



Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives (MOAC) to initiate the Sustainable Urban Agriculture Development Project

MOAC to create a new dimension of Green City by moving forward the Project on Sustainable Agriculture under the Agroforestry Farming and Urban Farming models

Mr. Alongkorn Phonlaboot, Advisor to Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives, revealed after chairing the meeting on “Sustainable Urban Agriculture Development” with an aim to move forward the Green City policy initiated by Dr. Chalermchai Sri-on, Minister of MOAC. The Project has the objective to increase green areas in the city to reduce air and PM 2.5 pollution by applying Agroforestry Farming and Urban Farming concepts. These are steered under the Committee on Sustainable Agriculture, Committee on Agricultural Technology 4.0 and Management Committee on Agritech and Innovation Center (AIC).

Government agencies and private sector were invited to the meeting such as Bangkok Metropolitan Administration, Community Organizations Development Institute, Expressway Authority of Thailand, Royal Forest Department, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, National Housing Authority, AIC-Bangkok (Kasetsart University), representatives from the Secretariat of the Conference of University Presidents of Thailand, young smart farmers, Sustainable Agriculture Foundation, National Charter, Thai Urban Designers Association, Department Store Association, Housing Business Association, Creative Agricultural Economy Agency, Sub-committee on E-commerce etc. The project will be conducted in urban areas throughout the country. There will be a management committee to work with concerned parties and AIC centers in each province to operate the project.

The Sustainable Urban Agriculture Development project consists of 2 parts which will be run simultaneously. One is the “urban farming” aimed at generating job opportunities and incomes as well as providing safe food for urban population. The other is in the form of “forest garden” with the objectives to increase green areas, maintain biodiversity and agricultural ecology, act as

the learning center for sustainable urban agriculture and operate farmer markets both on-line and off-line. This will serve as a mechanism to support urban economy and connect with the development of rural agricultural economy in order to balance between urbanization and ruralization during COVID pandemic.

There are still a number of governments, private and community properties available to be converted into green areas and become the lung of the city as well as urban farms. City people can grow their own safe food in the form of agricultural gardens, front/backyard gardens, green roof, parks, botanical gardens, plant factories etc. For example, Bangkok Metropolitan must increase green areas to meet WHO standard which is 9 square meters per person. There are several hundreds of communities which can make a living out of agricultural farming, Mr. Alongkorn concluded.

Source

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