

景觀綠化苗木推手—陳衍如先生

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位於苗栗縣頭屋鄉獅潭村，較少人知道的一個小地方，有一面積約 9 分地的苗圃，主要是栽培生產造林及景觀苗木，在這現今較少年輕人願意投入苗木生產產業的年代，還有年輕人願意持守推行綠美化苗木產業，值得稱許。這苗圃名為鄉村苗圃，負責人為陳衍如先生。

陳衍如先生為土生土長的苗栗縣頭屋鄉獅潭村人，由於家裡務農，因此從小對農業及作物栽培頗有興趣，約小學時就決定長大後從事農業方面的事業。高中就讀苗栗農工農經科，在農工就學階段曾經到彰化臺大蘭園實習，在臺大蘭園實習中，

決定畢業後成立與種苗生產相關事業。剛開始的動機想從國外採購進口松、柏類的種子及種苗，因從外國進口種子、種苗等需要有種苗證等相關證件，籌備輾轉一段時間，最終還是放棄，最後毅然決定創立了鄉村苗圃。

回想鄉村苗圃剛開始創立階段，陳衍如先生為了解景觀苗木生產過程，曾經一天好幾次去南庄、田尾等地請教苗木業者、專家及學校老師，詢問有關苗木種子播種、栽培繁殖及銷售等相關問題。起初繁殖培育的綠化苗木為烏心石，種植面積約 1 分半，花了 6~7 年才賣出；多數繁殖

培育莖徑 5~10 公分的景觀苗木皆賣不出去，因此不以培育生產大樹為目標，只生產販售規格在 3 吋~8 吋苗木，直到現在。

目前鄉村苗圃約有 60 種造林及景觀苗木，主要供應全省，中、北部較大宗。近年來政府推廣國內原生樹種種植，陳衍如先生也積極蒐集、培育國內原生樹種苗木，相信他的努力，在不久的將來，鄉村苗圃會在苗木生產業界，占有一席之地。



圖 1. 鄉村苗圃負責人陳衍如先生

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The New Promoter of Sapling and Ornamental Seedling Production - Mr. Chen Yan-Ru

HUANG, SHIH-EN¹

Rural Nursery is located at Shitan village, Touwu township, Miaoli County, a lesser-known small place – a nursery garden spanning about 0.9 hectare, primarily dedicated to produce sapling and ornamental seedlings. In an era when few young people are willing to devote himself to seedling nursery industry, it's commendable that someone still persist in promoting sapling and ornamental seedling production. This nursery, named Rural Nursery, is managed by Mr. Chen Yan-Ru.



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Mr. Chen Yan-Ru, a native of Shitan village, developed an interest in agriculture and crop production when he was young due to growing up in a farming family. He has decided to pursue a career in agriculture since his elementary school days. A few years later, he studied agricultural economics in 'National Miao-Li Agricultural and Industrial Vocational High School', then interned at 'Taida Horticultural', a well-known orchid company in Changhua County. He raised the idea of starting his own business related to seedling production upon graduation. At the beginning, he attempted to import and sell pine and cypress seeds and seedlings from abroad. Soon, he encountered many hurdles such as complicated import certifications. Even though much effort was paid, he had to give up these thoughts and eventually decided to establish his own nursery 'Rural Nursery'.

Looking back on the early days of his career, Mr. Chen recalls his efforts to understand the production of sapling and ornamental seedlings in every aspect. He frequently visited the farmers, experts, and teachers in this field to consult with about the processes of seed sowing, cultivation, propagation, and even marketing. Mr. Chen told us, as the nursery business began, he propagated 0.15 hectare of Michelia (*Magnolia compressa*) seedlings. However, it took 6-7 years before they were sold out. He realized that ornamental seedlings with trunk diameters over 5 to 10 centimeters are not popular in the market. Hence, he chooses 3 to 8 inch pot of seedlings as main product until now.

Currently, the Rural Nursery could offer around 60 varieties of sapling and ornamental seedlings, primarily supplying the central and northern regions of Taiwan. In recent years, as the government has been promoting the planting of native tree species for environmental friendly and net zero emission issue, Mr. Chen has been actively collecting and propagating native seedlings. It is believed that with Mr. Chen's hard work the Rural Nursery will soon play a greater role in the domestic seedling nursery industry in the near future.