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# The Problems Existing in Building of Rural Community in Jilin Province and Corresponding Countermeasures

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**Abstract** This paper analyses some problems existing in building of rural community in Jilin Province as follows: the funds for community building are short; the residents show sluggish participation in community; the infrastructure community building is backward; the organizational building of community lags behind; the operating mechanism is in chaos. Finally, corresponding countermeasures and suggestions are put forward as follows: we should strengthen the funds guarantee of government for community building; we should reinforce the quality education for the rural residents; we should speed up the construction of rural infrastructure; we should improve organizational building of rural community.

**Key words** Building of rural community, Infrastructure, Organizational construction, China

According to the statistics of *Blue Book of Social Development of 2010* of Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, the income ratio of urban and rural residents of China in 1997 was 2.6 and it increased to 3.33 in 2010. This ratio is not only higher than that of the developed countries, but also higher than that of developing countries like Brazil, Argentina, etc. The gap between urban and rural areas has reached the highest point in history. Therefore, we must speed up the pace of the development in rural areas to bridge the gap<sup>[1]</sup>. The research shows that the community building of rural areas will contribute to improving the living environment of the residents. It can also develop the economy, narrow the gap between rural and urban areas and promote the vigorous development of the new rural community. However, the decentralization of China's rural areas and the looseness of China's villagers greatly impede the building of rural community. The population in rural areas of Jilin Province, China's big agricultural province, has reached up to 13.491 6 million. The distribution of its rural community is extensive but unbalanced, so it is important to build the rural community quickly to drive the development of the economy.

## 1 Connotation of rural community and community building

**1.1 Rural community** Rural community is a community of people who live together for the reason of taking on agricultural production. The social structure is simple and well-closed. The daily life is carried on by the social relationship network in its given area. In China, the communities mainly exist in the form of single-village or combined-villages community, village-town community and fair-town community and other special communities due to historical factors.

**1.2 Community building** Community building refers to the activity of strengthening the element of community, developing the community organization, enhancing community vigor and improving the living standard of the residents. Community building relates to community plan, the exploring of inside and outside resources and the convergence of community strength. It is essential part of the field of community work and community development<sup>[2]</sup>. In view of the rural areas which mainly rely on agriculture, the socialization degree of rural production, living and insurance is ceaselessly improving due to the quick development of rural industry and urban areas. Therefore, community work and community development also become the important content of modern rural areas<sup>[3]</sup>.

## 2 Some problems existing in building of rural community in Jilin Province

**2.1 The funds for community building are short** Since the rural tax and fee reform in 2002, Jilin Province has been implementing the minimum security standard of the operating expenses for village-level organizations, with 38 000 yuan per year for big villages, 34 000 yuan for medium-sized villages and 30 000 yuan for small villages. With the quick development of rural society and economy and the farmers' increasing demand for village public service, the gap of operating expenses for village-level organizations is becoming bigger and bigger, even some organizations come up against difficulties in keeping normal operation. "Having no money to handle affairs" becomes the "long-standing obstacle" to the construction of village-level organizations. Considerable input of capital is needed in the process of rural community construction. But at present, the input from the government is almost the total source of expenses for community construction, during the process of community construction in Jilin. This not only imposes burden on government, but also makes the problem of continuity of government input become increasingly conspicuous. Rural community construction is a systematic project, including spending on in-

infrastructural facilities and supporting facility construction, community management expense, maintenance and cares of infrastructural facilities etc. All of these require massive capital inputs. The lack of funds on community construction is the key factor restricting the rapid development of rural community building. Currently, rural collective economy in part of rural areas of Jilin Province is still very weak. It can be only an empty talk to continually promote the rural community construction in Jilin Province, facing the fact that over 80% villages have no economic income. If feasible method can not be found in time, it would definitely make all the work during the community construction difficult to carry on. As a result, the community function would be weakened, affecting farmers' confidence and expectation on building community, and making the overall effect of community construction greatly abate, unable to achieve the best effect.

## 2.2 The residents show sluggish participation in community

Rural communities are widespread in Jilin Province. However, educational levels vary a lot among the residents in these communities. What's worse, their general quality is low. As a result, most of the residents don't have the awareness of their being the masters of the communities and the mainstays of constructing them. They lack motivation and the sense of responsibility to participate in all the affairs in their communities. After implementing the sub-field contract, every family became a mini manufacturer. They all buy the same or similar instruments of production and adopt the same mode of production, so that there's little or even no association between families. Besides, the correlation between the rural communities and the departments of the offering of production materials and purchasing of agricultural products is low. All these caused no contact and isolation among residents in the rural communities, which directly influenced their motivation and initiative of taking part in the community activities.

## 2.3 The infrastructure community building is backward

Infrastructure plays an important part in the developing and building of the rural communities. Rural areas spread widely in Jilin Province, and the economic basis is relatively weak there. It lags far behind the urban areas from many aspects; the supply of water, electricity and gas; the planning and construction of the roads; the homes for the aged and kindergartens in the communities; the health care facilities. All these weaknesses affected the development of the rural areas. For instance, the lag of some road building in the countries blocked the circulation of agricultural products, which became a big bottleneck of local economic development; there are few entertainment facilities so that residents in the rural communities are scanty of entertainments and recreations; what's worse, even drinking water for farmers cannot be guaranteed in some remote areas.

## 2.4 The organizational building of community lags behind and the operating mechanism is in chaos

Community organizations have the functions of meeting the demands, integrating, managing, improving efficiency socializing people and so on. Jilin Province cannot materialize all the functions in constructing rural communities currently. Most rural streets and

community organizations are still in an embarrassing situation of no establishment, no staff and no outlay, which seriously restricts the development of the rural communities<sup>[4]</sup>. What's more, there have been many problems since the foundation of the rural communities, such as too many administrative departments, indefinite rights and responsibilities between each organization in the communities and so on. At present, the management of communities remains unclear. Firstly, the definition of the managing institution of rural communities-the community management committee has not been made clear. As a result, the relation between community management committees and village committees or some economic cooperatives is extremely complicated, and their functions overlap. Secondly, rural community management committees have not formed any norm while using assets, allotting working budget and distributing the use of top benefits during their managing. Thirdly, the problem of "who has the right" frequently arises in the process of communities' managing service, and the phenomenon of multi-management and passing the buck to each other is quite serious. Thus, we can conclude that the disorder of the operational mechanism causes the stagnancy of the construction of rural community organizations.

## 3 Corresponding countermeasures and suggestions for accelerating rural community building in Jilin Province

### 3.1 We should strengthen the funds guarantee of government for community building

In the year 2006, Jilin Provincial Party Committee and Provincial Government formulated *Implementation Outline (Draft) of New Socialist Countryside Construction in Jilin Province* from 2006 to 2020; in the year 2008, Jilin Provincial Party Committee and Provincial Government formulated and issued *Several Policies and Proposals on Deepening Implementation of New Socialist Countryside Construction*; In the year 2009, Jilin Provincial Party Committee and Provincial Government formulated *Opinions on Implementing Project of 1 000 Villages Demonstration and 10 000 Villages Promotion for New Socialist Countryside Construction*. Although they all clearly propose that it should increase special fund inputs in rural community building, the rural neighborhoods and communities should enhance their own "hematopoietic" function, use community resources, and unite with ventures and institutions to carry out profit-making activities, so as to obtain earnings. We should incorporate community service facility construction funds, information-based construction funds, staff remuneration, working expenses and other expenses into the budget. Street offices (township government) or community building departments should set up special community accounts, so as to incorporate community working expenses, community service revenue, the social donated money and so on, into a special account for integrated management, earmarking and split accounting. Street offices (township government) or community building departments should also regularly make the use of funds open to the community committees and the majority of residents, to be supervised by the residents.

### 3.2 We should reinforce the quality education for the rural residents

The cultural qualities of rural residents and the educational level of rural areas have real and potential impact on the development of rural and urban areas, especially on the construction of rural community. Therefore, the cultural qualities of rural residents must be improved. It is necessary to cultivate their enthusiasm of participating in community construction and increase their responsibility for the community. First of all, we should continue to strengthen rural basic education and improve the cultural level of reserve labour forces. The quality education of new labor force should be stressed to cultivate a new type of farmers with high qualities. Second, the important position and responsibility of government in the development of agricultural education should be highlighted to ensure the smooth implementation of combining agriculture, science and education. We should always regard serving agriculture as the basic aim of agricultural education and strengthen communication and cooperation between agricultural education and rural basic education, *etc.* Third, we should keep agricultural adult education and vocational and technical education in key position. Many ways should be adopted to carry out the above two. We should also develop the agricultural professional training vigorously to educate technical experts. The scientific, technical and cultural level of farmers and agricultural laborers should be raised with high efficiency in a large measure to increase their incomes.

### 3.3 We should speed up the construction of rural infrastructure

The focus is on the construction of rural community service center. Based on the problem of the most direct and realistic interest related to the masses, the function of community should be ceaselessly improved and then the rural community with dramatic and quick development should be promoted. Office, management, service, activities should be covered in the rural community service center, which can rely on the existing village organization, idle school buildings and other places. It is necessary to implement reconstruction, extension and new construction to avoid leaving resources unused and wasted. In light of the new rural construction, the relevant authority should carry out the basic projects such as drinking water and walking condition of the masses, garbage disposal, energy supply, which will improve the living environment of the rural areas. First, we should strengthen the maintenance and management of the network of village road, ensuring the integrity rate of village road. We should refer to the management approach of the state highway maintenance method, and the government should make the detailed rules, raise the maintenance fee in many ways and do well in the maintenance and management of rural highway. Second, we should strengthen the ecological energy construction in countryside further to enable the farmers to use clean energy. The government should continue to extend the construction of biological gas projects in places where conditions permit. The government should also summarize the successful examples and failures in the project of promoting marsh gas and merit and other practices to develop the gas fit for the features of climate in the north. We should extend the

project of natural gas in cities to some outskirts, town and downtown which are equipped with certain conditions. At the same time, it is necessary to give policy support and encourage farmers to develop new energy like solar energy. Finally, the government should also enhance the management of rural environment protection facilities and place the collection of rural garbage on an important position. Especially for some remote areas, garbage collection field should be set as soon as possible. It is necessary to select site to build garbage disposal plant. Meanwhile, the government should motivate the cadres and the masses to carry out comprehensive environmental renovation, focus on the filthy phenomenon of with great influence, and open up some channels for rural garbage into the city.

### 3.4 We should improve organizational building of rural community

All places should establish and improve the leading work group of community building, take the work of the rural community building as an important part of fulfilling the functions of social management and public service, incorporate community building into the government agenda, and take the effect of community building work as the content of objective administration and year goal assessment of the government work in cities, districts and counties<sup>[5]</sup>. We should establish and improve joint meeting system of village party branch and village committee in whole village. After the party puts forward proposals on the important affairs in village, we need to hold joint meeting of village party branch and village committee, for careful study, deliberate discussion and democratic consultation, to strengthen the unity and cooperation between village party branch and village committee, and in the mean time, to improve villagers self-government mechanism, and strengthen the system of villagers' meetings or villagers' congress in pondering and discussing important village affairs. We should strictly implement rules of discussing affairs in villagers' meetings or villagers' congress, strengthen the ideological education and legal education of the villagers, improve the democratic quality of villagers, especially the village representatives' ability to discussing affairs, guide the villagers to express their wishes and demands rationally, and promote the quality and efficiency of democratic decision-making.

## 4 Conclusion

Rural community is the basic unit of rural society and the major carrier of new countryside construction. Improving rural community construction has important significance to perfecting the service and management network at the grass-root level, improving the management and service system of rural community as well as advancing the construction of harmonious rural society. The rural community in Jilin has won initial success after several years of development, but it still has difference when compared with the rural construction of other provinces. It should continue to regard perfecting community service function as its goal, expand rural community coverage and continue to promote the solid and efficient development of rural community construction, contributing to promoting the coordination of urbanization, industrialization and agricultural modernization.

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work of protecting wild resources of agricultural crops; Institute of Genetic Resources in Chinese Academy of Science is responsible for identification, preservation, research, information, exchange, etc.; as for the ornamental plants, Academy of Agricultural Sciences, Academy of Forestry Sciences, Academy of Gardening Sciences and Chinese Academy of Science are responsible for the researches and genetic resources within respective management departments. The division of labour in above departments is not clear, and there are phenomena of crossing, duplication and omission in work. Some departments are not only responsible for development and utilization of resources, but also responsible for the protection and management of resources, lacking effective control mechanism<sup>[6]</sup>. Being that currently China has no special genetic plant resources management body, and the input and output of genetic resources have no unified legal procedures and channels, the plant genetic resources in China ceaselessly drain without compensation.

## 4 Countermeasures and suggestions

### 4.1 Promote the protection awareness of agricultural plant genetic resources in whole society

We should strengthen publicity and education, improve social public awareness of the importance of biological genetic resources, and promote the work of conservation and management. In particular, we should focus on the actual situation that the leaders and cadres in local departments lack knowledge on genetic resources, carry out related training, enhance their awareness of conservation of genetic resources, and effectively strengthen management work.

### 4.2 Enact special law system to protect agricultural plant genetic resources

In order to make up for the shortcomings of intellectual property rights protection form of agricultural genetic resources, and effectively protect China's agricultural plant genetic resources, China should formulate special laws and regulations on protection of agricultural plant genetic resources as soon as possible, such as *Management Regulations on Genetic Resources of Agricultural Plant*, *Law on Plant Genetic Resources*, and so on, and incorporate protection, management and use of agricultural plant genetic resources into orderly, standardized and legalized management track, so as to reduce and avoid the loss of agricultural genetic resources and encroachment on agricultural genetic resources, and fully guarantee that breeding of agricultural species in China has more available and sustainable high-quality resources<sup>[7]</sup>.

### 4.3 Improve the management system of agricultural plant genetic resources

In the light of the status quo that the management system of agricultural plant genetic resources in China is not standardized, there is no special managing department, and the management is chaotic, the relevant government departments should establish genetic resource management system with coordinated labour of division, and unify management

of the national genetic resources. We should set up one special management department of agricultural genetic resources, under the general management body of genetic resources, to conduct unified and standardized macro-management on agricultural genetic resources within China. At the same time, all preservation centers of the resources should report the quantity of preserved resources, types and utilization information to the department regularly, so that we can timely keep abreast of the status of China's agricultural plant genetic resources. Other departments of agriculture, forestry and so on, should coordinate and manage China's plant genetic resources.

### 4.4 Strengthen the international protection of agricultural plant genetic resources in China

Currently, as for the international conventions related to protection of genetic resources which have taken effect, are *Convention on Biological Diversity* and *International Treaty on Food and Genetic Resources of Agricultural Plant*. China has been approved to join *Convention on Biological Diversity*, and therefore, China has had discourse power in international platform to participate in the discussion on conservation, use and other issues concerning agricultural genetic resources. At the same time, we should also reflect and try to find fault in ourselves, and take the initiative to use this international platform to fully express the will and requirements on protection of agricultural plant genetic resources, in the process of enacting related laws, regulations and management rules on agricultural genetic resources. We should spare no efforts to make the rules on sovereignty and benefit of China's agricultural genetic resources more specific and clear under some treaties, so as to protect China's agricultural genetic resources effectively at the international level.

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