

Title:  
Date:  
Definition  
of topic:

Land Utilization in China  
February 1, 1928

This study consists of (1) a main project pertaining to the general aspects of land utilization and of (2) a sub-project on problems of population. The sub-project contributes to a fuller understanding of the main project in that it provides data on growth, density, and migration of population. In general terms the project may be defined as follows:

1. The agricultural aspect: this includes the extent, character, and productiveness of arable and non-arable land; character and amount of irrigation and drainage and its possible extended use; crop areas; forest and fuel areas; grazing areas; size of farms; land tenure; arrangement of fields (strip system), and also the present and prospective food, fiber, fuel, and forest-products requirements.

2. The geographic aspect; this consists chiefly of information upon climatic conditions: topography and soil conditions which influence utilization of arable and non-arable land; and the location of land with reference to markets for its products.

3. The demographic aspect: this involves studies of the trend, density, migration, and distribution of population.

4. The social aspect, as shown in standards of living and in the economic use of the land and its products, especially food.

Purpose and  
need of the

investigation: 1. To provide increased knowledge of agricultural resources of representative regions in China, which have different geographic conditions.

2. To provide training for men who will be competent to pursue similar studies.

3. To provide preliminary information which will aid greatly in the successful conduct of China's part in the World Agricultural Census in 1930-31 in cooperation with the International Institute of Agriculture at Rome. An inventory of China's agricultural resources is recognized as one of the first steps in an understanding of the nature and character of her agricultural industry. A farm to farm canvass in 1930-31 will undoubtedly be impossible, but it is probable that reliable estimates by the sampling method will be feasible. The initial work suggested in this project will indicate the problems involved and ways of obtaining the information. Statistics on Chinese agriculture will raise China's prestige among other nations now having more complete data. At present China is omitted in reports of agricultural statistics for various countries.

4. To provide information which will show the relationship between kinds of land utilization, and population density and standards of living.

5. To provide information which will be of value in determining more efficient methods of utilization of present food products.