

Study on Flowers Production and Marketing Group of Husband and Wife as the Division of Labor and Women Taking Part in the Agricultural Extension Education in Hualien District¹

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Summary

This study is designed to understand the status of husband and wife both in Hualien and Ilan Counties as flowers-planting farmers taking part in home management and agricultural operation through the division of labor and to ascertain the viewpoints of women taking part in the agricultural extension education. The information collection is based on the questionnaires to survey a total 52 members in 8 flowers production and marketing groups and on the focus group to visit the wives of 42 members.

- (1) Most of the flower-planting farmer-women and their husbands are aged under 49 and mostly possess high school graduates but these women seldom take part in the course, of community and agricultural extension education activities; however, a majority of their husbands support them participating in their own agricultural operations.
- (2) A majority of family pattern are core family and indicating that the resources of family members are very important, and an absolute majority of them indicate that their family income is not entirely depending on the agricultural income; in the field of making decision, most of husbands feel that the family management is performed by both husband and wife but the husband is in charge of agricultural operation; most of their farming land are less than one hectare, and a majority of them borrow capital and indicate that they have never employed any laborer and taken part in the joint operation and marketing.
- (3) Both husband and wife indicate that they should jointly share the task of family management, but in fact, the wife does it on her own in most cases as in the past; almost chiefly the husband is in charge of the task of agricultural operation in which the wife takes part all the way but assists him doing chores normally ; the husband affirms his wife as a required working partner, and the wife also supports the business of her husband.
- (4) Working time of both husband and wife is very long, and even in the slack farming period, averagely each person has to work for more than 14.8 hours everyday, the wife's working time is apparently longer than that of her husband, it is mainly spent for family management; most of husbands feel that the task of their wives' family management is rather heavy, but one half of them indicate that in the field of agricultural operation, the work of their wives is not heavy, however, a majority of women feel that their work of family management and agricultural operation is very heavy.

- (5) A majority of husbands indicate supporting their wives to take part in the groups and training activities, and the women who are visited feel that it is necessary for them to participate in the groups and training activities; but these women seldom take part in these activities for these factors: work is too busy, nobody takes care of children, it will hinder other work, no information is available, traffic is inconvenient, it is not the right time or their husbands' participation therein is all right.
- (6) Almost all the husbands indicate that they support their wives to enrich their knowledge of family management and agricultural operation but emphasize that of family management, and they wish strongly that the contents of enriching their wives' knowledge are teaching and raising children, financial management, marketing strategy and market information; and the women who are visited indicate that they need learning very much, and the contents of learning most required by them include teaching and raising children, communicating skill, flower arrangement, meal nutrition, psychological adjustment, marketing strategy and market information as well as pest control.
- (7) They feel that the most effective learning method of women taking part in the agricultural extension education is to participate in the visiting and training activities.

(Key words: Flowers production and marketing group, Rural women, Agricultural extension education)

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