocated to all the villagers of the collective by quality, which directly resulted in the land fragmentation^[1]. In 1992, the second round of contract was started, and "The Land Contract Law of The People's Republic of China" stipulated that the contract term would remain unchanged for 30 years, the land fragmentation would persist. National agricultural census in 1997 showed that more than 90% of the farmers in China owned farmland under one hectare, the corresponding land accounted for 79.07% of the national farmland. The national agricultural census in 2006 showed that about 92% of the farmers in China owned farmland under one hectare, corresponding land accounted for 84.8% of the national farmland.

Second, prominent land reverse problem. Land circulation is lack of law to clearly define the nature of property right of rural land circulation, the rights and obligations of each party of land circulation, etc.^[2]. In the typical current reform modes^[3] of "exchange land with house" in Tianjin, "two allocation two exchange" in Jiaying, "land ticket" in Chongqing, the problems such as forced displacement, message delay, and impossible guaranteeing of income under the leadership of government are very common. Farmers' legal consciousness is weak, and it is mainly about oral agreement in the actual land transfer process, and the problem of signing contracts beyond the deadline is very common^[4]. At the same time, many places change the agricultural land into high-yield commercial or construction land. At the end of 2007, the usage of Zhongxian county's 16,951.09 hectares of arable land has been changed, accounting for 69.13% of the total cultivated land, 10.54% of which has been changed into construction land^[5].

C. *Insufficient investment in infrastructure*

First, the backward agricultural infrastructure. Government and social input are obviously inadequate compared with the current situation. In recent years, the state has continuously increased water resources investment, but the completion rate of the central water conservancy construction investment in incontinous Poverty-Stricken area is not optimistic. In August 2016, the completion rate of central investment in Qinghai and other regions was well below the national average. Second, weak infrastructure. At the end of 2014, the coverage rate of standardized health room in Liupanshan region was only 55%; the participation rate of the new rural cooperative medical care in some areas was only 95%, and village health room with qualified doctors was only 88.3%. The major diseases that medical institutions and medical aid can deal with have continuously increased, but there is still no way to deal with major diseases. The road level of the contiguous Poverty-Stricken area can only meet the daily travel and cannot meet the needs of industrial development. As of December 2015, there were only 3.8% of highways with second level of above in Ningxian county, 5.2% in Zhongwei city and 6.3% in Longnan city. In the region, the coverage of network and communication of some places is low. As of December 2015, the coverage of Longxian county, Gansu province was only 29.60%.

D. *Weak industry development foundation*

First, unreasonable industrial structure. In most areas, the proportion of secondary industry is high, the extensive

economic growth is the main type, the energy consumption is high, and the industry is underpowered. The first industry develops slowly, has low contribution rate, and the tertiary industry develops unevenly. In 2015, for example, the three industrial structure ratio of Jingyuan county is 35.0:24.8:40.2, the three industrial structure ratio of Dingxi city is 25.2: 21.8: 53, the three industrial structure ratio of Jingchuan county is 41.3: 20.4: 38.3. Second, broken industrial chain. The staff of the contiguous Poverty-Stricken area are scattered, the equipment is backward, and the processing ability is limited. The processing of agricultural products is mainly about the primary processing, with low product added value.

E. Mutual restriction of ecological protection and economic development

Liupanshan region and Ningxia region give priority to dryland agriculture. Land reclamation planting and mining exploitation have failed the rock. The water and soil erosion, desertification and grassland degradation problems of Sanjiangyuan region are increasing. Yushu region has excessively excavated *cordyceps sinensis*, with serious soil damage. Qinba region carries the south-to-north water transfer middle route project, there are 85 prohibited development zones, 55 counties belong to the key ecological function areas with government restrictions on the exploitation in it. The region has few arable land area, and obvious resource development and environmental protection contradiction.

F. Weak self-development ability

First, backward development concept. The economic development of the northwest region is slow, with weak self-development consciousness and lack of young people, aggravating the rural poverty. Second, low level of technology and culture. Liupanshan region is a minority area and also an old revolutionary base area. According to China's statistical yearbook data, Chinese illiteracy is mainly distributed in the vast rural areas. In addition, the education degree of China's farmers is generally not high, about 36.7% of the farmers only have the education level of primary school or below, 13% of the farmers has the education level of high school or above, less than 5% of the farmers have received systematic agricultural vocational and technical education. The lack of talents has slowed the popularization of agricultural technology, lowered the level of high-tech application, and could not adapt to market changes and meet the agricultural market demand.

IV. THE ANTI-POVERTY MEASURES OF NORTHWEST CONTIGUOUS POVERTY-STRICKEN AREA

A. Strengthen land transfer, moderate scale operation

First, clarify the principal status of farmers and improve the bargaining power of farmers. The government provides farmers with information platforms for land transfer and agricultural products trade, helps farmers to transfer land and trade agricultural products, and timely explain policies on agriculture for farmers. Build a diversified and multi-form education resource network; conduct agricultural technical and cultural training, improving the professional operation ability of farmers. The survey found that farmers with stronger

bargaining power would also prefer land transfers. Therefore, protecting and improving the bargaining power of farmers in land circulation is beneficial to the protection of farmers' land rights and interests. Second, improve rural land contract relations and establish a unified urban-rural labor market. Phase out local employment protection policies and restrictions on rural labor force entering the market, create a variety of employment channels, and actively guide the rural labor force to transfer to the second and third industry, promote the development of urbanization, so as to promote the rural land circulation. Reform urban household registration system, relax the management policy of the change of rural household registration and urban household registration, attract the rural population to gather towards urban areas, give full play to the role of urbanization development on promoting the rural economy development, so as to promote the marketization of rural land circulation.

B. Strengthen the efforts of infrastructure construction

Firstly, combine government and social forces to strengthen the agricultural supporting infrastructure investment in northwest contiguous Poverty-Stricken area. In the aspect of government, we need to do well in the coordination of land, agriculture, economy, water conservancy, transportation and other departments, and rationalize and revitalize the departmental structure, and the responsibility should be put in place to be responsible for everything. Increase direct subsidies for agricultural infrastructure and timely repair and maintain infrastructure. In the social aspect, establish social organizations, use private capital to carry out technological renovation of the infrastructure, to improve the construction of agricultural infrastructure. Secondly, strengthen the construction of public basic informationization, and the new mode of agricultural operation focuses more on concentrated and mechanized work. In the aspect of agricultural information, timely publicize the new varieties of livestock products, inform the operators of new diseases and pests to conduct pre-defense, and help experts to guide the treatment when the disaster occurs; In the market information aspect, timely communicate market supply situation, so that the operator can adjust products and sales strategy, adopt flexible sales methods to decrease the risk, use information platform and technology to promote agricultural and livestock products production and sales.

C. Upgrade the level of agricultural industrialization

First, continue to strengthen legislation, improve and revise the demonstration constitution of the industrialization development of agriculture comprehensive development. Specify respective rights and obligations from the democratic supervision, business decision-making, financial management and other related aspects, sign the relevant contract or agreement, so as to make the internal control of agricultural comprehensive development more normative. The local governments of contiguous Poverty-Stricken area need to implement the developed supportive policies. Industrial and commercial tax departments and financial institutions at all levels shall simplify the loan procedures of rural economic organizations, implement preferential interest rate subsidies and provide preferential policies for transportation, land and

other aspects. Second, strengthen brand promotion and maintenance. In recent years, the number of specialty agricultural product brands in contiguous Poverty-Stricken area has been increasing, but the popularity is not high. Cultivate a huge endorsement team, turn the government, travelers, students into a member of the northwest agricultural special products endorsement team, establish northwest agricultural special products sales networks, to achieve the effect of everyone being the endorsement of their hometown products. Realize the commercialization of agricultural special products space. That is to make the planting area of agricultural special products the consumption place of people, letting people involve in the whole growth process of the products. At the same time, pay attention to the hidden trouble of fast product brand extension, strengthen the emphasis on brand management. High-tech anti-counterfeiting, public welfare activities promoting products can all have the effect of brand maintenance, realizing dual goals of product branding and region branding.

D. Strengthen the construction of ecological civilization

Fully clean up the content in the existing laws and regulations which can't adapt to the accelerating of ecological civilization construction, improve the standard system. Improve the ecological environment regulation system and establish an environmental protection management system that strictly regulates the emission of all pollutants. Define ecological red lines in key ecological functional areas, ecological environment sensitive areas and vulnerable areas, to ensure that ecological functions are not reduced, its area remains not reduced, and the nature stays unchanged. Improve the ecological compensation mechanism, establish regional horizontal ecological protection and compensation mechanism, scientifically define the rights and obligations of ecological protectors and beneficiary, speed up the forming of operation mechanism which regulates people who damage ecology to compensate, beneficiary to pay, and protectors to get reasonable compensation. Raise the awareness of ecological civilization of the whole society; make ecological civilization the mainstream value starting from the daily behaviors. Encourage the public to actively participate in the construction of ecological civilization. Improve the system of public participation, and timely disclose environmental information in all walks of life, enhance transparency, play the positive role of non-governmental organizations and volunteers, to guide the healthy and orderly development of social organizations in the field of ecological civilization construction.

E. Strengthen the cultivation of modern professional farmers and enhance their self-development capacity

The agricultural operators in contiguous Poverty-Stricken area generally don't have high cultural level, and the aging phenomenon is serious. The cultivation of modern professional farmers is not only a problem that needs to be solved currently, but also is necessary for the sustainable development of agricultural globalization. The cultivation of modern professional peasants should be considered from the current operators and successors. For the current operators, mainly focus on carrying out regular agricultural skills training, network technology training, management ability training, and

flexible training of professional ability, to achieve the autonomous learning and self-growth of operators, and improve the sensitivity of the operators on the market. The training of successors needs to focus on systematic college-based training, so as to train their management ability and legal consciousness, strengthen training purpose, improve training effect and solve employment problems.

V. CONCLUSION

The poverty in China's contiguous Poverty-Stricken area has certain representativeness around the country. Analyzing what causes the poverty of contiguous Poverty-Stricken area and seeking anti-poverty measures, is of great importance to the anti-poverty actions in developing countries and the survival and development of mankind. Contiguous Poverty-Stricken area is ecological fragile type, has bad living environment, its living conditions need to be improved. It is the weakest link in our modernization construction, and the most outstanding performance of the urban and rural dual system obstacle in the economic and social system. Large urban and rural residents' income gap is the most serious factor that impedes the construction of a well-off society in an all-round way. In this regard, suggestions and measures are proposed in the following aspects: First, promote land circulation and develop moderate scale operation. Improve the system of land transfer and establish a unified labor market in urban and rural areas, and develop a moderately scaled operation; second, strengthen the construction of agricultural infrastructure, strengthen the construction of public basic informationization, establish unified urban-rural labor market; third, improve the development of agricultural industrialization, continue to strengthen legislation, implement policy support, strengthen brand building and expand the influence of agricultural products in the northwest; fourth, strengthen the construction of ecological civilization, protect the ecological environment with the system, guide the whole people to participate in the construction of ecological civilization, and encourage the public to actively participate in the construction of ecological civilization; fifth, strengthen the cultivation of modern professional farmers and enhance their capacity for self-development. Improve the sensitivity of the operator to the market, enhance the management ability, improve the behavior ability and specialization division level of the farmers; raise the legal consciousness, clarify the principal status of the farmer, improve the bargaining power of the farmer.

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