

# **RURAL OLD-AGE SECURITY SYSTEM AND LAND USE RIGHT TRANSFER OF BAI MINORITY IN YUNNAN DALI PREFECTURE: CASE STUDY OF JIANCHUAN COUNTY, P.R. CHINA**

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## **Abstract**

The major purposes of this dissertation, entitled “Rural Old-Age Security System and Land Use Right Transfer of Bai Minority in Yunnan Dali Prefecture: A Case of Jianchuan County, P.R.China”, aimed 1) to analyze the patterns of the Bai minority’s rural old-age security system in relations to land holding and land use right transfer of the old-age in Jianchuan county; 2) to analyze the causes of land use right transfer of Bai minority’s old-age villagers in Jianchuan county, as well as 3) to formulate an appropriate model of land use right transfer for the Bai minority’s old-age security system in Jianchuan county. The findings of the study revealed that the family was the foundation of the farmer’s old-age security; moreover, strengthening the legal mechanism for their family pension was supported. Specifically, combining in a diverse manner included 1) Playing the government’s main roles; 2) Providing the community’s pension services; 3) Implementing new policies on rural land transfer system, and 4) Promoting the national land management system. Also, a new rural land transfer system was implemented for the project.

**Key words:** Land System, Land Use Right Transfer, Rural Old-Age Security System, Diversified Security System

## **Introduction**

Based on the Bai minority regions as the research setting, the land use right transfer system has been underpinned for the system of farmers’ old-age security problems. The in-depth understandings of current situations on land use right transfer process in the Bai minority regions together with the farmers’ pension modes were all scrutinized. In other words, the current land use right transfer system and the deficiencies of rural old-age security system put forward the solutions of these deficiencies in order to promote the economic development of the Bai minority region, to improve the living standards of farmers and safeguard of the elderly in later life, to ease social contradictions and ethnic minority areas of regional security and political stability, as well as to strengthen the reform of the rural old-age security system.

### **Research Objectives**

1. To analyze the patterns of the Bai minority's rural old-age security system related to the land use right transfer of the old-age people in Jianchuan county.
2. To analyze the causes of land use right transfer of the Bai minority's old-age people in Jianchuan county.
3. To formulate the appropriate model of land use right transfer for the Bai minority's old-age security system in Jianchuan county.

### **Research Methodology**

Based on the mixed method, the main purpose of this study was to scrutinize the rural old age security system and land use right transfer of Bai minority in Yunan Dali prefecture: a case of Jianchuan County P.R. China. The details of the research were as follows.

Locale of the study is Jianchaun county in Yunnan Dali prefecture, China. The Jianchaun county has experienced a process of continuous adjustment and adaptation, in which one of the biggest influencing factors is the land system. The development of the rural old-age security system in Jianchuan County can be roughly divided into two stages according to the different ownership of land. The first stage is that before the founding of the People's Republic of China, the land is owned by private owners, and the rural and urban old-age security methods are not much different, mainly relying on the traditional family old-age security. Since the founding of the People's Republic of China, a series of changes have taken place in the rural old-age security system in line with the reform of the rural land system, which has roughly experienced three periods : "collective security "based on land ," collective security" based on family and "social security" based on diversification.

1. Research methodology to analyze the patterns of Bai minority rural old age security system that was related to land-holding and the land use right transfer of the old age in Jianchuan County and to analyze the causes of land use right transfer of Bai minority old age people in Jianchuan County.

As the survey research, this research aimed to study the patterns of Bai minority rural old age security system related to land-holding and the land use right transfer of the old age in Jianchuan County.

### **Population and Sample**

520 elderlies out of the 100 Bai ethnical families dwelling in Jianchuan county were used in this study, and the population size set up for the selected elderlies was carried out with the Taro Yamane's formula. Therefore, 226 elderlies out of the 100 families were selected by the accidental sampling technique.

## **Research tools**

An interview related to the elderlies' general information, land-processed size, numbers of families, rural old age security, land use right transfer, as well as cause of land use right transfer and old age pension was carried out for data collection. Open-ended interviews with its gap-filling and checklist approved by experts were validated for its content analysis; subsequently, these approved interviews were well-prepared for its appropriate application.

Two research instruments were detailed as follows.

Series 1: An interview related to rural old age security system and land use right transfer of Bai minority, which was divided into two major parts:

- 1) Farmers' personal information on elderlies' economic and social impacts including housing, daily life, as well as the old man economic income, source of income.

- 2) Contents involved with expenses, the use of the family land farmers, the size of the land price of land use right transfer, and the attitudes toward the land and opinion about family endowment insurance.

Series 2: An Interview on pension security system for farmer. In order to testify with this research objective employed for interviewing with the large-sized research project mentioned above, the scope of interview questions was involved with the investigation of village land use together with 65 year-old village land income survey, planting crops cost and income, land planting structure and income, land management area and the income of grain, as well as village land area change.

## **Data Collection**

Before collecting the data, the research assistants' deeper understandings of data collection were all informed. Then, the researcher's, dissertation advisors', and Thai lecturers' participation in their interview with community leaders and elderly people, as well as their panel discussions with agricultural officers of Jianchuan County were also done.

## **Data Analysis**

- 1) The elderlies' demographical information together with their land possession, land right transfer, and their old-aged stability were firstly analyzed using the descriptive statistical descriptions.

- 2) The impacts of land circulation on the old age security and farmers' pension security on land transfer were then analyzed using both its proportion comparison and factor analysis.

- 3) Rural land circulation and its main constraints in Jianchuan County were also analyzed using the Grey correlation analysis.

2. Research Methodology to formulate an appropriate model of land use right transfer for Bai minority old age Security System in Jianchuan County.

Based on the operational research, the research methodology was divided into two major parts:

In the 1<sup>st</sup> part on historical study, related documentaries were all reviewed in order to analyze the development of land right possession, along with changes on land right schemes, land right transfer, as well as the impacts of old-age security system of Bai minority families and elderly people. In this regard, the system of political philosophy affecting their land right possession in each era, paradigm shifts on required national economic developments, patterns of land right use, as well as the old-age people's deeper understandings of their life security in terms of their families' and elderly people's perspectives were all signified.

In the 2<sup>nd</sup> part, the formulation of an appropriate model of land use right transfer for Bai minority old age security system was detailed as follows.

1) The content analysis taken from the historical study was carried out for this study; moreover, interviews with old-age families, elderly people, academicians, and government officers were all conducted for data analysis. Also, the results of the study were synthesized into each aspect in order to foresee the probability of effective land management model.

2) According to the 1st research objective on the patterns of Bai minority rural old age security system, and the 2nd research objective on causes of land use right transfer of Bai minority old age, the conclusions based on the inductive method were all reported in order to upgrade the appropriate model of land use right transfer for Bai minority old age security system.

3) The appropriate model of land use right transfer for Bai minority old age security system was analyzed using the principle of controversy together with the congruence of national socio-economic contexts, as well as the Bai minority's land right management.

## **Research Results**

1. An Analysis of Patterns of the Bai Minority's Rural Old-Age Security System Related to Land Use Right Transfer of the Old-Age People in Jianchuan County.

1) Social Pension Impacts: Family old-age care was a fine traditional old-age care model left over for thousands of years in China. When farmers were young, they not only raised their children, but also supported them when they were old. This was because the family security function was constantly weakening in Jianchuan county; moreover, their family pension was mainly resulted from the farmers' main old-age security form and more serious relationship with their rural social security system in Jianchuan county so that farmers had to rely on their traditional old-age security model.

2) Low Level of Old-Age Insurance in Rural Society and Lack of Sustainability: In terms of the rural social endowment insurances, it showed that the problems of low guarantee standards and the absence of government subsidies were mostly found in relatively-developed areas; otherwise, the pessimistic level of the farmers' social endowment insurance was compared with the higher capital incomes.

3) Small Coverage of Collective, Social Assistance & Commercial Pensions: Most of the rural nursing homes are empty, and the shortages of collective economy's capacities were provided for all the poor farmers' old-age supports. In addition, social assistance could be provided for only a small proportion of the elderly with old-age security benefits, and the level of social assistance was rated at a lowest level, meanwhile the scope of social assistance was very narrow, compared with only 0.4 percent of the total elderly population. Also, it was obvious that the commercial old-age insurance was only suitable for rural residents with a higher income level in terms of the limited proportion of these rural residents.

## 2. An Analysis on Causes of Land Use Right Transfer of the Bai Minority's Old-Age People in Jianchuan County.

According to the supportive effects of the farmers' rural land use right transfer in Jianchuan county, the farmers' attitudes towards their rural land use right transfer were noted that the farmers' old-age cares were all resulted in their part of the old-age security. Thus, in Jianchuan County, lands were still in an unshakable position in the old-age security of farmers, and a large part of the support of farmers' old-age support was affected by their land income as shown in Figure 1.

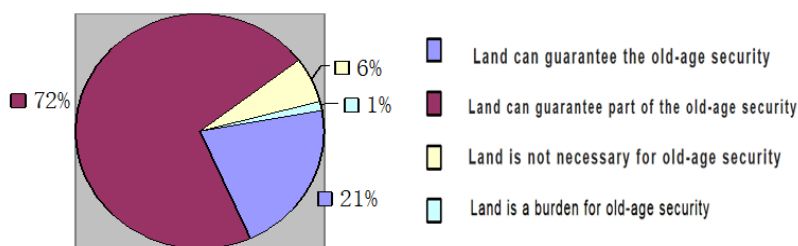


Figure 1 Attitudes of respondents towards land in 2018

Source: Cui Ying. Reflections on Rural Land Circulation in Yunnan Province (2016)

1) Land Supports for Farmers: "What is your most important pension financial support right now?" In this question, the answer "land income" was the most important old-age economic supports of 53.10%, and followed by "agricultural income". As only 7.08% of the social old-age insurance was the most important old-age economic supports, the commercial old-age insurance was rarely found. It was obvious that at present in Jianchuan County, their lands have played an absolute supporting role in the farmers' old-age security, and the main land was occupied. Also, the social and commercial old-age insurance system was rated at in a low-level

status, and a very secondary position was only found in the old-age security of farmers.

According to the survey, it also showed that although the land income was considered one of the most important financial supports for the aged, some difficulties in relying solely on land income for the aged were mostly found, as shown in Figure 2. In addition to this, as indicated in Figure 3, burdens on farmers' grow income for the aged was rated at 74.78 %, and burdens on planting income were mostly supported for the aged. Therefore, although most farmers' planting income was an important source of old-age income, their planting income was not enough to support their entire old-age economy and their needs to supporting their old-age life through other sideline industries.

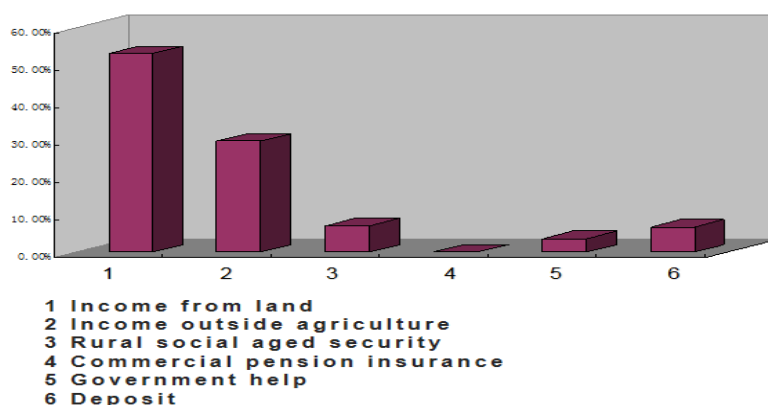


Figure 2 : Top Old-Aged Financial Supports in 2018

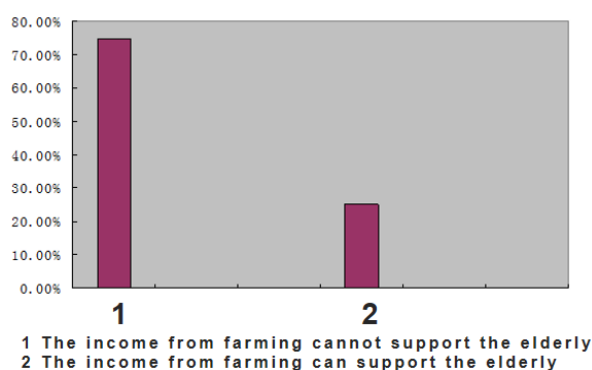


Figure 3 : Old-age support for the rural elderly from planting income in 2018

**2) Land Endowment Status in Different Regions :** The proportion of farmers found in the urban area was the highest, accounting for 79.59% of the total number of people living in the developed regions, meanwhile the proportion of farmers found in the urban area was the highest, accounting for 98.84% of the total number of people living in the urban area. In three different regions, the least supporting effect of land income on the aged was in the agricultural area or rural area. It was factual that the land income found in the agricultural area or rural area was not the most important source of the peasants' old-age income because of their poor land income and small harvesting productivity. In the agricultural area or rural area, the most important source of the old-age income for the peasants was the non-agricultural income. Specifically, the income of sideline as agricultural income in relations to the farmers' collection of part-time jobs together with their pig-raising and chicken-raising were all supported. Therefore, the inadequate numbers of income supported for the rural families' old-age cares were mostly found in different regions. In this regard, the farmers' opinions on their rural social insurance was meaningful; on the other hands, "rural insurance" supported for some farmers was meaningless because of sub-standard, dispenses, and irrelevance of current rural social insurances supported for their old-age care. In all regions, both land income and non-agricultural income were the most important old-age economic supports for farmers; accordingly, the highest proportion of social old-age insurance with not more than 17% was mostly found so that the farmers' social old-age insurance was rated at a lower level, and only a secondary role was taken an account for the farmers' old-age security.

3. Formulating the Appropriate Model of Land Use Right Transfer for the Bai minority's Old-Age Security System in Jianchuan County.

1) Foundation of Farmer's Old-Age Security: The family's stable characteristics referred to the individual's position and role in the society were subordinate to their family; moreover, there was no individual right found in the families' independence, meanwhile no evidences were found in the western society of the rural Chinese areas. In aspects of the core of people's behaviors, it was stated that all in the family's tangible or intangible careful networks, the family's basic unit was dealt with all kinds of risks, particularly in solving the elderly's problems. The traditional family old-age security model was deeply rooted in the historical and cultural origin of Jianchuan County. Also, the long-standing position of the old-age pension foundation will not be shaken by the weakening of its safeguard function.

2) Strengthening Legal Mechanism for Family Pensions: On the basis of family relationship and moral sentiment, the traditional family old-age concept was very fragile in the period of social transformation, and it needed to have the rigid standards to restrain it. Therefore, the legal level about the obligations of children should be clear to support their parents.

3) Combining in a diverse manner: Constructing the diversified old-age security mechanism based on the innovation of the land circulation system was a wise choice for the special environment of the western region faced with the old-age crisis

under the current economic situations of the rural western minority areas.

4) Playing the Government's Main Roles: In the present situation of the western region, it is revealed that the new form of the old-age insurance was implicated for rural areas and the government-based relief so that the old-age insurance became the inevitable choice for chronological developments.

5) Pension services provided by the community: The few numbers of old-age service institutions were mostly found in Jianchuan county and social organizations encouraged to join in the rural old-age security were vital for the embodiment of social ataxia.

6) Implementing New Policies on Rural Land Transfer System: According to laws with the basis of rational allocation of resources and the premise of farmers' voluntary participation, it was necessary to carry out land circulation supported for this work. Also, a scientific and reasonable manner was involved with the light of the different local conditions so that the total numbers of farmlands would not be affected.

7) Promoting the National Land Management System: In the land expropriation, the government's right to land expropriation was strictly used for pure public interests or quasi-public benefits. In order to prevent the excessive use of administrative means, the market mechanism should be implemented because of the government's intervene on their transaction of rural lands.

8) Establishing New Rural Land Transfer System: The establishment of the land circulation market could make the market more standardized and reasonable so that the interests of the main body can be maintained. In order to make the circulation market more standardized, effective management regulations and well-organized management service centers should be all set up.

## **Conclusion**

1. The land transfer's reliefs on the pressures of rural old-age care, it showed that speeding up the implementation of the rural land transfer in Jianchuan County and improving the efficiency of the allocation of land resources helped activate the transfer of rural surplus labors to the second and third industries, it was noted that promoting the circulation of rural lands in Jianchuan County was conducive to the establishment and completion of the rural social old-age security system. Besides, the land circulation was resulted from promoting the large-scale operation of land and the rapid development of rural economy, as well as weakening the social security utility of land, changing the embarrassing situation of land pension, improving the economic value utility of land, increasing the economic benefits of farmers, and creating a good economic rule for the construction of rural social pension security system.

2. The land use right transfer model will effected on the land circulation and it will acceleration for farmers' ideological emancipation and income growth, it was insisted that under the influence of the household contract management mode, the farmers in the western region had a new demand for lands; moreover, more cultivated



lands were all needed to realize the large-scale production. Also, the land circulation could not only meet this demand exactly, but the farmers could also achieve the scale effect and income increases through the scale production.

3. The land circulation conducive to the realization of economic scales and the modernization of agriculture, it was stated that in order to promote the development of agricultural modernization, the large-scale production of lands, the realization of lands was promoted for the implementation of land circulation when the land use right of farmers with a basis for promoting land concentration was carried out with its scale management. Besides, concentrating on separated block lands along with utilizing agricultural machinery and equipment, adopting agricultural technology, carrying out agricultural production, adjusting the agricultural structure, realizing industrialization management, and making agriculture realize modern were supported substantially.

## **Discussion**

1. In terms of the function of old-age lands weakened by the land circulation, it was stated that throughout the literature at home and abroad, it was generally apparent that the lands depended on such a social security. When the farmers' insufficient wealth accumulation, non-agricultural employment, no financial opportunities and non-agricultural income, as well as no sound social security system were all supported, a large extent must rely on land harvests to provide their basic means of livelihood or land income as the main means to maintain a minimum standard of living and social risks and social security. Also, land transfer's challenges were brought into rural old-age cares in Jianchuan County.

2. The imperfect land transfer system was restricted by the development of old-age security in rural society. From our previous research, it was obvious that many problems of land circulation were mostly found in Jianchuan County.

3. In terms of the inadequate understandings of land transfer, it was stated that both individual grassroots and cadres dwelling in their village did not neither attach enough importance to the land transfer work nor the form of land transfer was used in conforming the law of the market economy's operation. Also, the old method of administrative intervention and forced orders should be all abided.

4. In terms of the non-standard land transfer, it was noted that many places, according to the point of view of investigation, had not yet improved the issuance of land contract management warrants, resulting in its non-standard land transfer. Furthermore, it was mainly manifested in the oral agreement, as well as the lack of written materials with no basis for handling disputes was not facilitated after the occurrence of disputes took places. Without the consent of the issuing party, the private circulation resulting in circulation behavior was not protected by laws.

5. In terms of the poor land transfer mechanism, it was noted that although the transfer of land use rights became a common phenomenon in the development of rural economy, the land transfer was not formed in both tangible and intangible markets. In other words, a lack of sufficient information link was found between the transfers, which hindered the transfer of land in more ways, was rated in a wider range and at a higher level.

6. In terms of the high risk of land transfer, it was stated that the capital owners' agricultural engagement in cash crops and food security was induced by main risks and drawbacks; moreover, the government encouraged a large capital to merge the small farmers' lands because it was often difficult to avoid the collusion and forced transfer of government and business.

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