

# Strategies for ecological civilization construction in Henan's rural areas from the perspective of rural revitalization

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**Abstract:** With the advancement of the rural revitalization strategy, the construction of ecological civilization in Henan's rural areas has become a crucial issue for achieving sustainable development. Based on an analysis of the natural ecological environment in Henan's rural areas, this paper highlights the achievements and existing problems in ecological civilization construction. It discusses the interaction between rural revitalization and ecological civilization construction and proposes strategies such as strengthening institutional frameworks and promoting ecological industry development to advance ecological civilization in Henan's rural areas.

**Key words:** rural revitalization; Henan rural areas; ecological civilization construction; strategies

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## 1 Introduction

In the context of the rural revitalization strategy, the construction of ecological civilization in Henan's rural areas is particularly critical. By analyzing the current status, achievements, and existing problems of ecological civilization construction in Henan's rural areas, this paper explores the interaction between rural revitalization and ecological civilization construction. It proposes strategic recommendations such as strengthening institutional frameworks, promoting ecological industries, enhancing farmers' awareness, and improving environmental governance, with the aim of advancing the construction and development of ecological civilization in Henan's rural areas and supporting the in-depth implementation of the rural revitalization strategy.

## 2 Analysis of the current status of ecological civilization construction in Henan's rural areas

### 2.1 Overview of the natural ecological environment in Henan's rural areas

Henan Province is located in central China, characterized by a diverse terrain that includes plains, hills, and mountains. Henan's rural areas boast abundant natural resources, including vast farmlands, rivers, lakes, and forests, but they also face certain ecological environmental pressures. Due to prolonged agricultural production activities and industrial development, some regions have experienced soil erosion, soil pollution, and water resource shortages. In recent years, with the increasing awareness of ecological environmental protection, Henan Province has gradually strengthened the governance and protection of the rural natural ecological environment through the implementation of a series of environmental protection measures and policies. As a result, the quality of the rural ecological environment has improved. However, given the complexity of the ecosystem and external development pressures, the ecological environment in Henan's rural

areas remains fragile and requires further protection and management.

## 2.2 Achievements in ecological civilization construction in Henan's rural areas

In recent years, Henan Province has made significant achievements in the construction of ecological civilization in rural areas. Firstly, by promoting green agriculture and ecological planting techniques, the usage of chemical fertilizers and pesticides has been reduced, thereby improving the ecological quality of agricultural products. Secondly, Henan has vigorously advanced rural environmental remediation projects, actively carrying out river cleaning, waste classification, and sewage treatment, which have significantly improved the living environment and water quality in rural areas. Additionally, through the implementation of ecological compensation mechanisms and ecological protection policies, Henan has strengthened the protection of ecologically sensitive areas and nature reserves, restoring some degraded ecosystems. In terms of ecological culture construction, various publicity and educational activities have raised farmers' awareness of ecological civilization, fostering a green lifestyle and a social atmosphere of ecological protection [1].

## 2.3 Existing problems

### 2.3.1 Ecological environment destruction and pollution issues

Despite the achievements in ecological civilization construction, Henan's rural areas still face severe issues of ecological environment destruction and pollution. In some regions, prolonged over-exploitation of agriculture has led to soil quality degradation and farmland deterioration. Additionally, the excessive use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides has caused soil and water pollution, severely affecting local ecosystems and residents' quality of life. During industrialization, some rural enterprises have discharged untreated wastewater and exhaust gases, further exacerbating environmental pollution. Particularly in economically underdeveloped areas, the lack of environmental governance infrastructure has resulted in long-term unresolved pollution issues.

### 2.3.2 Lagging institutional construction of ecological civilization

Henan's rural ecological civilization construction also faces issues of lagging institutional development. Some areas lack comprehensive laws, regulations, and policy systems for ecological civilization construction, leading to insufficient enforcement of ecological protection measures. Additionally, the management system for ecological civilization construction is not well-developed, with issues of fragmented management and unclear responsibilities, affecting the implementation and effectiveness of various environmental protection measures. The lack of sound systems in resource management, environmental monitoring, and pollution prevention also hinders systematic progress in ecological civilization construction. The absence of long-term ecological civilization planning means that ecological construction efforts in some areas lack scientific guidance and sustainability.

### 2.3.3 Insufficient awareness of ecological civilization among farmers

Another significant challenge in the construction of ecological civilization in Henan's rural areas is the insufficient awareness among farmers. Due to relatively low education levels and environmental protection awareness, many rural residents do not fully recognize the importance of ecological environment protection. Their environmental protection behaviors lack consciousness and initiative. Some farmers still engage in non-environmentally friendly practices such as indiscriminate dumping and excessive use of chemicals in their production and daily lives. Additionally, in some areas, the promotion of ecological culture is inadequate, resulting in low participation and enthusiasm among farmers in ecological civilization construction, making it difficult to comprehensively advance ecological protection actions.

## **3 The relationship between rural revitalization and rural ecological civilization construction**

### 3.1 The promoting role of rural revitalization in rural ecological civilization construction

The implementation of the rural revitalization strategy has significantly promoted the construction of ecological

civilization in rural areas. Firstly, the rural revitalization strategy emphasizes thriving industries, which has facilitated the development of green agriculture. By promoting models such as organic farming, ecological planting, and green breeding, it has reduced environmental damage and enhanced the sustainability of agriculture. Green agriculture not only helps protect soil and water resources but also improves the quality and market competitiveness of agricultural products. Secondly, the rural revitalization strategy has driven the construction and improvement of rural infrastructure, such as rural environmental remediation, sewage treatment facilities, and waste classification systems, effectively enhancing the ecological environment quality in rural areas. Furthermore, rural revitalization has promoted the development of rural eco-tourism. By protecting and utilizing rural ecological resources, the eco-tourism industry has been developed, which not only increases farmers' incomes but also raises rural residents' awareness and participation in ecological environment protection. Through optimizing industrial structures, improving infrastructure, and constructing ecological culture, the rural revitalization strategy has comprehensively elevated the level of ecological civilization construction in rural areas, laying a solid foundation for achieving sustainable development [2].

### 3.2 The supporting role of rural ecological civilization construction in rural revitalization

The construction of rural ecological civilization plays a crucial supporting role in rural revitalization. Firstly, a good ecological environment is the fundamental condition for achieving rural revitalization. Improving the rural ecological environment not only enhances the quality of life for residents but also attracts external investment and talent, injecting new vitality into rural economic development. Through the implementation of ecological civilization construction, the air quality, water environment, and soil conditions in rural areas have significantly improved, providing better ecological security for agricultural production and residents' lives. Secondly, rural ecological civilization construction promotes the development of ecological industries. Through the development of ecological agriculture, eco-tourism, and rural environmental services, it not only broadens the channels for farmers to increase their incomes but also optimizes the rural industrial structure, improving the quality and efficiency of economic development. Moreover, ecological civilization construction strengthens the cohesion and social capital of rural communities. Through environmental protection and ecological culture promotion activities, farmers' environmental awareness and community participation have increased, promoting social harmony and stability in rural areas. Rural ecological civilization construction provides a good ecological environment, rich ecological industries, and strong social support for rural revitalization, comprehensively assisting in the implementation of the rural revitalization strategy.

## **4 Strategies for ecological civilization construction in Henan's rural areas**

### 4.1 Strengthening the institutional framework for ecological civilization

The primary task for advancing ecological civilization construction in Henan's rural areas is to strengthen the institutional framework. It is necessary to formulate and improve a series of laws, regulations, and policies to establish a sound long-term mechanism for ecological environment protection. Strengthening law enforcement and supervision ensures that all ecological protection measures are effectively implemented. Additionally, optimizing the ecological environment management system by clarifying the responsibilities of various levels of government and related departments can enhance coordination and cooperation, preventing unclear responsibilities and shirking. By formulating scientific and systematic ecological civilization construction plans, the orderly advancement of rural ecological civilization construction can be guided, ensuring the effective implementation of various ecological protection tasks.

### 4.2 Promoting the development of rural ecological industries

Developing rural ecological industries is an important approach and means for achieving ecological civilization construction. Henan Province can fully utilize its abundant natural resources and ecological advantages to vigorously

develop eco-friendly industries such as organic agriculture, ecological planting, green breeding, and eco-tourism. Through government policy support, financial subsidies, and technical guidance, farmers are encouraged to adopt energy-saving and environmentally friendly production methods, reducing negative environmental impacts and enhancing the ecological quality and market competitiveness of agricultural products. Establishing ecological industry demonstration zones promotes successful experiences and models, driving the development of ecological industries throughout the region, and achieving a win-win situation in terms of ecological protection and economic benefits. The development of ecological industries not only increases farmers' incomes but also promotes the protection and improvement of the ecological environment, forming a virtuous cycle of sustainable development [3].

#### 4.3 Enhancing farmers' awareness of ecological civilization

Enhancing farmers' awareness of ecological civilization is key to advancing ecological civilization construction. Extensive educational and promotional activities can be conducted through various channels such as rural schools, community events, television broadcasts, and new media to popularize ecological civilization knowledge among farmers and enhance their understanding of the importance of ecological protection. Organizing training sessions and lectures to impart environmental protection skills and methods improves farmers' environmental literacy. Through demonstration and typical propaganda, a group of advanced models in ecological civilization construction can be established, inspiring farmers' enthusiasm and initiative in participating in ecological protection. Enhancing farmers' awareness of ecological civilization helps create a positive atmosphere in which everyone participates and collectively advances the construction of ecological civilization.

#### 4.4 Strengthening rural environmental governance and protection

Strengthening rural environmental governance and protection is a critical component and foundational guarantee of ecological civilization construction. Henan Province needs to increase investment in rural environmental infrastructure, improving the construction of sewage treatment, waste classification, and recycling facilities to ensure effective treatment and control of pollutants. It is crucial to enhance river management and soil restoration, prevent water pollution and soil degradation, and restore and protect rural natural ecosystems. Establishing and perfecting an environmental monitoring system to continuously monitor environmental quality can promptly detect and address environmental issues, ensure targeted environmental governance efforts. Simultaneously, promoting comprehensive rural environmental remediation improves the quality of the rural living environment and enhances farmers' living standards and happiness. Through a series of environmental governance and protection measures, a clean, tidy, and healthy living environment for farmers can be created, laying a solid foundation for rural ecological civilization construction.

### **5 Conclusion**

By analyzing the current status, achievements, and existing problems of ecological civilization construction in Henan's rural areas, this paper explores the interaction between rural revitalization and ecological civilization construction. It proposes strategic recommendations such as strengthening institutional frameworks, promoting ecological industries, enhancing farmers' awareness, and reinforcing environmental governance. Ecological civilization construction is a crucial foundation for achieving rural revitalization and sustainable development, requiring the concerted efforts of the entire society. Through scientific planning and effective implementation, Henan's rural ecological environment will significantly improve, and the level of ecological civilization construction will continuously rise, laying a solid foundation for achieving the goals of the rural revitalization strategy.

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### **Conflicts of interest**

The author declares no conflicts of interest regarding the publication of this paper.

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