



## On the Objective System of Modern Peasant Household Cultivation Strategy

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### Abstract

This article analyses briefly the policy objective system of modern peasant household cultivation strategy in China, which the main objectives of the strategy are: adjusting the structure of peasant households, improving the peasant household ability, developing the rural human resource, etc. The capabilities of peasant household are as follow: the grain productivity, the market competition ability, the income-increasing ability, the investment ability, and the civilization construction ability. This article puts forward the objective system of modern peasant household cultivation strategy including 3 level-1 indexes, 8 level-2 indexes and 15 level-3 indexes.

**Keywords:** Modern peasant household, Structure of peasant households, Capacity of peasant household, Human resources development

Along with China's rural reform and development, the economic power of peasant households has been improved continuously. Lots of modern peasant households turn to town market to develop agricultural production, achieving the transformation and differentiation from traditional small peasant households. Modern peasant households, including specialty peasant households, commercial peasant households, and giant peasant households, are the active subjects of family contracted business and agricultural market that meet the requirements for developing modern agriculture. According to Hayami's (1998) opinion, there is no contradiction between the peasant household production in developing countries and the process of economic modernization. If only there is proper policy support, peasant households can also become one of the subjects in developing modern commercial and industrial economy. We should absorb the cultivation of modern peasant households into the development strategy of agriculture and countryside, considering China's present situation. By implementing the modern peasant household cultivation strategy, we can optimize the structure of peasant households, improve their capabilities, and achieve the exploration on rural human resources. Next, we analyze the strategic objectives of cultivating modern peasant households.

### 1. The objectives of adjusting the structure of peasant households under the market economy condition

According to Gladwin and Zabawa's (1986) opinion, the adjustment of peasant households' structure deserves more attention in discussing the agricultural policy. The structure of China peasant households has problems as follow. Specialized peasant households occupy a lower proportion. And small-scale and part-time peasant household group tends to be enlarged. The structure of peasant households can not meet the development of modern agriculture. In the process of training modern peasant households, we should adjust the structure of peasant households energetically, enlarging the proportion of specialized peasant households gradually, and controlling the proportion of small-scale and part-time peasant households. The specialized peasant households, as the dominant strength of peasant household group, should meet the development of economy market. Therefore, we can evaluate the structure of peasant households and adjust the effectiveness according to these proportions.

### 2. The objectives of modern peasant households' capability under the guidance of national strategy

To improve the capability of peasant households is the key to drive the development of agriculture and countryside. In recent years, China's strategies in fields of ensuring food safety, improving peasant income, and cultivating new peasants put forward objectives of improving peasant households' capability for constituting and implementing strategy of cultivating modern peasant households. The capability of peasant households includes individual ability and group ability. The former is the based of the later. And the later reflects the former and the structure of peasant households. In specific, the capability includes five aspects as follow.

(1) Improve peasant households' grain production ability stably. According to the "Eleventh Five-Year" program, the integrated production ability can reach 500,000,000 ton or so. Because China agriculture chiefly adopts the family-con-

tracted operation, the grain production ability of peasant households becomes the profound base for the national grain integrated production. As adjusting the structure of peasant households, local government should guarantee that a number of peasants are engaged in grain production and operation, and they can gain stable profits from grain production. At the same time, improve the production ability of peasants, training a large number of farming peasants who can influence and make more peasants produce grain.

(2) Improve modern peasants' market competence. To develop modern agriculture, it is a must to face fierce competition at home and abroad. Most peasant households are small-scale in China. Therefore, in order to improve the market competence, it is more important to improve the proportion of peasant households participating agriculture's industrial operation, specialty cooperative economic organization, and popularization of agricultural technology, making them exert active effects on modern agriculture. The objectives in this aspect can be evaluated by relevant ratios, quantities, and proportions.

(3) Improve modern peasants' ability of gaining profits. To increase peasants' income and shorten the income gap between citizens and peasants is a must for the coordinative and sustainable development of city and countryside. In order to increase the income of peasants, governments at different levels should provide policy support for peasants, improving their ability of gaining profits. As modern peasant households, family members should choose multiple jobs and family business should be engaged in multiple production, which are good for enlarging the income resources of peasants. The peasants' ability of gaining profits can be evaluated by the income per capita, and the proportion of family income to the total income.

(4) Improve modern peasants' ability of construction and investment. The construction of new rural countryside, no matter what it is to achieve production development or clean rural environment, has to depend on peasant households' investment and construction. Peasants' investment ability is affected by family deposit, rural credit condition, and agricultural investment projects. We should construct and perfect the rural financial service system, and the backup database of rural investment projects. Besides, we should provide with favorable policy for peasant households investing agriculture and rural small- and micro-projects. As a matter of fact, the investment ability of peasant households is not equal. The government should cultivate the peasants who have a strong consciousness of investment, which can encourage more people invest in more.

(5) Cultivate modern peasant households' ability of cultivating civilization. As the important subjects in rural countryside construction, peasant households should join in not only rural economy construction, but also rural social construction, cultural construction, and political construction, meeting the requirements of rural civilization and management democracy. We should take peasants' ability of cultivating civilization, especially their ability of constructing rural spiritual civilization and political civilization, as an important strategic objective of cultivating modern peasant households. Here, the participation of peasants in cultural and sports activities, spiritual civilization construction, and grass roots' democracy, can reflect peasants' ability of civilization construction.

### **3. The objectives of exploring rural human resource in the regional coordinative development**

To cultivate a number of modern peasant households based on present peasants is a complex and tough project in exploring rural human resources in a sense, because its core is to cultivate specialized human capital as soon as possible. We should solve problems in four aspects. Firstly, it is the problem of lower quality of rural people. In special, there are lots of people who can not understand literal words or merely recognize few words in countryside. It is urgent to change the present situation. Secondly, it is the unreasonable structure of rural people. For example, certain county may have too much old people. Or certain country may have more female than male. And rural labors' employment structure is single. Thirdly, the mid- and western regions do not possess sufficient human resources. Yong labors usually choose to work in big cities, what makes it more difficult to explore human resources in countryside. Fourthly, it is the poor education base. Few attentions are invested in education and human resources' exploration.

Because of the imbalance of regional development, the exploration of rural human resource should consider not only the regional cultivation of modern peasant households, but also the mutual influences between regions. We should insist in coordinative development. With this precondition, we can study and establish the objectives of rural human resource exploration. Explore, construct, and perfect the coordinative and cooperative mechanism for the exploration of rural human resources in different regions. Motivate all strengths in different social fields to support the exploration of rural human resources in undeveloped regions. Change the disadvantage position of undeveloped countryside in the flow of talents and the transfer of labors by directive policies and measures.

These objectives of cultivating modern peasant households mentioned above can form an index system (in Table 1), including three level-1 indexes, namely the structure of peasant households, the capability of peasant households, and the exploration of rural human resources, and eight level-2 indexes, and fifteen level-3 indexes, which can realize a complete objectives (indexes) system as much as possible. Concerning the objectives (indexes) system of cultivating modern peasant households, we should perform more practical tests, adjust and perfect its indexes in order to make it be used widely.

### **References**

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Table 1. The index system for the strategic objectives of cultivating modern peasant households in countryside.

Level-1 index	Level-2 index	Level-3 index	Unit
Peasant households' structure	Degree of multiple production	Proportion of peasant household who are engaged in multiple production to common peasant households	%
	Degree of specialized production	Proportion of specialized peasant households to common peasant households	%
Peasant households' capability	Ability of grain production	Per capita output of agriculture	Kg. per capita
	Ability of agricultural competence	Proportion of peasant households who participate industrialized agricultural production	%
		Number of peasants' specialized economic cooperative organization	Number
		The proportion of agricultural labors who take training courses	%
	Ability of increasing income	Average pure income of rural residents	Yuan
		Proportion of family income to total income	%
	Ability of investment	Total annual rural credit in countryside	10,000 Yuan
		Number of peasant households whose investment is more than 10,000 Yuan	Number
	Ability of cultivating civilization	Number of cultural and sports organizations in countryside per 10,000 residents	Number
		Average ratio of voting in county leader election	%
Human resources	Labor quality	Proportion of agricultural labors to rural labors	%
		Proportion of agricultural labors who have accepted mid-school education or higher education	%
		Average age of agricultural labors	Age