

## Laos Phongsaly Tea Cross-Border Agriculture Culture Dissemination and Interaction Study

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**Keywords:** Cross-border agriculture, Phongsaly tea, Cultural interaction

**Abstract:** Cross-border agriculture, which is the main content of cross-border cultivation, is becoming an important foundation for Chinese agriculture to “go out” and is an important field of interaction between “two markets” and “two resources”. Tea, as a traditional economic crop of Yunnan agriculture, has been planted in Phongsaly county of northern Laos, where possesses superior natural resource but inferior the agricultural technology level. It has not only promoted agricultural technology improvement and modernization of Laos, but also prompted us to reflect on China's agriculture development, especially The Development of Yunnan Plateau Specialty Agriculture. This paper aims to explore the effective implementation of cross-border agricultural cooperation and explore how to implement the construction of “One Belt, One Road” in the field of agriculture, so as to provides case studies for constructing ecological security and the harmonious frontier.

### 1. Introduction

With the “invisible agricultural revolution” brought by food consumption structure changes in China and the influence of globalized risk society in agriculture, from grain production with low value to economic crops production with high value-added, such as tea. The revolution not only across Yunnan as the border area, but also into Phongsaly County of the northern Laos with the mountain winding, which is known as ancient tea trees in Longjing village and become the destination of Chinese cross-border tea base construction. In the process of tea planting and cross-border trade, agricultural technology level of Phongsaly farmers have been fully upgraded, which directly increases the farmers' income, and the farmers get the capability of sustainable development of livelihood “.

### 2. Construction Process of Laos Phongsaly Tea Base

Phongsaly possesses the natural advantage of geographical conditions of tea planting and production. Linking mountains and rivers, the natural environment and climate conditions are very similar in Yunnan and Phongsaly. Therefore, under the condition of cultural dissemination brought by similar soil, altitude, climate and caravan tea way, tea had been planted in Phongsaly province, forming an ancient tea garden with hundreds of year in Longjing village belong to Pounoy people, and more new tea gardens with the market prosperity in Surrounding 23 villages of Phongsaly country.

According to documents of Joachim Schliesinger<sup>[1]</sup> and Henri Roux<sup>[2]</sup>, it is likely that the Pounoy people migrated from the Qinghai Tibet Plateau to Xishuangbanna of Yunnan Province, and then southward to viang phouka in the 16th century, which now belonged to Laos. After that, they were exiled in the war until the establishment of a modern national state in Laos. For a long time, they carried out slash and burn cultivation and opium poppy cultivation. Tea trees were found in some villages when they were traveling and cultivated, and they were protected and utilized around the

villages. This became the starting point for the government of Phongsaly province to settle down in the agricultural development plan at the end of the 20th century.

In 1999, Chinese private enterprises Pufa tea factory found the Phongsaly government to build tea base surrounding the county through the model of “ company + base + farmers”, and a primary processing plant in the county. They promise to process tea leaves and then underwrite to China market. The Phongsaly government mobilized more Pounoy family moving from the mountains around the county to plant tea. Ten ton tea seeds were transited here from Yunnan, distributed to farmers as a lower cost with matching agricultural technology training. It has also got strongly support from the Chinese government and has been listed as an important alternative planting project. With the rapid development of Yunnan Pu'er Tea market, many private enterprises and individual operators have entered here to engage in cross-border planting and cross-border trade. Till 2015 there are 15 tea factories, 3 of which possesses higher investment more than one million named Pufa tea factory, Longsheng Company and Yunsen Company.

There are three kinds of mode in the construction of Phongsaly tea base:

The first kind is ancient tea plantation forming by transplanting or seed peeling naturally surrounding the house, mainly in the village of Longjing. It is not only famous for tea production, but also a distinctive tourism destination as tea garden landscape, and the traditional bamboo tea making by pounoy people has become a kind of well-known specialty.

Secondly, new tea plantations invested by Chinese enterprises. Since 1999, transplanting Yunnan tea seedlings on a large-scale constructed many terrace tea gardens in 23 villages surrounding Phongsaly County. But the main planting techniques are different from 2008. At the beginning Pufa tea factory continued the path of first green revolution, namely improved varieties, chemicalization and mechanization, to drive the modernization of the local agricultural economy. Because of China market pursuing for ancient tea since 2008, the tea trees in Longjing village is regarded as a local variety for its taste sweet, natural pollution-free, as well as obtaining a higher market price.

Thirdly, the new tea garden spontaneously planted by local villages. After 2008, driven by the interest of local farmers interplanted Longjing tea seeds and wadies to form a new sloping tea garden in Phongsaly County. The original slash-and-burn cultivation technology was used to open the new mountain, planting tea seedlings or tea seed with the wadies for four years of interplanting period. During this period, Pounoy people continued milenarism livelihood, in slash-and-burn cultivation mountain upland rice and tea intercropping ways to expand the base area of tea.

### **3. Cross-Border Dissemination and Interaction of Sino-Laos Tea Technology**

Before 1999, local farmers treat tea as a ordinary plant and a kind of economic crops cognized through cultural communication, only drinking tea leaves and making Bamboo tea. It is by no means comparable to important grain crops such as cereals, and therefore there is no systematic knowledge of tea plantation and tea plantation management. Nowadays, instead of slash-and-burn cultivation, the tea economy has become one of the Phongsaly economy pillar, and the tea technology has become more important needing to be widely disseminated. The tea technology of cross border communication and interaction between Chinese and Laos people are mainly carried out through two ways: systematic train and folk communication.

#### **3.1 Systematic Train**

The systematic train held by Chinese tea factory and the Phongsaly government.

At the start Chinese Pufa tea factory organized local Pounoy farmers to transplant tea seeding and held tea garden management training. After 2010, the Phongsaly government has repeatedly invited domestic and foreign tea experts to train local farmers. March 2015, the Phongsaly Education Department and Agriculture Department jointly held the tea technical training and Pu'er Career Technical College teacher were invited. Three kinds of modern concept from Yunnan subverted the understanding of local government and farmers:

Firstly, change sloping tea garden to Terrace tea garden through ditching trenches;

Secondly, the local tea seeds and tea cottages from Longjing village can be planted widely, and a

modern tea with local seed gene can be transformed through the grafting technology;

Thirdly, interplant beneficial trees so as to transform dense tea garden into modern ecology tea plantation.

The three proposals are aimed at meeting the needs of mainstream markets for high yield and high prices. In addition, Pu'er Career Technical College training teachers also analyzed the characteristics of tea tree, emphasized the use of organic fertilizer, and taught the production methods of organic fertilizer. In addition, they propose the pruning of tea plantations for young tea trees, while protecting the ancient tea trees and avoiding excessive picking.

To sum up, there are mainly the following three characteristics of Phongsaly tea plantation and tea garden management:

Firstly, pay attention to protect and develop local tea varieties. By collecting the tea seed or grafting seedlings of the ancient tea tree in Longjing village, the planting area of the local tea seed varieties is expanded, and the tea tree is protected from excessive picking and timely maintenance. Tea quality and tea price should be improved from the varieties of tea tree;

Secondly, strengthen application and innovation of local knowledge such as slash-and-burn cultivation etc. In combination traditional techniques of slash-and-burn cultivation with interplanting tea, the normal growth of tea seedlings should be guaranteed without affecting the grain production. When tea trees reach high yield period four years later, tea will be the main source of income. This transition period of tea and grain intercropping ensures the farmers' grain production and economic crop production in a period of time, and diversified economy to deal with the tea market risk from china.

Thirdly, avoid detours and directly carry out the conscious application of sustainable green agricultural technology. At the beginning, the household investment capacity is low and can't afford pesticide and chemical fertilizers, and then the local government made a ban of chemical fertilizer and pesticide. Now with the recognition of domestic and foreign market, the farmers also recognize the value of ecological organic tea, and take the initiative to maintain the natural ecological environment of local tea.

### **3.2 People-to-People Exchange**

The essence of tea cultivation, picking and processing is the materialization of cultural capital and the reproduction of local knowledge. In the field of transnational tea cultivation and circulation, the production skills include two parts: 1., tea planting and management knowledge; 2., tea picking, storage and processing knowledge. The folk exchange content in tea picking, storing and processing knowledge, this is because the cultivation and management by tea and tea and tea China docking, the boss in direct contact with the picking of fresh tea leaves, the fresh tea leaves Hechu processing Maocha proposed quality requirements, and affect the price of tea, which directly affect the behavior of farmers.

Private tea owners play the role of agricultural technology and non-governmental exchange ambassadors. Different from the state-owned enterprises, private entrepreneurs often pay more attention to integrate into the culture of the host country, they rented the house of the local people to organize production and trade, as with farmers living together rather than from a corner, contact, they hire local people to participate in the processing of tea, and the whole process, a set of technical guidance, tea processing and tea picking the construction and management of tea garden. More effective is that they directly affect the management of farmers' tea garden, the picking and processing technology through market demand and price symbol. In the tea excessive picking and ancient tea tree protection and so on, has gone through the following stages: first, the big tree tea in short supply, caused by Z boss said excessive picking and fresh leaves mixed, with small charge big and so on. As a result of the improvement of China's tea owner's identification ability, the present situation of fresh leaf size and mixture has led to a decrease in the overall tea price. Thus began to produce specialized division of labor, such as special tree tea or tea trees. This will guide tea farmers and local tea owners to make technical choices.

#### 4. Conclusion

Since 2011, the Yunnan provincial government proposed “plateau characteristic agriculture” development path, “Yunnan tea” has been included in the “plateau characteristic agriculture” one of the twelve major brands.

In the cross-border agricultural development, the survival and the ability to adapt and to return to the high economic value is an important economic crop, tea and rubber the same as cross-border planting, other than rubber tea is more conducive to ecological protection and ecological restoration. Sturgeon pointed out the different significance of tea and rubber planting to the Aka people's society in Xishuangbanna which is rubber only bringing economic accumulation to the growers, but destroying the ecology. Tea makes the growers more “nationalized” while maintaining the ecological diversity<sup>[3]</sup>. Selena Ahmed also points out the diversified social and cultural value of tea in Aka community of Yunnan Province<sup>[4]</sup>.

However, with advanced technology, to improve the efficiency as the goal, based on ecological constraints “technology oriented cross-border investment in agriculture to reflect, cross-border agriculture should draw lessons from the process of agricultural modernization at home and abroad, such as the chemistry of the first green revolution. In Phongsaly, the cross-border agricultural practice, cross-border cross-border investment planting technology oriented by the value of the local culture respect replaced more emphasis on social cultural logic of local. It is through cross-border planting in Phongsaly tea as an example, to explore the scientific and effective implementation of the path of cross-border cooperation in agriculture.

In addition, with the “going out” of large projects is different, tea overseas investment and operators to private enterprises, rather than state-owned enterprises. Private capital business owners in order to adapt to the country's social culture and national breakthrough segment and arouse folk wisdom, use various forms of capital into the local society, the promotion of agricultural technology in direct interaction with the farmers, the formation of agricultural culture benign interaction and communication, so as to ensure the normal operation of the business and excess economic benefits.

Agriculture as the foundation of the national economic and social development, the same as the agricultural country has a long history of folk China old cross-border investment in agriculture, and alternative cultivation policy in Golden Triangle by China national support enterprises cross-border planting on Laos.

#### Acknowledgement

I would like to express my gratitude to Yunnan provincial postdoctoral research projects fund which is about Study on the Sino-laos interaction of livelihood and poverty reduction.

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