



MOU between DOAE and DOA on Certification of GAP Farms



On May 12, 2020, Mr. Kemkaeng Yutidhammadamrong, Director-General of the Department of Agricultural Extension (DOAE) said that Thailand is a major producer and exporter of agricultural and food products. DOAE has been promoting Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) among Thai farmers in order to produce products that are safe and satisfactory to consumers. GAP is a system, which prevents or reduces the risk of hazards in agricultural and food products. It is an international standard that will ensure consumer trust. The standard encompasses the entire agricultural chain from production, harvesting, postharvest management, packing through to transportation. The agricultural products obtained are of good quality and safe for both farmers and consumers.

DOAE and Department of Agriculture (DOA) jointly signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Cooperative Management between the two agencies with the objectives to

- 1) Manage and certify agricultural farms in accordance with GAP principles
- 2) Conduct agricultural research and studies and disseminate the potential results to actual farming
- 3) Manage plant production and inputs for appropriate utilization
- 4) Jointly conduct research and development to resolve technical problems encountered in farming practices

- 5) Promote capacity building for personnel of both agencies
- 6) Exchange experiences and knowledge on technical issues
- 7) Promote the implementation of related policies such as Farm Land Consolidation Project and Learning Center for Improving Efficiency in Agricultural Production.

The implementation of the cooperation consists of

- 1) Joint management, support and assistances extended to farmers participating in the Food Safety Project which focuses on GAP farm certification
- 2) Transferring of technology, plant production innovation and agricultural machineries ready for use to DOAE
- 3) Conducting pest surveillance
- 4) Joint management on plant and input production
- 5) Joint research and development aimed at overcoming problems encountered in farming practices
- 6) Joint implementation of concerned policies and projects such as Promotion of Farm Land Consolidation Project, establishing the Learning Center for Improving Efficiency in Agricultural Production, Organic Farming etc. and
- 7) Assigning personnel to form a working group to implement the plan in both central and at provincial level. The MOU will be valid for 4 years between 2020 and 2024.

The Director General of DOAE added that according to the MOU, DOAE will train the farmers to implement GAP. Farmers will gain knowledge to further improve their farming practices in accordance with the GAP principles. The agency will provide advice to the participating farmers and perform initial farm assessments. The findings will be forwarded to DOA through an online system for further certification and follow up audit. Farmers will gain benefits from GAP implementation through systematic farming practice, reduction of production costs, appropriate plant protection from pests, obtaining good quality produce, free from chemical contamination and pests and meeting market demand. Consumers are able to purchase safe, good and healthy agriculture products. Farmers are able to generate consistent incomes from selling safe crops and produce. This will help achieve higher agricultural quality and standards.

Source

<https://siamrath.co.th/n/154633?fbclid=IwAR1g28aeOBlpoi8Jk2wNzjE1iH47BNn9tAnVqhZIs-JZibokzWzY1g6p8xo>

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