

# ACTIVITIES OF AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION IN 1992

## Training and Educations

A total of two on-the-job training classes were held for extension workers of the Farmers' Associations, with 59 persons attended. Basic-level Farmers' Associations as well as agricultural cooperatives and farms were guided in carrying 313 training classes of which the teachers were invited from the staff experts of this station. A total of 17,711 persons attend co-organized training programs. Subject-matter training course of " Horticultural Crops Production " were held for young farmers in 1992, with 91 persons attended. A total of two foreign training classes were held with 36 persons attended. This training program sponsored by the Committee of International Technical Cooperation (CITC). And one foreign training class of "Agricultural Quality Control in Taiwan"

was held for the agricultural technicians of Indonesia in 1992.

## Education of Young Farmers

The education of rural youth is the foundation of future agricultural development. Those received specialized agricultural training programs were helped to obtain a long-term and low-interest loans for funding farm start-up project or improve farming operations. A total of 236 rural youths were qualified to receive the low-interest loans from the government in Taichung areas in 1992, but a total of 3 rural youth applied were rejected to receive the loan because they failed to meet the requirements. The majority of loan is for guidance ornamental plants, fruits and tea crops- (table 2). The amount of start-up loans were followed as table 3.

Table 1. Activities of agricultural training center in 1992

Training activities	Class	Trainee
On-the-job training	2	59
Special-subjects training	4	91
Foreign training	3	36
Co-organized training	313	17,711
Total	322	17,897

Table 2. Number of operation items for rural youth in 1992

Item	No.	%
ornamental plants	110	47.2
fruit	34	14.6
tea	32	13.7
vegetables	13	5.6
mushroom	12	5.2
poultry	10	4.3
pairy cattle	5	2.1
fish farming	4	1.7
hog	3	1.3
agricultural product processing	3	1.3
others	7	3.0
<b>total</b>	<b>233</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Table 3. The amounts of start-up loans for rural youth in 1992

Amounts (million)	Applicant		Practice	
	No	%	No	%
Up to 0.99	17	7.3	28	12
1.0 ~1.99	55	23.6	75	32.2
2.0 ~2.99	66	28.3	68	29.2
3.0 ~3.99	68	29.2	34	14.6
4.0 and under	—	11.6	3	1.3
No applicant	—	—	25	10.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>233</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>233</b>	<b>100</b>

### Analysis on the Visitors to the Station in 1991

Farmers service work remained an important activity of this station, and this year visitors to the station are increasing in number in comparison with the past years. A total of 10,204 farmers visited our station. Results of analyzed document indicated that 43% of them was visiting

the general business of agricultural extension with 4,381 visitors, 30% of them was visiting the protected horticulture with 3,014 visitors, 11%, 7% and 4% of them was visiting rice, vegetable and floral crops, respectively, others included plant protection, upland crop, agricultural economic, fruits plant, soil and fertilizer as well as organic farming etc. with 40-240 visitors of each visited

item. The number of visited groups indicated that a total of 108 groups visiting the station in 1991. 39 groups of them was visiting the protected horticulture, 28 groups of them was visiting the general business of agricultural extension, 14 and 13 groups of them was visiting the item of rice and vegetable crops, respectively, and the others same above. It was included from this analysis that most popular item of the visited farmers was the general business of agricultural extension and protected horticulture, then rice, vegetable and floral crops.

### Farmer's Services

In 1992, by the joint efforts of all the staff in the station made the farmer's services work very productive and fruitful. A total of 360 farmer's letters had been answered. A total of 26,649 extension bulletins had sent out. A total of 892 soil and 266 leaf samples sent by the farmers were analyzed and results of the analysis were sent back to the respective farmers for their use. A total of 9,946 local visitors and 854 foreign guests visited this station in 1992.

### Agricultural Mass Communication

To strengthen the extension of agricultural technology for farmers, the station had not only put emphasis on training courses, but a series of agricultural audiovisual education had been also prepared for them. This station continued carry out the publication of the Quarterly "Taichung Agricultural Extension Newsletters" which has a circulation of 22,000 copies per issues and distributed to core farmers, young farmers, agricultural extension personnel and related persons. During this year the station also published 1000 copies per issue of the Monthly "Taichung Agricultural Extension Bulletins" which as one of educational materials for the training of core farmers and young farmers. A total of three kinds of video-tape materials and one kind of slide materials had been produced. In order to strengthen the effectiveness of mass communications, the station delivered 40 video-tapes, 31 audio-tapes and 41 newspaper informations to news media for broadcasting (Table 4).

Table 4. Agricultural information delivered to mass media

Media	News released	Percentage of adoption
Video	40	100
Radio	31	100
Newspaper	41	100

### Improvement of Rural living

With the modern rural society developing rapidly, organizing the programs for improving the rural living environments and qualities are increasing. The main items in this work are as follows: (a) Strengthening of sanitation and health services: Residents of 21/ farming villages were given direction through such activities as household improvement group meeting and lectures, in recognizing the relationship of sanitation and nutrition to health. (b) Guidance the ageing life of the rural aged people. In the work of home economics extension, 13 classes of adjustment to ageing life were organized in farming villages. Living improvement and educational work of various kinds was carried out through these classes. (c) Strengthening of the family function. A total of 13 home economics classes were organized to strengthen guidance in family education, to provide counselling

for aged people, married couples, young people, and to strengthen communication within families. (d) Promotion of environmental improvement for rural community. Thirteen villages in major agricultural areas were selected for living environmental improvement in farm homes including the improvement of sanitation, yard design, garbage disposal and the proper choice of flowers and trees for planting around rural community. A total of 17 villages throughout the Taichung areas were ever selected for the environmental improvement in farm village. This program including the strengthening of public facilities, farm roads, drainage systems greening and beautifying the rural environment. (e) Farm housing improvement over these year, home renovation subsidies have been extended to low-income farm families for the renovation of 300 homes. In addition, farm housing improvement loans have been extended for the renovation of 256 houses.

Table 5. Number of activities of rural living improvement in 1992

country & city	sanitation & health services (villages)	guidance of ageing life (classes)	strengthening of family function (class)
Taichung	12	12	1
Chunghua	7	0	7
Nantou	2	1	4
Taichung city	1	0	0
Total	22	13	12

Table 6. Number of environmental improvement of rural in 1992

country & city	environmental living improvement of farm families	environmental improvement of rural communities
Taichung	2	7
Chunghua	11	6
Nantou	0	4
Taichung city	0	0
total	13	17

Table 7. Number of farm housing improvement in 1992

country & city	home renovation subsidies (families)	farm housing improvement of rural loans (families)
Taichung	55	75
Chunghua	120	121
Nantou	111	55
Taichung city	14	5
total	300	256

### Rural Cultural Development

The Council of Agriculture is fully aware that in promoting rural cultural development, one should evoke the consciousness of rural people, protect rural areas with a better traditional culture, establish new rural culture to fit modern society, use hardware and software constructions to promote the rural developments, and establish a new horizon of agriculture in Taiwan. Toward this end, the program of rural

cultural development began in 1990 through the principles of starting from local communities and decision-making by local leaders. Under this program, the integrated activities of rural culture were held at the two demonstration villages such as Pi-tou, Changhua and Wu-chi, Taichung, a total of 14 villages were given guidance to set up farmer's classrooms, and a total of 14 township's activities of rural culture were held to promoting the traditional rural culture.

Table 8. The activities of rural culture in Taichung arers

County & City	Demonstration villages	Township's activities	Farmer's classrooms (villages)
Taichung county	1	2	4
Nantou county	0	2	3
Changhua county	1	5	6
Taichung city	0	1	1
Total	2	10	14

### Agricultural Tourism Development

For the purpose of promoting the primary business of agricultural managements transfer to secondary and thirdly business, the program of agricultural tourism development began in 1990 provide the guidance to the farmers, Farmers' Associations, and Farmers' Cooperative Society to set up a recreational area for agricultural tourism development. In the past three years, a total of 31 recreational areas were chosen by the COA, including Ta-chia Livestock Farm of Taiwan FA's and Chunghisen Cooperative Society in Taichung county,

Min-dien Farming Farm in Taichung city, Chi-Comding Farm of Taiwan Sugarcane Co. and Lu-ku Lodging Village in Nantou county, and Chi-lin Farming Farm in Changhua county. In the above recreational areas that were given technical and financial guidances for the hardware and software equipments from the COA. For the promotion of rural tourism development, a total of 15 farming tourism and two rural recreational areas were chosen by the Department of Agriculture and Forstry, Taiwan Provincial Government. In the future, the development of rural tourism will be grown prospectively.

Table 9. The planning of leisure farming and rural tourism in Taichung

County & City	Leisure farming areas	Farming tourism areas	Rural recreational areas
Taichung	2	3	1
Changhua	1	8	1
Nantou	3	4	0
Taichung C.	1	0	0
Total	7	15	2