

Institutional Analysis of Food Inspection and Certification in Taiwan (Food Safety Study Series No. 2)

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In recent years, several severe food safety events occurred in Taiwan, including some certified food processing plants. In addition, the products with faked label, “Good Agricultural Practice (吉園圃)”, have been found in the market. As a result, the government examines the current certification system and wants to reform it. This study will continue the study of certification system performed last year in order to provide more insights. In addition, it will investigate the food inspection system in Taiwan.

This study has four research questions. The first one is to investigate the geographical distribution of certified agricultural production and marketing teams. If there are areas without any certified teams, the government may need to put more resources on these areas for assistance. The second research question is to review the operation of current geographical-origin related labels by interviewing producers, farmers' associations, local governments, and consumers. It is expected to provide some recommendations to improve the current system to activate the rural culture and the economy. The third one is to explore the history of organic label reforms in the last twenty years from the perspective of political economy. The last is to analyze the food inspection system by comparing the current system with the inspection systems in EU and the US.