

MOAC Moves to Accelerate Grassroots Reformation for Sustainable Agriculture



The Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives (MOAC) of Thailand has accelerated the grassroots reform for sustainable agricultural sector in a very big way by kicking off a New Theory of Agriculture Project across the country. This project, it is hope, will solve the poverty and debt problem of small farmers in a long-term.

On 26 August 2020, Mr. Alongkorn Ponlaboot, advisor to the Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives, announced that the Ministry is currently launching the project entitled “One Tambon One New Theory Agricultural Group” following the Cabinet approval with a 9,805-million baht-budget allocation under the government's economic and social rehabilitation program.

Mr. Ponlaboot stated that the “One Tambon One New Theory Agricultural Group” which is introduced under the Sustainable Agricultural Development Policy by Dr. Chalermchai Si-on, Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives, is the largest grassroots reform of agricultural initiative enacted. It is expected that this project will sustainably solve the problem of small farmers who are the vast majority of farmers in the country and have been trapped in poverty and debt. In addition, the 64,144 New Theory Agricultural plots under the project will also serve as a model

for learning center expanding the path of the New Theory of Agriculture at the village level throughout the country.

The New Theory of Agriculture Model divides a 3-rai development plot into 4 parts using 30:30:30:10 ratio; 30% of water resources and aquaculture, 30% of rice farming, 30% of integrated farmland of economic fruit trees, and 10% of residential and livestock areas. This will help improving the livelihood of farmers and enhance their income.

In effect, Thailand will have 6.8 million small farming households with a better quality of life, more income and will sustainably overcome poverty and debt. In addition, the country will have additional 192,432 rai (30,789.12 hectare) of sustainable agricultural land, with at least 64,144 new water resources in 75 provinces.

The project covers 4,009 sub-districts with 16 farmers each accounting for a total of 64,144 farmers in all regions of the country. It will also generate agricultural labor of 8 people per sub-district for a total 32,072 people, to assist in the implementation of the project. The qualified participants will have to be trained to understand the King's Sufficiency Economy Philosophy and the New Theory of Agricultural Model. This project is anticipated to be completed by September 2021.

The project is now in effect and has been accepting applications from farmers since August 27 to September 2, 2020. Interested farmers are invited to join this project "One Tambon One New Theory Agricultural Group." Prospective applicants can check if they are qualified and submit an application through the online system of the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives at <http://ntag.moac.go.th>. Or submit an application to the district agricultural officer, or at the District Agricultural Office from 27 August - 9 September 2020.

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