

Six-Month Performance of the Ministry of Agriculture Unveiled



Mr. Chantanon Wannakejohn, Secretary-General of the Office of Agricultural Economics and Spokesperson of the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives (Civil Service), reported on the Ministry's accomplishments over the past six months under the leadership of Professor Dr. Narumon Pinyosinwat, Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives. The Ministry's work was guided by the principles of upholding the monarchy, implementing over 983 Royal Initiative Projects in 2025, and advancing key government agricultural policies under the concept of "Market-Led, Innovation-Driven, Income-Boosting". The aim was to modernize traditional agriculture, improve farmers' quality of life,

and build on initiatives launched by former Minister Capt. Thamanat Prompow.

Key achievements from September 2024 to March 2025 include:

- ❖ Water Resource Management: Effective dry season water allocation totaling 29.578 billion m³ nationwide (9.902 billion m³ in the Chao Phraya Basin), ensuring no irrigation areas suffered water shortages. Off-season rice cultivation covered over 10 million rai, with 7.57 million rai already harvested.
- ❖ Community Rice Centers: 6,101 centers established across 2,928 sub-districts producing 280,000 tons of high-quality seeds, distributed to farmers. These efforts led to an increase in average rice yield from 450 to 500 kg/rai.
- Agricultural Export Promotion: Market access applications submitted for dried tea leaves (Indonesia), dried kratom leaves (India), and fresh longan (Philippines). Certification and testing improvements for Thai durian, and success in exporting Ayam Bangkok chickens to Indonesia (valued over 300 million baht/year) and sea bass to China (target 50,000 tons/year). Additionally, Thai goldfish are now exported to Mexico.

- Land Allocation for Farmers: Over 54,000 agricultural land title deeds covering 577,109 rai were issued. The Ministry targets 37,000 more recipients (240,000 rai) in the next six months, with 1 million plots to be titled by the end of 2025.
- * Rubber Tree Title Deeds as Loan Collateral: Pilot areas issued 10,161 deeds, creating financial value of 18,900–31,990 baht per rai.
- Crackdown on Illegal Agricultural Imports: With over 28,000 inspections, including livestock and fishery checks, resulting in legal action in 663 cases worth over 230 million baht.
- ❖ PM2.5 and Environmental Measures: Cloud seeding missions across 26 provinces reduced PM2.5 by 70.18%. Initiatives promoting organic fertilizers and discouraging crop burning led to a 52.7% reduction in agricultural hotspots. Total greenhouse gas emissions were reduced by over 80,000 tCO2eq.
- Forward Plan (Next 6 Months): Expand no-burn agriculture to 66,000 rai and drought-resistant crop cultivation to 20,000 rai. Aim to reduce 95,960 tCO2eq more in emissions and increase farmers' income from low-carbon products by at least 5%.
- ❖ <u>Insurance & Tech:</u> Launch satellite-based insurance for rice farmers, and develop durian weather index insurance using IoT and GIS to speed up claims.
- ❖ Soft Power and High-Value Agriculture: Support farmer services, enhance agriproducts, and increase exports in 3 key product groups:
 - Oversupplied: rice, rubber, oil palm, longan, chicken, shrimp.
 - o High demand: corn, cassava, durian.
 - o Potential: soybean, coffee, tea.

The Ministry, under Dr. Narumon's leadership, remains committed to working with all sectors to improve Thai farmers' livelihoods, transform the agricultural sector, and position Thailand as a global Agricultural Hub.

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