

Adverse-direction Migration of
Chinese Nongmingong and the
Unemployment in European
Agriculture: A Preliminary Research
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Introduction

- Nongmingong: Chinese domestic rural migrant workers
- (1) From rural regions to the urban area
- (2) From less developed regions to the more developed coastal areas
- (3) Usually in the secondary labour market, low-paid, unstable, bad conditioned jobs
- ⊙How about the Nongmingong under financial crisis?

The Adverse Direction of Migration

- Aha, an adverse direction of Nongmingong migration started from 2008
- (1) Bankruptcy of low-end manufacturing factories in coastal regions
- (2) Increased labour costs due to market and institutional factors
- > Nongmingong return to rural areas/hometowns from work spaces

Returned Nongmingong and Chinese Agriculture

- An improvement of Chinese agriculture with returned Nongmingong
- (1) The preferential rural policies (e.g., Socialist New Countryside Campaign)
- (2) What does Nongmingong bring back?
- Technologies; Capitals/investments; Incentives and motivations; New ideas on agriculture- all in benefit of agriculture

European Employment in Agriculture

- European agriculture: a different system
- (1) Modern styled employment, labor does not have agriculture production materials.
- (2) Under subsidies from the authorities
- (3) Have strict requirements on agricultural products (both domestic and imported)
- (4) Presence of trade unions

The Possible Impacts on European Employment in Agriculture

- 1 Unemployment pressure
- (1) An influx of imported Chinese agricultural products
- (2) The improved quality of Chinese agricultural products due to the technology and investments brought back by returned Nongmingong

The Possible Impacts on European Employment in Agriculture (Cont.)

- 2 Lower wages
- (1) The unemployment pressure in the agricultural sector
- (2) The stronger competition in the market of agricultural products- a possible reduce of prices and profits

The Possible Impacts on European Employment in Agriculture (Cont.)

- 3 The dilemma of the European authority
 - (1) Protect the domestic agriculture
 - The pressure from the trade unions; subsidies; environmental issues
 - (2) Limited capacity
 - Higher subsidies with limited public finances; Sino-European relations, etc.

Comments Welcomed for
this Preliminary Research

Thanks, Danke