

Thinking and Suggestion on Food Crisis Caused by New Crown Disease

-- From the Perspective of Physiocratism

Mengting You*

School of Fujian Normal University, Fujian, China

*1942830420@qq.com

Abstract

with the spread of novel coronavirus in the world, many countries are worried about the future grain reserves. Recently, many major grain exporting countries have taken restrictions on grain exports. If the world really faces a food crisis, it will cause worldwide panic and great negative effects. This article focuses on China's grain reserves and production data, based on the analysis of the current situation of grain reserves and production in China and the world, this paper explores how to face the food crisis from the perspective of physiocracy, and in the new era, he tried to put forward a "new physiocracy", combining the characteristics of the times, to supplement and explain the traditional physiocrats.

Keywords

Epidemic Situation; Food Crisis; Food Reserve; Physiocrats; New Physiocrats.

1. Introduction

A new outbreak of pneumonia has spread around the world in just a few months, with the number of confirmed cases and deaths touching everyone's heart. However, the outbreak of concern, not only on public health, global finance and other aspects, many experts at home and abroad believe that if the outbreak can not be effectively controlled, will lead to a serious global food crisis. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations has warned that the global food supply chain may be disrupted by the outbreak in April and May, causing panic hoarding in many countries, particularly of rice, a number of countries have also launched national stockpile schemes to boost food reserves. Of particular concern: On March 24, 2020, six countries, including Vietnam, Cambodia, Thailand and Kazakhstan, began to restrict their food exports, and as the epidemic continues to affect and countries begin to take action, the food crisis has become a global concern. Will China face a food crisis? How should China face the food crisis? This is based on the physiocratic perspective, through the analysis of China's grain reserves, production, trade data need to explore the issue.

2. Food Security is an Eternal Topic

since ancient times, people have been saying, "food is the most important thing for the people, " "food is the most important thing for the people, " "no agricultural instability, no grain is chaos, " "grain storage, the world is safe. " In fact, since ancient times, the food problem has been the most important issue concerning the national economy and the people's livelihood. The issue of food has always been the biggest livelihood issues, food is related to our survival, how much attention can not be overdone. The food problem has never ceased. There have been many great famines in human history that have caused great damage, the deaths of 15,000 people in the

Great Irish Famine of the 1850s, 2m migrants, 250,000 in China during the 1907 famine, and 100,000 in the Soviet Union during the 1932 famine, all demonstrate that food security is a timeless topic for humanity. The issue of food security, first raised by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations at the World Food Summit in November 1974, has evolved over the decades, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations basically means that everyone in the world has access to food that is safe and nutritious enough at all times, that is, there is a need to ensure that there is no risk in terms of food supply, access and stability. Food security can be divided into four levels, including World Food Security, national food security, household food security and individual nutrition security. It is an extremely long process from individual nutrition security to world food security, but many countries have made great efforts for it. The report on the state of World Food Security and nutrition published by the United Nations as of 2018 shows that the global hunger problem is worsening, mainly due to disasters such as drought related to conflict and climate change, a total of 820 million people -- Nearly one in nine of the world's population -- currently lack access to adequate food. As far as the epidemic is concerned, first of all, in terms of food production, the global spread of the new coronavirus epidemic will lead to a shortage of labour and a reduction in the area under cultivation, and secondly in terms of the stage of food supply, the outbreak will affect the stability of the food supply chain. However, the food problem during the epidemic was multifaceted and not only affected by the epidemic, looking back at the beginning of 2020, the persistence of Australian wildfires, the flooding of the rainy season, the worst outbreak of locusts in decades in Africa, the emergence of a state of emergency in many affected countries, and the emergence of the meadow moth, which was included in document I of 2020... taken into account the many factors at the beginning of the year, it is not hard to understand why so many countries have imposed export restrictions on food as a result of the outbreak.

Food Security has been a hot topic since ancient times. Will it worsen during the epidemic and lead to a global food crisis? Extend to the body of every consumer, it is whether everybody needs a large number of epidemic period "hoard grain"? This needs to be analysed in the context of China's food production and reserves in recent years.

3. The Impact of the Food Crisis on China

the impact of the food crisis on China during the outbreak of the disease is analyzed in two parts, mainly the situation of China's grain reserves and production.

According to archaeological research, China is one of the oldest and largest centers of crop origin in the world, and its grain crop originated 6,000 years ago, since the ancestors had relative food security, they began to consider the next year's food in response to disaster years and emergencies. After thousands of years of grain reserve history, China has established a national special grain reserve system under the continuous improvement of the grain reserve system, and has also accumulated a lot of experience, china's grain stocks have risen steadily over the past 30 years and are consistently above the world average, according to the Factor of safety. Wang Liaowei, senior economist at the State Grain and oil information center, said in an exclusive interview with Xinhua News Agency on the 28th that China has achieved "basic self-sufficiency in grain and absolute security of grain rations. " To fully meet the People's Daily consumption needs, but also to effectively deal with major natural disasters and emergencies. During the epidemic, the relevant departments of the state and local governments took effective measures to guarantee supply and stabilize prices in the grain and oil markets, promote the resumption of production by grain and oil processing enterprises, and ensure the smooth transportation of grain, grain and oil market supply is not out of stock, continuous, stable and orderly operation of the domestic grain and oil market.

According to the data, China's total grain output has been stable above 650 million tons for five consecutive years, 209.6 million tons of rice output and 158 million tons of edible consumption in 2019, which have been in surplus for many years, and 134 million tons of wheat output and 123.5 million tons of consumption in 2019, the output has exceeded the demand for 7 consecutive years, and the stock of wheat, rice and other grain rations is at the highest level in history.

Therefore, in the face of the epidemic situation, the export restrictions adopted by many grain-exporting countries may lead to price fluctuations in the international grain market, but at present, the impact on China's grain market is not significant, which is conducive to the digestion of unreasonable grain stocks, reducing the stock pressure of some domestic grain varieties.

4. Physiocracy and New Physiocrats

4.1. The Origin and Development of the Physiocracy

Many people's first reaction to the term "physiocracy" will be to think of China as a "country that values agriculture over commerce", and the history of economic thought of "physiocracy", as the first truly theoretical school of economics, it is often neglected. The physiocratic school actually arose in the 1850s and 1870s from the French classical political economy, whose principal representatives were Quesnay and Turgot. First of all, from a historical perspective, food security has always been closely linked to national security. As an agricultural power, France continued to pursue mercantilist policies during Louie's 15th period, devoting itself to the development of Industry and Commerce and Foreign Trade, the rise of Mercantilism, which was to a large extent a major blow to agriculture, also had an impact on the supply of food, and the idea of the physiocracy emerged. The Pierre Le Pesant, Sieur de Boisguilbert was regarded as a pioneer of the physiocratic school, which saw wealth as a "gift of nature", emphasized the primacy of agriculture and promoted the superiority of agriculture and the countryside. Quesnay was not only the founder and important representative of the French physiocratic school, but also a "staunch supporter of Chinese culture". He was greatly influenced by the traditional Chinese economic thought of emphasizing agriculture over commerce and putting the fundamental interests before the final ones, then he put forward the idea of emphasizing agriculture in Laissez faire.

There is no denying that there are many similarities and differences between China's agricultural ideology and that of France's physiocracy. For example, both of them are products of social unrest and think that the real source of social wealth is agriculture and so on, but it is worth noting that they are actually in order to consolidate feudal rule and exist. As far as China is concerned, the Chinese ideology of attaching importance to agriculture has always been the guiding ideology of the landlord class, and has also consolidated and developed the feudal rule of the landlord class, which to a great extent blocked the formation and development of the mode of production.

From the historical experience, we must not ignore agriculture, nor copy the idea of attaching importance to agriculture. So, in modern China, how should we make good use of the theory of the physiocracy and put forward the new physiocrats to carry out new development of Chinese agriculture, this is also the outbreak of the food crisis caused by the issue is worth our study.

4.2. Where Should the New Physiocrats Come From?

The "new" new physiocracy should be to combine agricultural development with the times, renew concepts, make use of the advantages of the times, and promote agricultural development, attach importance to agricultural development. Can Be divided into the following three suggestions:

1. update the concept, attach importance to agricultural development. With the gradual increase of industrialization and urbanization, the output value of the primary industry represented by agriculture has been decreasing year after year. This does not mean that agricultural development is not important. On the contrary, with the continuous development of the productive forces, it is even more important to update and upgrade agricultural development in conjunction with multiple industries, transform traditional agriculture and promote the integration of agriculture and modernization. First, we should start with concepts, to update the concept of the importance of agriculture to a country, with the guidance of the Scientific Outlook on Development and emphasis on the application and development of agricultural technology.

2. Reject waste and promote green living. From the data of our country, it is clear that the use of grain in our country is wasteful. The annual waste of grain is as high as 200 billion yuan. Therefore, under the emphasis on agricultural development, we also need to advocate a frugal life and refuse to waste, in all aspects of life to achieve green environmental protection, not only to agricultural development has a better role in promoting, but also to the development of the country has a great role in promoting.

3. Welcoming a new era and promoting the internationalization of agriculture. With the development of the new era, the trend of internationalization is both advantage and challenge. Under the background of economic globalization, we should take advantage of the new physiocracy, attach importance to agricultural development, adjust industrial structure, improve agriculture and the quality of technology and products, and open up the international market.

As a result, food production and supply have been affected by the outbreak, and international food markets have been subject to significant volatility as many countries have imposed restrictions on food exports, although domestic food reserves have been adequate but have also been slightly affected. But behind the food crisis, we should focus on the importance of agriculture to a country, and think about how to combine the advantages of the physiocracy with the development of agriculture.

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