

Food Security and Poverty Reduction in Yinchuan City of China

Takashi ICHIKAWA¹ and Lily KIMINAMI^{2*}

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Summary

Generally, the impoverished in urban China can be classified into the following categories: the socially weak (those who are disabled, those without legal guardian, and the elderly), unemployed and temporarily released workers of SOEs, and exiles (migrants from poor regions). The government has been providing assistance to urban residents who have an income below the minimum standard (the Security System for Urban Minimum Standard of Living). On the other hand, food reform in China was instituted in 1991 throughout the whole country for major agricultural products such as food (cooking oils and grain) and cotton. The resulting situation had imposed extreme hardships on people in areas where food distribution that until that time had been secured for low-income earners, ceased. To address this issue, the Food Assistance System, which targets those city-registered residents within an income bracket below a constant standard in order to lessen the financial burden of food purchase, was introduced in the urban areas of China. However, the effects of the Security System for Urban Minimum Standard of Living and the Food Assistance System are greatly different depending on the financial power, the design and the operation method of the systems of each area.

Therefore in this paper, the actual situation of the Security System for Urban Minimum Standard of Living and the Food Assistance System in Yinchuan City of Ningxia province are clarified through the interview survey to the officers of local communities and the questionnaire survey to the recipients of Food Assistance in Yinchuan City. Some policy implications for poverty reduction in the region are drawn from the analytical results.

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Food Security “exists when all people, at all times, have physical, social and economic access to the sufficient, safe and nutritious food which meets dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life(FAO, 2003).” To achieve food security, the three conditions of food such as the Availability, the Access and the Utilization are required to be taken into account (Chino, 2005). However, the importance of the three conditions changes along with different stages of economic development and with changes in food consumption structure¹. Therefore, food policy for developing countries in the processes of economic development must ensure food security for the poor while meets the middle and wealthy classes' diversified needs for food (Kiminami, 2008). Among other things, improvement of access to food is the most important for the urban poor with no farmland to produce subsistence crops and no sufficient income and other economic resources to acquire food (Kiminami, 2009).

Meanwhile, Food Assistance Systems are implemented both in developing and developed countries for improving the access to food and the utilization of food for poor people. Food Stamp System in the U.S. is one of the typical examples in developed countries (Kuhn et al., 1996). On the other hand,

wide varieties of food assistance program exist in developing countries such as China (Watanabe and Kiminami, 2006), Indonesia and Vietnam (Gu, 2008). However, Food Assistance System in developing countries generally focuses on the improvement of access to food while in developed countries it focuses on the choice of food and the improvement of nutritional intake (Barret 2002). As is well known, China is experiencing rapid economic growth and has the wide gap of income between regions. Therefore, the difference in social and economic conditions between regions is necessarily considered when discussing the issue of poverty reduction in China.

In general, the urban poor in China are the unemployed and temporarily released workers of SOEs (State Owned Enterprises), orphan children, elderly people, sick people, impaired-people and the migrant workers from the poor regions. Hence, the causes of poverty in China are extremely complicated². As part of the measure to reduce the urban poverty, the Security System for Urban Minimum Standard of Living (SSUMSL) has been firstly implemented by Shanghai since 1993, and it has brought certain degree of achievements³ such as has improved the real purchasing

¹ Graduate School of Science and Technology, Niigata University

² Faculty of Agriculture, Niigata University

* Corresponding Author: E-mail: kiminami@agr.niigata-u.ac.jp

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power of the urban poor. However, the effects of SSUMSL and Food Assistance System are different among regions due to the different financial situation, the design of institution and the manner of operation in each region (Kiminami, 1999).

Therefore in this paper, we shall clarify the actual situation of SSUMSL and Food Assistance System in Yinchuan City of Ningxia Province in order to understand the realities of food security of urban poor and draw policy implications for poverty reduction in the region.

STUDY REGION AND ANALYTICAL METHOD

Outline of the Study Region

In this study, we focus on Ningxia Autonomous Province which is located in the inner area of western China where population of the poor is concentrated and its highly financial dependency on the central government is indicated from the high proportion of the central government in its total budget for SSUMSL⁴. However, there exists large income disparity between the north and the south part of Ningxia, and the urbanization of the north part is proceeding.

Yinchuan City is the capital city of Ningxia Autonomous Province and is located in the north part of the province. Urbanization of Yinchuan City is relatively proceeding among the western area of China. Population of Yinchuan is 1,654,300 (year-on-year rate: 2.3%), and its GDP is 51,411 million yuan and GDP per capita is 31,436 yuan in 2008. The composition of GDP by industry is as follows: 5.9% for primary industry, 48.8% for secondary industry and 45.3% for tertiary industry. The living standard of people in the city is getting improved rapidly in recent years. The annual average disposable income of the urban residents is 14,458 yuan in 2008 and has increased by 2,273 yuan (18.7%) comparing to the previous year. However, in 2008, the rate of unemployment is 3.62 % (3.4% in 2003), the number of the recipients of Security System for Minimum Standard of Living is 87,300 (70,400 in 2003), and the proportion of recipients in total living population is 5.28% (5.29 % in 2003)⁵. Our main study region is Xingqing District of Yinchuan City which is located in the central part of the city. The composition of GDP of the

district by industry is as follows: 1.9% for primary industry, 32.1% for secondary industry and 65.8% for tertiary industry. The average annual disposable income of urban residents is much higher comparing to that of other districts in Yinchuan City.

Analytical Framework and Analytical Method

Generally, the approaches to and estimation of poverty can be roughly divided into quantitative and qualitative methods (Carvalho and White, 1997). In quantitative method, Poverty Line is usually utilized by focusing on the economic aspects of the poor, and specifying the poor. It is superior to the qualitative method in generalization of the analysis. On the other hand, qualitative method utilizes interview survey to grasp the poverty as the process and the interaction of social, cultural, political and economic factors. It is superior to the quantitative method in the specification of problems and explanation of the causal relationship. However, both quantitative and qualitative approaches are complementary to each other and a unified analytical framework is desirable for the analyses of poverty issues in China. Therefore, this study attempts to clarify the actual situation of poverty in China, the effects and problems of poverty reduction policies by focusing on the Food Assistance System, and it will draw policy implications for the issue (Fig. 1). Both qualitative and quantitative methods will be used in the study such as collecting data from statistics in the city yearbook, undertaking interview survey to the officers of the counter-poverty policy and the poor people(recipients), investigating the retail market price of staple food and undertaking questionnaire survey to the poor, etc⁶.

ANALYTICAL RESULTS

Security System for Urban Minimum Standard of Living (SSUMSL) in Yinchuan City

In 1993, the SSUMSL was firstly implemented in Shanghai ahead of China. The contents of living security are different between cities. In addition to providing the poor with basic assistance, medical assistance and food assistance

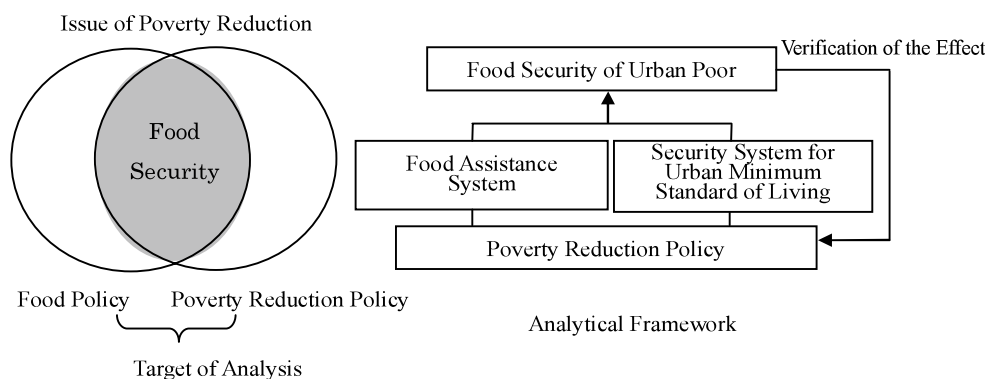


Fig.1 Framework and Targets for the Research Analysis

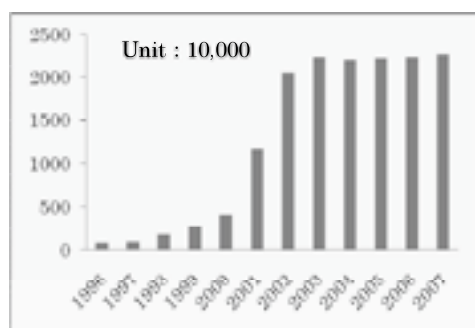


Fig.2 Changes in the Number of Recipients in China

Source: China Ministry of Civil Affairs <http://www.mca.gov.cn/>

etc are implemented. Eligibilities for recipient are to have the city registration and the average income per head each month is below the security standard etc.

Recipients of the SSUMSL in China increased considerably in the late of 1990s and it remained on the same

level (Fig. 2). As for the number of recipients in Ningxia, the number of recipients in urban area increased and the poverty issue in urban area becomes serious while the number of recipients in rural area decreases⁷. According to the **Table 1** the number of recipients in urban area is 459,625 and the proportion of recipients in total population is 7.8%. On the other hand, ratio of recipients in Yinchuan City is 5.3% and it is lower than other cities in Ningxia. However, 42 % of recipients in total urban recipients in Ningxia are living in Yinchuan City.

In Yinchuan City, SSUMSL has been implemented since 1998. Standard of basic assistance at average is 100 yuan per month in 1998, but it increased to 200 yuan per month in 2007. The SSUMSL is divided into three types (Type A, Type B and Type C) responding to the hardship level of the poor. And the objects and contents of security are different⁸. Factors of the increase in the number of recipients are considered due to (i) the changes in the security standard, (ii) overstatement of household size and under-declaration of

Table 1. The Actual Condition of Security System for Urban Minimum Standard of Living in Ningxia Province (2008)

Region	Recipients		Amount of Assistance		Standard (yuan/month)
	Household	Head-Count (person, (%) ¹⁾	Budget (10,000 yuan/year)	Assistance Level (yuan/month)	
China(Total)	11,111,291	23,345,617	3,852,421.1	141	208
Ningxia	228,572	459,625	42,955		
Urban	90,826	208,501(7.8)	28,037	123.9	
Yinchuan City		87,300(5.3)			200
Rural	137,746	251,124(7.4)	14,918	48	

Source: The Data of China and Ningxia is based on the Interview Survey to the government officer of Beian Community. The Data of Yinchuan City is based on the *Yinchuan City Statistical Yearbook 2009*, p.442.

Note1: Proportion of recipients in total population.

Table 2. The Contents of Security System for Urban Minimum Standard of Living in Yinchuan City

Unit	Form of Allowance	The Articles of Assistance	Contents
City	Cash Allowance	Basic Assistance	~200 yuan/month
		Food Assistance	30 yuan/month
	Reduced Assistance	Gas Charge Assistance	Market Price 60 yuan/can →36 yuan/can
		TV Fee Assistance	Market Price 25.5yuan/month →16yuan/month
		Medical Insurance Assistance	Market Price 128yuan/year →64yuan/year & Child 5yuan/year
	Others		Education Assistance, Housing Assistance Medical Assistance, Special Assistance for Senior Citizen
	Cash and Allowance in Kind	Staple Food Assistance (Special Allowance for Chinese New Year)	Cash (Dumpling: 60yuan) Allowance in Kind (Rice : 20kg, Wheat Flour : 20kg, Edible Oil : 7L)
Community	Coupon	Aixin Service Station Card (Staple Food/Daily Goods)	30 yuan (*Beisi Community, 60 people/month)

Source: Interview Survey to the government officers of Beian and Beisi Community.

income, (iii) inclusion of ex-farmers in the city caused by the rapid urban development. **Table 2** indicates the contents of the SSUMSL in Yinchuan city.

Cases of Beian Community and Beisi Community

Table 3 summarizes the profile and the living conditions of the recipients in *Beian Community* and *Beisi Community* based on the interview survey to the recipients.

Beian Community was developed as the residential area for the wealthy class in 2000. The total number of households is about 4,000 in this community. Of them, the number of recipients of the SSUMSL is 8 (Proportion of recipients in total households: 0.2%) and 6 of was interviewed⁹. According to the result of the interview survey, the high medical cost, unemployment and education cost are the most serious concerns for the recipients. On the other hand, Food Assistance is considered to be able to contribute to the alleviation of economic burden for the poor. However, some recipients request for increasing in the amount of food assistance.

Beisi Community is located in the central part of Xingqing District and is the residential area behind the government office. The total number of household is about 2,300. Of them, the number of recipients is 391 (Proportion of recipients in total households: 17.0%). In February 2010, questionnaire survey was implemented in the Aixin Service Station and 7 people of recipients were interviewed. According to the result of the interview survey, the causes of becoming recipients are the disease and physically-impaired.

Based on the above interview survey, it is considered that counter-poverty policies considering the promotion of employment of the poor in *Beian Community* and a detailed assistance to the poor in *Beisi Community* are necessary for each.

Problems of SSUMSL and the Poor People's Needs for Counter-Poverty Policy

Problems of the SSUMSL in Yinchuan city is pointed out to have three aspects¹⁰. These are the problems of supervision (governance of entitlement for the recipients, grasping the household revenue, coordination among the assistances, precise calculation of basic assistance), administration (financial budget control, appropriate disclosure of person information system, staff shortages, lack of knowledge about the SSUMSL among the general public), security (securing the budget of SSUMSL, low level of income of person in charge of SSUMSL). However, the problems of the dependence on subsidies, precise information of poor people's living condition and complicated procedures of application for assistance are also clarified according to the interview survey to the recipients and questionnaire survey to the users of Aixin Service Station (**Table 4**).

Table 5 summarizes the relationship between occupation (on a job or non job) and the assistance required by recipients. Among the recipients on a job, the item of highest response ratio is "Job Assistance (26.7%)" and "Medical

Assistance (35.7%)" is highest among the non job. Although the number of non job in 40s¹¹ is quite high, the response ratio of "Job Assistance" is zero. It indicates that recipients are dependent on SSUMSL in the community.

Table 6 summarizes the relationship between occupation and contents of additional food assistance. The item of high response ratio for the people on a job is "Vegetable (40.0%)" , and the item of "Staple Food (67.9%)" is the highest for non job. Thus, resolving the problem of deficiency of nutrition for the poor on a job and the problem of inadequate nutrition for the non job should be taken into consideration¹².

Actual Situation of Food Assistance Program

In addition to Food Assistance, supply of staple food and convenience goods (provided at Aixin Service Station), provision of cleaning job for the poor (provided by community), setting low price of staple food in the store (run by the Administration of Grain) and collecting donation from the private sector are also implemented for poverty reduction in Yinchuan City.

Firstly, "Aixin Service Station" is run by the ward office branch (Jiedao-Banshichu) and it is opened once a month particularly to the recipients of food assistance and the female poor. It provides service for 60 selected households per month according to the hardship level of the poor. In this service station, staple food (grain and edible oil) and convenience goods are supplied. Aixin Service Station started in 2005 and 1,486 households have received the service in four years (44,580 yuan in total)¹³. However, because of the difficulty of the management, the number of the station in this district decreased from 36 to 1 by July 2009. The Operating cost of the station is covered by the community government which is provided by the private companies and the residents of the city. To keep the operation of the station smoothly, some resolutions such as amalgamation with general stores and partial charge of services had been discussed in the past but they were not realized¹⁴. According to the questionnaire survey, as for the good points of the station, items of high response ratio are "Contribution to better nutrition (56.5%)" and "Good services of community government (45.7%)" . Most of users evaluate it for the improvement of their nutritional status. As for the problems of the station, the item of high response ratio is "Small amount of assistance (28.3%)" (**Table 7**).

Secondly, as a part of counter-poverty policy, the government of Xingqing district provides cleaning job to the recipients whose family member has serious disease or is physically-impaired. Salary of this job is 1,200~1,500 yuan per month. It is the original counter-poverty policy of the community and the source of expenditures comes from the community budget.

Thirdly, there are 124 staple food stores in Yinchuan City which are operated by the Administration of Grain. Prices of staple food in the stores are cheaper than in the department stores and in the supermarkets (**Table 8**). Officers of Administration of Grain visit the store regularly to

Table 3. Interview Survey to the Recipients

Beian Community								
Code	A	B	C	D	E	F		
Answerer	Husband	Identical Person	Mother	Mother	Husband	Identical Person		
Basic Condition	Sex	Female	Female	Couple	Male	Female	Male	
	Age	30s	70s	30s	30s	40s	40s	
	Size of Household	3	2(With daughter)	4	2(With mother)	4	2(With father)	
	Child	1	1	1	Non	2	Non	
	Job	Unemployed	Unemployed	Unemployed	Unemployed	Unemployed	Unemployed	
Actual Condition of Life	Income Resource	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retirement Allowance Remittance Basic Assistance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remittance Social Donation Basic Assistance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remittance Social Donation Basic Assistance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Basic Assistance Medical Assistance Retirement Allowance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Income Basic Assistance Educational Assistance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Basic Assistance 	
	Living Condition	Husband : unemployed Recipient : with serious disease in hospital Child : school attendance	Recipient : elderly person	Recipients(Male) : with serious disease in hospital Recipients(Female) : low income	Recipient : physically impaired Brother : unemployed	Husband : low income Recipient : unemployed Two Children : school attendance	Recipient : unemployed	
Beisi Community								
Code	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	
Answerer	Identical Person	Identical Person	Identical Person	Identical Person	Mother	Identical Person	Identical Person	
Basic Condition	Sex	Female	Female	Female	Male	Couple	Couple	Male
	Age	60s	50s	40s	40s	Non	50s	50s
	Size of Household	2	Unclear	3	4	4	3	5
	Child	1 (In hospital)	Unclear	1(Failed a university exam)	1(Elementary students)	1	1	2
	Job	Part-Time	Unclear	Unemployed	Unemployed	Unemployed	Unemployed Part-Time	Unemployed
Actual Condition of Life	Income Resource	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Income Basic Assistance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Basic Assistance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Income Basic Assistance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Income Basic Assistance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Basic Assistance Medical Assistance Assistance from Town Office 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Income Basic Assistance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Income Basic Assistance Retirement Allowance
	Living Condition	Recipient : disease	Recipient : chronic disease	Recipient : disease and unemployed. Husband : part-time	Recipient : physically impaired Wife : part-time	Recipients(Couple) physically impaired	Recipient(Male) : unemployed due to mental disease Recipient(Female) : low income Son : migrant	Recipient : retired military personnel Wife : government officer Son : unemployed

Source: Interview Survey to the Recipients.

Table 4. The Problem of Security System for Urban Minimum Standard of Living (Multiple Answers Allowed)

Problems of Application Time	Response Ratio (%)	Problems of Utilization Time	Response Ratio (%)
Problem of privacy	8.7	Bad attitude of government officers	6.5
Complexity of procedures	<u>26.1</u>	Sense of apprehension on presenting the card	6.5
Uncertainty of adoption criterion	6.5	Insufficiency of the contents of security	<u>19.6</u>
Nothing	54.3	Nothing	54.3
Non-Answer	6.5	Non-Answer	13.0

Source: Questionnaire Survey of Aixin Service Station Users.

Note: Those with the highest response ratio are drawn round with the line.

Table 5. Occupation and Contents of Required Assistance (Unit: %)

		Food Assistance	Medical Assistance	Job Assistance	Educational Assistance	Job Training Assistance
Total		15.2	23.9	8.7	4.3	2.2
Occupation	On a job	13.3	6.7	<u>26.7</u>	6.7	0.0
	Non job	17.9	<u>35.7</u>	0.0	3.6	3.6
		Heating Assistance	Communication Assistance	Others	Non-Answer	Null-Answer
Total		8.7	0.0	2.2	6.5	28.3
Occupation	On a job	13.3	0.0	6.7	6.7	20.0
	Non job	7.1	0.0	0.0	7.1	25.0

Source: Questionnaire Survey of Aixin Service Station Users.

Note: Those with the highest response ratio are drawn round with the line.

Table 6. Occupation and Contents of Additional Food Assistance (Unit: %)

		Staple Food	Fruits	Meat	Fish
Total		47.8	4.3	4.3	2.2
Occupation	On a job	20.0	6.7	6.7	0.0
	Non job	<u>67.9</u>	0.0	3.6	3.6
		Vegetable	Others	Non-Answer	Null-Answer
Total		19.6	4.3	2.2	15.2
Occupation	On a job	<u>40.0</u>	0.0	6.7	20.0
	Non job	11.0	7.1	0.0	7.1

Source: Questionnaire Survey of Aixin Service Station Users.

Note: Those with the highest response ratio are drawn round with the line.

Table 7. The Good Points and Bad Points of Aixin Service Station (Multiple Answers Allowed)

Good Points	Response Ratio (%)	Bad Points	Response Ratio (%)
Convenient location	13.0	Inconvenient location	4.3
Good services of community government	45.7	Bad services of community government	6.5
Many products	13.0	Few products	6.5
Good quality of products	6.5	Bad quality of products	0.0
Appropriate amount of assistance	30.4	Small amount of assistance	<u>28.3</u>
Appropriate holding date	10.9	Less holding date	15.2
Contribution to better nutrition	<u>56.5</u>	Less number of the station	13.0
Nothing	2.2	Problem of privacy	0.0
Non-Answer	2.2	Nothing	32.6
		Non-Answer	8.7

Source: Questionnaire Survey of Aixin Service Station Users.

Note: Those with the highest response ratio are drawn round with the line.

Table 8. The Price of Staple Food and Edible Oil in Yinchuan City

Staple Food	Store Category	Price(yuan/kg, yuan/ L)
Rice	Supermarket	4.0
	General Staple Food Store	4.0
	Staple Food Store run by Administration of Grain	3.8
Wheat Flour	Supermarket	3.5
	General Staple Food Store	3.3
	Staple Food Store run by the Administration of Grain	3.3
Edible Oil (Beans Oil)	Supermarket	11.4
	General Staple Food Store	10.8
	Staple Food Store run by the Administration of Grain	10.6

Source: Retail Price Investigation.

Note: Prices in supermarket are the average prices of the cheapest products from the survey data. Special sale prices are excluded (Rice, Wheat Flour: 10kg, Edible Oil: 5L).

Table 9. The Good Points and Bad Points of Staple Food Store run by Administration of Grain (Multiple Answers Allowed)

Good Points	Response Ratio (%)	Bad Points	Response Ratio (%)
Many stores	10.9	Few stores	2.2
Convenient location	6.5	Inconvenient location	10.9
Good services	6.5	Bad services	4.3
Low price	13.0	High price	6.5
Stable price	<u>23.9</u>	Few products	4.3
Many products	8.7	Bad quality of products	2.2
Good quality of products	8.7	Less advertisement	<u>19.6</u>
Nothing	15.2	Nothing	19.6
Non-Answer	32.6	Non-Answer	34.8

Source: Questionnaire Survey of Aixin Service Station Users.

Note: Those with the highest response ratio are drawn round with the line.

Table 10. Assistance by the NGOs

Associations	Contents
Military	Rice(25kg),Wheat Flour(25kg),Edible Oil(10L)
Union of Physical Impaired Person	Rice(25kg),Wheat Flour(25kg),Edible Oil(10L)

Source: Interview Survey to the recipients who are living in Beian Community of Xingqing District.

Note: Red Cross supplied the bed in May 2009.

check the fraud of the price.

However, according to the questionnaire to the users, recognition level of the store is quite low (“Don't know (65.2%)”), and the most popular shops for recipients to purchase staple food are “General Staple Food Store (56.5%)”. As for good points of the staple food store (run by the Administration of Grain), items of high response ratio are “Stable price (23.9%)” and “Low price (13.0%)”. However, as

for the bad points of it, the item of highest response ratio is “Less advertisement (19.6%)” (**Table 9**). Although staple food store (run by the Administration of Grain) is located nearby Aixin Service Station only few people know it, which indicates them the coordination between the agency for counter-poverty policy and the staple food store (Administration of Grain) is very important.

Finally, from the interview to the recipients, the effect of the donation from private companies and NGOs on the stabilization of poor people's living standard and the improvement of their nutritional status are highly evaluated. The contents of donation from different groups in Yinchuan are shown in **Table 10**.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

Based on the above mentioned analytical results, the actual conditions of food security of the urban poor in Yinchuan City were clarified. It is considered that food

security of urban poor in Yinchuan city as a whole has been achieved and the emphasis of counter-poverty policy is going to shift from the food assistance to the assistances for education and medical service¹⁵.

However, the counter-poverty policy in Yinchuan city has the following problems. Firstly, there is the problem of autonomy in the counter-poverty policy. Expenditure of the SSUMSL in Yinchuan City depends on the central government and the fruits of economic growth in the region couldn't prevail among the poor. Secondly, there is the problem of the sustainability of the policy. For instance, food assistance stores (Aixin Service Station) operated by the community government depends on the donation from private companies and citizens, and the continual operation of the station is becoming difficult. Thirdly, there is the tradeoff between the transparency and fairness of the system and the privacy of the recipients. The fourth problem is the self-reliance of the poor. Job-training program for the poor should be implemented as rapidly as possible. Finally, for improving the effects of the counter-poverty policy, the mutual aid system among residents which is friendly to the socially vulnerable should be established in the social safety net of the society.

NOTE

1. For example, Barrett (2002) is one of the comprehensive surveys about the food security issues in recent years. Moreover, Kiminami (2009) analyzed food security and sustainability in Asian region from the multiple aspects of micro and macro level.
2. In China, problems of poverty surfaced along with the economic reform since the latter half of the 1970's. And "National 8-7 Poverty Reduction Plan (1994)" and "Large West Development (2000)", etc. were implemented. The poverty policy has been shifted from "Transfusion Relief (Grant) Type" to "Blood-forming (Economic Development-oriented Type)". As a result, poverty population mainly in rural areas has greatly decreased from 250 million in 1978 to 29 million in 2004. However, poverty population in urban areas has been increased.
3. The number of new graduate without job who is called "Ant Group" increases, and the case to reside in the city part increases in recent years. (Search China, 16 November 2009, http://news.searchchina.ne.jp/dispcgi?y=2009&d=1116&f=column_1116_007.shtml).
4. The highest three regions are Guangxi province (87.1%), Hainan Province (83.6%) and Ningxia (81.9%) indicating the counter-poverty policies of these regions are highly depending on the central government (Gu, 2008; Source: *China Civil Affairs' Statistical Yearbook*).
5. Made from Yinchuan Statistics Bureau "Statistical Communiqué on the 2008 National Economic and Social Development of Yinchuan(<http://www.nxtj.gov.cn/tjgb/200905190011.htm>)" and "Statistical Communiqué on the 2003 National Economic and Social Development of

- Yinchuan(<http://www.nxtj.gov.cn/sxtjgb/200509060014>)".
6. Survey sheet A was implemented through the method of gang investigation (The object person: the *Aixin Service Station* user; number of collections: 46) at the holding date of *Aixin Service Station* (Refer to **Appendix Table**). Survey sheet B was implemented through the method of door-to-door investigation (The object person: welfare recipient; number of collections: 3). Survey sheet C was implemented in March, 2010. Preliminary field investigation was executed on July 1-11, 2009 and the main field investigation was implemented on February 3-17, 2010.
 7. Ningxia Statistical Yearbook 2008, p.400.
 8. It depends on the interview survey to the community government officer in Beian Community. Type A are the object people of the full amount security (It is living alone and is a propertyless or a serious trouble). Type B are the object people of security more than a usual aid level (senior citizen and student). And, Type C is the object people (person with a job or capacity to work) who have received the difference security.
 9. The interview survey was implemented to six households in July, 2009. In addition, the complementary investigation (survey sheet B) was implemented to three households (Household B, C, and D) in February, 2010.
 10. The interview survey was implemented to the sub-agency head of the Bureau of Civil Affairs of the Ningxia on February 10, 2010.
 11. Aixin Service Station user's unemployed person's age group are as follows: 10's(0%), 20's (0%), 30's (7.1%), 40's (46.4%), 50's (17.9%), and 60's (10.7%) and 70's and above (17.9%).
 12. The sub-food is not included in present food assistance. Therefore, when the food assistance of meat and poultry will be executed in the future, it is necessary to consider religion and race's differences.
 13. Report Yinchuan Night, 21 June 2009.
 14. Ningxia Net (www.nxnet.cn), 30 October 2008.
 15. It is mainly based on the analysis of subjective evaluation by the urban poor. However, it is considered that a complementary analysis by using objective data (nutritional intake etc.) is also necessary to understand food security of urban poor more accurately.

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Appendix Table: The Profile of Answerer (Unit: %)

Sex	Male	Female	Non-Answer			
	34.8	60.9	4.3			
Ethnic Group	Hui	Han	Others		Non-Answer	
	8.7	87.0	0.0		4.3	
Age	10-19s	20-29s	30-39s	40-49s		
	0.0	0.0	13.0	50.0		
	50-59s	60-69s	70s ~	Non-Answer		
	17.4	6.5	10.9	2.2		
Educational Status	Elementary School and Below	Junior High School	High School	Career College		
	21.7	47.8	23.9	0.0		
	Technical College	University	Graduate School	Non-Answer		
	2.2	2.2	0.0	2.2		
Occupation (Previous)	Government Officer	SOE Employee	Private Company Employee	Self-employed Worker	Farmer	Home-based Worker
	0.0(0.0)	0.0(21.7)	4.3(6.5)	2.2(0.0)	0.0(2.2)	2.2(4.3)
	Student	Part-Time Worker	Unemployment	Others	Non-Answer	Null-Answer
	0.0(2.2)	19.6(21.7)	60.9(32.6)	8.7(8.7)	2.2(2.2)	4.3(2.2)
Monthly Salary	~100 yuan	100~200 yuan	200~300 yuan	300~400 yuan		
	23.9	21.7	13.0	10.9		
	400~500 yuan	500~600 yuan	Non-Answer	Null-Answer		
	10.9	19.6	2.2	2.2		

中国銀川市における食料安全保障と貧困削減

市川 聖¹・木南莉莉^{2*}

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要 約

一般的に、中国都市部における貧困層は社会的弱者（身体障害者、孤児、高齢者）、国有企業の失業者および一時帰休者、流民（貧困地域からの出稼ぎ）などに分類できる。中国の各都市では、1993年以降に上海市を皮切りとして所得が最低基準以下の都市住民に対して補助を行うために、都市住民最低生活保障制度が実施されている。

一方、1991年には食糧品（穀物類と食用油）と綿などの主要農産物の流通の市場開放が進められた。この改革によって都市部の低所得者層にとっては、それまで保障されていた食糧品の配給が停止し死活問題となったために、貧困者の食糧品購入の金銭的負担を軽減させる食料補助制度が導入されている。しかしながら、都市住民最低生活保障制度と食料補助制度の効果は、各地域の財政力や制度の設計および運営方法によって異なっている。

そこで本研究では、銀川市における貧困対策の担当者（居民委員）への聞き取り調査と食料補助制度の受給者に対するアンケート調査の分析を通じて、寧夏回族自治区銀川市の都市住民最低生活保障制度と食料補助制度の実態と課題を明らかにし、同地域における貧困削減に向けた政策的含意を導出する。

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キーワード：食料安全保障、食料補助制度、都市住民最低生活保障制度、貧困削減

¹ 新潟大学大学院自然科学研究科

² 新潟大学農学部

*代表著者：kiminami@agr.niigata-u.ac.jp