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The XXI International Grassland Congress / VIII International Rangeland Congress took place in Hohhot, China from June 29 through July 5, 2008.

Proceedings edited by Organizing Committee of 2008 IGC/IRC Conference

Published by Guangdong People's Publishing House

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Casting off the "Fertile Poverty" policy research on development of the altiplano pasturing area within the upper reaches of the Yangtze River——case study of Ganzi Tibetan autonomous prefecture

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Key words : the upper reaches of the Yangtze River ,Altiplano pasturing area ,Ganzi state , main function areas ,eco-economy , Continuing development

Introduction The altiplano pasturing area is confronted with more special development problems than the usual pasturing area . This paper takes the example of Ganzi Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture to discuss the development of the altiplano pasturing area within the Upper Reaches of the Yangtze River .

Ganzi is located in the south of the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau and the upper reaches of the Yangtze River , with an average altitude above 3500 m . The majority of the region is a typical altiplano pasturing area or semi-pastoral area . Due to the high altitude and a fragile ecological environment , it will be extremely difficult to restore once it is damaged .

Results There are two important features in altiplano pasturing areas by the Yangtze River . First , the ecological functions and ecological values are extremely important . Ganzi is the core region of ecological barriers for the headstream and upper reaches of the Yangtze River . Also , it is one of the 25 bio-diversity areas in the world , which is called "Chinese tower" . It has tremendous influence on the entire Yangtze River even greater regions . Due to these special features , all except Kangding county is defined as key development zone , while most of other counties in Ganzi are defined as prohibited and restricted development zones . Second , the economic development in Ganzi lags behind . Its GDP per capita is 6 ,452 Yuan , which is only 40% of the national average (16 ,084 Yuan) . Ganzi is both fertile and poor . In terms of the ecological value and the rich hydropower resources , Ganzi is incomparably fertile . However , economic and social developments are very backward in Ganzi .

How can altiplano pasturing areas such as Ganzi cast off the "fertile poverty" ? Since China has realized the importance of the environment after the rapid development phase , the main task and sources of income of Ganzi has changed from the "wood economy" to ecological construction and environmental protection . Since 1999 , Ganzi has implemented ecological projects such as reforestation of farmland and grazing areas . Ganzi accepted the national and eastern grants of aid for education , health , science and technology , which have made contributions to the development of Ganzi . I believe that these aid projects and the transfer payments are necessary , but not enough . More importantly , the labor to provide ecological products in Ganzi should get sufficient return . The ecological products should be sold to the state and the middle and lower reaches as commodities . The ecological value of Ganzi should be realized , which is the way for Ganzi to cast off the "fertile poverty" . The difficulty in achieving this point is how to calculate the value of commercialization . I recommend using simple green GDP method to calculate the values or simulate transactions , which only use 3-4 most critical indexes . Or a simpler approach is to make compensation or simulated transactions based on the country's average level . In addition , international coal-exchange method can also be adopted .

According to the state's four main functional areas and Ganzi regional situation , Ganzi should be divided into three areas : key developing zones , restricted developing zones , and prohibited developing zones . First , Shiqu county should be assigned to "protected areas of Headstream of Three Rivers" , where a rigorous environmental protection and the corresponding compensation policies should be implemented . Second , in the relatively developed regions such as Kangding , a "point development strategy" should be carried out on the condition of strict environmental protection . Third , in the regions that have considerable-scale hydropower and mineral development such as Jiulong county , policies that intensify environmental control , benefit-sharing , and industry-restructuring should be implemented . In the regions such as Xinlong county he situated between Shiqu county and Jiulong , development of eco-economy and green GDP pilot should be emphasized and promoted .