

Evaluating the Training Effectiveness of the Organic Agricultural Course Offered by The Farmers' Academy

Hui-Chen Huang¹

Abstract

This study is aimed at the students who participated in the organic agricultural courses of the Farmers' Academy from 2017-2020, and evaluates the training effectiveness with Kirkpatrick's four-level evaluation model to study the training effectiveness and the specific benefits of field practice after the training. The analysis was summarized into 4 aspects of "new face", "finance and risk", "research and development and marketing" and "organization and regulation". Trainees' cognition of core ability in each dimension improved significantly before and after the training, among which the improvement in organization and regulation was the highest. Following up the actual performance changes of the trainees after the training, the use of pesticides and chemical fertilizers in the field has been significantly reduced, while the use of organic materials has been significantly increased, and the two changes are positively correlated; 33.8% of the trainees have increased sales of agricultural products and profits after the training, the overall increase was 13.4% and 11.2% respectively, and the acquisition of the certification has a more significant impact on increasing sales and profits.

Keywords: Organic agriculture, Training effectiveness

¹ Assistant Researcher of Taitung DARES, COA.