RURAL WOMEN'S LAND RIGHTS IN CHINA: FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF MIGRANT WOMEN

METHODOLOGICAL APPROACH: A MIXED-METHODS APPROACH

- Quantitative research:

- Data: Court rulings concerning the infringements of rural women's land rights.
- Method: Content analysis.

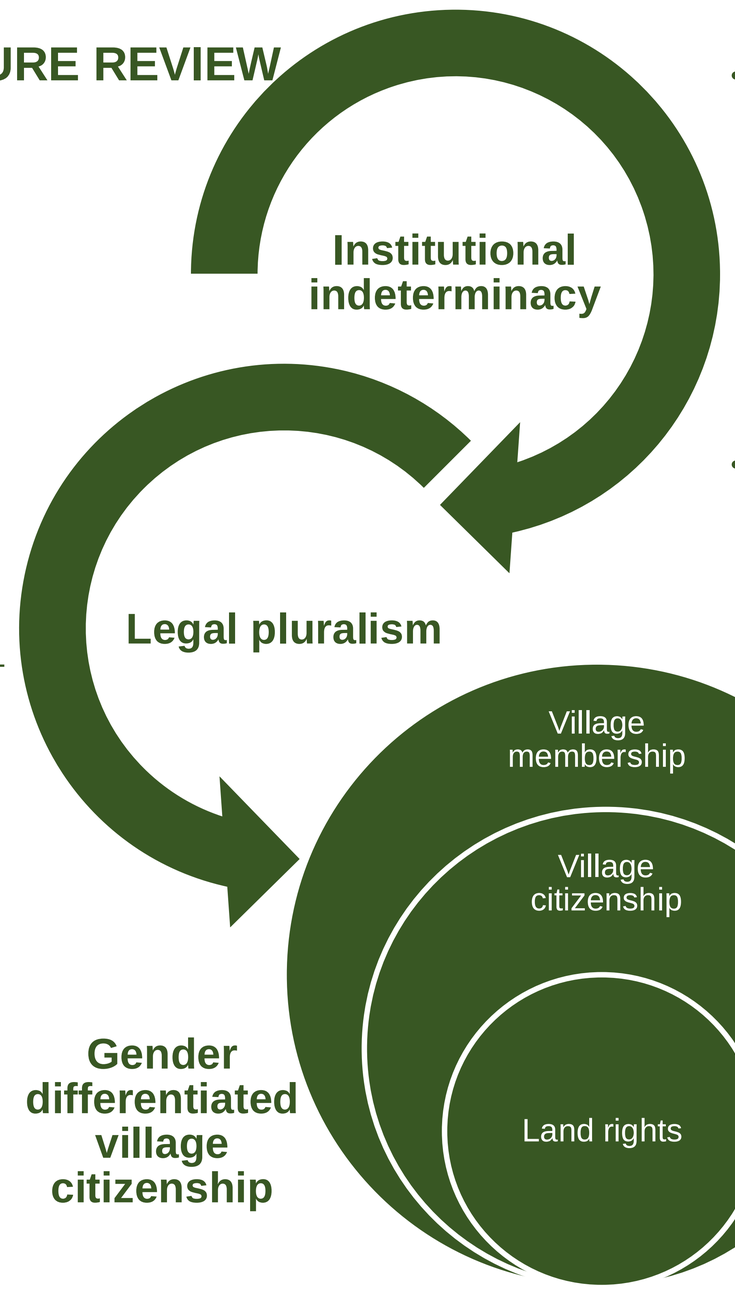
- Qualitative research:

- Focus group interviews in the initial stage: 3 * 10-person groups * 1 – 1.5 hours each.
- Semi-structured interviews in the second stage: 50 individual interviews * 0.5 – 1 hours each.
- Participants: Migrant women (the majority), non-migrant women, village cadres and committee members, legal professionals and local government officials.
- Document analysis of policies, laws, and authoritative court cases throughout the research.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- To what extent do women face disadvantages and inequalities in their access to contract land rights compared to men in rural China?
- What is the influence of marriage and migration (including marriage migration and labor migration) on rural women's contract land rights?
- How do women contest land rights infringements? What strategies do women adopt to advance their land rights?
- How is the notion of local rural citizenship challenged or reshaped by rural migrant women in pursuit of the expansion of their contract land rights?

LITERATURE REVIEW



- Contradictions between the stability rule, the gender-based protection rule, and the adjustment rule of the RLCL.
- Village autonomy vs gender-based rights infringements.

- The coexistence of multiple legal systems: Statutory laws + customary laws.
- Vague formal laws and patriarchal village rules.

PROSPECTIVE CONTRIBUTIONS

- Theoretical contributions:

- Adds a gender perspective to the discourse on the "deliberate institutional ambiguity" of the land rights system in China, particularly regarding its gendered impacts.
- Adds a specific gender & participation perspective to the study of rural land politics in China.
- Extends the context of citizenship research to subnational/village-level, in rural China, considering gender and migration as potential citizenship differentiating factors.

- Empirical contributions:

- Research on rural women's land rights, especially those of migrant women's.
- Understanding of the influence of marriage and migration on rural women's land rights.
- Study of rural women's participation on their access to rural land rights in the context of village democracy in rural China.

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