

## Taiwan emphasizes strengthening and advancing smart and sustainable agriculture

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Taiwan's Premier Cho Jung-tai emphasized that the government will strengthen agriculture protections while promoting smart and sustainable production.

At the first National Food & Agriculture Education Outstanding Contribution Award ceremony on Jan. 14 in Taipei City, Cho noted that Taiwan has a strong agricultural tradition and actively promotes high-quality produce despite its small area.

Agri-food education advancement involved collaboration between various government agencies, Cho said. As examples, the Ministry of Agriculture assists transition from traditional farming to smart agriculture; the Ministry of Education educates about sustainable practices in agriculture; the Ministry of Health and Welfare ensures food safety, while the Ministry of Culture, Hakka Affairs Council and the Council of Indigenous Peoples preserve diverse food cultures.

The premier presented awards to winners including Professor J. P. Lin from National Taiwan Normal University who was recognized for her assistance in establishing domestic agri-food education.

Among the five winners in individual categories, Liao Zao-ru, a teacher from Anciao Elementary School in southern Taiwan's Tainan city, was praised for creating traceable menus. Organic farmer, Li Fa-xian, was recognized for raising funds to organize an agricultural festival.

Ten winners were honored in the group category, including the Taipei-headquartered Presicarre Corporation, which advocates agri-food education in its supermarkets and the Chi-shang Farmers' Association based in the southeastern

county of Taitung, which hosts a variety of experiential activities, Executive Yuan added.