

Enhancing Inclusiveness in Rural Revitalization and Promoting the Common Prosperity of Farmers in Rural Areas

YE Xingqing

Abstract: There are great development gaps between urban and rural areas, among different groups and regions in rural areas. In the process of a new journey towards socialist modernization, exclusive risks brought by market forces and public policies can hardly be eliminated completely, and inclusive opportunities brought by both will exist for a long time. To promote common prosperity of farmers in rural areas, it is necessary to enhance inclusiveness of rural revitalization and make it a process of narrowing the gap between urban and rural areas, among different groups and regions in rural areas. The two-way opening-up of urban and rural areas should be promoted so that the growth effect of industrialization and urbanization can be more equally diffused to rural areas. Agricultural development should be more inclusive to empower small farmers to get larger share of development dividends of high value-added agriculture. Institutional difference should be eliminated to benefit farmers and rural areas by getting larger share from redistribution. The third distribution can play an important role in enhancing the inclusiveness of rural revitalization and promoting the common prosperity of farmers in rural areas.

Keywords: Rural Revitalization; Inclusiveness; Exclusiveness; Common Prosperity

The Evolution Logic of Agricultural Policy: On the Key Problems and Potential Risks of China's Agricultural Transformation

QUAN Shiwen

Abstract: This article constructs a three-tier analysis framework to explain the general law of agricultural development and policy evolution in late-developing countries. The core contribution of agriculture to national interests includes three categories: providing primitive accumulation for industry, food security, and social stability. The law of contribution change leads to the internal logic of the agricultural policy evolution. The particularity of China's agricultural policy evolution is that the importance of the contribution of food security has not declined in the process of industrialization, and there is even an upward trend in the transition period. Today, nearly 20 years after China entered the stage of supporting agriculture by industry, China is still facing the dual problems of "agriculture is not strong" and "farmers are not rich". At present, the direction of China's agricultural reform is to realize the organizational transformation from small-scale operation to moderate scale operation on the premise of ensuring food security and rural social stability. The key issues in the process of transformation are the strategic orientation of food security and the realization approach of moderate scale operation. The potential risk is that the rapid infiltration of capital into agricultural production leads to intensified differentiation of small farmers.

Keywords: Evolution Logic; Agricultural Policy; National Interest; Food Security

Estimation of Return Elasticity of Rural Labor Force from the Perspective of Rural Revitalization: Evidence Based on Spatial Discontinuity Design

LI Fanghua JI Chenyang

Abstract: Based on the random variation of economic activities of administrative villages in Xinxian County, Henan Province from 2015 to 2019, this article uses the rural productive power consumption index to measure the intensity of village level economic activities and constructs a quasi-natural experiment in rural China. It uses the externality of village boundary and the discontinuity of labor demand impact caused by “broken roads” and adopts the method of spatial breakpoint regression. The return elasticity of rural labor force is estimated. This study finds that the mobility choice of male labor force has not changed significantly, the probability of young and middle-aged female labor force staying in local work has increased significantly, and the return elasticity is 0.28, because the non-economic income of female labor force is higher. Further analysis shows that the return of female labor force has lost family income (compared with the base year, the total growth of annual per capita self-owned income of the treatment group is 6576 Yuan), but has also created greater non-economic benefits (the average test scores of students in the treatment group are 108 points higher than those in the control group). The results of heterogeneity analysis show that the greater the non-pecuniary benefits the households receive, the greater the return probability of young and middle-aged women, and the greater the return elasticity. The findings provide some enlightenment for rural revitalization in China.

Keywords: Spatial Discontinuity Design; Return Elasticity of Labor Force; Non-pecuniary Benefit; Rural Revitalization

Can the Use of ICT Improve the Social Integration of Displaced Households in Poverty Alleviation Resettlement Program?

ZHANG Chen MA Biao QIU Huanguang

Abstract: ICT, as an important medium for obtaining and utilizing information resources, provides more convenient tools for poor households to achieve “stability and prosperity” in their places of residence. Based on the microscopic data from a survey in 16 counties, 8 provinces in 2019, this article empirically examines the impact of the use of ICT on the social integration of displaced households in poverty alleviation resettlement program. The results show that the use of ICT has an obvious promoting effect on social integration of migrant households, but it has some heterogeneity. The estimation results of CQTE show that compared with the groups with lower social integration level, the promoting effect of ICT use is greater for the groups with higher social integration level. Further analysis also confirms that the use of ICT can effectively promote economic and community cultural integration in the short term. To this end, training on the use of ICT should be incorporated into the important content of the follow-up support policies for poverty alleviation resettlement program. The level of supporting information services in the resettlement areas should be continuously improved, and a two-way information interactive platform should be established between displaced households and the society in the relocated areas.

Keywords: ICT; Poverty Alleviation Resettlement Program; Social Integration; Influence Mechanism

The Impact of Digital Finance on Agricultural Mechanization: Evidence from 1869 Counties in China

SUN Xuetao YU Ting YU Fawen

Abstract: The overall level of China's agricultural mechanization is generally low. How to rely on endogenous power to make up for the shortcomings of agricultural mechanization is particularly important. The development of digital finance opens up a new path to solve the problems of agricultural mechanization. Based on the data collected from 1869 counties, this article analyzes the equilibrium effect and non-equilibrium effect of digital finance on agricultural mechanization and examines the function mechanism of digital finance. It finds that digital finance and agricultural mechanization have spatial spillover effect. Digital finance is an important way to promote agricultural mechanization. The impact of digital finance on agricultural mechanization will be affected by the development level of agricultural economy. Compared with other counties, poor counties, plain counties and agricultural counties are more likely to benefit from the development of digital financial. Digital finance will also take farmers' income and fixed asset investment as intermediary variables to improve the level of agricultural mechanization. Therefore, in the process of agricultural mechanization, we should seize the dividends brought by the development of digital finance. At the same time, the agricultural sector in different regions should treat the development of digital finance differently according to their own conditions.

Keywords: Digital Finance; Agricultural Mechanization; County; SARAR Model

Can the Centralization of County and Township Fiscal Expenditure Increase Local People's Livelihood Expenditure? Evidence Based on Quasi-natural Experiment of “Township Finance Supervised by County” System in Anhui Province

YAO Peng LI Jinze SUN Jiuwen

Abstract: In the important period of consolidating the achievements of poverty alleviation and effectively connecting with rural revitalization, how to make up for the shortcomings of the grassroots people's livelihood and solve these problems has become the key issues in the rural revitalization campaign. This article focuses on the dual perspectives of administrative supervision and public goods competition, expounding the logical mechanism of fiscal expenditure centralization affecting local livelihood expenditure. Based on the reform of "township finance supervised by county" system in Anhui Province, the study uses the DID method to identify the effect of fiscal expenditure centralization. The research shows that the fiscal expenditure centralization increases the power of county-level governments to coordinate fiscal expenditure arrangements throughout the county, weakens the discretion of township governments in fiscal expenditures, intensifies the distortion of fiscal expenditure structure, and squeezes local livelihood expenditure. The conclusions are still valid in a series of robustness tests. Mechanism analysis shows that the fiscal expenditure centralization has squeezed out local people's livelihood expenditure by strengthening the mismatch of local government financial funds, emphasizing infrastructure construction while neglecting human capital and social security. The study believes that under the Chinese-style decentralization system, the establishment of a new type of fiscal relationship between county and township governments should be accelerated, the discretion of township governments should be appropriately increased, and a reform of the county and township financial management system should be implemented as a starting point. We should improve the construction of a comprehensive performance evaluation system covering people's livelihood security, increase transfer payments to support people's livelihood security, and improve the level of equalization of basic public services provision.

Keywords: Centralization of County and Township Fiscal Expenditure; Fiscal Expenditure Structure; Grassroots People's Livelihood and Welfare; Rural Revitalization

Re-exploration of Total Factor Productivity of Agriculture Since China's Reform and Opening-up: The Role of Production Factor Quality and Infrastructure

LUO Sixuan HE Ke ZHANG Junbiao

Abstract: Total factor productivity is the driving force for China's agricultural growth. Based on the panel data of 28 provinces in China from 1978 to 2017, this article incorporates the quality of agricultural production factors and rural infrastructure into the growth accounting framework and examines their contribution to agricultural growth. The main results show that both the quality of agricultural production factors and rural infrastructure can promote the improvement of agricultural total factor productivity. Almost 32% of the average change of agricultural total factor productivity can be explained by both the quality of agricultural production factors and rural infrastructure. Compared with the quality of labor factors, the contribution of capital factor quality to agricultural growth is more obvious. The contribution of rural power facilities to agricultural growth is higher than that of rural roads and irrigation facilities. Therefore, China should promote the agricultural total factor productivity by improving the quality of agricultural production factors and rural infrastructures, so as to achieve high-quality development in agriculture.

Keywords: Agricultural Production Factor Quality; Rural Infrastructure; Agricultural Total Factor Productivity; Agricultural Growth