

Research on the Education and Training of New Vocational Farmers in the Context of Rural Revitalization

Yuting Ren*

College of Marxism, Qinghai University, Xining 810016, Qinghai Province, China

*Corresponding author: Yuting Ren, 18390242022@163.com

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Abstract: The education and training of new professional farmers is an important driver of the implementation of the rural revitalization as socialism with Chinese characteristics ushers in a new era. The implementation of the rural revitalization strategy requires that new farmers in the new era of socialism with Chinese characteristics must be professionals with scientific and cultural qualities, who master modern agricultural production skills and possess certain business management abilities. The transformation of agricultural practitioners from farmers to professional farmers does not happen overnight; they must go through the process of vocational education and training. In recent years, China has accelerated the pace of education and training of new types of professional farmers, which is of great significance to the implementation of the rural revitalization strategy in China.

Keywords: Rural revitalization; New type of professional farmers; Education and training paths

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1. Thousands of new professional farmers are needed for rural revitalization

Over the past forty years of reform and opening up, China's agriculture has changed beyond recognition, but this field still has a shortcoming, that is the weakening of the main body of agricultural production. At present, the rural workforce in most areas of China is in a "fault line" crisis, with an aging rural population, a serious loss of rural population and a low quality of the existing rural workforce becoming inevitable realities that hinder rural development ^[1]. In the face of this grim reality, the Party Central Committee has made timely strategic plans to educate and train new professional farmers, and has formulated corresponding policies and measures to solve the problems of "who should farm the land" and "how to farm the land."

1.1. Rural revitalization needs new professional farmers

The implementation of the rural revitalization strategy is a process of applying modern science and technology and scientific management methods to agricultural production practices ^[2]. The application of agricultural mechanization, agricultural industrialization, agricultural science and technology, agricultural informatization and high-tech and intelligent control in agricultural production requires modern, new professional farmers who "know management and technology." This is to ensure that they can be the representatives of advanced productive forces and can adapt to the new and sophisticated requirements of modern agricultural production ^[3]. At the same time, new farmers must be highly educated and ethical, with

a good understanding of law and a spirit of innovation, and be able to contribute to the creation of a harmonious society in the same way as other professionals.

1.2. New professional farmers needed for ecological civilization and green development

Green is the symbol of nature, the embodiment of vitality and health of life. Green implies a virtuous cycle of economy and ecology, a harmonious balance between human and nature, and a beautiful vision of the future of mankind. The concept of green development is a new concept that combines the ecological theory of Marxism with the development characteristics of today's times, and integrates Eastern civilization; it is a new development concept that integrates the construction of ecological civilization with all aspects and the whole process of economic, political, cultural and social construction. The concept of green development reflects the Communist Party of China's scientific grasp of the characteristics of economic and social development ^[4]. Green development means developing environment-friendly industries, reducing energy and material consumption, protecting and restoring the ecological environment, developing a circular economy and low-carbon technologies, and harmonizing economic and social development with nature. Green development in agriculture means meeting the needs of the present generation for agricultural products without harming the interests of future generations, and protecting the ecological resources on which people depend to maintain a virtuous cycle so that future generations can use them in a sustainable way. Sustainable agricultural development is not simply an internal issue of agricultural production, but also involves the primary, secondary and tertiary industries and the relationship between them. It requires both advanced productive forces and advanced production relations that are compatible with them; it includes such economic factors as "production, technology, resources, environment, ecology and population," as well as "market, distribution, consumption, life, and social welfare." ^[5] It contains both economic factors such as "production, technology, resources, environment, ecology and population" and social and ideological factors such as "market, distribution, consumption, life, society and related policies, laws, regulations, management and concepts." Faced with such a complex systemic project in sustainable agricultural development, only new professional farmers can actively change their mindset, improve their understanding of sustainable agricultural development, understand the relevant policies and laws on ecological and environmental protection, use the advanced agricultural production technology and advanced management experience to seek new directions for modern agricultural development, and become an impetus to promoting sustainable agricultural development. They will become an important force for sustainable agricultural development.

1.3. New agricultural business system needs new professional farmers

The reform of the agricultural production and operation system needs to focus on building a new agricultural operation system that combines intensification, specialization, organization and socialization, further liberating and developing the social productive forces in rural areas, and consolidating and developing a conducive environment for agriculture and rural areas. The new agricultural management system is an objective requirement for the development of modern agriculture, and is an innovation in the way agricultural operations are organized in the process of leapfrogging from traditional agriculture to modern agriculture. It is also an innovation in the two-tier management mechanism based on family contract management and combined with unified division ^[6]. The new agricultural management system provides effective measures to solve the apparent problems that restrict the development of modern agriculture, such as the "one-family" small-scale operation, sloppy operation, low organization and inadequate social service system in traditional agriculture in the past. Large professional households, family farms, professional cooperatives, agricultural enterprises, socialized agricultural service organizations and other new agricultural business entities are the organizational vehicles of new professional farmers, representing the

backbone of the new professional farmers. Therefore, to build a new type of agricultural management system, it is necessary to start with education and training of new professional farmers, to cultivate new professional farmers who know technology, can manage, and have modern ideas, and are the main force of education and training of new agricultural management system.

1.4. A new type of professional farmer is needed to promote “urban-rural integration”

The difference between new professional farmers and professional farmers is that they are “new.” Firstly, it is a strong sense of the times, and secondly, it highlights the characteristics of China’s modern professional farmers. The state’s support for the agricultural industry, the protection of farmers’ rights and interests, and the management of the rural environment, from the reform of institutional mechanisms to the implementation of policies and measures, have contributed to unprecedented changes in the education level, knowledge structure, ideology, working ability, economic output and national treatment in various aspects, such as pensions, education, medical care, transport, water supply and electricity supply, and the gap between them and urban residents or other industries ^[7]. The gap between them and urban residents or other occupations is gradually narrowing. The emergence of new professional farmers will not only “narrow” the geographical distance between urban and rural areas, but also minimize the spatial differences between urban and rural areas, which will have a countervailing effect on the elimination of the dualistic economic structure between urban and rural areas.

2. Principles to be grasped for the education and training of new vocational farmers in the context of rural revitalization

The education and training of new professional farmers is a long-term task, and the resources available for this purpose are relatively insufficient, so a sustainable system should be established for the education and training of new professional farmers. At present, the transformation of the status of farmers in China has just begun, and the education and training of new professional farmers is still in its infancy. The effective way to change this situation is to provide farmers with the necessary vocational guidance, so that they can change from “being” trained to “wanting” to be trained, and to make use of various media, under the leadership of governments at all levels, to widely publicize and explain the relevant vocational knowledge of new professional farmers and the significance and importance of their training ^[8], so that the cultivation of new professional farmers can take root in people’s minds.

Firstly, the teachers who educate and train new professional farmers should establish the awareness of wisdom to get rich in the minds of farmers, make them attach importance to the learning of agricultural technical skills knowledge in their minds and increase the publicity, which not only requires pushing theoretical education into practice, but also avoiding over-emphasis on theory that neglects practical application. Secondly, it is crucial to popularize team building. It is necessary to constantly improve the theoretical and practical levels of the teaching staff of vocational skills education for new professional farmers in China, actively absorb talents and cultivate a high-level backbone team with a strong political stance, deep theoretical and practical background, and a clear understanding of the real-life problems that exist in the education process for new professional farmers ^[9]. Once again, institutionalization is needed to establish a multi-level, multi-format, all-volunteer model for the popularization of agricultural technical and skills knowledge in the vast rural areas. This requires not only the establishment of guarantee mechanisms, such as financial, venue, time and media support, but also the construction of advanced positions and education platforms for vocational skills. Fourthly, it is necessary to strengthen the construction of a learning society in the vast majority of China’s rural areas, and to form a learning culture among the vast new generation of farmers about agricultural technical knowledge and skills knowledge, so that everyone wants to learn and everyone loves to learn in order to encourage the vast majority of farmers

to take on learning of agricultural knowledge skills and technology. Finally, it is also necessary to strengthen the management of the popularization of agricultural technical knowledge and skills for new professional farmers. The responsibilities of the various units, departments and staff involved in the education and training of new professional farmers must be clearly defined, and certain rewards and punishments should be adopted for their effectiveness, so as to motivate them to take up their responsibilities and treat the popularization of education for professional farmers seriously.

It is precisely for this reason that, in the principle of sustainability, we must also grasp the principle of inheritance, which means that in the process of education and training of new professional farmers, we should absorb and learn from the excellent foreign advanced experience in agricultural technology and agricultural knowledge, and inherit and learn from the successful experience of education and training of professional farmers in agriculture at home and abroad. In the process of inheriting the traditional yet advanced experience in farmer training, we should take a critical approach to inherit China's excellent traditional farmer training experience, and through processing and innovation, we should nurture China's new farmers and develop new form of agriculture with both national characteristics and contemporary flavor^[10]. In the age of information explosion, especially with the emergence of internet, new professional farmers can access all kinds of information any time through the internet, and the information content is characterized by openness, uncontrollability and virtualness. The education and training space for today's professional farmers is no longer a relatively closed classroom education, but an open education environment where economic, political and cultural aspects are in line with international standards. Today's education targets are also no longer old farmers who are taught using single channel; the new farmers can now access a wide range of information sources and more complex ideologies. This determines that in ideological education, new professional farmers must have a broad vision and an open mind, and be able to face and absorb outstanding achievements and progressive concepts of human civilization, respectively, with a broad-mindedness. This includes drawing upon the successful experiences of professional farmer education in other countries in the world, such as the experiences of the United States, Russia, Britain, Japan and Singapore, etc., to promote the development of new professional farmers with an open consciousness and spirit. The development of education and training for new types of farmers is promoted with an open awareness and spirit.

The principle of sustainability refers to the need to ensure the regularity and permanence of skills and education for new professional farmers. China's theoretical education system is still imperfect, and the overall mastery of contemporary agricultural science and technology knowledge and skills by the majority of farmers is still not high. Under such circumstances, it is important to realize the popularization and institutionalization of contemporary knowledge and skills education in agricultural science and technology from a realistic perspective, and to promote the sustainable development of theoretical education.

The principle of dynamism means that the process of educating farmers in new vocational skills should be kept "moving." Only by making contemporary knowledge and skills in agricultural science and technology dynamic, vivid, concrete, realistic and intimate can we achieve good results in the vocational education of farmers. As farmers are being educated to become new professional farmers, their mindset is changing every day, which requires us to take a developing vision and thinking to educate farmers on scientific and technological knowledge and skills, in order to achieve better educational results in the vocational training of farmers.

In conclusion, the achievement of the ambitious goal of implementing the rural revitalization strategy in the new era of socialism with Chinese characteristics cannot be achieved without millions of new professional farmers, and qualified professional farmers have to be produced by education and training. The endogenous impetus to the professional transformation of farmers is to resolve the contradiction between the growing needs of China's farmers for a better life and the unbalanced and inadequate

development in the new era. In the new era of socialism with Chinese characteristics, the tendency for farmers to become a profession has become clear, and the transformation of traditional farmers into professional farmers has become inevitable. Of course, the education and training of new types of professional farmers can never be completed overnight. Governments at all levels should take measures to change the current situation in which rural farmers find it difficult to receive education as soon as possible, and develop a set of mechanisms for rural education that are suitable for rural farmers to be “taught” and for teachers to “teach” new professional farmers.

Disclosure statement

The author declares no conflict of interest.

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