



Media Press Release

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Agricultural Foreign Policy Briefing by H. E. Dr. Chalermchai Sree-on Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives under the theme 3S “Safety, Security and Sustainability” pledging to collaborate with international counterparts overcoming global economic crisis progressing together with stability and security.

Wednesday 30 September, 13:00 pm: The Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives (MOAC) has organized agricultural foreign policy briefing with the aim to enhance better understanding and foster existing concrete cooperation among Ambassadors, diplomatic mission and representatives of international organization domicile in Thailand. The MOAC is deeply honour to welcome foreign dignitaries from 62 countries ranging from 25 Ambassadors, 11 Charge d'affaires, 27 prominent representatives and 5 international organization bodies. In this occasion, H.E. Dr. Chalermchai, Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives has made his vision to strengthening agricultural tie with international communities. The Minister was accompanied by Deputy Permanent Secretary and Ministerial Executives and high-ranking representatives from relevant inter-governmental agencies participating in this event. Later on, Ambassadors and foreign diplomats were guided by Ministerial Executives to witness exhibition booths showcasing agricultural products resembling with the thematic areas “Safety, Security & Sustainability for Resilience Agriculture” organized by the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives at Grand Hyatt Erawan, Bangkok where Ambassadors, Charge d'affaires and Foreign Consulates together with prominent representatives from EU and international organizations were indulged with varieties kind of agriculture products displayed reflecting the potential of Thai’s agricultural products and global success in international market.

In his policy address H.E. Dr. Chalermchai had vowed to navigate Thai agriculture towards stability, prosperity and sustainability by modernizing the existing foundation together with addressing current farmers’ difficulties in every dimension while laying out fundamental groundwork that able to yield tangible result both short term and long term, driving government sectors, private sector and civil society to achieve national strategic plan couple with agriculture policy that aim to achieve 3 dimension so called 3S. To elaborate on 3S, Minister further explained that “S” means Food Safety which must be strictly implemented into every single component throughout food chain commonly known as “From Farm to Table” which producers must strictly adhere to GAP and GMP guidelines. While responsible departments under the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives would supervise producers starting from on-the-farm until on-the-field before export to overseas. Furthermore, the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives also using traceability system to boost consumers’ confident.

In term of “Agriculture and Food Security”, Thailand is at the forefront of producing and exporting both in the processed form and fresh products to overseas reiterating Thailand’s capacity to become “kitchen of the world” and always be fully prepared to serve as a hub of ASEAN sub regional food reserve. Despite the Covid 19 pandemic, Thailand has no intention to impose any export restriction measures. Nevertheless, Thailand support the flow of international trade to progress in line with market mechanism and be rehearsed to collaborate through inter-governmental mechanism if necessary. Moreover, Thailand also stress on the importance of biosecurity which is able to safeguard and contain African Swine Flu in pig and also stop the spread of fall armyworm destroying corn plantation. Such devastating outbreak require quick and effective remedial measures. Such crisis has given strength to responsible agencies to have an opportunity working with relevant international organizations even though the impact did not happen only in Thailand but Thailand is nevertheless willing to share knowledge, experience and be ready to help neighboring countries and international communities to overcome such outbreak.

However, to improve farmers’ livelihood in meeting Sustainable Development Goals to reduce widespread poverty in farmers, eradicating of hunger and enhancing farmers’ employment security as well as increasing farmers’ income security, the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives had introduce market led production approach integrating with Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of Industry and private sectors who is able to increase marketing channel both domestic market and international market giving an opportunity to agricultural producers whether in the form of cooperative network or large scale farming network, community enterprise and farmer group. The market led production approach is considered as trading mechanism to create sustainability from small scale farmers to large scale farming industry.

Furthermore, the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives also encouraging farmers and entrepreneur to use online platform to sell their products directly to online company such as Lazada, Shopee, Alibaba and farm market online which are counterparts with Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives. The Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives also signed MOU with large modern trade like Markro, Tesco Lotus, Big C and Talad Thai market aiming to capture premium quality products that equip with traceability code. Moreover, MOAC also provided capacity-building training to prepare farmers to cope with unforeseeable future threat by establishing 77 Agri-technology and Innovation Centers nationwide task with formulating Agricultural Big Data platform.

In term of “Sustainability in Agriculture”, the MOAC has adopted effective resource mobilization for sustainable production including water and soil resources utilization, land allocation for farming, holistic water resource management, digging more large and medium size reservoirs, sustainable

management in fishery industry as evidenced by Thailand's critical success factors in IUU fishing. Apart from elevating products quality and food safety, MOAC also monitored global situation very closely in an effort to explore various approaches to achieve SDGs taking into account of achieving standard requirements without undermining natural resource and environmental. Several environmentally friendly projects have been initiated namely rice farming to reduce global warming, standard setting for sustainable rice cultivation and sustainable shrimp breeding.

“Nevertheless, MOAC is ready and willing to work with every countries and international organization through cooperative framework on the basis of mutual interest in empowering farmers' capacity building and farmers institutions through improving knowledge dissemination transforming them into highly professional farmers, strengthening farmers' network and linkage to connect with farmers institutions. Increasing efficiency in streamlining supply chain management by urging farmers to strictly adhere to international standards requirements in order to meet market demand by adding value creation and building sustainable food security. Building national competitive edge through innovation and sophisticate technology. Balancing agricultural resource and environment in a sustainable manner, MOAC will never stop progressing towards reforming Thai agriculture to become one of the best food producers in the eyes of international consumers. Be ready to stand beside those who are in desperate need, be ready to involve in decision making process, implementation, problem solving, reaping mutual benefit, creating solid network and walking beside each other through every important milestone for the sake of improving well-being of Thai farmer and building food security for international consumers” said H.E. Dr. Chalermchai.