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# Study on the Industrial Structure and Peasants' Income in the Mountainous Areas in Zhejiang Province

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**Abstract** With the constant increase of farmers' incomes, the declining ratio of low-income farmers and the development of rural economy in the mountainous areas of Zhejiang Province, the farmers gain much more transfer income from the secondary allocation and their lives were greatly improved. But due to the uneven economic development, the agricultural development level of different land forms differs greatly and there is still a large gap between the incomes of urban and rural residents. In this paper, through an in-depth analysis of the farmers' income, agricultural industrial structure and urban-rural income gap in different mountainous areas of Zhejiang Province, some advices were proposed to increase the farmers' incomes.

**Key words** Zhejiang Province, Mountain areas, Industrial structure, Farmers' income, China

Zhejiang Province, as a relatively developed province in China, its per capita net income of rural residents has gone ahead of that in other provinces for 27 years in a row. Zhejiang Province covered an area of 10 180 000 hm<sup>2</sup>, 70.4 of which, about 7 170 000 hm<sup>2</sup> is occupied by mountains, thus forming a situation of "70 mountains, 10 waters and 20 farmlands". With the accelerated pace of social and economic development, the farmers' income keeps increasing and the ratio of low-income farmers constantly declines. Moreover, with the development of rural economy, the farmers obtain much more transfer income from the secondary allocation. However, influenced by various factors, including historical, social and geographic conditions, the economic development level on different land forms differs greatly, especially in their agricultural sci-tech innovation, rural infrastructure construction and the farmers' quality. There is still a large gap between the incomes of farmers from less developed areas and the residents from plain areas, the economic gap between mountainous areas and plain areas should be narrowed.

## 1 Basic features of the mountainous areas in Zhejiang Province

After a re-definition of administrative divisions in 2011, 57 mountainous counties in Zhejiang Province were defined, presenting obvious characteristics of wide distribution, vast area, large population and great regional difference<sup>[2]</sup>. The 57 mountainous counties were mainly distributed in 10 prefecture-level cities except Zhoushan, including Huzhou, Hangzhou, Quzhou, Jinhua, Lishui and Wenzhou, especially in Huzhou,

Jinhua, Quzhou and Lishui where there are totally 29 mountainous cities, occupying about 51 of the total number. From a geographic point of view, the mountainous counties are scarcely distributed in the costal areas, but concentrated in North and Southwest Zhejiang Province. The counties in mountainous areas cover a total area of 89 000 hm<sup>2</sup>, accounting for about 87.0 of the total province area. The average county area in each mountainous district is about 1 554 hm<sup>2</sup>, 423 hm<sup>2</sup> more than the average county area of the whole province. The largest county in the mountainous areas of Zhejiang Province is Chun'an County, which covers an area of 4 452 hm<sup>2</sup>. About twelve counties have an area of over 2 000 hm<sup>2</sup>, and about eight have an area of less than 1 000 hm<sup>2</sup>. The permanent county population in those mountains districts is about 31 886 000, accounting for about 58.6 of the total population in whole province. The average permanent population in each mountainous county is about 559 000, 46 000 less than the average population of the counties in whole province, the details can be seen in Table 1.

**Table 1** Distribution of mountainous counties in Zhejiang Province

Prefecture-level cities	Number of mountainous counties	Proportion in the whole province	Area	Population in 2010
Hangzhou	5	5.6	13 528	245.84
Ningbo	5	5.6	7 340	401.1
Wenzhou	7	7.7	9 401	556.72
Jiaxing	2	2.2	1 234	139.0
Huzhou	5	5.6	5 818	289.42
Shaoxing	4	4.4	6 491	324.9
Jinhua	9	10	10 941	536.16
Quzhou	6	6.6	8 841	212.27
Taizhou	5	5.6	7 649	271.53
Lishui	9	10	17 324	211.69
Total	57	63.3	88 568	3 188.63

Note: The data comes from the the brief report of social economic development in Zhejiang mountainous areas in Zhejiang governmental internet on August 8, 2011.

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From a whole point of view, the mountainous counties are endowed with good ecological environment and rich natural resources. The total water resources of Wenzhou, Jinhua, Quzhou and Lishui occupy more than half that of the whole province. The stand stock of nine counties, including Longquan, Qingyuan, Kaihua, Chun'an and Anji, *etc.*, accounts for 37 that of the whole province. The mineral resources of Zhejiang Province are mainly distributed in the southern parts, and a quite large stock of black metal and nonferrous metal resources can also be found in Chun'an, Suichang, Longquan, *etc.* Of the 32 natural reserves in Zhejiang Province in 2008, 30 are located in the mountainous areas, indicating that the ecological quality of mountainous areas is much better than other areas.

## 2 Analysis of the farmers' income in Zhejiang Province

**2.1 The increasing growth of farmers' incomes** In order to promote the economic transformation, Zhejiang provincial government has proposed to develop the economy in mountainous areas since 2008. Through years of efforts, the economy in mountainous areas has been greatly developed, and the farmers' incomes in these areas are also increased. Among the 57 counties in the mountainous areas of whole Zhejiang Province, the per capital disposable income of urban residents in 14 counties exceeded the average provincial level of 27 359 yuan in 2010, apart from the ten mountainous counties whose economic data were not counted. The per capital net income of rural residents in 23 counties has been above the average provincial level of 11 303 yuan. The income of rural residents is above the provincial average level in Ningbo, Jiaxing, Huzhou and Shaoxing, while below the average level in Taizhou, Quzhou and Lishui. 18 mountainous counties have an Engel coefficient below the provincial level of 35.5. 30 counties spent more than 25 of total financial expenditure on social security and employment, general public services and environmental protection, on which Kaihua County spent the most, about 33 of their total financial investment.

As is indicated in *Zhejiang Statistical Yearbook* in 2011, the average per capital net income of rural residents in whole Zhejiang Province is 13 071 yuan, 6 101 yuan above the national level and 1 768 yuan more than that in Zhejiang Province in 2010 with an increase of 15.6, which is actually 9.5 with the price factor deducted<sup>[1]</sup>.

### 2.2 The constantly declining ratio of low-income farmers

As is shown by the statistical data, the ratio of farmers with less than 4 000 yuan per capital net income was gradually decreasing, 2.32 off in 2010 than that in the previous year, which accounts for 11.15 of the total farmers; the ratio of farmers with an income ranging from 4 000 to 10 000 yuan was also declining, which was 39.25 in 2010, 4.98 off than that in the previous year and 10.71 off than that in 2007. From an overall point of view, the ratio of farmers with less than 10 000 yuan income kept decreasing from 68.94 in 2007 to 50.4 in 2010. While the ratio of farmers with an income between 10 000–20 000 yuan was increasing year by year, which had reached 38.15 in

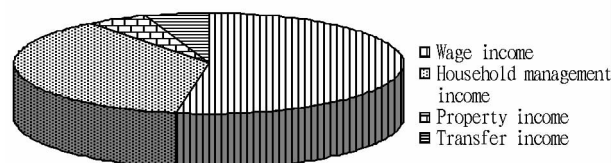
2010, 3.82 above that of the previous year. The ratio of farmers with more than 20 000 yuan income increased the largest of 1.43 times, which accounted for 11.45.

**Table 2 The ratio of households investigated by per capita net income against all investigated**

Category	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Below 4 000	22.81	18.98	15.47	13.47	11.15
4 000–10 000	53.65	49.96	46.79	44.23	39.25
Below 10 000	76.46	68.94	62.26	57.7	50.4
10 000–20 000	20.58	26.68	31.6	34.33	38.15
Above 20 000	2.98	4.38	6.15	7.98	11.45

Note: The per capita annual net income of rural residents in Zhejiang Province is 11 303 yuan in 2010, and the data comes from 2011 Zhejiang Statistical Yearbook.

**2.3 The source analysis of rural household income** With the accelerated development of industrialization in Zhejiang Province, the farmers' lifestyle has been greatly changed. With their lands leased out or managed by others, the farmers themselves choose to work out or in local areas in the secondary and tertiary industries to get the wage income. The wage income has been the main source of household income of the farmers in Zhejiang Province since the year of 2003. The per capital annual net income of Zhejiang farmers has reached 11 303 yuan in 2010, about 52.64 is wage income, 37.07 is household management income, 4.96 is property income and 5.33 is transfer income.



**Fig. 1 The composition of farmers' per capita net income**

### 2.4 The constant increase of property and transfer income

Property income is the return on invested capital where little or no time, labour or attention has been expent by the investor in producing the return. While the transfer income ransfer income refers to the goods, services, capital or assest ownership, *etc.* obtained by rural people without giving any mortgage, the capitals provided free for fixed assest are not included. Generally it refers to all the incomes in the secondary allocation. The farmers' concept has been updated so quickly in recent years that their awareness of investment and self-protection is greatly enhanced. More and more people choose to invest and make a reasonable allocaton of all their assets. With enough money left for their basic living and production, they put their rest money in investment for interests, bonus and other property incomes. The per capita property income was 561 yuan in 2010, which increased by 8.09 than that in 2009, 18.86 than in 2008, and 65 than in 2006. Meanwhile, with the development of rural economy, the farmers get more transfer income from the secondary allocation, which was 506 yuan in 2009 and 602 yuan in 2010 with an increase of 18.97, 420 yuan in 2008 with an increase of 43.33 and 319 yuan in 2006 with an increase of 88.71.

### 3 Industrial structure of mountainous areas in Zhejiang Province

Due to the great difference in the natural environment, economic policies, scientific development and infrastructure, *etc.* in different regions, the economic development in different districts was also uneven. In order to discuss the relationship between the economic structure and farmers' income in different regions, the mountainous areas in Zhejiang Province were divided into three districts, including Hang – Jia – Hu and Shaoxing economic district, Yong – Tai – Wen coastal areas and Jin – Li – Qu less developed areas.

**3.1 Analysis of regional economic structure** Hang – Jia – Hu and Shaoxing economic district includes the 16 mountainous counties (cities) in the four cities of Hangzhou, Jiaxing, Huzhou and Shaoxing, covering an area of 270 710 000 hm<sup>2</sup> and with a population of 6 182 200, accounting for 61.87 of the total population. The industry in this district is characterized by the highly developed secondary industry and building industry, which accounts for 57.29 of total GDP, and the less developed tertiary industry, which accounts for 35.36 of total GDP. The agriculture plays a leading role, especially the characteristic agriculture, for example, Jiashan yellow peach festival and Tongxiang chrysanthemum festival, as well as tea planting and forest leisure, *etc.* Characterized by high industry aggregation, good developing trend and obvious patch economy, the development of industry chain has greatly promoted the organic

integration of first, secondary and tertiary industries within the characteristic agricultural band, and improved the industrial aggregation and agricultural functions.

Yong – Tai – Wen coastal district includes the 17 mountainous counties in Ningbo, Taizhou and Wenzhou with a total agricultural population of 282 010 000, accounting for about 80.41 of total population. Located in the coastal areas, Ningbo is characterized by developed port economy, Wenzhou is characterized by private economy and Taizhou by Manufacturing industry. There are 38 state-level industrial parks in Wenzhou and 49 state-level industrial production base in Taizhou. The high-speed industrialization has greatly promoted the development of tertiary industry in this district, the output of the secondary industry in 17 mountainous counties accounts for 54.67 of the total GDP, and that of tertiary industry accounts for 38.23 and that of agriculture only accounts for 7. The agricultural development in this district is featured by characteristic, ecological and high-efficient agriculture.

Jin – Li – Qu less developed district includes the 24 mountainous counties in Jinhua, Lishui and Quzhou, its secondary industry accounts for 52.06 of GDP, and its tertiary industry accounts for 42.93. Although abounded with high forest and mineral resources, the district has relatively backward industrial development, its economy is far behind that in other district, thus belonging to the less developed district in Zhejiang Province.

**Table 3 An analysis of the economic structure of different mountainous areas in 2011**

Economic districts	GDP	Primary industry		Secondary industry		Tertiary industry	
		Total	Proportion//%	Total	Proportion//%	Total	Proportion//%
Hang – Jia – Hu and Shaoxing	5 526.78	406.14	7.35	3 166.59	57.29	1 954.08	35.36
Yong – Tai – Wen coastal areas	5 032.25	356.51	7.08	2 751.52	54.68	1 924.25	38.24
Jin – Li – Qu	3 530.68	235.65	6.67	1 837.94	52.06	1 515.6	42.93

Note: Data comes from 2011 *Zhejiang Statistical Yearbook*.

**3.2 An analysis of the economic structure of primary industry** Some geographical and economic development factors result in the different proportions of agriculture, forestry, animal husbandry, and fishery in total GDP.

In Hang – Jia – Hu and Shaoxing economic district, agriculture plays a leading role, accounting for 53.44 of the primary industry, animal husbandry accounts for 24.61, forestry ranks the third place and fishery places in the last. The primary agricultural product is cereals, and some characteristic industries, including vegetables, pigs, tea, fresh water products and flowers, also developed fastly, the sight – seeing agriculture has made great contribution to local economy, and the modern agriculture develops quickly. In Shaoxing, only 10 modern agricultural districts, 27 leading industrial demonstration districts and 39 characteristic agricultural parks are included in the provincial modern agricultural demonstration districts. The total output value of agriculture, forestry, animal husbandry and fishery in this district ranks the first of all three districts.

Within the primary industry of Yong – Tai – Wen coastal economic district, agriculture ranks the first, accounting for 43.87, fishery is the second, accounting for 37.93, animal husbandry the third, accounting for only 14.56 and fishery places the last, accounting for 2.4. The economic development in this

district focuses on the agricultural industrialization. In Ningbo, there were already 120 grain production districts in Ningbo in 2009, covering an area of 270 000 mu, 22 new city-level agricultural bases and two new agricultural sci-tech demonstration districts, which increased the number of city-level agricultural bases and new agricultural sci-tech demonstration districts to a total of 85 and 21, covering an area of 928 000 mu. 47 technical innovation projects had been completed for the city-level leading enterprises, which costed a total of 280 000 000 yuan. 241 new agricultural leading enterprises were added, 64 of which had obtained a total sales volume of over hundred millions yuan. There are totally 1 001 peasants' professional cooperatives, 450 of which were standardized. Wenzhou had 4 079 peasants' professional cooperatives in 2010, 173 of which are municipal demonstrative projects and 179 are city-level leading enterprises. 32 ecological farms were constructed in the whole year and 69 pollution-free agricultural production bases were newly added.

Of the primary industry of Jin – Li – Qu less developed district, the agriculture, forestry, animal husbandry and fishery all rank the last place, and among them agriculture plays a leading position, accounting for 57.22 of total GDP, animal husbandry ranks the second, accounting for only 29.5; forestry

ranks the third, accounting for 7.8, while fishery ranks the last. The district is characterized by insignificant industrial features and relatively backward agricultural development. There are few agricultural demonstration parks and leading enterprises in Jinhua and Lishui, nine modern agricultural demonstration districts have started in Quzhou from 2010, 25 leading industrial demonstration projects and 67 characteristic agricultural parks.

## 4 Analysis of the urban-rural income – expenditure structure in mountainous areas of Zhejiang Province

Although the farmers' incomes keep increasing and the living quality improves greatly in the mountainous areas of Zhejiang Province, but there is still a large gap from the urban areas, especially in the aspects of income, expenditure, education and living quality, etc.

**4.1 Comparative analysis of urban-rural income** The incomes of both urban and rural residents have been greatly improved in Zhejiang Province from 2007 to 2011. The per capita net income of rural households was 13 071 yuan in 2011, which was 9.5, about 1 768 yuan more than that in 2010, and 58.15 more than that in 2007. The income increasing degree of farmers was larger than that of urban residents in 2008, 2010 and 2011, the annual increasing percentages of urban and rural per capita net income were 5.4 and 6.2 in 2008, 7 and 8.6 in 2010, and 7.5 and 9.5 in 2011. The per capita disposable incomes of urban and rural households have increased at an annual rates of 10.11 and 11.63. Although the increase range of rural residents was greatly higher than that of urban residents, there was still a large gap. The income ratio of urban to rural residents was 2.48:1 in 2007 and 2.37:1 in 2011, which was only slightly narrowed during the five years.

**4.2 Comparative analysis of urban and rural per capita expenditure** The per capita expenditure of urban residents was 20 437 yuan in 2011, showing an increasing of 8.6 than that of the previous year. Among the total per capita expenditure of rural residents, the living expenditure was the largest of 9 644 yuan, 8.9 more than that of the previous year. The Engel coefficient of urban household was 34.6, 0.3 more than that of the previous year; while the Engel coefficient of rural household was 37.6, 2.2 more than that of the previous year. The traffic and communication expenditure was 3 437 yuan in urban areas in 2010, accounting for 19.25 of the total, and 1 067 yuan in rural areas, accounting for 8.63 of the total. The cultural and entertainment expenditure was 2 586 yuan in urban areas, accounting for 6.47, and 800 yuan in rural areas, accounting for 14.48 of the total.

**4.3 Comparative analysis of the durable products quantity of urban and rural residents** The number of basic durable products, such as fridge, color TV, mobile phone and fixed telephone, in rural areas was basically the same as that in urban areas. But the number of durable products which can improve the living quality in rural areas was far less than that in urban areas, the number of washing machines, air conditioners, cars and computers every hundred urban households was 1.38, 2.13, 2.51 and 2.39 times that of rural households in 2011. The car number of rural households increased largely, which had reached 72.1, every hundred rural households owned about

13.4 cars, which was only 39.72 that of every hundred urban households.

**4.4 Analysis of the gap between urban-rural social security system** Both urban and rural social security systems in Zhejiang Province in 2011 have been greatly improved, the participation rate of urban and rural social endowment insurance had exceeded 90, 28 712 000 people, about 97.5 of total population, had joined the new-type medical insurance. Although the social security system in Zhejiang Province has been greatly improved, the large gap between urban and rural areas still existed, for example, the minimum living assurance is 441.2 yuan per person in urban areas and 307.1 yuan per person in rural areas.

The urban-rural gap in Zhejiang Province is shown not only in their incomes, but also in various other social aspects, such as living quality, living environment, education, medical care, social security, etc., the rural areas still face a great pressure to develop the economy.

## 5 Measures to increase the farmers' income in Zhejiang Province

Through an in-depth analysis of the economic structure in different mountainous areas of Zhejiang Province, the proportion of their agricultural output is generally at a low level of only 7. The planting industry accounted half of the total agricultural output value. The farmers' income is mainly wage income, the potential of agriculture in increasing the farmers' income in mountainous areas is still undeveloped<sup>[3]</sup>.

As indicated by a further analysis of urban and rural living expenditure in mountainous areas, the investment in improving rural living quality, education, social security, etc. is low, which greatly restricts the improvement of rural infrastructure, farmers' quality and agricultural sci-tech innovation level, and will hamper the sustainable development of mountainous economy from a far-sighted point of view. Therefore, some suggestions were proposed to improve the farmers' incomes and promote the agricultural economy in these areas.

**5.1 Developing agricultural science and technology** The agricultural development experiences of France indicated that every 1 franc investment in agricultural research institute will bring about 100 franc revenue to agricultural department<sup>[5]</sup>. The agricultural products in Zhejiang Province has been too simple, and the low agricultural technical level makes it impossible for the farmers' income to increase significantly. Excellent cultivars are not used to improve land output rate and the related agricultural deep-processing industry has still not been developed, which greatly restricts both the scale and quality of production expansion. Thus, we should introduce advanced technical experiences, play the advantages of socialist society, concentrate all our time and money on agricultural science and technology, and expand the agricultural technicians team, so as to provide some technical support for modern agricultural construction<sup>[4,8]</sup>.

**5.2 Improving farmers' quality** The rural public cultural construction is far backward in Zhejiang Province, some cultural facilities, such as cable TV, cultural activity rooms, libraries, sports ground, early activity rooms, has still not been widely popularized, the popularization rate of internet was only 36.4 in

2010, let alone the movie theater. Due to the far backward cultural facilities and services, the farmers live a quite simple cultural life. Some vulgar culture, such as gambling, superstition, and vicious competition, is increasing year by year, which greatly restricts the agricultural development and the farmers' income growth. Thus some effective measures should be taken from multiple aspects to accelerate the rural cultural construction and improve the farmers' quality, so as to further promote the rural economic and social development level<sup>[6]</sup>.

### 5.3 Increasing the investment in agricultural materials

The slow growth of farmers' incomes in recent years results from the high production costs of agricultural products<sup>[7]</sup>. According to a sample investigation in Zhejiang Province, the price of agricultural materials in 2011 was increasing month by month, which 10.9 more in May, 2011 than that in the same time of the previous year. The prices of ten agricultural materials investigated all increased, among which the price of fertilizer increased by 16.2, that of agricultural machine oil increased by 9.5, that of other agricultural production material increased by 6.9, that of feeds increased by 5.5, and that of agricultural machinery increased by 3.8. The price increase speed of all types of agricultural materials was far above the increase of the national minimum purchasing price. The grain subsidies given by the state cannot make up for the price increase of agricultural materials, which discourage the farmers in agricultural production. Thus effective measures should be taken to eliminate the bad influence on agricultural development and farmers' income increase brought by the high price of agricultural production materials.

**5.4 Developing ecological agriculture** The development of ecological agriculture is based on the reasonable utilization of natural agricultural resources and good ecological environment. A mode of agricultural production suitable to local conditions, which was proposed as an opposite side of "petroleum oil agriculture" in the late 1960s, is regarded as a new phase of world agricultural development. The industrialization of ecological agriculture calls for the coordinated development of rural economic development and ecological environment conservation,

the deficient land resources and ecological agricultural development propose a great opportunity for improving our agricultural industry value in mountainous areas. The wastes of agriculture, forestry and animal husbandry can be used for developing organic fertilizer and biogas construction, crop straws and core woods can be used as feeds, biofuels, for papermaking, silk production and building industry. By taking full use of local ecological resources, we can produce excellent, safe and pollution-free agricultural products, establish an efficient and environment-friendly modern agriculture industry, broaden the farmers' income channels, and gradually realize the intensive, ecological and modern development of agriculture in mountainous areas<sup>[9]</sup>.

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and third consumption types in a different order), but the new generation of migrant workers' food consumption proportion is significantly lower than the first generation of migrant workers' food consumption proportion.

Correspondence analysis obviously displays the difference in the consumption structure between the new generation of migrant workers and the first generation of migrant workers, indicating that compared with the older generation, the new generation of migrant workers' consumer attitudes and consumption pattern have been significantly changed, being gradually integrated into the urban consumer market, and the consumption structure shifts to a reasonable direction.

Therefore, according to the consumption characteristics of the migrant workers, the relevant departments can develop the migrant workers' consumption market. At the same time, it is necessary to strengthen the guidance for migrant workers' consumption behavior and consumption culture, to enable them to establish positive consumer attitudes, and optimize

the consumption structure. In addition, it is necessary to promote migrant workers to integrate into the city, and make migrant workers subject to the gradual, uplifting influence of urban residents' modern consumer attitudes, so as to truly integrate into city life.

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