



# Rural Road Can Improve Farmers' Livelihoods

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## Opinion

Rural road is one of the important infrastructures and public facilities. Road transportation service is a part of the public service system, which has been highly valued by governments around the world. Rural road is an important part of international, national, regional, urban and rural transportation system, which plays a vital role in the development of rural society and economy. The rural transportation system improves the rural road transportation infrastructure through the construction and service provision of rural roads, stations and service systems, provides important basic transportation services for farmers, promotes the development of rural areas, agriculture and farmers, and solves problems concerning agriculture, rural areas and farmers.

“Road traffic infrastructure is the important foundation of governance, such as the construction of roads and the subsequent changes in the transportation of a group, a settlement, and even a community and city” have great impact [1]. Its importance and priority are particularly prominent, especially in promoting the economic development of relatively poor areas [2,3]. Alleviating the non-productive costs of farmers and agriculture [4] and some scholars even put forward the theoretical conjecture of “road Science” [5].

The World Bank and other international financial institutions have been supporting infrastructure improvement projects for rural transportation to promote sustainable rural development. In China, the implementation of the policy of “strengthening rural road construction” has vigorously promoted the construction of rural roads. By the end of 2018, the total length of rural roads in China had reached 4.04 million km, and 99.64% of towns and townships

and 99.47% of administrative villages had access to hardened roads, while 98.6% and 97.1% had access to buses. In Southwest China’s Guizhou Province, rural roads have covered almost all villages in the province since 2004. In 2012, asphalt roads were connected to townships and villages.

In 2017, asphalt or cement roads and villages were connected to passenger transport in villages. Guizhou Province became the first province in the western region and the 14th province in the country to realize the villages, and the 10th province to realize the provision of passenger transport to every village. In June 2019, 100% of farmers with more than 30 households had access to hardened roads, and other milestones.

The rural road has changed the social and economic space and network of farmers. Transportation service for rural road engineering construction makes farmers’ production and living space, farmers transportation services continues to increase the accessibility of rural residential areas, production sites and transportation of seamless docking, farmers continue to strengthen links with market, farmers’ livelihood economic activity space and expanding economic network, expanding production and living, social space and network.

Rural transport projects have improved access to and increased livelihood capital for farmers. As the rural road access, space and time distance, farmers and external increasingly frequent and close social interaction, change the cognitive, at the same time access to government departments, agricultural technical personnel more help and guidance, outside of the seed, fertilizer, agricultural machinery, new technology introduction, constantly improve the

level of agricultural production, livelihood activities of his own family business accounting cost income, Gradually embark on the diversification of land resources utilization and the pursuit of maximization of management benefits.

The construction of rural road traffic changes the livelihood mode of farmers. The improvement of rural roads has led to the marketization of agricultural means of production, the commercialization of agricultural and animal husbandry products, the dynamic adjustment and optimization of agricultural livelihoods, and the constant change of farmers' livelihood patterns. Although the traditional cultivation, breeding, planting and raising business continue to be maintained, the number of households and the number of labor force are gradually decreasing, while business and migrant work are gradually increasing. With the transfer of land to other farmers, the intensive and large-scale operation of land improves the production efficiency of land. At the same time, a large number of young and middle-aged workers have been liberated from rural areas to go out to work, do business and start businesses, forming a diversified livelihood model for rural households.

Rural transportation has deepened the rural commodity economy and enhanced the willingness of rural households to transfer land for migrant work and business. Farmers respond to the call of the government and take the initiative to participate in the adjustment of industrial structure, giving rise to the multi-subject cooperation and co-governance mechanism, promoting the transformation of agricultural land flow and realizing the scale of agricultural industry. Driven by the maximization of economic benefits, farmers realize the economic organization of "government advocacy, market-driven, enterprise-led, rural collective" and form the multi-subject of "enterprise + base + cooperative + farmer" and "specialized cooperative" with the participation of farmers.

Rural road has promoted rural urbanization. Smooth rural transportation, convenient transportation, economic aggregation and radiation effect can be played, so that the scattered farmers' land, production and management activities and capital quickly to the advantage of industrial economic agglomeration. With the strengthening of the link between urban and rural areas, the labor force, population and capital rapidly converge to the central villages, market towns and cities, so as to expand agricultural product processing enterprises, establish e-commerce and other sales networks, expand agricultural product sales channels, increase the employment of farmers, and promote the increase of farmers' income.

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### Conflict of Interest

No conflict of interest.

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