

# **Activation guidance for rural manpower in Hualien: A case study on the minimum-security-prison corps and the farm-renew corps<sup>1</sup>**

Ching-Meng Tseng<sup>2</sup> Hsing-Jung Liu<sup>3</sup> Mei-Hui Yeh<sup>4</sup>

## **Abstract**

In order to encourage citizens to engage in agricultural work, to ease the seasonal lack of labor force and to supplement agricultural manpower, the Council of Agriculture has promoted the program of improving seasonal shortage of agricultural labor 2.0 measures since 2017 and set up three kinds of labor corps to provide agricultural labor. The purpose of this study was to explore the status of agricultural labor force utilization and dispatch in two of the tree kinds of labor corps in Hualien and to provide suggestions on guidance measures. The study used qualitative research method. We select interviewees as follows: two Farmers' Association staffs, two farm employers, two prisoners, one farm labor and two prison managers in Hualien. We collected the data by interview. The results are showed as followed. The minimum-security-prison corps is suitable for being dispatched to large-scale farms in the prison's nearby areas. Under the current management system of the prison, the prisoners work earnestly and are affirmed by the farm employer. The farm-renew corps is suitable for being dispatched to all scales of farms. The farm employer got a stable source of manpower through the program and thus expand his agricultural business scale. The farm labor not only obtained stable wages but also learned a lot of management skills. It is suggested as followed. In the terms of the minimum-security-prison corps, return the commission of corps dispatch to the prison. To encourage ex-offenders to do farming, give them information about agriculture trainings and jobs. In the terms of the farm-renew corps, relax the restrictions on the continuously dispatching labors to the same farm. Continue to advocate and encourage more farm employers to join the program and apply for labors. Establish a mechanism for short-term flexible deployment of labors.

**Keywords:** labor shortage, the minimum-security prison, agricultural labor force, qualitative research

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2. Associate researcher, Agricultural Extension Section, Hualien DARES.

3. Associate researcher, Agricultural Extension Section, Hualien DARES.

4. Contract-based assistant, Agricultural Extension Section, Hualien DARES.