

The Current Practice of the Responsibility System in Miyi County

This section examines the different ways of practising the *Responsibility System* in the farming, forestry, and pastoral areas. By 1985, most areas in the County had adopted the household contract system. Because of the vertical climatic differences, and the diversified forms of agriculture practised in the valleys, foothills, and mountain areas, practise of the *Responsibility System* also varied depending upon whether the production team was involved in farming, forestry, or animal husbandry.

Farming Areas

Farming is mainly based in the valleys and foothills and is characterised by the cultivation of grain crops (wheat and maize) and commercial crops (sugar cane and vegetables). Here, the dual level management system is practised. Contracts are mainly Household Contracts but some specialised products are managed by the collectives (industries, pisciculture, and large orchards).

The Collective divides the available land equally among the population according to the quality of land, and the land is given out in Household Contracts.

Should arable land have been left uncultivated as wasteland, whoever reclaims it has the right to use it. Should he not use it after reclamation, it reverts to the Collective.

Specialised contracts handled by the Collectives are usually of more commercial value. These include orchards, mulberry fields, and tea gardens. Irrigation facilities are also managed by the Collective.

Farming implements and cattle are bought and/or owned by the collectives and are sold for cash to the contract households.

Forestry Areas

A household may contract to work in certain forest or barren hillside areas. They are expected to (i) prevent forest fires, (ii) prevent the indiscriminate felling of trees, and (iii) carry out afforestation works to the degree stipulated by the Collectives. Felling is carried out by specialised lumberjacks or lumbering teams under the direction of the State or the Collectives. A quota "bonus" is paid to the contractor for felled timber on the basis of each cubic metre of timber felled. If timber is felled from an area not normally included in the "felling area" the contractor receives a salary from the State or the Collective, according to the month or season of the year, against him not being able to carry out or not being able to completely carry out the contract.

Pastoral Areas

The contracts undertaken in the pastoral areas are similar to those in the farming areas. Grazing land is divided and the management and grazing rights are decentralised.