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李经谋

春天的机遇

(代序) 李经谋



当我们以百感交集的心情,告别难忘的 2008 年,迎来的却是 21 世纪最"寒冷"的春天。世界金融危机的爆发、蔓延,让料峭的初春更加寒气逼人。 在这场百年一遇的"寂静的海啸"冲击下,中国还 算幸运,然而,世界并不那么乐观,至今仍被"冰 封雪锁"。面对结伴而来的世界粮食危机、石油危机 和金融危机,人们试图从不同的角度来诠释,见仁 见智,莫衷一是。这三者之间究竟存在何种关系? 粮食危机对我国有什么影响?我们应该如何应对?

提高认知, 直面挑战

世界粮食危机、石油危机和金融危机的爆发,尽管原因复杂多样,但从根本上讲,是市场经济制度周期发展和政治博弈的必然结果。它不仅对世界金融体系和经济发展模式产生深远的影响,而且也对人们的价值观念造成巨大冲击。因此,提高粮食行业对此次互为推动、相互叠加的多重危机的认识,才能从容应对各种挑战。

粮食危机与石油危机和金融危机存在必然联系。粮食危机是这场金融风暴的先兆。全球粮价暴

涨,谷物期货价格连创历史新高,大大超出了因灾减产造成粮价波动的正常范围。许多发展中国家嗷嗷待哺的饥民买不起粮,吃不饱饭,致使骚乱频仍,联合国粮农组织敲响了"世界粮食危机"的警钟。然而,粮食危机尚未好转,石油危机接踵而至,本来有望创造每桶 200 美元天价的"神话",却由于美国次贷危机的爆发,在高价位戛然而止。于是,一场世界金融风暴在粮食价格、石油价格的"疯狂"中诞生。

从粮食危机与石油危机的关系看,国际油价新一轮上涨,提高了农业的生产成本,成为粮价上涨的重要因素;生物能源迅速发展,加剧了粮食供求的不平衡,成为推动本次粮价上涨最直接的原因。

从粮食危机与金融危机的关系看,美元是金融危机的主角,美元贬值是粮食、石油等大宗商品价格持续上涨的主要原因。美国网络泡沫破灭之后,为了刺激经济增长,美联储连续降息,刺激了房地产等市场的"繁荣",美国经济出现了低通胀、高就业的"完美"增长。华尔街五花八门的金融创新,使资产泡沫越滚越大,为危机埋下伏笔。美国长期实行的扩张性货币政策,既刺激了经济增长,也成全了全球通货膨胀。伴随美元贬值,流动性泛滥,大量投机资本涌入粮食等大宗商品市场,导致期货、现货价格持续上扬,居高不下的粮价进一步加剧了本已严重的粮食危机。

金融危机重创自由放任的市场经济模式。美国是世界粮食危机、石油危机和金融危机的始作俑者,"美国打个喷嚏,世界就会感冒",足见美国经济对世界影响之大。经济自由化形成的泡沫,几乎让所有的人失去理智,"金融家的贪婪、投资者的盲目、监管者的松懈、政府的失察"为金融危机的爆发埋下恶果,所谓"患生于多欲,害生于弗备"。"无可奈何花落去",自由经济风光不再,西方的政治精英们不得不对自己的价值观作出痛苦的否定:实施国有化,挽救金融业,提振房地产业,拯救汽车工业。具有讽刺意味的是,西方经济学家称其为"经济社会主义"。

粮食危机彰显社会主义市场经济优越性。当世界粮食危机爆发时,中国市场却是一番"粮食库存充裕,食品供应丰富,价格相对稳定"的欣欣向荣景象。这是我国多年来立足粮食自给方针,强化粮食扶持政策,严格保护生产资源,健全粮食储备体系的必然结果。中国以不足世界9%的耕地,养活了世界20%的人口,不仅为世界粮食安全作出重要贡献,也为发展中国家树立了一面旗帜。中国也因社会主义市场经济体制的优越

性。成为应对世界金融海啸的中流砥柱。

粮食问题的"异化"使粮食安全雪上加霜。"粮"和"食"自古以 来就紧密连在一起。随着时代的变迁,"粮"已经不单是"食"的问题, 它日益异化为政治问题、金融问题、能源问题、城市化和工业化等问题。 粮食金融属性的强化,使粮食问题愈益复杂和难以驾驭;粮食能源属性的 增强, 使汽车也要与人争粮; 而隐藏在利益背后的粮食阴谋, 使粮食的政 治属性更加浓重,粮食安全愈益雪上加霜。这是需要我们应以多维视觉重 新思考和面对的问题。

世界粮食危机没有缓解,而在继续恶化。尽管世界粮食价格与2008 年峰值相比有较大回落, 但仍然维持较高价位, 发展中国家买不起粮食的 问题依然存在,全世界近10亿缺粮人口并没有明显减少,仅亚太地区就 有 5.83 亿人口面临粮食短缺。影响世界粮食供求关系的基本因素并未改 变、粮食价格的新一轮上涨也将随世界经济的复苏接踵而至。这说明、世 界金融危机掩盖下的粮食危机不仅没有缓解,而且在恶化。可以预见.粮 食问题将是金融危机下的又一个全球性焦点。

把握机遇,加快发展

尽管世界粮食危机笼罩下的中国粮食市场"风景这边独好",但也应 该看到,世界经济衰退对粮食行业的潜在影响正在逐步显现,不可低估。 粮食生产和流通存在的诸多深层次矛盾和问题需要认真解决,不可掉以轻 心。要加快粮食行业的发展,必须居安思危,把握经济调整时期的难得机 遇,充分利用国家应对金融危机的一系列支持政策。"时来天地皆同力, 运去英雄不自由",切莫错失良机。

坚持粮食市场化方向不动摇。30年改革开放历程就是市场化的过程。 我们初步建立了与社会主义市场经济基本相适应的粮食流通体制,这是我 们应对世界粮食危机的体制基础。金融海啸席卷全球,但中国"坚持改 革开放不动摇",再次向世界发出最强音,明示: "危机意味着调整,调 整意味着机遇", "历史上的危机曾引起人们观念上的转变和思想的深 化",增强了全国人民"转危为机"的信心和决心。然而,面对近几年一 些地方粮食流通体制改革的徘徊和彷徨,感慨系之,"苦海有边,回头无 岸"!只有深化改革,加快发展,才能抓住后危机时代中国经济新一轮增 长的大好机遇。

保持粮食牛产和流通的协调发展。最近几年,国家为了建立粮食生产 持续稳定发展的长效机制, 保护和调动农民种粮积极性。制定了一系列强 农惠粮的政策措施,十分必要。但是,如何实践科学发展观,妥善处理粮 食长期不足与阶段性供过于求、粮食总量平衡与结构失衡、粮食周转储备 与战略储备等问题, 是实现粮食生产和流通协调发展的关键所在。不能单 纯追求"生产越多越好"、"储备越多越好",要保障宝贵粮食资源的高效 配置和社会资源的最大节约。

健全现代粮食市场体系。我国粮食市场体系已经初步形成,粮食批发 市场已成为合理配置粮食资源、加强粮食宏观调控的重要载体、期货市场 的预期价格指导作用和保值避险功能也得到较好发挥。但也应该看到、粮 食市场体系建设中还存在许多不可忽视的问题:现货市场上,商品粮流通 基本处于无序状态,政策粮尚未全部进入规范化流通渠道,现代粮食物流 还刚刚起步。期货市场上,粮油品种有待进一步开发,粮食期权和粮食价 格指数期货尚未列入议事日程,期货价格作为现货基准价的定价功能尚未 发挥。市场主体发育不成熟,作为粮食生产者的农民至今未能进入批发市 场和期货市场,成为粮食市场健康发展的重要制约因素等等。因此、健全 完善现代粮食市场体系,当务之急就是创新发展农产品批发市场和期货市 场。但这是一项系统工程、需要"虑善以动、动惟厥时"、不可一蹴而 就。

理顺粮食价格形成机制。粮食市场化改革的核心就是实现粮食资源的 合理配置,建立市场形成价格机制。目前,我国主要粮食品种实行最低收 购价政策,在一定历史时期内,对于保护农民种粮积极性、加强国家粮食 宏观调控具有重要作用。但粮价作为百价之基,政策性提价往往带来下游 产品及相关商品的系列涨价,而且也会给不正之风带来可乘之机;特别是 国内粮价已与国际市场"倒挂",有可能对我国的粮食生产和流通构成潜 在威胁。因此,健全、完善最低收购价政策,逐步建立市场经济条件下粮 食价格形成的新机制十分必要。

完善粮食宏观调控体系。市场放开后,价格波动是一种常态,特别是 与国际市场接轨后,更是如此。因此,完善健全粮食宏观调控体系,最重 要的是运用经济和法律手段,从宏观调控的主体、客体、手段、平台等方 面深化改革,以弥补市场失灵。集中行政权力和强化行政干预只能是权宜之计,"往者不可复兮,冀来今之可望"。

加快粮食法规制定。依法行政是社会主义市场经济的必然要求。"当时而立法,因事而制礼",要在认真总结现行粮食法律法规基础上,不失时机的加快《粮食法》的制定工作,这是实现粮食问题长治久安的重要保障。

前车之鉴,未雨绸缪

30 年改革开放,彻底打破了粮食行业封闭半封闭状态,国内粮食市场与国际粮食市场的联系日益紧密。应对国际粮价大幅波动,我们不可能独善其身;面对国际资本的进入,我们不可能关闭大门。应该看到,对外开放可能会使我国粮食产业受到比较大的冲击,但也为我们打开了一扇利用国际资源保障我国粮食安全之门。因此,充分利用两个市场、两种资源,建立新型竞争合作关系,是新时期的正确选择。但诸如大豆价格遭遇国际"陷阱"、食油痛失定价权力之类的教训十分深刻,需要我们认真反思。

粮食的话语权不可旁落。早在20世纪70年代,美国国务卿基辛格就曾预言:"谁控制了石油,谁就控制了所有国家;谁控制了粮食,谁就控制了所有的人。"粮食成为某些国际利益集团手中的武器,他们操纵市场,攫取财富,企图控制人类生存链条,从而获取更大的利益。不少发展中国家受发达国家"优惠政策"的诱使,迷信贸易自由化,放松甚至放弃粮食生产,教训惨痛。而中国几十年来始终坚持"自力更生,丰衣足食"的方针,成为从容应对粮食危机的制胜法宝。因此,面对日益严峻的世界粮食形势,粮食安全永远都是我国治国安邦的头等大事。因此,既要旗帜鲜明地反对贸易保护主义,又要牢牢把握涉及国家粮食安全的重要粮食品种的话语权。要根据我国市场发育的不同阶段,建立必要的进出口调控机制,避免"鹬蚌相争,渔翁得利"。对国际资本进入中国的涉粮行业,要设定范围,建立安全审查制度,以防大权旁落。

培育本土粮食"航母",应对国际竞争。粮食市场的大门已经打开, 国际大粮商越来越深地介入中国粮食行业已不可避免。这就需要我们从粮 食安全和宏观调控的战略高度出发,提高认知,更新观念,打破行业界 限,取消地区封锁,整合粮食资源,积极推进产权制度改革,逐步改变粮食企业多、小、散的现状,培育具有国际竞争力的大型粮食"航空母舰",应对来自国内和国际两个市场的竞争和挑战。

慎用国际金融衍生工具。作为市场经济"晴雨表"的期货市场,是市场发展的高级形态,其发现未来价格、套期保值和规避风险的功能,成为期货市场持续发展的根本动力。在国际粮油贸易中,利用期货市场保值避险十分必要。但是,也应看到,由于西方期货市场存在风险管理缺陷,价格的大幅度波动和持续的涨跌停板时有发生。因此,要把握入市时机,选择交易方式,尽量避免套期保值交易可能发生的价格风险。对于期货投机,不可存侥幸心理,更不可贸然入市,以免造成重大财产损失。

坚持农产品期货市场发展的正确方向。世界金融危机的爆发,使金融衍生品备受争议,一些有识之士呼唤期货风险管理的理性回归。在世界粮食危机和金融危机的冲击下,中国农产品期货市场"任凭风吹浪打,胜似闲庭信步",期货价格与现货价格相辅相成,客观地反映未来价格的走势,交易规模不断扩大,世界排名不断刷新,这是我国农产品期货市场健康发展的集中体现。但是还应该看到,中国期货市场与国际期货市场健康发展的生相比,仍然有较大差距,加快其发展和创新步伐,满足与日俱增的保值、避险和投资需要,是我国期货市场发展的主旋律。因此,大力开发与实体经济相关的期货品种,严防国际投机资本的操纵行为,坚持和完善我国现有的风险管理机制,加强期货行业的规范自律,是期货市场健康发展的根本保证。

面对世界经济的冬天,我们不禁要问:"冬天来了,春天还会远吗?"中国经济率先复苏似乎已成定局。可以预见,当世界经济复苏之时,正是中国经济新一轮高速增长之始。"圣人常顺时而动,智者必因机以发",展现在"圣人"和"智者"面前的将是一幅更加美好的景色:山重水复已有路,柳暗花明又一春。

2009年3月18日

Opportunity in Spring

Preface

Li Jingmou

Soon after we bid farewell to the unforgettable year of 2008 with mingled sensations, we were faced with the "coldest" spring of the 21st century, which was caused by the breakout and spreading of the world financial crisis. In front of the "silent tsunami" not likely to happen in a century, China is quite fortunate. But it is not so optimistic with the world, which is still deeply frozen. Faced with the world food crisis, crude oil crisis and financial crisis that came up in succession, people have been trying to explain them from different angles, but have not yet achieved a consensus. What kind of relationship exists among the three crises? How will the world food crisis affect China? How should we respond to it?

Heighten Cognition, Face up to Challenges

The reasons for the breakout of the world food crisis, crude oil crisis and financial crisis are various, but in essence they are the necessary results of the cyclical development of the market economy system and the political game playing. It will not only impose far – reaching effects on the financial systems and economic development modes in the world, but also inflict great impact to people's values. Therefore, it is very important for us to heighten our understanding of the crises that caused and stacked each other so as to be able to deal with them leisurely.

There is a necessary relationship among the food crisis, crude oil crisis and financial crisis. Food crisis was the omen of the financial crisis. The world

grain prices rose sharply, and the prices of cereal futures hit record highs consecutively and unreasonably, resulting in some developing countries being unable to afford to buy grains and even getting into riots, and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations giving out the alarm of "World Food Crisis". While the food crisis was not yet over, the crude oil crisis came up. It was only when the sub - prime mortgage crisis broke out in the United States did the "myth" that the crude oil price was going to reach 200 dollars per gallon stopped spreading suddenly. Thus, the world financial crisis came into being in the "madness" of the food and crude oil prices.

From the angle of the relationship between the food crisis and the crude oil crisis, the new round of increases of international crude oil price greatly raised the cost of agricultural production, and became one of the main factors causing the increase of grain prices; at the same time, the rapid development of bio fuels aggravated the unbalance between grain supply and demand, and became the most direct cause for the increase of grain prices.

From the angle of the relationship between the food crisis and the financial crisis, the US dollar played the main role of the financial crisis, and the depreciation of the US dollar was the main cause for the continuous increases of grains, crude oil and other staple commodities prices. After the US Network Bubble burst, the US Federal Reserve consecutively cut saving benefit rates in the US, which prompted the "prosperity" of its real estate markets, resulting in the "perfect" low - inflation and high - employment growth of its economy. The various financial innovations in the Wall Street made the asset bubble bigger and bigger, paving the way for the financial crisis. The expansionary monetary policy implemented by the US stimulated its economic growth, but caused the global inflation as well. Along with the depreciation of the US dollar and the flooding of fluidity, large amounts of capital went into grain and other staple commodity markets, causing continuous rise of futures and spot prices, further deteriorating the food crisis that was already very serious.

The financial crisis brought a heavy blow to the mode of unlimitedly free market economy. All the global food crisis, crude oil crisis and financial crisis

originated from the US. "The US sneezes, and the whole world would suffer from influenza". It shows how deeply the US economy can affect the world. The bubble caused by economic liberalization made nearly everyone out of mind. "Greed of financiers, blindness of investors, slack of regulators and neglect of government" were causes for the financial crisis. It was just like the saying that "Trouble comes out of too many desires, and damage originates from no preparedness." "It is no use to prevent flowers from withering." Free economy is no longer popular. The western political elites had to painfully deny their own values while adopting nationalization, saving financial industry, stimulating real estate industry, and relieving auto industry. Ironically, western economists call it "economic socialism".

The advantages of the socialist market economy were highlighted in the world food crisis. While the world food crisis was spreading throughout the world, in China the grain reserve was ample, the food supply was abundant, and the prices were quite stable. It was the necessary result of China's adhering to the guideline of food self - sufficiency, improving its grain production support policies, strictly protecting production resources and perfecting its grain reserve systems during the past decades. China has been raising 20% of the population in the world with less than 9% of the arable land in the world, not only greatly contributing to world food security, but also setting an example to the developing countries. With its advantages of the socialist market economy, China has become a tower of strength in dealing with the world financial crisis.

The "dissimilation" of the issue of grain adds to the problems with food security. "Grain" and "food" have been closely linked to each other. Along with changes of times, grain is no longer related to just the issue of food. It has dissimilated to become related to issues of politics, finance, energy, urbanization and industrialization. The intensification of financial attributes of grain is making the grain issue more complicated and more difficult to control; the intensification of energy attributes of grain is making cars to compete with people for grain; and the grain conspiracy hidden behind interests is strengthening the political attributes of grain, adding to the problems with food security. This is an issue that we

need to reconsider and face up with from multi - dimensional angles.

The global food crisis is deteriorating rather than mitigating. The world grain prices have fallen greatly compared with the peaks in last year, but they are still quite high. The problem that the developing countries can't afford to buy grain still exists, with 583 million people in the Asia – Pacific region alone faced with food shortage. The essential factors affecting the relationship between grain supply and demand in the world have not changed, and a new round of increases of grain prices is sure to come along with recovery of world economy. All the above shows that the food crisis covered by the global financial crisis is deteriorating rather than mitigating. It is foreseeable that the issue of grain is going to be another focus in the world in the financial crisis.

Take Advantage of Opportunities, Speed up Development

Under the shadow of the world food crisis, China's grain market is "uniquely good". But we should notice and not underestimate the fact that the potential effects of the global economic recession on our grain industry are appearing gradually, and many deeply – rooted contradictions and problems in grain production and distribution need to be dealt with seriously. In order to speed up development, we should be prepared for danger in times of safety, take advantage of the rare opportunities during the period of economic readjustment, and make full use of the series of support policies by our government to cope with the financial crisis. "It is now a rare time when all good opportunities show up, and even heroes are going to be helpless without taking advantage of them." We should never miss these opportunities.

We should firmly continue to proceed in the direction of grain marketization. The process of the reform and opening – up in the past 30 years is one of marketization. We have roughly set up a grain distribution system suitable to our socialist market economy, which was the system basis on which we dealt with the world food crisis. The financial tsunami is sweeping throughout the world, but China is firmly insisting on reform and opening – up, voicing loudly and explicitly to the world, "Crisis means readjustment, and readjustment means op-

portunity." "The crises in the past changed our views, deepened our thinking", and enhanced the confidence and determination of all the people in China to "turn crisis into opportunity". However, looking back at the hesitations in the reform of our grain distribution system during the past few years, we could only sigh with emotion. "There is an end to the bitter sea, but there is no shore if you return." Only if we deepen reform and speed up development could we seize the good opportunity for a new round of development of China's economy after the crises.

We should maintain coordinated development of grain production and distribution. During the recent years, our government announced a series of policies and measures to support agriculture and grain farmers so as to set up an effective long – term mechanism for sustainable and stable development of grain production and protect and encourage farmers' initiative to plant grain, which is very necessary. But putting into practice the theory of scientific development and properly tackling the problems of long – term shortage and periodical surplus of grain supply, balance of gross grain output and unbalance of structure, cyclical grain reserve and strategic grain reserve, etc., are an important guarantee to realize coordinated development of grain production and distribution. We should pursue efficient allocation of our precious grain resources and greatest saving of our social resources instead of just "more output and more reserve".

We should perfect our modern grain market system. China's grain market system has taken shape roughly, and our grain wholesale markets have become important carriers for reasonably allocating grain resources and strengthening macro – regulation over grain production. Meanwhile the guiding role in forecasting prices and the function of keeping values and avoiding risks of futures markets are also working quite well. But we should notice that there are still many problems with the building of our grain market system that should not be neglected. For example, in terms of the spot market, commercial grain distribution is basically in disorder, policy grain distribution is not all in standardized channels, and modern grain logistics is just taking shape. In terms of the futures market, more types of grains and oils are yet to be developed, grain options and