

Sugar Firms' Distribution of Sichuan Province in the Republic of China

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Abstract

During Republic of China, there were new changes for Sichuan's sugar industry with the development of economy and society, the sugar market of production and sales expanded further, and sugar organization also developed, the number, size, distribution range of sugar firms had been greatly improved compared with before. This paper first analyzes the regional distribution of sucrose production and marketing in Sichuan, then discussed the distribution of sugar transportation and sale firms in Sichuan, at last, the paper referred to distribution of sugar transportation and sale markets.

Key words: Sugar firms; Regional distribution; Sucrose production and marketing

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INTRODUCTION

In terms of the spatial extent of the study, the research on sugar industry of Sichuan Province can be divided into two categories; one is based on study of sugar production in the drainage of Tuojiang River, the other took the whole of Sichuan for research subject. The content of the study had covered almost all areas of the sugar industry in Sichuan, for example, homemade sugar technology, the formation and development of sucrose economy, sugar

financing, sugar industry organizations, sugar monopoly, sugar disputes and so on, were almost all involved in these researches. Sugar of Sichuan Province was an early systematic introduction about Sichuan's sugar. This book described the cultivation of sugar cane, sugar refine, transaction, quality and operating methods in Sichuan (Bank of China in Chongqing, 1934). Sugar industry survey report of Tuojiang River drainage area (Sugarcane Proving Ground of Sichuan, 1938), was a systematic research about sugar geographic distribution, sales and marketing, industry organizations and so on. The full text was divided into eight chapters; one of the chapters was to analyze the main sugar market of Tuojiang River drainage area, the content was involved in sugar firm's distribution and business situation such as sugar firms, sugar brokers, sugar stacks, etc. Sugar production and marketing survey of Sichuan was another early book to introduce the sugar industry and the author mainly focused on the analysis of sucrose production and marketing in Sichuan, at the same time, there were introductions of sugar organizations and its constitute in each market, at last, the author comprehensively summarized sugar fires, stacks, brokers for each production and marketing. (Zhong, 1941). Research on the modern sugar industry in Tuojiang River drainage area was an important paper to the historical development of the sugar industry and the paper involved a great deal of information about the sugar firms (Liu, 1992). For the research of sucrose economic, Doctor Zhao did the research; he overviewed the sugar product production and marketing, reform of sugar regime, regulation of supply and demand, and analyzed the reasons (Zhao, 2011).

1. REGIONAL DISTRIBUTION OF SUCROSE PRODUCTION IN SICHUAN

With the development of commercial agriculture in the Qing Dynasty, there had been cotton, mulberry, sugar

cane, tobacco, tea, fruit and other professional planting area, gradually formed an inter-regional production division in Sichuan Province. In this process, Tuojiang River Basin became an important place of sucrose production. Sichuan is very suitable for the growth of sugar cane because of mild climate and abundant rainfall, sugarcane production was the highest of the mainland provinces at that time; more than 50 counties produced sugar cane in the province, but mainly concentrated in the zone along the river, for example Tuojiang River, Jialing River, Minjiang River, Qujiang River, etc. Provincial sucrose career, focused on this area, its acreage accounted for 76% in Sichuan. In terms of the production of sugar, such as tools and technology division, other areas could not be comparable (Zhong, 1941, pp. 21-22).

In this area, Neijiang, Zizhong, Fushun and part area of Jianyang were white sugar producing region, Ziyang, Jintang and parts area of Jianyang were brown sugar producing region, the former could be called white sugar zone and the latter could be called brown sugar zone (Zhong, 1941, pp. 21-22). The distribution of largest sugar producing region is seen as Figure 1:

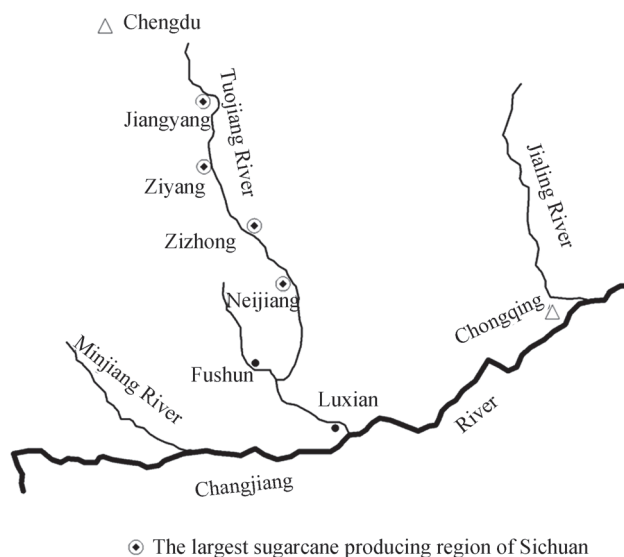


Figure 1
The Sugarcane Production Area of Sichuan

Note. Source: Jiang, 1936, p. 53.

In the processes of sucrose production, sugar factories were divided into sugar house, the Loupeng and rock candy shop. Sugar house was working for the purchase of sugar cane to make clear sugar or brown sugar, the Loupeng bought clear sugar to make white sugar and orange sugar, the rock candy shop was to buy white sugar as a raw material to make sugar rock candy, and was engaged in the manufacture sweetmeat at the same time. The first half of a year in 1941, there were more than 3,300 sugar houses and more than 700 Loupeng in Sichuan,

indigenous methods to produce sugar were predominant in rural areas at that time (Zhong, 1941, p. 35). See Table 1.

Table 1
Distribution of Sugar House and Loupeng of the Eight Counties in Tuojiang Drainage Area in 1941

Counties	The number of sugar house and Loupeng	The number of sugar house	The number of Loupeng	The number of sugar factory
Neijiang	630	55	42	8
Zizhong	¾	about 900	270	1
Jianyang	¾	about 300	about 187	¾
Fushun	¾	212	78	¾
Ziyang	¾	about 278	about 14	¾
Luxian	¾	22	¾	¾
Jintang	¾	204	9	¾
Yibin	¾	about 380	about 122	¾
Total	630	about 2351	about 722	9

Note. Source: Zhong, 1941, p. 36.

According to statistics by the end of 1943, the number of sugar manufacturers was a total of 7,789 in Sichuan and Xikang province, among of which several counties in and around Neijiang accounted for nearly half, Neijiang 930, Zizhong 939, Jianyang 1,082, Ziyang 293, Wei yuan 63, Longchang 15 (History and Learning Committee of Neijiang City Committee of CPPCC, 1988, p. 101).

2. THE DISTRIBUTION OF SUGAR TRANSPORTATION AND SALE FIRMS

Sugar business had its own unions and allies; take Neijiang for example; its sugar industry could be divided into brokers, traffickers and sugar factories in addition to the retailers. First, the main obligation of the brokers was to facilitate transactions and the aim was to obtain a commission. Secondly, trafficking refers to a place where the goods shipped to another place to sell, traffickers were different because of the owners and the native places, and there were allies of Neijiang, Jiangjin, Luxian and Hechuan, Zongxian and Wanxian and so on. Finally, there were different sugar factories.

Early Republic of China, some rural landlords, rich peasants who ran sugar houses, Loupeng, sold sugar from their own sugar houses or Loupeng. Therefore, there were no exact number of sugar firms, but it is certain that the main area of sugar firms was still concentrated in the main producing fields of sugarcane. Its main production and sales area of sugar firms were distributed as shown in Table 2:

Table 2
Basic Information of Sugar Firms Distributed in Sichuan

Counties or cities	Firms
Neijiang	161
Zizhong	18
Ziyang	24
Jianyang	40-50
Jintang	
Fushun	About 15
Luxian	59
Yibin	
Chongqing	43
Jiangjin	40
Hejiang	19
Wanxian	59-69
Fuling	7

Note. Source: Zhong, 1941, pp.42-211.

Neijiang sucrose buyers specialized in stocking and trafficking, when new sugar appeared in the market every year, sugar merchants were coming around Neijiang to set up purchase stores in order to transport to other places. Some of them were short-term operational merchants but some of them stayed there for a long time. The capital of those merchants was about 200,000 Yuan at the most and only a few thousand Yuan at the least. The sugar buyers were different because they came from different places. Among them, the Chongqing and Jiangjin allies had the most capital and they had more than 30 business agencies in Neijiang (Cooperation Commission of Southwest Economic Inquiry, 1940, pp. 238-241).

The centralized market of Zizhong's sugar transactions was mainly in the county town and along the Qiuxi River; the county town was the trading center of white sugar and orange sugar, there were more than a dozen of sugar agents in Zizhong County. The sugar merchants in Zizhong were divided into native and non-native, the native ones mostly did sugar purchased and transported to other places or stocking to be have a better price. The non-native sugar merchants were mainly from Chonging, Luxian and Wanxian, who purchased a large number of white sugar and orange sugar and 7 of their firms set up their business agencies in Zizhong. The capital of these business agencies was about 30,000 Yuan at the most and 4,000 Yuan at the least (Cooperation Commission of Southwest Economic Inquiry, 1940, p. 243).

Ziyang's sugar transaction was mainly for the brown sugar; the county town and the Wanger River were the

two main sugar trading markets. The sugar in the county town was sold to Suining in north Sichuan, and the sugar in the Wanger River market was sold to counties along the Yangtze River by the waterway, this trading was also conducted through brokers. There were more than 30 brokers in Ziyang, its organization was undisciplined and its capital was small. The sugar merchants were also divided into two groups, one was native and another was non-native, the native ones were 9 and their capital was between 3,000 Yuan and 5,000 Yuan (Cooperation Commission of Southwest Economic Inquiry, 1940, pp. 244-245).

Jianyang's brown sugar trading mainly concentrated in the county town, Shiqiao town and Longquan Temple, but the white sugar were all traded in Shiqiao town, the transaction was also through brokers and there were 5 or 6 brokers in Jianyang. The sugar merchants in Jianyang were constituted by locals and outsiders (Cooperation Commission of Southwest Economic Inquiry, 1940, p. 246).

Above the four counties of Neijiang, Zizhong, Ziyang and Jianyang were the most important sugar markets in Sichuan, and so many sugar firms were distributed in these counties. However, the largest amount of sugar trading market was in Chongqing, the sugar came from Tuojiang River Basin and its transportations and sales were carried out by the merchants. At that time, more than 30 sugar firms did this kind of business, some of whom set up business agencies in Neijiang to buy sugar and transported to Chongqing. As for the capital of the sugar merchants, its floating capital was 80000Yuan at the most but 2000Yuan at the least (Cooperation Commission of Southwest Economic Inquiry, 1940, pp. 247-249).

3. THE DISTRIBUTION OF SUGAR TRANSPORTATION AND SALE MARKETS

There were two kinds of sugar markets in Sichuan, one was the internal market and the other was exporting market. It is shown as Table 3.

Neijiang, Zizhong, Ziyang, Jianyang, Jintang, Luxian, and Fushun belonged to internal market, in addition to this, Hechuan, Jiangjin, Chongqing, Fuling, Wanxian, Yichang, Shashi, Hankou and other places along Yangtze River Basin were also important internal markets.

As for exporting market, the sugar of Sichuan was transported downstream to Hunan and Hubei Provinces along the Yangtze River; counties in the north in Sichuan and parts of Shanxi and Gansu Provinces; Yunnan and Guizhou Provinces in the south; West Sichuan Plain and so on. The orange sugar was mainly exported to Hunan and Hubei Provinces; the white sugar was mainly exported to Shanxi and Gansu Provinces; the brown sugar was sold to Guizhou and Yunnan Provinces; the rock candy was mainly consumed by local people (You, 1990, p. 173).

Table 3
Distribution of Sugar Sales Markets in Sichuan

Sales regions	Distribution center	Place of origin	Place of sale
1.Sichuan 2.Hunan 3.Hubei 4.Yunnan 5.Guizhou 6.Shanxi 7.Gansu	Hejiang	Neijiang, Zizhong, Fushun, Luxian	Zhutuo, Songgai, Chishui
	Jiangjin	Jiayang, Ziyang, Zizhong, Neijiang, Fushun, Luxian	Yudongxi, Bishan, Zhongxian, Fuling, Wanxian, Qijiang, Tongzhi and so on
	Chongqing	Jiayang, Ziyang, Zizhong, Neijiang, Fushun, Luxian	Changshou, Fuling, Wanxian, Shizhu, Yunyang, Fengjie, Yichang, Shashi, Hankou, Hechuan, Linshui, Guangan, Yuechi, Peng'an
	Fuling	Zizhong, Neijiang, Fushun, Chongqing, Jiangjin	Qianjiang River drainage area
	Wanxian	Ziyang, Zizhong, Neijiang, Fushun, Chongqing and so on	Yunyang, Fengjie, Wusahn, Badong, Sandouping, Shinan, Zigui, Yichang, Shashi, Kaixian, Liangshan, Wuxi
	Yichang	Neijiang, Chongqing and so on	Hunan and Hubei Provinces
	Shashi	Neijiang, Chongqing and so on	Hunan and Hubei Provinces
	Hechuan	Neijiang, Chongqing and so on	Quxian, Sanhui, Suiding, Yankou, Guangyuan, Shanxi and Gansu Provinces
	Chengdu	Jintang, Jiayang, Ziyang, Zizhong, Neijiang	Counties in west Sichuan plain, Jiading, Shanxi and Gansu Provinces

Note. Source: Zhong, 1941, p. 26.

According to the above table, the main provinces of sugar selling in Sichuan were Sichuan, Hunan, Hubei, Yunnan, Guizhou, Shaanxi, Gansu, etc.; the distribution center market of sucrose included Hejiang, Jiangjin, Chongqing, Fuling, Wanxian, Hechuan, Chengdu, Yichang and Shashi. The origin place of sucrose was mainly concentrated in Tuojiang River basin, including Neijiang, Zizhong, Ziyang, Jiayang, Jintang, Luxian and Fushun. Meanwhile, the sales region of sucrose distributed in wide range.

Before the Anti-Japanese War, about 30 percent of white sugar in Neijiang was sold to Hunan and Hubei Provinces, 25% was sold to local areas along the Yangtze River, 15% was sold to Guizhou, 15% was sold to counties along Jialing River, 15% was sold other places; about 15% of brown sugar was sold to Hunan and Hubei Provinces, 15% sold to Guizhou, 30% of which was sold in Sichuan Province, 20% sold to areas along the Jialing River, 20% was sold to other places; orange sugar sold almost to Hunan and Hubei Provinces (Zhong, 1941, pp. 57-58).

In Ziyang, 60% of the white sugar, red sugar and rock candy was sold to areas along the Yangtze River and Jialing River, 15% of which sold to Anyue, Renshou, Suining, etc., 25% sold other places; 80% of orange sugar was sold to Hunan and Hubei Provinces, 20% of which sold to Sichuan Province and other places (Zhong, 1941, p. 104).

About 40% of white sugar in Jiayang was sold to Shaanxi and Gansu Provinces; 30% sold to Chengdu and west Sichuan Plain; 20% sold to Suining; the remaining 10% sold to neighboring counties; 20% of brown sugar in Jiayang was sold to Chongqing, Luxian, Jiangjin, etc.; 30% was sold to Chengdu and west Sichuan Plain; 20% sold to Suining; the remaining 30% of which was sold to the local areas in Jiayang and other places; Orange sugar was almost sold to Hunan and Hubei Provinces (Zhong, 1941, p. 114).

Jintang was one of the main sucrose producing counties in Sichuan, "Huaiba Sugar" was yellow fragrance and renowned western Sichuan. In 1937, the county had 204 workshops of sugar, the annual output of brown sugar was 2,350 tons and white sugar 100 tons (Compiling Committee of Jintang, 1994, p. 446). This sugar was mainly sold to Chengdu and nearby counties, Zhongba Town, Guangyuan, Taihe Town, Santai, and Zhongjiang, ect. (Compiling Committee of Jintang, 1994, p. 428).

In Fushun, about 20% the white sugar was sold to Luxian; about 20% was sold to Jiangjin and Hejiang; about 25% was sold to Chongqing; 20% sold to Zhongxian and Wanxian and 15% was sold to local areas and other places; about 20% of the brown sugar was sold to Luxian; about 25% was sold to Jiangjin and Hejiang; 25% sold to Chongqing; 15% sold to Zhongxian and Wanxian; the remaining 15% was sold to Fushun and the other places (Zhong, 1941, pp. 134-135).

In Luxian County, about 30 percent of white sugar was sold to Hejiang, Zhutuo Town, Songgai Town and Jiangjin; 40% was sold to Xuyong, Bijie and other places; the remaining 30% was sold to the local areas; about 35% of the brown sugar was sold to Hejiang and Zhutuo Town, Songgai Town and Jiangjin; 30% was sold to Xuyong, Bijie, etc.; the remaining 35% was sold to local places and other places (Zhong, 1941, p. 148).

Yibin was one of the sugar-producing areas in Sichuan Province. During the Republic of China, Yibin formed private market for sugar purchasing and selling. The sugar in the market were mainly made in the local place. About 40% of this sugar produced in the county was sold to Qinfu, Gaoxian, Junlian, Gongxian, Changning, Xingwen, etc.; 30% was sold to Leshan, 30% was sold to the local places in the county. In the year of 1949, there were 85 sugar stores only in the county center (Compiling Committee of Yibin, 1991, p. 284).

Rongshan, Yongan, Zhangwan of south Hejiang produced a lot of sugar cane and brown sugar was produced in the Qing Dynasty, the sugar was sold mainly in the county in addition to their own consumption, the annual sales of rocky candy was 2,000 Dan, white sugar 15,000 Dan, brown sugar 8,000 Dan (Compiling Committee of Hejiang, 1993, pp. 308-309).

Sugar merchants in Jiangjin were divided into two kinds, one was peddler and the other was shopkeeper. Peddlers were mostly concentrated in the county center and Baisha Town, who purchased sugar from Neijian and Zizhong, wholesaling and retailing. In the year of 1921, the peddlers purchased about 5,000 kilograms of rocky candy, 300,000 kilograms of white sugar and 1,000,000 kilograms of brown sugar. Shopkeepers opened shops in the county center to retail white sugar, brown sugar and fruit cake, called sugar and fruit industry. Most of the big sugar firms sold sugar in its shops when they also produced sugar by their own. There were 26 peddlers in the county center of Jiangjin and 54 sugar shopkeepers in 1931. Up to 1945, there were 56 peddlers and 109 sugar shopkeepers in Jiangjin (Compiling Committee of Jiangjin, 1995, p. 444).

CONCLUSION

With the rapid development of the sugar industry in Sichuan, Tuojiang drainage area was the main areas in the process of changing. The market of production and marketing had gradually diversified throughout this area and the sucrose sales expanded the scope further. The Sugar firms did their trading business around these markets of production and sales, and the distribution of sugar firms basically followed this trend, the sucrose firms played an important role in this distribution pattern, on the one hand, promoted the improvement of the level of regional trade, on the other hand, the business scope developed from simplification to diversify.

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