

PAPER

Study on Peasant Household's Willingness to Continue Using E-Commerce Platform for Agricultural Products

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ABSTRACT

The agricultural product e-commerce platform enables users in agriculture-related fields to complete online production, sales, trading, and payment. This paper employs a structural equation model to empirically examine the significant positive impact of platform environment, trust, satisfaction, polyfunctionality, operation cost, and other factors on peasant households' intention for continuous use. This is achieved through the collection of questionnaires and the development of hypotheses and models using structural equation model (SEM). The platform environment, trust, satisfaction, and MF all benefit from lower operating costs.

KEYWORDS

peasant household, e-commerce, e-commerce platform for agricultural product, continuity participation intention

1 INTRODUCTION

E-commerce platforms, in general, refer to e-commerce platforms, and retaining users and attracting customers has become an unavoidable marketing problem. Existing research on agricultural e-commerce platforms has done a lot of analysis and demonstration on the first use, innovation, drainage, and platform content of peasant households, but little research has been done on the platform's continuous use intention. The brand loyalty and stickiness of peasant households are extremely important to e-commerce businesses. Based on the literature review, this paper chooses four representative factors for analysis: polyfunctionality (MF), platform environment (PE), trust (TR), and satisfaction (CSI), and uses operation cost (PE) as a regulating variable. For data analysis, the structural equation model (SEM) was used.

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2 LITERATURE REVIEW AND HYPOTHESIS

2.1 Continuous use intention

E-commerce platforms must be designed with the concept of “people-oriented” in mind from the start, and it is expected that harmony and satisfaction will have a significant impact on peasant households’ intention to continue using the platform. Based on the theory of expectation confirmation, Almarzouqi A used the PLS algorithm and bootstrapping to test the continuous use intention of an online education platform based on the path coefficient and significance level between factors, and discovered that user satisfaction and expectation confirmation had a positive impact on the continuous use intention [1]. Park S demonstrated, using the technology acceptance and use model, that improving users’ perception and using interesting performance can effectively increase users’ continuous use intention to bike-sharing [2]. Bhattacharjee discovered that the key elements are developing a mature information system and retaining users’ continuous use [3]. Peasant homes of various ages and stages are confronted with an e-commerce platform for agricultural products. Accurate design will meet the needs of various applicable people, which is also essential for the long-term use of peasant homes.

2.2 Satisfaction

Satisfaction is the most fundamental factor influencing the actual platform experience, as well as the most direct factor influencing the intention to continue using the platform. Purohit S empirically tested, using the expected confirmation theory and the use intention model that perceived satisfaction is positively correlated with users’ intention to continue participating in mobile libraries [4]. Thanomsing C used a questionnaire survey to examine the positive influence of user experience satisfaction on the continuation participation intention of the WeChat official account platform using the TAM model [5]. Kwangsawad A discovered that the higher the level of user satisfaction, the higher the intention of community users to continue using the service [6]. Using the technology acceptance model (TAM) and the expected confirmation theory, Bhattacharjee empirically tested whether satisfaction has a significant positive effect on continuous use intention [7]. On this basis, the following assumptions are advanced:

H1: Satisfaction has a significant positive impact on the continuous use of e-commerce platform.

2.3 Trust

Kao, W. K believes that the intermediary effect of trust has a significant negative impact on consumers’ mobile business behavior [8]. Laksamana P thinks that the risk perception ability of users is negatively correlated with trust and further draws the conclusion that trust will affect the use intention of e-commerce [9]. Based on this, the following assumptions are put forward:

H2: Trust has a significant positive impact on the continuous use of e-commerce platform.

2.4 Platform environment

Sadaa A. M. use a structural equation model to investigate how users' perceived usefulness and service quality of online platforms affect their satisfaction and use intention [10]. The SERVQUAL model, combined with the personalized recommendation evaluation scale of an e-commerce platform, is used by Villi, Fan W to test whether bad recommendation overload in the platform environment causes compulsive online control for users and even has a negative impact on the platform's continuation participation intention [11]. The following assumptions are advanced in this paper:

- H3: Platform environment has a significant positive impact on the sustainable use of e-commerce platform.*
- H4: Platform Environment has a significant positive impact on trust.*
- H5: Platform Environment has a significant positive impact on satisfaction.*

2.5 Multifunctionality

Zhao X explored the use of "Season" big data intelligent push technology on the green plant e-commerce platform and recommended the green plants planted in season by using the basic information and planting preferences of peasant household users, so as to realize the humanized design of the app and improve users' satisfaction [12]. Based on the platform perspective, Wu F. S. combined with previous studies and concluded that we should not only pay attention to the scale of the platform but also pay attention to the complementary role between platform enterprises and participants so as to realize more functional development [13]. Based on this, the following assumptions are put forward:

- H6: Polyfunctionality has a significant positive impact on the sustainable use of e-commerce platform.*
- H7: Multifunctional has a significant positive impact on trust.*
- H8: polyfunctionality has a significant positive impact on satisfaction.*

2.6 Operation cost

When studying tourists' sustained willingness to use travel apps, Lin S. Y. used a structural equation model to empirically test that switching cost plays a positive role in regulating perceived usefulness and sustained willingness [14]. Rezaei R. used the TAM research method to empirically demonstrate that operation cost, as a regulating variable, positively and significantly affected the user's usage stickiness [15]. On this basis, the following assumptions are advanced:

- H9: operation cost plays a positive regulatory role between platform environment and continuity participation intention.*
- H10: operation cost plays a positive regulatory role between trust and continuity participation intention.*
- H11: operation cost plays a positive regulatory role between satisfaction and continuity participation intention.*
- H12: operation cost plays a positive regulatory role between polyfunctionality and continuity participation intention.*

3 QUESTIONNAIRE DESIGN AND DATA COLLECTION

In this section, a questionnaire survey is mainly used to explore the model relationship. By designing the questionnaire and determining the model relationship, the relationship between variables is demonstrated. After the questionnaire was collected, data analysis software and analysis language were used to explain the results.

3.1 Questionnaire design

Based on previous research, the independent variables of the questionnaire in this paper are platform environment and polyfunctionality, with satisfaction and trust degree serving as intermediary variables. The regulating variable is operation cost, and the dependent variable is using intention. Satisfactoriness and trust degree are introduced as novel intermediary variables in the model.

3.2 Data collection

This questionnaire mainly investigates peasant households, and the questionnaire mainly uses an online collection platform to ask questions to investigate peasant households. The group is mainly collected through the official platform of the township and the recommendations of the circle of friends. The sampling method used in questionnaire sampling is the snowball sampling method. At the beginning of this collection, the number of respondents was set at 600, and the number of valid questionnaires was 575 after eliminating the waste papers, with an effective rate of 95.83%.

4 VARIABLE MEASUREMENT

This section depicts the dimension's items and categorizes them as platform environment, trust degree, polyfunctionality, operation cost, satisfaction, and use intention. The platform environment is subdivided into four categories: information acquisition cost, e-commerce training, information drainage and development, and transaction volume (see Table 1).

Table 1. Variable measurement

Variable Name	Number	Item
Platform environment	PE1	The platform has low cost for peasant household to obtain information.
	PE2	The platform regularly provides professional e-commerce training for peasant household.
	PE3	The platform gives peasant household good information drainage.
	PE4	The platform attaches importance to the development and turnover of the agricultural sector.
Trust degree	TR1	The operation of this platform protects the interests of peasant household.
	TR2	The platform gives peasant household appropriate benefits.
	TR3	The platform operator will ensure the quality and standards of operation.
	TR4	The platform line has high payment trust.

(Continued)

Table 1. Variable measurement (*Continued*)

Variable Name	Number	Item
Polyfunctionality	MF1	This platform provides peasant household with information about other similar products.
	MF2	This platform provides agricultural contract collaboration for Little peasant household.
	MF3	The platform provides certain agricultural subsidies for peasant household.
	MF4	The platform provides logistics service support for peasant household.
Operation cost	UC1	Using other platforms will cause short-term inadaptability of peasant household.
	UC2	Other platform services are highly uncertain.
	UC3	Replacing other e-commerce platform may make me lose the subsidies and benefits of this platform.
	UC4	Using other platforms requires more cost.
Satisfaction	CSI1	You are satisfied with the convenience and sexy operation of this e-commerce platform.
	CSI2	You are satisfied with the service provided by this e-commerce platform.
	CSI3	You are satisfied with your operating experience in this e-commerce platform.
	CSI4	You are satisfied with the income of this e-commerce operation platform.
	CSI5	You are satisfied with the overall e-commerce platform.
Use intention	CI1	You are willing to continue to use the e-commerce platform.
	CI2	You would recommend other peasant household to use the platform together.
	CI3	You will continue to update your products on the platform.
	CI4	If you have the chance, you will use other sections of the platform.
	CI5	You have a high positive evaluation of the e-commerce platform.

5 DATA ANALYSIS AND RESULTS

SPSS26.0 and AMOS23.0 were used to analyze the data, and the SEM was used in AMOS26.0 to analyze the entire variable path relationship. It is necessary to verify the data reconciliation relationship with the help of a process plug-in during the verification of the reconciliation relationship.

5.1 Descriptive analysis

There are 310 men in this survey, accounting for 53.91 percent, and 265 women, accounting for 46.09 percent. In terms of age distribution, 195 people are between the ages of 36 and 45, accounting for 33.91 percent, and 188 people are between the ages of 26 and 35, accounting for 32.70 percent. The age group 46–55 accounts

for 16.87 percent of the population. There are 402 people with junior high school education or less, accounting for 69.91 percent of those with the highest education, and 138 people with senior high school or higher vocational education, accounting for 24 percent. There are 17 junior college students, accounting for 2.96 percent; 13 undergraduate students, accounting for 2.26 percent; and 5 graduate students and above, accounting for 0.87 percent. In terms of regional logistics convenience, 194 people are very convenient, accounting for 33.74 percent; 231 people are convenient, accounting for 40.17 percent; 78 people think logistics is general, accounting for 13.57 percent; 50 people think logistics is inconvenient, accounting for 8.7 percent; and 22 people are very inconvenient, accounting for 3 percent (see Table 2).

Table 2. Frequency analysis results

Name	Option	Frequency	Percentage (%)	Cumulative Percentage (%)
Gender	Male	310	53.91	53.91
	Female	265	46.09	100.00
Age	Under 25 years old	56	9.74	9.74
	Between the ages of 26 and 35	188	32.70	42.43
	Between 36 and 45 years old	195	33.91	76.35
	Between 46 and 55 years old	97	16.87	93.22
	Over 56 years old	39	6.78	100.00
Official academic credentials	Junior school	402	69.91	69.91
	High school/higher vocational school	138	24.00	93.91
	Universities and colleges	17	2.96	96.87
	Undergraduate course	13	2.26	99.13
	Graduate students and above	5	0.87	100.00
How convenient is the logistics in your area?	Very convenient	194	33.74	33.74
	Convenient	231	40.17	73.91
	Common	78	13.57	87.48
	Inconvenient	50	8.70	96.17
	Very inconvenient	22	3.83	100.00
Total		575	100.0	100.0

5.2 Reliability analysis

The reliability values of platform environment, trust degree, polyfunctionality, operation cost, satisfaction, and use intention are 0.933, 0.920, 0.929, 0.915, 0.939, and 0.945, respectively, which is based on an analysis of the reliability of different dimensions. The reliability values of the questionnaire's sub-dimensions are all greater than 0.9, and the reliability test results are satisfactory (see Table 3).

Table 3. Reliability analysis of each scale

Variable Name	Item	Total Correlation of Correction Items (CCIC Coefficient)	After the Item has been Deleted Cronbach's α Coefficient	Cronbach's α Coefficient
Platform environment	PE1	0.962	0.872	0.933
	PE2	0.771	0.935	
	PE3	0.861	0.906	
	PE4	0.786	0.931	
Trust degree	TR1	0.955	0.847	0.920
	TR2	0.742	0.920	
	TR3	0.770	0.911	
	TR4	0.803	0.900	
Polyfunctionality	MF1	0.956	0.865	0.929
	MF2	0.865	0.897	
	MF3	0.762	0.930	
	MF4	0.761	0.930	
Operation cost	UC1	0.966	0.831	0.915
	UC2	0.750	0.908	
	UC3	0.785	0.896	
	UC4	0.733	0.916	
Satisfaction	CSI1	0.979	0.898	0.939
	CSI2	0.854	0.921	
	CSI3	0.794	0.933	
	CSI4	0.776	0.935	
	CSI5	0.785	0.934	
Use intention	CI1	0.978	0.910	0.945
	CI2	0.859	0.932	
	CI3	0.807	0.940	
	CI4	0.814	0.939	
	CI5	0.806	0.941	

5.3 Validity analysis

According to the validity table (see Table 4), the research item information can be effectively extracted. Furthermore, the KMO value is 0.816, which is greater than 0.6, indicating that the data can be effectively extracted. Furthermore, the variance interpretation rates of the six factors are 16.396 percent, 13.765 percent, 13.502 percent, 13.476 percent, 13.358 percent, and 12.539 percent, and the cumulative variance interpretation rate after rotation is 83.035 percent > 50 percent. It means that the research item's information content can be effectively extracted.

Platform environment, trust degree, polyfunctionality, operation cost, satisfaction, and use intention are all factors. Qualified validity indicates that this model's relationship is reasonable and that the results of subsequent analysis can be fully explained.

Table 4. Validity analysis

Name	Factor Load Factor					
	Factor 1	Factor 2	Factor 3	Factor 4	Factor 5	Factor 6
PE1	0.212	0.161	0.255	0.140	0.898	0.029
PE2	0.186	0.196	0.060	0.027	0.851	0.075
PE3	0.141	0.194	0.234	0.067	0.861	0.005
PE4	0.143	-0.007	0.226	0.250	0.807	0.054
TR1	0.099	0.917	0.250	0.095	0.171	-0.055
TR2	-0.068	0.860	0.217	-0.023	-0.007	0.010
TR3	0.230	0.781	0.239	0.154	0.132	0.014
TR4	0.092	0.820	0.198	0.121	0.271	-0.106
MF1	0.173	0.161	0.239	0.901	0.113	-0.146
MF2	0.148	0.055	0.245	0.871	0.074	-0.104
MF3	0.198	0.150	0.218	0.795	0.055	-0.070
MF4	0.069	-0.005	0.099	0.848	0.191	-0.078
UC1	-0.136	-0.025	0.038	-0.140	0.040	0.963
UC2	-0.093	0.102	-0.040	0.052	0.053	0.873
UC3	-0.184	-0.174	-0.015	-0.154	-0.038	0.847
UC4	-0.061	-0.034	0.070	-0.112	0.075	0.833
CS1	0.935	0.078	0.201	0.120	0.173	-0.106
CS2	0.864	0.133	0.146	0.117	0.157	-0.121
CS3	0.824	0.101	0.142	0.162	0.146	-0.072
CS4	0.818	0.039	0.153	0.137	0.104	-0.097
CS5	0.777	0.013	0.296	0.091	0.144	-0.196
CI1	0.278	0.327	0.800	0.286	0.248	0.043
CI2	0.266	0.230	0.779	0.222	0.256	0.084
CI3	0.272	0.270	0.729	0.239	0.206	0.008
CI4	0.214	0.416	0.667	0.259	0.224	-0.063
CI5	0.253	0.279	0.729	0.227	0.188	0.019
Feature root value (after rotation)	4.263	3.579	3.510	3.504	3.473	3.260
Variance interpretation rate% (after rotation)	16.396%	13.765%	13.502%	13.476%	13.358%	12.539%
Cumulative variance interpretation rate% (after rotation)	16.396%	30.161%	43.663%	57.139%	70.497%	83.035%
KMO value	0.816					
Barth spherical value	18442.788					
df	325					
P value	0.000					

5.4 Model validation

The CMIN/DF value of the confirmatory factor analysis model in this study is 2.568, and the other adaptation indexes are 0.904, 0.915, 0.902, 0.915, 0.814, and 0.082, indicating that the model is well matched with the scale. The fitting index of the model is good, which further verifies that the peasant household use intention model set in this paper is reasonable (see Table 5).

Table 5. Model fit test

CMIN	df	CMIN/DF	NFI	NFI	NFI	TLI	GFI	RMSEA
513.563	200	2.568	0.904	0.915	0.902	0.915	0.814	0.082
Standard		<3	>0.8	>0.9	>0.9	>0.9	>0.8	<0.1

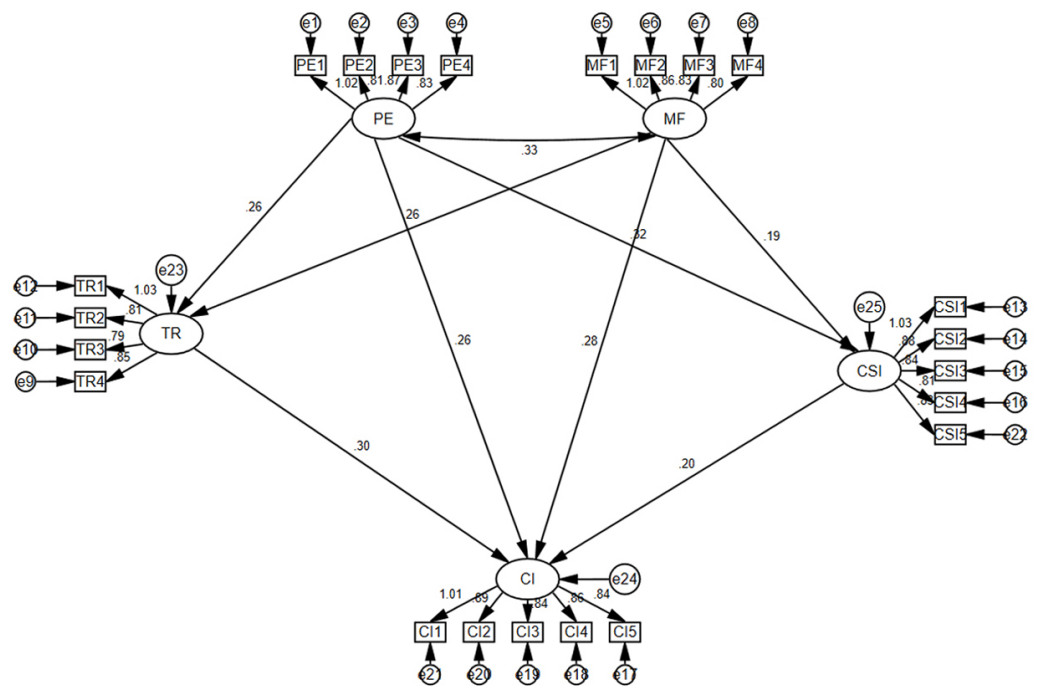


Fig. 1. Structural equation modeling diagram

Table 6. Path coefficient analysis

			ECSEstimate	S.E.	C.R.	P
Trust degree	<—	Platform environment	0.226	0.031	7.305	***
Trust degree	<—	Polyfunctionality	0.228	0.031	7.249	***
Satisfaction	<—	Polyfunctionality	0.190	0.035	5.413	***
Satisfaction	<—	Platform environment	0.330	0.035	9.438	***
Use intention	<—	Platform environment	0.208	0.023	8.913	***
Use intention	<—	Polyfunctionality	0.224	0.023	9.678	***
Use intention	<—	Satisfaction	0.160	0.022	7.236	***
Use intention	<—	Trust degree	0.279	0.028	9.861	***

From the description of the path relationship of the model, it can be seen that the path coefficient of platform environment to trust degree is 0.226 ($P < 0.05$), which indicates that platform environment has a positive impact on trust degree. Among the path coefficients of multifunctionality to trust degree, the path coefficient is 0.228 ($P < 0.05$), and the path is significant, which indicates that multifunctionality has a positive influence on trust degree. In the influence of polyfunctionality on satisfaction, the path coefficient is 0.190 ($P < 0.05$), and it is assumed that polyfunctionality can positively influence satisfaction. On the influence of platform environment on satisfaction, the path coefficient is 0.330 ($P < 0.05$), which shows that the path is significant and the platform environment can positively influence satisfaction. The path coefficients for the four influencing factors of use intention, platform environment, polyfunctionality, satisfaction, and trust degree are 0.208, 0.224, 0.160, and 0.279, respectively, and significance can be achieved. As a result, the platform environment, polyfunctionality, satisfaction, and degree of trust all have a positive effect on use intention. The degree of trust has the greatest influence on use intention (see Table 6).

5.5 Moderating effect analysis

When the main path coefficient is affected by the adjustment variable, it means that the change in the adjustment variable can affect the expression of the main path coefficient. Combined with this paper, taking operation cost as a regulating variable, this paper explores what role operation cost plays in a pea house's use intention.

Table 7. Analysis results of the regulatory effect of operation cost on platform environment

	Model 1	Model 2	Model 3
Constant	3.397** (81.699)	3.397** (81.808)	3.391** (83.230)
Platform environment	0.541** (15.591)	0.543** (15.660)	0.545** (16.034)
Operation cost		0.056 (1.592)	0.022 (0.619)
Platform environment * Operation cost			0.126** (4.901)
R^2	0.298	0.301	0.329
Adjusted R^2	0.297	0.299	0.326
Variance ratio	F (1,573) = 243.072, p = 0.000	F (2,572) = 123.129, p = 0.000	F (3,571) = 93.395, p = 0.000
Dependent variable: use intention			

* $p < 0.05$ ** $p < 0.01$; The value of t is in brackets.

In the moderating effect of operation cost on use intention in a platform environment, the regression coefficient of the interaction term between them is 0.126, and the interaction term is significant, so it can be seen that operation cost has a positive moderating effect on the relationship between platform environment and use intention (see Table 7).

Table 8. Regulatory effect analysis results

	Model 4	Model 5	Model 6
Constant	3.397** (86.505)	3.397** (86.450)	3.405** (86.594)
Trust degree	0.604** (18.491)	0.606** (18.455)	0.598** (18.170)
Operation cost		0.018 (0.531)	0.024 (0.719)
Trust degree * Operation cost			0.059* (2.166)
Sample size	575	575	575
R^2	0.374	0.374	0.374
Adjusted R^2	0.373	0.372	0.376
F value	F (1,573) = 341.901, p = 0.000	F (2,572) = 170.877, p = 0.000	F (3,571) = 116.217, p = 0.000
Dependent variable: use intention.			
* p < 0.05 ** p < 0.01; The value of t is in brackets.			

The regression coefficient of the interaction term between them in the moderating effect of operation cost on trust degree to use intention is 0.059. The significance of the interaction term indicates that operation cost exerts a positive moderating effect on the trust degree towards use intention (see Table 8).

Table 9. Moderating effect analysis results

	Model 7	Model 8	Model 9
Constant	3.397** (81.446)	3.397** (81.798)	3.446** (83.263)
Polyfunctionality	0.551** (15.428)	0.570** (15.653)	0.531** (14.662)
Operation cost		0.088* (2.442) (2.442)	0.080* (2.266)
Polyfunctionality * Operation cost			0.162** (5.628)
Sample size	575	575	575
R^2	0.293	0.301	0.338
Adjust R^2	0.292	0.298	0.334
Variance ratio	F (1,573) = 238.027, p = 0.000	F (2,572) = 123.025, p = 0.000	F (3,571) = 96.973, p = 0.000
Dependent variable: use intention.			
* p < 0.05 ** p < 0.01; The value of t is in brackets.			

The regression coefficient of the interaction term between them in the moderating effect of operation cost on multifunctionality to use intentionality is 0.162. The significance of the interaction term suggests that operation cost positively moderates the relationship between multifunctionality and use intentionality (see Table 9).

Table 10. Moderating effect analysis results

	Model 10	Model 11	Model 12
Constant	3.397** (81.262)	3.397** (81.880)	3.431** (80.509)
Polyfunctionality	0.517** (15.309)	0.546** (15.705)	0.532** (15.303)
Operation cost		0.113** (3.121)	0.129** (3.533)
Polyfunctionality * Operation cost			0.088** (3.082)
Sample size	575	575	575
R^2	0.290	0.302	0.314
Adjust R^2	0.289	0.300	0.310
Variance ratio	F (1,573) = 234.376, p = 0.000	F (2,572) = 123.845, p = 0.000	F (3,571) = 86.957, p = 0.000

Dependent variable: use intention.

* $p < 0.05$ ** $p < 0.01$; The value of t is in brackets.

In the moderating effect of operation cost on satisfaction for use intention, the regression coefficient of the interaction term between them is 0.088. The significance of the interaction term indicates that operation cost positively moderates the relationship between satisfaction and use intention (see Table 10).

6 RESEARCH CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

1. Platform environment, trust, satisfaction, and polyfunctionality all have significant positive effects on peasant household continuous use intention. The influence of trust is the most significant among them, with satisfaction, polyfunctionality, and platform environment ranging from high to low. Trust is the foundation for peasant households to form long-term relationships with merchants. From the perspective of a peasant household, accumulated experience with merchants gradually forms an emotional bond and generates trust. According to the merchant, only by quickly gaining the trust of peasant households will the willingness to continue using it be generated. Satisfaction, polyfunctionality, platform environment, and other factors will all have a negative impact on their trust. Platform security is a direct source of trust among peasant households. We should consider the display module's privacy when using it interactively. This will have a significant impact on peasant households' trust in the platform and willingness to continue using it.
2. In the relationship between platform environment and use intention, operation cost plays a positive role. As a result, the operating environment should address as many differences in equipment performance as possible, actively improve the operating environment, optimize the data network and server, and ensure system compatibility. Reduce the operation costs of peasant households while maintaining their use intentions.

3. In the relationship between polyfunctionality and use intention, operation cost plays a positive role. The more perfect the platform's functionality, the more beneficial it is to reduce the operation costs of peasant households and thus its use intention. We should pay attention to the principle of universal use when developing multi-functional dimensions, and it is critical to provide information in a simple, clear, and straightforward manner. Furthermore, the development of polyfunctionality makes information more integrated.
4. In the relationship between satisfaction and use intention, operation cost plays a positive role. As a result, while developing the platform and utilizing peasant households, merchants should conduct real-time investigation and monitoring of the experiences of peasant households and provide timely feedback. Departments should work closely together, and market and user feedback should be addressed as soon as possible.

This paper focuses on the e-commerce platform's continued willingness to purchase agricultural products after use. This study still has some limitations. For example, statistics of peasant households with a seriously low level of education or peasant households without contact with electronic devices are not included in the statistical characteristics of the sample, and the final discussion results may differ without all-around crowd coverage. In this context, it's important to note that the factors influencing continuous use intention can be preserved for further investigation by subsequent studies.

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