

# Practical Research on Promoting the Reform of “One Field for One Household” in Guoyang County

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**Abstract** In recent years, the problem of farmland fragmentation has become a major obstacle to the development of modern agriculture, and the reform of “one field for one household” can effectively sort out cultivated land resources, increase contracted land area, improve land utilization rate, and effectively solve the problems of contracted land dispersion and farmland fragmentation in rural areas. This paper systematically anatomized the practice and effects of “one household, one field” reform in Guoyang County, analyzed the problems existing in the implementation process, and put forward corresponding suggestions and countermeasures, in order to provide experience and reference for the reform of one field in other regions.

**Keywords** One field for each household, Reform practice, Guoyang County

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Guoyang County, located at the southern end of the Huang-Huai-Hai Plain, is an important county with a large population, as well as a traditional agricultural county in northern Anhui, with an area of 2,110 km<sup>2</sup>, including 383 villages (communities) and 23 towns (streets) under its jurisdiction. It has a population of 1,734,500 and a cultivated land area of 156,000 hm<sup>2</sup>. In the early 1980s, the first round of contract responsibility system for rural land in Guoyang County was implemented, which greatly liberated agricultural productivity. When rural land was contracted in the second round in 1994, the level of soil fertility, social equity and the interests of the masses were fully considered, and land was equally divided and assigned to households according to its advantages and disadvantages. The plots were scattered, and most households contracted more than five plots, and about one third of the households contracted six to eight plots, with small plots less than 666 m<sup>2</sup> and large plots less than 2,000 m<sup>2</sup>. In a certain period of time, land production efficiency was greatly improved, but the finely-divided cultivated land is neither convenient for mechanized farming nor conducive to contiguous circulation, which seriously restricts the development of agricultural productivity and hinders the revitalization of rural industries<sup>[1-3]</sup>.

In recent years, China has issued documents pointing out the problem of land fragmentation and its solutions many times. The “No.1 central document” for 2017 put forward that “farmers should be actively guided to realize contiguous farming by households on a voluntary basis through land exchange within village groups”. The “No.1 central document” for 2023 clearly

pointed out that it is necessary to guide the orderly circulation of land management rights, develop moderate scale operation of agriculture, sum up local experiences such as “combining small fields into large fields”, explore the breakthrough of reasonable planning under the premise of farmers’ voluntary, and gradually solve the problem of fine segmentation in combination with farmland construction and land reclamation<sup>[4]</sup>. Guoyang County actively guides cadres and the masses to carry out the reform of “one field”, taking Sanlizhao Village in Chudian Town as a pilot, and implements rural land exchange and integration, forming a new business model of “one field per household”, which effectively improves production efficiency, optimizes the layout of productive forces, and promotes the optimization and upgrading of agricultural structure, bringing higher economic benefits to farmers<sup>[5]</sup>.

## 1 Practice of “one field for one household” reform in Guoyang County

### 1.1 Formulating policies and strengthening leadership

According to the rural land contract law of the People’s Republic of China (PRC) and other relevant laws and regulations and relevant policies and regulations of the central, provincial and municipal governments, in combination with actual situation, Guoyang County has successively issued the *Implementation Plan for the Demonstration and Promotion of the “Full Custody”, “Large Circulation” and “Land Investment” Service Business Models in Guoyang County in 2022* and *Guiding Opinions*

*on Steady Implementation of “One Field” Reform in Guoyang County*, insisting on the fundamental position of rural land collective ownership and earnestly protecting farmers’ contractual rights and interests. It further stimulates the vitality of land use, clarifies the specific working rules and safeguard measures, and standardizes and guides the work of “one field for one household”. Meanwhile, a leading group of “one household, one field” was established, with the main leader of the county party committee as the group leader, the main leader of the county government as the deputy team leader, and the heads of county departments and towns as members, and they were responsible for the policy research, coordinated promotion and guidance of the county-wide “one household, one field” reform.

### 1.2 Strictly implementing under government guidance

Adhering to the principle of “guided by towns, taking villages as the main body, household participation, voluntary participation of the masses”, county and town governments carried out policy and regulation publicity through various means. Firstly, by conducting in-depth policy and regulation publicity and business training for grassroots party members, cadres, and village representatives in towns, villages and groups, a favorable policy environment was provided for the “one household, one field” reform. Secondly, various channels such as radio, television, newspapers, new media, banners, distributing policy letters and convening meetings of village group members or representatives were made full use to widely promote the purpose, significance, work

procedures, methods and steps of the “one household, one field” work to farmers, which gradually dispelled their concerns, and made them aware of the benefits of “one household, one field”. Finally, guidance groups were established in towns and streets, and dedicated persons were assigned to be responsible for it, thereby increasing guidance on the “one field” reform work. The Agriculture and Rural Bureau of the county strengthens supervision and scheduling to ensure the steady and in-depth progress of the “one field” work.

### 1.3 Standardizing operation and advancing in an orderly manner

The old method was matched with the new system to ensure that it was carried out on the premise of voluntary participation of the masses. A working group, which was responsible for checking the land area, evaluating the land grade, and dividing land plots, traffic networks, water conservancy ditches, etc., was recommended by villagers themselves. On this basis, farmers were organized to draw lots for exchange and make clear locations, specific areas and four boundaries of the divided plots. After exchange, farmers reviewed the land plots and signed confirmation, and the process was fully disclosed to accept public supervision<sup>[6-7]</sup>. Meanwhile, the reform was promoted in accordance with the law, and various problems that existed in the reform process were properly solved. The implementation of “one field” inevitably touched on individuals’ interests, and various problems arose, such as the quality of land parcels, reclamation of wasteland, and occupation of graves. It was conducted strictly in accordance with the provisions in the presence of legal and policy support. If there is no clear guidance of laws and regulations, we should make full use of the collective bargaining power of farmers and implement “collective affairs are decided by the collective” to ensure that problems are properly solved<sup>[8-9]</sup>.

### 1.4 Improving archives and standardizing management

The inventory forms and other materials of “one field” were produced in a standardized manner. Centralized and unified filing was carried out at the township level, and the implementation standards were unified for reform practice, and standardized management was implemented by dedicated personnel using dedicated bookcases. Moreover, archival materials were managed in strict accordance with the procedures of signing and cataloguing, examining and registering, issuing certificates, updating databases and filing materials, ensuring that all links were not

reduced, procedures were not disorderly, and standards were not lowered. Especially for a large number of migrant workers, it is necessary to clearly inform the parties involved through mailing letters, telephone consultations, WeChat group notifications, and other means to ensure their right to be informed, participate and make decisions.

## 2 Achievements of “one field for one household” reform in Guoyang County

### 2.1 Revitalizing rural land resources

The reform of “one field for one household” fundamentally solved the practical difficulties in the past that the plots were scattered and small in area, which was not conducive to farming. After the implementation of “one field for one household”, every household basically realizes the cultivation of one field, and meanwhile, there is a phenomenon that several brothers merge their fields together. The areas of large plots reach multiple hectares, which is very convenient for cultivation. The reform effectively solves the practical problem of insufficient land for public welfare undertakings such as beautiful countryside and cemeteries, and is well received by the masses. According to preliminary statistics, after the implementation of “one field”, the actual cultivated land area has been further increased through the sorting of wasteland and leisure areas in villages, and the leveling and reclamation of ridges, soil ridges, ditches and paths among many small plots. For example, after the “one field” reform in Feinan Village of Caoshi Town, more than 20 hm<sup>2</sup> of collective land has been added. Secondly, the land contracted per household is concentrated in contiguous areas, improving operating efficiency. After the reform, the land plots are square and the ditches are networked, making agricultural mechanization and technological management easier, reducing cultivation costs, and increasing household income. Thirdly, space was left for future development of rural public welfare undertakings. For example, Laolongwo Nature Village in Chudian Town reserved 1 hm<sup>2</sup> of land for flexible application, mainly used for building of rural roads, water conservancy facilities, afforestation, and other rural public welfare facilities.

### 2.2 Promoting large-scale and intensive land management

After the implementation of “one field for one household” reform, land transfer not only involves fewer farmers, but also improves the transfer price and makes the transfer more effective.

For example, before the implementation of “one field” in Cuizhuang Village, Linhu Town, large-scale land transfer involved many farmers, and had the disadvantages of difficult implementation and low transfer price, and the average annual rent was about 6,000–9,000 yuan/hm<sup>2</sup>. After the implementation of “one field”, fewer farmers are involved, so the difficulty of circulation is obviously reduced, and the circulation price rises, and the average annual rent is 12,000–16,500 yuan/hm<sup>2</sup>, which effectively promotes the process of land circulation. Meanwhile, due to the integration of contracted land, the time spent on farming, irrigation, spraying, fertilization, harvesting and other links has been greatly reduced, and the efficiency of agricultural machinery operation has also been greatly improved, so the planting input cost of crops has also been significantly reduced, truly achieving “farmers do not farm, while their income does not decrease, and the collective benefits.” Moderate scale management of land provides a broad space for the integration of agriculture’s primary, secondary and tertiary industries. Towns and villages with more land circulation have formed a number of characteristic pillar industries supported by local resource advantages and natural endowments, such as the 1,000 mu soybean demonstration base in Niumiao Village, Tianjingong Street and the Shine Muscat grape planting base in Hongguang Administrative Village, Dianji Town.

### 2.3 Promoting rural social harmony and stability

Most of the causes of rural contradictions and disputes are due to the evolution of land disputes. In the past, the land was finely divided, and there were too many neighbors, so each household’s contracted land was at least adjacent to the contracted land of five households. Farmers whose plots were adjacent often had disputes because of occupying the edge of land, robbing machinery, irrigation and drainage, and the issue of petitioning was continual. After the implementation of “one field for one household”, most of contracted plots are generally only adjacent to those of two households, and the plots close to roads or ditches are even adjacent to one household, effectively solving neighborhood contradictions and the backlog of petitioning caused by unclear land boundaries and unrealistic areas among farmers, and the contradictions and disputes between households due to ridges and ditches and “taking more and occupying more” are also greatly reduced, which promotes the harmony and stability of rural society.

### 3 Problems in the reform of “one field for one household” in Guoyang County

#### 3.1 The understanding of some grassroots cadres is not in place

Some town and village cadres lack sufficient ideological awareness and internal motivation in their work. In the implementation of the “one field” work, some cadres thought that this work was complicated and involved all farmers. They were not proactive, timid, unpractical and unable to take responsibility. When encountering difficult problems, they were afraid of difficulties and did not actively try to find countermeasures, but shelved them, resulting in stagnation and great opinions from the masses. Some towns and villages failed to form a joint effort of up and down linkage. After problems appeared, there was no consultation and strong guidance, and problems were not solved in time, which affected the enthusiasm of grassroots cadres and the masses and led to the slow progress of reform.

#### 3.2 The willingness of some farmers to reform is not strong

In the reform of “one field for one household”, some farmers had different opinions, weak willingness and low enthusiasm, which seriously restricted the implementation of “one field for one household” reform. First, in the original land distribution process, there was a phenomenon that individual farmers were assigned with more cultivated land, fearing that their own cultivated land would become less after the reform. Second, some farmers' plots were located beside ditches and roadsides, and by reclaiming three sides and uncultivated land, they actually occupied more cultivated land than other farmers. Moreover, some plots might be expropriated and converted into construction land because of being adjacent to roads, that is, there was room for added value, so farmers did not agree to land exchange. Third, some farmers had invested heavily in land improvement and water conservancy facilities in the early stage, which might cause economic losses to themselves after land adjustment. Fourth, there was resistance among farmers in some plots which were formed by integrating houses, fields and graves, or used for characteristic farming (vegetable greenhouses, cattle and sheep farms).

### 4 Suggestions on further promoting the reform of “one field for one household”

#### 4.1 Enhancing publicity efforts and strengthening the responsibility of cadres

On the one hand, we should organize

business personnel to go deep into villages and towns to give presentations to grassroots party members and cadres, villager representatives and farmers. Simple and easy-to-understand ways that the masses like, such as folk dramas, cross talks and sketches can be adopted while making full use of platforms such as TikTok short videos, village-to-village broadcasts and neighboring WeChat groups to widely and deeply publicize good experiences and good practices, and guide the masses to actively and consciously participate in the implementation of “one field for one household”. On the other hand, special meetings can be held to unify the ideological understanding of town and village cadres, strengthen their sense of responsibility, change their work style and overcome their fear of difficulties<sup>[11]</sup>.

#### 4.2 Adhering to the principle of taking the masses as the main body and adjusting measures according to local conditions

The reform of “one field for one household” should be conducted according to local conditions, specific villages and groups. First, the reform should follow general requirements of “voluntary participation of the masses, pilot projects first, point to area, and gradual implementation”. A natural village with little difference in land grade and sound village-level organizations where the masses have strong willingness to change land can be chosen first to carry out a pilot reform of “one field for one household”, and based on this, work experience can be summarized to gradually promote it. Second, for those with a large amount of cultivated land due to land reclamation, strict legal disposal should be carried out, and it should be clarified that reclaimed land belongs to collective land, which should be fully recovered and centrally managed or uniformly distributed. Third, for those with good geographical locations and high initial investment, it is necessary to inform them that there will be specialized projects for land remediation after land integration, in order to solve the problem of good or bad land plots. Fourth, we should give full play to the main role of peasants, guide them to participate actively, and let peasants make their own decisions. The problems and solutions encountered in the process should be discussed and agreed by the masses, and the masses should participate in the supervision throughout the process. Hence, the interests of the masses can be protected to the largest extent by letting them put forward their ideas and opinions, do the work themselves, and think of ways to solve

problems.

### 5 Conclusions

The management of farmland fragmentation is an important part of the current intensive agricultural development. Carrying out the reform of “one household, one field” and further revitalizing land assets is an important measure for grassroots to explore rural revitalization. The reform of “one field for one household” conforms to the objective and practical needs of agricultural and rural development, the wishes of farmers and people's needs for a better life. The reform of “one household, one field” in Guoyang County, inspired by local people's spontaneous exploration, has risen to the promotion of reform practice and guidance at the government level, and achieved fruitful results according to local conditions, greatly improving the utilization rate of land, which is of great significance to the development of agricultural modernization.

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practice activities during holidays. By virtue of hometown tourism resources, the college can develop courses on characteristic themes such as inheritance of intangible cultural heritage and experience of agricultural activities, so as to tell Chinese stories well, inherit traditional Chinese culture, and improve students' professional quality.

### 3.5 Constructing curriculum evaluation system based on trinity logic

According to the trinity logic of "knowledge + ability + ideology and politics", the "four-section" assessment and evaluation system of knowledge, ability and ideology and politics can be constructed, that is, full process of assessment process, integration of assessment content, diversification of assessment forms, and diversity of evaluation subjects. Full process of assessment process: attaching equal importance to "in-class + out-of-class" and employing a "online + offline" model throughout the course learning process; integration of assessment content: shifting from "assessment of knowledge" to "simultaneous assessment of ability, knowledge, ideology and politics", setting up assessment content from various aspects of learning attitude, learning habits, awareness of participation, teamwork, communication, behavioral norms, knowledge acquisition, skill operation; diversification of assessment forms: group cooperation, classroom training, classroom discussion, project design, research reports, participation in competitions and other diversified assessment methods; diversity of evaluation subjects: multi-subject participation of platform, teachers, peers, and enterprise mentors.

### 3.6 Running through real tasks in the whole process and practicing the integrated education of "role, course, competition and certification"

Utilizing both on-campus and off-campus practice bases, the college incorporates ideological-political themes—such as professional ideals, cultural confidence, and national

pride—into the curriculum. This integration develops courses on intangible cultural heritage, craftsmanship, and "Belt and Road" initiatives, aligning real enterprise tasks with academic content to ensure practical application in real-world projects.

Aligning with industry standards, the college incorporates the 1+X DIEEE vocational skill level certificate into the curriculum, facilitating project-based and contextual learning that reflects actual industry tasks and embraces dual education with enterprises. By embedding professional competition content into the curriculum, the college practices an integrated "role, course, competition, and certification" education model, enhancing students' professional confidence and career development prospects.

### 3.7 Emphasizing the dual nature of "education + tourism"

Drawing on China's rich natural, historical, and cultural diversity, the college offers a range of study tour courses, fostering students' development as confident citizens, cultural ambassadors, and hands-on educators. By encouraging students to explore resources, delve into cultural depths, promote heritage, and advance scientific knowledge, and by practicing the ethos of "continuous learning and reflection during study tours", the college aims to fulfill its educational, practical, and openness objectives in study tour activities, thereby nurturing the next generation of socialist contributors and leaders.

## 4 Conclusions

The professional curriculum stands at the forefront of integrating ideological and political education in higher vocational colleges. By fostering regular interaction among professional educators, ideological-political instructors, and industry mentors, and collaboratively designing educational objectives and embedding methods for ideological-political content, the effectiveness of ideological and political education within the curriculum is ensured<sup>[5]</sup>. This collaborative

approach seeks to harmonize explicit and implicit educational strategies, merge curricular and ideological-political instruction, and blend knowledge transfer with skill development and value formation, thereby creating a lasting synergistic impact<sup>[6]</sup>.

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