

ACTIVITIES OF AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION IN 1991

Case Study of Agricultural Management

In view of recent rapid economic development, change of consumption habit, the agricultural production structure need to be adjusted into the mechanized system. In this connection, two outstanding farmers were selected for case study on agricultural management. One is management of an orchid farm. Farm management was investigated with regard to input, output, marketing, staffing and financing, etc. The needed information were collected through filling the designed questionnaires. They were analyzed for further studies. The other is management of a leisure farm. The established leisure farms or recreation farms were investigated with regard to the input, crop production, facilities for recre-

ation, transportation facilities and the numbers of possible visitors. The potential farm to be used as a recreational farms are also explored.

Training and Educations

A total of 12 on-the-job training classes were held for extension workers of the Farmers' Associations, with 630 persons attended. A total of 488 training classes conducted by various Farmers' Associations in cooperation with this station had been successfully carried out. A total of 32, 152 persons received this training courses. Subject-matter oriented training course of "Horticultural Crops Production" were held especially for 141 young farmers. Two foreign courses for 21 foreign trainees from developing countries were conducted.

Table 1. Activities of agricultural training center in 1991

| Training activities | No. of classess | No. of trainees |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Training for extension people | 12 | 630 |
| Specialsubject-matter training | 5 | 141 |
| Foreigner's training | 2 | 21 |
| Farmer's training | 488 | 32,152 |
| Total | 507 | 32,944 |

* co-organized with Farmer's Associations in central Taiwan.

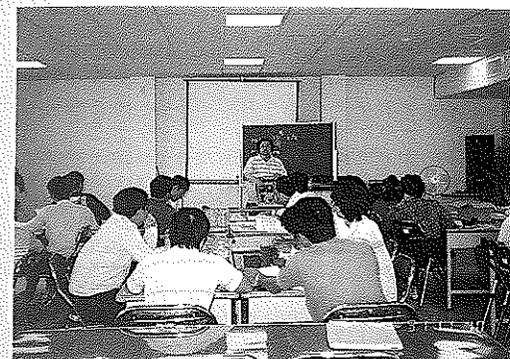


Fig.28. The training class for horticultural crops production.

Activities of Farmers' Day

As a part of islandwide celebration of the eightieth anniversary of foundation of the ROC, this Station organized farmers' day activities from April 10 to 14, 1991. These event included press conference, exhibition of on-farm experiment, a large scale contest of cut flowers, exhibition of agricultural products, etc. Approximately 50000 farmers from different places attended the events of this farmer's day.



Fig.29. The open ceremony of "Farmer's Day".



Fig.30. The contest of rice transplanting by hand during Farmer's Day.



Fig.31. Tree planting activities in "Farmer's Day".

Establishment of New Modernized Farm by Young Farmers

A committee to evaluate the ability and potentiality of young farmers to establish the new modern farms were formed this year. A total of 156 rural youths were qualified to receive the low-interest loans from the government to start their new farms in 1991. The loaned low interest money was used for farm of ornamental plants, special crops and fruits tree, and the amount of start-up loans were \$45,350, 000, \$36,960,000 and \$18,250,000 NT dollars, respectively. Load farmers was entitled to receive an amount of low interest loan in an amount NT\$4,000,000.

Farmer's Services

Due to the joint efforts made by the staff in the station and the Farmers' Associations, the agricultural extension work in 1991 had been very productive. A total of 432 farmer's letters had been answered. A total of 192,850 extension bulletins and 130 lots of seeds requested had been sent out. A total of 367 soil 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 51,039 local visitors and 833 foreign guests visited this station in 1991.

Table 2. The amount of money loaned to young farmers recommended by the evaluation committee in 1991

| Kinds of farms to be started | Loan approved | Loan rejected | Amount of loan |
|---------------------------------|---------------|---------------|-------------------|
| Fruit tree | 30 | 6 | NT \$36,960,000 |
| Vegetables | 17 | 3 | NT \$18,010,000 |
| Ornamental plants | 62 | 12 | NT \$45,350,000 |
| Rice seedling nurseries | 1 | 1 | - |
| Special crops | 31 | 3 | NT \$18,250,000 |
| Animal husbandry | 10 | - | NT \$12,030,000 |
| Fish farming | 2 | 1 | NT \$ 2,000,000 |
| Agricultural product processing | 2 | - | NT \$ 4,000,000 |
| Agricultural tourism | 1 | - | NT \$ 3,000,000 |
| Total | 106 | 26 | NT \$ 139,600,000 |

Table 3. The number news disseminated through mass communication media

| Media | News released | Percentage of adoption |
|-----------|---------------|------------------------|
| Video | 46 | 100 |
| Radio | 45 | 100 |
| Newspaper | 26 | 95 |

Agricultural Mass Communication

To strengthen the agricultural extension work mass communication media send as newspaper, TV, radio network had been used extensively. The Quarterly "Taichung Agricultural Extension Newsletters" had been circulated to farmers 23000 copies per issues. The station also published "Taichung Agricultural Extension Bulletins" with 1,000 copies each month for reference to farmers. A total of 26 video-tapes and 45 audio-tapes were made this year (Table 3).

Home Economic

To promote the skills of home economic extension workers of Farmer's Associations, various training courses were held with a total of 308 participants. The training were concerned with health care, rural welfare, settlement of rural life.

Improvement of Rural Life

The main subtopic of this work is promoting the clean, green, beautiful rural environments, and a total of 9 villages were held during this year. The others subtopic of this work is organizing the demonstration class of popularizing rural nutrition and health education, providing guidance in adopting balanced diets, and strengthening sanitation and health services, and a total of 30 rural women participants in this demonstration class. For the implementation of this programs, guidance was also provided to rural family in keeping consumption records for

guiding rural family development and the effective management of resources. Meanwhile, we are also strengthening the farm family function and intensification of moral education as well as parental education, harmonizing married life, and improving family communication. For the balance development of rural and urban areas and the migration of rural people increasing slowly, this station continued the guidance to a total of 153 farm families in the provision of the Public House Fund for the work of farm housing construction and repair. To enhance the quality of the rural environment, a total of 7 village's communities renovation was carried out through land consolidation, cadastral rearrangement and land redistribution in the communities (Table 4).

Rural Cultural Development

The Council of Agriculture is fully aware that in promoting rural cultural development, one should evoke the con-

Table 4. Total numbers of farm housing improvement and rural community renovation in 1991

| County | Farm housing improvement (families) | Rural community renovation (villages) |
|----------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Taichung | 22 | - |
| Changhua | 93 | 6 |
| Nantou | 38 | 1 |
| Total | 153 | 7 |

sciousness of rural people, protected rural areas with a better traditional culture, established new rural culture to fit modern society, use hardware and software constructions to balance the rural developments, and established 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 locals and decision-making by locals. Under this program, the activities of National Farmers' Day was held in this station during 1991, a total of 11 villages were given guidance to

set up farmer's classrooms, a total of 7 township's activities of rural culture were held to promoting the traditional rural culture, and one demonstration village of rural cultural development was chosen.

Integrated Farmland Utilization

Achievements of integrated planning for farmland utilization in Taichung district were showed in Table 5. In addition, an experiment of integrated farming was carried out at Tien-chung, Changhua Hsien. Dairy farmers were instructed for fertilizer preparation using dairy cows'

Table 5. Integrated farmland utilization in Taichung district, 1991.

| County | Village & Town | Acreage (ha) | Target Crop |
|----------|----------------|--------------|---|
| Nantou | Nan-Tou | 419 | Fruit, Tea |
| | Min-Chien | 520 | Tea |
| | Lu-Ku | 410 | High quality rice, Sugar cane, Tea, |
| | Yu-Chih | 286 | Vegetable |
| | Shui-Li | 570 | Vegetable, Tea, Japanese apricot |
| Changhua | Fu-Hsing | 210 | Vegetable |
| | Pu-Hsin | 95 | Grape |
| | Erh-Lin | 205 | Orange |
| | Fang-Yen | 374 | Maize, Sorghum, Vegetable |
| | Tien-Chung | 367 | Ornamental plants, Milk production, Vegetable |
| Taichung | Chin-Shui | 264 | Watermelon, Leek |
| | Da-Chia | 102 | Bitter gourd, Scallion |
| | Tung-Shih | 320 | Grape, Pear |
| | Wai-Pu | 340 | Ornamental plants, Grape, Forage crops |
| | Hou-Li | 160 | Ornamental plants |
| | Hsin-Sheh | 218 | Grape, Loquat, Pear |

feces and these fertilizers were supplied for growing of rose and bitter gourd. The effect of this experiment was satisfactory.

Promotion of Entrusted and Joint Farming Operation Projects

The aim of guiding and supporting for the entrusted and joint farming operation is to strengthen the utilization of agricultural machinery so that over investment may be prevented and the production cost can be reduced. Promotion of such entrusted farming operation may also lead to the expansion of the farming scale. This year, a total of 28 entrusted farming teams and 970.1 ha of farmland was entrusted in Taichung district (Table 6).

Promotion of Graded Packaging and Joint Marketing for Fruits and Vegetables

Farmers' groups were organized and guided to joint-purchase and use of the common cultivation equipment, packaging material, facility and transportation

vehicle so that the production cost could be reduced. In the same time, trade-mark was established and joint-marketing was promoted. The total number of farmers' groups joined the production and marketing projects in 1991 were 54. In addition, 2 training courses of graded packaging for fruits and vegetables were held in Taichung district this year. Also, 23 farmers' organizations were united to hold a high quality specialized agricultural product exhibition.

A Symposium on Agricultural Management in Taiwan

A symposium on agricultural management was held at Taichung District Agricultural Improvement Station from February 28 to May 2, 1991. Invited lecturers of this symposium included not only scholars and experts but also outstanding farmers. There were a total of 350 participants from Council of Agriculture, Department of Agriculture and Forestry, county government, Farmers'

Table 6. Achievements of the entrusted farming operation in Taichung district 1991

| County | No. of entrusted farming team | Acreage for entrusted farming (ha) |
|----------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Taichung | 15 | 596.3 |
| Changhua | 8 | 263.6 |
| Nantou | 5 | 110.2 |
| Total | 28 | 970.1 |

Associations, farmer's representatives and some research institutes. Total papers presented in this symposium named as "Agricultural Management in Taiwan" was published after the symposium.



Fig.32. The open ceremony of symposium on "Agricultural Management in Taiwan" held in this Station.