

Study on the Change of Farmers' Livelihood before and after the Transfer of Rural Homestead: A Case Study of Liwo Town, Guizhou Province

Jinghan Zhang, Puyu Zhang, Zhang Zhang*

College of Biochemical Engineering, Beijing Union University, Beijing, 100023, China

**Corresponding author*

Keywords: Rural tourism development, homestead transfer, sustainable livelihoods

Abstract: With the continuous advancement of industrialization and urbanization, a large number of rural population to the cities and towns, some farmers settled in the cities, there is a part of the rural residential land idle phenomenon. This paper takes Liwo Town of Guizhou Province as an example to study the changes of farmers' livelihood before and after the homestead transfer in rural tourism development. This paper conducted two research modes: offline field research and online research. Finally, this paper finds four problems, namely, single income and employment of farmers, inadequate government welfare system, low professional skills of farmers, and low education level of farmers. This paper also puts forward four solutions: encouraging farmers to diversify their employment, improving their social welfare security system, establishing farmers' non-agricultural skills training mechanism, and improving the education level of some farmers.

1. Introduction

Under the background of rural revitalization, the rural population is shifting to the cities and towns, but the total area of rural homestead land is not decreasing but increasing. The phenomena of "multiple houses in one family", "occupying farmland for building houses" and "building new land instead of demolishing old land" are very common in the vast rural areas. The idle rate of rural homestead land is rising continuously, and the livelihood level is not improved. In accordance with the strategic plan of completing the building of a moderately prosperous society in all respects and achieving the second Centenary Goal in two stages, the Central Rural Work Conference in 2017 defined the goals and tasks for implementing the rural revitalization strategy: By 2020, important progress will be made in rural revitalization, with an institutional framework and policy system basically in place; By 2035, decisive progress will be made in rural revitalization and agriculture and rural modernization will be basically realized. By 2050, all rural areas will be revitalized, and agriculture will be strong, rural areas will be beautiful and farmers will be prosperous. In his report, the General Secretary pointed out that through continuous hard work, we have realized the thousand-year-old dream of the Chinese nation of moderately prosperous people, won the biggest battle against poverty in human history, and historically solved the problem of absolute poverty,

making a major contribution to global poverty reduction. The General Secretary also stressed the need to provide bottom-line support for people in need of employment, and eliminate unreasonable restrictions and employment discrimination that affect equal employment, so that everyone has the opportunity to realize their own development through hard work. Through the research, it is found that there are few researches on the rural homestead livelihood in the western region of our country. Therefore, this paper takes Liwo Town of Guizhou Province as an example to study the changes of farmers' livelihood before and after the homestead transfer in rural tourism development.

2. Literature Review

With the gradual advance of reform and opening up, rural revitalization, rural tourism, homestead circulation gradually attracted attention from all walks of life. Among them, scholars pay attention to the following aspects of livelihood after transfer:

From the perspective of welfare, Ning Tao and Yang Qingyuan et al. (2012) [1] studied the factors influencing farmers' homestead withdrawal and circulation intention from the perspective of micro welfare. Guan Jianghua and Huang Chaoxi et al. (2013) [2] pointed out the factors influencing farmers' homestead withdrawal intention according to Sen's new welfare economics theory. TAI X R. (2021) [3] analyzed the changes of farmers' welfare before and after homestead transfer and the welfare differences among farmers. Xia Lian, Wang Zhenfeng(2021) [4] and other scholars took Yima City as the survey sample area to accurately analyze the changes of farmers' welfare before and after homestead withdrawal.

Li Shaobo (2022) [5] As the core of the sustainable livelihood framework, farmers' livelihood capital is subdivided into five aspects, namely natural capital, human capital, physical capital, financial capital and social capital. Many domestic scholars have studied farmers' livelihood and homestead based on the framework of sustainable livelihood. In the relevant research on livelihood capital and homestead, Li Shaobo (2022) [5] adopted the Logistic regression model to analyze and conclude that farmers with rich livelihood capital in the research area have stronger homestead transfer intention. TAI X R. (2021) [3] calculated the livelihood capital value of farmers by building an index system, divided farmers into four categories based on the value of livelihood capital, and then analyzed the factors affecting the homestead withdrawal intention of different types of farmers through the econometric model. By using fuzzy evaluation method, Xia Lian, Wang Zhenfeng(2021) [4] calculated the livelihood capital of farmers with homestead transfer behavior in four cities of Zhejiang Province, and proposed that homestead transfer improves the livelihood capital of farmers and thus improves the welfare level of farmers.

In the study on livelihood strategies and homestead, Feng Louhong (2022) [6] divided farmers into four types based on the proportion of agricultural income in total household income. Through comparative analysis of the four types of farmers, the differences in factors affecting their homestead withdrawal intention were obtained. Based on landscape ecology method, Zhou Jing also used Target MOTAD model to classify farmers' livelihood strategies. Through the analysis, it is found that the size and function of the homestead area are affected by the types of farmers' livelihood strategies. Feng Louhong (2022) [6] analyzed with logistic regression model and found that farmers with different livelihood strategies had great differences in homestead utilization. Based on the structural and institutional changes in the framework of sustainable livelihood, Chen Zhuo and Ding Feng et al. (2022) [7] collected data through questionnaire survey and found that the homestead exit policy in Liangping County, Chongqing significantly improved farmers' homestead exit intention.

Most studies on farmer's livelihood and behavior choice are based on the framework of sustainable livelihood. The sustainable livelihood framework consists of five components:

vulnerability context, livelihood capital, structural and institutional transformation, livelihood strategies, and livelihood output. In the context of vulnerability, most scholars only accept the current concepts. Other aspects, such as research perspectives, index system and evaluation methods, causes and mechanisms of action, and regulation methods, need further discussion and improvement. Ye Zihan, Wang Haoqi et al. (2022) [8] collected data of poverty-stricken households through questionnaire survey and analyzed that industrial poverty alleviation policies improved the ability of poverty-stricken households to resist risks, and their livelihood vulnerability was significantly suppressed. Ye Zihan, Wang Haoqi et al. (2022) [8] built an analytical framework for livelihood vulnerability based on the actual situation of the study area, and analyzed the influencing factors of livelihood vulnerability of farmers participating in the transfer of cultivated land by using an econometric model. In terms of livelihood capital, Ou L. (2022) [9] took low-income farmers as the research object, constructed a set of index system that could directly reflect five kinds of livelihood capital conditions of farmers, and quantitatively analyzed the living conditions of farmers.

To sum up, this paper can not only make up for the few studies on the homestead transfer and rural sustainable livelihood, but also provide a reference for the government to continuously optimize and improve the homestead reform plan and smooth urban and rural economic cycle.

3. Statistical Analysis

From July to August 2022, a total of 285 questionnaires were distributed and collected from farmers in Liwo Town, Guizhou Province, and 52.98% of the total number were aged 55 or above, followed by 38.6% of the total number of farmers aged 45-55; The education level is primary school and below, accounting for 51.58% of the total number, junior high school education accounts for 37.19% of the total number, The higher the education, the smaller the number of people, and only 2.11% are above bachelor's degree; 66.32% of the farmers are fully engaged in farming, 23.86% are half-workers and half-farmers, and 3.51% are fully engaged in farming.

3.1. Natural Capital

In terms of natural capital, the cultivated land in Liwo Township covers 29,997 mu, and the climate is very humid and mild, with an average annual temperature of 14°C, and rich in resources, which is known as "the treasure house of Guizhou and ecological aluminum township". Food crops include rice and corn, cash crops include oilseed rape, and farming is based on cattle, sheep and chickens. The transportation is convenient and the ecology is good. Before the home base transfer, 97% of the farmers have planted and farmed for work, and they are all traditional farming; after the home base transfer, most farmers still focus on agricultural production. Liwo Town belongs to Qingzhen City, and in 2022, the vegetable sowing area of Qingzhen City is 314,800 mu (times), and the vegetable marketed volume is 495,600 tons, achieving vegetable output value of 1.891 billion yuan.

3.2. Financial Capital

In terms of financial capital, after the homestead transfer compared with before the homestead transfer, 46.15% of the farmers think that the total household income has increased and 53.85% think that it has decreased. This shows that farmers' income is less after the transfer of their homestead bases. Then, after the transfer of house bases, compared with before the transfer of house bases, 53.33% of the farmers thought that the total annual household income increased by RMB 5001-10,000; 18.89% thought that it was within RMB 5,000; 15.56% thought that it was between RMB 10,001-15,000; the more the total income was less and less. After the homestead transfer

compared to before the homestead transfer, 58.1% of the farmers think that the total annual household income is reduced by 5001-10,000 yuan; 36.19% are within the reduction of 5,000 yuan, 5.71% are reduced by 10,001-15,000 yuan, and the remaining reduction amount is zero.

3.3. Human Capital

In terms of human capital, the increase in the resident household size after the transfer of the house base compared with that before the transfer is 85.71%, the increase of 2 people is 13.1%, and the increase of 3 people is 1.19%. After the transfer of residential land, the resident household population decreased by one person, accounting for 84.82%, increased by 2 persons, accounting for 10.71%, and increased by 3 persons, accounting for 4.46%, compared with that before the transfer. It means that the number of people working outside is relatively reduced, and the number of people returning to their hometowns has become more. 52.98% of the total number of people aged above 55 years old, the head of the household is older, and the years of education of these people are too short, and their knowledge level is low. The number of people working outside in each household is at least 2, and the rest are mostly left-behind children and the elderly.

3.4. Social Capital

In terms of social capital, farmers perceive that the specific changes before and after the transfer of the homestead are mainly related to countryside relatives and neighbors, and the data in this regard vary greatly. A small percentage of farmers perceive a low level of trustful interaction with their friends and neighbors, and most of them perceive their human expenses to be high and the geographical range of family members' activities to become wider. Because the use of the telephone and the Internet has increased people's interaction with the outside world, the cost of telephone calls has also increased, which This enhances human interaction, and farmers thus do not perceive much change in their living environment and production and living conditions.

3.5. Physical Capital

In terms of physical capital, physical capital is the guarantee of livelihood capital, such as the availability of a house and a car. The survey shows that the largest proportion of farmers with one set of house bases is 60%, followed by 27.8% with two sets of house bases; the total area of the homestead is 120 square meters accounted for the most, and the total area is similar. Most of the homestead is between 100-190 square meters, but the quality of housing is not very good. There are many old and dangerous houses, at the same time, they are facing the problem of having no housing to live in; the town is only 30 km away from the nearest city, which means it is easy to get around; the water supply is also perfect, and the coverage rate of urban-rural water supply integration has exceeded 95%. A small number of people think that they have to face the problem of adapting to the new living environment after the home base transfer, and there are also some social disputes about the right to use the home base.

4. Existing Problems

4.1. Single Income and Employment of Farm Households

Under the condition of superior natural capital, the condition of financial capital is weak. The survey shows that the work of farmers before and after the transfer of house bases has been mainly farming and farming, but other work methods and income sources have been slightly broadened

after the transfer of house bases. 95% of the farmers have planted and farmed as their work; 32% of the hawkers around the scenic spots; 36% of those selling local specialties to tourists; 11% of those working in the scenic spots. It can be seen that most of the farmers have not changed their jobs, and the transfer of residential land has only increased the small amount of income of farmers, and most of the farmers are still "living off the sky". Although farming and farming are traditional sources of income, such work is unstable and vulnerable, with high livelihood risks and limited access to livelihood capital for farm households, resulting in no change or lower household income for farm households. If employment is enriched, farmers will have more social connections and social networks, which will increase the level of social capital and lead to the gradual development of rural tourism, and finally promote sustainable livelihoods for farmers.

4.2. Inadequate Government Welfare System

The majority of the respondents are above 55 years old, and they are the middle-aged and elderly group, They pay more attention to the social welfare protection, so the single "home base for house" or one-time compensation and subsidy are not enough to guarantee the livelihood of farmers, and it is not sustainable (Chen Ligen and Cheng Cheng, 2012) [10] . And that farmers are already facing the dilemma of having no housing, then it is necessary to improve financial capital, which is an important component of livelihood capital. Farmers' access to capital through policy support before homestead transfer accounted for 2.05%, while 8.72% were awarded after the transfer. After the data survey shows that the government does not make a difference, and there is little change before and after the transfer of farmers' homesteads, so the transfer of homesteads is not very meaningful, then the government needs to improve the welfare and security of homesteads.

4.3. Low Level of Professional Skills of Farmers

Most of the farming households in Liwo Township, Guizhou Province are middle-aged and elderly people, who have less need to accept new ideas and have relatively weak ability to learn knowledge. At present, these farmers only farming, in addition to farming the rest of the work areas do not know and do not contact, before the transfer of the home base, farmers farming and farming sources of income accounted for 95.9% and 97.44% respectively, outside the work accounted for 10.26%. After the transfer of house bases, the income sources of farming and farming accounted for 97.95% and 95.9% respectively; outside work accounted for 28.72%; the remaining sources such as house rent, production and operation accounted for no more than 5%. Then it is necessary to improve the non-agricultural employment skills of farm households. With the improvement of professional skills, the level of human capital also increases, and the level of human capital determines whether the livelihood of farm households is guaranteed sustainably.

4.4. Low Education Level of Farm Households

The proportion of farmers with primary and junior high school education is high, indicating that farmers have low education level, shallow thinking, low cognitive level and relatively weak ability to accept things, so whether farmers have sustainable livelihood is related to traditional thinking and low economic awareness. Moreover, the resident population in Liwo Township of Guizhou Province is not very stable, and 43.08% of farmers believe that the number of resident working people in their households has increased after the transfer of house bases compared with that before the transfer, while 56.92% believe that the number has decreased. It means that the number of people moving out of the countryside is relatively large, and the overall population is still losing, the reason for this is that China's urbanization process is accelerating, and a large number of rural

people are moving to the cities, and the level of talent is also losing manpower (Yang Xue and Wen Liying 2022) [11] . The second is that the situation of farm households without housing or unstable income is getting more and more serious, they lose their rice bowls or no basic security, and the level of financial and physical capital is also decreasing. Then it is necessary to improve the education level of young farmers while introducing talents so that farmers will reduce the number of cases of working outside and settling down to live. If we can improve the educational measures for farmers, they will have more and more career options.

5. Suggestions

5.1. Encourage Farmers to Diversify Their Employment

The social security system in China's rural areas is not perfect, and such welfare and protection functions of the homestead base are relatively lacking. The first is to establish a social security system of various social security such as pension, medical care, unemployment and minimum living; the second is to give paid incentives to farmers after the transfer of the homestead, such as subsidies for the purchase of houses, monthly or annual ongoing subsidies. Since most of these farmers are still engaged in farming, the division of agricultural land resources can be used to increase their annual income; a combination of compensation methods can also be used to fully compensate farmers for the welfare of their homesteads, so that the welfare level of the farmers will continue to increase with the socioeconomic development and thus improve the sustainable livelihood of the farmers.

5.2. Improve the Social Welfare Protection System for Farmers

The social security system in China's rural areas is not perfect, and such welfare and guarantee functions of the house base are relatively lacking. The first is to establish a social security system with various kinds of social security such as pension, medical care, unemployment and minimum living (Zeng Lijuan, Han Peisong and Han Dejun, 2022) [12] ; the second is to give paid incentives to farmers after the transfer of the homestead, such as subsidies for house purchase and monthly or annual continuous subsidies; since these farmers are still mostly engaged in planting and farming, like dividing agricultural land resources to make their annual income increase; a combination of various compensation methods can also be used to give farmers' homestead The welfare of farmers can also be fully compensated by a combination of compensation methods, so that the welfare level of farmers will be continuously improved with the development of social economy, thus improving the sustainable livelihood of farmers.

5.3. Establish a Training Mechanism for Non-farm Skills

To establish the mechanism of non-farm skills training for farmers so as to transfer the rural labor force, strengthen the skills training for farmers, and actively guide the majority of rural surplus labor force to transfer across regions (Wang Jing and Zhu Lin,2018) [13] . For asset-poor farmers and those with insecure livelihoods, it is more feasible and secure to train some skills than to be educated, and the more quality human capital farmers have, the more they prefer non-agricultural livelihood capital. Whether it is self-employment or flexible employment, the employment department should combine the characteristics and industrial development of Liwo Town to set scientific and reasonable training goals, to promote training with goals, to improve the skill level of trainers, and to achieve high-quality training for employment (Ou Ling and Wang Zhaolin 2022) [14] . Since relying solely on government financial assistance cannot really get rid of

the current situation of poverty, establishing a skills training mechanism can improve the technical level of practitioners and change the employment status of farmers, thus increasing their income.

5.4. Improve the Education Level of Some Farmers

It is indispensable to improve the sustainable livelihood of farmers by increasing the investment in rural education, improving the level of education of farmers, weakening the traditional concept of farmers, contributing to the improvement of their own economic capacity and total family income, and also improving the happiness index of families. The children of farmers can enjoy the benefits of free education or regular annual education subsidies to reduce other taxes; adult education institutions can also be built so that men, women and children can receive education together, thus increasing the talent within the countryside. It is also necessary to encourage working farmers to return to their hometowns to start their own businesses, to prevent the loss of talent, to make a steady increase in the level of talent capital, and to raise the level of non-farm employment and non-farm income for the majority of farmers.

6. Conclusion

In the context of China's vigorous development of rural revitalization, this paper hopes to improve the government's livelihood practices and their impact on these households by studying the changes in rural households' livelihoods before and after the transfer of rural house bases in Liwo Township, Guizhou Province, and to provide lessons for future national policy implementation in minority areas. According to the data from the field survey, the age, job, education and even the mobility of people in the countryside of farmers are closely related to the transfer of residential land. Based on the results of the survey, we hope that the government will encourage farmers to diversify their employment, improve the social welfare system of farmers, establish a training mechanism for non-farm skills, and improve the education level of some farmers.

Acknowledgements

This work was supported by a project grant from Premium Funding Project for Academic Human Resources Development in Beijing Union University (BPHR2019CS04), Beijing Union University "Rising Star" College Student Science and Technology Innovation Project (20221006).

References

- [1] Ning Tao, Yang Qingyuan, Su Kangchuan, Wen Feng, Li Hongyun, Wang Xiaomeng, Zang Bo. An Empirical analysis on the Influencing Factors of Rural residential land Transfer: Based on the survey of 300 rural households in Chongqing. *Journal of Southwest Normal University (Natural Science Edition)*, 2012, 37(02): 119-125
- [2] Guan Jianghua, Huang Chaoxi, Hu Yingen. Study on the Difference of farmers' homestead transfer Intention and its driving Force: Based on the perspective of farmers' sustainable livelihood. *Resources Science*, 2013, 35(11): 2266-2272.
- [3] TAI X R. Study on the influence of farmers' housing security on the homestead transfer intention. *Tianjin commercial university*, 2021. DOI: 10.27362 /, dc nki. Gtsxy. 2021.000190.
- [4] Xia Lian, Wang Zhenfeng. Research on the problems and Countermeasures of rural idle House Land under the background of Rural Revitalization -- Based on the case analysis of "sharing rural house" in many places. *Journal of Shandong University of Agricultural Engineering*, 2021, 38(08): 6-12.
- [5] Li Shaobo. Study on the Influencing Factors of farmers' willingness to quit homestead in Chuxiong Yi Autonomous Prefecture from the perspective of livelihood Differentiation. *Yunnan university of finance and economics*, 2022. DOI: 10.27455 /, dc nki. Gycmc. 2022.000223.
- [6] Feng Louhong. Separation division land circulation system from the perspective research. *Guangxi normal university*, 2022. The DOI: 10.27036 /, dc nki. Ggxsu. 2022.001344.

- [7] Chen Zhuo, Ding Feng, Zhao Yan, Liu Xinying. *A study on farmers' Satisfaction with the transfer of the right to use rural Housing Land: A Case study of Yangzhou City and Zhenjiang City*. *Shanxi agricultural economy*, 2022 (10): 101-103. The DOI: 10.16675/j.carol carroll nki cn14-1065 /f 2022.10.031.
- [8] Ye Zihan, Wang Haoqi, Su Sixian. *Research on Rationalization of rural homestead land-use right circulation system*. *Rural Economics and Science and Technology*, 2022, 33(17):29-33.
- [9] OU L. *Analysis on the impact of commercial transfer of homestead use right on farmers' livelihood*. *Chongqing Technology and Business University*, 2022.
- [10] Chen Ligen, Cheng Cheng. *Homestead transfer Mode Comparison and path Selection based on farmer welfare*. *College of Public Administration, Nanjing Agricultural University, Institute of New Rural Development, Nanjing Agricultural University*, 2012, 26(10).
- [11] Yang Xue, Wen Liying. *Separation under the division and perfect the land use right transfer of path*. *Journal of social science*, 2022 (4): 120-125. The DOI: 10.16745 /j.carol carroll nki cn62-1110 /c. 2022.04.013.
- [12] Zeng Lijuan, Han Peisong, Han Dejun. *To settle farmers land circulation research - in guiyang city, for example*. *Journal of education culture BBS*, 2022, 14 (5): 112-117. The DOI: 10.15958 /j.carol carroll nki jywhlt. 2022.05.016.
- [13] Wang Jing, Zhu Lin. *Study on farmers' homestead transfer intention based on sustainable livelihood analysis framework*. *China Agricultural Resources and Regional Planning*, 2018, 39(06):165-170.
- [14] Ou Ling, Wang Zhaolin. *Research evolution and trend of "three rights separation" of rural homestead*. *China Agricultural Resources and Regional Planning*, 2022, 43(08):189-200.