

Rice Mills in Tai Po District

The followings are the situation of rice mills in this district and the suggestions whether there is a need for "Rice Mill Co-operative Society" : -

1. Different charges for milling paddy through different kinds of mills:
 - A. The charges for milling through husking mill, rubber mill and water mill is HK\$1.50 per picul of paddy. Rice bran is returned to farmers. (70 catties of polished rice from every 100 catties of dry paddy)
 - B. The charges for milling through only horizontal mill is HK\$1.00 per picul of paddy. Rice bran is returned to farmers. (68 catties of polished rice from every 100 catties of dry paddy)
2. The majority of poor farmers sell their paddy and buy cheap broken rice for own food. When price of paddy is high, these part of farmers is about four-fifth of the total number of N. T. paddy farmers; and when the price of paddy is low, about $\frac{3}{4}$ or $\frac{2}{3}$. Only better off farmers can afford to have their paddy milled by rice mills for own consumption.
3. Farmers are satisfied with the services of the rice mills and think that the charges are not high. In recent years, the old style hand or foot mills are very few as poor farmers generally do not consume their own paddy but the imported broken rice.
4. During recent years, rice mills seldom give loans to poor farmers. Those being called usurers are generally rich men in the villages who actually can handle the farmers in their villages. Moreover, this was the general situation during the Japanese Occupation only and is seldom seen now.
5. The main profit of rice mills comes from the buying of paddy and selling of rice, i.e. buying paddy at low price during harvest time and selling it as rice at high price. Recently, price of rice is very low and ration of rice has also been lifted. Most rice mills are complaining of loss.

In conclusion, the organisation of rice mill co-operative society does not benefit poor farmers. There is also danger of a loss as the capital expenditure for equipment is rather high. In order to benefit poor farmers, I believe, the establishment of feeds and fertilizer purchasing co-operative societies throughout the New Territories is more important and practical.

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RICE MILLS IN TAI PO DISTRICT

<u>DISTRICT</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>NATURE OF BUSINESS</u>	<u>REMARKS</u>
Tai Po	Kwan Fat Rice Mill	Buying paddy and selling rice; and rendering paddy milling service to farmers.	
Tai Po	Hang Cheong Rice Mill	- do -	
Shatin	Yau Fung Rice Mill	Rendering paddy milling service to farmers.	
Sheungshui	Hau Fung Rice Mill	Buying paddy and selling rice; and rendering paddy milling service to farmers.	
Sheungshui	Kung Wo Rice Mill	Rendering paddy milling, fertilizer milling and husk grinding services to farmers.	Ground husk used for feed.
Fanling	Ning Fung Rice Mill	Buying paddy and selling rice.	
Fanling	Luen Wo Hing Rice Mill	- do -	
Fanling	Shui Fung Rice Mill	- do -	
Fanling	Shun Sing Rice Mill	Rendering paddy milling, rice powdering and husk grinding services to farmers.	Rice powder for the use of making pastry and cakes.
Fanling	Hop Fung Rice Mill	Rendering paddy milling service to farmers; and grinding husk .	
Shataukok	Tung Wo Lung Rice Mill	Rendering paddy milling service to farmers.	

Rice Milling and Marketing, Castle Peak District

Investigations have been made in the area of Un Long and it is found that the general condition of rice milling and marketing is more or less the same as stated in Miss MOK's previous reports.

The price of paddy at present, however, is much lower than before (around \$26 - 30 per picul at present). Although it was an usual practice for paddy farmers to sell their paddy and buy cheap rice to eat, now many farmers keep a greater percentage of the rice they grow for their own consumption.

Usually the charges for rice milling is \$1.50 for each picul of paddy, but the charges may be reduced to \$1.30 or \$1.40 if the farmers are good friends of the people of the rice mill. Nothing is to be charged, however, if the farmer gives his rice bran to the rice miller.

There are at present 5 rice mills in Un Long, 1 in Sun Tin Village, 1 in Kam Tin, and 1 in Ha Tsuen. There are few other mills but they are mainly engaged in milling of feeds. The names of these rice mills are shown as follows:-

<u>Names</u>	<u>Address</u>
Wing Tai	44 - 46, Un Long Main Road.
Kwong On	78 - 80, Un Long Main Road.
Chai Chung Tong	12 - 14, Tai Cheung St., Un Long.
Wing Fung	74 - 76, Un Long Main Road.
Fu Yuen	3 - 5, Un Long Main Road.
Wo Fung	Ha Tsuen.
Yuen Fung	Kam Tin
Wo Fung	Sun Tin Village.

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