

Study on training effectiveness of agriculture and food basic class of farmer's academy ¹

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Abstract

Kirkpatrick's four-level evaluation model is used in this study to evaluate the training for trainees at the Farmers' Academy. The evaluation is chiefly made on learning level of trainees in the elementary course of organic agriculture, vegetables and medicinal plants. The study aims to discuss whether trainees show difference in abilities due to their background properties, before and after training, and the standardized program taken by different training organizations. The study with factor analysis divides 42 abilities generated during training into five ability dimensions which include "production technology", "R&D and marketing", "farm management", "policy organization" and "information application". The final result reveals that: for the background properties of trainees, only "length of service" shows significant difference. Regarding pretest and posttest training, it is found from self-evaluation of ability change that each dimension is remarkably different from each other. As to different training organizations (Hualien District Agricultural Research & Extension Station and Tainan District Agricultural Research & Extension Station), after standardized program is adopted, the elementary organic agriculture class shows no significant difference in pre-test and post-test. The elementary vegetables class having noticeable difference in post-test of the "production technology" dimension shows a considerable effect after the standardized program is adopted. In the future, the Farmers' Academy training center shall continuously carry out similar program standardization, so that trainees will not be affected when selecting the same training course held in different organizations. The analysis results could be used as a reference by other Agricultural Research & Extension Stations in hold educational training.

Key words: Elementary course at the Farmers' Academy, training effects, agricultural crops

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