

## Summary

Depending on the availability of water, the farm lands in Taiwan are divided into many different cropping areas including double rice, single rice, rotational rice, and dryland cropping area. Growing two or more crops on the same field in a year to increase farm income have been attained by growing short growth duration crops or cultivars, and adopting some special cultural practices such as relay-intercropping, ratooning, notillage, older seedling, or raised bed method, etc.

Some highly efficient and productive cropping systems have been developed through the proper utilization and combination of the new cultivars and cultural practices. For example, the introduction of the new rice cultivars with early maturing and wide adaptability has shortened and shifted the rice growing season and duration, and thus extended the summer and winter fallowing period for being able to grow high value crops. Two or three harvests a year on grape and pear have been succeeded through the proper adoption of some physical or chemical treatments.

The trend of labor shortage by migration of rural labor to urban-industry sectors have induced changes in cropping systems depending on the size of farm. Farmers of the small farms with less than 0.5 ha are continuing to intensify their land use. Two to three harvest of fruit, or seven to eight vegetable crops in a year are adopted extensively on such farms. Small farms of around 1 ha or more cannot be managed by their family labor. They have to cut down on crop acreage which requires much labor input. Group farming operation as a means of accelerating farm mechanization have gradually been adopted. Therefore, diversified multiple cropping systems are tending to change to monoculture and multiple cropping index will also declines more farmers join the group farm.