Influencing Mechanism of Background Similarities and Differences in Xiangji Operational Activities

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Xiangji operational activities are a kind of cross-regional and cross-cultural economic activities. The operators of Xiangji activities inevitably involve different backgrounds in the process of engaging in related activities, including natural background, ethnic living environment and spatial distance background. In Xiangji operational activities, the non-economic elements of the three backgrounds will differently have influence and restrictive impact on the smooth development of Xiangji activities and economic benefits.

Keywords: Background Similarities and Differences, Xiangji Operation, Influencing Mechanism

China is a multi-ethnic country where Han nationality occupies the majority of the total population. From ancient times, in the process of engaging in their own economic activities, various ethnic groups have inevitably been engaged in development activities in ethnic cultural areas by virtue of their Han culture. In this process, it is unavoidable to face the problem that natural environment and ethnic culture of many regions have particularity and difference of various degrees. This results in influence of different degrees on the economic activities of various regions, and even causes insurmountable obstacles. Therefore, it is not possible for the simple economic means to guarantee the smooth progress of economic activities. Moreover, it is difficult for the simple cultural anthropology means to solve the fundamental problems. In view of such a special theoretical topic, Yang Tingshuo, a famous contemporary Chinese scholar, advocated the use of economic anthropology to solve it, and put forward the theory of "Principles in Xiangji Operation".

Professor Yang borrowed an ancient Chinese word "Xiang". It has a rich and deep connotation. It is used to represent a complex of social and natural elements regulated by ethnic cultures. It includes three subsystems: the national characteristic of the social traditional culture, the national survival of the natural environment, and the nation's national systems of law and administrative policies (Yang 1995, 14-15).The three subsystems of each ethnic group show great differences. That is to say, different ethnic groups are in different "Xiangs", during which the cross-cultural economic activities are also called "Xiangji operational activities" or "xiangji operational activities". This paper mainly discusses and studies the influence mechanism of the background similarities and differences on the Xiangji operational activities proposed by Professor Yang.

People have three major backgrounds when they engage in Xiangji operational activities, namely, natural background, ethnic living environment and spatial distance background. Natural background is pure natural background and refers to the objective existence of all natural elements before people engage

in economic activities. Ethnic living environment is secondary man-made natural background referring to the sum of the man-made objective environment formed by the processing, transformation and utilization of the pure natural environment by virtue of the ethnic culture in order to meet the survival and reproduction of the members of the ethnic group. Spatial distance background, during the process of engaging in Xiangji operational activities, the material and personnel in the mobile space must be accompanied, as related to human, material and so on in different "Xiangs". It has different value, and cannot provide directly, due to the extra energy, with a doubling of the expanding of the distance of Xiangji space. Then, it causes adverse consequences to Xiangji operational activities because of higher costs and decline in economic benefits. The nature of these three background elements is different, and the constraints on the Xiangji operational activities are also different. Which of the three is more closely related to the Xiangji operational activities and has a more direct impact mainly depends on the specific characteristics of the national culture and operational activities in the related "phases".

Restriction Mechanism of Natural Background

The natural background is the result of the combination of natural forces (Yang 1995, 289). The natural background of each ethnic group is mainly related to its geographic location; geological and geomorphic features; climate and soil conditions; and ecological community of animals and plants. Such mutual restraint has enormous power and cannot be matched by the power driven by the operators of Xiangji operations. The attempt to directly change or completely control a specific Xiangji operational activity through human means is not only difficult to succeed within the limited period of Xiangji operational activities, but, even if it works, the cost and input cost of Xiangji operational activities are unbearable for the operators.

The South-to-North Water Diversion Project is a strategic project of the People's Republic of China. The project is planned to be divided into three routes: the east, the middle and the west. These are connected with the Yangtze River, the Yellow River, the Huaihe River and the Haihe River. With a population of 438 million involved in the project and a water diversion scale of 44.8 billion cubic meters, the project will take 40-50 years to be completed (Administration Office of China South-to North Water Diversion Project 2017). The South-to-North Water Diversion Project mainly solves the problem of water shortage in the north of China, especially in the Huang-Huai-Hai River Basin. This is to facilitate the rational allocation of water resources in China from north to south and from east to west. On December 27, 2002, the South-to-North Water Diversion Project was officially started. So far, the middle route of the South-to-North Water Diversion Project and the eastern route (Phase I) have been completed and the water has been transferred to the northern region. However, the western route is still in the planning stage and has not yet reached at the construction stage.

This project is indeed of epoch-making significance for promoting the development trend of the north and south of China in the future. But, thinking about it in another way establishes some other opinion. The area involved in the project is extremely wide; the natural background types of these areas are very different; the distribution of natural resources is extremely uneven; it involves numerous different Xiangs, which makes it an extremely complex Xiangji operation. Moreover, the substantial modification of the natural environment in a certain area will not only affect the local natural ecological environment, but some interrelated and specific heterogeneous natural ecological environment will also be affected.

For example, the combined effect of the middle route project and the Three Gorges Project will cause the environmental changes of the Han River and the middle and lower reaches of the Yangtze River. This will bring incalculable losses to Wuhan. The simultaneous diversion of water from the "three lines" will lead to inestimable changes in the ecology along the Yangtze River. This is not conducive to the protection of the existing ecology along the river, and may lead to the lower carrying capacity of the Yangtze channel in dry season or dry water period, and the deepening of the salt tide in the Yangtze estuary. This is also more likely to cause the ecological crisis of the natural environment in the Yangtze River Basin. The influence of the east route project on the Yangtze River estuary area leads to secondary salinization of the soil in the north irrigation area.

Chang Qiuling made use of some multivariate information such as meteorology, water resources, topography, vegetation, land condition, natural disasters and environmental pollution of the main catchment areas in the middle route project of South-to-North Water Diversion Project. He systematically analyzed the relationship between the above ecological factors and the ecological environment quality in South-to-North Water Diversion Project. He built the evaluation index system of ecological environment in the study area. He used analytic hierarchy process (ahp) combined with other methods, and ecological environmental quality of some quantitative research showed that the ecological environmental quality is just average. Based on the evaluation of ecological environment quality, the early-warning study of water source area was conducted. The results showed that the ecological environment in the study area presented a reverse evolution trend, and its final score decreased from 5.21 to 4.97 in 2010 and lowering to 4.87 in 2020. This indicated that the ecological environment showed a deterioration trend (Chang 2007).

Li Siyue's research results on the waters of the middle route project show that the water quality of the Danjiang waters, Kuqu waters and the Middle Han Basin is poor, and soil and water erosion is serious. The figure shows that the large annual average erosion modulus > 2200 t/km2 area mainly appeared in the Han River source area, southern Qinling and northern Dabashan Mountain around 2000, and it has an increasing trend (Li et al 2009). Li Siyue also points out that the water source area is facing major ecological and environmental problems such as water quality, vegetation damage and soil erosion. Furthermore, the safety of the reservoir area has also been endangered (Li, Zhang 2008).

In the first half of 2011, the three downstream provinces of Hunan, Hubei and Jiangxi experienced an unprecedented drought, with more than 1,300 reservoirs in Hubei province alone went below dead water. The water levels of Poyang Lake, Dongting Lake and Hongze Lake were seriously low, leaving only one tenth of the water area of China's largest fresh water lake (Xinhua News Agency 2011). At present, the scope and extent of the ecological impact of the South-to-North Water Diversion Project is far beyond the understanding of Chinese "experts".

The South-North Water Diversion Project is very expensive. According to the current statistics, the State Council's South-to-North Water Diversion office has allocated 252.5 billion yuan for the first phase of the South-to-North Water Diversion to the east and the middle route, and the estimated total static investment for the third phase of the western route is about 304 billion yuan. The cost of the South-to-North Water Diversion Project is already higher than the existing seawater desalination cost. For instance, the lowest desalination cost is about 0.55US$/m³（Gordon 1998 (about 3.8 Yuan at current exchange rate), while, the current cost of the South-to-North Water Diversion Project is about 8-10 Yuan/m³（Qiu 2013）. Another report says it has reached 18-20 Yuan/m³ (Yuan, et al 2014). Moreover, another report says that this is the cost of the project itself, but it does not include the cost of ecological management, relocation and resettlement caused by the project. This also requires an incalculable huge investment. Any hope to achieve or solve natural ecological problems under different natural background conditions through the use of a homogeneous means would cost to a limit which is not easy to estimate and predict.

The original intention of the South-to-North Water Diversion Project is mainly to solve the problem of water shortage in northern China. Compared with southern regions, northern regions do have relatively insufficient water resources due to huge differences in natural backgrounds. But, for thousands of years, ethnic groups have continued to exist in these water-scarce areas. Without adequate water resources, these peoples would have died out long ago, but, they have survived to date. Then, the arid regions of ethnic members must have its special way of water supply. Why don't we study deep within its ethnic groups to find a profitable and economical solution path instead of costing such a huge manpower, financial and material resources, and the risk of ecological deterioration and social instability factors to construct such a large social engineering?

China's Inner Mongolia grassland rainfall is small, and most of the rainfall occurs in late autumn. Spring and summer season is in the stage of extreme water shortage. The ancient people of Inner Mongolia began to choose to live by water and grass. During the long history, Inner Mongolia sand

gradually formed a large area of fat grassland as "Cattle and sheep are seen in the grass when the wind blows" described. Ordos grassland is located in the Maushu sand which is the geomantic treasure of Genghis Khan in his later years. His descendants still live here today.

To outsiders, the area is so sandy and sand-prone that no emperor of Han descent would have used it as a site for his palaces and mausoleums, but the mausoleum of Genghis Khan is just here. According to records in the Book of Wei, the emperor Wu of the Northern Wei dynasty took over the Ordos desert after the destruction of the great Xia dynasty, and ushered in the era of highly prosperous animal husbandry (Hou 1979, 59). That means the sand supported 1.5 million camels, 2.5 million horses, and three to five times as many sheep and cattle at that time.

This level of carrying capacity is difficult to reach even in today's developed animal husbandry countries. In addition, there is the famous Horqin grassland, slightly wearier than the Ordos grassland, which is also covered with sand dunes, but it is a treasure land repeatedly contested by Mongolian princes. Finally, this precious land fell into the hands of King Horqin, whose princes were always the powerful group dominating the grassland in the Ming and Qing dynasties. In the Inner Mongolia grassland, which is in water shortage, there is no water diversion project like the current South-to-North Water Diversion Project. How can it carry such a huge number of livestock and feed generations of Mongolian residents?

Deserts and sandy land are the significant and objective natural background of Inner Mongolia. It was based on the full understanding of this ecosystem and the utilization and transformation of the local natural background with the gradually accumulated local knowledge system. The ancestors of Inner Mongolia successfully avoided the obstruction caused by water resource shortage to the survival and reproduction of the local residents of Inner Mongolia and realized the transformation of the desert into an oasis.

Looking like barren sand dunes are actually water storage towers in the deserts. In the late Cenozoic Era in the history of geology, due to the uplift of Qinghai-Tibet plateau, east was characterized by the monsoon, the northwest being dry and monsoon periodic intrusion into this area every year. This led to the atmosphere in the region being highly dry. Moreover, strong north wind hit every year in winter; exquisite clay in the soil was taken by strong winds to the south, so, the region was left with sand having hard grains (Yang 1962, 221-254). The sand grains that form the dunes are typically more than 1mm in diameter and are smoothed out by strong winds and friction. Natural accumulation of sand grains between the formations of a certain gap. When it rains, rainwater goes through the sand grains and is concentrated in the middle of the dune, or between the dunes in the low land. Even in the surface of sand dunes, sand under strong sunlight, lead to the sand temperature rising, and sand dunes on the surface of the moisture to evaporate, but because of the gap between the sand filling with the air, and the gap does not form a linear shape similar to capillaries. It has good heat insulation effect and does not allow internal sand dunes temperature rise. The water stored in the dune will not evaporate in vain, and the water can only enter and leave, like a check valve installed. The certain fluidity of dune ensures that the energy of strong north wind is released in the flow of dune, which can reduce the wind speed and reduce the ineffective evaporation of precious water resources inside the dune. As the herdsmen said, "as long as there are dunes, there must be good grazing land." This is why many of the local Inner Mongolia compatriots are racing each other to contract the sand.

In addition, they diligently work on the maintenance of established grasslands. In the grassland ecosystem, the "weathered crust" formed by the mixing and accumulation of ground plant residues, animal excrement and sand carried by wind fully cover the entire grassland surface, up to five or six centimeters thick. Its loose structure provides enough nutrients and moisture for herbage, and its strong permeability do not hinder herbage from growing out of the ground through the ground (Yang 2011). "Weathered crust" can also resist strong wind erosion, isolation from direct sunlight, the maximum extent to avoid ineffective evaporation of water. "Weathered crust" has the function of heat preservation. Grass is actually living in the "weathered crust". Thegrass roots in the topsoil in the shadow, when air temperature is too high, can cool, and heat preservation; when the temperature is too low, can effectively resolve the local natural conditions of large temperature fluctuation, and help grass survive during the

drought and winter ice disaster. Local herdsmen know very well that “weathered crust” is the fragile link of grassland ecology, and its existence plays an important role in the growth of herbage. Therefore, no matter what the situation is, they will not overturn or remove it at will. To avoid damaging the “weathered crust” caused by cattle trampling, they graze without turning back.

However, in the special period before the Reform and Opening-up, due to the lack of people's understanding of the grassland ecosystem in Inner Mongolia, many people thought that the sandy land could be turned into farmland only through human efforts, science and technology. At that time, in order to fix the dune, a large number of manpower and material resources were used to plant grass and drag the sand. After more than 20 years of efforts, the flowing dunes were fixed. But, until today, dunes that had been fixed in earlier years have regained their fluidity. Planting trees is encouraged locally, but the more trees are planted, the more water is consumed. Trees can block sand and slow wind speeds, but once they reach a certain number, they die from inadequate water supplies. Obviously, there is a huge price to pay for turning deserts into farmland.

In principle, the task of fundamentally changing the natural background should not be included in the planning of Xiangji operational activities. Only the objective and strong natural background can be carefully investigated and analyzed to select the best entry point. The link with the least binding force of natural background can be selected to carry out economic activities.

Compatibility across Heterogeneous Environments

Generally speaking, Xiangji operational activities are not carried out in the purely natural background, but often in different ethnic living environments. The ethnic living environment is different from natural background. The ethnic living environment contains natural background conditions. It is the result of the transformation, processing and utilization of the natural background of ethnic members by virtue of their ethnic culture. Ethnic living environment has not only natural attributes, but also social attributes. In the activities of Xiangji operation, operators are mostly based on the characteristics of the ethnic living environment to select operation projects. When faced with different ethnic living environments, the natural and social attributes of the living environments that the operation project relies on are difficult to overlap. This becomes an important source of restricting non-economic factors in Xiangji operational activities.

The energy present in the natural background is extremely large; the period of stability is very long; and the control of human means is extremely limited. It can be said that the natural background is the fundamental restriction system of Xiangji operational activities. Compared with the natural background, although the living environment also has huge energy and a long period of stable continuation, the social and cultural changes will induce it to make corresponding local changes. If such local changes are compatible with the original natural ecosystem, the social culture will run together with the natural ecosystem. On the contrary, it will move back to the natural ecosystem with the signal of ecological deterioration. Once it enters the vicious operation for a long time, it crosses the range that the natural ecosystem can bear. Consequently, serious ecological catastrophe will happen also threatening the living environment of human beings.

Of course, in an ethnic living environment, human's transformation, processing and utilization of the natural background is extremely limited. At the same time, it also provides some controllable and flexible space for human. To some extent, people's choice of livelihood mode or resource utilization mode also provides active space for people. Therefore, we should consider not only the natural background factors, but also the corresponding social and cultural factors when engaging in Xiangji operational activities. For the natural background, the key is the correct understanding, comprehensive grasp, and effective use of the problem. As ethnic living environment is directly related to the existing economic activities of relevant ethnic groups, its correct understanding and comprehensive grip is not sufficient. But, also the coexistence of different economic life, and then how to solve complementary problems is very important to deal with (Yang 1995, 310). The focus of addressing these issues is the compatibility of the use of natural resources in established living environments for multiple economic activities.

Huangjin village, locating in Baojing County in Tujia and Miao autonomous prefecture of XiangxiofHunan province, is a typical Miao village. It belongs to the typical subtropical hilly region. The surface of the village is broken and rugged with alternating series of mountains and valleys. Before excessive human intervention, its natural ecological system is mainly composed of three types, namely, subtropical wetland ecosystem in area of Lengzhai River (about 5%), subtropical evergreen broad-leaved forest system on the valley slope surface (90% above), and the sparse tree grassland ecosystem in limestone ridge section with high altitude and thin layers (about 8%). In the early years, the transformation, processing and utilization to natural ecosystem were extremely minor, and they basically obtained material and energy directly from it. They used wetland ecosystems as hunting, gathering grounds and drinking water supplies. In addition to hunting and gathering, the evergreen broad-leaved forest ecosystem on the slope of the valley is also used as the source of many grain varieties. The sparse tree grassland ecosystem in the ridge is the place for slashing-and-burning dry-land crops by the Miaos. Sometimes, it is even used as summer pastures, as well as a hunting ground for birds and other small animals. The Miaos of Huangjin Village are used to of the local unique natural ecosystem, relying on the diversity of food species and the constantly changing ways of obtaining food. They live a nomadic cultivation life of "no cold and hungry people, and no family of thousands of gold".

With the enforcement of "Gaitu Guiliu" policy (replacement of the native chieftains by the central government dispatched officials), although the Miao's ancestors of Huangjin Village got rid of the rule of TujiaTusi (native tribe leader of Tujia), they received the unified management of the central dynasty, and the Han ruling force continuously penetrated in. With the introduction of alien culture, the contact between local Miao group and Han group and other ethnic groups became more and more frequent, which made the habitat of Miao people in Huangjin Village changed to certain extent at that time. In particular, the change of tax pattern directly or indirectly affects the change of natural background and social and cultural background in the living environment. In the past, the content and share of taxation were determined by the Tujia Tusi as a custom, but, after the enforcement of "Gaitu Guiliu" policy, they had to follow the unified tax law of the country and take rice and silver as the content of taxation. Such a tax system is in conflict with the way that Huangjin Village was originally used to of under the jurisdiction of chiefdoms, which implies the difference between the two living environments under the influence of the two cultures. Rice was mainly the product of the Han fixed farming, while Miao people did not grow rice at that time.

The plain area of Han group is flat and suitable for successive paddy fields. The climate is warm and humid at the same time which is suitable for rice cultivation. It is under such natural ecological conditions that the Han people have accumulated a complete set of fixed farming system for generations, and gradually formed a rice culture. The Miao group in Huangjin Village is located in the hilly region of low mountains, which is not suitable for land reclamation. Located in the deep zone of the river valley, gravity erosion of flowing water easily leads to soil erosion and so it is not suitable for rice cultivation. Moreover, species are extremely abundant in such a natural ecosystem. What the local Miao people have accumulated for generations is a complete set of mobile slash-and-burn dry land farming system, and a matching culture of their nomadic farming. The differences between the two are not only due to the great difference in natural background, but also because of the changes in the original mobile lifestyle of Miao residents once they start to plant rice. Therefore, certain cultural factors behind the changes, like, farming technology system, social organization, concept cognition, customs and beliefs, may all undergo changes. However, in order to pay state taxes, the Miao people in Huangjin Village had to produce rice. Within their scope of the village, paddy field set up only choose the best place in the original wetland ecosystem. Paddy field area expands unceasingly, makes the Lengzhai River bed narrowing, and the wetland belt in artificial control. Because of riverbed cutting, wetland ecosystem supporting a number of species of animals and plants would be replaced by paddy fields. With the enlarged setting up of paddy fields, the original seasonal migration frequency of local Miao people would be gradually decreased, and the village site was slowly moved from the mountain to the hillside above the newly opened paddy fields.

The introduction of rice will inevitably be accompanied by related farming technologies. The technology of cattle farming and sickle-harvesting of the Han is gradually known by the local Miao

people, but there is a big gap with the technical operation level between Miaos and Hans. Unlike the Han people, the local Miao people do not use cattle as the main labor force to plough the fields. Especially, male buffalo are mainly used for sacrificial purpose, which are mostly idle on weekdays, or as food, or sold for certain other materials. When they grow rice, they use their "no-till" method for growing dry-land crops. Instead of digging deep and turning the soil, they simply prepare the land and do not inter-till or weed while accepting the rice farming of Han. Local Miao people hold their traditional cognition of focusing on the output of different species and multiple utilization of natural resources. So, they lead the local rice planting technology system to localization. Finally, the "rice-fish-duck" symbiosis system with local characteristics is formed, which is the best case of successful transformation of its composite utilization concept in the process of adapting to the ethnic living environment. This system has been continued to this day. The glutinous rice, small duck and rice flower fish produced in the system later became famous and excellent local agricultural products. They were welcomed by the villagers as well as the urban residents.

The Miao people in Huangjin Village have been transforming from nomadic farming to fixed residence. Moreover, the paddy field area in the cultivated land structure has been increasing continuously. Even so, until the Republic of China, the Miao people of Huangjin Village regarded rice cultivation as an addition to their original livelihood, and their paddy fields, tea gardens and woodlands were still inter-planted with other crops in the old ways. Exotic crops are localized and incorporated into the original way of life. In addition to rice for tax payment; tea and tung oil for external consumption; other agriculture products; forestry; animal husbandry; fishery industries; and other sidelines can also produce diversified ecological agricultural products. At this time, the livelihood of the local Miao people can no longer be simply classified by the type of nomadic farming, but as a mixture of nomadic farming type and Han fixed farming type, which seems to form a more complex "compound mode".

The introduction of rice by the ruling class of the central dynasty in Huangjin Village is actually a Xiangji operation activity. It involves at least two ethnic cultures of Han and Miao having two completely different types of natural ecological backgrounds. The central dynasty is the host of this Xiangji activity, which adopts the macro-control strategy. The owner of the local Miao culture is the main participant, and the central dynasty gives these participants the maximum self-management. The participant finds a behavior mode that is compatible with both ethnic living environments. In this way, the seemingly outstanding contradiction has been minimized. This not only does not hinder the survival and reproduction of local Miao residents, but it also promotes the local development to a certain extent at the minimum cost, and makes the steady state of local Miao community continue to this day.

The Benefit Attenuation of Space Distance

In view of "third front movement" investment from 1950s to 1980s and the phenomenon of the establishment of "isolated island" enterprises in minority areas, Professor Yang Tingshuo put forward that the benefit attenuation caused by space distance is another non-economic restriction factor that cannot be ignored to restrict Xiangji operational activities. In Xiangji activities, the operator and its management object were in different "Xiang" so that management activities must involve the flow of material and personnel in and out which cannot be completely equal. There may be a one-way empty load of material and personnel flow. Such one-way no-load may increase the proportion of invalid transportation in the process of operation activities. This may lead to increase in the product cost and decreasing the competitiveness of products. Generally speaking, the influence of space distance on business is mainly reflected in following three aspects. First, the operator must provide the corresponding equipment and personnel. The farther the distance involved in the operation, the higher the additional transportation costs, thus increasing product costs and reducing economic benefits. Secondly, the operation involves the supply of raw materials and product diffusion. The wider the scope involved, the higher the surcharge to meet the supply of raw materials and higher the product diffusion. This will also lead to increase of product cost and decrease of economic efficiency. Thirdly, the social life needs of the employees involved in the operation of different cultural regions. The wider the space scope involved in meeting their normal

life needs, the higher the additional expenses to be paid for the project operation, and the higher the additional cost input (Yang 1995, 329).

However, in modern society with convenient transportation and developed logistics, some of the above constraints on Xiangji activities caused by space distance have tended to ease, and some of them can even be ignored. However, Professor Yang's view that space distance causes the attenuation of the effectiveness and benefit of Xiangji operational activities still offers significant reference value or theoretical guidance in the current Xiangji operational activities.

Take the golden village as an example. Tea production has always been one of the important production projects of Miao people in Huangjin Village. Owing to historical and political reasons, local tea plantations were left unattended for a long time, even, the later generations believed that local tea varieties were not good. After the mid-1970s, Anhua Tea and Fuding WhiteTea were locally introduced, and asexual cutting technology was popularized. As a result, the introduced tea trees are not acceding to the environment and the cutting technology has not been promoted successfully. Until 1994, Baojing County Agriculture Bureau of Science and Technology represented by senior agronomist Zhang Xiangsheng's research group, with the help of Professor Peng Jiguang from Hunan Tea Research Institute, found that the local tea tree varieties had large branch growth, easy rooting and seedling growth. It was very suitable for the original promotion of asexual cutting propagation technology. In the early stage, tea farmers constructed new tea plantations and planted and produced tea with modern technologies, which indeed increased their economic value. Gradually, Huangjin Village began to construct tea plantations in succession, and the original three types of local ecosystems were completely modified and developed into modern Huangjin tea gardens. Seven ancient tea plantations with a history of several hundred years are also on the verge of extinction, with only 534.9 Mu remaining.

In the past, when the operator of a Xiangji operation was operating in an area of alien ethnic living environment, it would often send relevant staff locally or provide the necessary equipment for transport. As a result, the farther the space is, the higher the product cost must be. In modern times, the breeding, planting, processing and other technologies of Huangjin tea are mainly in the hands of scientific and technological workers and enterprises. If the local Miao people want to carry out tea production, they have to go out for training, constantly update the technology and purchase relevant materials and equipment. The traditional tea production and processing technologies mastered by the Miao people in Huangjin Village have been crowded out. The related expenses of learning new technologies and purchasing materials and equipment are actually transferring the increased costs borne by the local Miao people transferred from the original operators. This increases the production cost of tea for the Miao people. In the past, seedling cultivation was basically completed in the village. Now, tea farmers who have not mastered seedling cultivation technology have to purchase tea seedlings from other places and transport them back for planting.

Since almost all the villages have been opened up into tea plantations, there is no place for seedling. A small number of Miao people who know how to grow seedlings have to transfer land to grow seedlings in the surrounding villages or villages farther away, and then carry them back to plant. During this period, the purchase of seedlings, transportation, land transfer and other expenses are all additional expenses compared with the past, which actually increases the production cost of Miao people. Not only nearly the whole Huangjin Village, the modern HuangjinTea plantations even have been largely expanded in the whole county of Baojing county, but these costs cannot be substantially reduced. In addition, tea production was only one of the numerous production contents of Miao people in Huangjin Village before. In addition to the production of materials for external sales, other output can basically meet their living needs without extra money to buy. Now, the villager only produces Huangjin Tea, but the traditional Miao residents have no habit of drinking tea. The production of tea is only used for selling to get money. The tea plantation yields are big indeed, and the incomes are substantial as well. However, a large portion of the income has to be spent on all daily necessities, which used to be free of extra costs. A lot of daily necessities are not provided by the village, so the villagers have to go out to buy them. It can be seen that the cost of daily demand and the freight cost of purchasing all increase the tea production cost for local

Miao people to some extent. As mentioned above, it is a recessive and indirect restriction that space distance brings to Xiangji operational activities in reality.

To sum up, it is very rare for people to engage in Xiangji activities in a purely natural background. Generally speaking, when we talk about the natural background, we refer to the objective natural factors existing in the living environment. The restriction of natural background to the benefit of Xiangji activities is the most difficult to be controlled by human forces. After all, human power in Xiangji operation cannot compete with its strength. Therefore, in order to ensure the success of Xiangji operational activities, operators can only plan the business projects and choose reasonable ways of resource utilization under the natural conditions of effective utilization. In the face of heterogeneous living environment, in addition to considering the natural conditions, the operators of Xiangji operational activities should take the initiative to understand and recognize different ethnic cultures, so as to find the type of operation activities which are compatible with the two living environments and produce integrated products. Owing to the changes of ecological and social background, the restriction of space distance on Xiangji activities will be fed back in different forms. In Xiangji operational activities, operators should give priority to local production and consumption and respect the natural and cultural background supports in the ethnic living environment in which Xiang activities are conducted.

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