

# Discussion on the Significance and Function of Economic and Social Development and Ecological Protection of Pastoral Areas to the Herdsmen Cooperative

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**Abstract:** With the growing number and scale of herdsmen's professional cooperatives, they play a vital role in the economic development and local ecological protection of pastoral areas, and are widely concerned by the community. In order to comprehensively expand the development scale of herdsmen's cooperatives and enhance social, economic and efficiency, it is necessary for relevant people to devote themselves to research and solve the existing problems in the development process of herdsmen's cooperatives, so as to lay a solid foundation for the future development of regional herdsmen's cooperatives. This paper takes herdsmen's cooperatives as the breakthrough point, actively analyzes the importance and existing problems of herdsmen's cooperatives, and puts forward constructive suggestions for its future development for reference.

**Keywords:** Herdsmen's Cooperative; Pastoral Economy; Ecological Protection; Function

The production basis and management mode of grassland animal husbandry, which is co-existence of human, grass and livestock, are special, and different from agricultural economy in essence. Herdsmen's cooperatives generally focus on grassland animal husbandry or animal products processing. In the process of their establishment and development, they are often affected by natural factors, policy factors and cultural factors. In the specific grassland animal husbandry production and life, herdsmen naturally integrate the capital and labor, and create herdsmen's cooperatives. The establishment of herdsmen's cooperatives can bring important impetus to the development of local economy and promote the rapid growth of regional economy. Of course, it will also affect the local ecological environment to a certain extent, so how to ensure the coordinated development of regional economy and ecological environment is the focus of current pastoral policy.

## 1. Overview of the essential characteristics of herdsmen's cooperatives

### 1.1 Social sports

Pastoral cooperatives have a long history and profound cultural foundation. For nomads, the situation of human, grass and livestock living together has always been mutual cooperation, which is the core foundation of social and economic organization system in grassland pastoral areas. There are few people in grassland and pastoral areas, so we need to rely on group strength to resist various risks. In the difficult environment, relying on the strength of a herdsman alone, it is difficult to develop in the cold and wide environment. As early as the 1980s, the policy of "double contract of grass and livestock" was gradually implemented in grassland and pastoral areas, which promoted the enthusiasm of herdsmen in production to a certain extent, and brought impetus to the economic development of pastoral areas. But over time, it exposed many factors that are not conducive to the sustainable development of grassland animal husbandry. For example, driven by the maximization of economic benefits, breaking through the scientific grazing utilization mechanism and grazing management structure has led to the continuous deterioration of grassland ecological environment, widening the income gap between herdsmen, and increasing polarization between the rich and the poor <sup>[1]</sup>.

## **1.2 Economic organizations**

Under the background of “one household” small animal husbandry economic system, the traditional culture of mobile disaster reduction is disappearing day by day, which brings about the influence of desertification and desertification. The socialized service system in pastoral areas is disappearing day by day, the production cost of animal husbandry is increasing, and the ability of disaster prevention and resistance is declining. For this reason, herdsmen began to gather grasslands together to create a seasonal rotational grazing mode. Under the cooperative mode, it can not only reallocate resources, but also improve the organization degree of herdsmen, so as to enhance their ability to resist natural disasters, help them effectively resist market risks and engage in more efficient and valuable production and operation activities.

## **1.3 Business organization**

Herdsmen’s cooperatives should always adhere to the principles of equality, freedom and democracy, and form a closely related business organization based on many principles, with the characteristics of unity, organization and sustainability. Through the integration of local grazing areas, the establishment of standardized articles of association, the establishment of the council and financial management, production management and other management mechanisms, the cooperative implemented rotational grazing in the integrated area grassland effectively alleviated the pressure of grassland, and avoided excessive damage to the ecological environment. At the same time, it can save labor and related costs. Under the situation of unified cooperation, herdsmen’s cooperatives have gradually evolved from an economic organization into a mature business entity with mature and efficient management mechanism.

# **2. The development characteristics of herdsman cooperative**

## **2.1 Too concentrated**

The development of herdsman cooperatives is generally concentrated, mainly in large-scale industry, market-oriented industry and specialized industry. In terms of the distribution between industries and industries, it is extremely unbalanced, mainly in breeding and animal products processing, and rarely in service areas.

## **2.2 The cooperation relationship is mainly semi loose and loose**

According to the requirements of herdsman cooperative, all members of the society need to take part in the shares and implement the policy of surplus return. On the whole, the relationship between members and members, the relationship between members and organizations is close in the category of physical organization, and the operation state is relatively stable. Herdsmen can get more services and benefits from the cooperatives.

## **2.3 The field of cooperation is expanding day by day**

In the process of development of herdsman cooperative, it has been extended from basic breeding and basic planting to primary processing, tourism services and other scientific and technological services industries. The cooperation depth has also been extended, from pure production links to joint cooperation before and after production.

# **3. The development function and effect of herdsman cooperative**

First, the herdsman cooperative essentially reduces the production cost and operation cost of the herdsmen, and creates more benefits and income for the herdsmen. Under the role of herdsman cooperative, all herdsmen have purchased the means of production jointly, which has achieved the scale development situation, promoted the progress of the tertiary industry, injected fresh force into the development of regional economy, and the effect of increasing herdsmen’s income was extremely remarkable. Secondly, herdsman cooperatives can promote the widespread application of new breeding technology and effectively improve the economic competitiveness and influence of the pastoral areas. Through organizing members to exchange and communicate technology, the herdsman cooperatives employ professionals to explain science and technology and new varieties, which accelerates the promotion speed and application scope of scientific and technological achievements, and brings high benefits to the majority of herdsmen<sup>[2]</sup>. In addition, the herdsman cooperative can promote the strengthening of the relationship between herdsmen and leading enterprises, and promote the animal husbandry to operate and develop towards industrialization. The real formation of the “enterprise + herdsman” model, which draws close the distance between large enterprises and small herdsmen, can bring more convenience to the production and management of herdsmen. In the mode of herdsman cooperative, it can further alleviate the contradictions between herdsmen and social economy and regional economic development, in order to improve the low organizational level of herdsmen, promote the herdsmen to carry out self training and self-education, and upgrade comprehensive quality in all aspects, strengthening the social status and social influence of herdsmen. Finally, the herdsman cooperative requires the implementation of rotation grazing and other plans, which can protect

the ecological environment to a certain extent, avoid the destruction of the regional environment caused by overgrazing, over reclamation and excessive production, thus enhancing the environmental stability of the pastoral area.

## **4. Suggestions on the development of herdsmen's cooperatives**

### **4.1 Paying attention to publicity and strengthening cognition**

The importance of herdsmen's cooperatives should be paid more attention to by the media, and the importance of herdsmen's cooperatives should be put on the agenda cooperative.

### **4.2 Supporting government and protecting policy**

The government should provide policy support for the establishment of herdsmen's cooperatives, including not only financial policy, project policy, capital policy, but also talent policy and technology policy. In terms of loans, we should simplify procedures and enhance the efficiency of loan input, so as to create a good financial environment for the establishment of herdsmen's cooperatives.

### **4.3 Strengthening training and popularizing knowledge**

The government should provide professional training for the management personnel of herdsmen's cooperatives and relevant project leaders. It can also organize visits and further study, and conduct batch training for the members of cooperatives, so as to make them deeply understand the nature, functions and rules of cooperatives. Under the background of regional ethnic autonomy law, the application of ethnic language training cooperative management projects, economic development prospects, etc., to promote all herdsmen to enjoy the rights and privileges they should have.

### **4.4 Combining culture and enhancing potential**

In the construction and development of herdsmen's cooperatives, grassland culture should be actively integrated. In the long history, the people in pastoral areas have already formed a harmonious coexistence mechanism of "human, grass and livestock". While inheriting and carrying forward the grassland culture, we should strive to achieve the core basic work of protecting the natural ecology.

### **4.5 Formulating detailed rules and solving problems**

Based on the actual situation, the rules and regulations of herdsmen's cooperatives should be issued as soon as possible in order to solve the problems existing in the current economic development of pastoral areas. The management characteristics of grassland animal husbandry determine that it is difficult to truly promote the sustainable development of pastoral work by applying the herdsman cooperative method<sup>[3]</sup>. To this end, we need to create more standardized criteria for herdsmen's cooperatives. In addition, in order to effectively facilitate the development of the main ethnic groups in ethnic autonomous regions, it is necessary to further combine the policy of ethnic regional autonomy and support the minority herdsmen, so as to promote the herdsmen to get rich quickly.

## **5. Conclusion**

In short, there are still some unavoidable problems in the development of herdsmen's cooperatives, which requires the local government and competent departments to actively formulate effective rules and policies in combination with the current situation of regional development, strive to build a sustainable social service system in pastoral areas, and explore a "fast road" for the prosperity and development of pastoral economy. Focusing on the essence of herdsmen's cooperatives, taking the idea of economic development in pastoral areas as the guidance, and taking the increase of herdsmen's income as the goal, we should ensure the development of grassland animal husbandry management organizations towards the direction of modernization, and drive the rise of one side's economy.

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