



สำนักงานที่ปรึกษาการเกษตรต่างประเทศ  
ประจำกรุงวอชิงตัน ดี.ซี.

Office of Agricultural Affairs - Royal Thai Embassy - Washington DC

## Ag Minister Thammanat Reinforced DOA to Adopt GEd Technology to Cope with Global Boiling Crises



Captain Thammanat Prompao, Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives, addressed at the seminar on “Modern Biotechnology for Resolving Global Boiling Crisis and Emerging Pests” organized by the Biotechnology Research and Development Office, Department of Agriculture (DOA). Experts from relevant sectors were invited to brainstorm at the event to establish plans to apply modern technology and knowledge to handle the upcoming global boiling crises.

Captain Thammanat referred to the quote made by the United Nations Secretary General that, amid the rapid and severe climate changes, “the era of global warming has ended, the era of global boiling has arrived”. Such circumstances have caused the spread of major emerging pests. With the world's population increasing, global food security has been

threatened. Thailand is an agricultural country and a major producer of agricultural products known as the Kitchen of the World. The Thai government has a policy to raise farmers' annual incomes by trifolds within 4 years. The use of modern biotechnology that is highly safe, cost effective, rapidly developed and low cost, is therefore necessary.

Realizing those challenges, Gene Editing technology or GEd has been developed and adopted. The techniques involved editing or modifying genomes to achieve better health, increased pest resistance properties, higher nutritional values, better productivity and lower



products costs. Most importantly, GEd technology does not include transferring genes from an organism to another. The technique is not considered GMOs (Genetically Modified Organisms), highly safe and environmentally friendly. GEd technology has been recognized and acknowledged by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). In a WTO convention, 13 OECD (Organization for Economic

Co-operation and Development) countries declared their supports towards the use of GEd for trade and consumption. Over 40 countries around the world announced their policy of “No transgene = Not GMOs” and confided that GEd plants are as safe as traditional plants. Various countries and international organizations are rigorously investing in GEd technology development to cope with global food security crisis. Hopefully, all parties concerned will be working together to support and drive the GEd technology, said Captain Thammanat.

Mr. Rapibhat Chandarasriwongs, Director-General of DOA, concluded that this seminar was aimed at brainstorming ideas from stakeholders on how to take advantage of this safe technology to par with other countries. This technical expert gathering was expected to come up with an action plan to develop and apply the technology in Thailand with appropriate approaches to communicate with the public and consumers on how to differentiate between GEd and GMOs. GEd technology can be domestically leveraged to better prepare for global boiling crises and emerging pests.

**Source:** <https://www.naewna.com/local/792712>

Office of Agricultural Affairs, Washington D.C.

March 2024

