

**Sustaining Herder Community-based Grassland Management
Through Improved Government Policies and Practices**

草原牧区研究：进展与问题专题研讨会



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**Ecological Resettlement Policies Increase Herder
Vulnerability and Poverty**

--ER Policy and Practice in Qinghai—

中国生态移民的政策与实践：青海的案例

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Contents

- Main Concepts: Rationale and Objectives for Ecological Resettlement
- Research Findings: Process and Types of Eco-resettlement
- Research Findings: Categories of Eco-migrants and its Challenges
- Conclusion and Future Research



Rationale and Objectives for Ecological Resettlement in China

- Rationale for ER: environmental degradation, poor people to be relocated.
- Objectives for ER: Generally, “to preserve or to protect environments, to recover damaged ecosystems, to reduce and eliminate poverty, or to develop the economy”. (State Commission of Development and Reform PRC, 2001 国家发改委 2001)
- 2000-2005, Western Development Strategy, ER 700,000 resettled from poverty regions. There will be 7 million people would be relocated in next 10yrs.
- “生态移民是为了保护一个地区特殊的生态或者让一个地区的生态得到修复而进行的移民。”“我国西部有很多偏远地区，自然环境恶劣，不具备“就地扶贫”的条件且扶贫的成本太高，只有通过移民才能解决他们的脱贫问题。”
- “目前我国已经从贫困地区迁移出的生态移民达到70万人。我国于2000年开始实施生态移民，计划将西部地区700万农民通过移民来促其脱贫。我国西部有很多偏远地区，自然环境恶劣，不具备“就地扶贫”的条件且扶贫的成本太高，只有通过移民才能解决他们的脱贫问题。”（国务院西部开发办公室综合司司长杜平，2005年6月21日·第二届中国西部开发研究联合体年会）



ER's rationale & objectives in Qinghai

- Research project: Ecological resettlement (ER) in the source area of three rivers /Sanjiangyuan Area(Changjiang River, Yellow River and Meikong River, Qinhai-Tibetan Plateau/the third pole of the world), funded by **the Ford Foundation,2008-2010**.
- National Sanjiangyuan Nature Reserve Project since 2003, (investment: RMB 7.5 billion/ more than \$1 billion, among which ER takes up 10%). According to the plan, 55.773 Pastoralists, 10% of the total population in the Sanjiangyuan Area, will be relocated.
- In Sanjiangyuan Project, the ER purposes are: “1) to restore ecological functions as soon as possible,2) to promote sustainable development and harmonious existence between human and nature, 3)for the farmers and herdsmen to achieve comfortable living standard.”

Latest report on the ER in Qinghai



Latest official news---

- “Since 2003, nearly 50,000 herders have been relocated to town communities, giving up nomadism which they had depended on for living for generations. This is the largest scale of migration in the history of the Qinghai-Tibetan Plateau.” (Source: Xinhua News Agency Net, October 28th, 2009) “自2003年来，青海已有5万牧民搬迁”—新华网2009年10月28日
- All Tibetan herders in Qinghai province who have not yet ‘settled down’ – over 530,000 people – will now be settled (urbanized) within the next five years (Source: People’s Daily, 11 March 2009) “未来5年青海游牧民定居人数为53万人”—《人民日报》2009年3月11日

Research Findings-1: Change of ER policy



- “Ecological protective migration”, Tibetan herders’ resettlement is followed the demand of the government and moved to towns from pastoral area. Government provide free house and compensation(Yuan6000-8000/per household, \$ 1000 /year/per hsd.) 政府提供免费住房，户均补助6000—8000元。
- At the very beginning, The policy of ER is a forced removal”, however, it changed later to “Government initiative, People decide vountlely ”,due to local people’s argue against. 最初，三江源的生态移民，政府想强制移民，但遭到了牧民的反抗，后改为：“政府引导，群众自愿”。

Research Findings-2: Three types of the eco-migrants in Qinghai



Three types of the eco-migrants:

- A. first are those herders who used to be **poor in pastoral area, named “lack of livestock family” and “no livestock family”**, who make up 70% of the population of migrant village;
- B. the second are the families who have already accumulated some wealth, they did business in the pastoral area, or are cadres of village, with many yaks and sheep at home, named **“rich family”**, who make up 10% of the population of the migrants. This part of the people hope to end the nomadic life and become townsman through migration project;
- C. The third type of families are about 20%, who has to support their children to get education, they sell out all the things in the pastoral area and move to town, named **“education-brought migrant”**.



Research Findings-3: income rate and its categories of eco-migrants

- **Governmental compensation income**, 46.3%, (Yuan6000-8000/per household, \$1100 /year/per hsd.) 政府补助（禁牧还草饲料粮变现补助收入，占46.3%）
- **Seasonal migrant workers income**: 29.4%（季节性打工收入，7—10月，29.4%）
- **Caterpillar fungus economy**, 13.8%（挖虫草收入，占13.8%）
- **Others**, 11.5%(其他收入含少数小商店、出租车、裁缝等自就业收入，还包括政府救济、馈赠等).
 - **Income categories of households** 搬迁牧民家庭收入分类（月均收入，2008年）
 - 1) below ¥1,000, 77.1%（月1000元以下，占77.1%）
 - 2) ¥1,000-2,000, 17.1%（月1000—2000元，占17.1%）
 - 3) above ¥2,000, 5.8%（月2000元以上的，占5.8%）

Source: DU Fachun, fieldwork research, 2008-2009.

Samples:102 Tibetan herders in five relocated villages



Research Findings-4: Unemployment and Employment

Categories of Eco-migrants: Case of Germud Village

- **Unemployment rate: 70%, jobless.**
- **Seasonal employment by community: 76 persons, ¥900/month.2-3 months a year. Including:**
 - 1)Mani stone carving(30 persons), ¥ 600 /month,
 - 2) short term construction site(35 persons).
 - 3)Dancing team performance,20 people.
- **Self-employment:**
 - 1). “caterpillar fungus economy”, 300 persons, Yuan3000-4000/each, May-June, two months.
 - 2) Trade business of yak & sheep : 11 persons, drivers of yak to Lassa from Qinghai. Yuan100,000 for each.
 - 3) Trade of Tibetan mastiff/dog : 5 persons, ¥ 5,000-15,000.
 - 4)grocer stores: 22 in total, ¥ 300/month/per store.
 - 5)Retuneers of herders, to help relatives in pastoral/old home.
 - 6) Drivers of Taxi, tractor and disable motor , 5 persons, ¥ 500/month, usually from village to downtown of Germud.
 - 7) Needleman/dressmaker of Tibetan clothes,3 persons. ¥ 200/month, decreasing-----
 - 8) others-----



Conclusion and Future Research

- **Conclusion:** Tibetan eco-migrants are marginalized who employment rate reaches 70% due to lack of skills to the integration/adaptation to city/town life, they facing challenges after removal. Clearly, the relocation of Tibetan herders from their traditional lands raises several key issues. In particular, the ecological rationale for this policy and the implications for those being resettled require careful examination. ER policy need to be improved.
- **Future Research Proposed**
- ---Possible alternatives that not relocating herders but to achieve the balance between the grassland, animal and people? 在不移民的情况下，寻找草地、牲畜和人口的平衡方案
- ----Potential Action Plan: “**Revolving Sheep Bank Project, Grassland-Based Cooperatives Project in Qinghai-Tibetan Plateau**”. 未来行动计划：“牧业银行、草地合作社” 试验

Thank you!



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