

STUDY ON THE AGRICULTURAL MECHANIZATION SERVICE SYSTEM CONSTRUCTION IN GUANGDONG PROVINCE

Liu Shengmin
Guangdong Provincial Machinery Industry Department
Guangzhou, P. R. China

ABSTRACT

Following the transfer of China's economy from planning to market economy, it is necessary to develop and strengthen the service system for agricultural mechanization. The current situation of the service system was investigated and some suggestions are proposed in this paper.

INTRODUCTION

It is the primary task in China's agricultural development at present to develop agricultural productive forces and quicken rural reform to promote agricultural modernization. There are several factors of restriction.

Firstly, the continuous increase of population and the gradual decrease of cultivated land lead to the relative shortage of agricultural resources; secondly, the problems concerning supply and demand of some farm produces have not been settled yet; thirdly, the decentralized household management of land hinders the transformation of achievements in agricultural science and technology. Thus, it is difficult to improve the scientific levels of agriculture. To extend advanced and applicable technology to the peasants in time plays the key role in transforming agricultural science and technology into productive forces and therefore, the organized service is necessary. The construction of the agricultural socialized service system not only enables wider popularization of science and technology in rural areas which quickens their transformation and improve their levels, but also integrates household management into large scale one to create relevant benefits, by means of which combination of small scale household contracted management of land with large scale socialized service can be realized to form socialized production.

Agricultural socialized service system is a complicated systems engineering and the service system for agricultural mechanization is an important part of it. The service system for agricultural mechanization is a complete system which includes those services for organizing realization of mechanization in agricultural production and providing machinery supply, maintenance, research, extension, training, supervision and engineering construction, etc. for agricultural mechanization itself.

Its importance in promotion of agricultural development is becoming more and more obvious:

Firstly, it can improve the technical knowledge and operating skills of farm machinery workers to ensure good quality, high efficient, low-consumption and safety operation for farm machinery and improve productivity as well as land output rate so as to promote agricultural modernization.

Secondly, it can promote the growth of rural economy, strengthen the function of "unity" in agriculture, increase agricultural work amount and mechanization level, improve working conditions and ability to fight natural disasters for bumper harvest and further strengthen household responsibility system in rural areas.

Thirdly, it can further the development of agricultural productive forces and quicken commodity circulation in rural areas so as to promote the development of agricultural commodity economy.

On the basis of the investigation into its current situation, this paper discusses several suggestions and opinions about strengthening the construction service system for agricultural mechanization in this province.

CURRENT SITUATION OF SERVICE SYSTEM FOR AGRICULTURAL MECHANIZATION IN GUANGDONG PROVINCE

In recent years, the principle of "state, collective and individual all join in" and policy of multi-level and multi-type service have been consistently stucked in the construction of service system for agricultural mechanization, and at the same time, the services aim of "agriculture first, comprehensive management, service with payment and enhancing vitality" have been carried out. With the development of commodity economy, the construction of service system for agricultural mechanization was continuously strengthened, which can be seen from the following points:

1. Continuous perfection of service network construction for agricultural mechanization. Since the practice of opening and reform, household output-related system of contracted responsibilities has been put into practice in rural areas and industrial structure has been continuously adjusted, this has contributed to the perfection of service system for agricultural mechanization. At present, approximately four levels of the network can be found:

The first level is all kinds of service organizations for agricultural mechanization at provincial, municipal and county levels, mainly composed of 493 service organizations including farm machinery supplying company, farm machinery school, farm machinery promotion station and farm machinery repairing and manufacturing factory at all levels. The main purpose of them is to provide farm machinery parts, technical training for farm machinery personnels, technology

extension, technical advice, farm machinery safety supervision and introduction of new technique and new implements.

The second level is the 1617 township farm machinery administration stations. They act as a link and coordinate between township farm machinery administration and the first level organizations. Meanwhile, they bear the task of providing socialized service for agricultural mechanization and constitute the center of grass-root level service system of agricultural mechanization.

The third level is composed of 2269 village level farm machinery service teams(groups), 9.1% of the total number. In most cases, farm machines are owned by collectives at village level with which services including ploughing, harrowing, sowing, harvesting and transportation are provided. In some cases, a certain amount of land is contracted to conduct large scale management using farm machinery so as to bring into full play the strength of collectives and they are backbone of the service system for agricultural mechanization.

The fourth level refers to those families or family groups which possess farm machinery and household mechanized farms, these cover 55,000 families in the whole province. This level provides many services including carrying out field work and serving people's production and commodity circulation and therefore it becomes the most basic foundation for agricultural mechanization service system in this province.

The above four levels of service organization for agricultural mechanization basically forms a multi-level, multi-type and crisscross network providing services including supplying and selling of farm machinery, personal training, implement maintenance, technology extension and farm machinery work as well as transportation and so forth. They have played an important role in stabilizing the household output-related system of contracted responsibility in rural areas, enhancing the momentum for the development of agricultural production and promoting agricultural mechanization.

2. To meet the objective needs of household contracted management of land and commodity economy development, the management forms, service object, item and form of agricultural machinery have significantly changed. Served the local communes' (teams') production and now, it is under diversified management of collectives, communities, individuals and state. Coexisting and mutual complementary, they serve household production and peasants' life. Agricultural and fishery and run through the whole process of pre-production, production and post-production, serving functions continuously increasing and level of socialization, specialization on the gradual increase.

At present, there are mainly the following kinds of ownership of farm machinery and services forms provided by service organizations in this province.

(1) Collectives ownership and management by, which means that farm machinery is owned by collectives, and is managed by farm machinery service team

belonging to the collectives, at village level (or administration zone level) to provide a series of unified work service for collectives or farming contracted households.

This form covers about 23% of the village in this province. On one hand, it can give full scope to the advantage of high efficiency of mechanization, and combine the initiative of household contracted management with the superiority of collective's unified service organically, producing high work quality and ensuring farming season; On the other hand, it contributes to the combination of agricultural biological technology with engineering technology and makes it easy to unity planting plan, crop species, machinery ploughing, plant protection, drainage and irrigation.

(2) Collectives ownership but individuals management. In this case, farm machinery is owned by collectives but it is under contracted management by specialized households.

(3) Individuals ownership and collectives management . In this case, farm machinery is purchased by individual households, by means of collective organization various kinds of farm machinery service team are set up to provide various unified machinery work services for farming contracted households or collectives at 19% villages of this province.

(4) Individual Ownership and management. In this case, specialized households for farm machinery service, household farms or machinery operators provide comprehensive socialized service in rural areas. This form of service is quite popular in this province.

SEVERAL SUGGESTIONS ABOUT STRENGTHENING SERVICE SYSTEM FOR AGRICULTURAL MECHANIZATION IN THIS PROVINCE

Socialized service for agricultural mechanization is an important constituent of agricultural socialized service system. With the setting up of market economy operation system in China, it becomes more and more urgent to perfect the construction of the service system for agricultural mechanization in this province and the standard for its construction becomes higher and higher. The rural economic development leads more urgent demand for various complementary services for specialization and socialization of farm machinery. In addition, in this province, grain price has been adapted to market adjustment and the agricultural industrial structure is undergoing adjustment and therefore it becomes necessary to develop large scale management in some developed regions. Taking the situation into consideration, we conclude that the following several points should be emphasized to strengthen the construction of service system for agricultural mechanization in this province.

1. To continuously perfect the construction of service network for agricultural mechanization laying emphasize on perfecting servicing functions and strengthening

infrastructure construction. The growth of service organizations for agricultural mechanization can be seen from two aspects of quantity and quality. As far as quantity is concerned, network construction for service organizations directly serving agricultural production should be perfected. Emphasis of service system construction should be laid on farm machinery service organizations at grass-root level, that is, at village level, to set up varied specialized service organizations and provide necessary specialized and socialized services for agricultural production as well as processing and selling of farm produce.

As to quality, the service functions of service organizations should be strengthened and infrastructure construction perfected, which means that when emphasizing administration of those ready set up service organizations for agricultural mechanization, we should conduct service work and develop as many as possible servicing entities to provide comprehensive services for rural construction and peasants' life as well as agricultural production.

2. With the founding of market economy operation system in this province, services provided by service organizations for agricultural mechanization should be substantiated. In the course of service organization construction, principles of independent management, democratic administration, separate accounting and responsibility for profit and loss should be observed to create good economic benefits.

As to service scope, it should be extended. Agricultural mechanization service organizations not only should serve agricultural production but also provide socialized and specialized service scattering around agricultural production concerning machinery ploughing, harvesting, plant protection, drainage and irrigation, drying, transportation, forestry, animal husbandry, sideline occupation and fishery. In the meantime, they should promote rural economic development and provide comprehensive service combining agriculture with commerce, agriculture and industry, integrating agriculture with industry, technology and trade and coordinating production, supplying and selling. They should take part in the comprehensive development of agricultural production and provide effective service according to the demand of rural economic development.

3. Government should support in finance and tax the construction of service system for agricultural mechanization and preferential policies for it.