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สำนักงานปลัดกระทรวงเกษตรและสหกรณ์

Thailand set to boost agricultural exports to China via railway system

Thailand is gearing up to commence agricultural exports to China via the Thai-Laos railway system from December, said Keniga Ounchit, the Prime Minister's Office deputy spokesperson.



This move follows collaborative efforts from various public and private sector agencies to finalise customs railway transportation documentation, opening the path to trade from Thailand to Laos, China and Europe.

Key stakeholders involved in expediting the process include the Commerce Ministry, the Foreign Ministry, the Agriculture and Cooperatives Ministry, the Marketing Organisation for Farmers and PTT.

Keniga said this would establish a stronger logistical network for cross-border commerce, enabling broader access to Thai agricultural products in the global market.

“It’s good that several core agencies in the agriculture sector have worked on expanding the market for Thai products in targeted countries via the railway system,” she said.

China stands out as Thailand’s largest market for agricultural exports, with durian, lady finger bananas, mangosteen and pomelo being among the most sought-after products, accounting for at least 20,000 tonnes per year.

While China’s demand for Thai agricultural products has been on the rise, logistical constraints have hindered meeting growing needs.

“The government's goal is to expand the agricultural product market and raise Thai farmers’ income,” she said, adding that the move will also have an impact on the country's economic growth.



Despite a slowing economy, China remains the world’s second-largest economy and a key export market for Thailand. The Trade Policy and Strategy Office reported a 4.5% increase in Thailand’s exports to China in the first six months of this year, primarily driven by agricultural products.

The 6th China International Import Expo (CIIE) in Shanghai wrapped up earlier this month with record-high tentative deals of US\$78.41 billion. This follows the success of the third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation held in Beijing in mid-October.

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