

# An Analysis of Agricultural Training Systems Corresponding to Various New Entrants

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## 1. Objective and Method

Due to the increase of new entrants from non-farming households into agriculture (hereinafter referred to simply as “new entrants”), the training system has been enhanced. The training system, however, does not correspond to the various types of farming, which range from full-time farming to noncommercial farming.

The purpose of this study is to examine the ideal training system for new entrants, considering management-oriented and life-oriented types. For the current year I shall concentrate on the former type and analyze the training program using data from questionnaire analysis of farming by new entrants.

## 2. Outline of the Results

From the viewpoint of the ages of the actual start-ups, there are differences between the young and middle generations in the motives of new entrants and the details of starting farming (Table 1). A lot of incubators – municipalities, agricultural cooperatives and agricultural corporations – which intend to produce agricultural business managers, give support to the young generation because they are aware of farm management. The rate of support in the young generation, therefore, is higher than that of the middle-advanced generation. On the other hand, the middle generation is hard to support when starting farming because they are aware of rural life rather than management. Thus they do not depend on rented farmland and loans so much. They

start farming with mainly their own farmland and funds on hand.

71 percent of new entrants have acquired the needed skills to start farming. Table 2 shows that the ratio is high for new entrants who are young, have a high academic background, and who received training for a long period, and for agricultural production corporations. In particular the relation between the age at which training is started and the level acquired of the needed skills to start farming is significant for statistical tests. The same situation applies to training regarding marketing, management control and management philosophy.

Table 3 shows the data of adopters as trainees in *Nogyo hojin shugyo sokushin jigyo* (National agricultural corporation job placement project). The adopters, as trainees, are characterized as 70 percent in their twenties, 31.7 percent women, and 58.3 percent seeking agricultural corporations through internships and agriculture job search meetings. They are given training in cultivation techniques, marketing and agricultural book-keeping, i.e. in various areas (Table 4). It follows from what has been said that agricultural corporations are able to play an important role in the training of new entrants of who are management-oriented.

Table 1. Characteristics of New Entrants by Age of Actual Start-Up

(Unit : %)

		Age of actual start-up			
		29 years old or less	30-39 years old	40-49 years old	50 yrs old or more
Motives for new entrants	[Management-oriented type]	25.0	21.0	22.1	15.1
	[Life-oriented type]	12.5	15.3	24.2	32.9
Training	[Participating in a training]	75.0	72.2	54.7	47.9
Experience of working at agricultural legal person	[Yes]	18.0	21.2	8.5	2.7
Use of municipalities support	[Yes]	58.7	61.5	57.0	37.7
Means of securing farmland	[Purchasing]	11.3	10.1	23.7	27.8
	[Renting]	64.5	68.5	54.8	47.2
Existence of loan	[Yes]	68.3	68.6	48.9	34.2

Note: New entrants guidance center (2002.3) questionnaire analysis into farming of new farmers (new entrants).

**Table 2.** Ratio of New Entrants Acquiring Needed Skills to Start Farming through Agricultural Training

Item	Category	%	Chi-square test of the level of acquired needed skills and each item (p-value)
Academic background	Junior high school/High school	61.2	0.0701
	Junior college/Agricultural junior college	66.7	
	University/Graduate school	76.2	
Age of trainee	29 years old or less	73.4	*0.0272
	30~39 years old	76.8	
	40 years old or more	58.6	
Place of training	Farm household/Agricultural production legal person	74.0	0.1937
	Organization related to agriculture	61.1	
	Others	69.6	
Period of training	1 year or less	63.5	0.2147
	1~2 years	70.3	
	2 years or more	76.8	
Training time of year	1994 and before	69.8	0.8067
	1995-96	72.5	
	1997-98	67.1	
	1999 and after	74.0	
Contents of training	Yes	71.6	0.1413
	No	50.0	
Cultivation techniques	Yes	75.5	*0.0272
	No	62.1	
Machinery operation	Yes	89.3	*0.0219
	No	68.3	
Processing	Yes	85.2	**0.0041
	No	65.9	
Marketing	Yes	95.2	**0.0001
	No	65.7	
Management control	Yes	82.4	**0.0004
	No	61.6	

Note: Materials is same as Table 1.

\*significant at 5% level.

\*\*significant at 1% level.

**Table 3.** Contents of Adopters as Trainees in National Work of Job Placement to Agricultural Legal Person (Unit : %)

Age of trainee		Sex		Channel of information about training		Type of contract	
19 years old or less	8.3	Man	68.3	Internship	13.3	Employee	88.3
20-29 years old	70.0	Woman	31.7	Job search meeting in agriculture	45.0	Trainee	11.7
30-39 years old	18.3			Inquiring for agricultural legal person	41.7		
40 years old or more	3.3						
(Average:25.1 years old)							

Note: Date of new entrants guidance center. Population parameter is 60 people.

**Table 4.** Record of Training at One Agricultural Legal Person

Year	Month	Days	Contents of training	
			Apple culture	Others
2002	Apr.	25	Grafting and planting	Internet
	May	25	Thinning out apples	Agricultural policy
	June	25	Thinning out apples and measures of damage caused by diseases and harmful insects	
	July	25	Weeding and manuring	
	Aug.	25	Harvesting and shipping	
	Sep.	25	Shipping and marketing	Marketing
	Oct.	25	Shipping and marketing	Marketing
	Nov.	25	Shipping and marketing	Marketing
	Dec.	20	Planting and manuring	Overhauling
2003	Jan.	20	Pruning and measures of damage caused by diseases and harmful insects	
	Feb.	20	Pruning	Agricultural book keeping
	March	20	Pruning	

Note: Reference material is same as Table 3.