# A Literature Review on Socialized Agricultural Services Enabling High-Quality Rural Development<sup>.</sup>

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#### Abstract

The development of socialized agricultural services is an important starting point for deepening the structural reform of the agricultural supply side and promoting the revitalization of rural industries. It is an effective way to promote the continuous increase of farmers' income, promote high-quality rural development, and decisively build a well-off society in an all-round way. The development of agricultural socialized services and the high-quality development of agriculture and rural areas are hot topics in rural economics, development economics, and other related disciplines. From theoretical and empirical aspects, the existing studies are summarized. The following questions are discussed: The connotation and level measurement of agricultural socialized service on high-quality development of agriculture and rural areas, the impact of agricultural socialized service on high-quality development of agriculture and rural areas, and point out that in the future, we should focus on the perspective of new development concepts, in-depth exploration of the logical mechanism of agricultural socialization services on the high-quality development of rural areas. The promotion effect of agricultural socialization services on the high-quality development of agricultural socialization services on the high-quality development of rural areas was tested from the macroscopic level. **Keywords:** Agricultural Socialization Service; Agriculture and Rural High-Quality;

Development Effect; Development Path

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#### Introduction

If China is to be strong, agriculture must be strong. If China wants to be beautiful, the countryside must be beautiful. If China wants to be rich, farmers must be rich, and "small farmers in big countries" are still China's primary national agriculture conditions. Several documents of the Central Committee have mentioned that "the most arduous and onerous task of comprehensively building Chinese-style modernization is still in the countryside." Speeding up the process of agricultural modernization, achieving high-quality rural development, and promoting big agricultural countries to step into the new stage of socialist modernization are significant tasks. The report of the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China put forward the strategy of rural revitalization for the first time, pointing out that the issues of "agriculture, rural areas, and farmers" are fundamental issues related to the national Economy and people's livelihood. The report of the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China pointed out that high-quality development is the primary task of comprehensively building a modern socialist country, and it is necessary to comprehensively promote rural revitalization, adhere to the priority development of agriculture and rural areas, and accelerate the construction of agricultural power. The No. 1 document of the Central Committee in 2023 also pointed out that it is crucial to keep the basic plate of "three rural areas" well, and it is necessary to comprehensively promote rural revitalization and accelerate agricultural and rural modernization with the strength of the whole Party and society. China's high-quality development must be comprehensive, balanced, and high-quality. Agricultural and rural development has become the top priority of the national development strategy, and we must attach great importance to and make every effort to promote the high-quality development of agriculture and rural areas. In July 2021, the Guiding Opinions of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs on Accelerating the Development of Socialized Agricultural Services (Agricultural Economic Development (2021) No. 2) document pointed out that the development of socialized agricultural services is an inevitable choice to achieve agricultural modernization with Chinese characteristics, an important measure to ensure national food security and the effective supply of important agricultural products, and an effective form to promote high-quality agricultural development. Many practices have shown that socialized agricultural services are playing an increasingly important role in cultivating new driving forces for agricultural and rural development, consolidating and expanding the achievements of poverty alleviation, facilitating the comprehensive revitalization of rural areas, and leading the development of agricultural modernization. They have become a powerful engine for promoting the high-quality development of China's agriculture and rural areas and a booster for accelerating the construction of agricultural power.

As for agricultural socialization service, as early as the Third Plenary Session of the 17th CPC Central Committee proposed to speed up agricultural science and technology innovation, strengthen agricultural infrastructure construction, and accelerate the construction of a new agricultural socialization service system; Since then, the Opinions on Accelerating the Construction of a Policy System to Cultivate New Agricultural Business Entities, the Guiding Opinions on Accelerating the Development of Agricultural Producer Services (Agricultural Economic Development (2017) No. 6), the High-quality Development Plan for New Agricultural Business Entities and Service Entities (2020-2022), and the Guidance of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs on Accelerating the development (2021) No. 2) and other documents as well as a number of central No. 1 documents have put forward detailed requirements and arrangements for accelerating the development of agricultural socialization services and improving the agricultural socialization service system. In November 2021, the

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"14th Five-Year Plan for Promoting Agricultural and Rural Modernization" also clearly proposed to improve the professional socialized service system, carry out pilot demonstrations of agricultural socialized service innovation, and accelerate the development of agricultural production trusteeship services. At the same time, the Party's 20th National Congress report also pointed out that we should develop new types of agricultural management subjects, socialized services, and appropriate scale agricultural management.

It can be seen that whether in the key time node of consolidating and expanding the achievements of poverty alleviation and comprehensively promoting rural revitalization or in the long-term front of becoming a modern socialist agricultural power and realizing common prosperity of all the people in the future, we attach great importance to the development of social, agricultural services, combine agricultural social services with traditional agriculture, and enable agricultural social services to "three rural areas". It is the foundation for realizing our agricultural and rural modernization and the path to realizing high-quality rural development.

# The connotation and measurement of the development of agricultural socialized service

Much of the literature is concerned with developing agricultural socialized services, including the definition of connotation and level measurement of agricultural socialized services. First is the connotation of agricultural socialization service. As early as the 1990s, the concept of agricultural socialized service has been put forward. The Notice of The State Council on Strengthening the Construction of Agricultural Socialized Service System (1991) holds that agricultural socialized service includes the services provided by specialized economic and technical departments, rural cooperative economic organizations, and other social sectors for the development of agriculture, forestry, animal husbandry, secondary and fishery industries. It is to provide farmers with comprehensive supporting services for the whole process before, during, and after production. This concept is similar to "agricultural service industry" and "agricultural producer service industry". Since then, after the development of agricultural socialization services, its content has become richer, its coverage has become more extensive, and its forms have become more diverse, involving various aspects such as production assistance, technology research and development and promotion, information, and finance (Zhong Zhen, 2019). Second, the development level of agricultural socialized services must be measured. Agricultural socialized service is multidimensional and should be measured from different dimensions. Scholars often use entropy, input-output measurement, and data envelopment to measure the level of agricultural socialized service. Han Miaomiao et al. (2013) first measured the service level of China's agricultural socialization service from eight dimensions, including the service level of means of production, scientific and technological service level, financial credit service level, agricultural insurance service level, agricultural industrialization service level, agricultural informatization service level, agricultural mechanization service level and agricultural infrastructure construction level. Zhong Liangliang et al. (2014) measured the level of agricultural socialization service in Jiangxi Province from six dimensions: public service, production service, scientific and technological service, information service, circulation service, and financial service. Liu Yang et al. (2020) and Xu Yusha et al. (2022) used the data from Sichuan Province and Xinjiang Construction Corps to measure the service level of agricultural production means, agricultural science and technology information service level, agricultural financial circulation service level, agricultural infrastructure construction level and government agricultural public service level by using the entropy method. Cheng Yongsheng et al. (2022) measured the development level of social services at the peasant household level through the input-output measurement method. Li Yinghui et al. (2021) used the DEA-Malmquist index method to measure the supply efficiency of agricultural productive services in China from the input-output perspective.

#### The connotation and measurement of high-quality rural development

The expression "high-quality development" has become a high-frequency hot word in the current economic, social, and governance fields since it was first proposed at the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China. According to the existing literature, the current research on the high-quality development of agriculture started early. It achieved fruitful results, but the research on the high-quality development of rural areas is still limited and needs to be further in-depth-first, the connotation of high-quality rural development. To study rural high-quality, we must first clarify the connotation of agricultural high-quality development. Zhong Yu (2018) believes that the development of agriculture should include high-quality production and management systems and the high efficiency of the agricultural industry and products. Zhang Lu et al. (2020) believe that the essential connotation of highquality agricultural development lies in improving land productivity, increasing labor productivity, protecting resources and the environment, and expanding agricultural functions. Later, Liu Zhongyu (2021), Gao Xue et al. (2023) and Yang Junge et al. (2023) argued that high-quality agricultural development should reflect the development concept of "innovation, coordination, green, open and sharing" in a comprehensive way. The high-quality development of agriculture and rural areas should be the enrichment and extension of the content of highquality development of agriculture, and the new development concept should also be the evaluation standard. In this sense, the high-quality development of agriculture and rural areas should be transformed from the production of economic growth to the welfare of farmers. In short, the main goal of high-quality agricultural and rural development is to deepen rural reform, increase the momentum of innovation in rural development, enhance the overall coordination of rural development, improve the rural living environment, form a new pattern of opening up, pay attention to social equity and justice, and constantly improve the well-being of farmers. It was second, measuring the high-quality development level of agriculture and rural areas. Scholars mainly use the analytic hierarchy process, entropy value method, entropy weight Topsis method, vertical and horizontal separation grade method, etc., to comprehensively evaluate the high-quality development level of China's rural areas. Ji Zhiheng (2021) and Liu Tao et al. (2022) built an evaluation index system for high-quality rural development based on the new development concept and used AHP-entropy and entropy methods to measure and analyze the status of high-quality rural development in China. Zhang Hong et al. (2021) designed a questionnaire and used the entropy weight Topsis method to measure and analyze the high-quality development of rural areas in Shaanxi Province. Shen Qiutong et al. (2022) discussed the high-quality development level of China's rural collective Economy based on the four aspects of property rights, marketization, scale, and modernization using the vertical and horizontal separation grade method.

### Study on the influence of agricultural socialization service on the highquality development of rural areas

Due to the limitations of cognition and technical methods, the systematic research on high-quality rural development started late, and the literature needs to be more extensive, especially in focusing on the issue of socialized agricultural services and high-quality rural development. Therefore, the study on the correlation between agricultural socialized service and agricultural total factor productivity, agricultural green production, peasant household income increase, and high-quality agricultural development can provide basic theoretical guidance as well as a methodological, practical reference. From the existing literature, the academic community generally believes that there is a synergistic effect between agricultural socialization services and agricultural development, so theoretically, the development of agricultural socialization services will inevitably impact the high-quality development of agriculture and rural areas. These effects can be summarized into macro and micro levels, roughly divided into positive promotion, reverse inhibition, and uncertainty relationship.

From the micro level, related research mainly involves agricultural production, farmers' income increase, land transfer, land abandonment, and agricultural green development. Zhong Zhen et al. (2021) studied the impact of agricultural socialization service on agricultural production participation, production scale, and production mode, and found that the development of agricultural socialization service is conducive to the increase of income of agricultural operators and has a positive significance in changing agricultural production participation, expanding agricultural production scale and transforming grain production mode. Xu Yuxuan et al. (2022) believe that purchasing agricultural production services can effectively improve the welfare level of farmers. Qu Meng et al. (2021) used the propensity score matching method to study the impact of agricultural socialization services on rural household income, income structure, and income gap. The results showed that adopting agricultural socialization services could significantly increase the total income of rural households but would exacerbate the income gap within rural areas. Ruan Haibo (2022) showed that prenatal information services, in-production machinery services, post-production agricultural product processing services, and agricultural product supervision services positively and significantly impact land transfer. The research results of Lu Hua et al. (2022) and Zeng Fusheng et al. (2022) show that agricultural socialization services can significantly inhibit the possibility of farmers' farmland abandonment. Cheng Yongsheng et al. (2022) and Zhang Mengling et al. (2023) concluded that agricultural social services are conducive to improving green productivity. Sun Dingqiang et al. (2016) analyzed plots from the input and output information perspective and showed that the overall agricultural productive services could improve the technical efficiency of rice production. However, there were significant differences among different production links, among which the productive services of disease and pest control links had a significant negative impact. According to the empirical analysis of Yang Caiyan et al. (2018), based on the threestage DEA model, the impact of financial, agricultural technology, and mechanical services on agricultural production efficiency is significantly positive. However, infrastructure services have a significant inhibitory effect.

From the macro level, there are few studies on the impact of agricultural socialized service on the high quality of agriculture and rural areas, and the existing studies mainly analyze the correlation between agricultural socialized service and agricultural production. Hao Yifan et al. (2018) and Zhang Heng et al. (2021) quantitatively studied the promotion effect of the development of agricultural productive services on agricultural total factor productivity by using the DEA-Malmquist index, fixed effect and other methods. The results showed that there

was a significant positive impact, which was mainly achieved by improving technical efficiency. According to Chu Mingqin (2021), agricultural productive services have heterogeneity, and embedding different services will bring different effects on improving agricultural efficiency. Zhu Yingyu et al. (2022) concluded that agricultural production services can significantly improve agricultural environmental efficiency.

#### Research on countermeasures for socialized agricultural services and highquality rural development

#### 1. Agricultural socialization service development countermeasures

1.1 Construction and policy support of agricultural socialized service system

According to Guan Fengli et al. (2010), China should fully recognize the critical position of agricultural socialization services in the construction of agricultural modernization road in China and build a development system of agricultural socialization services with the government as the lead, enterprises as the main body and market as the basis. According to Guo Haihong (2019), market-oriented agricultural socialization services started relatively late in China, and the innovation-driving mechanism and supervision mechanism of Internet + agricultural socialization services should be established by taking advantage of the characteristics of high participation of the Internet. Lu Yubei (2019) studied and proposed that developing the agricultural producer service industry is, in essence, a gradual transformation of government functions. The government should build an agricultural socialized service system that can meet the needs of farmers, is highly efficient and developed, and has multiple suppliers based on China's actual situation in the transformation process. Zhao Li (2020) suggested that the supply system of agricultural technology extension services should be continuously improved, the service capability for ordinary farmers should be enhanced, and an agricultural innovation service system based on social networks should be established to fully promote the digital transformation and upgrading of agriculture and rural areas. Based on China's national and agricultural conditions, Zhang Hongyu (2019) proposed to build an agricultural productive service system with "multiple subjects, complete functions, integrated norms, and sharing and symbiosis".

1.2 Cultivation of agricultural socialized service subjects and related policy support Cheng Li et al. (2017) argued that the development of agricultural productive services should be deeply integrated with the modern agricultural industry chain from the aspects of optimizing infrastructure construction, diversifying service subjects, improving the agricultural financial service system, improving the level of agricultural science and technology, and accelerating the construction of agricultural informatization. Luo Biliang (2017) suggested that agricultural household management should be involved in the division of labor, farmers should be encouraged to specialize in planting, and on this basis, outsourcing service management subjects in each production link should be cultivated. A regional, multi-center, and multi-type agricultural productive service trading platform with a moderate trading radius should be built. Li Mingwen et al. (2020). suggested that we should actively cultivate new professional farmers who know technology and are good at management, increase investment in agricultural infrastructure services, and realize the effective combination of agricultural service industry and farmers. Zhao Li (2020) suggested that it is necessary to efficiently understand and effectively meet the demands of new business entities and ordinary farmers for productive services, especially paying attention to the role of new business entities in the transformation from knowledge innovation to technological innovation, and adopt several measures to support new business entities to participate in agricultural innovation, knowledge sharing, and digitalization. Actively cultivate new farmers in the era of the digital Economy. Chen Xin et al. (2021) believe that the Internet can significantly improve farmers' adoption level of agricultural productive services and propose to build an Internet-based agricultural productive service information platform and strengthen the rural labor force's Internet skills and technical training.

#### 2. Measures for high-quality rural development

Ji Zhiheng (2021) believes that the high-quality development of agriculture and rural areas is affected by urbanization, industrial structure upgrading, marketization degree, and scientific and technological innovation ability. Based on this, he puts forward a systematic dynamic mechanism to improve the high-quality development of agriculture and rural areas and cultivate and expand the potential of high-quality development of agriculture and rural areas. Improve the comprehensive mechanism of bringing the countryside with the city and constantly crack the urban-rural dual structure; Improve the service and support system for agricultural scientific and technological innovation; Optimizing rural transportation and information infrastructure; Suggestions on deepening the reform of agricultural and rural factor markets and actively cultivating new rural market entities. Lu Zhaoyang et al. (2022) believe that the digital Economy can significantly promote the high-quality development of agriculture and has become the driving force for agricultural development in the new era. Therefore, it is proposed that the development and innovation of digital technology be encouraged and the deep integration of digital technology and the agricultural industry be promoted. Improve the construction of rural digital infrastructure, create a good environment for digital economic development, and promote the digital transformation of rural governance. It is necessary to promote the construction of digital platforms, dredge the path of industrial structure transformation and upgrading, and build an agricultural industry support system. Qin Zhaohui et al. (2022) believe that digital inclusive finance can significantly improve the high-quality development level of rural industries and propose to deepen the supply-side reform of rural finance dominated by digital inclusive finance. Grasp the law of the influence of digital inclusive finance on the high-quality development of rural industries and continue to enhance the positive impact; Countermeasures and suggestions on vigorously developing smart agriculture and digital industry with digital technology as the core, optimizing the structure of rural industry, and driving high-quality development of rural industry with digital elements.

#### **Conclusion and Enlightenment**

#### 1. Conclusion and further research direction

To sum up, many related studies on agricultural socialization services and high-quality rural development exist. This literature has dramatically enriched the relevant theories, but there is still room for expansion. First, existing studies on the impact of agricultural socialized services pay more attention to the single dimension of agricultural development, such as grain increase, fertilizer reduction, and farmers' income increase, and pay little attention to the comprehensive development of rural areas, such as innovation, coordination, green, open and sharing. Secondly, the existing research mainly focuses on the influence of agricultural management subjects receiving agricultural socialized services. It seldom examines the influence of the development of agricultural socialized services on rural development. Third, the mechanism of agricultural socialized services to promote high-quality rural development is still in the preliminary exploration stage, mainly due to the lack of a new development concept dimension to systematically explain the impact mechanism and the corresponding analysis framework. Fourthly, most existing studies focus on the impact of a certain type or the whole agricultural socialized service on agricultural development, and only some systematically and ISSN: 3056-9354 (Online) Vol. 1 No. 3 September - December 2024

categorically study the impact of different dimensions of agricultural socialized service on the high-quality development of rural areas. Compared with the existing research, future research can focus on the following aspects: First, from the perspective of new development concepts, in-depth exploration of the logical mechanism of agricultural socialization service enabling high-quality rural development, which is an expansion of the existing research perspective; The second is to empirically test the promotion effect, spatial heterogeneity and threshold effect of agricultural socialization service on high-quality rural development, which is an expansion of existing research perspective.

#### 2. Enlightenment

2.1 Accelerate the establishment and improvement of a new type of socialized agricultural service system

First, accelerate the establishment and improvement of a new agricultural social service system with a solid agricultural foundation, strong scientific and technological innovation ability, strong operation and management ability, strong risk resistance ability, and robust quality efficiency and competitiveness, through innovating agricultural production methods, improving the conversion rate of agricultural achievements, improving the supply quality of agricultural products and agricultural operation efficiency, to promote modern agricultural construction and high-quality rural development. Second, accelerate the construction of agricultural social service platforms and promote the pilot of agricultural social service platforms in all localities. Encourage all kinds of agricultural social service organizations and agricultural producers and operators to enter the platform, carry out online docking, organically combine offline services with new models, improve the level of information technology of agricultural production social services, and play the role of platform aggregation, expand agricultural service functions, extend the service chain, and improve the comprehensive service level. Third, accelerate the improvement of the whole process of the agricultural socialization service system, build a three-level service system of "county for agricultural socialization service center + township for agricultural socialization service station + village for agricultural socialization service staff," and fully strengthen the construction of the agricultural socialization service team.

2.2 Promote the balanced development of socialized agricultural services

First, the comprehensive development level of agricultural socialized services should be continuously improved, and the balanced development of agricultural socialized services should be promoted in all dimensions. It is necessary to focus on the service efficiency of agricultural science and technology, information, finance, circulation, agricultural materials, and other services and continue to promote the combination of modern and traditional agriculture. The government should increase the financial support for agricultural science and technology information services, constantly improve the transformation and application of agricultural science and technology achievements, and improve the application level of advanced technologies such as agricultural efficiency, green, and recycling. We will fully use the natural advantages of policy banks in rural revitalization to alleviate problems such as financing difficulties in rural areas. Second, the regional differences in developing agricultural socialized services should be balanced. In particular, it is necessary to increase the investment in rural infrastructure, scientific and technological information, financial circulation, and public services in the Western region, improve the availability of socialized agricultural services, and strengthen the exchange and interaction between the Western region and provinces in developed regions with socialized agricultural services, and give full play to the exemplary and leading role of high-level regions. Third, promote the in-depth development of agricultural socialized services, constantly enrich the breadth and depth of agricultural socialized services, and stimulate the potential of rural development.

2.3 Continue to optimize the rural industrial structure and improve the level of urbanrural integration

Industrial structure and urbanization have a two-way effect on the high-quality development of rural areas. It is urgent to improve the current situation that the upgrading of industrial structure and the improvement of urbanization level have weakened the potential of high-quality development of rural areas and accelerated the positive impact of upgrading industrial structure and urbanization on the high-quality development of rural areas. First, continue to optimize the rural industrial structure, pay attention to the rapid development of the secondary and tertiary industries to the feedback of agriculture and rural areas, actively promote the transformation of development, establish a sound urban-rural integration, improve the quality of urban development, establish a sound urban-rural integration of urban and rural areas, industrial service industry and agriculture, and then to the integration of urban and rural areas, industrial service industry and agriculture, and then to the integration of rural areas, exchange.

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