



Research Report on Improving Quality and Upgrading Development of Ecological Animal Husbandry in Qinghai Province

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Abstract

In order to promote rural revitalization and improve the quality of ecological animal husbandry in Qinghai Province, the General Station of Animal Husbandry of Qinghai Province formed a research team, and went deep into 206 ecological animal husbandry cooperatives in pastoral areas, through the forms of discussion exchanges and questionnaire distribution, carried out the investigation and research on how to improve the quality of ecological animal husbandry development in Qinghai Province, and put forward some proposals. The financial funds must be quantified to the cooperative members, and how to use the funds shall be proposed in accordance with the guidance of government departments, the proposal of the council, and the voting of the members' meeting. In order to master the implementation of previous projects, the Agricultural and Rural Sectors of the prefectures and counties should start a special inspection of ecological animal husbandry funds and timely rectify the problems that are found in the inspection.

Keywords

Ecological Animal Husbandry, Quality and Upgrading Development, Research Proposals

1. Introduction

In 2008, Qinghai Province established the ecological animal husbandry development strategy, and proposed protecting the grassland environment as the premise, taking advantage of grassland resources as the basis, transforming production and management ways as the core, organizing ecological animal husbandry cooperatives as the point cut, and establishing a balance between grassland and livestock as the means, in order to create a path for the sustainable development of herbivorous animal husbandry, Qinghai province began the construction and exploration of ecological animal husbandry. At that time, 7 herding villages were selected to carry out pilot tasks and explore the way for the whole province first. By 2010, the pilot units had been expanded to more than 300 cooperatives in 30 counties. By the end of 2012, the ecological animal husbandry cooperatives had covered all the villages in the pastoral areas and had reached 961 cooperatives. Various ecological animal husbandry models such as joint-stock system, joint household system, large household system, and substitute grazing system had been actively explored and innovated a new way of the grassland animal husbandry development which was in line with the actual conditions of pastoral areas. In 2014, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs approved Qinghai province as the National Grassland Ecological Animal Husbandry Pilot Zone, during this period, Qinghai ecological animal husbandry task made important substantive progress, at the same time many representative cooperatives such as Meilong in Tianjun County, Lageri in Zeku County, and Ganglong in Gande County have emerged [1]. A joint-stock cooperative system construction model has been formed with the content of stock sharing based on grass, herd feeding, grassland rotation, labor division, and profit sharing according to shares. The production way of pastoral areas has been fundamentally changed, the industrial structure has been effectively adjusted, the income of herds-men has been continuously increased, the ecological environment of grasslands has been significantly improved, and the

construction of ecological animal husbandry has been greatly developed, Qinghai province has made substantial progress on the development of ecological animal husbandry, and joint-stock ecological animal husbandry cooperatives have become an important unit of ecological protection, poverty alleviation, and animal husbandry development in pastoral areas, and this kind of construction mode has been recognized, studied and promoted by local governments and the masses. In 2017, Qinghai province's ecological animal husbandry construction won the national Three Agriculture Innovation List, and in 2019, it won the Reform and Innovation Project Award [2].

2. Current situations

In recent years, in accordance with the construction policy which integrates resources that get support and development, the province's ecological animal husbandry has taken the transformation of the cooperative stock system as the key point and has considered the year-end assessment of the cooperatives as the main means to eliminate and add dynamic adjustments. From 2015 to 2022, the number of representative cooperatives has increased from 102 to 206. At present, according to statistics, there are 31,182 households in 206 cooperatives, with an enrollment rate of 62%; 48.0573 million mu of grassland was incorporated into the community, with a rate of 38%; 409,200 cattle and 586,300 sheep; the total share capital is 2.081 billion Yuan. The integration details in Qinghai are shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Resource integration of six prefectures in pastoral areas

Region	Number of cooperatives	Number of households	Participation rates	Grasslands (mu)	Participation rates	Number of livestock
Huangnan Prefecture	50	10505	85%	5313200	73%	404200
Haixi Prefecture	43	1823	52%	13014300	37%	326700
Guoluo Prefecture	34	5642	67%	7927200	52%	53600
Yushu Prefecture	34	10402	70%	19111800	35%	91000
Hainan Prefecture	23	1652	24%	1212900	17%	79200
Haibei Prefecture	22	1158	28%	1477900	16%	40800

3. Current difficulties

In recent years, the construction of ecological animal husbandry in our province has achieved certain results, the ecological environment in pastoral areas has been protected, the production capacity of cattle and sheep has been improved, the living standards of herdsmen have been continuously raised, the construction models of ecological animal husbandry have been widely promoted and applied inside and outside of Qinghai province, meanwhile it has become an effective means for the transformation and upgrading of animal husbandry in pastoral areas. However, under the high-quality development situations of animal husbandry, Qinghai ecological animal husbandry conditions have emerged deep-seated problems as follows [3].

3.1 It is difficult to reform ecological animal husbandry cooperatives into stock systems

The joint-stock reform of ecological animal husbandry cooperatives has always been the core requirement of the construction process. Although the six prefectures have organized and cultivated a number of joint-stock cooperatives, with exact stock reform, strong endogenous impetus, and high development willingness of herdsmen, we found the problem of paying more quantity and less quality is more prominent in this research.

3.1.1 Because of the incomplete stock reform

According to the survey, 43% of the 206 joint-stock cooperatives did not know important data such as the number of households, the area of grassland, the number of cattle and sheep in the cooperatives, and the total share capital of the cooperatives. Some leaders of the cooperatives were vague about the core contents of the shareholding reform, and even some counties directly defined the number of households, grasslands, and cattle and sheep in the whole village as shareholding reform, also did not carry out the shareholding reform of cooperatives in accordance with provincial requirements, and the phenomenon of confusing with the rural collective economic organizations was a common problem.

3.1.2 Because of the irregular stock cooperation

One county of Haibei Prefecture was the first pilot county to develop joint-stock cooperatives, there were 10 representative cooperatives in 2020, and the development momentum was strong, but later due to the low standard stock cooperation of some cooperatives, the follow-up management and other problems which led to the herdsmen lost expectations on cooperatives benefits, so they decided to withdraw from the cooperatives, most of the cooperatives in this county

have quitted their cooperation.

3.2 It is difficult to improve the development ability of ecological animal husbandry cooperatives

3.2.1 Because of the inadequate construction of regulations

As early as 2017, the provincial Department of Agriculture and Rural Affairs issued the document which was named Notice on Strengthening the Standardized Construction of Ecological Animal Husbandry, the document clarified the relevant requirements for the regulations of cooperatives and the construction of internal systems. For example, the Meilong cooperative in Tianjun County Haixi prefecture revised and improved its regulations in 2018. Moreover, 10 internal management regulations were standardized and formulated to ensure the standardized operation of cooperatives in 2019. However, we found that 30% of the cooperatives' regulations imitated the others' samples; even the contents of the regulations did not specify the most important matters related to the rights of stockholders, such as stock conversion procedures, stock changes, rules of participating and withdrawing, as well as the business discussing systems [4].

3.2.2 Because of the inadequate construction of the management system

According to the survey, we found that 55% of cooperatives had not established a long-term effective management system, and 45% of cooperatives were chaired by the village's party secretary, but the important role has not been fully played. When we looked over the accounts of cooperatives, we found that the cooperative financial management was more chaotic, the accounting subjects were not normative, and the financial income and expenditure support were incomplete. The leaders of the cooperatives had a weak awareness of financial management and failed to effectively combine financial data and internal management, resulting in the accounting reports and management were not effectively related, also the annual dividend was not clear.

3.2.3 Because of the inadequate construction of endogenous dynamics

Most of the cooperatives didn't have a strong self-hematopoietic function, they were accustomed to relying on government funds, especially in the breeding process, paying more attention to the investment of capital and less to the application of technologies, meanwhile they didn't care about the adjustment of herd structures, scientific feeding, sale of the livestock timely, all the above problems had resulted in lower production capacity of livestock and lower earnings of the cooperatives, therefore it is hard to truly arouse the enthusiasm of herdsman.

3.2.4 Because of the inadequate construction of the leading role

There are 206 provincial representative cooperatives such as Meilong, Lageri, Ganglong, and other typical cooperatives. "Meilong model", "Lageri experience" and "Ganglong practice" are the most important typical experiences of ecological animal husbandry construction in our province, which have been widely promoted and applied in the province and even the whole country. However, it is found in this research that some prefectures and counties in Qinghai were lack of the strength and effort to learn typical experiences. These experiences had not been fully applied and did not really exert the demonstration effect of typical guidance [5].

3.3 It is difficult to build the construction system of ecological animal husbandry

It is found that since the reform of administrative institutions has been implemented in Qinghai province, the ecological animal husbandry construction function has been vacant in all regions, and only 8% of the six prefectures and 30 counties have established ecological animal husbandry offices, most of the prefectures and counties have attached the work function to the animal husbandry veterinary departments, agriculture, and animal husbandry comprehensive service centers, project offices and other departments, therefore the function division was not clear. During the ordinary ecological animal husbandry work, there are widespread problems such as no authorized personnel, no organizations, and no fixed staff, especially faced with frequent staff mobilizations, the daily tasks of the provincial, prefecture, and county levels couldn't be implemented well, and this kind of situation will affect the provincial overall work, particularly the quality development of Qinghai animal husbandry. We considered that the government's recognition and efforts to the construction of ecological animal husbandry exactly determined the promotion results, like Guoluo Prefecture which held ecological animal husbandry promotion meetings for several consecutive years, in order to compact the responsibilities of the whole counties in the region, also issued the High-quality Development Guidance of Guoluo Prefecture Ecological Animal Husbandry which could guide continuously to develop well. In contrast, the promotion of other prefectures was not well, the power of promoting work was not enough, and therefore work promotion was unbalanced between the regions.

4. Research Proposals

4.1 Implementing demonstration activities between the cooperatives

In order to further promote the ecological animal husbandry joint-stock cooperatives to be high-quality and

standardized, and change the previous construction ideas which are based on quantity goals, it is proposed to implement a round of demonstration activities among the regions, with the evaluation indexes like the number of households as the base rate of participation in the cooperatives, the balance of livestock capacity as the base rate of cattle and sheep, and the total share capital as the base rate of cooperatives' earnings. It is recommended to establish the three-level assessment system of province, prefectures, and counties, and finally determine the province-level representative cooperatives, prefecture-level typical cooperatives, and county-level cultivated cooperatives according to the assessment ranking results. The joint-stock cooperatives which are standardized and well-organized, with 75% households participation rate, 30% cattle sale rate, 50% sheep sale rate and more than 10% earning rate, should be listed as provincial representative cooperatives; the joint-stock cooperatives which are standardized and well-organized, with 50% households participation rate, 20% cattle sale rate, 35% sheep sale rate and more than 5% earning rate, should be listed as prefecture-level typical cooperatives; the joint-stock cooperatives that have basically achieved intensive construction level, with 30% households participation rate, 15% cattle sale rate, 30% sheep sale rate and more than 3% earning rate, should be listed as the county-level cultivated cooperatives; the cooperatives which are actually vacant on herdsman participation, which are essentially blank on the financial accounts, which are basically idle on their productions and business activities should be eliminated and no longer included in the list of joint-stock cooperatives. The government should adhere to classified management, implement dynamic adjustments, and give differential support on the basis of quality first, concentrating on creating a lot of representative cooperatives that truly play a leading role in demonstrating, and comprehensively promoting the transformation and upgrading of ecological animal husbandry in our province.

4.2 Promoting the standards of cooperatives associations

In order to accumulate scale advantages and increase marketing competitiveness, it is suggested to regulate the standards of ecological animal husbandry cooperatives associations. First, the government should clarify the standard conditions. The precondition for cooperative associations is that the individual cooperatives must complete the joint-stock tasks, and the basis is that the individual cooperatives must be willing to join the cooperative associations. Second, the government should clarify the construction principles. It is recommended that the cooperative associations adhere to the principles of decentralized production, unified management, individual voting, and dividend by share. Third, the government should clarify the governance structures. The cooperative associations must adopt the governance ways that the individual cooperatives' leaders are legal members, and all the individual cooperatives shall have the same voting rights. The income from unified services, commodities productions, processing, and marketing shall be distributed by share. Fourthly, the government should clarify the system standards. As a core of the Association's Regulations, the cooperatives associations must ensure the member cooperatives' rights, such as voting rights, participation rights, and profit rights, as well as defining the major decision-making procedures and methods of members' joining, withdrawing from the association, and share changes.

4.3 Building and fostering the demonstrating counties

In order to strengthen demonstration guidance and improve the quality of ecological animal husbandry construction in the whole county of Qinghai, it is recommended to select six counties in the six prefectures that will carry out the transformation and upgrading of ecological animal husbandry in the whole county, the counties should attach importance to the Party and the government's leadership, and pay more attention to the resources integration of the ecological animal husbandry cooperatives, also have a solid foundation for animal husbandry development. and finally realizing the transformation from a quantitative one to a quality and efficient sample, it is important to create and foster county models for promoting the development quality of ecological animal husbandry.

4.4 Strengthening the work guarantee system

In order to effectively improve the work guarantee system, it is suggested to strengthen management from the following five aspects: First, strengthening the implementation of responsibilities. In order to effectively strengthen the organization and leadership of ecological animal husbandry development, and continue to implement that the governments are the main departments responsible for ecological animal husbandry development, it is suggested that the relevant departments should coordinate and promote the work to establish an ecological animal husbandry office, determine full-time personnel, and organize a round of cooperatives' regulation revision, as well as guide cooperatives to standardize the internal management system. Second, it is suggested to strengthen performance evaluations. We should bring the construction situation of ecological animal husbandry joint-stock cooperatives into the target assessment content of government-leading groups. In accordance with the above assessment indexes, the provincial representative cooperatives should be assessed every year, and the results should be used as a "baton" to support development, and the regions with excellent assessment results should be provided with increased financial support. Third, the government should pay more attention to the cultivating

of talented people who can lead the cooperatives better and higher. To strengthen the leader teams and counselors in ecological animal husbandry cooperatives, improving their management abilities, salaries, and responsibilities, and training lots of counselors who can take root in the plateau and are willing to work hard through organizational training, exchanging experience, and learning from others. Fourthly, it is recommended to strengthen the implementation of projects effectively. In order to master the implementation of previous projects, the Agricultural and Rural Sectors of the prefectures and counties should start a special inspection of ecological animal husbandry funds and timely rectify the problems that are found in the inspection. Fifthly, the government should strengthen the financial support and actively obtain financial support, by encouraging the regions to integrate other financial funds to jointly implement the projects of ecological animal husbandry, also we should focus on building the bases of yaks and Tibetan sheep breeding as much as possible, improving the development quality of ecological animal husbandry and upgrading the development abilities of cooperatives in Qinghai province.

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