

A Preliminary Study on the Function of Taiwan's Cooperative Granaries in the Later Half of the Japanese Colonial Period*

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ABSTRACT

This is a study of the granaries operated by cooperative associations in the later half of the Japanese colonial period (1922-1942). These granaries consisted of two types: agricultural and rice granaries. I first trace the establishment and growth of these granaries. In order to find out the major function of these granaries, I compared the price of rice in Taiwan and Japan and found that their movement was highly correlated. I also found that the exports of Taiwanese rice to Japan fluctuated with the demand for it in the Japanese market. Furthermore, the capacity of these granaries was highly correlated to the exports of Taiwanese rice from 1922 to 1932. After 1933, however, the capacity of these granaries continued to increase while the amount of exports decreased, implying that these granaries expanded their capacities as a response to the policy of export control conducted by the Japanese colonial government during this time. Since the rice markets of Taiwan and Japan were highly integrated, this study suggests that the major function of cooperative granaries, with better facilities for storage and preparation, was to improve the quality of Taiwanese rice exports rather than to stabilize directly the price of rice in the market.

Keywords: Agricultural granary, rice granary, rice prices, granary capacity,
Taiwanese rice exports

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