

Analysis on the Paths and Challenges of Rural Economic Structural Transformation

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ABSTRACT

The continuous change of social and economic structure makes the profound pressure of adjusting the agricultural production mode and rural industrial structure. The traditional agricultural production mode gradually develops to modernization, intensification and intelligence, and the rural economy gradually presents the characteristics of diversification. Although the rural economic transformation has huge potential, it faces lagging industrial structure adjustment, inadequate infrastructure construction, imbalance in labor transfer and other problems, which are resistant to the sustainable and healthy development of rural economy. Therefore, this paper discusses the paths and challenges of rural economic structural transformation, in order to provide theoretical support for promoting the sustainable development of rural economy and realizing the high-quality transformation of economy in China.

KEYWORDS

rural economy; structural transformation; transformation path

Rural economy has long only relied on agricultural industry. But with the in-depth development of globalization and informatization, the traditional agricultural economy has gradually exposed structural contradictions in response to modernization needs, market competition and environmental constraints, and the economic growth in rural areas has gradually transformed from traditional agriculture to industrialization and service industry. Changes in agricultural production methods, improvements in rural infrastructure, and labor mobility have all contributed to the economic transformation of rural areas. Therefore, this paper will explore the main paths of rural economic structural transformation, analyze the key challenges in the process, and propose effective optimization paths, aiming to provide new ideas for policy formulation.

1 The Main Paths of Rural Economic Structural Transformation

1.1 Promote the Modernization of Agricultural Industry

The modernization of the agricultural industry is a key part of rural economic structural transformation, which is mainly to improve the technological content of agricultural production and industrial added value, and then promote the development of agriculture towards high efficiency, intensification and green direction. Specifically, the realization of modern agriculture is inseparable from the extensive application of agricultural mechanization and intelligent technology. In the process of agricultural production, the popularization of precision agriculture and the application of unmanned production equipment have improved agricultural production efficiency and resource utilization, and through information means to accurately monitor the land, crop growing environment and climate change, agricultural production can be optimized, the waste of natural resources can be reduced, and the production costs can be lowered. At the same time, the modernization of agricultural industry also covers the extension and value enhancement of the industrial chain. The deep processing of agricultural products can increase the added value of agriculture, drive the development of the upstream and downstream industrial chain, and promote the diversified and high-quality development of the rural economy. In addition, it can promote the production of high-tech green agricultural products by optimizing the agricultural production structure, which is in line with the concept of green development, and can provide more high-quality and safe agricultural products for the market to meet consumers' demand for health and quality^[1].

1.2 Accelerate Industrialization and Urbanization

Accelerating the process of industrialization and urbanization is an important way to promote the rural economic structural transformation, which can promote the transformation of rural economy from traditional agricultural dependence to diversified and modern economic system through the deep adjustment of industrial structure and the optimization of spatial layout. On the one hand, under the leadership of manufacturing and modern service industries, rural industries are gradually getting rid of inefficient agricultural production methods and transforming into high value-added and technology-intensive industries. This process has created a large number of employment opportunities, and

absorbed a large number of rural labor force. Meanwhile, through the introduction of advanced production technology and management modes, it has improved the overall production efficiency, and promoted the structural upgrading of rural economy. On the other hand, with the improvement of the level of urbanization, infrastructure, public services, cultural education and other aspects in rural areas have been improved, and the economic model of urban-rural integration has gradually taken shape. In this process, rural areas are gradually been incorporated into the urban economic circle and industrial chain, and become the spatial carrier of urban expansion. Urbanization promotes the modernization of rural infrastructure, improves the transportation, information flow and resource sharing between urban and rural areas, enables rural areas to better access modern markets, and improves the efficiency of production and consumption ^[2].

1.3 Develop the Service Industry and Promote Rural Diversified Economy

The development of the service industry is an important driving force for the rural economic structural transformation, which can provide employment opportunities and income sources, and promote the upgrading of rural economy to a higher value-added direction. Specifically, with the rapid development of information technology and e-commerce, the connotation of rural service industry has undergone profound changes. From traditional basic services, such as retail and logistics, to emerging high-end services, such as finance, education, health, and cultural tourism, the development of rural service industry is not only relying on traditional business models, but also transforming to more innovative modern service industry.

With the support of the Internet and big data technology, agricultural informatization, agricultural product marketing, farmer skills training and other service fields in rural areas have gradually emerged, which has optimized the rural industrial chain, improved the efficiency of agricultural production, promoted the digital transformation of rural economy, and laid a foundation for the diversified development of rural economy.

2 The Challenges of Rural Economic Structural Transformation

2.1 Obstacles to the Adjustment of Agricultural Industrial Structure

The obstacles to the adjustment of agricultural industrial structure come from the inherent limitations of traditional agricultural production modes and the inefficiency of resource allocation. On the one hand, the continuation of traditional agricultural production modes leads to the inefficient operation of the agricultural industrial structure. Traditional agriculture is highly dependent on natural conditions, which limits the stability and sustainability of production. In most regions, agriculture still adopts low-technology and low value-added production methods, which cannot effectively improve the efficiency of resource utilization, and result in low overall benefits of agricultural output. This mode of production dependent on natural resources places restrictions on the extension of the agricultural industry chain and weakens the adaptability of agriculture to changes in market demand, resulting in a lagging and fragile industrial structure in the process of globalization and modernization ^[3]. On the other hand, the fragmentation and inefficiency of agricultural management modes restricts the adjustment of industrial structure. The decentralized operation of land resources exists for a long time in rural areas in China, and most agricultural producers are small-scale family management, which lacks effective cooperative effect and scale advantage.

2.2 Lagging Rural Infrastructure and Inadequate Public Services

The lagging infrastructure and insufficient public services in rural areas affect the improvement of the quality of life in rural areas, and profoundly restrict the sustainable development of rural economy and the process of urban-rural integration. Specifically, the lag of transportation, communication, power and other infrastructure in rural areas leads to the low efficiency of resource allocation in rural production and life. The poor traffic makes the circulation efficiency of agricultural products low and restricts the expansion of agricultural industry. Inadequate information and communication facilities limits digital development of rural areas. The supply of energy, such as electricity, is unstable, which affects the continuity and efficiency of production. At the same time, the gap between rural and urban areas in education, health care and social security results in the long-term low quality of life and social security of rural residents. The lack of educational resources imposes restrictions on the improvement of the quality of rural labor force and affects the high value-added and technological innovation of industry. Inadequate medical services produce an affect on the health of the population and the productivity. The weak social security system leads to poor mobility and life stability of the population. These shortcomings in public services affect the basic needs of residents, intensify the migration of people to cities, and weaken the internal growth momentum of the rural economy.

2.3 Structural Problems in the Process of Labor Transfer

As a key part of rural economic structural transformation, labor transfer is facing problems that restrict the effective transfer of rural labor force, aggravate the imbalance of urban and rural labor market, and affect the long-term development of rural economy. On the one hand, most of the rural labor force is still low-skilled and low value-added traditional labor, and lacks technical ability to adapt to the needs of cities and modern industries. Although some rural labor force migrates to cities, due to the lack of skills training and re-employment support, they are in low-end positions in the urban labor market, and their income level is difficult to improve, and even face long-term employment instability. This skill mismatch makes labor transfer fail to give full play to its economic benefits, intensifies the widening of urban-rural income gap, and affects the quality of life and social integration of rural labor force. On the other hand, a large number of rural labor force flocks to big cities and coastal areas, where the labor market demand is more concentrated and the structural requirements are higher, resulting in the transfer of rural labor force in some areas more difficult. In addition, labor transfer in the central and western regions is lagging behind, resulting in unbalanced labor allocation between regions and exacerbating the imbalance of urban and rural economic and social development^[4].

3 The Optimization Paths of Rural Economic Structural Transformation

3.1 Strengthen Support for Agricultural Industrialization and Technological Innovation

Promoting support for agricultural industrialization and technological innovation is the key path to accelerate the transformation of rural economy. To achieve this goal, it is necessary to systematically promote the extension of industrial chain and the deepening of technology application. Specifically, the added value of agricultural products can be improved by building a complete industrial chain, so that it can no longer stay in the production stage of primary products, but can move towards the high-end value chain through processing, branding and other ways. Besides, enterprises and farmers can be encouraged to participate in the industrialization process, and the transformation of technological achievements through the mode of industry-university-institute cooperation can be promoted, thus achieving the deep integration of agriculture and modern industry. This multi-level coordinated development will effectively promote the scale and intensification of the agricultural industry and enhance its competitiveness in the global market. In addition, by guiding the in-depth application of scientific and technological strength in agricultural production, the popularization and independent innovation of modern agricultural technology can be promoted, and the production efficiency and sustainable development ability of agriculture can be improved. In addition, cutting-edge technologies such as big data, Internet of Things and artificial intelligence can be used to conduct refined management of agricultural production process, which can improve the utilization efficiency of resources and promote the development of agriculture in an efficient and sustainable direction^[5].

3.2 Improve Rural Infrastructure and Public Services

Improving the rural infrastructure construction and public services is the basis for promoting high-quality development of rural economy. By improving infrastructure and optimizing public services, the endogenous impetus of rural economy and the social development potential can be enhanced. In terms of infrastructure construction, the upgrading of transportation, energy and communication facilities should be accelerated. In terms of transportation, the rural road network can be optimized to open up the connection with the outside world and improve the circulation efficiency of agricultural products. In terms of energy, by strengthening the construction of electricity, clean energy and other facilities, stable energy supply for agricultural production can be guaranteed. In the aspect of communication, promoting the modernization of information and communication infrastructure and popularizing Internet technology can help the modernization and intelligent development of agriculture. In terms of the public services, the quality and equity of education, health care and social security systems should be improved. By improving the rural education resources, and upgrading the level of educational facilities and teachers, the quality of rural labor can be improved. Through improving the rural medical service network, the basic health needs of residents can be ensured. And The stability of rural population's life and sense of social security can be enhanced through expanding the coverage of social security, and raising the level of social security.

3.3 Strengthen Labor Force Training and Promote Structural Employment Transformation

By strengthening labor force training and promoting the transformation of employment structure, the employment competitiveness of rural labor force can be improved, and rural industrial upgrading and social development can be promoted. Specifically, there is a need to deepen the skills training of the labor force and enhance the vocational skills

and comprehensive quality of rural laborers. The training content should keep up with the needs of the industry, and focus on practicality and pertinence, mainly in the fields of agricultural technology, modern service industry skills and rural revitalization. Besides, through cooperation with enterprises, industry associations and other parties, the industry-university-institute integration training mode can be established, so that workers can more effectively improve skills in the actual work, thus promoting the transfer of labor force to higher value-added fields. In addition, the transformation of the employment structure of the rural labor force needs to expand the employment opportunities for the rural population in the industrial and service and other fields on the basis of guaranteeing the basic production of agriculture. Through policy guidance and industrial support, the government can promote the transfer of rural labor to modern manufacturing, green industries and other fields, and improve the quality of rural employment and income level.

4 Conclusion

This paper defines the main paths and challenges of rural economic structural transformation, and discusses the importance of agricultural industry modernization, the acceleration of industrialization and urbanization, and the development of service industry. By analyzing the lagging rural infrastructure, insufficient public services and structural problems in the process of labor transfer, it reveals the constraining effect of these factors on rural economic transformation. Therefore, it is necessary to increase investment in rural infrastructure construction and public services, strengthen labor force training and skills upgrading, and promote rural industrial upgrading and employment structure optimization.

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