

IMPACT OF OFF-FARM ACTIVITIES ON THE ENVIRONMENT AND ON RESOURCES

Based on the above discussions, the indicators of "success" or "failure", i.e., the positive and negative impacts of the main off-farm activities in Mianchi are presented in summary form below. These are indicative of the complementarity or otherwise of off-farm activities in the mountain context.

Vegetable Cultivation

- Positive Impacts:
- takes advantage of seasonality
 - has little conflict with labour demands for crop cultivation
 - generates considerable employment and cash income
 - enhances income distribution
 - contributes to market growth
- Negative Impact:
- may lead to a decrease in soil fertility

Fruit and Cash Crops

- Positive Impacts:
- takes advantage of diversity
 - enhances the natural resource base; prevents soil erosion
 - enhances skill levels
 - generates sizeable employment and income
- Negative Impact:
- may lead to decline in food-self sufficiency

Transportation

- Positive Impacts:
- enhances forward and backward linkages of farming system
 - improves access to markets
 - no conflict with labour demand
- Negative Impact:
- limited access for females and low income groups

Qiang Embroidery

- Positive Impacts:
- takes advantage of traditional skills
 - does not impinge on the environment
 - creates considerable employment and income for women
 - complementary with other rural activities
- Negative Impacts:
- none

Livestock

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| Positive Impacts: | - | complements agriculture; enhances soil fertility; provides manure, draft power |
| Negative Impacts: | - | can impinge on natural resources through the increased demand for fodder and grazing |

Mining

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| Positive Impacts: | - | exploits resources with comparative advantages, |
| | - | provides income and employment |
| Negative Impacts: | - | destabilises the landscape; induces soil and rock slips |

In terms of the impacts on resources and environment, horticultural crops, vegetables, and *Qiang* embroidery are favourable in relation to other activities such as mining and livestock. These again are activities that are accessible to women and low income groups.