

Chapter 1

Introduction

This book and CD are products of an ongoing effort to better understand the recent economic development of a single province in China and also to facilitate study of that development, using subprovincial data and reaching back into the pre-reform era. The first part of the project produced county-level maps of Fujian for every year of the pre-reform era (1949 through 1978) and beyond (to 1999), and presented annual county-level population data for 1948 and 1950–85. (See *Fujian before Reform, Part 1.*) The second part, reported here, focuses primarily upon grain production, the grain trade, and grain consumption. The core of this part is a large collection of statistics concerning grain in Fujian, along with an investigation into what these statistics are intended to measure and what they show about the food supply in Fujian and its distribution. The work also extends to the relevant institutional and policy framework and to certain “conditions of production,” such as agricultural land area and labor force.

An important motivation behind this project was the dearth of systematic and user-friendly data sets at the county level, for years prior to 1980 or so. As this book and CD will demonstrate, much relevant pre-reform data is accessible—but resides, for the most part, in county gazetteers and other local sources, and so must be assembled county by county. This is a time-consuming endeavor and frequently a frustrating one, due to inconsistencies caused by differences in definition, by boundary changes, and by errors in labeling, reporting, calculating, and type-setting. Where possible, the county-by-county statistical picture assembled from gazetteers and other local sources is supplemented with cross-sectional data from provincial annual reports and year-books and with institutional detail, mainly from the gazetteers.

Coverage and Organization

The data presented in this volume and the discussion of these data proceed from grain production, through the grain trade, to grain consumption.

“Grain production” encompasses grain output and the use of land to produce that output.

“Grain trade” encompasses all of the following:

acquisition of grain by government agencies through taxation and purchase within Fujian, by transfer into Fujian from other provinces, and by importing;

disposition of grain by government agencies, through sale to farmers and urban consumers, supply to entities such as factories and restaurants, transfer to other provinces, and exporting;

sale of grain by producers to purchasers other than government agencies, and disposition of that grain (if resold).

“Grain consumption” encompasses not only use as food by rural and urban households, but also uses of grain for other purposes—primarily as feed and seed and as an industrial raw material.

From late 1953 until the early 1980s, the government exercised a near-monopoly over the grain trade, through the agencies of its “grain system.” For that period, few data exist concerning private trade (if any). The primary focus in subsequent chapters is upon movement of grain from farms into the grain system and from the grain system to households and other entities in Fujian, and upon movement of grain into and out of the province, under the grain system’s control.

This work focuses upon the movement of grain itself. The internal workings of government agencies are relevant at some points along the way, but are of less concern than the external dealings of the provincial grain system as it procures grain and supplies it to other entities. The financial dimensions of the system’s dealings are mentioned only tangentially and in passing. Grain processing and feed production are not examined systematically—although they do enter the discussion at various points (as when “raw” grain procured by the government reappears as processed grain, such as white rice and flour, sold to households).

The bulk of this work is organized into three parts.

Part I assembles provincial-level time series and explanatory text, so as to reconstruct the evolution of grain production, trade, and consumption for the province as a whole.

Part II moves from the provincial level down to prefectures and counties. This part collects time series for two prefectures and for their sixteen counties. Each of the eighteen chapters follows very closely the design of Part I (for the entire

province), proceeding in the same sequence from production to various aspects of the grain trade and then to consumption. The sets of variables included, and the numbers of years reported for a specific variable, differ among prefectures and counties — depending upon the source materials.

Part III moves from individual counties (and prefectures), to all counties, by collecting cross-sectional data. These data pertain mainly to grain production, with some additional data pertaining to population, cultivated and sown areas, livestock inventories, and measures of agricultural modernization.

Parts I through III are each organized around a particular sort of data: time series for the entire province, then time series for individual prefectures and counties, then cross sections for all counties. Parts I and II both deal with time series — first at provincial level and then at prefectural and county levels. Parts II and III both examine county-level data, first with many variables in a limited set of counties and then with a limited set of variables in all counties.

A subsequent installment (or two) will fill in most or all of the missing counties, following the design of Part II. The current volume does not include an interpretative part or a concluding chapter; these are deferred, pending completion of the subsequent installment(s).

The material on the CD consists primarily of the statistical material, in Excel spreadsheets — in addition to the text of this book, supplied as one PDF file. The CD is divided into several directories (or folders), as described in the table below. For further detail concerning the contents of directories and subdirectories, see the introductions to Parts I, II, and III and the introductions to chapters in those parts.

Sources and References

Subsequent chapters cite a number of gazetteers, as well as annual reports, yearbooks, provincial and national compendia, and other sources. Citations in the text and spreadsheets typically give only titles (sometimes shortened). A comprehensive list of references appears at the end of this volume.

Most of the sources cited in the text and spreadsheets and included in the list of references are published works, accessible at university libraries in the US, Hong Kong, and Fujian. A few are internal documents (mainly annual agricultural reports) that are not so easily accessible. In some cases, I was able to acquire entire documents; in other cases, I have had access only to selected tables. In the cases of two tables pertaining to 1949–57 (cited in Chapters 29 and 31), I am unable to confirm that the source citation is accurate; see 1950–1957福建省统计资料汇编(农业部分)[?], in the list of references.

Contents and Organization of the CD

Directory	Subdirectory	Contents
Province		spreadsheets: time series, provincial level
	Production	grain sown area and output
	Trade	planned procurement, sales, and transfers; purchases and sales at negotiated prices
	Consumption Supplementary	consumption as foodgrain; other uses of grain conditions of agricultural production (cultivated area, sown area, use of fertilizer, etc.), population, livestock, prices, grain balances, the grain system
PrefCountiesLY		spreadsheets: time series, Longyan prefecture and each of its seven counties
	LongyanPref, Longyan, Changting, Shanghang, Zhangping, Yongding, Wuping, Liancheng (eight subdirectories)	production; procurement, transfers, and sales at planned prices; purchases and sales at negotiated prices; consumption; supplementary data (cultivated area, population and labor force, and, for some counties, additional series) For some counties, some series are missing or incomplete.
PrefCountiesND		spreadsheets: time series, Ningde prefecture and each of its nine counties
	NingdePref, Ningde, Xiapu, Fuan, Fuding, Gutian, Pingnan, Shouning, Zhouning, Zherong (ten subdirectories)	production; procurement, transfers, and sales at planned prices; purchases and sales at negotiated prices; consumption; supplementary data (cultivated area, population and labor force, and, for some counties, additional series) For some counties, some series are missing or incomplete.
CrossSections		spreadsheets: cross sections, county level
	Grain50s60s	grain area and output, 1949–58, 1965
	Grain70s80s	grain area and output, 1975–80 and 1982–85
	Supp50s	supplementary data, 1949–58: cultivated and sown area (all years), population and labor force (some years), livestock inventories (some years)
	Supp70s80s	supplementary data, 1975–80 and 1982–85: sown and/or cultivated area (all years), labor force (1977, 1978), livestock inventories and various measures of agricultural modernization (1977 only)
Text		entire text

Relation to My Earlier Work

In *Fujian before Reform, Part 1*, I presented historically accurate county-level maps for each year of the pre-reform period. These maps are useful in interpreting some of the grain data and explanatory comments in the current volume — and, especially, in visualizing spatial patterns in the data.

Volumes 1 and 2 of *The Economic Geography of Fujian: A Sourcebook* contain additional map layers. These older maps do not register precisely with the boundaries in the current project, due to the higher quality of the latter. Nevertheless, the older layers can be used with the new boundaries when precise registration is not important — as in small-scale printed maps, where the discrepancies are likely to be unnoticeable. Volume 1 of *Economic Geography* also includes a large set of county-level agricultural data for years since 1978, in Lotus spreadsheets. The data pertaining to grain production, 1978–85, are repeated in the current volume.

In two articles published some years ago, I drew upon the sorts of data gathered in Parts I and III, below, to study the grain trade in Fujian. These articles are “Grain in Fujian: Intra-Provincial Patterns of Production and Trade, 1952–1988” (using county-level data) and “Commercial Reform in China: The Grain Trade of Fujian Province, 1978–88” (provincial data). When I wrote these articles, I did not have access to county-level time series of the sort collected in Part II or to the convenient collections of provincial-level data subsequently published in the provincial gazetteer — and used in Part I.

Administrative Divisions, Boundaries, and Levels of Government

With two minor exceptions, Fujian’s official boundaries remained unchanged during the period studied here. In 1955, some small islands (with total area of about 3 square kilometers) were transferred from Pingyang county in Zhejiang to Fuding in Fujian. In 1958, three natural villages (about 2 square kilometers) were transferred from Qingyuan county in Zhejiang to Zhenghe in Fujian.

The statistics reported in this volume typically do not include the Mazu and Jinmen island groups — nominally belonging to Fujian, but effectively controlled by the Republic of China (Taiwan) throughout the period of interest. Until 1953, Taiwan also held Xiyang and other islands then nominally belonging to Lianjiang county (before being transferred to Xiapu county in 1954). Data for 1949–52 may in some cases exclude these islands.

At county and prefecture levels, the pre-reform era did see substantial redistricting. At county level, many of these changes were minor (affecting small territories and populations), but some entailed appearance of new counties, disappearance of old counties, or transfer of large territories and populations between counties. Prefectural boundaries were affected not only by transfers of territory among counties (when those counties belonged to different prefectures), but also by several reassignments of counties among

prefectures. County-level boundary changes and reassignments among prefectures are examined at length in *Fujian before Reform, Part 1*.

The data in Part I below do not require adjustment for changes in provincial boundaries, since the relevant changes were very small. Parts II and III, however, build county-level data sets spanning the entire pre-reform era. In some cases, the data, as reported in gazetteers and other sources, have been adjusted for boundary changes and are roughly consistent over time (usually on boundaries of the 1980s). In other cases, data for different years pertain to different boundaries. These cases pose problems when attempting to reconstruct and interpret changes in patterns of production, trade, and consumption. Sometimes the relevant boundaries are not clearly identified—and even when they are, there may be no simple and reasonably accurate way to address inconsistencies.

Each chapter in Part II includes a description of relevant boundary changes and points out any known inconsistencies in the data that arise from changes. In Part III, the boundaries relevant to a particular spreadsheet are explicitly noted, if other than those of the year in question (“boundaries of 1958,” when the spreadsheet contains data for a year, or for years, other than 1958).

In subsequent chapters, regions and the corresponding levels of government are identified as follows.

Province or *provincial* means Fujian, unless a different province is explicitly identified;

Prefecture or *prefectural* usually means prefecture-level, inclusive of any prefecture-level municipalities;

County usually means county-level, inclusive of any county-level cities;

Township means rural or urban township [乡, 镇], as reestablished in the 1980s;

District means the regional division [区] just below the county of the 1950s;

Xiang means the rural division below the district of the 1950s (with a *xiang* of that period generally being much smaller than a township of the 1980s and thereafter).

Region(s) is sometimes used in a general sense to include one or more of those listed above (with *regions* not necessarily all on the same level). *Government* is sometimes used in a general sense, to mean government at any level (or at more than one level). *State* is used pretty much synonymously with government, but generally referring to the central government and to institutions and policies implemented nationwide; it is also used in conventional expressions such as “state farm” or “state-owned enterprise.”