

Ginseng Production Policy in China

Guang-Chen Li

Science and Technology Commission of Jilin Province

In recent years reform and open door policy have made the traditional ginseng production obtain good chance of development. In order to adapt to the demand of domestic and foreign markets, Chinese government has set raising the quality of ginseng products and producing famous brand of products as the goals. The government has advanced technical reform and adopted a series of strengthened measures. Main points are as follows:

(1) The planting area is strictly controlled and intensive cultivation is encouraged. Up to now, traditional cultivating methods of ginseng have been continuously used in China. The rotation of 33 years is carried out, since ecological region is only limited to Changbai Mountain in northeast (mainly Jilin Province) and the region is under forest resource protection. Ginseng land is becoming increasingly intense. Thus the government adopted a strict system of land examination and approval, permits ginseng farmers to maintain a fixed management scale in each year, not allowing to reclaim at will. Meanwhile, the government encourages the farmers to adopt high yield cultivation techniques. For instance, choose a good variety, apply earth mulch, employ cake fertilizer, etc. Even in case any output doesn't reach a fixed level, continuous management is forbidden.

(2) The system of management and administration has been perfected. Planned production has also been carried out. Since 1983, "a double track system" of ginseng production and management has been carried out on the basis of ensuring purchase and export assignment of nation. Ginseng farmers had been permitted to self-manage. Bad managements caused the confusion of market for a while. Hence the government had to adopt the method of exclusive management, taking big companies of ginseng and antler or united organization as backbone. They unifiedly purchase, process and sale fresh gi-

nseng produced by ginseng farmers, while the government commands foreign trade, medicine and specialty department to organize export. They purchase products through the office of ginseng leading group. Following the change of market, the government guides ginseng farmers and gives the protection policy. Ginseng production is under the control of nation's plan.

(3) The standard of the technological quality of products is issued and the protection of property right is carried out. The standards of ginseng technology that have been carried out in China include the standard cultivation of main varieties, processing technology of red ginseng, inspection of main product quality, etc. They amount to decades of national and local standards that had been carried out by health, medicine, industry and commerce departments and supervised by national standards measure office. For instance, red ginseng processing needs to be examined and approved by health and epidemic prevention departments. Only after the production licence has been verified and distributed, production can be organized.

(4) The policy of combining scientific techniques with production is carried out and the scientific reform of ginseng is greatly advanced. Chinese government started technical reform of ginseng production in two aspects. First, achievements in scientific research are informed to ginseng farmers. The technical qualities of ginseng farmers are enhanced by means of distributing pamphlet, visiting, training and on-the-spot guidance. Secondly, professional scientific researchers are organized to concentrate on tackling key problems. Some emphasized plans of scientific research obtain national financial aids. The scientific researchers who gained achievements are granted honour and material rewarded by nation and they greatly advanced the work of the field.