Achievements and Inspirations of Improving Rural Livelihood in the Past 70 Years

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Abstract: It is good tradition and political advantage for China’s party, as well as the purpose and foothold of our party’s work to pay great attention to improving people’s livelihood. This article analyzes the achievements of China’s improvement of rural people’s livelihood in the past 70 years since the founding of the People’s Republic of China from the following four aspects. It also states the inspirations brought by the improvement of rural people’s livelihood in the past 70 years to improve rural people’s livelihood in the current period.

Keywords: Rural; People’s livelihood; Achievement; Inspirations

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As the ancients said: people, the root of China, are connected to China’s fate what people's livelihood is also connected to China’s fate. This means that guaranteeing and improving people's livelihood is the foundation of a country’s development. Only when people’s livelihood is improved, can people of this country be harmonious and stable and the country can flourish. It is It is good tradition and political advantage for China’s party, as well as the purpose and foothold of our party's work to pay great attention to and improving people’s livelihood.

1 Achievements in improving rural livelihoods over the past 70 years

1.1 Decrease of Rural Poverty
Before the People’s Republic of China was founded, the people lived in poverty. At the beginning of the foundation of the People’s Republic of China, that is, in the 1950s and 1970s, the problem of poverty was still very prominent, although the living conditions of rural people had improved[1]. After the reform and opening up, especially since the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, with the continuous introduction of anti-poverty policies and the continuous efforts in reducing the poverty, rural people in China have gradually live from general poverty to the remove of absolute poverty as a whole. According to the statistics, from 1978 to 2018, the number of rural poverty dropped from 770 million to 16.6 million, and the incidence of poverty dropped to 1.7%; in 2018, the per disposable capital of rural residents in poor areas reached 10371. At the same time, its growing rate continued to be higher than the national growing rate[2]. For this reason, China has indeed become the first developing country to achieve the goal of removing poverty.

1.2 Continuous Improvement of Rural education
In the early days of the foundation of the People’s Republic of China, China's investment on rural education was seriously inadequate, and the educational infrastructure was poorly equipped, which have led to the aging of the rural teachers and a reduction of professionalism[3]. The rural teaching team has always been unstable, and family education is almost zero. Most parents don't pay enough attention to education, illiteracy accounting for more than 80%, and the enrollment rate of school-age children being around 20%. In the past 70 years since the foundation of the People's Republic of China, China's consolidation rate of rural nine-year compulsory education has reached 94.2% by 2018, and the rural population receiving higher education has reached 48.1% through the
continuous efforts of our generations.

1.3 Strengthened Rural Social Security

In the early of the foundation of the PRC, China's social security in the rural areas was almost zero, but by 2018, China has achieved common medical insurance, with medical insurance benefiting 1.3 billion people and pension insurance benefiting 900 million people. At the beginning of the founding of the People's Republic of China, the average life expectancy of urban and rural residents was 35 years old. By 2018, China's average life expectancy has increased to 77 years. In the first half of 2019, China further introduced a caring service system for left-behind children in rural areas and in distress, and also published a series of policies and measures on rural social security, including guidance on strengthening and improving rural governance.[4]

1.4 Farmers' Continuous improved sense of happiness, gain and security

In the past 70 years since the founding of the People's Republic of China, tremendous changes have taken place in rural areas, and people’s livelihood has been greatly improved. Farmers have ever suffered from the “ticket age”[5]. But they feel comfortable and happy now. At present, rural residents in China are eating safer and safer, dressing more and more exquisitely, walking more and more smoothly, and becoming more and more open. Farmers’ sense of security, happiness and gains continues to increase.

2 Beneficial Inspirations from Improving Rural Livelihood in the Past 70 Years

The infinite past ends at present and the infinite future begins from now. Over the past 70 years, rural people's livelihood has not only achieved improvements, but also brought us many useful inspirations.

2.1 View the countryside beyond the word “agriculture” in thoughts, which is beneficial to promote the strategy of rural revival

Thought is the premise of action. The matter beneficial to people will bring prosper; the matter harmful to people should be away. There are no small issues in people's livelihood. In improving people’s livelihood, we must know that farmers are the most important issues to be concerned about. We must start details from the big scope. We must ensure that the farmers are satisfied. We must never do those things harmful to the farmers. We must firmly cultivate such a point of view in thinking and constantly strengthen such consciousness.

2.1.1 Focus on one matter

China can flourish when it is strong in agriculture, and farmers can be rich when China is rich. For rural people’s livelihood, we must view the countryside beyond the word “agriculture” in thoughts. Not only Party Committees and governments, but also other parties and government departments and social organizations must pay attention to rural people’s livelihood. At the same time, farmers must pay attention to this issue. We must look into the problems of rural livelihood from a strategic perspective. To solve the problem of people's livelihood in rural areas, we must pay attention to the co-management and focusing on one matter, because only in this way can we form a joint force to achieve more.

2.1.2 Brainstorm and work together

The solution of rural people's livelihood problems not only depends on the rural people and farmers’ original experience, but also needs investment in rural infrastructure, promotion of the public services in rural areas and continuous improvement of rural people's livelihood. Only by increasing investment, working together can varieties of resources be gained to solve the existing rural livelihood issues.

2.1.3 Develop in a green way to help promote rural revival

Protecting the ecological environment and developing the economy are fundamentally complementary. The revival of the countryside and ecology are significant. Therefore, we must integrate the concept of ecological development into project construction and industrial adjustment. Guided by the conviction that lucid waters and lush mountains are invaluable assets, the government make efforts to end the extensive development model that destroy of the ecology, adhering to the development of green economy, low-carbon economy and circular economy and turning ecological resources into industrial resources and tourism resources.
2.2 Take action and simultaneously use multiple measures to continuously improve rural people's livelihood

2.2.1 Rural talents: solve the problem of talents who cannot be left

The main reasons for the problem of talents who cannot be left in rural areas are as follows. First, rural incomes are relatively low. Due to historical reasons, the rural areas are generally relatively out of pace compared to the cities. At the same time, there are no decent industries. Economic development lacks support and their income is relatively low. Second, the space for individual talents is inadequate. Rural areas often lack opportunities of individual survival and development because of insufficient investment and limited available resources. Third, the construction of most rural infrastructure is relatively backward. Although the vast majority of rural areas have been improved, they have been beautified a lot. However, medical and educational constructions are still far from urban areas.

To develop the countryside and to revitalize the countryside, we must develop the corresponding talents to support it, so we must find ways to let a large number of talents enter the countryside, and turn them into farmers, so as to develop a new farming team. However, compared to cities, rural conditions are limited and it is very difficult to retain talents. Therefore, we must strengthen the training for existing farmers to make them professional; on the other hand, we must further increase household registration. The reform of the system and landing policy has made peasants abroad willing to return.

2.2.2 Rural civilization: change rural areas into spiritual paradise

The rural civilization is the soul of rural construction, and is also an important driving force for rural revival. Rural civilization can attract urban resources to the countryside. Rural civilization can effectively promote industrial prosperity and help implement rural revitalizing strategies. Rural civilization is one of the important premises of people's happiness, because people's happiness is not only from material abundance, but more importantly, from pleasant spiritual experience. Therefore, to solve the problem in people's livelihood, we must not only increase the farmers’ income to make them become economically rich, but more importantly, we must improve the farmers’ spiritual fortunes and make them happy from the bottom of our hearts. Therefore, we must make full use of the rural cultural square and the seniors' activity room, etc., carry out a variety of cultural and sports activities, and turn the rural areas into a spiritual paradise, so that it can help successfully turn the role from “villager” to “resident”.

At the same time, we must strengthen the construction of rural teams of leaders, create a virtuous rural atmosphere, develop the leaders among the farmers, and better lead the farmers to make progress together. We must promote people's quality with the family culture, lead the country's culture with the folk culture, establish and improve the family culture, harmonious neighborhood relationship and the good habit of helping each other; pay attention to foster a new peasant team and continuously strengthen their skills. Through the flourish of a new-era school for farmers , a number of new skilled farmers will be trained to demonstrate their skills in the rural areas.

2.2.3 Informatization construction: Provide a comprehensive platform for livelihood information service

Today's society is full of information, and the Internet is everywhere. Nowadays, the improvement of rural people's livelihood, economic growth and agricultural modernization are inseparable from the support of information technology. Therefore, strengthen the construction of rural information infrastructure, establish a comprehensive information service system and innovate the services.

Therefore, we must provide a variety of services, and actively use methods such as intelligence of big data. From the perspective of farmers' needs, the requirements of service provided are closer to the common people's real needs. We will continue to strengthen information construction and further create ways for public opinions. Through Websites, Weibo, WeChat and related APPs, we can listen to the voices of the public, collect public opinions, continuously improve the openness and effectiveness of public opinions, and work hard to improve the quality of people's livelihood services; we must integrate and use all kinds of resources about agricultural information, promote informatization, optimize the interactive communication on the website, comprehensively provide various information services such as radio,
television and telecommunications, and actively build a platform for livelihood service.

All in all, in the past 70 years since the foundation of the People’s Republic of China, the achievements in improving rural people’s livelihood are obvious to all. This is also a reflect of the improving people’s livelihood across the country. These achievements are ultimately derived from the strong leadership of the Communist Party of China. Before rural people's livelihood in China is completed, improving rural people's livelihood will always be on the road only when it is underway.

References