

Bio:

Dan Li is a PhD researcher at the Group of Nature Resource Management of Peking University. Research area includes rangeland policy, agro-pastoral area development and local community management. She is now visiting at WINS and Resource Economic Group of Humboldt University. She is currently conducting a study on the resources use and transaction between farmers and herders in agro-pastoral Area of Xinjiang, China. The study will clarify the transaction costs of farmers-herders nature-related transaction and give suggestions on institution arrangement to achieve sustainable livelihoods.

Abstract:

After the founding of P. R. China, the land use of Xinjiang and the rest of rural China underwent state-directed collectivization during the Collective Era (1958-1984) and privatization during the Household Land Contract Period (HLCP) after 1984. It has led to the relationship between farmers and herders changes from sharing resource and cooperation to resource private use and market transaction. Taking Nileke County of Xinjiang as a case study, we find the increasing number of livestock and nature-related transaction between farmers and herders have caused pasture degradation and conflicts. This research tries to explain the dynamic process of nature-related transaction between farmers and herders under land privatization system and analyze the transaction costs using IoS Framework and transaction costs theory. Results show that the opportunity cost of resource loss in current farmers-herders nature-related transaction is high, and could be reduced under collective management in community. At last, we put forward policy suggestions to improve community land management for sustainable livelihoods.