

Advanced Organic Agriculture CEO Course and Organic Agriculture Academy in Korea

Sohn, S. M.¹

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Abstract

Two different schemes are offered as education and training opportunities for farmers and consumers in Korea in the specific field of organic agriculture: Advanced Organic Agriculture CEO Course and Organic Agriculture Academy.

The Advanced Organic Agriculture CEO Course was established first at Dankook University in March 2005 as a one-year course for farmers and consumers to teach basic knowledge of agriculture and principles of organic agriculture and techniques. Later on, three other universities—Gangwon National University, Chosun University, and Sangji University—followed by offering similar six-month courses. Attending the course once a week, participants learn not only the scientific basic idea but a lot of updated skills for implementation of organic agriculture as well. The courses provide a first-rate education and the opportunity for cross-disciplinary study within whole countries and invite foreign lecturers. Each semester, they join two workshops and one excursion abroad to learn from others' experience. During the course, they learn all the subjects of organic agriculture, such as organic rice/vegetable/fruit production, organic grassland management/animal production, organic food processing, marketing, and certification system. The participants come from across the country and include farmers, journalists, reporters, government officers, extension workers, researchers, students, teachers, doctors, and professors paying the tuition fee themselves.

Apart from the Advanced Organic Agriculture CEO Course, the Organic Agriculture Academy was established by the Agriculture Cooperative Agency in Gangdong/Seoul to deliver an extension service for farmers and a consumer education for citizens in Seoul. It focuses on only a two-month curriculum, while the Advanced CEO Course offers a six-month or one-year curriculum. This intensified course was adopted especially in the Seoul area to educate consumers as a target group. The Organic Agriculture Academy provides them with up-dated information on an organic lifestyle for the future.

¹ Research Institute of Organic Agriculture, Dankook University, Cheonan 330-714, Republic of Korea, e-mail: smsohn@dankook.ac.kr Internet: www.rioa.or.kr