Original Paper

Research on the Path of Party Building-Led Village-Based Assistance in Boosting Rural Revitalization

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Abstract

Village-based assistance is a pivotal institutional arrangement for the comprehensive advancement of Rural Revitalization, and party building at the grassroots level is the fundamental guarantee for ensuring the correct direction and lasting impetus of Rural Revitalization. This paper takes the assistance practice of Guanba Community in Zunyi City as a case to systematically analyze the role, predicaments and paths of Party building-led village-based assistance in Rural Revitalization. The study reveals that Party building leadership can effectively integrate resources and consolidate synergy, and promote the comprehensive revitalization of rural areas through multiple dimensions such as organizational construction, industrial development, governance innovation and team forging. However, there remain prominent problems in current practice, such as the inadequate in-depth integration of Party building and practical work, insufficient sustainability of industries, weak internal driving force of governance, and the need to improve the capacity of assistance teams. In the future, we should strengthen mechanism innovation, capacity building and digital empowerment to promote high-quality development of Party building-led village-based assistance work, furnish a solid organizational underpinning for Rural Revitalization and explore an effective path for Party building-led comprehensive Rural Revitalization, with the aim of offer theoretical references and practical insights for Rural Revitalization in similar regions.

Keywords

Party building-led, Village assistance, Rural Revitalization

1. Introduction

Rural Revitalization is the overarching approach to work related to agriculture, (Han, 2024) rural areas and farmers in the new era, and its depth, breadth and complexity are no less than those of poverty alleviation. The report of the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China emphasizes

"adhering to the clear orientation of focusing on the grassroots and promoting Rural Revitalization through Party building" (Wang, 2020), clarifying the core position of Party leadership in Rural Revitalization. Village-based assistance, as a core measure to connect poverty alleviation achievements with Rural Revitalization, serves as a crucial approach to strengthening the development of rural grassroots organizations, facilitating policy implementation and consolidating development synergy. Zunyi City, as a revolutionary old area and a key area for Rural Revitalization, has been exploring the "Party building + village assistance" model, and many typical experiences have emerged. This article takes Guanba Community as an example, through case analysis and policy interpretation, to explore the internal operating mechanism, practical predicaments and optimization paths of Party building-led village-based assistance, with the aim of providing reference for similar areas.

2. The Importance of Party Building-led Village-based Assistance for Rural Revitalization

Party building leadership ensures that Rural Revitalization proceeds in the right political direction. First secretaries stationed in villages, as Party commissioners at the grassroots level, are not only policy propagandists but also work teams for rural Party building and construction teams for Rural Revitalization. Guanba Community regards organizational development as its paramount priority and integrates joint organizational learning, joint discussion on affairs, joint promotion of projects and joint assumption of responsibilities throughout the whole process of village assistance through the "three-link" working mechanism (joint building of leadership teams, joint cultivation of Party members, joint connection of cadres and masses). By pairing village cadres with community cadres, assigning tasks and assigning responsibilities, both sides jointly identify problem lists and jointly investigate risks and hidden dangers, fostering a dynamic ecosystem where village cadres guide Party Branches, Party Branches lead Party members, and Party members mobilize the general public. The village cadres have transformed the Party's innovative theories into the "everyday language" that the people can understand, and policy documents into actionable "blueprints" for rural development, ensuring that the Party's lines, principles and policies are consistent at the grassroots level.

Rural grassroots Party organizations are the backbone of Rural Revitalization. It is more effective to support the development of a strong Party Branch than to provide financial and material assistance. Guanba Community once had problems such as weakened organization and insignificant role of Party members. Through measures such as standardizing "three meetings and one lesson", innovating "field Party lessons", and building a "smart Party building" platform, we have made organizational life "lively" and "practical", and brought "red lecture halls" and "field Party lessons" to the front lines of production, project sites, and the people. (Zhou & Luo, 2022) This has driven the transformation of Party organizations from being "weak and disorganized" to becoming "pioneering and exemplary", and the transformation of Party members from "bystanders" to "participants" to attract talents and resources to the countryside, and take the initiative to show their identities and set an example in matters such as industrial development, environmental improvement, and conflict mediation, and make the Party's

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innovative theories take root at the grassroots level.

For a long time, rural development has generally faced structural predicaments such as scattered resources, weak forces and fragmented investment. Party building leads through mechanisms such as "departmental village responsibility" and "cadre household connection", effectively integrating multiple resources including dispatched units, local governments, market entities, and social forces. Rely on the advantages of the dispatched units to secure project funds; Through Party organization coordination, introduce market entities, explore and implement the "village collective + company + base + farmer" cooperation model, innovate the "three gold" model (rent from land transfer, salary from nearby work, dividend from share cooperation), explore new models such as "order farming", "sorghum + rapeseed" rotation, "watermelon + morel mushroom" rotation, revitalize idle assets, Cultivate new growth points for the industry. This kind of resource integration is not a simple "patchwork", but a multi-input mechanism formed under the overall planning of the Party organization, which is a micro manifestation of institutional synergy at the grassroots level.

The key to Rural Revitalization lies in activating the internal driving force. Drawing on the good experiences and practices of the "Party-Masses Connection Network" and "Villagers' Council" in Zunyi City, Guanba Community has implemented the "Harmony and Beauty Points System", with the Party organization taking the lead in formulating specific and operational points details around the six dimensions of "accumulating good deeds, accumulating faith, accumulating virtue, accumulating diligence, accumulating frugality, accumulating beauty". Monthly evaluations and points redemption have made the abstract rural civilization quantifiable, perceptible and rewarding. It has stimulated the sense of ownership among the people, significantly increased the participation rate in community governance, significantly reduced conflicts and disputes, and transformed grassroots governance from "administrative push" to "incentive guidance", achieving a shift from "I have to govern" to "I want to govern". This innovation stems from the Party organization's grasp of the people's demands and reflects the exploration of Party building leading the modernization of grassroots governance.

3. Problems of Party Building Leading Village Assistance in Rural Revitalization

3.1 The Integration of Party Building and Business Is not Deep Enough

Some Party Branches still exhibit the tendency of "prioritizing practical work over Party building" or "isolating Party building from practical work". Some village officials view Party building work as a "soft task", believing that as long as industries are developed and projects are implemented, Party building work can be "put on hold" and "let go". Organizational life is merely a formality, content with "meetings, photos and records", lacking a deep alignment with the central tasks such as industrial development and rural governance. Party building assessment has not been substantially linked to performance distribution and commendation, and the advantages of Party building have not been fully transformed into development advantages.

3.2 Industrial Sustainability Faces Challenges

Through the project inclination and technical support from the dispatched units, Guanba Community has initially formed characteristic planting industries represented by sorghum, morel mushrooms, and high-quality fruits. The collective economic income has risen from less than 50,000 RMB in 2019 to 420,000 RMB in 2024. However, the sustainability of the industry still faces severe challenges: First, there is the risk of market fluctuations. The prices of agricultural products are greatly affected by supply and demand. Although contract farming provides a safety net, there remains uncertainty regarding enterprises' fulfillment of contracts; The second is the risk of technology dependence. High value-added crops such as morel have extremely high requirements for strains, temperature and humidity control. Technical guidance mainly relies on external experts, and local technical forces have not yet been formed. Third, there is the risk of homogeneous competition. Similar industries are being developed simultaneously in several neighboring villages, and local overcapacity has started to emerge in the sector. Although the collective economy has "broken through zero", the foundation is still weak, the risk-resistance capacity is insufficient, and the "blood-making" function is not yet stable.

3.3 The Long-term Mechanism for Governance is not Yet Sound

In the early stage of operation, governance innovations such as the "Harmony and Beauty Points" mainly relied on the continuous promotion of the village work teams and the injection of funds from the dispatching units, and a regular and institutionalized operation guarantee mechanism had not yet been established. The sources of materials exchanged for points are limited, mostly donations from the assistance units or temporary applications for funds, lacking stable financial budgets or village-level funds to support. The digital governance platform is still in its early application stage, with functions limited to point entry and information release. Deeper functions such as people's livelihood services, democratic deliberation, and online mediation have not been effectively activated, and the operation and maintenance of the platform require continuous technical support and financial input. The transformation of rural governance from "shaping" to "soul-casting" is a long-term process, and relying solely on external guidance is difficult to sustain.

3.4 The Capacity and Stability of the Assistance Team Are Insufficient

There is a structural mismatch between the professional background of the resident cadres and the comprehensive demands of Rural Revitalization. Some officials are good at administrative management, but lack professional skills such as agricultural technology, market operation, laws and regulations, and are struggling in matters such as guiding industrial development and resolving contract disputes. There is a clear "time mismatch" between the two, which usually lasts for two to three years and Rural Revitalization is a systematic project that requires long-term efforts. The rotation of cadres often leads to a "reversal of the pancake" in work thinking and a "broken chain" in project connection, and it is not uncommon for the industrial projects introduced by the previous generation to be hindered due to the change of the person in charge. At the same time, although local talent cultivation has improved, the quantity and quality are still insufficient to meet the needs of the comprehensive Rural

Revitalization in the next five years, and "reliance on foreign aid" has not been effectively transformed into "internal relay".

3.5 The Problem of Balancing External Dependence with Endogenous Motivation

Rural Revitalization cannot do without the input of external resources, especially during the stages of filling infrastructure gaps and equalizing public services, policy funds and assistance projects remain important "starters" and "accelerators". However, the long-term injection of resources has objectively strengthened the "waiting, relying and demanding" mentality of some grassroots cadres and the masses, and there are real concerns that "if the assistance team is withdrawn, the industry will stop" and "if project funds are cut off, development will slow down". How to strike a dynamic balance between sustained external support and the cultivation of endogenous motivation is a structural dilemma that Party building-led village assistance must confront and solve in the current and future period.

4. Optimized Paths for Party Building-led Village Assistance to Boost Rural Revitalization

4.1 Deepen the Integration Mechanism to Promote the Resonance of Party Building and Rural Revitalization

First, improve the "Party Building + Practical Work" assessment system. The effectiveness of the village-based assistance work will be incorporated into the rigid indicators for the assessment of grassroots Party building work, annual assessment, and term assessment. The assessment indicators will be refined and the weight of the effectiveness of Party building in leading industrial development, governance innovation, and public satisfaction will be increased. The second is to innovate the carrier of organizational life. Popularize practices such as "On-site Party Classes" and "Red Lecture Halls" to closely integrate organizational life with rural realities and solve practical problems. Third, strengthen the Party organization's leadership over major matters. Implement the "Four Deliberations and Two Public Announcements" system to ensure that industrial development, project arrangements, etc. are subject to Party organization leading the deliberation and full supervision.

4.2 Focus on the Long-term Sustainability of Industries and Enhance the Sustainability of Collective Economy and Farmers' Income

First, promote the model of "Party organization-led cooperatives". The village (community) Party organization takes the lead in establishing or integrating cooperatives to effectively address the problems of loose interest connection and high risk of breach of contract under the "enterprise + farmer" model, ensuring that the collective economy does not deviate in direction, benefits are shared, and distribution is transparent. **Second, strengthen the Party building along the industrial chain.** Explore the establishment of temporary Party organizations or Party building alliances in industrial projects, integrate resources such as technology, market and finance, and promote the extension of agriculture from "growing well" to "selling well" to extend the industrial chain. **Third, cultivate local industrial talents.** Relying on the resources of the village work teams, in collaboration with agricultural colleges and agricultural technology extension centers, regularly conduct skills training,

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explore the establishment of a "special program for cultivating Talents for Rural Revitalization", cultivate a group of "local experts" and "agricultural scholars" who (Lu, 2025) understand technology, are good at business and management, and reduce excessive reliance on external technology.

4.3 Innovate Governance Models to Promote the Combination of Self-governance, Rule of Law and Rule of Virtue

First, improve the long-term operation mechanism of the points system. Establish a village-level "Harmony and beauty points" exchange fund, ensure the source of funds through multiple channels such as retention of collective economic income, social donations, and linking to fiscal rewards and subsidies, and explore linking to the integrity system and financial credit to enhance the sustainability of incentives. **The second is digital empowerment of rural governance.** Improve the "Digital Village" platform, add functions such as people's livelihood services and democratic deliberations, and enhance the refinement and intelligence of governance. **Third, foster rural social organizations.** Under the leadership of the Party organization, develop red and white councils, councils of local notables, etc., promote the transformation of customs and practices from "external constraints" to "internal recognition", and enhance the capacity for self-governance.

4.4 Build Strong Assistance Teams and Create "Never-leaving Work Teams"

First, optimize the dispatch mechanism. Establish a precise matching mechanism of "village needs, job responsibilities, and personnel", focusing on cadres with professional backgrounds in agricultural science and technology, business management, laws and regulations, etc. to take up positions in villages, and enhance the matching of personnel and positions. The second is to enhance training and management. Incorporate village-based assistance cadres into the cadre education and training program, conduct regular specialized training on Rural Revitalization to enhance the composite capabilities of village-based cadres, and simultaneously improve the systems and mechanisms for daily management, work documentation, regular job reports, and end-of-term assessment. Third, do a good job in "passing on, helping and connecting". Establish the "AB post" system for resident cadres and local cadres to ensure continuous work and accelerate the power switch from "external assistance" to "local revitalization".

4.5 Balance Internal and External Driving Forces and Build a Multi-party Participation Pattern

Party organizations should focus on guiding direction, linking resources, creating environment and coordinating contradictions. Specific production and business activities should be left to market entities such as professional cooperatives and agricultural enterprises to avoid the overreach and role misalignment of village-level organizations acting as both referees and participants. By means of consultation and sharing of results, villagers can become planners, builders and beneficiaries of Rural Revitalization, fundamentally getting rid of the predicament (Jing & Wang, n.d.) of "cadres doing and the masses watching". Build platforms such as the return of local elites, school-local cooperation, and village-enterprise joint construction to attract multiple subjects including returning young people, veterans, retired cadres, and volunteers to participate in rural construction, forming a pattern (Feng,

2025) of "Party building leadership and multi-party participation" in co-construction, co-governance and co-sharing.

5. Conclusion

Party building-led village-based assistance constitutes a core support and institutional advantage for the comprehensive advancement of Rural Revitalization. The practice of Guanba Community shows that only by transforming the Party's political, organizational and close ties with the people into development and governance effectiveness (Editorial writer of this newspaper, 2026) can we effectively solve the problems in underdeveloped villages in terms of resource endowment, talent reserve and governance capacity, arouse endogenous motivation and realize a profound transformation from "blood transfusion" to "blood creation" and from "external assistance" to "independent revitalization". At present, there are still shortcomings to varying degrees in the depth of integration, industrial resilience, long-term governance, and team stability of the village-based assistance work, which need to be systematically addressed through mechanism innovation, capacity improvement and resource integration. (Wang, 2020) In the future, we should further strengthen top-level design, promote the deep integration of Party building and Rural Revitalization, transform effective experience into institutional achievements, and offer the "Zunyi Experience" and "Guizhou Wisdom" for the advancement of Rural Revitalization nationwide.

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