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Suggestions on Consolidating Achievements of Poverty Alleviation and Promoting Rural Revitalization

Abstract

After the elimination of absolute poverty by 2020 in China, consolidating the achievements of targeted poverty alleviation, reducing relative poverty, and promoting rural revitalization will become the key tasks of poverty alleviation and development in the future. This paper reviews the basic logic of the major policies of poverty alleviation and rural revitalization, analyzes the importance and necessity of consolidating the achievements of poverty alleviation in the new stage, and puts forward the main ideas and key contents of consolidating the achievements of poverty alleviation. It is suggested that we should continue to adhere to the idea of "precision" and establish the bottom line thinking of eliminating absolute poverty. We will consolidate the achievements we have made in poverty alleviation by promoting the institutionalization of poverty alleviation, ensuring the sustainable development of poverty alleviation industries, expanding channels for increasing the incomes of people lifted out of poverty, improving supporting facilities for the relocation of poor people from inhospitable areas, and raising the level of security for those in need. And expanding the achievements of poverty alleviation in line with the rural industry revitalization, living environment renovation, people's livelihood security improvement and rural civilization construction, so as to create a new pattern of coordinated progresses in poverty alleviation and rural revitalization.

Keywords

targeted poverty alleviation; consolidating the achievements of poverty alleviation; rural revitalization; policy suggestions

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Suggestions on Consolidating Achievements of Poverty Alleviation and Promoting Rural Revitalization

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Abstract: After the elimination of absolute poverty by 2020 in China, consolidating the achievements of targeted poverty alleviation, reducing relative poverty, and promoting rural revitalization will become the key tasks of development-oriented poverty alleviation in the future. This paper reviews the basic logic of the major policies of poverty alleviation and rural revitalization, analyzes the importance and necessity of consolidating the achievements of poverty alleviation in the new stage, and puts forward the main ideas and key contents of consolidating the achievements of poverty alleviation. It is suggested that we should continue to adhere to the idea of “precision” and establish the bottom line thinking of eliminating absolute poverty. We will consolidate the achievements we have made in poverty alleviation by promoting the institutionalization of poverty alleviation, ensuring the sustainable development of poverty alleviation industries, expanding channels for increasing the incomes of people lifted out of poverty, improving supporting facilities for the relocation of poor people from inhospitable areas, and raising the level of security for those in need. Expanding the achievements of poverty alleviation in line with the rural industry revitalization, living environment renovation, people’s livelihood security improvement and rural civilization construction are connected to create a new pattern of coordinated progress in poverty alleviation and rural revitalization.
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Ending poverty, improving people’s well-being, and realizing common prosperity are the essential requirements of socialism. Since 2013, China has creatively implemented major policies for targeted poverty alleviation and eradication to fight against poverty, achieving remarkable achievements. The number of impoverished people living under the current poverty line fell to 5.51 million at the end of 2019 from 98.99 million at the end of 2012. The poverty headcount ratio dropped to 0.6% from 10.2% during the period, and the poverty population decreased by more than 10 million every year^[1]. As of May 2019, 780 of the 832 impoverished counties in China had been removed from the poverty list, with regional overall poverty being basically eradicated. Under the current standard, China will eradicate extreme poverty for all rural people affected and all the impoverished counties will be shaken off poverty by the end 2020. In 2017, China proposed the implementation of the rural revitalization strategy. In accordance with the general requirements of “thriving businesses, pleasant living environment, social etiquette and civility, effective governance, and prosperity,” it will comprehensively promote rural revitalization and basically realize the modernization of agriculture and rural areas by 2035. At the end of 2020, the poverty alleviation will be successfully

completed. Rural revitalization has been fully launched and agricultural and rural development will enter a new stage of realizing modernization from the stage of building a moderately prosperous society in all respects. In this new stage, there are still some weak links in poverty alleviation. Relative poverty will continue to exist for a long time and the foundation of rural revitalization is not solid yet^[2,3]. Therefore, consolidating the achievements of poverty alleviation, alleviating relative poverty, and promoting rural revitalization are still the core tasks of future development-oriented poverty alleviation as well as the agricultural and rural work.

In China, most of the poverty areas are concentrated in ecologically fragile areas, traditional agricultural areas, and border minority areas. Consolidating the achievements of poverty alleviation will help further promote ecological security, ensure food security and reinforce stability and harmony in the border areas of China. In March 2020, at the symposium on securing a decisive victory in poverty alleviation, President Xi Jinping called for further efforts to reduce poverty via multiple measures and keep the poverty alleviation policies on stable footing so as to give the people out of poverty a leg up to get them going. Through combing the basic logic of the major strategies for poverty alleviation and

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rural revitalization, analyzing the difficulties and key points, and discussing the main ideas and key contents of consolidating the achievements of poverty alleviation in the new stage, this paper proposes targeted strategies to consolidate the achievements of poverty alleviation and promote rural revitalization. It provides policy reference for the implementation of the development-oriented poverty alleviation strategy and the rural revitalization strategy after 2020.

1 Basic logic of poverty alleviation and rural revitalization

Poverty and rural decline are the major difficulties of global sustainable development. Eliminating poverty and promoting rural revitalization are the key tasks of sustainable development in countries and regions around the world^[4,5]. With the rapid advancement of industrialization and urbanization, the widening gap between urban and rural areas, the intensified environmental pollution, and insufficient development potential have become major challenges facing developing countries. Implementing the policies of poverty reduction and promoting rural development to narrow the gap between urban and rural areas are important measures to bypass the “middle income trap.” China has implemented poverty alleviation strategy and rural revitalization strategy in time to achieve the Two Centenary Goals and finally realize common prosperity. From the perspective of development economics, the poverty alleviation strategy and the rural revitalization strategy derive from the same origin, with the same theoretical basis, the consistent goals and guidance, and the continuous policy contents. Consolidating the achievements of poverty alleviation is the basic content of rural revitalization and development. Rural revitalization and development are the fundamental purposes of consolidating the achievements of poverty alleviation.

1.1 Same theoretical basis

Development economics believes that unbalanced development is an objective reality. The classic unbalanced development theories include two kinds: ① The unbalanced development is a vicious cycle of economic development. Representative theories include the vicious circle of poverty proposed by Nurkse and the theory of cumulative causation put forward by Myrdal. They emphasize that the government needs to adopt strong policies and institutional measures to promote balanced economic development. ② Superior funds and resources should be given to the priority development of certain departments or regions, which will promote the development of backward departments or regions. Representative theories include the polarization and trickle-down

effect theory proposed by Hirschman, and the growth pole theory proposed by French economist Perroux. They believe that in the process of unbalanced development, the flow of factors, industrial transfer and economic diffusion will “trickle down” and “radiate” backward areas or people, so as to achieve the balanced development ultimately.

The concept and connotation of poverty have changed from one-dimensional difficulty of material life to multi-dimensional ability poverty. Anti-poverty strategies put more emphasis on the ability improvement of the poverty population and the impetus from regional economic growth. In the fight against poverty, targeted poverty alleviation and elimination are the fundamental principles and every impoverished household and individual must be taken seriously. We should give priority to assuring the “two assurances and three guarantees”^①. Furthermore, we should pay more attention to industrial development, social security, ecological construction, and infrastructure improvement in poverty areas. The ultimate goal of poverty alleviation is to promote balanced development^[6]. Rural revitalization should adhere to the development of agriculture and rural areas and stimulate rural endogenous power through policy incentives and factor input to promote urban-rural integration, whose fundamental goal is also the balanced development of urban and rural areas^[7]. Therefore, poverty alleviation strategy and rural revitalization strategy have the same theoretical basis, and both focus on solving the problem of unbalanced and inadequate development.

1.2 Consistent goals and guidance

Poverty alleviation and rural revitalization are national strategies implemented to realize the Two Centenary Goals. The former is to eliminate absolute poverty and build a moderately prosperous society in all respects to achieve the first centenary goal by 2020. The latter is to alleviate relative poverty and achieve common prosperity with a view to building China into a great modern socialist country by the middle of the 21st century. Poverty alleviation and rural revitalization have consistent goals and guidance, both aiming at solving the main contradictions of unbalanced and inadequate development so as to achieve common prosperity ultimately. The short-term goal of poverty alleviation is to lift all poverty populations under current poverty standards out of poverty by 2020, achieve the goal of “two assurances and three guarantees,” and eradicate regional overall poverty. After 2020, on the basis of eliminating absolute poverty, China will consolidate the existing achievements in poverty alleviation, prevent relapses into poverty, ensuring long-term stable alleviation of poverty in the long-term^[8]. The short-term goal of rural revitalization is to basically form an institutional framework and policy system for rural revitalization by 2020 and

① “Two assurances and three guarantees” refer to assuring that rural poor people are free from worries over food and clothing and have access to compulsory education, basic medical services, and safe housing.

basically realize agricultural and rural modernization by 2035. By 2050, overall rural revitalization and the goals of “strong agriculture, beautiful countryside, and well-off farmers” will be fully realized^[9]. Therefore, the poverty alleviation strategy and rural revitalization strategy are an organic and unified whole from the perspective of the goal. Consolidating the achievements of poverty alleviation is conducive to better promoting rural revitalization and development.

1.3 Continuous policy contents

The policy contents of the poverty alleviation strategy and rural revitalization strategy are continuous. For poverty alleviation, it is emphasized that “five batches” of major projects and project measures should be adopted to accurately solve the problem of “two assurances and three guarantees” for poverty population, increase the per capita income of farmers, improve basic public services in poverty areas, and solve regional poverty as a whole. The “five batches” aim to eliminate poverty through fostering distinctive industries, advancing relocation, carrying out ecological restoration, strengthening education and improving social security, which are the key tasks of poverty alleviation^[9]. For rural revitalization, it highlights to promote and coordinated economic, political, cultural, social, ecological, and party advancement in rural areas in compliance with the general requirements of “thriving businesses, pleasant living environment, social etiquette and civility, effective governance, and prosperity.” National Rural Vitalization Strategic Plan (2018–2022) has listed targeted poverty alleviation and consolidating the achievements of poverty alleviation as key tasks. Therefore, the policy contents of poverty alleviation and rural revitalization are continuous in terms of rural industrial development, construction of living environment, basic public services, and ecological protection.

2 Importance and necessity of consolidating the achievements of poverty alleviation

Poverty issues are complex, systemic, and repetitive. China has achieved a decisive victory in the fight against poverty. However, judging from the law of the occurrence and development of poverty, the development stage of China, and the practical experience of global poverty reduction, the risk of relapses into poverty is still very high and the relative poverty will exist for a long time. Since the task of poverty alleviation in the targeted poverty alleviation period after 2020 is still very arduous, long-term preparations must be made to consolidate the achievements of poverty alleviation. From the perspective of the situation of poverty alleviation, there are still weak links in eliminating poverty through industrial development and employment, advancing relocation and basic assurance. China needs to take multiple measures to consolidate the achievements of poverty alleviation and prevent relapses into poverty.

2.1 Importance and arduousness of consolidating the achievements of poverty alleviation

(1) Recognizing the importance of consolidating the achievements of poverty alleviation from the essential attributes of socialism. Ending poverty, improving people’s well-being, and realizing common prosperity are the essential requirements of socialism, and also the original aspiration and the founding mission of the Communist Party of China. Since the beginning of reform and opening up in 1978, the Chinese government has always made poverty alleviation its top priority and conducted innovative measures such as development-oriented and targeted poverty alleviation driven by rural reform. China has completed poverty alleviation tasks in different periods and basically eliminated absolute poverty. Consolidating the achievements of poverty alleviation, preventing the relapses into poverty and new poverty cases, and maintaining the bottom line of absolute poverty are the fundamental guarantee for building a moderately prosperous society in all respects and the basic prerequisite for achieving common prosperity.

(2) Recognizing the arduousness of consolidating the achievements of poverty alleviation from the general law of poverty occurrence and development. The poverty problem has a “vicious circle” and the characteristic of intergenerational transmission in the family. The poverty population is affected by such factors as the local natural ecological environment, regional development conditions, and concepts, and it is difficult to eliminate poverty-causing factors in the short term. As a result, it may relapse into poverty under economic fluctuations, disasters and other uncertain factors. Short-term targeted assistance measures can effectively solve the problem of “two assurances and three guarantees,” since parts of poor households are backward in ideology and still have the ideas of “waiting for state funds, depending on financial appropriation from the higher level and asking for poverty alleviation funds.” However, maintaining the stability of poverty alleviation and the continuity of income growth is still challenging work.

(3) Recognizing the long-term nature of consolidating the achievements of poverty alleviation from the basic national conditions. As the largest developing country in the world, China is still in the primary stage of socialism and has a large population base. The main contradiction in China at present and for a long period of time in the future is the contradiction between the people’s growing expectation for a better life and the unbalanced and inadequate development. Therefore, for a long period of time in the future, there still exist the problems of unbalanced regional development, unbalanced development between the urban and rural, and inadequate rural development. This determines that the problem of relative poverty will continue to exist for a long time, and there is still a greater risk of the poor populations relapsing into poverty in some areas. According to comprehensive calculations, there are 716 counties that still need continued support from the

national poverty reduction policy after 2020, reckoned by Liu Yansui' research team from the Chinese Academy of Sciences. These counties are mainly distributed in the alpine region of the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau, the three-terrain transition zone, and the southwest karst region, with relatively weak development ability^[10].

2.2 Main weak links in the achievements of poverty alleviation

(1) The sustainable development of poverty alleviation industries. At present, significant achievements have been made in industrial poverty alleviation, whereas the following four key problems still exist: ① The innovation capabilities of poverty alleviation industries are insufficient. Most poverty alleviation industries are at a low-end, with single industrial and product structure due to the weak economic foundation, the insufficient investment in technological innovation, and lack of talents, technology and innovation environment in poverty-stricken areas. Therefore, insufficient innovation and development ability has become conspicuous, placing the industries at a disadvantage in industrial competition. ② The phenomenon of industry homogeneity is prominent. The survey found that the developments of most poverty alleviation industries mainly rely on local characteristic agricultural and pasture resources to develop planting and breeding industries. However, the lack of overall planning and market analysis leads to similar industrial projects and homogenous industrial development. In recent years, it is common to see low prices and slow sales of characteristic agricultural products in poverty areas, which are not conducive to the sustainable development of poverty alleviation industries. ③ Poverty alleviation industries are highly dependent on policy resources. The policy support of credit, land, tax as well as the financial and technical support including social poverty alleviation and collaboration between the eastern and western regions is the guarantee for the rise and development of poverty alleviation industries. At present, most poverty alleviation industries are still in the initial stage of development, future development of which still depends on policy support. ④ The market competitiveness of products is weak. In poverty areas, it is difficult to form large-scale industrial agglomeration, as the basic supporting facilities related to transportation and environmental protection are poor and the costs of production, transportation and sales of poverty alleviation industries are high. The sales of some enterprise products mainly rely on the promotion of poverty relief cadres, purchasing by acquaintances and government procurement, with a low degree of product marketization and weak competitiveness. A complete market system has not yet been formed.

(2) The income stability of poverty-alleviation households. The implementation of the targeted poverty alleviation policy has promoted the steady and continuous growth of the per capita disposable income of registered households in

poverty areas^[11]. In 2019, the growth rate of the per capita disposable income of registered households was 3.5 percentage point higher than that of the per capita disposable income of the national farmer. However, there are still the following weak links: ① The overall income of poverty-alleviation households is still low. According to survey data from the group of national per capita income, 90.42% of the poverty population belonged to the low-income group in 2018, and the income of about 10% of the poverty-alleviation households just exceeded the current poverty line, with per capita annual income less than CNY 5 000. ② From the perspective of the employment stability, poverty-alleviation households have received little education, with low competitiveness in the labor market, whose income is mainly from migrant work and can be impacted first by changes in the economic situations or emergencies. ③ With respect to the income structure of poverty-alleviation households, the proportion of income from policy subsidies is relatively high. In some provinces, the proportion of income from transfer payments exceeds 30%. The continuity and stability of policy subsidies have a great impact on the income stability of poverty-alleviation households.

(3) The continuity of poverty alleviation through relocation. Advancing relocation for poverty alleviation is the key task of targeted poverty alleviation, with the largest investment scale and the most elements involved. According to the planning goal of the National 13th Five-Year Plan for Planned Relocations of Poor Populations from Inhospitable Areas, a total of 10 million registered poor people will be relocated by the end of 2020. The relocation of poor people from inhospitable areas is a systematic project involving industrial cultivation, ecological restoration, and organizational reconstruction. With the heavy task of poverty alleviation and limited time, the following work of relocation still needs to be strengthened. ① Supporting infrastructure needs to be improved. In the relocation areas, the hardware facilities such as schools, health centers, and activity centers are well built. However, the software facilities such as teachers, medical staff, and cultural activities are insufficient. The relation between allocation and demand of public service facilities is unreasonable in some relocation areas without considering production methods, lifestyle, and customs. ② The industrial development is weak in relocation areas. Most industries are still in the initial stage, with single models, small scale, and poor ability to resist risks, needing to be consolidated and improved. Some relocation areas lack industrial facilities and need to be cultivated and supported further. ③ Most residents in the relocation areas come from different places or move into the new area as a whole. Some newly moved residents are deficient in a sense of belonging and inclusion and even have a desire to move back^[12]. Therefore, the construction of grassroots organizations and community work in the relocation areas needs to be strengthened urgently.

(4) The main part of the population lifted out of poverty remains vulnerable. According to the field research, although the poverty people have been lifted out of poverty, their vulnerability has not undergone a fundamental change, which is mainly manifested in the following four aspects: ① The education level of the poverty alleviation population is still low. Although targeted poverty alleviation has ensured all children of school age receive compulsory education, the education level of family labor has not changed significantly in the short term. ② The problem of aging of the poverty alleviation population is serious. With the development of urbanization and the low level of old-age security, poverty of the elderly is a relatively common phenomenon at present. After the people out of poverty enter the aging stage, the risk of relapsing into poverty is high. ③ Many people lift out of poverty suffer from chronic diseases. Field sampling surveys find that more than 20% of the poverty population in the Northwest and Northeast regions suffer from chronic diseases such as high blood pressure, cerebral thrombosis, and diabetes. ④ Some poverty-alleviation households still have the idea of “waiting for state funds, depending on financial appropriation from the higher level and asking for poverty alleviation funds” and their ideological poverty has not been lifted out.

(5) The risk of uncertainty in the external development environment has increased. As the downward pressure on the world economy continues to rise, trade protectionism led by the United States has become serious in recent years, and the risk of uncertainty of the future international situation will affect the agricultural and rural economic development in China. The pandemic COVID-19 has not yet been effectively controlled, and its impact on the global economy will continue to increase in the future. Global climate change has intensified and the risks of natural disasters such as droughts and floods have increased, which have a particularly strong impact on the poverty areas with fragile ecological environment. Therefore, the external uncertainties faced by the consolidation of the achievements of poverty alleviation and the promotion of rural revitalization and development have risen.

3 Basic ideas and key contents of consolidating the achievements of poverty alleviation

The priorities of development-oriented poverty alleviation after 2020 are consolidating the achievements of poverty alleviation, establishing a system and mechanism to eliminate relative poverty, and supporting rural revitalization and development. According to the basic logical understanding of poverty alleviation and rural revitalization strategies as well as the analysis of the weak links in the achievements of poverty alleviation, this paper sorts out the basic ideas and key tasks for consolidating the poverty alleviation achievements in the new era and coordinates the promotion of

poverty alleviation consolidation and rural revitalization, so as to lay a firm foundation for basically realizing the second centenary goal of socialist modernization.

3.1 Basic ideas

(1) Adhering to the basic strategy of targeted poverty alleviation. Consolidating the achievements of poverty alleviation should adhere to the basic strategy of targeted poverty alleviation. Poverty targeting is an important direction of the world's poverty reduction theory in recent years and is also the focus of poverty reduction practice. Improving the accuracy of poverty targeting is conducive to improving the efficiency and effectiveness of poverty reduction. Consolidating the achievements of poverty alleviation should continue to target people at the margins of the poverty line and groups in special difficulties. People at risk of relapsing into poverty and the risk of new poverty cases should be monitored and identified to formulate targeted measures and consolidate the targeted poverty alleviation.

(2) Firmly adhering to the bottom line for eliminating absolute poverty. Preventing relapsing into poverty and eliminating absolute poverty are the key tasks of consolidating the achievements of poverty alleviation and the bottom line of development-oriented poverty alleviation after 2020. We need to adhere to the bottom line thinking of eliminating absolute poverty, focus on solving the weak links of the achievements of poverty alleviation, and maintain the bottom line of a moderately prosperous society in all respects, so as to lay a solid foundation for the revitalization and development of rural areas.

(3) Adhering to stable and continuous assistance policies. The stability and continuity of the assistance policies are an important foundation for consolidating the achievements of poverty alleviation. The stability of basic assistance policies should be adhered to and the continuity of assistance policies should be promoted by optimizing and adjusting assistance targets, integrating and upgrading assistance subjects, and innovating assistance models, so as to continuously improve and consolidate assistance effects.

(4) Promoting the integration of poverty alleviation consolidation and rural revitalization. China should regard consolidating the achievements of poverty alleviation as the basic contents of rural revitalization, and promoting rural revitalization is taken as the core aim of consolidating the achievements of poverty alleviation. We should realize the organic connection between the consolidation of poverty alleviation and the rural revitalization policies by unifying the guiding ideology and the main responsibilities, and coordinating the key tasks, so as to form an integrated and efficient rural governance system and scheme.

3.2 Key contents

(1) Improving the institutionalization of poverty alleviation and forming an institutional guarantee for consolidating

the achievements of poverty alleviation. ① The legal foundation for poverty alleviation work should be consolidated. Development-oriented poverty alleviation is a social system project with publicity, long-term nature, and political nature and needs to mobilize the forces of the whole society to participate in the project and coordinate the interests of multiple subjects. It is necessary to summarize the experience gained in development-based and targeted poverty alleviation to fix the main responsibilities, promotion mechanism, fund management, supervision and examination of poverty alleviation. Through national legislation, poverty alleviation should be raised to the legal level to strengthen and standardize the responsibilities of development-oriented poverty alleviation and ensure the basic rights to the survival and development of the relative poverty population. ② The management system of poverty alleviation assets should be set up and improved. For poverty alleviation assets such as infrastructure, public services, and industrial income formed by the investment of poverty alleviation funds in the process of development-oriented poverty alleviation, the asset management system should be established and improved to preserve or increase the value of poverty alleviation assets. Additionally, the pro-poor benefits of poverty alleviation assets should be improved to consolidate the achievements of poverty alleviation. ③ The dynamic monitoring and early warning systems of poverty should be established and improved. The poverty monitoring mechanism that combines top-to-bottom poverty identification and bottom-to-top declaration and registration should be improved. Risk warnings of poverty occurrence should be carried out regularly based on regional economic development trends, natural disaster risk assessments, and poverty monitoring of farmers to identify the poverty risk level in time. The causes of poverty and poverty-relapsing should be found to formulate the measures for preventing poverty-relapsing.

(2) Promoting the sustainable development of poverty alleviation industries and enhancing the pro-poor role of industrial poverty alleviation. ① Poverty alleviation through science and technology should be strengthened continually. We should increase investment in technology and talents, encourage scientific research institutions, universities, and large enterprises to establish long-term assistance and cooperation mechanisms with impoverished areas so as to improve innovation capabilities of poverty alleviation industries. ② Poverty alleviation industry chain should be cultivated and expanded. We should boost the development efficiency and benefits of poverty alleviation industries by extending the industrial chain to enrich product types and improving the interest linkage mechanism. ③ Support policies for poverty alleviation industries should be stabilized. China should formulate differentiated policies to continue to support the industry. For poverty alleviation enterprises with less policy dependence, supporting policies should be stopped in due course. For poverty alleviation enterprises that

are still in their initial stage, with strong policy dependence and good development prospects, support policies should be maintained or strengthened. ④ The standardization construction and brand building of poverty alleviation industries should be supported to improve the product market competitiveness of these industries.

(3) Consolidating and expanding the channels for increasing the incomes of the population lifted out of poverty and steadily increasing their income level. ① The level of policy subsidies for poverty-alleviation households such as public welfare position, returning farmland to forest subsidies and subsistence allowances should be stabilized to ensure that the income of rural households from policy subsidies does not decrease. ② Targeted employment support policies should be formulated continually to expand the employment channels of farmers and effectively ensure the continuous and stable growth of the income of poverty-alleviation households. ③ Employment training should be strengthened continually to enhance skill levels and improve the ability of the labor force to deal with market risks.

(4) Strengthening the supporting construction of poverty alleviation through relocation, and promoting the relocated people to live and work in peace and contentment. ① The supporting construction of public services in the relocation areas should be improved. After the relocation of the poverty alleviation, we should strengthen the construction of public service software and improve the level of teachers, medical staff, and community administrators. According to the production modes and living habits of residents in the relocation areas, personalized supporting facilities of public service should be improved as well as the level and quality of community public services. ② The industrial supporting and employment placement should be guaranteed in the relocation areas, namely increasing support policies for industrial development in the relocation areas, adding employment positions by all manner of means, in order to ensure stable employment for the relocated residents. ③ The demolition, reclamation, and ecological restoration of the out-migrating places should be strengthened to effectively protect their ecological environment. ④ The in-depth organization construction of the relocation areas should be carried out and the community management system should be improved, so as to enrich the cultural life of the community, integrate the relocated farmers with the local residents, and finally form a stable social structure.

(5) Improving the level of security. ① In response to the poverty problem of the aging population in rural areas, the new old-age insurance system for rural residents should be gradually improved to effectively prevent the rural population from getting into poverty or relapsing into poverty due to old age. ② The connection mechanism between the subsistence allowances and the poverty alleviation policies should be strengthened to form a new mechanism of the two

policies, with consistent standards, shared data, and collaborative work. We should ensure that the subsistence allowances and the poverty alleviation policies can be provided for all qualified poor households and increase the level of rural subsistence allowances gradually. At the same time, the standardized dynamic adjustment mechanism should be improved to disqualify the ineligible farmers and optimize the allocation efficiency of subsistence allowances and poverty alleviation funds. ③ Regarding the poverty of registered households caused by disability or diseases, consolidating the achievements of poverty alleviation should take people with serious diseases or chronic diseases and the physically challenged as key monitoring objects to improve the medical assistance and the serious disease insurance scheme. The medical assistance fund should be gradually increased based on the price index to ensure a stable income and timely assistance.

4 Consolidating the achievements of poverty alleviation and promoting rural revitalization

Poverty alleviation and rural revitalization are two major strategies with the same theoretical basis, goal and guidance, and continuous contents. Consolidating the achievements of poverty alleviation is the basic prerequisite for rural revitalization, and rural revitalization is the fundamental guarantee for consolidating the achievements of poverty alleviation. We should combine them organically and rationally allocate rural development resources by making up for shortcomings, strengthening advantages, and promoting development so as to promote rural revitalization in all respects (Fig. 1).

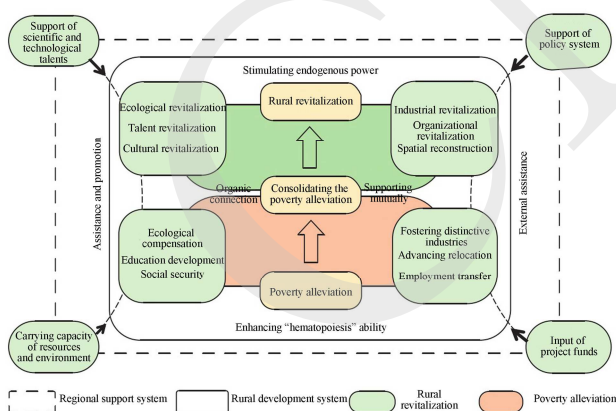


Fig. 1 Connection framework of poverty alleviation and rural revitalization strategies

4.1 Promoting the connection mechanism of poverty alleviation consolidation and rural revitalization

(1) The connection of primary responsibilities. Giving full play to political and institutional advantages, we should

adhere to the primary responsibilities of the party and government in consolidating the achievements of poverty alleviation and rural revitalization. In addition, we should improve the working mechanism, with the central government in charge of the overall arrangement, the province taking the overall responsibility, and the cities and counties to implement the mechanism. The joint office mechanism of poverty alleviation development agencies and rural revitalization leading agencies should be piloted to establish a unified mechanism of leadership decision-making and promote project management, fund use, supervision, and examination of poverty alleviation and rural revitalization, thereby forming a joint force for villages to make up for shortcomings and promote development.

(2) The connection of support systems. The connection of external support systems such as scientific and technological investment, institutional reforms, resource ecology, and project funds for poverty alleviation and rural revitalization should be promoted to establish a unified allocation system of resources, integrate various resources and optimize assistance measures and factor input mechanisms. Accordingly, a joint force can be formed for poverty alleviation consolidation and rural revitalization and development, enhancing the “hematopoiesis” function of poverty areas and stimulating the endogenous power of rural development.

(3) The connection of key tasks. The key tasks of consolidating the achievements of poverty alleviation are to prevent poverty alleviation households from relapsing into poverty and to ensure the bottom line of rural revitalization and development. The key tasks of rural revitalization are to give play to the advantages of rural resources and promote agricultural and rural modernization. Overall consideration should be given to “make up for the weaknesses” by consolidating the achievements of poverty alleviation and “bring out the strengths” through rural revitalization to form a sustainable rural development model.

4.2 Consolidating the achievements of poverty alleviation and promoting rural revitalization in all aspects

(1) Promoting the revitalization of rural industries. We should incorporate relevant poverty alleviation industries into the rural revitalization development plan, continue to cultivate and support poverty alleviation enterprises that promote employment and increase the incomes of farmers. The integrated development of characteristic agriculture and industry as well as tourism in poverty areas should be accelerated. Supporting the development of poverty alleviation industries continues to be the main driving force for rural revitalization and development.

(2) Promoting rural ecological revitalization. Equal emphasis should be put on development-oriented poverty alleviation and ecological protection, and major ecological projects should be given top priority to poverty areas with the fragile ecological environment. We should improve the

compensation mechanisms for ecological conservation, increase ecological compensation, and develop ecological industries, forming a good situation that poverty alleviation and green and high-quality development support each other in rural areas. Poverty alleviation through relocation, the rebuilding of dilapidated rural houses, and rural road construction should be included in the development plan of rural revitalization. The supporting construction in relocation area of poverty alleviation should be improved as well as the renovation of dilapidated houses and the standard of the village road, so as to build new rural areas with ecological livability.

(3) Promoting rural talent revitalization. Through consolidating the achievements of poverty alleviation, we should stabilize the existing team of assistance talents and improve the long-term assistance and incentive mechanism, which helps to retain the assistance talents who are willing to work in rural areas and contribute to the rural revitalization. Vocational education and various skills training of family labor should be continuously promoted to cultivate leaders in industrial development in impoverished villages. The rural talent introduction mechanism should be established and improved to encourage more college graduates to innovate and start businesses in rural areas and attract successful people to their hometowns to develop characteristic industries.

(4) Promoting rural cultural revitalization. The efforts on mental and intelligence alleviation should be enhanced to improve the ideology of the poverty population and fully stimulate their enthusiasm. We need to broaden the horizons of the people and train their thinking ability of innovation and business, so as to improve their spirit and cultural standard overall and lay the foundation for the establishment of a good new style of rural civilization. The needs of the rural population for a better cultural life should be met by fully exploring the excellent traditional and characteristic culture of villages, improving the adaptability of cultural construction and services. Through public cultural activities, the cohesion and identity can be enhanced, thereby effectively exerting the influence and drive force of culture on the revitalization and development of the villages.

(5) Promoting the rural organizational revitalization. The rural grassroots organizations are the direct leadership and strong fortress for consolidating the achievements of poverty alleviation and implementing the rural revitalization strategy. Focusing on the first secretaries residing in impoverished villages in impoverished villages, we should promote the connection of poverty alleviation with rural revitalization. Moreover, the selection mechanism and the system of working in villages of the first secretaries residing in impoverished villages, the long-term positive and negative incentive systems for selecting cadres, and the exit mechanism for the heads of rural grassroots organizations should be improved to strengthen the construction of the team of first secretaries residing in impoverished villages. The working mechanism of the party chiefs at five levels that connect

poverty alleviation and rural revitalization should be improved to consolidate the responsibilities of grassroots organizations. Farmer cooperative organizations should be developed to realize the organic connection between small farmers and big markets and give full play to the link role of cooperative organizations.

5 Conclusion

Consolidating the achievements of poverty alleviation and promoting rural revitalization are important contents of modernization construction of China, which should be combined with new urbanization and regional development to promote the urban and rural development and the regional coordinated development. For example, as for major regional development policies such as the construction of the Yangtze River Economic Belt, the ecological protection and high-quality development of the Yellow River Basin, and the new round of the large-scale development in the western region, we should coordinate regional development and urbanization with the consolidation of poverty alleviation achievements and the promotion of rural revitalization. The regional economy should be developed and more jobs should be created through the promotion of new urbanization and regional development, laying a solid foundation for consolidating the achievements of poverty alleviation and promoting rural revitalization. At the same time, consolidating the achievements of poverty alleviation and the rural revitalization strategy can make a huge contribution to stimulating domestic demand, expanding the market, and promoting the national economical circle.

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