

Research on the Development Dilemma and Breakthrough Path of China's Rural Think Tank Construction

Xiaona Li, Daozhi Wang

College of Politics and Public Management, Qingdao University, Qingdao, Shandong 266061, China

Keywords: Rural Governance, New Rural Think Tank Construction, Rural Revitalization

Abstract: As a national soft power, think tanks have developed into the “fifth force” after legislation, administration, justice and media. This article is based on the background of China's entry into the era of think tank construction, aiming at the "short board" link in the construction of think tanks in China - the construction of rural think tanks, based on the analysis of multiple cases, from the discussion of the significance and necessity of rural think tank construction for rural governance Departure, analyze the development dilemma faced by China's rural think tank construction at the present stage, and propose a targeted breakthrough path to promote the process of building a new type of rural think tank in China, so as to better play the role of think tank and respond to the country's ability to achieve governance and governance. This paper makes suggestions for the needs of modernization, and promotes the realization of the "Village Revitalization Strategy" better and faster.

1. Introduction

In recent years, the development and construction of China's new think tanks has ushered in a rare opportunity for development, setting off a new upsurge in the construction of official think tanks, semi-official think tanks, and social think tanks. A large number of multi-level, wide-area think tanks have sprung up, with its Special social orientation and functional roles influence the governance models and methods of governments at all levels to varying degrees. However, the concept of “rural think tank” has rarely become the research object of researchers. In the wave of construction of the vast think tank, the words or voices of “rural think tanks” rarely appear, causing the construction of rural think tanks to struggle on the edge of neglect. zone. The rural community has gathered more attention from the public and experts and scholars. It was started on October 18, 2017 by General Secretary Xi Jinping’s report on the “Village Revitalization Strategy” in the report of the 19th National Party Congress. Since then, The construction of the rural revitalization think tank has also begun to show its demeanor in the implementation of the think tank wave and the “rural revitalization strategy”. With its own value and influence, it has gradually grown and improved.

Rural rectification and management are the key components of China's national governance system [1]. The rural revitalization strategy is the basic strategy for the people's livelihood. In this process, the construction and upgrading of rural think tanks can not be ignored, and the construction of new rural think tanks It must be the general trend.

2. The Meaning and Necessity of Rural Think Tank Construction

2.1 The Meaning of the Rural Think Tank

The word "think tank" is an exotic product, translated from the word "Think Tank", also known as the "think tank" or "think tank", which is similar to the military divisions, counselors, and aides who existed in ancient China. In the modern sense, literally, “think tank” is a concentrated place for talent reserve, knowledge integration and ideological production, and plays an irreplaceable role in promoting human progress and social development [2]; academically speaking Most scholars generally believe that "think tanks" refer to experts from all walks of life and people of insight gather together to give play to their talents and ideology, and to provide reasonable development for social,

political, economic, cultural, ecological and other fields. A consulting research institution specializing in developmental research with strategies or optimization strategies. Just as Professor Wan Jinbo of the Science and Technology Strategy Consulting Institute of the Chinese Academy of Sciences have positioned the attributes of think tanks, the analysis of strategic policies is the main function of think tanks. The main purpose of influencing and serving government decision-making is its main purpose.

From the connotation of "think tank", the "rural think tank" is a scientific research institution that faces rural governance, rural social and economic development, and research on rural construction, gathers intellectual support and policy programs, provides decision-making consulting services for rural development, and provides advice and suggestions. The "new rural think tank" is a think tank that serves the countryside with the help of the Internet, big data, and new public management theory. On March 23, 2015, China's rural development think tank platform was built. As the first think tank platform dedicated to rural development in China, it opened the prelude to the construction of rural think tanks, and then the institutes of the Academy of Social Sciences, universities and other subordinate schools. Governance research units have emerged, and the state and various levels of government have also established research institutions to serve the countryside. Various organizations that plan for rural governance are blooming at the grassroots level like wildflowers [3]. The rural think tank ushered in the spring of construction. However, compared with foreign rural think tanks and other think tanks in China, the problems of rural think tank construction have emerged. This requires the joint efforts of the government and people from all walks of life to promote the construction of new rural think tanks.

2.2 The Necessity of Rural Think Tank Construction

Looking at the development of rural think tanks today, compared with the construction of state-level, provincial-level, and municipal-level think tanks, there are obvious problems such as small scale, low level, low degree of attention, and lack of social influence. According to the survey and interview analysis, more than half of the people think that the construction of rural think tanks is not systematic, and the necessity of continuing construction is lacking. The rural governance can effectively achieve the goal by relying on party and state-led and rural autonomy. In fact, most of them don't know much about the concept of "think tank" and its functional positioning. In the report of the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, the Party Central Committee also clearly proposed to improve the governance system of rural autonomy, rule of virtue, and rule of law in the "three-in-one integration", comprehensively realize the "five major rejuvenation" of the countryside, and portray a grand blueprint for the governance and development of rural areas in China. Therefore, as a precious intellectual resource of the country, in the context of profound changes in the environment and conditions of public governance in China, it is of great significance for all types of think tanks to provide high-quality decision-making consultations for government agencies, and rural think tanks should be like this.

The rural think tank is an integral part of the national think tank system. Its perfection and development promotes the construction level of China's overall think tank in a certain sense, and builds a multi-dimensional think tank system with all-round and multi-domain. The Party and the central government, provincial and municipal governments at all levels attach importance to the existence of think tanks and use think tanks as assistants to the staff. They provide advice and suggestions for this level of governance. On the one hand, they set up an official think tank, and the government leads the formation of a talent team. On the other hand, the social think tank is purchased. The results of knowledge promote the construction of multi-class and multi-level think tanks. Specialized in rural areas, dedicated to rural social construction, political construction, ecological construction, economic construction, civilized construction, etc. The rural think tank fills the gap in China's think tank system, and is dedicated to rural construction with its scientific research and practice. Without an excellent rural think tank, the national think tank is incomplete; without a reliable and professional rural think tank, the national think tank will lose its important support to achieve professional, all-field, all-round integration [3].

3. The Development Dilemma of Rural Think Tank Construction

With the increasing emphasis on the construction and development of China's think tanks in recent years, the term "think tank" has become a fashionable vocabulary and has been studied by many researchers. However, looking at the general public's understanding of the term "think tank" is generally a cognitive concept in which "think tanks are a collection of experts and intellectuals." People may see "think tanks" in addition to news. Beyond such words, there is a lack of understanding of the specific connotation, function, and operational mechanism of the "think tank." The think tank has not really affected the social life of our general public. This precisely reflects the inadequacies in the construction of think tanks in China, not to mention how much the "village think tank" can generate in public cognition. At this stage, in view of the current situation of China's rural think tanks, there are still several shortcomings in its construction:

First of all, the composition system of the talent pool of rural think tanks is imperfect, leading to some obstacles between intellectual achievements and practice. The existing rural think tank system in China is mainly based on higher education institutions, party and government administration colleges, social science institutes, and social organizations. Under the leadership or guidance of the state and governments at all levels, experts and scholars in the field of rural areas are gathered through a series of Research activities, project management, etc. provide advice and suggestions for rural construction. In the actual implementation of rural governance, the main force of the governance work is the grassroots team of village committee cadres and villagers' intellectuals, and they also make suggestions for the construction and development of the village. They are not real think tanks. They are not employed in any level of rural think tanks, but they are the most aware and most concerned about the specific situation in the local area. They are also the direct implementers of the policy plan, and their policy guidelines and development strategies. Cognition and understanding directly affect the implementation effect of policy programs, affecting the efficiency and effectiveness of the combination of think tank results and local practices. In addition, as a recognized intellectual in rural society, as a conscience and soul of rural society, rural teachers and groups should play an important role in the rural revitalization strategy [7], but in real life, rural teachers as intellectuals, identity micro, due to The position and responsibility of the company is at the edge of the rural revitalization strategy. Although the current rural think tank system guarantees professional advantages and disciplinary advantages, it also leads to the fact that the policy recommendations provided by think tanks have brought certain incompatibility and exclusion to the specific governance of the village, and even do not conform to the reality of rural social development. While it is difficult to solve practical problems, it also brings about the negative effects of policy formulation and implementation. For example, the Guanlong Village Tourism Project Contracting Group copied the business management model of other successful cases, and did not fully combine objective reality. It mistakenly believed that "the countryside can develop rural tourism", lacking scientific argumentation and planning for investment and development projects, and thinking hard. There is a difference between the professional knowledge and the actual situation. In the end, the overall development direction is biased, and the result is undoubtedly a failure.

Secondly, compared with other levels of think tanks, China's rural think tanks are developing slowly, with a small number and small scale. They are less valued and have limited social influence. According to data from the 2008-2017 Global Think Tank Report released by the University of Pennsylvania's Think Tank and Civil Society Research Program (ttcsp), China's internationally recognized think tanks have grown from 74 in 2008 to 2017. The 512 companies have become the world's second-largest think tanks in the United States [8]. However, according to analysis, in these think tanks, the research field is mainly aimed at the macro-strategic level, and is based on the official think tank, which truly serves the rural reality. There are only a handful of think tanks. As a big agricultural country, China, agriculture, rural areas and peasants have always been concerned about the issues of agriculture, rural areas and farmers. With the introduction of the rural revitalization strategy in recent years, the rural think tank has developed significantly, such as the Jiangsu village established in 2019. The revitalization of the think tank research institute, the first agricultural

high-end expert think tank established in 2018, etc., the state and local governments, experts and scholars have seen the shortcoming of the rural think tank. Under the background of the rural revitalization era, accelerate the construction of rural think tanks, correct the defects of rural think tank construction, and provide professional support and decision-making reference for rural governance and development with professional and localized rural think tanks, which is a weapon to complete the rural revitalization. .

4. Breakout Path for the Construction of Rural Think Tanks

In June 2019, the "Guiding Opinions on Strengthening and Improving Rural Governance" issued by the state organs clearly pointed out that in the context of the rural revitalization strategy, as a provider of the rural governance specific strategy and the direction of the leader, the rural think tank Have an unparalleled advantage. In order to better serve the rural governance and provide intellectual backing, the rural think tank should base on the local experience of its service areas on the basis of absorbing the advanced experience of the construction of think tanks at home and abroad, promote its own construction, and adapt to the requirements of socialism with Chinese characteristics.

First, strengthen the construction of the talent pool of rural think tanks, improve the talent structure system, and lay a talent foundation for the construction of rural think tanks. Just as Mr. Sun Yat-sen said, "Governing the country and the state, the talent is urgent." As Liu Shijin, deputy director of the Development Research Center of the State Council, said, "The first-rate think tank depends on whether or not you have talents" [9]. The construction of think tanks, the foundation of people, the heights of the building are also people, the outstanding talents are the main part of the think tank, the contributors of the think tank operators and achievements, without talent, the think tank has lost the meaning of existence. Therefore, it is a top priority to establish a team of rural think tanks with both professionalism, program feasibility, high impact and local realities. First, when the current state, all levels of government, the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, colleges and universities, etc., are the leading think tanks serving the rural revitalization, under the leadership of the party and the state, they will attract experts and scholars from various professional fields to Its unique scientific research advantages, professional advantages and financial advantages provide professional and reliable guarantee for rural governance. Second, it absorbs village committee cadre representatives, villagers intellectuals, rural teachers and so on into the think tank system, relying on its key points in rural governance. The best way to obtain first-hand information in the village, the most effective understanding of the deficiencies in rural governance and development needs, etc., so that the think tank system can improve the feasibility of the research results of think tanks on the basis of specialization and to achieve local conditions. In the study of the "energy politics phenomenon" in the rural governance, Professor Xu Yong, a famous Chinese rural research scholar, revealed the policy communication, resource integration and social mobilization role of the authority of the people in the rural governance. If these "village elites" become part of the rural think tank, it will not only benefit the feasibility of policy recommendations, but also help the strategic principles and specific strategies to better popularize the public and implement them. Third, learn from the "revolving door" mechanism of the US think tank and improve the talent use mechanism. On the one hand, we recruit research talents from all walks of life, invite retired officials who are committed to rural governance to enter the rural think tank, adopt a contractual appointment system, make full use of the experience of retired officials in long-term work in the form of consultants, and strictly control the results of the control tanks. Sex, which enhances the quality of think tank results; on the other hand, through project contracting or project research, etc., the think tank personnel "three go to the countryside, go to the grassroots level" to achieve theoretical and practical contact. In the rural think tank system, from government officials, scientific research personnel, to rural cadres and intellectuals, we must jointly exert their creativity, enthusiasm and subjective initiative. Through the circulation of talents, we can learn from each other, deepen cooperation and exchanges, and make suggestions for rural governance.

Second, improve the internal governance system and cooperation and exchange mechanism of rural think tanks, and enhance their core competitiveness. First, although the bureaucratic model provides efficiency to a certain extent, it has inefficiencies and low-efficiency disadvantages compared with the market-oriented system. Therefore, according to the new public management theory, it fully draws on the market-oriented mechanism and the personnel management system of the private sector. Focus on results and efficiency, adopt a method of performance appraisal and performance appraisal, establish a set of talent incentives and rewards and punishments system closely related to job responsibilities, job performance and performance contribution, combine material and spiritual incentives, and formulate a practical incentive guarantee system. In order to achieve the effect of “doing the best for others” and “doing the best for others”, at the same time, it will increase the attractiveness of external talents and provide a steady stream of “fresh blood” for the talent pool of think tanks. Second, innovative financial management methods, optimize the financial reimbursement process, improve the efficiency of financial processing, get rid of the "one-third of the time spent on reimbursement", and provide a support environment for think tank personnel to participate in research projects and rural governance programs. For example, the system of regular reimbursement is implemented. The weekly and monthly time units are used to centrally handle the financial reimbursement business of personnel, and the work efficiency of both staff members is improved while simplifying the work.

5. Conclusion

In the 21st century, the Internet+ and big data are like the Wanxi silk thread. They have connected every corner of the world. The global development has regional characteristics and more commonality in the era. The masters of the country have the skills to strengthen the country and learn from the experience of foreign think tanks. The road to the construction of rural think tanks with Chinese characteristics, although this road is not thorny, it is also difficult. The future construction and development of the new rural think tanks requires the joint efforts of the state, the government, and all walks of life to jointly build a rural think tank system with socialism with Chinese characteristics, and to develop a rural think tank development path with unique local characteristics, so as to realize the Chinese dream as soon as possible for the entire nation.

References

- [1] Han Wanqu. The Identity Dilemma of Grassroots Officials and Policy Implementation Variation in Rural Governance [J]. China Administration, 2016(9): 100-106
- [2] Zhang Shucun. Research on the construction of local high-end think tanks [M]. Beijing: People's Publishing House, 2018.18
- [3] Zhao Xiuling. Construction of rural “think tanks” under rural revitalization [J]. Wisdom China, 2018, 88: 90
- [4] Hu Chunxiao, Qiu Guoliang. To implement the strategy of rural revitalization, we must grasp the "four key points" [J]. Construction of the old district, 2017 (22): 11-16
- [5] Li Xiaozhong. Rural Rejuvenation: Historical Logic and Realistic Choice [J]. China Development Observation, 2018(3): 54-56
- [6] Ji Mingcheng, Li Panpan. Shandong's first high-end agricultural expert think tank was established in Yucheng [J]. Agricultural knowledge (get rich and agricultural resources), 2018 (7)
- [7] Tang Songlin, Yao Wei. The Mission, Challenge and Choice of Teachers in the Rural Revitalization Strategy [J]. Journal of Education Science, Hunan Normal University, 2018, 17(4): 138

- [8] Zhao Ruojin, Chen Rui. Research on the development status and improvement path of think tanks in China [J]. *Modern Management Science*, 2018(11): 66-68.
- [9] Wen Tingxiao, Jiang Wei, Zhao Yang. Development and Evaluation of Think Tanks at Home and Abroad [J]. *Higher Education Development and Evaluation*, 2016, 32(5): 30-41
- [10] Hu Qingliang. Giving full play to the comparative advantage of social think tanks participating in local governance [J]. *Journal of the Party School of Shanxi Provincial Committee of the Communist Party of China*, 2017, 40(5): 66-70
- [11] Liu Wenxia. Research on the Construction of Rural Education Think Tanks in Regional Universities [J]. *Management Science*, 2016(7): 151-157