



สำนักงานที่ปรึกษาการเกษตรต่างประเทศ  
ประจำกรุงวอชิงตัน ดี.ซี.

Office of Agricultural Affairs - Royal Thai Embassy - Washington DC

## KASET5Gs – A Public and Private Sector Partnership to Improve the Livelihood of Thai People



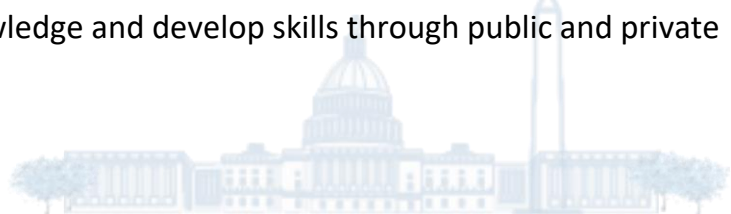
Department of Agricultural Extension (DOAE) and National Bureau of Agricultural Commodity and Food Standards (ACFS) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives (MOAC), in cooperation with the private sector, Thai Agricultural Innovation Trade Association (TAITA), Thai Agro Business Association (TABAA) and Thai Crop Protection Association (TCPA) along with groups of horticultural and field crop farmers across the country are steering the project "Agriculture5Gs (KASET5Gs)" or 5 Good Agricultures. The project aims at educating people involved in the food chain especially the upstream group or a group of farmers ready to develop their potential and improve quality of Thai agricultural sector.

The horticultural and field crops farmers groups throughout the country participating in the project and developing a network of quality farmers include Young Smart Farmers Chiangmai Association, Krathing Mangosteen Group Khao Khitchakut Chanthaburi (KMK), Lungkae Durian Farm, Somphoch Garden Koh Chang, Wild Calling Farm Park, Mr. Kai Date Farm, Petch Rung Rueng Farm, Rongthong Orchards Nam Dok Mai Mango Collaborative Farming (Ban Wang Nam Bok, Phitsanulok Province), Suan Lung Bird, Wee-Ya-Sri Melon Café and Lava Banana Drink.

Mr. Rapeethat Ounchittaphan, Deputy Director-General of DOAE revealed that Thai farmers are preparing to enter the Next Normal Era. They must rely on themselves as the world is undergoing rapid changes both in terms of technology and consumer needs. Food security issues have become very important. Whoever possess “good food” has the greatest bargaining power. Applying innovation and technology has become a necessity, while "food safety" is a global trend. Today's consumers are more health conscious. Therefore, the agricultural sector must adjust themselves to be able to establish the "food sources" that meet the demands in terms of quality, standards and quantity.



The major goals of KASET5Gs are to upgrade the agricultural commodities and standards in a sustainable manner, steer the management mainly by the farmer groups themselves, disseminate knowledge and develop skills through public and private



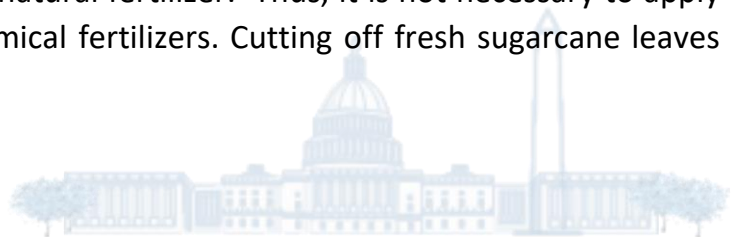
support in 5 key areas which are Good Agriculture, Good Produce, Good Life, Good Health and Good Environment.

Preparing farmers for the 5Gs Era of quality food, Mr. Pisan Pongsapitch, Secretary-General of ACFS pointed out that Thailand is pursuing the “Markets Direct Production” policy. Agricultural commodities must be produced in accordance with the market demand which is consisting of 3 factors. These include safe products as per the standards, stable quality and quantity, and lastly, a sustainable and balanced system starting from producers, distributors to consumers. ACFS fully supports farmers’ operations in order to acquire certification of agricultural standards through providing knowledge, facilitating the online certification application and promoting online marketing and traceability system.

Ms. Napaporn Rattanamettha, Project Manager (Food Safety) of the ASEAN Sustainable Agrifood Systems (Global G.A.P.), elaborated on the principles of GAP (Good Agricultural Practice). Farming or agricultural productions must adhere to food safety. Inputs are allowed for use in GAP farming including the applications of fertilizers and pesticides in accordance with the instructions. Maximum residue limits must not be exceeded. In compliance with the guidelines and recommendations, farmers will benefit in both domestic distribution and exports.

Dr. Prem Na Songkhla, a Nam-Hom young coconut plantation entrepreneur, commented that the key for survival of Thai farmers in the Next Normal Era is cooperation. A farmer cooperative is an example of a systematic collaboration. Farmers will be able to produce a standardized quality product with lower production costs, better marketing and distribution management system. Farmers must follow up on the updated information and global demand such as product trends or imposed ban in order to adapt and appropriately respond.

In addition, the KASET5Gs project has caused significant changes among sugarcane farmers. In the past, burning of sugarcane plants caused pollution. The practice has been replaced with cutting fresh leaves and using them to cover the soil to retain moisture as well as using less fertilizers and agricultural chemicals. Mr. Chawakarn Chongchonlathan, an owner of Chawakarn Farm, Chonburi Province, elaborated that burning caused pollution. He has convinced nearby farmers and those in the village to replace their old habits by cutting fresh leaves to sell to power plants. Sugarcane leaves can also be used to cover the soil as natural fertilizer. Thus, it is not necessary to apply excessive amounts of expensive chemical fertilizers. Cutting off fresh sugarcane leaves



also supports the BCG policy. It also increases farmers' incomes and creates environmentally sustainable agriculture.

Mr. Pipattana Tengsettasak, a board member of the Krathing Mangosteen Group Khao Khitchakut Chanthaburi (KMK), added that KASET5Gs provides information on the processes, methods and exchanges of experiences among farmers. They no longer need to go through trials and errors but learning from direct experiences of senior farmers. It is also possible to expand on their own production and maximize the benefits. Combining into groups helps each other brain storm, strengthen and increase negotiating power. Mrs. Chonthicha Changpradit, chairman of the Nam Dok Mai Mango Collaborative Farming (Ban Wang Nam Bok, Phitsanulok Province) reiterated that KASET5Gs has received a lot of interests. Sharing knowledge among themselves is fun. The farmers are able to apply the knowledge gained to control their product quality which meets market demand.

“This gathering of farmers is going on the right path. Makro is pleased to fully support the farmers. Each area should develop their own strength and gradually improve the quality and safety of agricultural products to meet international level. The KASET5Gs project can become a model for sustainable development of agricultural sector. Makro can serve as a channel to attain global market access and bring Thai agricultural products to sell abroad”, concluded Dr. Jutharat Phatthanathorn, Quality Assurance Director, Siam Makro Public Company Limited.

Source: <https://www.agrinewsthai.com/slide/47744>

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