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Agriculture - Econ. aspects - Taiwan

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JCRR STUDY ON FOOD PROBLEMS

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The study on food problems has been carried on since JCRR set up a Rural Economics Division in 1951. The emphasis has been laid on food consumption, food distribution, marketing system, price analysis, export and import, rural land taxation, food control measures and related problems.

The data and information needed for these studies were obtained through field investigation, questionnaire and collection of readily available materials. Most studies were made in cooperation with the Departments of Agricultural Economics of the National Taiwan University and the Provincial College of Agriculture.

In the last seven years, the major studies in the field of food economics covered the following subjects:

1. A study on rice price problems in Taiwan
2. A study on rice export problem in Taiwan
3. Rural food consumption survey
4. Weighed diet survey in a selected rural area
5. Investigation of per capita consumption level of basic food in 1956
6. A study on supply and demand of edible fats and oils in Taiwan
7. A study on possibility of other grains for rice
8. Rice marketing in Taiwan
9. Rural land taxation in Taiwan
10. Food administration in Taiwan

For each of the above subjects, a report embodying the findings of the study, economic appraisal and suggestions for further improvement was prepared and released, which furnished basic data and information for reference in the study of Taiwan agriculture and was expected to be useful in the review and formulating of governmental food policy.

In addition to the above studies, two periodical bulletins relating to food problems have been prepared and distributed. One is the "Rice Review" and the other is the "Current Food Situation in Taiwan."

The "Rice Review" has been compiled since March 1953. At first, it was issued every month, later developed to a bi-monthly paper and finally has become a quarterly bulletin. Up to the present, a total of 30 issues have been released. The aim of this publication is not only to present data from a variety of primary and secondary sources in a single compact bulletin, but bring the data in a manner in which it may be most easily understood. There are two parts in the "Rice Review"; Part I deals with the rice price situation and Part II presents briefly a specific topic relating to the rice production. This bulletin is prepared for the use of public officials of the Chinese and American agencies concerned and also for the reference of those who work in the research institutions. However, it is not considered as an extension bulletin for the use of farmers.

The "Current Food Situation in Taiwan" is also a quarterly narrative, issued

since June, 1954. The scope of this bulletin covers three staple food, i.e. rice, wheat and wheat flour and sweet potato, including their production, price movement, control measures, storage and collection as well as export and import. It provides the readers with up-to-date data and information concerning these staple food and also makes some forecasts on their production and price trend in the next several months. It is in some respects similiar to the "Weekly Rice Market Review" and the "Agricultural Outlook Digest" published by the U. S. Department of Agriculture. Since some of the data and information presented are classified, the bulletin is distributed only to the key personnel of both Chinese and American agencies concerned.