

Span from Anti-Poverty to Targeted Poverty Alleviation

Tiejun Zhao ^{1, a*}, Xing Li ^{1, b} and Tao Qu ^{1, c}

¹Economics and Management College of Longdong University,
Qingyang Gansu 745000

^azhaotiejun@126.com, ^bleebj@189.cn*, ^cldxyqt@126.com

* The corresponding author

Keywords: Liberation; Old revolutionary Base area; Targeted poverty alleviation

Abstract. There is still some serious problems in the poverty alleviation work in the Old Revolutionary Base Area of Gansu, such as the inaccurate strategies, bureaucratic working styles, and so on. Aiming at solving the problems, the paper has reviewed the poverty alleviation work from Shanxi-Gansu-Ningxia Board Area period to the Liberation, summarized the experience and enlightenment.

Introduction

It was a certain fact that the rural poverty alleviation work had existed in Old Revolutionary Base of Gansu from the Central Soviet Area period to Liberation, which was presented by a ballad about the cadres wearing straw sandals and taking lanterns to visit the poor peasants

Poverty in old areas of Gansu province before Liberation was not about minority peasants, but general people, and poverty alleviation actually was anti - poverty. The anti-poverty work at that time was highlighted on two aspects, one was agricultural development policy, and the other was three main measures against poverty.

To achieve the goal to shuck poverty for whole people around the nation, which was put forward on the fifth Plenary Session of the 18th CPC Central Committee, is still an arduous task for Party committees and governments at all levels during the period of 13th Five-year. To carry forward the enlightenment of alleviating poverty before Liberation and the fine tradition of Old Revolutionary Base shall be important to push forward the targeted poverty alleviation work in the whole province as well as the Old Revolutionary Base of Gansu Province.

The Agricultural Development Policies from 1937 to 1949

Shaanxi-Gansu-Ningxia Border Area which had jurisdiction over Northern Shanxi, Eastern Gansu, Southeastern Ningxia while maximum territory, was formally established in 1937. During the period, it was the site of the CPC Central Committee, which led the war of resistance against Japan right there. The region had gathered large numbers of people, including party and government organs, military personnel, young students and refugees from other places. In order to solve the survival of large amount of people, support the war and consolidate the Revolutionary Base Area, the government of the border region had carried out a series of policies to promote agricultural production, which achieved remarkable results

The Policy to Encourage Reclamation for Increasing Grain Output. It was the most effective way to increase grain output to expand the cultivated land under the production condition at that time. The government of the border region stipulates that the land shall be privately owned and the land reclaimed by oneself shall be entitled to ownership of the land after registration. To open up more wasteland, the government promulgated the “Interim Measures for the immigrants reclamation in Shaanxi-Gansu-Ningxia border region (1940)”, “The reclamation Regulations to privilege immigrants in Shaanxi-Gansu-Ningxia border region(1943)”, and so on. The policy had presented provisions that public land after reclamation could have its ownership, shall be exempted from agricultural tax in 3years; private wasteland could be open up by peasants and exempted

agricultural tax in 3 years if landlords didn't reclaim, then pay rent to the landlords 3 years later, and the landlords shall not take back the land. Meanwhile, those who could not afford buying cattle, implements and seeds shall receive government loans.

The policy of increasing production and saving the Board Region had resulted in larger cultivated area, resolving the contradiction between people and plowland, better social security. The aim of reclamation by organs of the Board area government, troops and all kinds of schools was to achieve self-sufficiency. Through the development of arable land, on one hand, it gradually reached self-sufficiency in food supply, and created good conditions for handcraft industry and commerce development, contributed to economy development. The farmers had their own land by reclaiming wasteland. Many poor peasants, farm labourers, immigrants and refugees had become middle peasants and lived better life by reclamation. On the other hand, with the solution of the problem of self-sufficiency for military and people, some internal contradictions due to survival problem had been eased, and some insecurity and instability factors reduced. The rural idlers were forced to participated production by the government, which transformed them into independent laborers, contributed a lot to social order and security.

Animal Husbandry Policy to Invigorate the Economy and increase the Income of Farmers.

In the period of Shaanxi-Gansu-Ningxia Border Region, animal husbandry occupied an important place in the economy of the Old Revolutionary Base Area of Gansu. The government attached great importance to the development of animal husbandry, implemented many policies in promoting the development of animal husbandry, such as inducing farmers to purchase livestock, improved raising management, and so on. According to the provisions, each person (not including the elderly and patients) in all kinds of organs, schools and local forces cut grass and hay (dried grass) 40 kg, cutting more could get reward. The masses shall draw up their own plans according to their needs and possibilities. At that time, farmers in the Old Revolutionary Base Areas of Gansu took sheep raising as the main family sideline. The number of sheep was even up to 2000 for some farmer. Sheep, sheep skin and wool are the main export commodities in the border area. The export of these sheep industry not only stimulated the economy of the old Revolutionary Areas, but also promoted the increase of farmers' income. In order to solve the problem of insufficient forage grass, the government encourages planting alfalfa, building grass garden, cutting autumn grass, digging and storing grass roots and so on

During the Shaanxi-Gansu-Ningxia Border Region period, the policy of agricultural development in Longdong area, increased the cultivated area of grain yield, supported the revolutionary war, consolidated the revolution base. Meanwhile, it also caused serious influence on the local ecological environment. First, most of the cultivated wasteland is sloping land, and deforestation is widespread, resulting in serious soil erosion problems. Second, forest degradation, vegetation damage, climate degradation were serious. Third, overgrazing resulted in severe damage to vegetation.

The Three Anti-Poverty Measures Resulted in Remarkable Achievements in Poverty Alleviation

During the period of Anti-Japanese War, together with some part in Shanxi-Gansu-Ningxai Revolutionary Base Area, Huachi County had carried out land revolution. The anti-poverty policy worked mainly through redistribution of land, cancelling the usury and exorbitant tax levies and eliminating the privileged class to achieve.

The Redistribution of Land Ensured the Survival Needs of Poor Farmers. At that time, the counties within the eastern Gansu, including Qingcheng, Zhenyuan, Heshui, Zhengning, had not yet started, the allocation of land. The plowland was highly concentrated in the hands of landlords and rich peasants. For instance, the total plowland in Zhenyuan county was 13069 Mu, in which 7400 Nu was occupied by two landlords, accounted for 56.6% of the land area of the township.

Farmer's demand were satisfied by the redistribution of land which also ensured the necessary conditions for their survival. The Soviet land law promulgated in December 1935 stipulated that all the landlords' land is confiscated, and all the land that the rich peasants do not farm by themselves is confiscated. But the landlords and the rich peasants had a land they farmed by themselves then. At

that time, the land law was promulgated mainly for guaranteeing the peasants' right to own land as well as food and clothing the peasants needed. Land redistribution was the bottom line requirement of anti-poverty, which had increased the poor peasants' support to the Communist party.

The Reduction of Rent and Interest Improved the Living Conditions of the Poor. At that time, large amount of arable land was occupied by the big landlords and the rich peasants, by contrast, the poor peasants occupied small amount and barren land. The majority of poor peasants, thus, were forced to rent land from landlords and rich peasants. Generally speaking, the form of land rent in eastern Gansu was rent in kind, the rate of which was about 40-50% of the total harvest. In addition, the tenant was also exploited by the landlord through other forms of rent, such as wedding and funeral gifts, to rent with large scale, and so on. Rent reflected the essence of tenancy relationship in super economic compulsion in fact. In addition to the exploitation of land rent, poor farmers were also affected by the exploitation of usury. Once entangled into usury, the poor farmer could not escape until ruin[.]. The general peasants lived a miserably life duet to the cruel exploitation, which had severely hampered the development of the rural productive forces. Under the sharp social contradictions, it was urgent to alleviate or eliminate the rural feudal exploitation and properly solve the land problem.

The policy of reduction of rent and interest spanned three stages then.

The first stage was the publicity phase, from February 1937 to the end of 1939.

The second stage was the real implementation phase, the time span was from January 1940 to the end of 1941.

The third stage is fully carry out and thoroughly implementation phase. The time span is from January 1942 to August 1945. In 1942, Decision on Land Policy in the Anti-Japanese Base Areas had put forward

three basic principles: first, farmers (including farm labourers) was the basic power of resistance and production. Therefore, the government should guarantee farmers the right of humanrights, land ownership and property rights, improve the lives of farmers, implement the policy of reducing rent and interest, reduce the exploitation, improve the resistance and production enthusiasm; second, admitted that part of the enlightened gentry in favor of democratic reform, the majority of landlords supported the anti-Japanese policy. The government Stood for reducing but pay rent and interest, to protect t farmers as well as landowners rights. Third, admitted that the progressiveness of capitalist production mode under the conditions then, and the rich peasants as the rural bourgeoisie also had the requirement of resisting Japan. Therefore, the capitalist production was rewarded under the condition of improving workers' living conditions.

The policy of reducing rent and interest then was the adjustment of the product distribution relationship, without unchanging the landlord ownership of land. After the adjustment, the economic status of farmers had been greatly improved. The essence of the policy was the implementation of the rural poverty alleviation policy, which was the most effective means of Poverty Alleviation under the social conditions at that time.

Mutual Aid and Cooperation Solved the Practical Difficulties Of Farmers' Self –Help Production. Before the Liberation, affected by seasonal agricultural production, rural labor, the lack of farm animals and implements widespread was a difficulty in Longdong area. At that time, although the Longdong area was in a relatively peaceful area environment, land resources were relatively abundant, but due to the scarcity of labor, extensive farming technology, to strengthen economic construction, ensure the army supplies and people's life demand of food, improve agricultural production had become the most urgent task.

Mutual aid and cooperation was an urgent need for the extremely difficult and special war environment at that time, which regulated labor, farm animals and farm implements, organiezed the labor force, was the irreplaceable approach for majority of farmers out of poverty to wealth

Innovate the Mutual Assistance form of Exchanging Job Among the People, and Push It Forward. From the beginning of 1941, the Border Region government had organized all the people able to work to form mutual assistance group in summer harvest, the militia combat team, delivering public salt, and so on. The mutual aid form had solved the power shortage problem of

production and struggle, prolonged the effective labor time, improved farming efficiency and living conditions of people and army, curbed the spread of poverty situation.

Developing the Cooperative Cause in the Border Area and Promoting Economic Development. The development of cooperatives at that time took the form and principle of classified organizing. In the process of rural cooperative development of Shaanxi-Gansu-Ningxia Border Region, many kinds of cooperatives were set up, which included consumer cooperatives, transportation cooperatives, handicraft production cooperatives, credit cooperatives and the comprehensive cooperatives, Which Created The New Democratic Cooperative System

Experience and Enlightenment of the Anti-Poverty Policy and Mutual Aid Poverty Alleviation

The present targeted poverty alleviation can draw important experience and enlightenment from the policy of agricultural development for the purpose of anti-poverty. The mutual aid and cooperation policy in the old Revolutionary Base Areas of Gansu was a cooperative approach to organize the masses and concentrate their efforts on the development of various undertakings to promote economic development so as to meet the needs of the war of resistance. The valuable experience accumulated by this cooperative movement still plays an important role in today's construction of farmers' professional cooperatives and poverty alleviation in rural areas.

Out of Poverty Depending on Promoting the Poverty Alleviation Industry, Paying Equal Attention to Development and Ecological Protection. It is the first priority to develop economy for the Old Revolutionary Area to get out of poverty. Industry is an important foundation and powerful support for economic development which is the very important experience and enlightenment drawn from poverty alleviation before liberation to the current targeted poverty alleviation. At that time, on the conditions of low social productivity, poor cultural quality, bad situation of political and social environment, the Old Revolutionary Area had basically solved the problem of food and clothing, maintained social stability, ensured the material needs. In the process, cultivate and support each kind of industry was the most important reason. The development of poverty alleviation industry must not be sacrificed at the expense of the ecological environment. The economy development and anti-poverty in the Old Revolutionary Areas of Gansu during the Shanxi-Gansu-Ningxia Border Region period have achieved great success, but they have also paid a heavy price for the ecological environment. The current poverty alleviation should draw lessons that developing the economy must restore and protect the ecology, anyway, the ecological environment of the Old Revolutionary Areas in Gansu is very fragile.

Poverty Alleviation Work should Depend on Real Situation, and the Forms of Poverty Alleviation Organizations should be Diversified. Respecting the main position of the poor peasants in the process of getting out of poverty should implement targeted poverty alleviation, which insists that the measures and programs for poverty alleviation must be specific to the households and to the persons, respect the differentiated needs of the peasants, and the poverty alleviation industry should adhere to the principle of suiting local conditions, help them choose poverty industry according to the different causes of poverty.

Conclusion

The production and struggle from Shanxi-Gansu-Ningxia to the Liberation accumulated much valuable experience on poverty alleviation. The spirit of Nianglaing which includes working with the masses in heart and pay attention to the interests of the whole, was surfaced in this period.

To review and summarize the poverty alleviation experience of this period, has very important practical significance for today's cadres of targeted poverty alleviation, especially the cadres in the Old Revolutionary Base Areas, which is conducive to passing on the relationship between the Party and Masses, cadres and cadres as a torch.

Reference

- [1] Zhong Tianyuan. Good work style of cadres in the Soviet area[J].The Party History of Fujian Province.2014.01:6.

- [2] Han Han. The economic situation and policy of the Shaanxi - Gansu - Ningxia border region during the anti - Japanese war [J].Lantai World.2015.2: 40.
- [3] Kong Yongsong. The special land problem of Shaanxi-Gansu-Ningxia During the Anti - Japanese War [J]. The Journal of Chinese Social and Economic History.1984.4:99.
- [4] Huang Zhenglin. The Economic Policies and Legislation of the Shaanxi-Gansu-Ningxia Border Region during the Anti-Japanese War [J]. Research on Modern History.2001.1:169.
- [5] Li,Xing;YangZihan;HouBingjie,Analysis of Internal and External Factors Affecting the Development of Cross-Strait Cultural and CreativeIndustries[J],Advances in Social Science Education and Humanities Research.2016,(77)pp:151-155
- [6] Li X., Qu T., He J.M., Hou B.J.,Seek Excellence on the Hospital Quality Management Competition[J],Basic & Clinical Pharmacology & Toxicology,2016 ,December,Volume 119, Issue S4,HHME16-H24
- [7] Anonymous. The Glorious Revolutionary History of Old Revolutionary Base Area[EB/OL]. <http://www.htqly.org/Detail.aspx?Id=945>, 2012-4-8/2016-5-12.
- [8] Chen Shuli. Reclamation in the Shanxi-Gansu-Ningxia Board Region During the Period of Anati-Japanese War[J].Charming China.2011(17):280.
- [9] Zuo Jianzhi. Issue of People's Livelihood in the Anti - Japanese War from Rising Prices [J].Liberation.1940.1.30:97.
- [10] Ren Bishi. Ren Bishi's collection of essays[M].Version 1.Beijing : People's publishing house, 1987:160.
- [11] Wu Huanhuan. Research on the Mutual aid and Cooperation in Shanxi-Gansu-Ningxia Board Region [D].Yanan : Master's Dissertation of Yanan University, 2011.6:2—25.
- [12] Xing Li, Qiu Wenhong, Zhang Peiyao, and. Discussion on service innovation of cultural and Creative Park: cultural value perspective [J]. macroeconomic management, 2017, (S1): 34-36.