The Role of Land Development in Promoting Poverty Alleviation of Poor Farmers—Experience and Enlightenment of Wumeng Mountain Area

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Abstract: This study is to summarize the role of poverty alleviation through land development in Wumeng Mountain Area, to provide experiences for other areas and to achieve the goal of national promotion and demonstration. This paper uses normative analysis, empirical analysis and systematic analysis to analyze. Based on analysis of tasks of land development and poverty alleviation, this paper summarizes the role of land development in poverty alleviation. Taking Wumeng Mountain Area as an example: it (1) improved the agricultural production conditions of poor farmers; (2) increased the land assets of poor farmers; (3) promoted the transformation and upgrading of agricultural industry in poor areas; (4) enhanced the willingness of poor farmers to agricultural production; (5) encouraged poor households to increase investment in agricultural production and management; and (6) promoted the harmony of human and land relationship in poor areas.

1. Introduction

The Wumeng Mountain Area is located at the junction of Yunnan, Guizhou and Sichuan provinces. The special geographical location makes the area characterized by complicated natural geographical environment and extremely fragile ecological environment. Wumeng Mountain Area belongs to China's frontier and poor contiguous areas, and there are 38 key poverty alleviation and development counties. For a long time, the poverty problem in the Wumen Mountain Area has been prominent, and there is a general phenomenon of “helping the poor, getting rid of poverty and returning to poverty”.

Land is the basis for people's survival. We can solve the problem of survival and development in this area only through the most basic land development and poverty alleviation. As the contact unit of Wumeng Mountain Area, the Ministry of Natural Resources is mainly responsible for “investigation and research, communication, supervision and guidance”. In recent years, the Ministry of Natural Resources has made poverty alleviation and development work a major political task and has been included in the key work layout of the Ministry. Land development has played an important role in promoting poverty alleviation and development in poverty-stricken areas.

2. The Concept of Poverty Alleviation through Land Development

Poverty alleviation through land development means that through the research, innovation and experiment of land development technology, the technology and method of land development technology poverty alleviation are formed, the land boundary between farmers is clarified, the productivity of land in poverty-stricken villages is improved, the value of land of poverty-stricken farmers is increased, and the land assets of poverty-stricken farmers are increased, so as to promote poverty. Farmers' ability of increasing production and income and sustainable development in agriculture promotes the transformation and upgrading of agricultural industry in poor areas, supplemented by the policy dividend of land and resources, and achieves the precise poverty alleviation of poor farmers in Wumeng Mountain Area.
3. The Task of Land Development and Poverty Alleviation in Wumeng Mountain Area

3.1 Exploring Actively to Strengthen the Poverty Alleviation of Land Management Policies

In accordance with the relevant requirements of the state for poverty alleviation and development, new indicators for construction land are arranged specially for districts and counties to support new rural construction and poverty alleviation and development. The land for major construction projects in Wumeng Mountain Area should be given a proper inclination in the arrangement of planning indicators. We will give full play to the role of increasing or decreasing urban and rural construction land in supporting poverty alleviation and development. We will support efforts to carry out land consolidation and high-level construction of basic farmland in the Wumeng Mountain Area. We will promote the renovation of agricultural land in the area vigorously, increase the investment in funds, increase the area of effective cultivated land, improve the quality of cultivated land, and support the land reclamation work of cultivated land damaged by natural disasters.

3.2 Carry out the Evaluation of Land Use Zoning and Allocate Scientifically to Promote Development of Industries in Poor Areas

We will promote the transformation of land use in optimized development areas vigorously. For areas with better development of industrial urbanization, the expansion of construction land, especially urban industrial and mining land, shall be controlled strictly, the annual increment of construction land and urban industrial and mining land shall be reduced, and the damage to regional resources and ecological environment caused by excessive proportion of construction land shall be prevented and guarantee the land demand of population and economy in key development areas. For key areas, moderately increase the supply of construction land, support the leading industries and supporting construction, guide the centralized construction and cluster development of industries, and undertake the industrial transfer of optimized development areas effectively. Give full play to the basic barrier function of land restricting the development area to regional ecological security. For all kinds of ecological functional areas and land degradation prevention and control areas, strict land use control shall be implemented, all kinds of land use methods and resource development activities that are not in line with the regional functional orientation and may threaten the stability of the ecosystem shall be prohibited, and the change of use of ecological land shall be strictly restricted.

3.3 Implement the Integrated Application of Land Science and Technology and Promote the Process of Precise Poverty Alleviation

In the process of integrated demonstration and application of land science and technology, adhere to the latest achievements of land use in Wumeng Mountain Area, adhere to the poverty alleviation mode of land science and technology characterized by scientific and technological innovation, achievement transformation, application demonstration, scientific and technological service, industrial development and personnel training, guide the poor villages to develop science and technology featured industries according to the achievements of land renovation, and strengthen the integration and application of technology. We will improve the information network of land science and technology poverty alleviation, and improve the accuracy of poverty alleviation comprehensively. We will integrate scientific and technological resources in an all-round way, give full play to the role of scientific and technological support, improve the self-development capacity of the Wumeng Mountain Area significantly, increase the income of the poor villages and the poor population effectively, and improve the development environment so as to promote the poverty alleviation of the Wumeng Mountain Area.
4. The Role of Land Development in Promoting Poverty Alleviation of Poor Farmers—Experience and Enlightenment of Wumeng Mountain Area

4.1 Improved the Agricultural Production Conditions of Poor Farmers

Through the development of land science and technology based on land renovation, Wumeng Mountain Area has improved the agricultural production conditions of poor households, optimized the land resources, and played an important role in promoting the local economic and social development and social harmony. According to the survey and statistics, in the past ten years, about 15000 land renovation projects have been arranged in key counties for poverty alleviation and development, with more than 52 billion yuan invested. The total construction scale has reached more than 34 million mu, benefiting more than 12 million poor people, which supports the implementation of the national poverty alleviation strategic objectives strongly. 38 counties (cities and districts) in the Wumeng Mountain Area have been included in the demonstration counties of high standard basic farmland construction, increasing capital investment and carrying out comprehensive land improvement. In 2015, five land consolidation projects were arranged in the Sichuan area of Wumeng Mountain, with provincial financial funds of over 74 million yuan, a total construction scale of 3700 hectares, and 321 hectares of new cultivated land. At the beginning of 2016, 65 million yuan was allocated with a construction scale of 2900 hectares and 512 hectares of new cultivated land.

Through land renovation, the infrastructure conditions of cultivated land in Wumeng Mountain Area have been improved greatly. The land in the project area has become a high-yield and stable yield farmland. The land utilization level has been increased by more than 3% generally, the grain production capacity has been increased by 10% - 20% generally, the production cost has been reduced by 5% - 15% on average, and the comprehensive production capacity of cultivated land has been improved greatly. At the same time, the number of cultivated land has been increased, the infrastructure of cultivated land has been improved greatly, the ability of disaster prevention and mitigation has been improved greatly, and the income of farmers has been increased. Since the implementation of the major project of land improvement in Yunnan Province, 99300 mu of cultivated land has been added, and the grain production capacity of cultivated land has been increased by more than 200 kg per mu. The per capita income of farmers in the project area has increased by 500-800 yuan. The new cultivated land has also solved the long-term livelihood of more than 500000 farmers.

4.2 Increased Land Assets of Poor Farmers

Through land renovation projects and ownership division, land has become the most valuable asset of poor farmers. Through land circulation, we should guide poor villages to invest collective assets, contracted land and personal property into shares, and adopt entrusted management, cooperative management and other ways to ensure that poor villages and poor households increase their incomes through multiple channels so as to increase the assets of poor farmers. The poor peasant households hand over the land to the village committee for trusteeship, while the village committee carefully manages and publicizes the land circulation, so that the powerful enterprises and large households can rent the land and engage in the production of planting, breeding, seedlings, etc. In this way, not only the village collective has a stable source of income, but also the poor households have priority to work in enterprises to achieve rapid poverty alleviation.

Under the condition of not changing the use, the assets formed by the financial special land poverty alleviation funds and other agricultural related funds invested in the facilities agriculture, breeding, rural tourism and other projects will be quantified to the poor villages and households. Especially the poor households who have lost their labor capacity, through the discount shares, which also increases the assets of the poor households greatly. We will support farmers' cooperatives and other business entities to increase the income of poor households through land trusteeship, livestock trusteeship and absorption. In addition, most of the poor areas are rich in mineral resources, and there are many resource development projects. In the process of resource
development, enterprises take up land, and the land compensation fee is quantified by converting shares, establishing collective equity, and distributing project income according to the equity ratio year by year.

### 4.3 Promoted Transformation and Upgrading of Agricultural Industry in Poor Areas

With the transformation from traditional agriculture to modern agriculture, the traditional scattered small-scale economy will be eliminated due to its low efficiency gradually, and the mechanized, large-scale and industrialized modern agricultural management system will be the development trend. In addition to the lack of capital, technology and talents, modern agricultural development also lacks land.

In Wumeng Mountain Area, land ownership division and land contract management right transfer are implemented, and a large number of lands are concentrated in the hands of large-scale planting households or enterprises, so that large-scale production can be realized. By deepening the reform of rural land system, which focuses on the separation of land ownership, contract right and management right, we have optimized the allocation of land resources, realized the development of agriculture with modern industrial concept, and promoted agriculture with internet thinking. At the same time, through the coordinated development of urban and rural areas, the orderly and reasonable flow of land, population, capital and other elements between urban and rural areas has been realized, and the coordinated development of urbanization, new rural construction and agricultural modernization has been promoted.

### 4.4 Enhanced Willingness of Poor Farmers to Agricultural Production

The ultimate purpose of land development and consolidation project is to improve the production capacity of land and increase grain production. Through the development of land remediation projects, the transformation of finely cultivated land, so that agricultural scale or diversified management is possible. Cultivated land with poor water source can be transformed into economic forest base, low-lying field and water soaked field can be developed into fish pond base, and then the contract can be issued properly. With the application of key technologies in land development and land development and the completion of land transformation, poor farmers can enjoy the dividend through land poverty alleviation directly. Once poor farmers have high-quality land resources, they have high-quality assets undoubtedly. No matter they cultivate and operate, lease and subcontract or share, they can get more benefits from the land. With the improvement of land productivity and comparative benefit of agricultural production, farmers' enthusiasm for agricultural production has increased greatly.

In the process of land renovation in Wumeng Mountain Area, the public participation is promoted vigorously, so that the people in the project area have the opportunity to participate in the site selection of the project, the formulation of planning and design scheme, as well as the specific work of project construction, project supervision and later operation and management. Through participating in the land renovation project, the farmers' right to know, participation and income are guaranteed, the farmers' scientific concept and participation consciousness are enhanced, and the farmers' participation ability and self-development ability are improved. Through land renovation, we have promoted the construction of civilized communities in rural areas, improved the living and cultural facilities in poor areas, improved the civilized quality of villagers, accelerated the process of democratic management in rural areas, and improved the level of civilization in rural areas.

### 4.5 Encouraged Poor Households to Increase Investment in Agricultural Production

As the unit of family production, farmers are the main body of agricultural production. As a “rational economic man”, farmers also want to pursue the maximization of profits when making decisions on production and operation, and the investment in various agricultural production factors is also based on the cost-benefit analysis.

By encouraging and guiding the rural labor force to participate in the construction of land renovation projects, the income of farmers increased, and the per capita annual income of farmers
participating in land renovation increased by more than 700 yuan. For example, since the land renovation in 2010, Sichuan Province has employed farmers actively in the project area to participate in the project construction in the process of project implementation. Only paying the masses’ wages and machinery costs in the project area has reached 420 million yuan, and nearly 2.2 million people in the project area have benefited, improving the income level of poor farmers greatly. In the 1.07 billion yuan investment in the Three Gorges Reservoir area, the local farmers obtained nearly 300 million yuan in the form of labor remuneration and compensation for the loss of young crops. Through land renovation, the land utilization rate and labor productivity have been increased, and the farmers’ income has been increased. Once the income of farmers increases, they will increase their investment naturally in agricultural production and management in order to get more land compensation.

4.6 Promoted Harmony of Human and Land Relationship in Poor Areas

First of all, we have solved the problem of food security. Food is the basis of human survival. In the long time, to coordinate the relationship between human and land, we must first realize the coordination between population and food and meet the basic conditions for human survival. In Wumeng Mountain Area, which has a large population, a small area of cultivated land and a low quality of cultivated land as a whole, protecting the quantity and quality of cultivated land and ensuring the safety of food production should be the primary task of coordinating the relationship between human and land. The premise of land consolidation and development is to protect the total balance of cultivated land, and the use of irrigation water-saving technology, soil improvement, and remote sensing technology in land development is to improve the quality of cultivated land and land productivity.

Secondly, expand the land space. In recent years, the land use index of Wumeng Mountain Area is strictly and reasonably. Through the comprehensive renovation, the problems of scattered, abandoned, idle and inefficient use of rural construction land were solved, the layout of land use was optimized, and the area of farmland was increased. According to the survey, the average land saving rate of the abandoned and inefficient rural construction land renovation has reached 40%, expanding the space for urban and rural development effectively and easing the contradiction between people and land.

5. Conclusion

Wumeng Mountain Area is one of the 11 contiguous extremely poor areas in China, with a large number of poor people, wide distribution and high incidence of poverty. Land is the basis of people's survival. Only through the most basic land development and poverty alleviation can we solve the problem of survival and development in this area. By summarizing the role of land development and poverty alleviation in Wumeng Mountain Area in poverty alleviation of poor farmers, this paper provides experience for other regions in land development and poverty alleviation, and achieves the goal of promoting and demonstrating innovative mechanisms and policies in the whole country.

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References


