Activation guidance for rural manpower in Hualien and Yilan areas: A case study on the organic agriculture industry[1]

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Abstract

In recent years, due to the aging of the rural population and outflow of young people outflow, it's getting harder to find farm workers for farmers during busy seasons. That is extremely unfavorable for long-term development of agricultural production and industry. The purpose of this study was to discuss the status of agricultural labor force utilization and dispatch in agricultural-related units and organic farm operators in Hualien and Yilan and to provide suggestions on guidance measures. In this study, qualitative research method was used to select two farmers and two agriculture-related units in Hualien and Yilan area. The data were collected and analyzed by interview and document analysis. The results are showed as followed. The mechanization of farm management can effectively reduce the use of manpower. Organic farms with diversified crops don't dispatch workers between each other and tend to hire long-term workers individually. Concerning the establishment of an agricultural manpower dispatching platform, respondents agreed that domestic manpower is hard to find and supported the introduction of foreign labor. It is suggested as followed. R & D of agricultural machinery for labor saving should be strengthened. The COA should continue to promote the farm apprenticeship, summer internship and manpower banking services and other related projects. It can also help farmers to use international volunteers to alleviate agricultural labor shortage problem.

Key words: labor shortage, organic agriculture, foreign labor

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