

"Chalermchai" expedites MOAC's reformation, satisfied with 70% development progress of digitalized governmental administration and services



"Chalermchai" expedites MOAC's reformation, satisfied with 70% development progress of digitalized governmental administration and services. "Alongkorn" showed off 641 "Made in Thailand" New Technologies to transfer to over 7.6 thousand farmers in collaboration with the Federation of Thai Industries to promote smart agriculture.

On February 7, 2022. Mr. Alongkorn Ponlaboot, Advisor to Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives, as the Chairman of the Agricultural Technology 4.0 Policy Steering Committee and the Executive Committee of the Agricultural Technology and Innovation Center (Agritech and Innovation Center: AIC) revealed the monthly progress of the agricultural technology strategy 4.0 for January 2022. This is 1 of the 5 Agricultural Reform Strategies initiated by Dr. Chalermchai Sri-on, Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives.

The progress showed that both reformations of MOAC's government services and administration using new technologies as well as the AIC operations have made significant progress. The Minister is satisfied with the latest performances especially on digitalized operating systems (GovTech) of the Ministry. There are altogether 176 governmental service systems where 156 are planned to transferred into Digital Service. A total of 109 out of the 156 systems or 70% are reportedly completed and are currently in service.

Regarding the development of 54 National Single Window (NSW) systems, 47 are undergoing efficiency increase. The digital database system (Big Data) of National Agricultural Information Center has successfully linked with regional AIC Centers such as AIC Center in Phetchaburi Province (Phetchaburi Rajabhat University) aiming at developing a database for R &D on integrated Thai sea salt production. A research and development for IT prototype system to support agricultural management is also being conducted at this center. Another example is the AIC Center in Chang Rai Province which has carried out a flagship project in collaboration with the Chiang Rai Provincial Agriculture and Cooperatives Office to elevate the Arabica coffee industry as well as the implementation of CKAN system to create data catalogs. In this regard, Mr. Alongkorn has called a special meeting on NSW in February to support international trade and forecast future agricultural commodity prices and markets.

Other MOAC accomplishments are as follows: 1) Smart Agriculture: Progress has been reported in implementing the Smart Agriculture Action Plan 2022-2023, driving the smart agriculture integration in collaboration with the Federation of Thai Industries, launching the precision agriculture project in 2 million rais, pairing collaborative farms (Big Farm) with large agro-industry companies (Big Brother), implementing the Smart Farming Project along with Loxley Public Company Limited to develop large plots of smart rice agriculture and develop the remote audit assisting tools (Remote Audit). GAP and organic virtual audit are conducted through the use of Kasettrack Application.

2) E-Commerce: There have been progresses on the domestic fruit distribution plan, cooperation between Thailand and Bahrain in agriculture and trade, as well as the Thailand E-Commerce Village project. And **3)** Agribusiness: There is a presentation on the progress of SME business brand development project which has created a brand's character to attract target consumer groups. There are also promotions on "Local CIP Fair" and "Character Walking Street" events to be organized by networking parties during February 11-13, 2022.

Mr. Alongkorn also suggested the Agribusiness Subcommittee to further study the strengths and weaknesses of contract farming under the current law. Ways for improvement and overcoming obstacles should be identified, as well as how to drive local agro-businesses with the help of AIC working groups.

The progress of the networking between Agricultural Learning Centers (ALC) and AIC by the Department of Agricultural Extension has been presented. Currently, there are collaborative knowledge management projects between ALC and AIC in 6 regional areas. Farmers are able to utilize the knowledge gained from AIC on technology, innovations and increasing production efficiency by implementing what they learned in their farms. Financial assistances have been extended towards several agricultural activities through ALC operations and networks. The "Innovation Catalog" has been used to benefit farmers affiliated with AIC in Rayong Province with the assistance of the ALC, governmental agencies, private sector and farmers in the area.

For the progress of Innovation Catalog, there are 641 technologies/innovations developed by AIC and transferred to 7,679 farmers through the assistance of ALC. Out of 882 ALCs, 55 centers are applying technologies and innovations developed by AIC. In selection of the recipients for AIC Awards, the selection committee will invite experts in each specific disciplines to join the process. Another progress reported is the promotion of the AIC Chula Saruburi Virtual Expo 2022 to be hosted by AIC Saraburi Province during 24 – 25 March 2022.

Mr. Alongkorn emphasized the reformation of the agricultural sector by using *Made in Thailand* technologies and innovations, together with the local wisdom and the King's Philosophy as a fundamental to move towards high-value agriculture in order to increase farmers' incomes and national revenues.

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