Research on Farmers’ Sense of Gain in Southwest Border Areas in China
Based on the Survey of Yunnan Province*

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Abstract—In the view of social governance in China's border areas, the farmers’ sense of gain is an important issue that must be concerned. This research reveals the important factors that affect the rural residents’ sense of gain in China's border areas through the factor analysis and regression analysis of farmers’ sense of gain, and finds that relative to urban residents, the level of farmers’ sense of gain in southwest border areas is not high, and age is an important factor that affects farmers’ sense of gain in southwest border areas. Also, the income level will affect the satisfaction of rural residents to the participation of rural social organization in social governance.

Keywords—southwest border; farmers’ sense of gain; rural social governance

I. INTRODUCTION

James C. Scott warned that "the existence ethics of human lies in the farmers, and the lasting political stability lies in the countryside". The report of the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China pointed out that "China should deeply carry out poverty alleviation to ensure that the whole people have more sense of gain in the development of joint construction and sharing”. Since 2015, with the gradual deepening of the Opinions on the Pilot Work of Rural Land Acquisition, Group Constructive Land Entering the Market and Homestead System Reform (hereinafter referred to as the "three plots of land" pilot reform work) issued by the State Council of China, the rural areas in southwest border ethnic minority have made encouraging progress, but compared with the developed areas, the promotion of farmers' sense of gain in pilot reform is still facing the bottleneck. Starting from the spirit of important speech delivered by general secretary Xi Jinping in 2013 about "the hope that Yunnan will become a national unity and progress demonstration area, a bellwether in the construction of ecological civilization and a radiation center facing South Asia and Southeast Asia", it should closely focus on the overall development policy of "one belt and one road", stress agriculture and consolidate the root, and solve the regional overall poverty in border areas, which has a positive meaning in enhancing the farmers' sense of gain in the reform of "three plots of land" in the rural areas in the southwest border areas.

II. REVIEW OF THE RESEARCH ON FARMERS’ SENSE OF GAIN

"Who gets what, and why?" (Lenski, 1988), and the word is a classic interpretation of the sense of gain in western academic circles and also provides a social stratum perspective for the research of the sense of gain. Since the reform and opening up, the sense of gain of the peasant stratum has gone through a process of "ascending slightly prior to declining intensively". China's reform and opening up was initiated by marginal population. The first to enter the market was the farmers. Since 1978, the establishment of the rural household contract responsibility system has liberated the farmers' land use rights, and the farmers' income has begun to increase. Therefore, the farmers are generally benefited at the early stage of the reform (Sun Liping, 1998; Li Qiang, 2000). For all this, the return advantages of the peasant stratum have not continued. With the deepening of the reform, the market-oriented effects have caused economic stratification and widened the gap between the rich and the poor of all social strata. The income return of the peasant stratum has begun to decline sharply, and the peasant stratum has become the population with fewer gains in the reform, obviously ranking behind the top ten strata in China (Li Qiang, 1997; Lu Xueyi, 2003). Over the past 30 years, the reform trajectory of the household contract responsibility system is to strengthen the right to use, to continuously extend the contract period, and to improve the powers and functions of the right to contracted management of agricultural land. However, the ownership, the right to contract and the business right are still not clear, which results in that the existence of the "collective" in the system is strong, while the "sense of gain" of individual farmer is declining.

For this purpose, the reform of "three rights separation" of the ownership, contracting right and business right is a beneficial exploration for the framework of Land tenure. Based on this, the reform of "three rights separation" can clarify the relations between ownership and management, strengthen the attribute of land property right, and then improve the income level of farmers and motivate the farmers' sense of gain (Yang...
Lulu, 2017; Wu Qun, 2017; Zhou Yingheng, 2017; Zou Wei, 2017; Huang Zhengxue, 2017; Wang Shiyuan, 2018). Therefore, farmers are the practitioners and beneficiaries who start the "first kilometer" of reform. In order to realize the "last kilometer" of the "sense of gain" project, it is necessary to continue to improve farmers' income, adjust the "three subsidies" policy of agriculture and strengthen the construction of village civilization in order to enhance farmers' sense of gain (Wang Laixi, 2017). Only by sticking to improving farmers' sense of gain can people finally realize the sharing development of every citizen (Wang Min, 2016).

Through combing, it is found that the existing researches have basically constructed the research foundation of farmers' sense of gain and pointed out the future for the follow-up researches. However, there are still three problems in the research on farmers' sense of gain: first, the amount of research is relatively small, especially the research on land pilot reform and farmers' sense of gain is very poor; second, the researches are obtained on the basis of general researches and are ignored on the points of rural revitalization in China's social governance: border areas, ethnic groups and poverty-stricken areas; third, the countermeasure researches on improving farmers' sense of gain is too few. The above-mentioned problems are exactly the direction of this research.

III. DATA SOURCE AND VARIABLE OPERATIONALIZATION

The research is based on the project of Institute of Strategic Studies of the Ministry of Science and Technology of the People's Republic of China "survey on the quality of life of residents in western China", and adopts the method of sampling survey to collect data at home. The survey was conducted from October 23, 2019 to November 18, 2019. The respondents were rural residents (residents living in rural areas, including counties, towns and villages (communities)) in 16 prefectures and cities of Yunnan Province. A total of 27,032 valid questionnaires were obtained. The distribution of research variables will be further explained below.

A. Social Population Variables

The sociodemographic characteristics of the samples questioned are reported in "Table I". In this survey, there are 27,032 respondents, 61.48% of whom are male and 38.52% of whom are female. The educational status is generally at junior high school or above (93.36%). The sample structure is not consistent with the total population structure of rural residents in Yunnan Province, and there will be a certain deviation in representativeness. Therefore, in the following statistical analysis, the methods are used for posting stratification of weight, amending the samples and the corresponding variables, so as to improve the representativeness of the sample to the whole. Among them, the premise of using the method of post stratification is to master the distribution status of the whole. In this research, the distribution status of rural residents in Yunnan province comes from the data of the sixth population census in 2010.

| TABLE I. SOCIODEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SAMPLES QUESTIONED |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| **Frequency Times** | **Frequency Rate** |
| Gender | | |
| Male | 16,618 | 61.48 |
| Female | 10,414 | 38.52 |
| Age group | | |
| 16-19 years old | 2,686 | 9.94 |
| 20-29 years old | 12,631 | 46.73 |
| 30-39 years old | 6,580 | 24.34 |
| 40-49 years old | 3,377 | 12.49 |
| 50-59 years old | 1,375 | 5.09 |
| 60-64 years old | 383 | 1.42 |
| Education level | | |
| Primary school and below | 213 | 0.79 |
| Junior middle school | 1,583 | 5.86 |
| High school (technical secondary school) | 17,598 | 65.10 |
| Junior college (higher vocational school) | 5,717 | 21.15 |
| Undergraduate or above | 1,921 | 7.11 |
| Marital status | | |
| Unmarried | 14,394 | 53.25 |
| Married | 11,323 | 41.89 |
| Remarriage | 195 | 0.72 |
| Divorce | 642 | 2.37 |
| Widow | 162 | 0.6 |
| Other | 316 | 1.17 |
| Household register | | |
| Village (city / district) of the province | 11,580 | 42.84 |
| Town (city / district) of the province | 9,731 | 36 |
| Village (city / district) of foreign province | 3,215 | 11.89 |
| Town (city / district) of foreign province | 2,257 | 8.35 |
| Other | 249 | 0.92 |
B. Measurement of Farmers' Sense of Gain

In this research, eighteen questions in total are designed to measure farmers’ sense of gain, including nine questions on sense of land acquisition, seven questions on sense of government governance, and two questions on sense of social participation. In order to analyze the reliability of index of farmers' sense of gain, the research further calculates the item-rest correlation and calculated its Cronbach $\alpha$ coefficient. "Table II" contains the results of the reliability analysis. It is found that Cronbach $\alpha$ coefficient of social governance subjective evaluation index is 0.889, which has a high reliability. Specifically, the correlation coefficients of the potential variables of the eighteen questions are relatively high, and present the positive trends.

### TABLE II. ANALYSIS ON THE ITEMS OF FARMERS' SENSE OF GAIN

| Items                             | Direction | Correlation Coefficients of Potential Variables | Alpha |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|-------------------------------------------------|-------|
| Land acquisition satisfaction     | +         | 0.490                                           | 0.884 |
| Homestead satisfaction            | +         | 0.510                                           | 0.884 |
| Collective land use satisfaction  | +         | 0.436                                           | 0.886 |
| Education satisfaction            | +         | 0.509                                           | 0.884 |
| Housing satisfaction              | +         | 0.589                                           | 0.881 |
| Medical satisfaction              | +         | 0.498                                           | 0.884 |
| Social security and relief satisfaction | +    | 0.622                                           | 0.880 |
| Economic and social development   | +         | 0.543                                           | 0.883 |
| Rural government affairs development | +     | 0.503                                           | 0.884 |
| Local public security situation   | +         | 0.527                                           | 0.883 |
| Local ecological environment      | +         | 0.506                                           | 0.884 |
| Local food and drug safety        | +         | 0.605                                           | 0.880 |
| Production and life safety        | +         | 0.571                                           | 0.882 |
| Local government's dispute resolution mechanism | +       | 0.550                                           | 0.882 |
| Family harmony                    | +         | 0.401                                           | 0.887 |
| Neighborhood harmony              | +         | 0.467                                           | 0.885 |
| The role of rural social organizations in social governance | +   | 0.528                                           | 0.883 |
| The role of social workers in social governance | +   | 0.540                                           | 0.883 |
| Alpha value of scale              |           |                                                 | 0.889 |
| Sample size                       |           |                                                 | 22.510|

IV. FACTOR STRUCTURE OF FARMERS’ SENSE OF GAIN AND REGRESSION MODEL ANALYSIS

Through the exploratory factor analysis of 18 items of farmers' sense of gain by SPSS 17.0, it can be found that the results show that each index is more suitable as the structural index of farmers' sense of gain. The principal component analysis method is adopted to carry out exploratory factor analysis on each index, and the method of variance maximization is adopted to carry out orthogonal rotation on factor loading. There are four factor combinations whose eigenvalue is more than 1. From the results of principal component analysis, in the sample questioned, there are four factors whose eigenvalue is more than 1, indicating that the scale can be mainly expressed as four factors. Among them, the eigenvalues of factors 3 and 4 are slightly greater than 1, which reflects that factors 3 and 4 are marginal factors. According to the loading of each variable, it can be judged that factor 1 is the sense of land acquisition, factor 2 is the sense of government governance, and factor 3 is the sense of social participation. (See "Table III").

### TABLE III. RESULTS OF FACTOR ANALYSIS: FACTOR LOADING

| Items                                             | Factor 1 | Factor 2 | Factor 3 | Factor 4 |
|---------------------------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Land acquisition satisfaction                     | 0.718    |          |          |          |
| Homestead satisfaction                             | 0.666    |          |          |          |
| Collective land use satisfaction                   | 0.632    |          |          |          |
| Education satisfaction                             | 0.639    |          |          |          |
| Housing satisfaction                               | 0.610    |          |          |          |
| Medical satisfaction                               | 0.506    |          |          |          |
| Social security and relief satisfaction            | 0.520    |          |          |          |
| Economic and social development                    | 0.433    | 0.490    |          |          |
| Rural government affairs development               |          |          |          | 0.851    |
| Local public security situation                    |          |          |          | 0.807    |
| Local ecological environment                       |          |          | 0.668    | 0.658    |
| Local food and drug safety                         |          |          | 0.680    | 0.693    |
| Production and life safety                         |          |          |          | 0.641    |
| Local government's dispute resolution mechanism    |          |          |          |          |
| Family harmony                                     | 0.851    |          |          |          |
| Neighborhood harmony                               | 0.807    |          |          |          |
| The role of rural social organizations in social governance | 0.831    | 0.827    |          |          |
| The role of social workers in social governance    | 0.827    |          |          |          |
Accordingly, the first three common factors are retained and the items with factor loading less than 0.6 are deleted. Farmers' sense of gain is ultimately composed of three dimensions: the sense of social participation, the sense of government governance and the sense of land acquisition. Among them, the sense of social participation consists of two items, the sense of government governance consists of five items, and the sense of land acquisition consists of five items, totaling 12 items.

In order to further explore the specific factors that affect the farmers' sense of gain in the southwest border areas of China, eight variables are introduced, including gender, age, marital status, years of education, residence status, annual income, socioeconomic status and housing type, into the linear regression equation of the overall subjective sense of gain and its integration factors. (See "Table IV")

| Variable | Overall Sense of Gain | Sense of Land Acquisition | Sense of Government Governance | Sense of Social Participation |
|----------|-----------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Individual factors |                      |                           |                               |                             |
| Gender | -0.523 | 1.635 | -0.213 | -3.68** |
| Age | -.103*** | -.430*** | -1.23** | 0.026 |
| Marriage (reference group: unmarried) | -1.03 | 0.236*** | 0.528 | 1.429 |
| Household registration (reference group: cities and towns of the province) |                      |                           |                               |                             |
| Rural areas of this province | -0.847*** | -1.491*** | -1.623** | -0.248*** |
| Cities and towns of other provinces | -0.931*** | -1.605*** | -0.538*** | -0.231*** |
| Rural areas of other provinces | -1.876*** | -1.412*** | -0.248*** | -0.324*** |
| Years of education | -0.212 | -0.532 | -0.226 | 0.156 |
| Annual income | -0.597 | -0.538 | -0.181 | 1.203*** |
| Socioeconomic status | 0.245 | 1.432* | -0.291 | -0.621 |
| Housing type (reference group: bungalow) |                      |                           |                               |                             |
| Villa | 1.658 | 4.505 | 3.08 | 1.437 |
| Building | 0.429 | 2.305 | 0.231 | -0.984 |
| F test value | 7.234*** | 8.593*** | 3.106*** | 2.888** |
| Constant term | 33.753 | 43.973 | 37.19 | 36.184 |
| Adjusted R2 | 0.173 | 0.168 | 0.054 | 0.021 |

It can be seen from "Table IV" that the explanatory power of independent variable to the overall sense of gain is much stronger, the goodness of fit $R^2 = 0.173$ and the explanatory power reach a significant level ($P < .001$). From the perspective of individual factor, gender has a significant impact on the factor of the sense of social participation, which indicates that women psychological experience in social organizations' participation in rural governance is significantly higher than men; age has a significant impact on the overall sense of gain, sense of land acquisition, sense of government governance, and the regression coefficient is negative, which shows that with the increase of age, the farmers' sense of land acquisition in southwest border areas and their satisfaction with local government governance are on the contrary declining; marriage status to the factor of social identity is 0.236, which indicates that married people (other forms of marriage in addition to single) have a higher sense of land acquisition compared with the unmarried people; annual income has a more significant impact on the sense social participation, which indicates that rural social organizations have a significant impact on increasing farmers' income.

In terms of structural factors, household registration is the main factor that affects farmers' sense of gain. Compared with the urban residents in this province, the overall sense of

Note:*$p<0.05$, **$p<0.01$, ***$p<0.001$
gain, sense of land acquisition, the sense of government governance and the sense of social participation of rural residents in this province are decreasing; compared with the urban residents in this province, the overall sense of gain, the sense of land acquisition, the sense of government governance and the sense of social participation of urban residents and rural residents are also decreasing.

There is no statistical significance between the years of education and the types of housing on the overall sense of gain and its various factors.

V. Conclusion

Through the evaluation of the sense of gain of urban and rural residents in southwest areas, the following conclusions can be drawn.

Firstly, household registration is the main factor that affects the farmers' sense of gain in the southwest border areas. The overall evaluation of the sense of land acquisition, the sense of government governance and the sense of social participation of rural residents and foreign residents is lower than that of urban residents. For this reason, the possible explanation is that under the integrated influence of the policy preferences such as "poverty alleviation", "rural revitalization" and "one belt and one road", the economic development and infrastructure construction in the rural areas and the vast central and western regions have made great progress. For all this, with the rapid promotion of urbanization, farmers' land interests have been infringed, and the disputes surrounding land have been upgrading. On the contrary, the quality of life has been declining.

Secondly, age is an important factor to affect the farmers' sense of gain in the southwest border areas. Age has a significant influence on farmers' overall sense of gain, sense of land acquisition and sense of government governance. With the increase of age, farmers' overall sense of gain, sense of land acquisition and sense of government governance are all declining. Therefore, the possible explanation is that age, as an important indicator of human socialization, deeply reflects the structural factors of social vicissitude. The village vicissitude brought about by China's urbanization movement has a certain impact on farmers' interests, and the deficiency of farmers' sense of gain reflects this reality.

Thirdly, income is another important factor that affects farmers' sense of gain. The income level has a significant and positive effect on farmers' sense of social participation. The higher the income level is, the higher the farmers' sense of social participation will be. For this reason, the possible explanation is that the income level of farmers has facilitated on the participation of rural social organizations in social governance. With the increase of farmers' income, the spontaneous rural social organizations are more effective in rural governance, and further promote the improvement of farmers' sense of gain.

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