On the Development of Animal Husbandry under New Socialist Countryside Construction of Western China

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Abstract The new socialist countryside construction can not do without bringing into full play superior industries. Developing animal husbandry is a key measure for increasing farmers’ income. Since western China has advantages in region, resource, social culture, and domestic and foreign market potential, the new socialist countryside construction in western China should energetically develop animal husbandry and promote the new socialist countryside construction with the aid of animal husbandry. For developing the animal husbandry, western China can exploit and consolidate market, integrate resources of animal husbandry, well develop four aspects of construction (information service, scientific and technological service, market system, and safety of livestock products), and realize precise market-oriented, ecology-oriented, and modernized development of animal husbandry in western China.

Key words Western China, New socialist countryside construction, Animal husbandry

The Three Rural Issues (concerning agriculture, rural areas and farmers) are major issues of China’s national economic and social development, and also top priority of the new socialist countryside construction. Western China faces more serious three rural issues. In the construction of new socialist countryside and implementation of Western Development Strategy, it is required to energetically develop animal husbandry with the advantages of animal husbandry resources in western region, promote rural economy of western region through the animal husbandry, increase farmers’ income, and promote new socialist countryside construction in the western region.

1 Role of development of animal husbandry and increase of farmer’s income in the new socialist countryside construction in western China

Western China covers one municipality: Chongqing; six provinces; Sichuan, Guizhou, Yunnan, Shaanxi, Gansu, and Qinghai; and three autonomous regions; Tibet, Ningxia, and Xinjiang. Land area of western China takes up 56% of the whole country, its population accounts for 22.99% of the total population of China, and most people in western China are farmers and herdsmen. Difficulties of western rural development mainly lie in; (i) large agricultural population but low income of farmers; (ii) large population below the poverty line but low degree of realization of well-off rural areas; (iii) many natural disasters and low integrated agricultural productivity; (iv) many remote regions and low economic and social development level. In more than 600 poor counties of the whole country, 90% are situated in central and western regions, and about 2/3 poorest people are in western China[1]. The task of western China in promoting new socialist countryside construction is arduous. In line with present situation, it is required to focus on increasing farmers’ income.

1.1 The development of western animal husbandry directly influences' farmers' income With constant social progress and development, the position of animal husbandry is more and more prominent in agriculture and rural economy. Special geographical condition and environmental advantages of western region make the development of animal husbandry more important. Western labor engaged in animal husbandry also takes up a large portion. Economic income of western farmers also mainly comes from animal husbandry. With increase of large scale, industrialization and marketization of western animal husbandry, economic income of western farmers has considerable growth. These indicate that development level of the animal husbandry directly influences increase of western farmers’ income.

1.2 Increasing western farmers’ income is a key to the new socialist countryside construction Increase of farmers’ income and new socialist countryside construction complement each other. Increasing western farmers’ income is a key to the new socialist countryside construction, but the difficulty in increasing farmers’ income is a fundamental and prominent problem in agriculture and rural areas. Effectively eliminating this problem, constantly promoting constant growth of farmers’ income, and fundamentally solving three rural issues and realize agricultural modernization are essential measures for narrowing the urban and rural gap, building harmonious society, expanding domestic demands, and keeping rapid growth of national economy[2]. For western China, it is required to explore the potential of increase of agricultural output. Besides, it is required to actively develop excellent variety and superior agricultural products with distinct characteristics and high added value.

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2 Necessities for developing the animal husbandry in western China

2.1 Regional comparative advantages of western China in developing the animal husbandry  The distribution of land resource of western regions is not balanced. Special geographical environment restricts agricultural development, and regional centralization of animal husbandry is more and more prominent. For example, the central plain area and the northeast area are two superior areas of beef cattle, while the central plain area, central and east of Inner Mongolia, north of Hebei, the northwest area, and southwest area are superior areas of mutton sheep [3]. These indicate that western regions take up a large portion, and Sichuan and Inner Mongolia are strong provinces of animal husbandry. Facing centralization trend of animal husbandry and enthusiasm of local government for developing animal husbandry, western regions should deepen the animal husbandry, improve connotation of animal husbandry, and build core competitiveness. In brief, western regions have difficulty in agricultural development, but have great potential and advantage in developing animal husbandry.

2.2 Resource comparative advantages of western China in developing the animal husbandry  Western regions are rich in resources, so the animal husbandry has excellent development foundation. In China, there is 6 billion mu grassland, in which northwest area (including Inner Mongolia) takes up 4 billion mu and southwest has 1.5 billion mu [3]. This is superior resource is closely connected with farmers and herdsmen, so animal husbandry, especially grassland animal husbandry, has outstanding comparative advantage. With implementation of new socialist countryside construction in western regions and Western Development Strategy, grass industry receives close attention due to higher economic benefits, huge ecological benefits and social benefits. In addition, water resource of western regions takes up 46.6% of the whole country. Sunshine and heat condition are favorable for generation of high quality grassland. These bring excellent resource guarantee for development of the animal husbandry. It is known that a country or region must have certain resource to develop economy; otherwise, it will rely on foreign resources. As underdeveloped area, western China relies largely on resources. Rich natural resources provide favorable condition for western China developing the animal husbandry.

2.3 Human resource and culture comparative advantages of western China in developing the animal husbandry  In China, the animal husbandry has a long history. People have accumulated rich production experience and excellent livestock and poultry varieties in the long-term animal husbandry production. This lays a solid foundation of social and cultural advantages for development of the animal husbandry. Besides, there are abundant labor forces in western region. The western region has a population of 377 million, rural population is up to 336 million, rural surplus labor is up to 80 million, so it can provide sufficient labor force for the animal husbandry [5]. Although western farmers’ living conditions are greatly improved, there is still a large gap with eastern region. The development of animal husbandry will bring endogenous increase of farmers’ income.

3 Western China should energetically develop animal husbandry to bring into full play market potential

3.1 Prospect of domestic market  With constant improvement of people’s living conditions, people’s diet structure is changing from mainly plant food to mainly animal food, and per capita consumption of livestock product is also constantly increasing. In 2004, the output value of animal husbandry reached 1217.4 billion yuan; total output of meat reached 72.4482 million tons, output of birds, beasts and eggs reached 27.2365 million tons, milk output reached 23.684 million tons, increasing 4.5%，4.5% and 28.1% respectively compared with the previous year [6]. Relevant data indicate that the total output of livestock products in 2013 reached 80 million tons. However, China’s per capita consumption of meat, egg and milk still lags far behind developed countries. In future, with rapid economic growth and improvement of people’s living conditions, the demands for meat, poultry, egg and milk will keep increasing. Consumption market of livestock products will become broad, so the development space of western animal husbandry will be larger. The consumption market of livestock products will increase in both quantity and quality. Various consumption types of livestock products will also increase considerably, such as whole family travel, family gourmet food, outdoor dining, various family parties, and various return banquets, etc.

3.2 Prospect of foreign market  China’s livestock products have higher advantages in cost and price. China’s live pig cost is lower than the USA and Japan. In price, China’s pork, beef and mutton is lower than international market price. As long as bringing into full play resource advantages of western regions, attaching importance to quality of livestock products, stopping an end to food accident like Melamine accident, and fully implementing the HACCP system, high quality green livestock products of western regions will have broad foreign market. This provides precious opportunity for development of western animal husbandry. Western regions have comparative advantages and broad market prospect in region, resource, and social culture. In the new socialist countryside construction, it is required to integrate resources of animal husbandry, to energetically develop animal husbandry. This not only solves most direct and actual problem concerning production development and living conditions of western rural areas and agriculture, but also is breakthrough point of industrialization, and essential approach for promoting small town development, narrowing urban and rural gap, and changing urban and rural dual structure.

4 Recommendations for energetic development of animal husbandry in the new socialist countryside construction of western China

4.1 Exploiting and consolidating market  Firstly, it is recommended to improve quality of livestock products, strictly control major animal epidemics, especially those diseases contracted com-
4.2 Integrating animal husbandry resources and implementing information service, sci-tech service, market system and livestock product safety construction. To energetically develop animal husbandry, western China should integrate animal husbandry resources, and implementing information service, sci-tech service, market system and livestock product safety construction. Specifically, it is recommended to strengthen information service construction, to provide accurate, practical and rapid information services for producers conducting production and operation and making structural adjustment. Government should implement the information service system construction for farmers. This needs special organizations and specialized personnel to provide market information for farmers. Besides, it is recommended to bring into full play role of radio and television stations, to provide technical information services for farmers. In addition, it is proposed to establish special information platform, to guide farmers to go online and use modern information tools. The key for agriculture and animal husbandry development lies in scientific and technological progress and improvement of labor quality. This needs well construction of scientific and technological service system. Scattered small-scale production fails to connect with large market. Thus, only through construction of market system, may it be able to lead more farmers to step into larger market. Finally, the construction of livestock product safety system is the guarantee for improving livestock product quality, strengthening market competitiveness, optimizing production environment, and improving health of the public.

4.3 Promoting precise market-oriented, ecology-oriented, and modernized development of animal husbandry. Building a new socialist countryside is an important historic mission in the process of China’s modernization. It is a major decision made by the Central Party based on requirements of Scientific Outlook on Development, through overall planning, focusing on long-term benefits, and keeping up with the times. It points out direction for three rural issues at the new stage. The animal husbandry is an integral part of works of three rural issues and is closely related with the new socialist countryside construction. At present, it is an important subject to make clear how to bring into full play advantages of animal husbandry, to promote rural economy, increase farmers’ income and make contribution to the new socialist countryside construction of western regions. It is recommended to promote development of the animal husbandry through precise market-oriented, ecology-oriented, and modernized development.

5 Conclusions. The new socialist countryside construction of western China concerns overall situation of socialist modernization construction. Western China involves large population and area, so it is objective requirement of comparative advantage theory and actual economic development rules to bring into full play regional resource advantage in the new socialist countryside construction of western regions. Developing animal husbandry is a key measure for increasing farmers’ income. Since western China has advantages in region, resource, social culture, and domestic and foreign market potential, the new socialist countryside construction in western China should energetically develop animal husbandry and promote the new socialist countryside construction with the aid of animal husbandry. For developing the animal husbandry, western China can exploit and consolidate market, integrate resources of animal husbandry, well develop four aspects of construction (information service, scientific and technological service, market system, and safety of livestock products), and realize precise market-oriented, ecology-oriented, and modernized development of animal husbandry in western China. This not only solves most direct and actual problem concerning production development and living conditions of western rural areas and agriculture, but also is breakthrough point of industrialization, and essential approach for promoting small town development, narrowing urban and rural gap, changing urban and rural dual structure, and realizing in-situ transfer of rural surplus labor.

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