International Seminar on Enhanced Entry of Young Generation into Farming

One-stop Service for Young Farmers in Taiwan

Council of Agriculture (COA)
Department of Farmers’ Service
Senior specialist and chief
Kun-Fong Kuo
Outline

- Introduction - short review of Taiwan
- Issue analysis of farming population - reduced agricultural population & increasingly aging population
- Promotion plans for young farmers - threshold for young farmers & PGYF (project guidance for recruiting young farmers) program
- Conclusion
Introduction

- Size of Taiwan: 36,000 km²
- 59% of the island is consisted of mountains and forests.
- Taiwan has a population of 23 millions.
- Average monthly temperature is 16°C in the winter and 24-30°C in the rest of the year.
- Arable Land 813,126 ha.
- The average farm size is 1.1 ha.
• Reduced Agricultural Population

• According to statistics, the number of people employed in Taiwan’s agriculture industries decreased from 950,000 in 1995 to 540,000 in 2012.

• This result shows that the supply of labor forces in the agricultural industry is decreasing annually.
Increasingly Aging Population

- The average age is 62 years old in Taiwan.
- Age group 15-44 years is about 8% in 2010.
- Young farmers of population has declined from 2000 to 2010.
A comparison of the age and number of people employed in various agricultural industries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Total Number of people</th>
<th>15-44</th>
<th>45-64</th>
<th>65-69</th>
<th>&gt;70</th>
<th>Average Age (years)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>729,387</td>
<td>9.56</td>
<td>46.78</td>
<td>15.32</td>
<td>28.34</td>
<td>61.19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>721,446</td>
<td>7.92</td>
<td>48.15</td>
<td>12.76</td>
<td>31.17</td>
<td>62.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rice</td>
<td>304,986</td>
<td>7.04</td>
<td>45.49</td>
<td>12.88</td>
<td>34.59</td>
<td>62.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Floriculture</td>
<td>6,029</td>
<td>13.30</td>
<td>58.98</td>
<td>9.87</td>
<td>17.85</td>
<td>57.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Processing &amp; leisure farming</td>
<td>221</td>
<td>17.65</td>
<td>61.09</td>
<td>5.88</td>
<td>15.38</td>
<td>55.57</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The percentage of floriculture and processing industry are much higher than average value in 15-44 group.
Problems Encountered by Young People during Farming

From tech. to marketing
Industry chain

Tech.
Land
Marketing
Business Management
Green house & facility
Capital

Young farmer
A. Agricultural professional training

- The COA integrated its 14 agricultural experimental institutions, forming the Farmer’s Academy in 2012.
- The Farmer’s Academy is a professional training institute, including 14 local training centers.
- Participants can learn agriculture professional knowledge and technology, and then get involved in the agricultural industry.
- The Farm Practical can make the youth enhance their hands-on experience.
- The Farmer’s Academy provides a systematic training, covering basic, middle and advanced courses.
Farmer’s Academy

Courses positioning

Business management

Harvest Good Quality Product

Learn from Doing

How to Plant

Know Agriculture

Introduction (3 days) (Interesting in agriculture)

Beginner Courses (2-4 weeks) (Beginning engaged in agriculture)

Farm Practical Training (4 to 12 months)

middle Courses (1 week) (Professional farmer)

Advanced Courses (3 days) (Agricultural manager)
B. Assist young farmers to obtain farmland

- Promoting “Small landlord and big tenant-farmers program” (SLBT) to adjust farming structure.
- Encouraging unwilling and aged farmers to lease their farmland.
- Assisting younger farmers to rent farmland and enlarge their farms.
Small landlords & big tenant-farmers (SLBT) program

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month/Year</th>
<th>Number of people</th>
<th>Tenant</th>
<th>Area (hectare)</th>
<th>The own of farmland</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Number of people</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12/2010</td>
<td>703</td>
<td>4,056</td>
<td>1,593</td>
<td>5,649</td>
<td>8,121</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/2011</td>
<td>1,002</td>
<td>6,549</td>
<td>1,884</td>
<td>8,433</td>
<td>13,912</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/2012</td>
<td>1,328</td>
<td>8,004</td>
<td>1,575</td>
<td>9,579</td>
<td>18,265</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/2013</td>
<td>1,578</td>
<td>11,268</td>
<td>1,919</td>
<td>13,187</td>
<td>25,724</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8/2014</td>
<td>1,635</td>
<td>12,674</td>
<td>2,014</td>
<td>14,688</td>
<td>28,270</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

• The average farm size of general farms is **1.1 hectares**, and the average age is **62 years old**.
• In contrast to the average farm size of SLBT participants is **9 hectares**, and the average age is **44 years old**.
C. Financial Assistance

• The government established Agricultural Credit Guarantee fund access to credit preferential loan if young farmers don’t have sufficient gage.

• We provide each young farmer a maximum U.S.170,000 loan at 1.5% interest rate.

• In addition, the COA devised more than 10 types of agricultural loan plans for young farmers, including business improvement loan, loan for purchase farmland, and loan for farm machinery.
D. Integrate a service and exchange platform for young farmers

• In this platform, we survey and analysis farmers’ management status, local information, give training services, match and encourage them to cooperate.

• Overall, in 2013, there were 15 young farmer’s associations that have been built up in different counties.

• About 900 young farmers joined this plan and this number is still increasing.

• The average age is 35 years old.
E. PGYF (Project Guidance for recruiting Young Farmers)

Assisting young farmers to rent farmland to enlarge their farms

Agricultural professional training

Farmer’s Academy

E farmland bank

Consultant

Loans

Offering finance loans

Diagnosis, one to one tutoring

Marketing

Good product

Greenhouse & facility

Community website

Line group partner & cooperation

Match marketing, web & farmer’s market
• Goal: To cultivate 500 high-quality and young new-generation farmers.

• First stage: There were 100 young farmers (33 on average) publically selected in Jun. 2013 with one-to-one tutoring for 2 years. (2013.6-2015.6)

• Second stage: The second group of 100 young farmers recruitment is conducting now. (2015-2016)
PGYF-strategy

PDCA (Plan-do-Check-Action)

Adjust Plan

Diagnosis

Input COA resources

Estimate

Revise business plan

Grouping

beginning farmer: stable operation

Experienced farmers: Expanding scale

Develop added-value industry

Promotion organization, large-scale, enterprise

Young farmer proposed plan
PGYF—One-stop service

Taoyuan District
Miaoli District
Taichung District
Tainan District
Kaohsiung District
Taitung District
Hualien District

Agricultural Research and Extension Station

7 teams located in different area Young farmers easy to get supporting resources.

one to one tutoring
• Minister Chen face to face communicated with hundreds of young farmers.

• We also used YouTube to make a live broadcasting, let other farmers in different areas could discuss with Minister and solve their problems directly.
Performance (100 young farmers)

- Enlarge scale: 480 ha
- Processing product: 38 items
- Loan: total U.S. 2,000,000
- 18 TAP (traceable agricultural products) items
- 35 organic items
- New tech. & variety: 45 items
- Product & brand story design: 68
Dr. Lu (盧紀燁) is a very famous “PhD. farmer”.

Established "Shoufeng image" network platform

He integrated products from local young farmers and tutor, emphasizing health and safety, ecological protection and local story, creating a win-win solution.

His goal is to set up the largest internet marketing platform in Hualien.
Counseling enter COA Innovation Incubator

5 young farmers cooperation

Added-value

Media exposed

Developing channel
Conclusion I

• Looking to the future, COA will continue to attract young people to engage in farming, expand their business, and add value to the industry.

• We should establish a counseling young farmers resource integration platform to maximize the benefits.

• Young people are filled diverse and creative ideas, we should encourage them to develop industry value chain.
Conclusion II

• Encourage young farmers to set up their own agribusiness.
• Increase farmers’ income and social status of youth in Taiwan.
• Finally, new young farmer is the new hope in agriculture in Taiwan.
Thank you for your attention

Kun-Fong Kuo (郭坤峯)
Current Position: Senior specialist and chief
Agricultural Extension Section
Department of Farmers’ Service
Council of Agriculture (COA), Taiwan ROC
E-mail: kkf@mail.coa.gov.tw
Tel: +886-2-2312-4033