

AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION EDUCATION

Agricultural extension services are usually operated in three ways. Firstly, the farmers are organized into different working groups according to crops and cultural patterns that the farmers adopt. Secondly, training courses for extension agents from the farmers associations are planned and carried out to introduce new cultural techniques and varieties developed by this station and other research organizations. Thirdly, agricultural news and technological know-how are transferred to the farmers through the mass communication media such as TV, radios, newspapers and magazines. Recently, emphasis has been put on the training of "real farmers" or "core farmers" under the project of "Establishment of 80,000 Core-farmers in Taiwan".

Six extension professors from National Chung-Hsing University have been assigned as part-time research fellows of this station. They work very closely with the extension specialists of this station to solve problems on technical, economical as well as marketing subjects. This type of work provides very effective ways of transferring new knowledge to farmers and exploring difficult problems encountered by the farmers which will be solved by the follow-up investigations.

In addition to providing training courses to the farmers, the training center of this station also offers courses on some special subjects for the specialists of the private companies and trainees from foreign countries.