

Existing problems and the development of family farm under the background of urbanization Taking family farm in Wenchuan County as an example

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Abstract: Urbanization development is an important part in the current social and economic development, wherein, family farm is the key for urbanization construction, which is always the key research and development orientation of agricultural economy in our country. Under the situation of promoting urbanization construction largely in our country, exploring the problems existed in family farm development under the background of urbanization is of practical reference value for the development of agricultural economy in our country.

1. General development situation of family farm

1.1 Concept of family farm

Currently, under the situation of promoting urbanization construction largely in our country, no unified cognition on the specific concept of family farm has been formed, while there exists with certain misunderstanding: in fact, the economic benefit doesn't increase with the scale increase of family farm. Family farm is a fresh kind of intensive agriculture management and development mode, which has many advantages compared with previous "small and comprehensive" development mode, including significant improvement of production efficiency, wherein, the most important one is that the "family" subjects linked by blood relation have higher enthusiasm in production and life. Therefore, in the urbanization construction process, having full understanding of the profound meaning of family farm is of great significance to its development.

1.2 Three misunderstandings of family farm

1.2.1 Territorial restriction for its development

With the continuous development of urbanization construction, some scholars think family farm is more suitable to realize development in the regions with higher urbanization rate. But the main purpose of developing family farm is to realize better development of rural areas in our country. Though the urbanization rates in Wenchuan County and even the whole Sichuan Province are relatively low, the problems caused from urbanization construction are serious, such as outward movement of a large number of local rural populations, large loss of labor forces and less farming work, which is adverse to income increase and agricultural modernization development.

1.2.2 Difference between family farm and household contract responsibility system

It is beyond doubt that household contract responsibility system is contributory to accelerate the agricultural and economic development in rural areas of our country and solve the problem of food and clothing. Such kind of operation model meets with the current national situation in spite of some existing problems.

In fact, the family farm and household contract responsibility system are different in the contracting scale, both of which base on the state ownership of land to motivate all powers to give full play to their enthusiasm, initiative and creativity in agricultural production. Considering the current agricultural development situation in our country, family farm can not be implemented in each family all at once. Therefore, family farm and household contract responsibility system will coexist and develop commonly for a long time thus to promote sustainable development of agricultural economy.

1.2.3 Family farm is the only way for agricultural and economic development

The Party Central Committee proposes that it is needed to persist in the principle of voluntary participation and compensation in accordance with the law, encourage and support transformation of land contracting to leading specialized households, family farm and farmers' cooperative. It can be seen that family farm is the inevitable requirement for agricultural economy development and agricultural modernization development, but it is not the only way. In accordance with the actual situations of Wenchuan County and the whole Sichuan Province, the development of family farm is not a smooth process but a progressive development process from quantitative change to qualitative change.

2. Existing problems of family farm under the background of urbanization

2.1 Land supply and circulation

Wenchuan County is located in the northwest of Sichuan, which owns large mountainous area but has few available lands. Traditional urbanization construction is concentrated and persists in “large and comprehensive, small and comprehensive”, which relies on relatively flat land, large scale and better production and living situations. Urbanization construction tends to cover partial cultivated lands while the small-scale regions with poor conditions tend not to be incorporated into urbanization construction scope, which brings large development pressure for the regions lacking of land resources and having small agricultural acreage per capita. The development of family farm lies in orderly standardization of land circulation, but currently, there still exists with many nonstandard phenomena in land circulation.

2.2 Development of professional farmers

Generally, urbanization refers to the historical process that the rural populations move to cities continuously and the secondary industry and the tertiary industry concentrate in cities constantly thus to cause increase in city quantity and enlarging in city scale. Based on this background, the urbanization is developing faster while the population quantity in rural areas is declining, which causes slower development of rural areas.

In order to promote the development of family farm, it is needed to cultivate a batch of agricultural workers having rich agricultural knowledge and high quality. The author adopts interview method to know that most of family farms in Wenchuan County are composed of original local growers who have rich production skills and farming experience owing to living and working here for years, however, production experience is not enough for family farm, but related operation and management experience and marketing channels should also be equipped. Therefore, traditional family farm composed of small families has lower production benefit and has difficulty in making larger breakthrough.

What's more, one problem has also become prominent owing to the development of family farm, that is the gap between the rural talents and others, which prompts some scholars to worry about the enlarging gap.

2.3 Low level of market development

In the urbanization process, the secondary industry and the tertiary industry are concentrating in cities, while the division of labor is becoming detailed, and accordingly, the production and life of people are closely related to the level of marketization. The higher the level of marketization is, the more developed the market is, similarly, the development of marketization will also promote the urbanization development in return. However, the mountainous areas occupy a large proportion in the county, meanwhile, the residents live dispersedly and are far from the center of the city, as a result, the rural labor forces move to cities and engage in the work irrelevant with agriculture with the development of urbanization, and accordingly, the infrastructures in rural areas become idled and the agricultural talents are in shortage, which is adverse to the sustainable development of family farm.

2.4 Pay much attention to quantity but neglect quality

Family farm is the innovation and progress of the agricultural production and operation model in our country, but it is not the only way to promote the agricultural development of rural areas. We can not realize the development of family farm in an action and transform all agricultural production modes into family farm. Based on this, the author thinks it is needed to develop family farm progressively, persist in the principle of “first pilot and then promotion” and build family farm combined with local development characteristics. The quantity of family farms determines the agricultural development scale to some extent, but only through improving the development quality of family farm can the agricultural economy in our country be promoted fundamentally and can the agricultural modernization development be realized.

3. Countermeasures to the development of family farm

3.1 Enlarge training on occupational farmers

Possessing related professional knowledge and skills is particularly important for the development of family farm, which can be helpful to cultivate the agricultural workers with related knowledge and technology, make them good at operation and management with rich agricultural experience. For the purpose of promoting healthy and sustainable development of family farm, it is needed to conduct professional and systematic training on occupational farmers, strengthen occupational qualification certification, conduct appraisal on the professional knowledge and management skills of the occupational farmers after training, provide qualification certificate for those who have passed the appraisal and require them to work with certificates, wherein, the regions where conditions permit, the system of employment with certificates for occupational farmers should be put into practice step by step.

From perspective of the government, it can establish unified “entry training” aiming at farmers thus to make them fully know the policy support of the government on family farm, the operation characteristics of family farm and specific requirements on them and their family members. Besides, it should issue related regulations and systems and guarantee strict implementation, establish corresponding training institution to make supplementation for farmers in professional knowledge, make them fully master needed knowledge and skills for family farm operation to become true “occupational farmers”; in addition, it should provide various convenient services for family farms positively and actively.

Joint effort of farmers and their family members accompanied with policy support of the government are needed to promote the development of family farm, and only in this way can the advantages of family farm be played to the largest extent.

3.2 Standardize land circulation

Land circulation standardization relies on multiple means. Firstly, strengthen publicity of family farm to obtain understanding, support and cooperation from the public in land circulation; secondly, persist in the principle of voluntary participation and compensation in accordance with the law. The legal principle: the land circulation work and procedure must be legal and conducted according to the law while the interests of the farmers and the collective must be protected by the law; the voluntary principle: land circulation and circulation mode must rely on opinions from farmers; the compensation principle lies in transfer of management authority, wherein, the individuals or units can not deduct the compensation for farmers owing to transfer of management authority. Once the above principles are obeyed, related illegal behaviors in the land circulation process will certainly be punished.

Family farm transforms original disperse, non-professional and single-family “small and comprehensive” agricultural production mode based on natural economy to “concentrated, professional and scaled “large and specialized” agricultural production mode based on commodity economy, which requires the land scale to meet with the professional commercial production based on the premise of accelerating land circulation, improving land utilization efficiency, pursuing

higher economic benefit and promoting income increase of farmers.

3.3 Enlarge policy support and establish access-exit mechanism

Talent, technology and capital are inevitable key factors for construction and development of various aspects. Therefore, the government should enlarge policy support, involving strengthening education training on farmers and their family members and introducing agricultural technology researchers and related management talents positively thus to provide talent guarantee for sustainable development of family farm; besides, the government should deepen financial system reform in rural areas, expand financing channels for the development of family farm, provide smooth and convenient financing channel and effective risk-avoidance modes for family farm, avoid poor operation of family farm owing to capital problem and gradually establish the entry rule of “occupational farm” for the operation subjects of family farm.

Conclusion: In summary, this paper bases on the current development situation of family farm to find out existing misunderstandings and problems, analyze the actual development situation of family farm in Wenchuan County and combine with the development situation under the background of urbanization to clearly propose that family farm is a kind of fresh intensive agricultural operation model and should step towards the highly-intensive route; besides, the government needs to strengthen training on professional knowledge and skills of farmers, solve land circulation problems and shorten internal gap in rural areas by aid of urbanization development; furthermore, the government should enlarge policy support, establish the entry rule of “occupational farmer” aiming at the operation subjects of family farm, which provides positive significance to the healthy and sustainable development of family farm under the background of urbanization.

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