

*Agriculture and Sino-Canadian Relations: Hsieh Pei-chi and His Farmers Program**

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Abstract

This article discusses the intermediary activities of Hsieh Pei-chi, a Shandong-born, Taiwan- and U.S.-educated historian active in Canada's main agricultural province of Saskatchewan. We focus on a China Farmers Program, a project jointly implemented by China's Ministries of Agricultural Machinery (農業機械部 *Nongye jixiebu*) and Land Reclamation (農墾部 *Nongkenbu*) and the Province of Saskatchewan during the early 1980s. The study carefully examines the intermediary, broker role played by Hsieh in the complex negotiations between Chinese ministries and a regional Canadian government. Drawing on Fei Xiaotong's research on rural Chinese society and the historical record of Chinese intermediary activities, the article reflects on the role and significance of the Chinese *zhongjianren* (中間人 intermediary) in China's modern interaction with overseas partners.

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*The authors thank Sigrid Schmalzer, Andrew Morris, and Shigeo Nishimura for their insights on various topics related to this study. We also appreciated the helpful and supportive comments anonymous reviewers provided.