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Improving the policy of steppe ecology management and promoting sustainable development in the pasture region : based on investigation in Inner Mongolia and Gansu province

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Experts were organized to make a special investigation in Inner Mongolia pastoral areas and Gannan autonomous region during May to October 2007 . Results indicated that under the influence of natural and man-made factors , ecology of the land worsened , grasslands deteriorated , desertification increased , the area of wetlands decreased , soil erosion was serious , biodiversity declined rapidly , grassland resources were destroyed , and the life and production of pasture people were affected negatively . The natural factors include global warming , less rainfall , etc . The man-made factors include increase of stocking rates and overgrazing of grassland .

The government has realized the severity of the deterioration of grassland ecological status . Recently , various localities have implemented a series of important ecological protection and improvement projects , such as returning land to pasture , reducing ecological invasion , managing the sources of sandstorms , developing comprehensive management strategies to maintain the ecological status , the restoring and improving natural grassland , the protecting forest resources , etc . The implementation of these grassland policies and projects play a positive role in protecting grassland ecological status , mitigating the human damage of the ecological environment , and promoting the restoration , protection and rational use of grassland resources . However , as the population pressure in pastoral areas is large ; the local economy declines , local financing is hard to obtain , and the national investment is limited , the system of ecological management becomes more difficult . So the protection of grassland ecology still faces many problems . First promoting the idea of grassland ecological protection has made people aware of the problem , the idea has been planted that improvement is necessary , thus a project has been developed grassland ecological management . Second , the grassland ecological management project is not comprehensive and lacks sustainability , and the cooperation and consideration among projects are not adequate . Third , the grassland contract system ascertains the herdsmen's grassland property rights , but it brings a lot of technical and business problems , such as the inhabitation and production of the herdsmen are dispersed , the construction of basic establishments and the technological services are lagging , and the scientific ideas are difficult to popularize . Fourth , herdsmen's getting rich and grassland ecological protection are long-standing contradictions , so , we should be concerned with the living conditions of herdsmen at the same time of ecological protection .

At the macroscopic level , the paper puts forward a basic idea of improving grassland ecology . First , management of steppe ecology is a complex system , needing a comprehensive plan and coordination . Second , reinforce the development of the management system . Third , many things such as applicability , feasibility , sustainability need to be considered from the herdsmen's standpoint . Fourth , management should be based on steppe ecology science . Fifth , sustainability is put at a premium in management of steppe ecology .

At last , this paper brings forward four suggestions about improving the treatment of steppe ecology and promoting the sustainable development in pasture region . First , according to objective situation , enrich the content of returning land for grazing to pasture project , complete the subsidy standard system and define the length of subsidy . Second , support population transformation and lighten the population stress . Third , establish and implement compensating mechanisms of steppe ecology . Fourth , devote great efforts to the development of education in pasture region .