

GAC Directive on Agricultural Tax Collection for 1952

16-05-1952

The general policy for agricultural tax collection in 1952 is to implement the "land inspection and fixed production, levy based on rates, legal exemptions, gradually achieve uniform progression, and eliminate all additional burdens" principles. In accordance with this policy, the following directives are issued for the agricultural tax collection in 1952:

1. The tax system and rates for agricultural taxes in 1952 are as follows:

- The local surcharges on agricultural taxes throughout the country are all abolished. In the future, only a unified agricultural tax will be levied by the central government on agriculture, without additional surcharges.

- The old liberated areas will temporarily continue the proportional tax system in 1952. The tax rates for the Northeast Administrative Region and the North China Administrative Region are specified in Table 1, while Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, Shandong Province in the East China Administrative Region, and the former Shaanxi-Gansu-Ningxia Border Region in the Northwest Administrative Region will have tax rates determined by the respective regional governments and military committees, subject to approval by the Central People's Government GAC. Plans should be prepared this year to transition to a progressive tax system next year, with necessary investigations, experiments, and preparations.

- In areas that have completed land reform in the late liberated areas, a unified full-scale progressive tax system should be implemented in 1952. Progressive tax rates range from 7 percent to 30 percent (no additional taxes allowed), as specified in Table 2. All areas that have completed land reform in the late liberated areas should adhere to this. In cases of special circumstances, adjustment proposals may be submitted by the regional military committees for approval by the Central People's Government GAC.

- Tax rates in areas of the late liberated areas that have not completed land reform will be determined by the regional military committees, referring to the "Interim Regulations on Agricultural Taxes in the New Liberated Areas" published by the Central People's Government in 1950 and approved by the Central People's Government GAC.

2. In order to control the planting area of cash crops and balance the burden on farmers appropriately, tax rates for cash crops such as tobacco, peanuts, hemp, sugarcane, etc., in areas where the burden on farmers is too light, should be increased as appropriate. For cotton field collection methods, guidelines have been issued by the Central People's Government GAC Finance and Economic Committee on March 12, 1952, and local governments should formulate and report methods based on these guidelines, taking into account local specific conditions.

3. The policy of reductions and exemptions in agricultural taxes is an important part of the agricultural tax policy. In the collection work, all levels of the government must, in accordance with the law, take care of households affected by natural disasters, families of martyrs, families of revolutionary soldiers, families of government workers without labor, and poor households with elderly, weak, orphaned, widowed, or disabled members. The specific implementation methods of these reductions and exemptions, except for those for disaster-affected households, are to be formulated by the Ministry of Finance of the Central People's Government and submitted for approval by the Central People's Government GAC.

4. To stabilize the burden on farmers and make them feel at ease in production, it is necessary to carry out land inspection and fixed production, levy based on rates, and legal exemptions. The determination of mu (unit of land area) and the verification of annual production are the basis for implementing levy based on rates and legal exemptions. Regional governments (military committees) in all large administrative regions should continue to guide the governments of provinces (cities) under their jurisdiction to complete the land inspection and fixed production work in an organized and planned manner in accordance with the "Implementation Outline for Agricultural Tax Land Inspection and Fixed Production Work." It is necessary to truly determine the area of land and accurately verify the annual production. The determination of the annual production should not be too high or too low, and it should strive to be suitable for actual conditions. After the land inspection and fixed production, the determination of the annual production should be fixed, which will be more conducive to rewarding farmers to develop production without restraint.

5. In order to tighten the procedures for the collection of agricultural taxes and block the loopholes for corruption and waste, it is necessary to strengthen the organizational work of tax collection. The Ministry of Finance of the Central People's Government should promptly formulate and promulgate the "General Rules for the Collection of Agricultural Taxes." Regional governments (military committees) should, in accordance with the provisions of these rules, guide the governments of provinces (cities) under their jurisdiction to effectively improve the collection of agricultural taxes and strengthen the organizational aspects of grain transportation into warehouses. This is to prevent waste of manpower and resources, casualties of people and animals, ensure the standardization of grain and economic crop storage, promptly clear overdue accounts, and improve the reporting system.

6. All levels of the government should strengthen the political and professional education of agricultural tax collection personnel, enabling them to learn specific methods of land inspection and fixed production, levy based on rates, and legal exemptions. When the collection season arrives, the top leaders of all levels of the government and finance departments must personally go to the countryside to lead this work. Joint inspection teams organized by relevant departments such as finance, civil affairs, and agriculture should conduct on-site inspections in various places to examine whether the agricultural tax work is well-implemented. The standard should be whether the principles of "land inspection and fixed production, levy based on rates, and legal exemptions" are being implemented. Those who perform well should be praised, and those with deviations should be corrected promptly. Serious cases should be subject to disciplinary action. In addition, the Northwest, Southwest, and Central South Administrative Regions should strengthen investigations, research, and guidance on the burdens on farmers and pastoral taxes in minority areas.

Premier Zhou Enlai

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Tables:

Table 1: Tax Rates for Northeast and North China Regions

Table 2: Tax Rates for Late Liberated Areas (Attached Tables)