

An examination of forest tenure reforms in China

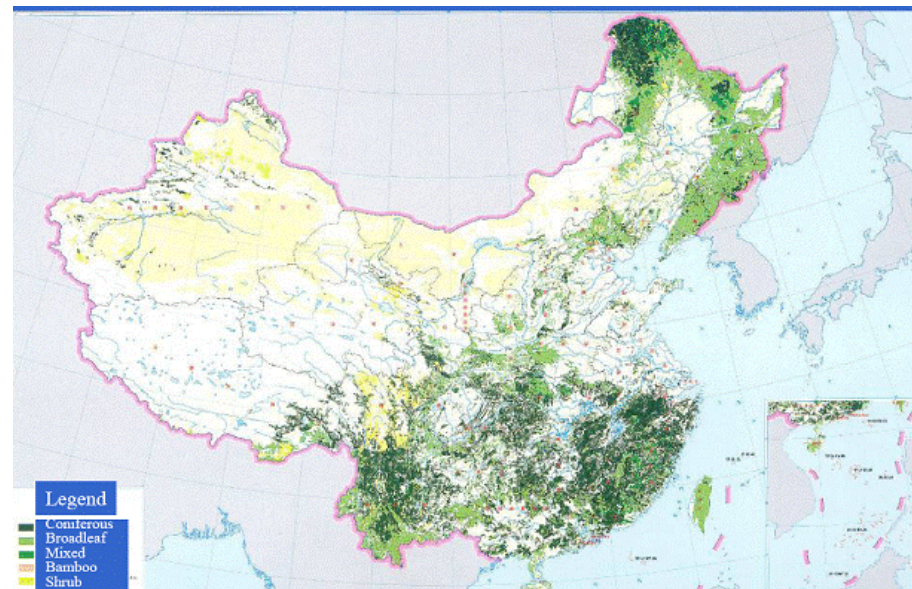
– case studies in Yong’an and Tonggu

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Forest land ownership

- Two types of forestland ownership
 - State-owned
 - Collectively-owned



Source: Research Institute of Forest Resources Information
Chinese Academy of Forestry , 2003

Challenges

- Issues and challenges facing collective forests
 - Illegal logging
 - Unclear and insecure forest tenure
 - Lack of incentives and motivation
 - Unstable and inconsistent forest-related policies
 - Losing community cohesion and stability
 - Poverty

Potential solutions

- Forest tenure reforms
 - Allocating collectively-owned forest land to forest farmers (2 ha per farmer; scattered land; high-quality combined with low-quality)
 - Forest tenure certificate is issued to farmers to justify their legitimacy 🚧
- Supporting mechanism: forestry property markets




Question & Methods

- Question:
 - Whether forest tenure reforms are able to address challenges facing collective forests?
- Two case studies:
 - Yong'an, Fujian province
 - Tonggu, Jiangxi province
- Interviews with:
 - Forest farmers
 - Government officials who work for the forestry property markets



Positive outcomes – Forest tenure reforms





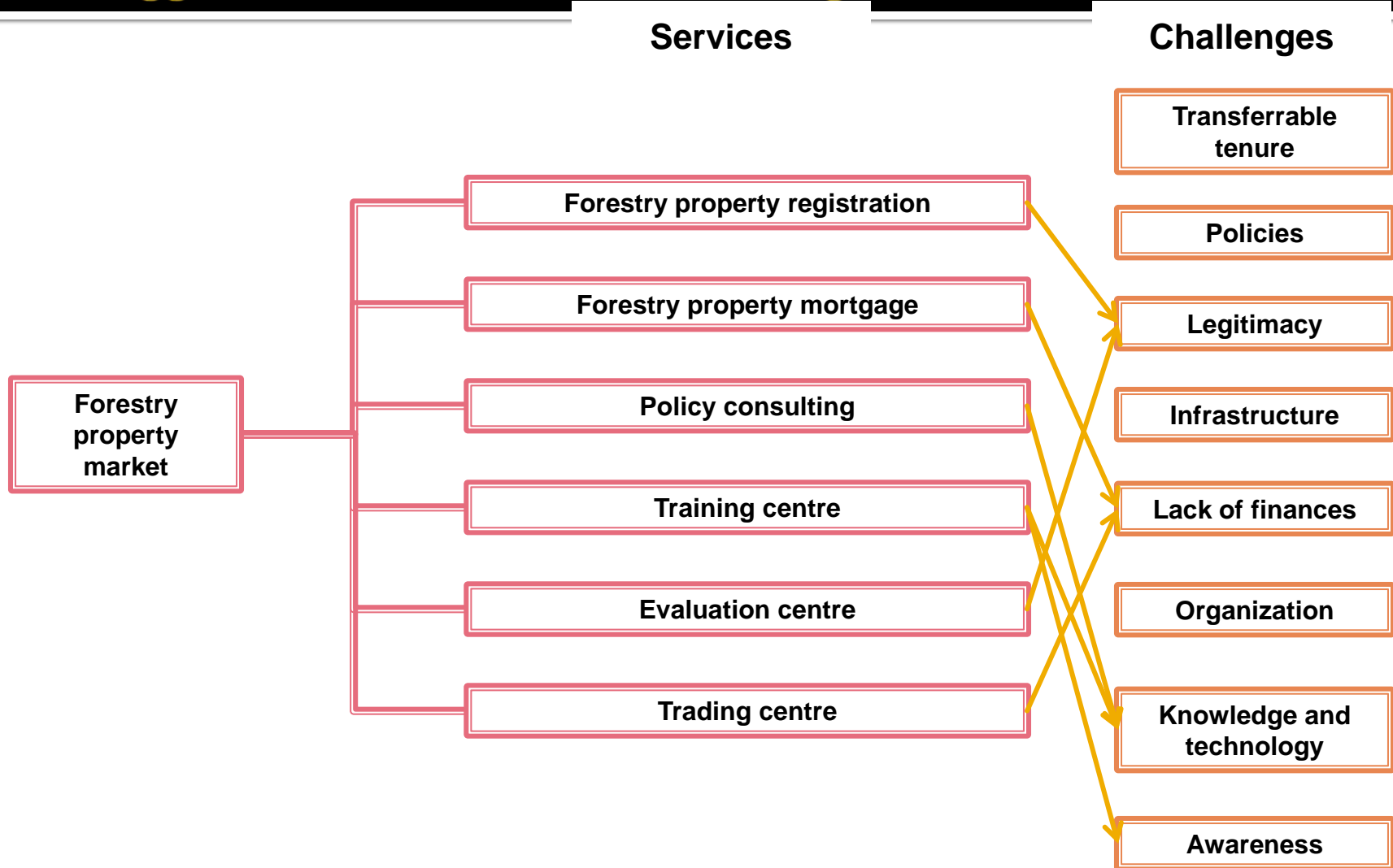
But, forest tenure reforms are not adequate.....
their success require mechanisms assisting on-the-ground enforcement



Forestry property markets

Yong'an Forestry Element Market

Tonggu Wood and Bamboo Trading Centre



Overall assessment

- Greater empowerment
- Increased income (poverty reduction)
- Stopping illegal logging
- Greater finances availability
- Better and more responsible forest management
- More training programs directed at educating and informing farmers
- Community cohesion

Remaining challenges

- Elite capture
- Illegal or unethical forest asset transactions
- Widening gap between rich and poor



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