

Table 1.6. Major Magnitudes in Chinese Farming, 1400–1952

	Population (millions)	Grain Output (thousand tons)	Cultivated Area (million ha.)		Grain Yield kg/ha.
1400	72	20 520	19.8	24.7	1 038
1650	123	35 055	32.0	40.0	1 095
1750	260	74 100	48.0	60.0	1 544
1820	381	108 585	59.0	73.7	1 840
1952	569	162 139	86.3	107.9	1 879

Source: This is a simplified presentation of Perkins' basic argument in terms of grains. Here I use his assumption that grain output for consumption, feed and seed was approximately constant at 285 kg of unhusked grain per head of population throughout. Population from Table D.1. Cultivated area from Perkins (1969), midpoint of his range for 1400, 1650 and 1750 from Wang (1973). 1820 is an interpolation of Wang's estimates for 1770 and 1850. It was assumed, following Perkins, that 80 per cent of the cultivated area was devoted to grain. One can see in Table A.20 that my detailed estimate of grain output in 1952 was 154 560 tons – about 5 per cent lower than the stylised estimate shown above.