

# The Route Probing of New Rural Construction Under the Perspective of Ecological Civilization

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## Abstract

The ecological civilization is a brand new civilization form that comes after the original civilization, agricultural civilization, and industrial civilization, and its basic value is the realization of continuous prosperity of human and society. The ecological civilization construction is a significant task in the process of Chinese modernization construction of nowadays to future, and it is an inexorable trend to make the concept of ecological civilization integrates into the new rural construction. So, how to construct the new rural under the perspective of ecological civilization is a question that needs to be analyzed in the current theoretical cycle.

**Key words:** Ecological civilization; New rural construction; Route

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## INTRODUCTION

The rapid economic development of China after the reform and opening-up policy is an unbalanced development, what's more, the sharing gap of development degree and result between rural and city is obvious. For narrow the gap between city and rural, the Chinese government made a decision of "socialism new rural construction" in 2005, meanwhile, it was

described as a good state of "production development, affluent life, cultivated countryside, clean and tidy village and democratic management." The production development and affluent life is the economic base of new rural construction, cultivated countryside is the cultural support of new rural construction; clean and tidy village is the social image of new rural construction; democratic management is the political security of new rural construction. So, the description of new rural construction is a specific requirement of it from the aspects of economy, politics, culture, and society. The Chinese government proposed "ecological civilization construction" in 2007, put forward "promotion ecological civilization construction" in 2012, made a detailed plan for the structural reform of ecological civilization in 2013. The Chinese ecological civilization construction transfers from the concept, policy to system with pertinence, guidance, and operability. The socialism new rural construction is a significant part of socialism with Chinese characteristics, and the integration of ecological civilization concept with new rural economy, politics, culture, and society is the inevitable requirement under the background of ecological civilization construction, in addition, it points out the new orientation and goal of new rural construction.

## 1. THE ECOLOGICAL REQUIREMENT OF ECOLOGICAL CIVILIZATION CONCEPT TO NEW RURAL CONSTRUCTION

The ecological civilization generally means a cultural ethics form that make the harmonious coexistence, virtuous circle, integrated development, continuous prosperity among human and nature, human and human, human and society. It is the summary of material and spiritual achievements that human obey the objective rule of harmonious development among human, nature, and society. (Chen, 2009)

The new rural construction under the perspective of ecological civilization is a unified consideration that integrates the relationships of human and nature, human and human, human and society into the development goals of economy, politics, culture, society, and ecology. So, under the perspective of ecological civilization, the new rural construction must:

On the concept of value, it must respect nature, protect nature, and conforming to nature. With the development of productivity, human is very capable of remaking natural, some people hubris to regard human as the “dominator” and “governor” of nature. This opinion actually regards the relationship between human and nature as reforming and being reformed, to conquer and to be conquered, it essentially makes the value of human opposite to that of nature. The reasons of water and soil loss, cultivated land harden, drinking water pollution include many aspects, however, these problems have a close relationship with the past wrong reorganization of the relationship between human and nature. The new rural construction can not only pay attention to the development of agricultural productivity, and farmer’s income incensement, but ignores the relationship of human and nature, which has a close relationship with people’s life quality with a lasting influence. The human’s survival and development can not be without the goods and materials supply of nature and people’s subjective initiative make them recreate nature when obtaining means of livelihood. Since human’s coming, the nature is not free, but becomes the humanized nature. However, the naturalness of human decides the human must do the continuous taking and recreating in nature, but those activities are not arbitrary, if human exceed the limit of nature can be burden, they will be punished by it. The relationship between human and nature is interaction and interplay, new rural construction must establish on the basic of right reorganization of human and nature relationship, and have a heart with fear to nature, set up the concept of respect nature, protect nature, and conforming to nature.

On the aspect of social practice, realize the harmonious coexistence of human and nature, human and human, human and society. Firstly, the human’s development should make the nature’s survival and development as premise. The new rural construction should adjust rural construction plan, rural management method, agricultural product method in the limitation of nature can burden, and then it can make the full play of farmer’s creativity, protect the natural ecological system of rural, and realize the harmonious coexistence of human and nature. “The human equal includes ‘generation equality’ and ‘intergenerational equality’, the former reflects the overall interests, and the latter reflects the future interest of society.” (Ling, 2008) The new rural construction is not based on the scarification of part benefits to make the other regions gain interest, what’s worse, scarify the development

condition of descendant to current construction. So, the new rural construction should handle the relationship of entirety and part, segmentation and integration, to make the plan and division of the different ecological areas in rural to play the subjectivity role of different geography appearances in rural, and make their functions complementary. At the same time, it should handle the immediate interests and long term interests in the construction process, mark out the ecological limitation line of rural ecological environment protection to make the rural gain the security of continuous development. In process of new rural construction, only through the point of overall and long-term, handle the relationship of ‘generation equality’ and ‘intergenerational equality’, can realize the harmonious coexistence of human and nature. At last, in the self development of human, the dynamic role of nature development can not only reflect on the cognition of nature’s essence and development from, but also the ability to subjectivity transforms nature with these cognitions. The new rural construction should play the human subjectivity to reasonable and efficient use the recourses in nature, and then build a good living room and suitable developing room to make the farmers can do their best to get what they deserve and get on well with each other, and realize the harmonious coexistence of human and nature.

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## 2. THE NEW RURAL CONSTRUCTION ROUTES ANALYZE UNDER THE PERSPECTIVE OF ECOLOGICAL CIVILIZATION

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Under the background of ecological civilization construction, the key of new rural construction is the breakthrough of ecological region construction: protect rural ecological security, improve rural environmental health, develop rural ecological industry, and cultivate rural ecological culture, the four “ecological steps” are interrelation, and integral.

### 2.1 Ensure the Rural Ecological Security

The rural ecological security means

agricultural natural resource and ecological environment are in a healthy, balance, and unthreatening situation. Under this situation, the agricultural ecological system can keep continuous productivity, and will not break or pollute the environment to product the healthy and safe agricultural product. (Yang, 2009)

The rural ecological security belongs to the last layer of “ecological steps”, it is the premise and basic of all the product and live activities in rural and city. The evaluation standards of rural ecological security includes: firstly, agricultural ecological environment quality, mainly reflects on the percentages of forest, tillage, river, lake, residence take in rural; Secondly, agricultural ecological

environment pressure, mainly reflects on the natural population growth rate, the area of farmland per capita, the application degree of pesticides and fertilizers, the pollution degree of township enterprises; thirdly, the agricultural ecological construction capability, mainly reflects on the farmers' per capita income, the rural environment pollution and life garbage treatment rate, the input of village public goods. The Chinese environmental protection administration put forward the method of "draw the red line of ecological protection" in 2014, the red line of ecological protection actually is the last line of the basic environment quality security line to ensure human's survival. The new rural construction should draw a rural ecological security red line, and this line is not only the fundamental of agricultural continuous development, but also the significant factor of city long-term development, even the whole country continuous development capability.

## 2.2 Improve the Rural Environmental Health

The concept of rural environmental health is broad, it means the factors that hinder or influence the health in the entire environment that human body activities surrounded in rural. From the content, the agricultural environmental health mainly includes: air quality, drinking water hygiene, household garbage and some other factors. The agricultural environmental health is the second floor of "ecological steps", it is the key mark of peasant survival situation and rural development degree. With the continuous promotion of industrial, urbanization and agricultural modernization, the Chinese rural environment still has many problems: On the aspect of agricultural productivity, the application degree of pesticides and fertilizers is very high, the emission of animal and fowl excrements is random; on the aspect of agricultural life, the decontamination rate of rural domestic waster, household garbage are low, and this lead to the water pollution that combines to rural production and living. In the Chinese rural surface water quality monitoring section (point location) of 2012, the percentage of water quality worse than Grade V (the water worse than Grade V is the badly polluted water that basically loses the usable function of water) is 12.1%. In addition, the fraction defective of Chinese rural surface water and underground drinking water are 14.4% and 29.7%.<sup>1</sup> Water is the source of all things growth, no matter the agricultural productivity development or the peasant life can not be without it. Under the perspective ecological civilization, the new rural construction must improve the rural environmental health to improve a tidy and healthy environment to the peasant households through

<sup>1</sup> The data comes from the environmental protection department of the People's Republic of China. The Chinese environmental bulletin of 2012. Retrieved from [http://www.mep.gov.cn/gkml/hbb/qt/201306/t20130604\\_253201.htm](http://www.mep.gov.cn/gkml/hbb/qt/201306/t20130604_253201.htm)

ecological engineering, modern science and technology, and management tools.

## 2.3 Develop the Rural Ecological Industry

The ecological agricultural is the biology according the circulation of materials and energy transformation in ecological system that use the modern science and technology and management methods build on the original agriculture, and it is a modern agricultural can obtain a higher economic benefit, ecological benefit and social benefit. The development of agricultural ecological industry actually is a transformation of rural economic development way to reduce the consumption of resource and energy. The ecological rural industry belongs to the third floor of "ecological steps", it is the efficient route to rural environmental protection and ecological construction. The promotion of rural ecological industry firstly should promote the ecological transformation of agricultural industry, and then try the organic agriculture, ecological sightseeing agriculture, agricultural ecological farm and other ecological agricultural economic forms. The economic forms of ecological agriculture can not only make the peasant to obtain benefit, but also protect the rural ecological environment. Secondly, the promotion of rural ecological industry should apply the agricultural natural resources. It should adjust the space structure of agricultural ecological system to engage in stereoscopic planting, cultivation or the combination of planting and breeding to improve the application rate of agricultural resources, and then forbid the over-exploitation in forestry, the overgrazing in grassland pastoral, the over-fishing in fishery industry and so on. At last, it should strengthen the rural new energy construction, the rural areas should according to local conditions to develop renewable energy sources, such as, water and electricity, wind power, hydropower, solar and geothermal energy to reduce the dependency of coal and straws, and satisfy the dynamic requirement of agricultural product.

## 2.4 Cultivate the Rural Ecological Culture

The rural ecological culture is the value, concept, and thinking mode of harmonious coexistence of human and nature in rural society, and then it relies on the appearances of rural settlement, ethic norm, custom, and art product. The rural ecological culture belongs to the highest floor of "ecological steps", it is the final destination and key point of new rural construction under the perspective of ecological civilization. The cultivation of rural ecological culture firstly should combine the local productive characteristics, combine the natural view, resource view, productive view with live attitude, consumption view and political opinion, cultivate the "conductor" and "executor" of the top-level design in new rural construction to establish a ecological ethic norm of respect nature, protect nature in the whole society.

Secondly, it should depend on the natural ecological resources of rural region, promote the cultural ecological industry, and create more rural ecological cultural industry that contains green environmental conception. At last, it should protect and explore rural ecological cultural resources. For example, it can depend on the realities of rural to create the bamboo cultural village, flower cultural village, tea cultural village and some other cultural villages that with local characteristics and ecological conception. This action can protect the rural ecological environment and make a leavening influence on villagers. The rural ecological cultural construction is the destination and process of new rural construction. The cultivation of rural ecological culture is the guard bar of the “ecological steps”, and plays the role of support and coordination in each link of new rural ecological construction.

### **3. THE SUPPORTING MEASURES TO CLIMB UP THE NEW RURAL CONSTRUCTION “ECOLOGICAL STEPS”**

Although the “ecological steps” that integrates the ecological civilization conception into new rural construction just has four floors, but it involves various kinds of benefits, and it is a long-term process, to realize the goal early, we must establish the related mechanism to provide supporting.

#### **3.1 Reasonable Planning of Agricultural Development Pattern**

The reasonable planning of agricultural development pattern is according to the rural natural geography, economic geography, human geography, and ecological geography to consider the rural population distribution, land application, resource development and economic layout, and make the function division and develop direction of rural region space with the principle of regional function and coordination development. the space unit that is divided as one specific function must development and utilization according to its function, meanwhile, the functions of spaces can be complementary with each other to establish a science and reasonable space development structure. On the aspect of division content, the rural regional space patterns contain: the reasonable division percentage of city and rural land resources application; the division percentage of rural regional ecological function area, cultivated land, forest land, and road and residence land; the percentage of population capacity, resource application, economic development scale, and domestic installation. The planning of agricultural pattern is to make a full application of various kinds of natural resources to satisfy the requirement of rural social product and consumption, meanwhile, ensure the continuous development of rural productivity

and life. Land is the necessary space carrier of new rural construction, cherish and reasonable application of each land is the significant task to integrate ecological civilization concept into new rural construction.

#### **3.2 Establishing and Perfecting the Institutional System of Rural Ecological Environmental Protection**

The ecological protection generally includes three steps: the prevention of problem; the compensation and investigate accountability of problem; the management and restoration of problem. So, the establishing and perfecting of rural ecological environmental protection system should be with a complete institutional system. Firstly, protect prevention mechanism and ecological compensation system. After the reasonable planning of agricultural development pattern, the government should accord to rural regional land function division, and depend on the different situation to establish related prevention mechanism of resource environmental carrying capability to ensure the timely solution of problem. The rural regional resources and carrying ecological function of rivers, lakes, wetlands, forest land, cultivated land and housing are different. For the ecological function area, it should establish the ecological compensation mechanism to promote its role of ecological conservation to realize the economic complementary and environmental benefit to promote the coordinate development of different areas. Secondly, the compensation and investigate accountability mechanism. Each person has the responsibility to protect environment with different positions and duty. On the important position of environmental protection, such as, chief executive, enterprise legal person, environmental impact assessment engineer, environmental quality inspector and so on should practice the ecological damage liability lifetime investigate mechanism to inspect their red line of rural ecological security to realize the natural resources continuous application and rural regional sound progress. Thirdly, build the management and restoration mechanism. Establishing and perfecting the rural environmental protection law mechanism to insist on the principle of the polluter pays. Meanwhile, it should expand the financial channels of rural environmental protection and ecological construction to increase the capital investment of rural environmental and ecological management.

#### **3.3 Structuring the Check and Evaluation Mechanism of Rural Environmental Performance**

The integration of ecological civilization into new rural construction should establish environmental performance check and evaluation mechanism, make the environmental evaluation as the carrier to establish the ecological orientation of new rural construction. Firstly, establishing and perfecting the goal system of performance. According

to the rural regional function orientation to determine the different evaluation goals, strengthen the related ecological civilization indicators, such as “ecological agricultural industry demonstration area”, “ecological demonstration towns”. Secondly, formulate the clearly evaluation methods. Detail the contents of guaranteeing the rural ecological security, improve the rural ecological industry, and cultivate the rural ecological culture. Thirdly, implement the leader’s ecological responsibility lifetime mechanism. Establish the lifetime document of leader’s ecological performance in towns, no matter the promotion or retirement in the future, the wrong decision making that lead to the worse of ecological environment must be published and liability retroacted, even the given criminal sanctions.

All in all, the goal of new rural construction under the perspective of ecological civilization is not just

to the promotion of rural economic development, the improvement of rural features, the strengthen of rural democracy at the grassroots level and cultural prosperity, but also to the integration of ecological civilization concept into the various enterprises of new rural construction to ensure the continuous productivity in rural.

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