

Research on the Political Effects of Farmers' Cooperative Organizations in China

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Keywords: Farmers' Cooperative Organization, Political Effect, China's Rural Society

Abstract: China's rural society is facing great transition of history and there is a transition from the traditional rural society which has several thousand years farming's culture to modern society. Rural interests are increasingly divided, and farmers' living needs tend to be diversified. Under this background, the functional research of farmers' cooperative organizations is not only in the economic domain but also in the political domain. The political effects' research of farmers' cooperative organizations will be a problem of theory and reality. It is the objective requirement of solving rural problems and achieving rural stability to actively exert the political effect of farmers' cooperative organization. In this paper, we researched and analyzed the important political effects of farmers' cooperative organizations in many aspects such as fostering political culture, promoting the socialization of rural politics, promoting the development of civil society, realizing the coordination of relations between the state and society, resolving social conflicts in rural areas, promoting the transformation of government functions, improving the ability of government to govern, maintaining rural stability, strengthening communication between the government and farmers, broadening the way for farmers to gain democratic experience, improving farmers' political and cultural qualities, and so on. Attention is also needed, the development of the political effects of farmers' cooperative organizations in practice will not be achieved overnight or smoothly, everything must be improved and expanded gradually according to the degree of development of the farmers' cooperative organizations. In other word, farmers' cooperative organizations is a process of growth and gradual development, and the research of the political effects of farmers' cooperative organization needs to be continuously deepened and gradually improved in practice.

1. Introduction

At present, the rural areas of China are facing great historical changes. The traditional rural society with thousands of years of farming civilization deposition has rapidly transformed into modern society. The interaction between the old and new order lead to the increased polarization of rural interests and the diversification of farmers' living needs. This objectively puts forward higher requirements for the effects of rural cooperative organizations, especially their political effects. Therefore, we should give full play to the political effects of the farmers' cooperative organizations which is the objective requirement of solving rural problems and achieving rural stability, and it is also an important symbol of the healthy political development of china.

2. Definition of the Political Effect of Farmers' Cooperative Organizations

At present, the effect results of farmers' cooperation organizations mainly include economic, political or cultural from the functional point of view. Compared with the economic and cultural effects of farmers' cooperative organizations, the political effects of farmers' cooperative organizations can be said to have been neglected. The political effect of the farmers' cooperation organization means that under the benign operation of the farmers' cooperation organizations, we can full use of the organization's role in reflecting the political demands and improving the political status of the farmers. At present, some farmers' cooperative organizations have achieved certain results in terms

of political effects, such as limiting the power of village committees, regulating rural conflicts, maintaining good order, helping farmers to master national dynamics and policies, and timely following up on the pace of social development. However, these are far from enough. There is still insufficient performance in terms of communication of information, improving the relationship between the government and the farmers, and enhancing the farmer's sense of identity. There is great room for progress. Scholar Liang Shuming said: "China's 'cooperation' will inevitably be conscious, ... introducing political issues from economic issues, ... development from the bottom up, from the near and far, from small to big, and from less to more. When politics and economy are combined, local autonomy can certainly be completed [1]. " Therefore, the current development of rural areas in China should be based on farmers' cooperative organizations as a breakthrough point. While vigorously developing the organizational economy and developing the rural economy, we should further bring into play the political effects of farmers' cooperative organizations and realize the diversification of organizational effects which can improve the political status of farmers, maintain the stability of the countryside, improve local governance, and provide inexhaustible impetus for the construction of a harmonious society.

In fact, there has been a steady flow of scholars advocating the establishment of farmers' organizations that reflect the interests of farmers since the early 1990s, and hoping through the role of farmers' organizations to improve the political interests of farmers. Scholar Shangguan jiuwei believes that the organization of farmers is not only conducive to the improvement of rural political life, the optimization of political relations, the cultivation of social capital, but also conducive to the democratization of rural governance structures and the institutionalization of political participation[2]. Scholar Yu keping believes that it is a representative of the interests of the villagers. On behalf of the villagers, they try to gain more support from the superiors. When the villagers' interests are threatened by external threats, they play the role of interest protectors [3]. ALL these have many references for the study of the political effects of farmers' cooperative organizations.

3. Political Effects of Farmers' Cooperative Organizations

Samuel Phillips Huntington pointed out: "Organization is the road to political power, it is also the basis of political stability, and therefore it is also the premise of political freedom ... In the modern world of today, who can organize politics, who can control the future [4]. As one of the forms of civil society organizations, the farmers' cooperation organization is an effective form of organization for the realization of rural democracy in China. It can be used as an important force for the construction of a harmonious socialist society in China and promote the process of political democratization in China. Because the farmers' cooperative organizations as representatives of the farmers' practical interests, have the advantage of being close to the farmers and being good at communication, "coming from among the masses and going to the masses" and gaining a great sense of identity among the farmers, which is conducive to the political effect. It is of great benefit to the construction of a democratic, stable and harmonious rural society. So, what kind of political effects can the farmers' cooperative organization have?

3.1. To Cultivate a Positive and Healthy Political Culture and Promote the Socialization of Rural Politics

The concept of political culture was first proposed by the American scholar Gabriel Almond. He believes that "political culture is a set of political attitudes, political beliefs, and political feelings that are popular among a nation at a specific time" [5]. As the carrier of rural social construction, farmers' cooperative organizations can make special contributions in this respect, and they have provided farmers with practice of democracy and mutual assistance on an equal footing, and promoted the awakening of farmers' awareness of democracy, equality, citizenship and cooperation. These can help farmers to "learn to participate in participation" and "learn democracy in democracy" what can greatly promote the construction of democracy and the rule of law in rural areas, cultivate farmers' democratic consciousness and values, and then form the entire rural democratic tradition and lay the

foundation for the process of democratization of rural politics. This will objectively promote the transformation of traditional political culture into modern political culture and foster a new type of political culture that is conducive to the development of rural politics in China.

3.2. To Promote the Development of Civil Society and Realize the Coordination of Relations between the State and Society

Due to the long-term influence of centralized political culture in china, the relationship between the state and society has long been in an uncoordinated and unbalanced state, which makes the independent social space in a strict sense non-existent. With the deepening of reform and the transformation of society, modern civil society has emerged as an inevitable part of the diversified development of society, emphasizing citizens 'participation in social life and citizens' voluntary formation of organizations to safeguard their own rights and interests. It is thus a powerful weapon for democratic States to defend individual freedoms and rights. Farmers 'cooperative organizations represent the interests of farmers in a holistic manner what can consolidate scattered individual farmers' strength and resources, and at the same time provide farmers with effective means of expression based on their own advantages. On behalf of the interests of the peasants as a whole, they legally express their appeals to the government through dialogue, consultation and communication mechanisms, and promote the party and the government to pay attention to and meet their interests and needs. The improvement of the spirit of farmer participation and public spirit, the supervision and restriction of state power, and the smooth expression of farmers will undoubtedly balance the relationship between the state and society to a certain extent, and change the situation of strong countries and weak societies [6].

3.3. To Promote the Transformation of Government Functions and Improve the Ability of Government to Govern

As an autonomous organization whose purpose is to serve the farmers and safeguard the interests of farmers, the farmers' cooperation organizations is unlike the government and can help the government gradually free itself from direct operational affairs in the social field. However, as farmers' cooperative organizations with specific functions, their activities are bound to have a considerable impact on the political process. Especially with the continuous development of farmers' cooperative organizations, their role in rural social management has become more and more important. They can fully realize the interaction and cooperation with the government and improve rural governance. The concrete manifestation includes that farmers' cooperation organization can effectively intervene in rural affairs, integrate the interests of rural strata with services as a link, and play a unique role outside the government and the market. All these can promote the improvement of government administrative efficiency and save government management costs. Through cooperation organizations to implement government policies in daily work, the cost of implementing policies can be reduced what can greatly improve the government's ability to regulate agriculture and rural areas, and achieve guidance for agriculture and farmers. All these will help to promote the real transformation of government functions and the improvement of government governance capacity [7]. At the same time, the development of the political effects of farmers' cooperation organizations can also form effective restrictions and supervision on government power, standardize government behavior and prevent the unlimited expansion of government power.

3.4. As a Bridge and Link between the Government and the Farmers to Communicate

The theory and practice of reform and opening up over the past 30 years and more have proved the farmers' cooperative organizations are the bridge and link between the government and the farmer. It is an organizational carrier for the government to strengthen guidance on agriculture and rural work. It is also a new channel for the government to protect agriculture and support farmers. First, farmers' cooperation organizations can be an important channel for governments to implement policies. The government can control the plans and instructions through farmers' cooperation organizations, implement the state's principles, policies, laws and regulations, and achieve the above. Because of acceptance and recognition, the relationship between farmers and the government will be more

harmonious. Second, farmers' cooperation organizations can help governments make decisions that are more democratic and scientific. That means the farmers' cooperation organizations can bring together scattered individual needs into groups' appeals, reflect them to the government through organized and procedural channels, avoid the distortion and loss of bottom-up information transmission, and build a platform for communication and feedback between government and farmers. In short, a healthy and lasting politics cannot be just a top-down monorail. It should be a dual-track form of communication.

3.5. Reconciling Social Contradictions and Maintaining Social Stability in the Rural Areas

Due to the characteristics and special status of the farmers' cooperative organizations, it often has strong ability and effectiveness in regulating social conflicts and maintaining rural social stability, and can play the role of "stabilizer" and "safety valve". On the one hand, farmers' cooperation organizations are rooted in the masses of farmers, and they can detect, warn, and resolve social conflicts in rural areas early, and guide farmers' interest groups to express their interest appeals in a rational and legal manner. It can guide the rationalization of farmers' behavior, avoid turning local contradictions into systemic conflicts and evolving properly resolved problems into irreconcilable contradictions, thus releasing the farmers' impulse to realize their interests and dissolving the tension between farmers and the government. On the other hand, with regard to conflicts of interest and disputes between the farmers, the farmers' cooperation organizations can carry out internal integration, and use the contractual rules, autonomous capabilities and interest patterns developed within the organizations to regulate, restrict and guide the behavior of farmers within a certain range. It can improve mutual understanding and interaction among farmers, which limit or even eliminate illegal or irregular behavior of members and promoting social stability [8].

3.6. Broadening the Way for Farmers to Gain Democratic Experience and Improving their Political and Cultural Qualities

The experience of developed countries shows that farmers' cooperation organizations are the most effective and convenient carrier for training farmers in democracy and improving their political and cultural quality. Because democratic people and democratic lifestyles are not self-generated, they need to be learned and trained. The cooperation organizations can enable farmers to obtain their own democratic experience and exercise in practice, and be influenced by the words and deeds of organizational experience. These can help farmers to gain democratic experience, develop democratic habits and lifestyles, and improve their own political and cultural qualities.

4. Problems in Developing the Political Effects of Farmers' Cooperative Organizations

With the development of the market economy, farmers' cooperation organizations in China have emerged during the transition period. They are in the primary stage in general, and they have a "double-edged sword", and their political effects have both positive aspects, and of course they also have negative aspects that cannot be ignored. Under the constant collision and friction between the old and new systems, mechanisms, and ideological concepts in China, it is easy to induce organizational alienation, such as challenging government authority, evolving into a "gangs" or "feudal superstitious organizations", and being used by various hostile forces at home and abroad [9]. Therefore, while adopting an active development policy for farmers' cooperative organizations, we should also fully recognize and seriously guard against the risk of alienation in the political effects of the development of farmers' cooperative organizations and guide their healthy development.

5. Conclusion

As an important carrier of rural society, the political effects of farmers' cooperation organizations play a positive and irreplaceable role in promoting the development of the country's civil society and promoting the process of rural democracy and political civilization. It is an important force for promoting rural harmony. It can be said that the development of the political effects of farmers' cooperation organizations is not only a requirement for the interests of farmers, but also a sign of the

political situation of farmers. However, we should also clearly understand that the development of the political effects of farmers' cooperative organizations in practice will not be achieved overnight or smoothly. It is a process of development, growth and gradual development. Everything must be improved and expanded gradually according to the degree of development of the farmers' cooperative organizations. And due to the inherent deficiencies and institutional defects of the farmers' cooperative organization itself, coupled with the shackles of the old system, its development path is tortuous. Therefore, the research of the political effects of farmers' cooperative organization needs to be continuously deepened and gradually improved in practice.

Acknowledgement

This article is in the subject construction project " Sichuan Agricultural University Discipline Construction Double Branch Plan".

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