Rural development is a multi-sectoral process which not only includes economic change, but also requires adaptation of human behavior and social structure. Development in the rural areas can be sustainable if it is adapted to the bio-physical conditions and resources of the specific regions. There should be the process of political participation, which is part of every rural development policy. There are five dimensions of rural community revitalization: human, economy, politics, science and technology, and resources and environment. There is a need to reinforce community planning and development in rural areas to improve the working and living environments of rural farmers.

This international workshop on rural community revitalization basically aims to share and exchange promising strategies for rural development; increase competitiveness of rural rooted enterprises in Taiwan by learning from the success of other countries; enhance movement of people from urban to rural areas and develop new approaches to enhance safe food production, sound health, recreation activities, etc. The workshop was participated in by 10 country representatives which became a dynamic exchange of information on community revitalization from various perspectives. Topics included regional identity, infrastructure development, nature preservation, environmentally friendly practices, the Rural Regeneration Act of Taiwan, which allows residence to propose community revitalization initiatives based on local characteristics, natural ecology and cultural resources, “sufficiency economy,” community self-governance, etc.

**Major findings/recommendations:**
- Create a local regional identity since this is the starting point of rural community revitalization. Adequate infrastructure also determine the level of rural development;
- Showcase successful programs and collect best practices and demonstration projects
because these create multiplier effects in rural development efforts;
• Promote nature preservation and environmentally friendly practices because rural revitalization is always anchored on these tenets;
• Address the issues of aging farmers, climate change, natural disasters and dwindling agricultural resources;
• Conduct campaigns to attract urban dwellers to return to the countryside. The said campaigns should be based on people’s participation, government cooperation and capacity building.

Enhancement of rural community revitalization in the Asian and Pacific region
Held in Taipei City, Taiwan, 1-5 October 2012
No. of participating countries: 9
   (Germany, Japan, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, Korea, Vietnam, Philippines, Taiwan)
No. of papers presented: 16

No. of participants: 18 resource speakers from 9 countries and 50 local participants
Co-organizers: Council of Agriculture and Rural Development Fund

List of papers
Keynote papers
• Multi-functional rural areas: marginalized agriculture—experiences at the German countryside
   - Ralph Nolten
• The new policy shaping Taiwan’s rural communities: rural regeneration act
   - Su-Chin Chen and Huei-Yann Joann Jeng

Resource papers
1. Strategy of rice farming rural areas in the face of globalization
   - Hironori Yagi
2. Philosophy of sufficiency economy: key guiding principle for sustainable rural community development
   - Panuwat Na Nakornpanom
3. Revitalizing the Gongliao rural area: a case study of Lungong community
   - Ching-Ta Chuang

4. Rural development and cultural economy: a case study of an agri-food festival in modern Taiwan
   - Shou-Cheng Lai

5. Application of agriculture research to rural development in Thailand
   - Saroj Aungsumalin

6. Recent trends in rural development and policy issues in Korea
   - Kwang-Sun Kim

7. Farmers’ community development in Malaysia: farmers organization authority experience
   - Hj. Md. Salim bin Sulaiman

8. Rural empowerment in Indonesia
   - Unieq Safitrie

9. Innovative institutional arrangements to revitalize rural communities: the case of abaca supply chains in the Philippines
   - Albert Perez Aquino

10. Rural empowerment in Taiwan
    - Yung-Chuan Ko,
    Ming-Hsien Chen and
    Jung-Chun Chen

11. Pineapple can to pineapple cake—a successful case of rural industry in Taiwan
    - Hsiao-Lan Liu

10. New rice varieties and farmer adoption in the development of the Mekong delta region in Vietnam
    - Buu Chi Bui

11. Developing the Taomi community as a valuable asset to ecotourism
    - Yun-Nuan Chun

12. From crisis to prosperity: experiences in rural community development at Sanzhi
    - Yi-Fong Lin

For further information, please contact Dr. SC Huang, FFTC

The Gongrong Community Development model farm is a concrete proof that rural revitalization should always be anchored on nature preservation and the promotion of environmentally friendly practices.