

Exploration of Legal Governance in Promoting Rural Revitalization

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Abstract

The complexity and arduousness of comprehensively advancing rural revitalization are no less than those of poverty alleviation. As a core guarantee for "consolidating fundamentals, stabilizing expectations, and benefiting the long term", the rule of law is a key support for resolving county-level issues related to agriculture, rural areas, and farmers, and activating the driving force for rural development. Based on county-level practices, this paper takes "standardizing administrative law enforcement - strengthening fair justice - promoting law-based governance" as a three-dimensional framework, and integrates typical cases such as the "three-in-one governance integration" in Laixi, Shandong Province and the "smart mediation" in Liuyang, Hunan Province. It systematically explains how to transform the advantages of the rule of law into practical results of rural revitalization by strengthening law enforcement teams, optimizing judicial services, and innovating governance models, thus providing a solid institutional guarantee for achieving a strong agricultural sector, beautiful rural areas, and prosperous farmers.

Keywords

Rural Revitalization; Rule of Law Guarantee; Administrative Law Enforcement; Fair Justice; Grassroots Governance

1. Introduction

Rural revitalization is the overarching guideline for work related to agriculture, rural areas, and farmers in the new era. Its tasks, including industrial cultivation, livelihood security, and conflict resolution, place higher demands on the systematicness and stability of institutions. As the cornerstone of national governance, the rule of law can not only define safe boundaries for agricultural production and build a solid protective barrier for agricultural product brands, but also provide clear guidelines for resolving grassroots conflicts. From the typical rural governance cases released by the central government, it can be seen that Laixi, Shandong Province has achieved a leap in governance efficiency through "Party building leadership + rule of

law guarantee + mass autonomy", and Liuyang, Hunan Province has increased the resolution rate of agriculture-related disputes to over 90% with the help of a "smart mediation" platform. These practices all confirm that only by incorporating rural revitalization into the track of the rule of law and making concerted efforts to improve law enforcement quality, provide judicial protection, and enhance governance efficiency can we resolve development bottlenecks, gather the joint force for revitalization, and ensure that rural revitalization proceeds steadily and long-term on a standardized and institutionalized path.

2. Improving Law Enforcement Quality: Safeguarding the Foundation of Agricultural Production with Standardized Efficiency

2.1. Strengthening Foundations: Cultivating Compound Law Enforcement Teams with "Agricultural Knowledge and Legal Expertise"

The core of law enforcement capabilities lies in talents. Drawing on the "hierarchical and classified training" model of Laixi, Shandong Province, a dual-track training program of "legal knowledge + agricultural technology" is carried out for agricultural law enforcement personnel: centralized lectures are held to interpret the Law on the Promotion of Rural Revitalization and the Law on the Quality and Safety of Agricultural Products, and field practical training is conducted to master skills such as seed identification and pesticide residue testing; regular case file reviews and law enforcement drills are organized, such as simulating scenarios like "handling complaints about counterfeit seeds" and "inspecting agricultural product certification", to improve the on-site disposal capabilities of law enforcement personnel. Ultimately, a professional team that is not only familiar with the growth laws of crops but also proficient in legal procedures is cultivated.

2.2. Establishing Rules and Regulations: Building a "Unified Standard" Law Enforcement Operation Framework

With the "Three Systems for Administrative Law Enforcement" as the core, detailed implementation rules are formulated in accordance with the characteristics of county-level agriculture. Unified law enforcement standards and discretionary power are established. For example, for common issues such as "over-range use of pesticides" and "failure to issue agricultural product certification", penalty gradients are clearly defined to avoid "different penalties for the same case"; a full-chain mechanism of "case warning - urging - supervision" is established, and the law enforcement process is traced back through the whole-process law enforcement recording system. Typical cases are reported quarterly, and problems such as non-standard procedures and incomplete documents are rectified in a timely manner, promoting the transformation of law enforcement from "extensive management" to "standardized management".

2.3. Establishing Rules and Regulations: Building a "Unified Standard"

Law Enforcement Operation Framework

Taking advantage of the delegation of administrative powers, a linkage model of "township law enforcement grids + village-level information officers" is implemented. Referring to the "grid governance" experience of Liuyang, Hunan Province, law enforcement grids are divided according to townships, and each grid is equipped with 1 law enforcement officer and 2-3 village-level information officers. The information officers are responsible for collecting clues such as "illegal sales in agricultural material stores" and "cultivated land damage", and the law enforcement officers respond and handle them quickly; for key areas such as grain production and livestock breeding, "quarterly special law enforcement + monthly random inspections" are carried out to effectively safeguard the safety of agricultural production and the interests of farmers.

3. Judicial Protection: Polishing the Brand Image of Agricultural Products with Fair Services

3.1. Property Rights Protection: Joint Efforts to Build a Solid Brand Defense Line for Characteristic Breeding

For the county-level characteristic breeding industry, a special service team composed of "judges + prosecutors + agricultural experts" is established. On the one hand, the Guidelines for Legal Risks in Characteristic Breeding are compiled, covering the entire process of breed introduction (such as livestock quarantine), processing and storage (such as cold chain compliance), and market sales (such as trademark use) to avoid legal risks in advance; on the other hand, joint special campaigns for "geographical indication protection" are carried out with market supervision departments. acts of trademark counterfeiting and false advertising are severely cracked down. Referring to the case of "crayfish geographical indication protection" in Xuyi, Jiangsu Province, the intensity of brand protection is strengthened through judicial judgments.

3.2. Dispute Resolution in the Industrial Chain: Precise Services to Ensure the Development of the Characteristic Planting Industry

A special campaign of "rule of law escort for characteristic planting" is launched, and "judicial workstations + village legal advisors + legal propagandists" are organized to go deep into the fields. For large-scale growers of grapes, citrus, and other crops, "one-on-one" surveys on legal needs are conducted, focusing on solving problems such as "land transfer disputes" and "breach of purchase contracts"; the linkage mechanism of "courts + police stations + judicial offices" is improved. For example, following the model of the "citrus industry dispute mediation center" in Zhijiang, Hubei Province, joint mediation is used to quickly resolve disputes such as "price suppression by purchasers" and "compensation from pesticide distributors", preventing conflicts from escalating and affecting

the stability of the industrial chain.

3.3. Convenience for the People: Opening Up the "Last Mile" of Judicial Services

Adhering to the concept of "judicature for the people", innovative models of rural judicial services are developed. On the one hand, relying on the "one judicial workstation per town (township)", "monthly circuit trials" are carried out, and courts are set up in village committees and fields. For example, when hearing cases such as "neighborhood homestead disputes" and "breach of agriculture-related contracts", villagers are invited to attend the trials, realizing the goal of "trying one case and educating a group"; on the other hand, a "green channel for agriculture-related cases" is opened. For cases such as wage arrears for migrant workers and claims by growers, "priority filing, priority trial, and priority execution" are implemented, and online case filing and remote mediation services are provided with the help of the "smart court" platform to solve the problem of "difficult litigation" for migrant workers working outside their hometowns.

4. Enhancing Governance Efficiency: Activating the Driving Force of Grassroots Social Governance with the Thinking of the Rule of Law

Rural governance is the "ballast stone" of rural revitalization. It is necessary to adhere to the combination of the rule of law leadership and mass autonomy, and the integration of traditional methods and modern technology to build a governance pattern of co-construction, co-governance, and shared benefits.

4.1. Two-Way Efforts: Building a Grassroots Governance System of "Rule of Law + Autonomy"

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Give play to the dual roles of government leadership and mass subjectivity. Referring to the "legality review mechanism for village rules and regulations" in Laixi, Shandong Province, the township judicial office provides legal guidance for villages to revise their village rules and regulations, deletes illegal provisions such as "one-size-fits-all restriction on betrothal gifts" and "ban on college admission banquets", and adds contents such as "public health maintenance", "neighborhood mutual assistance", and "cultivated land protection"; promote autonomous carriers such as "village people's discussion halls" and "courtyard

consultation meetings". For example, for matters such as "hardening of village entrance roads" and "contracting of collective forest land", decisions are made through the "four discussions and two public announcements" procedure, allowing villagers to realize self-management within the framework of the rule of law.

4.2. Source-Oriented Conflict Resolution: Innovating a "Diversified + Smart" Dispute Mediation Model

Relying on the "one judicial workstation per town (township)", a three-level dispute resolution network of "village mediation committees - township comprehensive management offices - courts" is built. Drawing on the "smart mediation" experience of Liuyang, Hunan Province, an online mediation platform is developed, through which villagers can submit demands such as "neighborhood disputes" and "land disputes" via mobile phones, and the platform automatically matches mediators; in light of the characteristics of rural acquaintance society, flexible methods such as "chat-style mediation" and "mediation with the participation of respected elders" are adopted. For example, retired village cadres and old teachers are invited to participate in the mediation of "mother-in-law and daughter-in-law conflicts" and "homestead disputes". At the same time, judicial confirmation is promptly conducted for successfully mediated cases to ensure the enforceability of the agreements.

4.3. Guiding New Trends: Deepening the Practice of "Legal Popularization + Demonstration" to Transform Customs and Traditions

Promote the construction of rural civilization through legal popularization. On the one hand, carry out regular "law popularization in rural areas" activities, such as setting up law popularization stalls during "market days" and popularizing legal knowledge such as "freedom of marriage" and "obligation of support" through "case interpretation + dialect clapper talks"; on the other hand, give play to the exemplary role of Party members and cadres, and implement a commitment system for "village cadres taking the lead in breaking bad habits", such as taking the lead in holding simple weddings and funerals and refusing exorbitant betrothal gifts; combine with circuit trials, select typical cases such as "support disputes" and "betrothal gift return", and hold court sessions in village committees to guide the masses to establish the awareness of "handling affairs in accordance with the law and seeking legal help when encountering problems", thus promoting the formation of a civilized rural style.

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