

Why does mainland China have no food security

Food Security is a long-lasting topic everywhere. As long as people still eat food, problems about food will raise concerns.

Mainland China has a population of more than 1.4 billion, which accounts for almost 17% of the world's population, right behind India (1.48 billion). Based on the reports about India, we have enough reasons to believe that food security problems exist in India as well. Lack of in-person observation about how the Indian food market works, here, I talk about Chinese food security problems only. Plus, these two countries (2.9 billion, 35%) have way more population than other countries (third place, the U.S., 0.35 billion, 4.2%). So I have enough reasons to believe that the food security problems are urgent problems needed to be solved.

So the food security problems come from three parts: the sellers, the supervisors, and the eaters.

In China, a decent amount of food is sold in the morning food markets, where the sellers, who have a truck filled with food, a store near the street, or just bring some raw materials with them, lay the food on the street. The sellers always declare the food as “fresh”, “tasty”, or “produced by themselves”. I could not deny that some of them are telling the truth, but people should always bear in mind that Chinese businessmen always share a credit problem. As long as there is a profit, and it’s acceptable for them to sell the food that has a little poison that might cause some chronics but won’t cause deaths. The sellers prefer importers with lower prices to make more benefits, while ignoring whether the farmers raise the products in a legal way. Who cares? They don’t eat the food they sell.

For the supervisors, to tell the truth, when they appear, it just means the sellers who occupy the street need to leave. Do they test the leftovers of fertilizers and pesticides in the food? I have never witnessed it once in my 21 years of life experiences in China. They fine people, take their products and vehicles away, just not testing the quality of the food. They work for money as well. The taxpayers in China just pay them to fine taxpayers to make more money for themselves to live better lives.

For the eaters, they deserve it. There are safe food sellers in China, at least they declare themselves to be, such as AEON, Zhongbai Supermarket, and some chain supermarkets. But it seems that Chinese people still prefer the raw food materials from unknown sources for lower prices. All those big food sellers, they get food with a standard process, which means saving samples for testing, getting materials from controlled and validated farms, while this is considered as a signal against “fresh”. People in a Chinese family who are responsible for getting raw materials are usually aging people, who prefer bargains and consider the food got directly from an unknown truck to be fresher. They think they are so smart that they skip the expensive testing procedure, skip the big food sellers who make profits and are responsible for your safety, and get the food directly from the original farmers, while ignoring the truth that if they don’t follow the rules, others won’t either.

In a word, this is a inspect into Chinese daily lives. Just to help the readers to understand Chinese society better and as a record of history.

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