

Original Research Article

Study on Rural Environmental Governance Countermeasures from the Perspective of Environmental Governance Modernization

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Abstract: Since the reform and opening-up for more than 40 years, rural modernization has promoted the development of rural economy and society, improved the living standards of farmers, but has also put pressure on the rural ecological environment. Rural ecological environmental protection is urgent. At present, there are two main models of rural environmental governance in my country, namely the government regulation model and the social regulation model, but these two models have inevitable problems. This article analyzes and demonstrates these issues, and gives corresponding countermeasures and suggestions in order to change the current situation of rural environmental governance.

Keywords: Environmental Governance; Modernization of Environmental Governance; Rural Environmental Governance; Governance Countermeasures

0. Introduction

On March 3, 2020, the General Office of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and the General Office of the State Council issued the “Guiding Opinions on Building a Modern Environmental Governance System” that clearly stated that “by 2025, establish and improve with a leadership responsibility system, corporate responsibility system, and national action system, supervision system, market system, credit system, laws, regulations and policy systems of Environmental Governance, implement responsibilities of various subject, increase the enthusiasm of the participation of market subjects and public, and form Environmental governance system with clear guidance, scientific decision-making, strong execution, effective incentives, multiple participation, and benign interaction.”

1. The connotation of ecological governance modernization

The concept of ecological civilization was first proposed by the 17th National Congress of the Communist Party of China. The construction of ecological civilization is an important link in achieving green development and the only way for human social civilization. The 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China summarized the construction of ecological civilization and the construction of politics, economy, culture, and socialism as a five-in-one, emphasizing common development. The connotations of environmental governance modernization are as follows: first, modern environmental governance concepts and awareness; second, diversified environmental governance subjects; third, modern environmental governance information technology. It can be seen that the modernization of environmental governance should mainly start from the aspects like concept of environmental governance, diversified subjects, and ecological environmental information technology.

2. Analysis of main pollution factors of rural environment

2.1 Industrial production pollution

In addition, the most operators of township enterprises lack the awareness of the ecological environment, fail to take corresponding control measures in time, and do not pay attention to the environmental pollution problems that occur in the production process, which makes the rural ecological environment out of balance and causes pollution of rural industrial production.

2.2 Domestic garbage pollution

With the rapid development of the rural economy and the continuous improvement of farmers’ living standards, the rural consumption structure has begun to change. According to survey statistics, the average amount of domestic waste in rural area of my country is 1.07 kg/d, and in some areas it is even as high as 2.29 kg/d^[1].

2.3 Agricultural production pollution

Long-term excessive use of pesticides has destroyed the rural ecological environment, resulting in poor soil permeability,

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changes in soil structure, and then loss of internal balance, soil compaction and other problems occur; and when pesticide residues in crops pass through bio-concentration and the food chain, they can also cause fatal harm to humans and other organisms. Then, the irregular use of chemical fertilizers is the second biggest problem.

3. The causes of rural environmental pollution from the perspective of environmental governance modernization

3.1 Weak awareness of governance subjects

The pollution of the rural ecological environment in my country is becoming more and more serious. In the process of enterprises seeking their own development, due to the low-cost land and labor in rural areas and the loose legal system environment, enterprises have chosen to locate in rural areas to become township enterprises after considering their economic interests. This has resulted in farmers not participating in the governance, and only thinking that the governance of the ecological environment is the responsibility of the government.

3.2 The lack of multiple co-governance of governance subjects

The lack of pluralistic co-governance of governance subjects is mainly reflected among governments and between the government and social organizations. Among them, the governance path of rural environmental governance with the government as the main subject emphasizes that the government should actively play the role of “helmsman” in rural environmental governance^[2].

3.3 Imperfect information technology of governance

Rural environmental governance under the big data information technology platform has not realized the timely sharing of information resources among subjects, especially in the process of information transmission among different departments, different subjects, and different organizations.

4. Governance countermeasures of rural environmental problems from the perspective of environmental governance modernization

4.1 Strengthen the ecological environment awareness of governance subjects

In recent years, as people’s awareness of ecological civilization has become stronger and actions driven by consciousness, great progress has been made in urban environmental governance. However, when people devote themselves wholeheartedly to urban environmental governance, they have ignored the same serious pollution of the rural ecological environment. In order to realize the sustainable development of human society, we should put the rural ecological environment and the urban ecological environment in the same important position.

4.2 Constructing a model of multiple and coordinating co-governance of rural environment

Necessity of multiple and coordinating co-governance.

In the context of modernization of environmental governance in my country’s rural areas, diversified governance bodies, synergistic governance structures and diverse governance methods have been emphasized. Rural environmental governance requires the cooperation of multiple entities including the government, market, and society. The 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China also proposed “strengthening the leadership of the party and perfecting the social governance system of government responsibility, social coordination, public participation, and the rule of law”^[3].

4.3 Government leads, market and social entities voluntarily participate in governance

The government mainly plays a coordinating and supervising role in the mode of multiple and coordinating co-governance of the rural environment. First of all, the degree of involvement of government power, the scope of influence, and the choice of governance path are the key to rural environmental governance, especially showing in the transformation of functions and the idea of serving local economic development. Local governments not only need to increase the supervision and support of other governance entities, but also need to systematically train all relevant personnel involved in rural environmental governance to improve their ability to participate in governance.

4.4 The co-existence of interest coordination mechanism, supervision mechanism and social participation mechanism

Establishing an interest coordination mechanism is an important step in the establishment of the model of multiple and coordinating co-governance of rural environment. The cooperation of multiple governance bodies is the basis for generating and operating the benefit coordination mechanism. In the traditional rural environmental governance system, the government has a monopoly on public power, and it is difficult for other governance entities such as market and society to enter the governance system.

5. Conclusion

Rural environmental governance is the joint collaboration of multiple governance entities such as the government, market and society. In rural environmental governance, it cannot be ignored that the unquantifiable special circumstances that appear in the governance process. Based on respecting the complexity, particularity and diversity in the process of rural environmental governance, this paper constructs a relatively stable and scientifically innovative model of multiple and collaborative co-governance in rural environment based on local conditions, by which provides some guidance and practical significance for national rural

environment governance.

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