

Red Star Collective Farm

By IAPC

September 23 is a wonderful day. It is China's Peasants' Harvest Festival, Argentina's National Day of Women's Political Rights (on this day in 1947, women in Argentina got the right to vote), and it is the birthday of Argentine comrade Paula. On such a memorable day, we set off for the Red Star Collective Farm on the outskirts of Beijing.

This collective farm is located on Nanzhong Axis Road in Daxing District, Beijing, about a 30-minute drive from the city center. Its past and present are the abbreviations of China's rural development and urbanization process, and it also carries red memory and thinking.



In the harvest season, of course, there must be the joy of harvest, and there is no way to enjoy this joy than to pick the fruit with your own hands. The Red Star Collective Farm's picking orchard covers a total area of 400 mu and is planted with apricots, apples, plums, cherries, grapes, pears, persimmons, prunes and other fruits. We ran to the apple orchard, but to be told that it was not yet ripe. The little joy is that there are still grapes hanging on the branches. The sweetness of the grapes is not enough. Paula, an agricultural expert, will of course also check the harvest of corn and the growth of sweet potatoes.



"Don't forget people who plant it when you eat." In the laughter and happiness, our thoughts were pulled to the front of a historical picture. After the founding of New China in 1949 , the relationship between peasants and land underwent three major changes: the first was the land reform in the early 1950s , where rural land was privately owned by peasants and the land

was managed by families; In the mid - 1950s , with the development of agricultural collectivization and the movement of people's communes, rural land was changed from privately owned by peasants to collectively owned. The land was first cooperatively managed , and then collectively managed ; the third time was in the 1980s , when the Household Contract Responsibility System was implemented, land ownership still belonged to the collective, peasants had the land contracted management right, and the land was managed by families.



The Red Star Collective Farm was born under the background of the second change. After the founding of the People's Republic of China, the Nanhaizi area in the southern part of Beijing was still a place of saline-alkali waterlogged depression, and a large number of pioneers continued to go here to reclaim wasteland. In 1952, eight peasant families in the Nanhaizi area established the "Poor Eight" primary agricultural production cooperatives. On this basis, the surrounding peasant families continue to join. In 1953 , the working group held an inaugural meeting in Jiangchang Village, the center of Nanhaizi area, and named it "Red Star Collective Farm" with the characteristics of the times. After the establishment of the Red Star Collective Farm, it has developed rapidly. The farm consists of 4 production teams, a large truck team and a breeding team. Each production team implements the principle of getting remuneration according to work, evaluation work and scoring, and getting more for more work, and everyone has a high enthusiasm for work, and they have had a great harvest in that year. By 1954, the number of peasant families who joined Red Star Collective Farm had increased from 523 to 850, and in 1955, the number had exceeded 1,000, becoming a rapidly developing example of collectivization in the agricultural history of New China. "The "Vision Plan for the Red Star Collective Farm" formulated by the Red Star Collective Farm is in line with the "First Five-Year Plan for the National Economy" formulated by the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, and also received the "Notes" written by Chairman Mao. In 1958 , as it merged with five other cooperatives and Beijing outskirts Farm, it was further expanded into the

¹ <https://baijiahao.baidu.com/s?id=1737132680756615889&wfr=spider&for=pc>

"Redstar People's Commune of Daxing County" with a total area of about 160 square kilometers. At this time, the people's commune was both an economic organization and a first-level political authority (exercising the powers of township governments). Since its establishment, the Red Star Collective Farm has been playing an important role as "the external window of China's new socialist countryside" and "the capital's main non-staple food production base", and has also welcomed the inspections of many foreign leaders. In the 1970s , Yang Zao (Erwin Engst) and Han Chun(Joan Hinton), the legendary couple of international communist fighters, settled in Hongxing Commune. They designed the first direct cooling milk tank and pipeline milking equipment for the dairy farm of Hongxing Commune respectively, which added red legend to Red Star Commune. ²In 1983 , under the requirements of the policy, the reform of separation of government and society began in rural areas. At the end of 1984 , the people's commune system withdrew from the stage of history. The current Red Star Collective Farm is already part of the state-owned enterprise-Beijing Shounong Food Group Co., Ltd. With the expansion of the city of Beijing, it has also changed from a simple planting farm to an urban agricultural park integrating tourism, leisure and vacation, catering and entertainment, agricultural experience, popular science education, youth development and other multi-functional issues ³.



Photo by Liu Guanghua and Li Zuhui of Red Star People's Commune in 1959

² <https://www.mzfxw.com/e/action/ShowInfo.php?classid=13&id=114132>

³ <https://www.163.com/dy/article/HGBA7J2K0552UKSY.html>

毛主席编共按：这是二十个编一千多户建成一个大合作社（他们叫做集体农庄社，即是合作社）的草案，是常计划，可作者也写了。为什么要有这样的计划呢？人们看一看它的内容就知道了一人（款）发展了十几年，在南边这个地方，直到现在方才取得了按照计划发展自己的经济和文化，像件自说自话了。这个计划，我同的而且说，二十五年地起变化，每二十五年将有一个较大的变化，接着几个五年将有一个更大的变化。

北京日报·旧京图说

"Notes" written by Chairman Mao



On June 8, 1963, Chairman Zhu De accompanied Cui Yongjian, Vice Chairman of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea to visit the Red Star China-DPRK Friendship People's Commune (South Suburb Farm). (Source: Propaganda Department of Shounong Group)



Hanchun(Joan Hinton) (left) and Yangzao(Erwin Engst) (right)

That period of working and living together has become a precious historical accumulation. In the harvest season of the new era, we believe Red Star Collective Farm will continue to bring us the joy of harvest.

References

1. <https://baijiahao.baidu.com/s?id=1737132680756615889&wfr=spider&for=pc>
2. <https://www.mzfxw.com/e/action/ShowInfo.php?classid=13&id=114132>
3. <https://www.163.com/dy/article/HGBA7I2K0552UKSY.html>