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An Analysis on the Experience and Routines of Experimental Site of New-countryside Construction of Xianhong in Hubei

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Abstract The paper tends to make an empirical analysis on the experimental site of new countryside construction of Xianhong in Hubei, pointing out that the inner and outer dependence on routines of experimental construction. The paper also puts forward the beneficial policies, focusing on the agricultural production and fostering professional farmers, to reduce much dependence on routines.

Key words New countryside, Experimental site of Xianhong, Routines dependence, China

During the process of new-countryside construction, a lot of modes are generated which are brought by the varieties of local resources. In order to promote the successful development of local new-countryside construction, the provincial committee and government of Hubei have established an experimental site in the basin of Hanjiang Plain with Xianhong expressway and Honghu as center. The experimental site covers 407 villages, 14 towns including Xiantao City, Honghu City, Jianli City (the offices, management zone and industrial zone) and 197 800 households with a population of 754 500 and a total area of 1 467 km²^[1]. Until now the experimental site has been operated for about 3 years, more than 2 years and effects of which have manifested before the public. However, the generated dependence of routines by which is also abrupt.

1 Empirical analysis on experimental site of new-countryside construction of Xianhong

1.1 High investment and improving agricultural production comprehensively It is known to all that agriculture is weak in China which is influenced for historical factors. So it is a long and slow process to realize modernization of agriculture by relying on totally itself. Once being aware of this point, provincial committee and government of Hubei decided to invest highly in agriculture to solve the difficulties limiting the development of agriculture. In fields of rice and aquatic products, peasants' transferring, agricultural science and training of rural leaders and the two issues concerning about peasants: agricultural mechanization and agricultural defence and so on are all taken into consideration in governmental plan. From the year of

2008 on, Hubei Province plans to arrange 39 items within 3 years worthy of 535 million Yuan. In 2008, there were 82 million Yuan transferred and in 2009, 233 million Yuan was involved. And in 2010, another 231 million Yuan had invested. Through these investment, experimental site has changed a lot. The most obvious is the strengthening of the infrastructure: 320 million Yuan has been invested on the comprehensive mending or recreation of the main expressway of Xianhong and Fengguan, constructing or recreating the county roads 42 km and constructing 168 km motorway connecting villages; 150 million Yuan has been invested on channels tidying, 56 channels are constructed with total length of 124.2 km; another 18 million Yuan has invested on the supervision and planning of power grid of 104 villages and starting the electronic projects of the first phase. In all invested projects, tuition standards of land tidying is the highest with 22 500 Yuan having been invested per acre. The construction of clustered high-production land has been invested with 450 million Yuan with 12 projects about land management being involved, a total area of 204 million square meters. In the experimental site, a series of land mending is arranged in towns such as Zhanggou in Xiantao, Fengkou in Honghu, Wanquan, Chahe, Jianlimao City, covering more than 60 villages^[2].

1.2 Upgrading the new image of socialism new-countryside with tidying the rural environment as the breakthrough Because of the low production abilities and low income, rural areas need improvement in many aspects. For example, the arbitrary breeding of husbandry, bad, dirty and messy environment brought by arbitrary dealing with rubbish. All of which are contradictory to the basic needs of organized villages and cultivated villages. In order to solve these problems, the provincial committees and government of Hubei have adopted corresponding measures. For example, with the cooperated efforts of the local government and residents, Xiantao city has established the policies of how to keep the city clean; putting into force the six fixed working plans that fixed person,

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fixed responsibility, fixed salary, fixed tools, fixed rubbish box and fixed place to handle rubbish; destroying about 468 houses, tents, toilets and kitchens hindering or destroying views, perfecting more than 200 households. Honghu city has performed the eight projects, which are houses demolishing, one construction and three correction, flattening holes, rubbish handling, roads connecting, beautifying, lamps lightening and healthily cultivation constructing. More than 4 700 methane tanks are constructed; 508 cleaners are equipped; 6 837 rubbish buckets are constructed; 83 rubbish cars and 210 places to handle rubbish. Jianli county has invested more than 30 million Yuan on the comprehensive tidying projects such as mending of roads, channels, constructing methane tanks, green belt and unifying the same color of houses and so on.

1.3 Establishing multiple investment mechanisms to solve the shortage of capital The greatest difficulty in constructing new-countryside is the shortage of money. The traditional financial supports scatter in agricultural supporting funds and the processes of applying and permission are complicated with no fixed responding. Although there are lots of projects solving many problems, it is difficult to form a phenomena and get success. However, the traditional mode has changed in experimental site. The experimental site of new-countryside construction in Xianhong has broken the regional, career and all other constraints. With the platform of connecting to each other and all around, all careers and all departments have put into force the binding use of capital. So, projects are overspread among different regions. The new investment mechanisms have been established that without changing channels, managements and taking responsibilities, gaining benefits respectively^[3].

1.4 Innovating mode of reward replacing compensation and establishing the village public career The mode is usually applied to the construction of motorways connecting villages, one construction and three mending, construction of yards in front of doors, houses repairing and cultural center construction and so on. Under the standard of 2 500 Yuan per household as the reward, industrial park of Xiantao has motivated about 80 households and invested more than 1.4 million Yuan on repairing houses for a good view, averaging 17 500 Yuan per household in investment. Maoshi town has modelled the sample of one construction and three mending of Laohe Village and Cuiwu village, organizing departments of town to support villagers correspondingly, supporting each household with more than 2 000 Yuan, summing up to more than 200 000 Yuan, which to a large degree solve the problem of capital difficulties in the project of one construction and three mending of hundreds of households. Projects such as one construction and three mending, the repairing of yards, lamps and green belts are all taken into the fields of rewarding. Compensate each households 5 000 Yuan for operating the project of one construction and three repairing based on the requirements, adding extra 200 Yuan if more than 10 households are grouped; the flattening of yards of more than 10 households connected, 10 Yuan for each square meters; 400 Yuan for each lamp; 20 Yuan for each green plant.

2 Experience generating path dependence

2.1 Meanings and influences of path dependence Path dependence is a familiar word in western economy, referring to a positive feedback system. Once being adopted by the system under the influences of occasional outer affairs, the system will develop and derive along with some routines, which cannot be easily replaced by other potential or even more excellent systems. Douglas · C · North, the important economists of new policy economy, describe the huge effects of the past results on the present and the future with path dependence. Once a development path progressing along with a definite planning, the outer nature, the learning process of the organization and other subjective modes derived by these historical problems will further promote the progressing of this path^[4]. Along with the fixed path, the transferring of policies would become more excellent by entering a better recycle. Or it also would decline by continuing the original wrong path deeper and deeper and finally ends with some non-efficiency condition. Once entering the locked situation, it would become much more difficult to be escaped from. The transferring from a fixed situation calls for usually the outer helps, introducing the outer changing forces or depending on the changes of power. To put it simple, path dependence is formed by habits. Everyone has basic thinking modes of themselves which to a large degree decides your future life. The planning of policies and some kind of development modes will generate path dependence too. In order to avoid the negative effects of path dependence, it is necessary to find out the correct direction at the very beginning.

2.2 Analysis on path dependence of the experimental site of new-countryside construction of Xianhong The research shows that there are two kinds of path dependence of the new-countryside construction of Xianhong, which are outer path dependence and inner path dependence. Inner path dependence refers to the inner historical factors, cultural accumulations will influence choices in the future and so on; the outer path dependence refers to the influences by the development path which is formed by outer competitors to ourselves, locking ourselves in the development modes of techniques, policies and economy and so on which are all designed by competitors.

2.2.1 Analysis on inner path dependence. The inner path dependence of Xianhong experimental site reflects on two aspects. The first one is the dependence on conception. The experimental site of new-countryside construction of Xianhong is the historical place cultivated the agricultural civilization. While influenced historically by the natural economy, it is difficult for human here to change their thoughts such as reserved, backward, satisfied with little wealth, focusing on agriculture while lightening business, favoring friendship while looking down upon profits in such a short term. What's more, decades of planning economy had strengthened them, such as stubborn and timid thoughts; weak awareness of commercialization; strong awareness against the out-comes and serious dependence on others. These informal traditional culture and thoughts are difficult to be compatible with the official marketing policies. The high investment policies by government seemingly changes

these backward concept, but in fact they deepens the dependence on these concepts. The second is the dependence on the successive development. At present, the experimental sites of new-countryside construction of Xianhong is carrying on with infrastructure construction, villages environment tidying and life conditions improving and so on. All of which are projects improving images belonging to the first phase of new-countryside construction. However, to develop new-countryside, it is more important to put emphasis on restructuring the industry, developing modern agriculture and promoting production and development. But government has invested a lot in the first phase which make the experimental site generate path dependence. Governmental responsibility makes it impossible to invest a lot on the same project in such a long term. Once stopping investment on this projects, there would be lack of capital entering another new phase which must seriously influence the successive development of experimental development, or even worse difficult to maintain the present effects.

2.2.2 Analysis on outer path dependence. The experimental site of new-countryside construction of Xianhong is dominated with governmental investment. Under the heavy investment, the construction scale, speed, standards of Xianhong would generate negative effects on other rural areas carrying on new-countryside construction, further influencing the positiveness of peasants constructing new-countryside. In theories, there are lots of modes of new-countryside construction with different effects and adjustments. No matter how these modes work and effect, no matter how these modes adjust themselves to new environment, they would generate dependence which would result in a low-efficient or no-efficient situation of the following up development of other areas. At the same time, the positive feedback system will continuously deepens this low-efficient situation and further brings the economic development to the traps of path dependence. In Hubei Province, there are 32 000 administrative villages with a total area of farming land of 8.204 4 million hm^2 . Among which, there is an area of cultivation land of 3 million hm^2 with 40 harvesting nothing, and the remaining 60% having to face the disasters attacking every five years. While in the experimental site of new-countryside construction of Xianhong, there are 407 villages on which government had invested 535 million Yuan since 2008. Similarly, when the outer dependence occurs, it is far from expectation to accomplish the new-countryside construction of more than 30 000 villages with the limited finance and energy in Hubei Province.

3 Countermeasures of new-countryside construction of Xianhong

3.1 Formulating beneficial policies and changing governmental investment to introducing capital to villages Nowadays, there is a quantitative of wealthy enterprises and person and there exists large amounts of scattering capital abroad. The government may attract them to join the construction of

new-countryside by making kinds of beneficial policies. Introducing capital to villages not only gets rid of the dependence on governmental investment by rural areas and farmers, but also is beneficial to cultivate the positiveness of farmers to start business, propagating the beliefs of enterprises coming from farmers and increasing the inner motives of economic development.

3.2 Putting more emphasis on agricultural production The major task of new-countryside construction is to develop production. The development of production will naturally enrich people's life, further promotes the villages culture and images, or even finally improves the level of democratic management. The successful examples of new-countryside construction at presents start from developing production. Such as Huaxi Village, Nanjie Village and so on. Local governments should invest more on the promotion of production development to increase the inner motives of new-countryside construction in rural areas and to the most degree to reduce the path dependence on government.

3.3 Fostering professional farmers The operation of new-countryside construction needs brave innovation of policies, fostering a number of professional farmers of new-countryside construction as soon as possible. There are many professional revolutionists, scientists and educators, nowadays there spring up abundant professional entrepreneur while without professional farmers. The fact has serious influences on the development of agriculture in China. The professional farmers are different from the rural leaders. The former are officially educated, gaining qualified certificates who are the new leaders of new-countryside construction publicly employed in society with special responsibilities (keep profits and earn extra profits for governmental investment) and enjoying special benefits (no lower than the benefits of provincial leaders and paid by provincial and urban finances). Only by efforts to foster a number of professional farmers of new-countryside construction, the construction of new-countryside could be truly realized.

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