

ANNUAL REPORT 2022

National Bureau of Agricultural Commodity and Food Standard

The audience with Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn to report on the outcome of the project on

‘Agriculture Livelihood, Young Smart Farmer with Agricultural Standard Literacy, 2015–2021’, and to present to Her Royal Highness the publications on the project summary report.



Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn has granted an audience to Mr. Pisan Pongsapitch, Secretary General, together with the team of Directors and officers of ACFS. The audience was for the Secretary General to report on the outcome of the project on ‘Agriculture Livelihood, Young Smart Farmer with Agricultural Standard Literacy, 2015–2021’, and to present to Her Royal Highness a hundred copies of the publications on the project summary report. The publications are for distribution at the pleasure of Her Royal Highness. The occasion took place at 9 a.m. on 29 August 2022 at Sra Pathum Palace.

The book on ‘Agriculture Livelihood, Young Smart Farmer with Agricultural Standard Literacy, 2015–2021’ has been produced with the objective of publicizing the royal work of Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn in agriculture and the Future Farmers of Thailand (F.F.T.) under Her Royal Highness Patronage. The royal work has been to promote the knowledge on agricultural standard in the scope of plants, fisheries, and livestock to students and staffs in College of Agriculture and Technology and Fisheries College which are members of the Future Farmers of Thailand (F.F.T.) under Her Royal Highness Patronage. The knowledge has been provided to enable participants in applying a production system of safe products which is complying with standards, and in promoting the knowledge to their communities. There have been a participation of 42 colleges in the project during 2015 – 2021 with 1,124 students. There were 232 student projects which have been selected and 18 farms have been certified.

Message from Secretary General



2 *a progressive Standardization for ensuring sustained growth of Agricultural Commodities of ACFS;*



The National Bureau of Agricultural Commodity and Food Standards (ACFS) serves as the focal agency on the standardization of agricultural and food products, with functions in the area of standard setting, standard promotion, standard control, and the overseeing of standard accreditation system for agricultural products from farms to consumers. The agency also functions as negotiator on the issues of international agricultural standards, trade measures, and dispute settlement on technical issues. The aims are to improve and strengthen the quality of Thai agricultural and food products to comply with international safety standards and enable their competitiveness in global market.

As declared in the vision, **ACFS is the leading agency recognized internationally in standardization of agricultural commodities and food products, and is the leading agency in strengthening national agricultural and food production standards to create added value.** The agency implements the missions in collaboration with partner agencies in public, private, and farm sectors. We have integrated the missions in agricultural and food commodity standards to support the 'Market-led production policy' which is the policy guided by "3S" (Safety, Security & Sustainability) and BCG Model. The aim is to accomplish the sustainable development goals and to strengthen the development of national work in agricultural and food standardization to benefit farmers, general public and national economy.

ACFS Involvement in 3S (Safety, Security & Sustainability) and BCG Model

Safety or food safety denotes the obligation in management for ensuring that farm products are safe from harmful effect of biological, chemical, and physical hazardous, and they are produced by production processes with safety standards from farm, with GAP standard, to pack-houses, with GMP standard, and all the way through to consumer.

Security or food security refers to the food production which enable people either an individual and family level or at national, regional, or global level, to access an adequate food supply which is safe with nutritious value in respond to their needs and satisfaction and to have good quality of living standard. To this end, ACFS has determined to develop agricultural standards for strengthening efficiency of farm production for high quality products. ACFS has placed the emphasis on the strengthening of farmers and farmer organizations and in the creation of Young Smart Farmer i.e. the Q volunteers, farmer advisors, and youth in the Agricultural Livelihood project. ACFS has also created Q schools and multiplier trainers, and model packing houses. The goals are to ensure a robust farm sector with diversity of farm products, and to enable connection between consumers and Q Restaurants, DGT Farm or online market of farm products, Q Markets, and Q Modern Trade. The goals are also to strengthen production in farming and farm processing sector to enable a production of high value products. ACFS has also developed and promoted standards of new products such as herbs and economic insects in respond to the development of market demand.

Sustainable “sustainable agricultural system” refer to system of production, processing, marketing of agricultural produces which takes account into conserving ecosystem, environment and biodiversity, and applying equal and impartial treatment in terms of economic, social, environment, and ecosystem. It promotes and improves livelihood of farmers and consumers. ACFS has already established sustainable production standards of oil palm, rice, marine shrimp, and organic farming.

Over the years, ACFS has already notified 382 voluntary and 8 mandatory standards. Among these, 132 are product standards, 201 are production system standards, and 57 are general standards. ACFS has also notified (had) the system for recognition and equivalence of standards such as Supplier Audit system which has been developed as a new way of product certification to improve the potential of producers for participating in the product safety standard certification system. ACFS has also implemented standard control of farm products from farm to consumer. ACFS has promoted to put standards into practice along the whole value chain. The promotion has been made by motivating farmers to participate in safety standard certification programme and urging them to apply agricultural standards entirely so that their potential in farm production can be improved, making their products to comply with quality and safety standards at international level, and having higher value. In addition, ACFS has also promoted the use of advance technology to support our work in standard. ACFS has developed QR Trace on Cloud traceability system, embedded with knowledge on production and management, data collecting system and system for setting farm products database, and efficient technic for resources management.

In applying the BCG Model on the efficient utilization of resources with least impact on environment for driving the “3S” as guided by the policy of Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, ACFS has the way forward to transform farm sector from a system of high production with little income to a high production with high income, converting farm sector in Thailand to 3 highs namely high efficiency, high standard, and high income. One crucial factor is the collaboration of our allies from public, private, farm, and civil sectors to work hand in hand for driving ahead the national standardization and ensuring sustainable prosperity of farm products of Thailand.



Mr. Pisan Pongsapitch

ACFS Secretary General,

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Foreword-----	7
---------------	---

Achievements-----	11
-------------------	----

Summary of Major Achievements in 2022-----	12
--	----

1. Farm and food products have consistent quality with standards-----	22
---	----

● Setting of TAS standards-----	22
---------------------------------	----

● Collection Center of Oil Palm Bunch-----	22
--	----

● Table Grapes-----	23
---------------------	----

● Stringless Bee Farm-----	24
----------------------------	----

● Setting of Agricultural Standards on Sustainable Production-----	25
--	----

● Sustainable Oil Palm and Palm Oil-----	25
--	----

● Sustainable Rice-----	26
-------------------------	----

● Sustainable Marine Shrimp-----	27
----------------------------------	----

● Participation in Standard Setting in International Organizations-----	28
---	----

● Codex: Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programmes-----	28
---	----

● WOA: the World Organisations for Animal Health-----	32
---	----

● IPPC: International Plant Protection Convention-----	33
--	----

● ASEAN-----	34
--------------	----

● Standard Accreditation-----	38
-------------------------------	----

● Mutual Recognition of the Accreditation System in the Scope of Product Certification and Food Safety Management System-----	38
--	----

● The Evaluation on FSMA Accredited Third-Party Certification Program-----	39
--	----

● SPS Measures : Negotiation, Dispute Settlement and Market Access for Agricultural and Food Trade.-----	40
---	----

● The 12 th Meeting of Special Sub-Committee on Food Safety under the Framework for Japan-Thailand Economic Partnership Agreement (JTEPA)-----	40
--	----

● Free Trade Agreement with the European Free Trade Association: EFTA-----	42
--	----

● The 8 th Meeting of the Joint SPS Committee between Thailand and New Zealand-----	44
--	----

● Dispute Settlement between Thailand and China for Import - Export of Farm and Food Products During the 7 th Meeting of the Joint Thailand-China Technical Committee on SPS (JTC-SPS)-----	45
---	----

●Negotiation on SPS Text under ATIGA	47
●Thailand Mexico Cooperation on Quality and Safety of Farm and Food Products	49
●Revision of FSMA, bridging with Thai Industries, ensuring export to United States	50
●Registration of Thai Food Producers for exporting to China in accordance with the new Decree 248	52
●The Project on ASEAN Economic Integration with additional EU support to Thailand (ARISE Plus – Thailand) on Trade-Related Assistance	53
●The Promotion and Development of Insect Industry of Thailand for a Sustainable Growth	56
●“Current State of and Outlook for Plant-Based Food: Sharing Regulatory and Market Perspectives from Europe and Oceania”	59
●Virtual National Seminar for Thailand on SPS and TBT Agreement	60
●SPS and TBT Measures	62
●Early Warning Project	63
●Strengthening of Farm and Food Products retailers	64
●The Audit of Q Modern Trade Retailers	64
●The Promotion of Consumption and Utilization of Q Products (Q market)	65
●Licensing, Monitoring, and Fee Setting	66
●Licensing of Producers, Importers, and Exporters and Import – Export Declaration of farm Commodities with Mandatory Standards	66
●Monitoring of Licensees as Producers, Exporters, and Importers under Mandatory Standards	68
●Fee Setting for Services on Inspection and Certification on Voluntary Agricultural Standards (GAP and Organic for Plant Products)	70
2.The Project for strengthening safety standards of farm production along the production chain.	72
●Transferring Services of the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives on Inspection and Certification of farm and food products	72
●The Accreditation Bodies Network on a Single Platform of 4 Agencies	74
●System Development for Electronic Phytosanitary Certificates of Thailand	76
●Preparation for Services on Thailand-Lao-China Rail Route	78
●Efficiency Improvement in accordance with the Agricultural Standards Act	80
●The Enforcement Administration of Mandatory Standards	80
●The Project for developing Understanding on how to display certification marks of agricultural standard for ornamental freshwater animals	81
●Food Safety Network Formation	83
●The Project on Food Safety in School (Q Canteen)	83
●Food Safety Network of Young Smart Farmers with the Communities	85
●Training of Trainers on Agricultural Standards	87
●Safe Raw Material Restaurants opt for Q products (Q Restaurant)	88

● Support Technology for Standardization-----	90
● E-Learning-----	91
● QR Trace On Cloud for Small and Medium Enterprises-----	91
● Website for Certified Farm Products (DGTFarm)-----	93
● GI Durian: Pa-La-U-----	95

3.The Promotion of Collaborative Farming-----97

● Research Project on the Development of a Supplier Audit System for Product Certification-----	97
● Q Volunteer-----	101
● Improvement of Potential for Farmers in Longan Collaborative Farms in Nan Province to earn a Certification on GAP Standard for Food Crops (TAS 9001)-----	103
● Strengthening of Mango Collaborative Farm of Ban Wang Nambor, Pitsanulok Province, with GMP standard-----	105
● Herb Production in Adherence to Standards, Establishing Knowledge Base for Developing further in the Herbal City Project-----	106

4.Project on the Promotion of Organic Production and Marketing-----108

● ACFS Implementation on ASEAN Organic Standard-----	108
● The Project of Certified Organic Retailers in 2022-----	110
● Upgrading of Organic Farms in Participatory Guaranteed System to the Standard Certification System-----	111
● Development of Trainers on Organic Agriculture Standard in Educational Institutes, Phase 1-----	113

5.Royal Initiatives Project-----115

● Cooperation for Strengthening of Agricultural Standards between ACFS, the Royal Project Foundation and HRDI-----	115
● The Development of Small Packing and Collecting Houses of Fruits and Vegetables-----	118

Appendices-----119

● ITA Award-----	120
● DIGI DATA AWARDS-----	121
● The 8 th Financial Management Excellence Award for Fiscal Year 2021-----	122
● Golden Ship Award 2022-----	123

Foreword



Year 2022

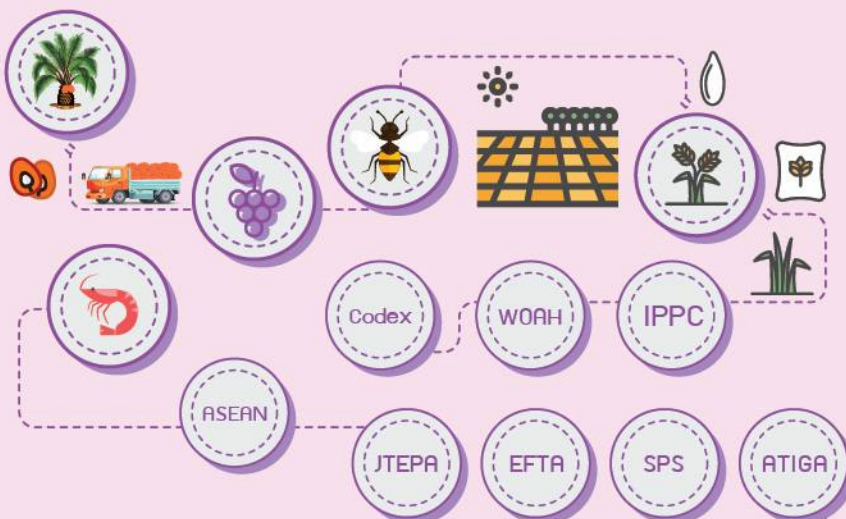


The National Bureau of Agricultural Commodity and Food Standards (ACFS) is the focal agency on the standardization in the area of agriculture and food. The functions are on standard setting, accreditation of certification and inspection bodies, standard control, and standard promotion from farm to table. ACFS also functions as the focal agency on the settlement of technical issues in trade dispute. These functions aim at improving the consistency of Thai agricultural and food products with quality and safety standards which are in line with international standards, and enhancing their competitiveness in global market.

In 2022, ACFS has implemented missions in major themes as outlined hereunder.

1

Farm and food products have a consistent quality with standards: This theme comprised activities on setting of TAS standards, such as those on Oil Palm Bunch Collection Center, Grapes, Stringless Bee Farm, and standards of sustainable production i.e. Sustainable Oil Palm and Palm Oil, Sustainable Rice, and Sustainable Marine Shrimp; activities on setting international standards in Codex/WOAH/IPPC/ASEAN; activities such as those on Mutual Recognition Arrangement of Audit system, Dispute Settlement and Market Access negotiation under the framework of JTEPA, EFTA, SPS, ATIGA, Thai-New Zealand, Thai-China Future Development, FSMA; and other activities such as SPS Notification Circulation, Progress of ARISE Plus-Thailand, Q related projects such as Q Modern Trade, Q Market, and the Licensing, Monitoring and Setting of Fee for Audit services.



Q Modern Trade

Q market



2

Strengthening the consistency of farm production with safety standards along the whole production chain: This theme comprised the activities on the transfer of farm audit mission, system accreditation on a single platform of a network in Thailand, e-phyto system development, preparedness for rail services in Thai-Lao-China route, strengthening of efficiency as given under Agricultural Standard Act, displaying of Q mark by ornamental fish farms, food safety networking of young smart farmers to community, development of trainers, E-Learning lessons, Q Canteens, and Q Restaurants. In addition, there were activities on supporting technology such as those on QR Trace on cloud system, DGT Farm website, and GI Durian: Pa-La-U.



3

Collaborative farms promotion system: this theme comprised activities on research project to develop a new system for product certification, Q volunteer, potential development for longan farmers in collaborative farms in Nan Province, strengthening of GMP standard for mango of Ban Wang Nam Boh, Pitsanulok Province, and consistent herb production with standards.



4

Promotion for production and marketing of organic products: this theme comprised activities on the implementation with regard to ASEAN Organic standard, certified premises selling organic products, strengthening of organic farming in participatory guarantee system, and modelling development and training of trainers as guided by organic standard in schools.



5

Royal initiatives Project: this theme comprised activities on the collaboration between ACFS, the Royal Project Foundation and the Highland Research and Development Institute, and the development of a small packing and collecting house for fruits and vegetables.



As the outcome of the missions in 2022, the implementation has supported the policy on “the market-led production” which was driven by the “3S” (Safety, Security & Sustainability) and the BCG Model to achieve the sustainable development goals and the development of standardization in agriculture and food in Thailand. The achievement have been realized through the implementation of major projects of the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives. Moreover, ACFS has also continuously driven the progress in 2023 with the cooperation of partners from public, private, farmers, and civil society in an integration of the driving forces to strengthen the work in agriculture and food standards in Thailand to achieve the goals as stated in the vision of ACFS to become the leading agency in agricultural commodity and food standards which is recognized internationally. The cooperation was also to strengthen the standards of farm and food production in Thailand and to continue adding value to the products.

Summary of Major Achievements in 2022

1. Setting of agricultural and food standards with a minimum of 15 standards established per annum. There have been

395

Standards already notified.

1.1 Voluntary standards; There are 387 standards in effect.

- * Plant standards; there are 147 standards e.g. rice, durian, oil palm, maize, cassava, sugar cane, turmeric, ginger, coffee, and tea.
- * Livestock standards; there are 81 standards e.g. layer chicken, broiler, pig, beef cattle, dairy cattle, goat, bird nest, crickets, and animal disease control.
- * Fisheries standards; there are 63 standards e.g. shrimp, tilapia, cephalopod, crocodile, ornamental marine animals, ornamental freshwater animals, and fish landing site.
- * Organic product standards; there are 9 standards e.g. rice, livestock, bees, silk, marine shrimp, snakeskin gourami, and aquatic animal feed.
- * Other standards; there are 87 standards e.g. sericulture, Maximum Residue limits, glossary of phytosanitary terms, traceability system for food and agricultural products

1.2 Mandatory standards; There are 8 standards in effect.

- * Peanut kernels: Requirements for Aflatoxin Limit
- * Code of Practice for Sulphur Dioxide Fumigation of Fresh Fruits
- * Good Aquaculture Practices for Hatchery of Disease Free Pacific White Shrimp (*Litopenaeus vannamei*)
- * Good Manufacturing Practices for Milk Collection Center
- * Code of Practice for Mushroom Culture
- * Good Manufacturing Practices for Frozen Durian
- * Good Agriculture Practices for Layer Farm
- * Good Animal Practices for Elephant Facility



2. Enforcement administration of 7 mandatory standards



- 2.1 Code of Practice for Sulphur Dioxide Fumigation of Fresh Fruits (since 4 May 2016)
- 2.2 Peanut kernels: Requirement for Aflatoxin Limit (since 6 January 2017)
- 2.3 Good Aquaculture Practices for Hatchery of Disease Free Pacific White Shrimp (*Litopenaeus vannamei*) (since 18 June 2017)
- 2.4 Good Manufacturing Practices for Frozen Durian (since 30 July 2017)
- 2.5 Good Manufacturing Practices for Milk Collection Center (since 17 October 2017)
- 2.6 Code of Practice for Mushroom Culture (Since 12 April 2018)
- 2.7 Good Agriculture Practices for Layer Farm (Since 21 February 2022)
- 2.8 Good Animal Practices for Elephant Facility (to be effective from 19 August 2024)

3. Participation in standard setting process of international standard setting bodies and ASEAN



3.1 International standards

Codex : Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programmes

- Adoption of Manual on Criteria and Procedural Guidelines for Codex Committees and ad hoc Intergovernmental Task Forces Working by Correspondence.
- Adoption of 40 international standards such as product standards for herbs and spices, food contaminant standards, inspection and certification for import and export food.
- Adoption of procedural guidelines on an integrated monitoring and surveillances of antimicrobial resistance in food

IPPC : International Plant Protection Convention

- Adoption of 9 International Standards of Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs) i.e. Commodity-specific standards for phytosanitary measures, Glossary of Phytosanitary terms, Guidelines for Audit in the phytosanitary context, Revision of Guidelines for Issuance of Phytosanitary Certificates, and 5 standards on pest control.
- Adoption of Updated Framework for Standards and Implementation
- Adoption of New version on Dispute Settlement Procedures and cancellation of the old version
- Adoption of Revised Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure for Standard Committee on Implementation and Capacity Development Committee



WOAH : World Organization for Animal Health

- Revision of Terrestrial Animal Health Codes on Dog Population Control, Rinderpest Disease, and Zoonoses transmissible from non-human primates.
- Revision of Aquatic Animal Health Codes on Aquatic Animal Health Surveillance, Listing of Safe Commodities, and adoption of new chapter of Aquatic Animal Health Code on Infection with DIV-1

3.2 ASEAN Standards

- Amendment of draft Protocols for AFSRF Agreement
- Support and promote trade liberalisation under ASEAN Free Trade Agreement by participating in activities such as standard harmonization, and mutual recognition arrangements for the recognition of the result of product inspection and certification of member states.
- Adoption of ASEAN Standards on avocado, ginger, longan, and star fruit
- Elaboration of ASEAN Food Testing Laboratory Committee (AFTLC) Manual
- Elaboration of Guideline for National Food Reference Laboratories; NFRLs

4. System Audit and Accreditation, Agricultural Laboratories Registration and Development



4.1 Accreditation of Certification Body (CB)

1) Audit with ISO/IEC 17065:2012 in 4 scopes i.e.

- Good Agricultural Practice (GAP)
- Organic Agriculture
- Agricultural Produce or Product
- Geographical Indication (GI)

2) Audit with ISO/IEC 17021-1:2015 in 7 scopes i.e.

- Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) and Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP)
- Preventive Controls for Human Food (PCHF)
- Preventive Controls for Animal Food (PCAF)
- Seafood Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (Seafood HACCP)
- Low-Acid Canned Foods (LACF)
- Acidified Foods (AF)
- Juice Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (Juice HACCP)

3) Audit with ISO/TS 22003:2013 in 1 scope i.e.

- Food Safety Management System (FSMS)

4.2 Accreditation of Inspection Body (IB) with ISO/IEC 17020:2012 in 4 scopes i.e.

- Good Agricultural Practice (GAP)
- Organic Agriculture
- Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) and Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP)
- Agricultural Produce or Product

4.3 The number of CBs and IBs, and the scopes accredited by ACFS

1) There were 21 CBs accredited in 46 CB-Scope

- GMP/HACCP 18 CB-Scope
- Food Safety Management System (FSMS) 4 CB-Scope
- Preventive Controls for Human Food (PCHF) 1 CB-Scope
- Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) 13 CB-Scope
- Organic Agriculture 8 CB-Scope
- Agricultural Produce or Product 2 CB-Scope

2) There were 6 IBs in 8 IB-Scope

- Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) 6 IB-Scope
- Organic Agriculture 1 IB-Scope
- Agricultural Produce or Product 1 IB-Scope



3) There were 3 new CBs i.e.

- D-Agsert Company Limited was accredited with ISO/IEC 17065:2012 in the scope of GAP
- Cotecna Inspection (Thailand) Company Limited was accredited with ISO/IEC 17065:2012 in the scope of Organic Agriculture
- International Standard Certification Center, King Mongkut's University of Technology Thonburi was accredited with ISO/IEC 17021-1:2015 in the scope of GMP/ HACCP

Numbers of CB / IB accredited by ACFS from 2008-2022

Year	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Numbers of CB/IB	7	8	8	9	9	11	13	14	15	18	18	21	23	24	27

Numbers of CB/IB



▶▶▶▶▶▶▶▶▶▶ 4.4 The Registration of Agricultural Commodities and Food Testing Laboratories Certified with ISO/IEC 17025 enables exporters to use the test result from these laboratories in their export without a need for duplicating the test when they apply for Health Certificate from Competent Authorities i.e. the Department of Agriculture, Department of Fisheries, and Department of Livestock Development. They can use the test result from these laboratories both in domestic and international trade and they can also use it in the quality and safety certification which can be internationally recognized. Up until 2022, ACFS has registered 106 laboratories comprising:

- 1) Service laboratories 34 laboratories
- 2) Factory in-house laboratories 65 laboratories
- 3) Factory in-house with external services 7 laboratories

In addition, ACFS also coordinate for the registration of Thai laboratories wishing to be registered with foreign authorities i.e. the Japanese Ministry of Health, Labour, and Welfare: MHLW, and The South Korean Ministry of Food and Drug Safety: MFDS. The coordination for registration with these foreign entities was supported by the Office of Agricultural Affairs in Tokyo. At present, the numbers of Thai laboratories registered with foreign government authorities are:

- 1) MHLW, Japan 21 Laboratories
- 2) MFDS, South Korea 12 Laboratories

5. Licensing for Conformity Assessment Bodies



▶▶▶▶▶▶▶▶▶▶ 5.1 Licenses have been authorized for 23 certified Conformity Assessment Bodies

- 1) Certification Bodies 19 providers
- 2) Certification Bodies/Inspection Bodies 4 providers

▶▶▶▶▶▶▶▶▶▶ 5.2 Authorization of 68 licenses to service providers for servicing on 59 TAS standards.

- 1) Certification Bodies
 - 1.1) A total of 61 licenses have been authorized
 - 1.2) Numbers of TAS standards
 - 53 voluntary standards
 - 6 mandatory standards



2) Inspection Bodies

2.1) A total of 7 licenses have been authorized

2.2) Numbers of TAS standards

- 27 voluntary standards
- 1 mandatory standards

5.3 Two workshops have been conducted

The first workshop for 2022 on “Risk Analysis in Compliance with International Standards” was conducted on 18 March 2022 at Amari Hotel Donmuang Airport, Bangkok. The target group was laboratory technicians of service providers and ACFS officers with 63 participants including instructors.

The second workshop on “Risk Analysis in Compliance with ISO/IEC 17025: 2017” was conducted on 10 June 2022 at Amari Hotel Donmuang Airport, Bangkok. The target group was laboratory technicians of ACFS registered laboratories and ACFS officers with 83 participants including instructors.

6. SPS Measures : Negotiation, Dispute Settlement and Market Access for Agricultural and Food Trade



1) Market access for agricultural and food products

- export of aquatic animal products to China
- proposal of policy framework for the industrial development of economic insects
- negotiation on draft SPS Agreement under Thai-Turkiye FTA Agreement negotiation
- strengthening of organic farm products with the additional support from EU to Thailand (ARISE Plus - Thailand)

under the project on Economic Integration of ASEAN Region

- market access for crickets to Mexico

2) Dispute settlement in agricultural and food trade

- Settlement on the export of live isopod to the Republic of Korea
- Settlement on MRL for Fosetyl-aluminium in rice for exporting from Thailand to Japan
- Settlement on the format of Health Certificate for exporting aquatic animal from the Republic of Korea to Thailand in line with Notification 420 of the Ministry of Public Health
- Settlement on the impact of Notification 420 of the Ministry of Public Health on agricultural land use
- Transportation of fruits to China



7. Dissemination of trade regulations and measures imposed by partner countries



7.1 ACFS Early Warning

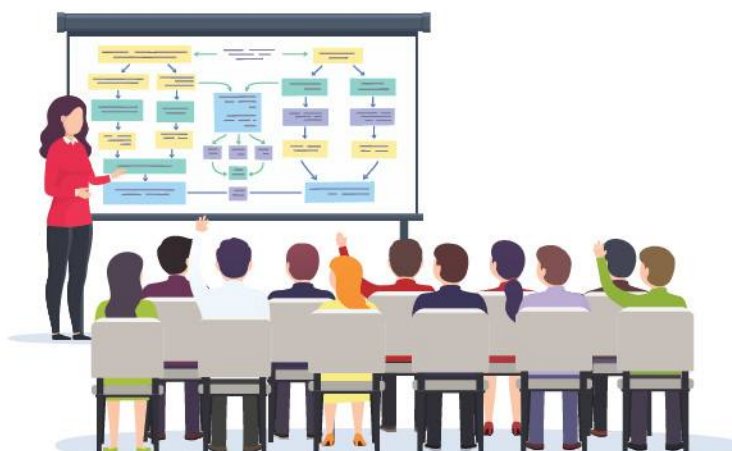
- Newsletters have been circulated by email, on ACFS website and Facebook page Early Warning.
- Annual publications have been available in digital format and 4,000 printed copies have been distributed to public agencies, academic institutes, business associations and general public.
- Quarterly publications on the analysis and summary of 2,638 measures imposed by WTO members have been available in digital format comprising of:

- 1) 1,761 SPS Measures and
- 2) 877 TBT Measures (Agriculture and Food)

Relevant public and private agencies have been kept informed of this information.

7.2 Seminar/printed material for dissemination on rules and regulations for business operators

- 1) Seminar on rules and regulations of Republic of Korea
- 2) Trade Regulations/Measures of partner countries distributed by early warning
- 3) Online seminar on “Current State of and Outlook for Plant-Based Food: Sharing Regulatory and Market Perspectives from Europe and Oceania”
- 4) SPS National seminar on SPS/TBT Agreement presented online by WTO representatives
- 5) Workshop on “Brainstorming for developing the operational direction or solutions for driving insect industry of Thailand for a sustainable growth”
- 6) Seminar on CFIA National Microbiological Surveillance
- 7) Seminar on “Revision of FSMA, bridging with Thai Industries, ensuring export to United States”



8. Standard Promotion



►►►►► 8.1 Work integration guided by policy on organic farming and Collaborative Farming

8.1.1 Collaborative Farming

1) strengthening of farm production in collaborative farms with standards

- GAP on Food Crops (Longan farmer group) Nan Province
- Model for Herb Production in Compliance with Standard
- Preparation for Entering Sustainable Rice Standard, Ayudhya and Kampangphet Provinces
- Improving the potential of 101 farmers in Collaborative Farm to enable them in gaining Certificate on GAP for Food Crop Standard (TAS 9001).

2) Capacity building on standard promotion for human resources in collaborative farms

- A capacity building project for 379 farm advisors
- A capacity building project for 72 Q volunteers on GAP Standard for food crop

3) Strengthening of processing facilities (rice mill, packing house, collecting center) in collaborative farms in Pitsanulok Province.

8.1.2 Organic Agriculture

1) An online session on the development of organic herb farming model in the Herbal City. The session was designed to build knowledge and understanding on the requirements of the standards on organic herb farming and dried herbs, and the certification scheme for the audit of organic farm. The knowledge will enable the participants to apply in their practices and be ready for the certification on organic herb farming.

2) Two online capacity building sessions on organic farming standard for 761 farm advisors

3) Certified 18 retailers of organic product with 55 branches

4) Capacity building for auditors in organic farming group with participatory guarantee system in Uttaradit Province

►►►►► 8.2 Knowledge transfer on GAP/GMP production to farmers in 9 locations

1) Good agriculture practices for sea salt farm in Petchaburi, Chantaburi, Chonburi, and Chacheongsao Provinces

2) Pilot Development on GAP for Aquatic Animals for consumption at 2 locations i.e. Royal Agricultural Station Inthanon and Pa Miang Royal Project Development Center

3) Strengthening of GMP standard for packing and collecting houses under the Royal Project Foundation to prepare for submitting an application to the Department of Agriculture for GMP standard certification. The programme was conducted as pilot projects at 3 locations in Chiang Mai Province i.e. Huai Luek Royal Project Development Center, Mae Lod Royal Research Agricultural Station, and Mae Sa Mai Royal Project Development Center

▶▶▶▶▶▶▶▶▶▶ 8.3 Extending food education for a continuation

1) Development of the awareness of procurement and related personnels to place the importance in raw material selection process on food safety and good practices of food production as outlined in the guidelines for implementing agriculture programme in schools.

2) Create connection to supply certified farm products into 26 schools (17 private schools, 6 schools under the Office of Basic Education Commission, and 3 schools under the Department of Local Administration).

▶▶▶▶▶▶▶▶▶▶ 8.4 Auditors development programme to assume the transferred mission on farm audit activities

1) Training of the trainers (TOT) to develop 433 multiplier trainers

2) Development of auditors and related officers under the implementation plan on Single platform

3) Preparedness for taking the role of Inspection Body (IB) in compliance with international standards

4) Auditor development in compliance with international and TAS standards

▶▶▶▶▶▶▶▶▶▶ 8.5 Linking production with marketing of Q products

1) Audit of premises selling Q products

(1) Q Restaurants in 77 provinces with participation of 2,858 restaurants/branches

(2) Q Markets in 72 provinces with participation of 1,129 markets

(3) Q Modern Trade at 757 locations

2) Extension for scaling up the traffic on DGTFarm.com for linking among producers, business operators and consumers with 1,580 products

(1) Market of organic farm and green products with 453 products

(2) Market of products from collaborative farms with 790 products

(3) Market of 337 products with QR Trace

9. Traceability of farm products and food



▶▶▶▶▶▶▶▶▶▶ Extension for scaling up the traffic on QR Trace system implemented by knowledge transfer and follow up consultative meeting for business operators/farmers with subscription of 2,709 additional users comprising of:

1) fruits/vegetables group with 1,687 subscribers

2) rice group with 395 subscribers

3) livestock group with 41 subscribers

4) fisheries group with 63 subscribers

5) food and processed products with 477 subscribers

6) egg group with 46 subscribers

1. Farm and food products have consistent quality with standards

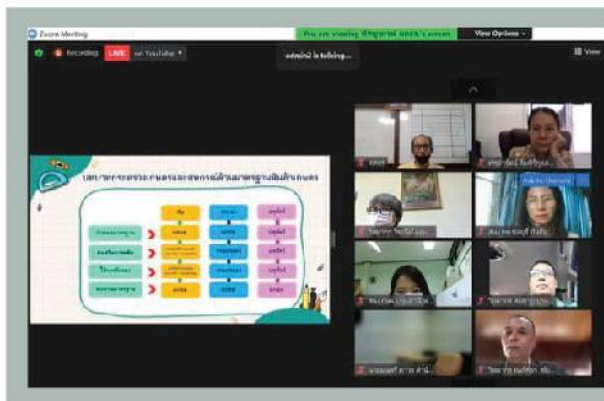
To ensure that the quality of farm products is consistent to standards from farm to consumers, business operators have been guided for the production and the product quality development by complying the production of farm products with standards and having product quality regularly controlled. Product certification will ensure the confidence of local and international consumer. It will promote the image of farm product quality from Thailand and increase the export value. Over the years, ACFS has implemented following work.

Setting of TAS standards

Collection Center of Oil Palm Bunch

As the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives has realised the significance of oil palm as an economic crop that brings revenue into the country, and it is with the view to echo the call of the policy to promote the expansion of oil palm growing area as the source of renewable energy, a group of standards have been therefore developed on oil palm related issues from plantation standard, bunch standard, good practices in collection center, to the main standard on sustainable production of oil palm and palm oil. The standards were set to guide farmers and business operators to strengthen the production and to add value to national oil palm and palm oil production. The activities at collection center are especially important because it is where the bunches from farmers are gathered before supplying to refineries. If the practices at the collection center are not properly controlled, for examples, the quality of bunches collected does not meet standard, the loose fruits are sold separately, or the bunches are soaked with water or blended with sand or other foreign matters for increasing weight, there will be an impact on refining quality and the unit cost of production will be high.





ACFS has revised the standard on Good Manufacturing Practices for Oil Palm Bunch Collection Center to make it correspond with practices at present. Requirements in the standard which have been amended were on the stages of receiving of bunches, storage, and transportation to refineries to ensure that the quality and safety of bunches are fit as raw material for the production of refineries.

Table Grapes



ACFS has set standard on Table Grapes to lay out criteria for the inspection and certification on quality and safety of imported grapes to ensure the confidence of local consumers. The standard is set using Codex standard (Codex Stan 255 –2007) on Table Grapes as the reference. It can be ensured that TAS standard on Table Grapes is in harmony with acceptable international standard and can be used in the international trade negotiation. Also, it can be used as a tool for strengthening table grape production in the country and support the farmers in improving quality of the produces which can increase export in the future.



The standard on Table Grapes has set the requirements on quality and safety of table grapes in the varieties commercially produced with scientific name *Vitis vinifera* L. and the hybrid varieties of *Vitis vinifera* in the family Vitaceae which are sold as prepared and packed fresh fruits to consumers. The standard does not apply to grapes varieties for processing industry. The standard provides minimum requirements on fruit maturity, sizes, quality tolerances, size tolerances, presentation of fruits, labelling display, food additives, contaminants, pesticide residues, hygiene, and methods of sampling and analysis.



Stringless Bee Farm



Stringless bees are the insect which play a significant role in ecological system. They can pollinate non-specific type of a wider variety of flowers than honey bees do. They therefore help improve productivity of fruit orchards. In addition, stringless bee farming also yield a by-product of (1) honey with vitamins and antioxidants and (2) propolis. Stringless bees collect resin from various plants and mix it with their own wax producing propolis which is a compound in flavonoid group. Propolis is an anti-oxidant, antibacterial, antivirals, antifungals and anti-inflammatory, and having medicinal properties. The honey from stringless bees is therefore in the demand of the market and it can fetch a high price.

In order to strengthen the stringless bee farming, ACFS has set agricultural standard on Good Agricultural Practices for Stringless Bee Farm so that the farmers can use as a guide in their farm practices. The honey of stringless bees and other by-products are therefore safe and the consumer can be ensured of their quality. Also, the standard has created the market potential of Thai products and generated a sustainable income to stringless bee farmers.



Setting of Agricultural Standard on Sustainable Production

Sustainable Oil Palm and Palm Oil

Oil palm is an economic crop of Thailand and it is an important raw material used in many industries. At present the demand for palm oil in international market has been increased and therefore there is an expansion of planting area that causes the problem on the invasion into forest area, deteriorating the nature and environment. It has also caused the problem on unfair practices to labour and small farmers and produced impact on the public and local communities.

ACFS has set agricultural standard on Principles for Sustainable Production of Oil Palm and Palm Oil to put in place the guideline for the management of sustainable production of oil palm and palm oil which is environmentally friendly with social and community responsibility, create economic stability to the whole oil palm industry. The standard also put in place the guideline for production development and the audit that can be acceptable in international trade consistent with The Strategy on Oil Palm and Palm Oil B.E.2561 – 2580 to reform the whole system of oil palm and palm oil production. The standard covers on the principles for the management of a production of oil palm and palm oil which is sustainable economically, socially, and environmentally. The standard also set criteria and indicators for measuring compliance. The standard is outlined into following 7 principles.

1. Behave Ethically and Transparently
2. Operate Legally and Respect Rights
3. Optimize Productivity, Efficiency, Positive Impacts and Resilience
4. Respect Community and Human Rights and Deliver Benefits
5. Support Smallholder Inclusion
6. Respect Workers' Rights and Conditions
7. Protect, Conserve and Enhance Ecosystems and The Environment



Sustainable Rice

The Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives has set the policy on sustainable farm production in accordance with the UN Sustainable Development Goals and The National Strategy (2018-2037). In addition, the Sustainable Rice Platform; SRP, initiated by the United Nations Environment Programme; UNEP,

with the cooperation of state and private agencies worldwide and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; FAO, has established the SRP Standard for Sustainable Rice Cultivation.

ACFS therefore has placed the importance on establishing the agricultural standard on Sustainable Rice having the major content in agreement with the SRP standard. The standard is intended as an alternative for farmers to strengthen their practices for a sustainable rice production economically, socially, and environmentally with sustainable practices. The objectives were to enable the production of rice with quality and safety, to protect health and safety of farmer, worker, and community, to enhance production efficiency, to use natural resources in a manner that is cost effective, to promote ecosystem stability, to promote the reduction of greenhouse gas emission and to promote fair practices to labour. The aim was to create opportunity in marketing and enhance competitiveness of Thai rice. The major requirements have been set out in the standard as outlined below.

1. Economic dimension: i.e. promotion for laying out activities calendar in advance, employing cultivation technology such as land levelling technology, using seed varieties with superior quality and suitability to the location, managing plant nutrients properly and efficiently, harvesting at the right timing, and managing postharvest with good practices. The aim is to reduce cost and generate a stable and sustainable income to farmers.

2. Social dimension: i.e. promotion for the planning of efficient water management and utilisation, taking care on health and safety of farmers and workers from chemical application, and paying attention to the rights of farm labour on the issues such as child labour and dangerous work. The aim is to strengthen the community for enhancing overall happiness.

3. Environmental dimension: i.e. promotion for the employment of cultivation technic with alternate wet and dry period for a cost effective use of water resources which gives highest benefit, prevention of burning straw and stalk by the application of other utilization. The aim is to activate the equilibrium of ecosystem and to reduce emission of greenhouse gas.



Sustainable Marine Shrimp



Thailand has continuously developed standards and audit system for marine shrimp farming since 1998. The development is intended to ensure a seamless link of farm practices at different stages from hatchery to production farm leading to a sustainable production of marine shrimp. In relation to sustainable marine shrimp farming, ACFS has set following standards.

1. Agricultural standard on Good Aquaculture Practices for Marine Shrimp Farm (TAS 7401-2565): the standard covers requirements for practices in various items from the selection of farm site, general preparation, management prior to start farming, fry management, feed and feeding, management during the cultivation, animal health management, use of veterinary drugs and chemicals, use of probiotics, effluent and sediment management, fuel and lubricant, farm sanitation, harvesting and postharvesting before transporting from farm, labour and welfare, social and environmental responsibilities, and record keeping. These requirements are meant to obtain fry with quality fitting for shrimp production for consumption while consideration is taken on animal health and welfare, and environmental and social responsibility.

2. Agricultural standard on Good Aquaculture Practices for Marine Shrimp Hatchery and Nursery (TAS 7422): the standard is currently under the revision. The requirements cover on the items of farm site selection, overall management, broodstock, fry, feed and feeding, farm management, animal health management, veterinary drugs and chemicals, probiotics, effluent and sediment, fuel and lubricant, farm sanitation, harvest and postharvest management prior to transport from farm, labour welfare, social and environmental responsibilities, and record keeping. These requirements are meant to obtain fry with quality fitting for shrimp production for consumption while consideration is taken on animal health and welfare, and environmental and social responsibility.

3. Agricultural standard on Chain of Custody; Products from Sustainable Aquatic Animal Farming: the standard is in the setting process which will layout the requirements on chain of custody for the marine shrimp products from farm certified with the standard on Good Aquaculture Practices for Marine Shrimp Farm (TAS 7401) or other equivalent standards. The requirements cover on the identification of business operators in the supply chain, identification of subcontractors, segregation of products, personnel, document filing system, record keeping for traceability, labelling and claim, and record keeping for the claim verification and for ensuring consumer's confidence that the products are from an authentic sustainable system.



Participation in Standard Setting in International Organization

Codex

: Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programmes

▶▶▶ The 15th Session of Codex Committee on Contaminations in Foods; CCCF

15

ACFS in cooperation of relevant agencies has participated at the 15th Session of Codex Committee on Contaminations in Foods convened electronically during 9-13 and 24 May 2022. Thailand has taken an important part in the consideration and pushing for Codex to set ML values of food contaminants at the level safe to consumers and are not obstacle in international trade. The ML values established were such as lead in sugar, eggs, herbs, and spices; cadmium in cocoa powder; aflatoxin in ready to eat peanut, cereal and cereal-based products; aflatoxin and ochratoxin in spices; and methylmercury in fishes. Thailand also participated in establishing code of practice for prevention and reduction of contaminants i.e. mycotoxins in cassava and cassava-based products, cadmium in cocoa beans, guidance for data analysis for developing ML and improved data collection, review of Codex standards for contaminants and consideration priority lists for evaluation by JECFA.



ACFS has participated at the 52nd Session of Committee on Food Hygiene; CCFH, convened electronically during 28 February – 4 March and on 9 March 2022. The meeting has jointly considered and adopted the following.

1. The Committee has agreed to forward for the final adoption by Codex Alimentarius Commission of two standards i.e.

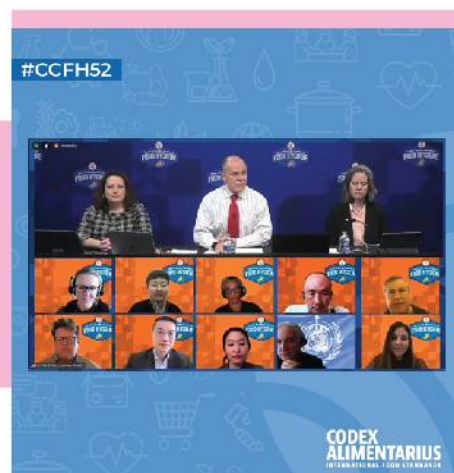
1.1 Co-chairing for the revision of the decision tree as a tool for the identification of Critical Control Point; CCP in the Codex standard on General Principles of Food Hygiene; CXC 1–1969

1.2 the draft Guidelines for the Management of Biological Foodborne Outbreaks to CAC45 for adoption at Step 8

2. participation in the consideration and elaboration of 2 new standards i.e.

2.1 Guidelines for the Control of Shiga Toxin-Producing *Escherichia coli* (STEC) in Raw Beef, Leafy Vegetables, Raw Milk and Cheese Produced from Raw Milk, and Sprouts

2.2 Guidelines for the Safe Use and Re-Use of Water in Food Production



ACFS with the cooperation of relevant agencies has participated at the 53rd Session of Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues convened electronically during 4-8 and 13 July 2022. The Meeting has mutually considered and agreed to forward to Codex Alimentarius Commission at its 45th Session for the adoption of the following.

1. MRLs with 310 values of 36 pesticides, the revocation of 158 MRLs of 18 pesticides owing to the new values have been determined, or without supporting data. The Meeting decided to retain all existing MRLs of fipronil, chlopyrifos-methyl, and MRLs of some plant species of metalaxyl or metalaxyl-M, fenpyroximate and trifloxystrobin such as MRLs of metalaxyl of fruits in citrus group for 4 years.

2. the amendment of the document on food and feed classification in Class D (Processed Foods of Plant Origin) with the addition of dried pulp of lemon and lime, dried pulp of mandarin, dried pulp of orange, dried pulp of pomelo and grapefruit, edible oil of easily peel citrus, edible oil of pomelo and grapefruit, and soya flour.

3. the document on the Guidelines for the Recognition of Active Substances or Authorized Uses of Active Substances of Low Public Health Concern that are Considered Exempted from The Establishment of Maximum Residue Limits or Do Not Give Rise to Residues.

4. the evaluation plan of pesticides for 2023 and the procedures for intaking data from field trial for the evaluation in the following year.

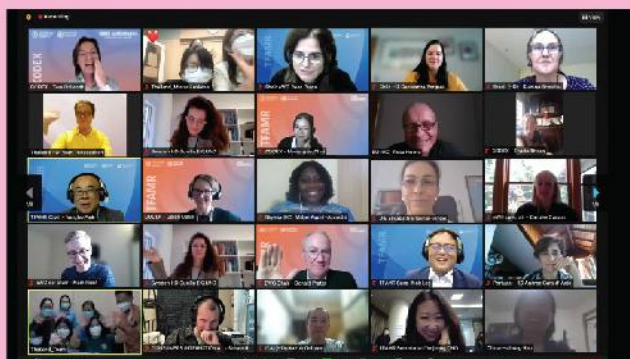


▶▶▶ The 8th Session of Ad hoc Codex Intergovernmental Task Force on Antimicrobial Resistance; TFAMR

8

ACFS with the cooperation of relevant agencies has participated at the 8th Session of Ad hoc Codex Intergovernmental Task Force on Antimicrobial Resistance; TFAMR, convened virtually, during 4-9 and 13 October 2021. The Meeting was held to find the agreement on the

Guidelines on Integrated Monitoring and Surveillance of Foodborne Antimicrobial Resistance; GLIS, and the Code of Practice to Minimize and Contain Foodborne Antimicrobial Resistance; COP. As many countries still have limited data, Thailand has therefore proposed to the Meeting to take into consideration on the differences of resources and knowledge of each Member country for a view of possibility to put the documents into practices without creating of any trade obstacle, especially on the practices in regard to plants. It is also to prompt the competent authorities concerning plants to place a higher priority on the issues. It was with the view to take the benefit on the promotion of collaboration in the work to effectively reduce the problem on antimicrobial resistance in the whole supply chain. To this end, both documents have already been adopted by CAC at the 44 Session.





▶▶▶ The 89th General Session of the World Assembly of National Delegates of the World Organisation for Animal Health



ACFS, with the cooperation of Representatives from the Department of Livestock Development, Department of Fisheries, and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, has participated at the 89th General Session of the World Assembly of National Delegates of the World Organisation for Animal Health which was held virtually during 23-26 May 2022. **the World Organisation for Animal Health** has the targets as set in the Strategic Plan aiming at strengthening the collaboration among alliance networking organizations and so decided to adapt the logo and the acronym to WOAH to strengthen the identity of the agency and to highlight the importance of the work programme which is consistent with the current situation and reflects more with new challenges and changes such as those on the communication of information on responsive activities of Veterinary Services and Aquatic Animal Health Services to emergency situations at national, regional, and international level.

The Meeting has adopted standards on terrestrial and aquatic animal health. The significant ones were on dog population management programmes, revision of the requirements of Rinderpest virus, requirements on zoonoses transmissible from non-human primate, and revision of requirements for the aquatic animal health surveillance. The adoption of the standard on dog population management highlighted the focus on dog welfare and the promotion of an integrated implementation of the programme on the control and elimination of stray dogs by way of animal registration and establishment of database. The revision on the requirements related with Rinderpest Virus was on measures and preparedness for the prevention of recurrence and the reduction of impacts. The requirements for the standard on zoonoses transmissible from non-human primate was revised for the consistency with up-to-date scientific data. On the aquatic animal health surveillance, the revision was on the guideline for Members to declare the aquatic animal health status. Thailand has proposed that there should be a review of the text on the assessment related to listing of products which were considered safe in international trade for a flexibility and applicability in real trade practice that can facilitate the trade of products of aquatic animal origin.





16

▶▶▶ The 16th Session of Commission on Phytosanitary Measures – CPM

ACFS with the cooperation of the Department of Agriculture has attended the 16th Session of Commission on Phytosanitary Measures which was held virtually on 5, 7, and 21 April 2022. The important agenda items which were adopted are highlighted hereunder.

1. Nine International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures have been adopted i.e. Commodity-specific standards for phytosanitary measures, amendments to the Glossary of phytosanitary terms, amendments to the Audit in the phytosanitary context, and revisions on the issuing of Phytosanitary certificates, and five other standards on Phytosanitary treatments for regulated pests.

2. The revised document on Dispute Settlement Procedures and previous version of the document was repealed. The adopted document contained amendments proposed by Thailand.

3. New proposals on International movement of mango, Field inspection and the Guide on performing audits in the phytosanitary context.

4. Draft CPM recommendations on the Reduction of the incidence of contaminating pests associated with regulated articles and unregulated articles to protect plant resources and facilitate safe trade. The adoption was to protect countries from contaminating pests which may arrive with all sorts of regulated articles and unregulated articles.





ASEAN Region

18

▶▶▶ The 18th ASEAN Working Group on Halal Food; AWGHF



ACFS has participated at the 18th ASEAN Working Group on Halal Food; AWGHF, which was held virtually on 18 July 2022. The important agenda items are highlighted hereunder.

1. The Meeting discussed on sharing of halal information among ASEAN Member States on ASEAN Food Safety Network (AFSN, www.afsn.net) with ACFS is the responsible agency. The website contains crucial information regarding halal such as 1) list of halal certification bodies 2) list of halal competent authorities 3) list of halal accreditation bodies 4) information on halal food and 5) halal activities of Member States. Member States are able to self-upload information on to the website or request the ASEAN Secretariat to convey the information for uploading by Thailand.

2. The Meeting discussed the comments of Member States on the revised draft standard on the ASEAN General Guidelines on Halal Food. The Meeting has a view that the document needed an ample time for discussion and therefore an AWGHF Workshop on ASEAN General Guidelines on Halal Food was so decided for an opportunity to consider the detail on various issues.



ACFS together with the Department of Agriculture has attended the 26th Session of the Experts Working Group on the Harmonization of Maximum Residue Limits (EWG-MRLs) of Pesticides among ASEAN Countries which was held virtually during 17-18 February 2022. The Meeting discussed and adopted the following.

1. The Meeting noted the establishment of five values of the ASEAN Harmonised MRLs which had been approved by 43rd AMAF (on 27 October 2021) i.e. amitraz in longan, prochloraz in chili, cyfluthrin/beta-cyfluthrin in long eggplant, azoxystrobin in black and white peppers and difenoconazole in black and white peppers (2 mg/kg, 3 mg/kg, 0.2 mg/kg, 0.5 mg/kg and 0.3 mg/kg respectively). The values for amitraz in longan, prochloraz in chili and cyfluthrin/beta-cyfluthrin in long eggplant were established from the data from Thailand.

2. The Meeting agreed to the draft proposal of 3 MRLs values i.e. abamectin in mandarin at 0.02 mg/kg, deltamethrin in green beans at 0.2 mg/kg and acetamiprid in Chinese kale at 1 mg/kg. The proposed values were to submit for the approval by the 44th AMAF as the ASEAN Harmonised MRLs.

3. The Meeting postponed the plan for the establishment of 2 MRLs. i.e. 1) carbosulfan and carbofuran (arising from the application of carbosulfan) in mangosteen and 2) fipronil in chili, in an anticipation for the evaluation by Joint FAO/WHO Meeting on Pesticide Residues; JMPR.

4. The Meeting agreed on the plan for a discussion on the establishment of 4 MRLs at the 27th Meeting. Among the 4 MRLs, 3 of them were proposed by Thailand i.e. 1) Difenoconazole in mandarin 2) Chlorantraniliprole in apple eggplant and 3) Indoxacarb in apple eggplant. Malaysia proposed 1 MRL i.e. Teflubenzuron in black and white peppers.

5. The Meeting took note the current status on the recognition of ASEAN Harmonised MRLs as national MRLs by the Member States.



▶▶▶ The 34th and 35th Session of the Prepared Foodstuff Product Working Group and Related Meetings

ACFS, with the cooperation of the Department of Fisheries, Department of Agriculture, Department of Livestock Development, the Food and Drug Administration, the Thai Industrial Standards Institute, the Federation of Thai Industries, and the Thai Chamber of Commerce, has participated at the 34th and 35th Session of the Prepared Foodstuff Product Working Group and Related Meetings i.e. the Joint Sectoral Committee on MRA for Inspection and Certification Systems on Food Hygiene for Prepared Foodstuff Products (JSC MRA on PF) and the Meeting of the ASEAN Committee on Harmonisation of Prepared Foodstuff Standards (ACHPFS). The Meetings were held virtually during 10-11 March and 21-22 September 2022. The outcome of the Meeting is described hereunder.

1. On the deliberation under the ASEAN Sectoral Mutual Recognition Agreement for Prepared Foodstuff Products, the Meeting has discussed on the revision of the Annex of the document on Mutual Recognition Agreement in order to align the text with Codex standard on the issue of General Principles on food hygiene. To this end, Thailand and Malaysia have been selected as lead countries for the tasks.

2. On the establishment/harmonization of product standards on prepared foodstuffs:

2.1 The Meeting has adopted MLs for cadmium in natural mineral water (0.003 mg/l) and for lead in natural mineral water (0.01 mg/l) in Annex 2 of the ASEAN standard on contaminants and toxins in food and feed.

2.2 The draft document on the ASEAN Guidelines on Specific Measures for ceramic articles intended to come into contact with foodstuffs was discussed.

2.3 On the establishment of standard on food labeling, the Meeting requested Member States to conduct internal consultation on the rules/requirements regarding national food labeling and revised the Nutrient Reference Values-Requirements; NRVs-R, for a consideration in the establishment of the ASEAN Guidelines on Nutrition Labeling.

2.4 During the deliberation on the food labeling standard, Thailand requested for a consideration for adjusting to harmonize the document on the ASEAN General Standard for Labelling of Prepackaged Foods with the Codex standard.



▶▶▶ The 8th Session of the Task Force on Development of ASEAN Food Safety Regulatory Framework Agreement



ACFS, with the cooperation of the Food and Drug Administration, Ministry of Public Health; and the Department of Trade Negotiations, Ministry of Commerce; has participated at the 8th Session of the Task Force on Development of ASEAN Food Safety Regulatory Framework Agreement (TF AFSRF) which was held virtually on 20 April 2022. The Meeting has agreed upon the suggestion of Thailand to make the Criteria clearer on the prioritization of proposals for the development of protocols under the AFSRF Agreement, for examples, by an insertion of the text on the decision making process for the prioritization taking an account into its consistency with the objective of the AFSRF Agreement, and by amending the specific criteria regarding the request for a consultation with other ASEAN Bodies. In addition, the Meeting has agreed to the proposal from Thailand on the amendment of the draft template for submission of a proposal for the establishment of a protocol to be consistent with the draft Criteria.



Standard Accreditation

Mutual Recognition of the Accreditation System in the Scope of Product Certification and Food Safety Management System

ACFS, as the Accreditation Body: AB, for agricultural commodities and food products, has been recognized by the Asia Pacific Accreditation Cooperation: APAC, and the International Accreditation Forum: IAF. The APAC Multilateral Recognition Arrangement : APAC MRA, has been signed with the scope of ISO/IEC 17065 standard on Conformity assessment – Requirements for bodies certifying products, processes, and services except for GLOBAL G.A.P., and with the scope of ISO/IEC 17021-1 standard on Conformity assessment – Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems – Part 1: Requirements of sub scope on certification of food safety management system with ISO/TS 22003 and ISO 22000 standards. The signing ceremony took place on 18 April 2022. In addition, ACFS has been recognized also by IAF

in the same scopes on 14 October 2022.

The recognition by APAC and IAF on those scopes has enhanced the confidence on the accreditation system of Thailand to be on par with those of other countries at the international level and has boosted up the confidence on the certificates of producers and business operators issued by Certification Bodies accredited by ACFS. These Certification Bodies are entitled for using IAF logo on the certificates. It also reduces the opportunity for interception of non-compliance products, and hence reduces the seizure of products by importing countries. In addition, the confidence will improve the competitiveness for exporting agricultural commodities and food products from Thailand because most countries which are trade partners have recognized certificates with IAF logo.



The Evaluation on FSMA Accredited Third-Party Certification Program

ACFS is the National Accreditation Body for agricultural commodities and food products which has been recognized by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, U.S. FDA, for the competency on accreditation in 6 scopes namely the Preventive Controls for Human Food (PCHF), Preventive controls for Animal Food (PCAF), Low-Acid Canned Foods (LACF), Acidified Foods (AF), Seafood Hazard Analysis and Critical Controls Point (Seafood HACCP) and Juice Hazard Analysis and Critical Controls Point (Juice HACCP)



in accordance of FSMA Accredited Third-Party Certification Program (TPP) under Food Safety Modernization Act: FSMA. The recognition was for the period from 30 May 2018 to 30 May 2023.

To this end, ACFS has been evaluated on Monitoring Recognition as a recognized AB by U.S. FDA, during 18-27 July 2022 in accordance of FSMA Accredited Third-Party Certification Program (TPP) under Food Safety Modernization Act: FSMA. The evaluation was conducted by an office evaluation

on the consistency of quality system, and the witness evaluation at business operator premises on the competency of ACFS auditors in audit inspection of certification bodies on the scopes under the TPP. No corrective action was given and the evaluators have expressed satisfactory comments on the ability of ACFS to demonstrate the strength of the quality system management and on the competency of the officers providing audit services to certification bodies in those scopes.

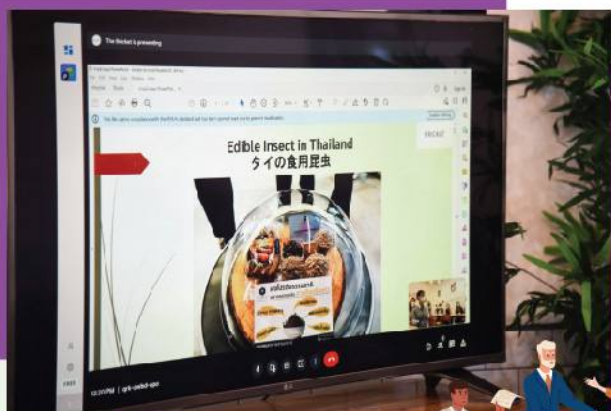


SPS Measures : Negotiation, Dispute Settlement and Market Access for Agricultural and Food Trade.

The 12th Meeting of Special Sub-Committee on Food Safety under the Framework for Japan-Thailand Economic Partnership Agreement (JTEPA)



Thailand has hosted the 12th Meeting of Special Sub-Committee on Food Safety under the Framework for Japan-Thailand Economic Partnership Agreement (JTEPA) during 14-15 September 2022 at the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives. The Secretary General of the National Bureau of Agricultural Commodity and Food Standards was the Co-Chair of the Meeting for Thailand and the Representatives from the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries (MAFF), and the Ministry of Public Health, Labour, and Welfare (MHLW) were the Co-Chairs for Japan. The Meeting was also attended by Representatives from the Department of Livestock Development, Department of Fisheries, Rice Department, Department of Agriculture, the Embassy of Japan to Thailand.



Over the past 10 years, the Meeting on food safety under JTEPA has been the important mechanism for agencies concerning food safety of Thailand and Japan to drive the market access dialogue and the dispute settlement on export-import between each other in various issues. Thailand also has benefitted every year from the support on technical assistance from Japan. In the 12th Meeting, both parties have followed up on the issues of market access and dispute settlement between them. **The issues of Thailand** were on the market access of pomelo variety khao nam peung, the measures for exporting mangosteen to Japan without vapour heat treatment, and the revision of Japanese MRL for Fosetyl-aluminium in rice exported from Thailand. **The issues of Japan** were on market access for germinated rice and the measures for controlling of Sweet Orange Scab (SOS) in fresh orange fruits exporting from Japan to Thailand. Japan also supported a technical cooperation in organizing a Seminar on Japan's Functional Food Systems which was scheduled in March 2023. The next Meeting of the Special Sub-Committee on Food Safety is scheduled in July 2023 and hosted by Japan.



Moreover, during this Meeting ACFS and the Office of Foreign Agriculture, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives has organized a culinary trip for the Japanese delegates to try food and products prepared from insects of Thailand and to visit a cricket farm certified with GAP standard (TAS 8202-2560) in Pathumtani Province. The visit was to create an awareness on products of edible insects, their standards and quality and safety control system for insect production in Thailand. The Japanese delegates were pleased and interested in the products from insects and the cricket farm. The excursion was considered as a way to drive the policy of the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives which having the aims to support and enhance the potential for the production and export of edible insect products of Thailand and to become the center of the world for insect protein production.

Free Trade Agreement with the European Free Trade Association: EFTA



Thailand has announced on 20 June 2022 to launch FTA negotiations with the European Free Trade Association, EFTA. The group has Switzerland, Norway, Iceland, and Lichtenstein as the members. The attempt for the negotiations has been discussed between the two parties for almost 20 years. It will be the first FTA for Thailand with European nations. Thailand has already had 14 FTAs with 18 countries. The aim is to conclude the negotiations within 2 years. Afterwards, the procedures will be taken in accordance of legal system in each country.



Thailand has hosted the first round of the negotiations during 28-30 June 2022. The negotiations took place at two levels, one of the chief negotiators and the other of panels in 16 subject areas. For the subject on sanitary and phytosanitary, SPS, the panel was attended by representatives of relevant agencies from both sides. For Thailand, the negotiation on SPS is under the responsibility of ACFS. Representatives from both parties have exchanged views and planned for the negotiation in the next round during October-November 2022. Overall, the draft SPS text has the objectives of trade facilitation, information exchange, and dispute settlement regarding trade between each other, in line with the WTO/SPS Agreement. The negotiation was also to cover on the possibility of a consultation on the application of equivalence which would be the opportunity for Thailand to strengthen the consistency of standards and regulations with the international norm.



In regard to the trade between Thailand and EFTA, the value in 2021 was approximately 7,500 million USD. After the conclusion and the enforce of the FTA, the trade value has been expected to double rapidly, especially for meat products like chicken, pork and edible offal, and others like processed fish products, vegetables and fruits, and starch products. The increase in the export of farm products of Thailand has been expected due to the cooperation in trade, services, import-export tariff reduction, investment, e-commerce, trade facilitation, and sustainable economic and social development in the future.



The 8th Meeting of the Joint SPS Committee between Thailand and New Zealand



The 8th Meeting of the Joint SPS Committee between Thailand and New Zealand under the commitment of the Thailand-New Zealand Closer Economic Partnership (TNZCEP) was held as a virtual meeting on 3 August 2022. ACFS, with the cooperation of Representatives from the Department of Livestock Development, Department of Fisheries, Department of Agriculture, Food and Drug Administration, the Office of Agricultural Affairs at Canberra, has a consultation with Dr. Bill Jolly, the Head delegate of New Zealand, and his delegation. During the Meeting both parties have exchanged information between each other. The New Zealand delegation has informed Thailand on the amendment of the Import Health Standard (IHS), and the restructure of competent authority in charge of the IHS. In addition, there was a discussion to follow up on the market access for agricultural commodities i.e. asparagus, green pea, baby corn, peaches, nectarines, and livestock products. There was also a consultation on the development of Electronic Certification Exchange: E-Cert, for agricultural commodities and food products between the two parties. In this regard, the two parties agreed to form a technical working group on E-Cert. The Meeting also noted the success arising from the 7th Meeting in 2021 on the market access New Zealand has granted Thailand for the export of *Pangasius* spp. to New Zealand.



Dispute Settlement between Thailand and China for Import - Export of Farm and Food Products During the 7th Meeting of the Joint Thailand-China Technical Committee on SPS (JTC-SPS)



On 7 July 2022, ACFS has convened a virtual session of the 7th Meeting of the Joint Thailand-China Technical Committee on SPS (JTC-SPS). The Meeting was participated by Representatives from the General Administration of Chinese Customs (GACC), and Experts from ACFS, Department of Agriculture, Department of Livestock Development, and Department of Fisheries. The consultation between the two parties were on the cooperation in quarantine and food safety of fisheries and livestock products in order to settle the remaining disputed issues and to exchange technical information deemed to benefit both parties. The outcomes have been reported to a High Level Committee Meeting on 8 July 2022 at the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives. The High Level Meeting was Co-Sharing by Mr. Somchuan Ratanamungklanon, Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives and Mr. Zhang Baofeng, Director General of the Department of International Cooperation of GACC (General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China)





During the Meeting at the technical level of the JTC-SPS, China has positively responded to several issues proposed by Thailand which aimed at the realization of the objectives of trade facilitation and reduction of obstacles in agricultural trade as agreed upon by both Parties in the Memory of Understanding on SPS (MOU on SPS) to promote a continuous cooperation in all aspects of trade facilitation for agricultural commodities between Thailand and China. The promoted cooperation are, for instances, on the support to facilitate the transportation of agricultural commodities through third countries, on the support to further the dialogue on market access of additional agricultural commodities such as live lobster for food consumption, on the criteria for exporting live cattle, and on the system connection of electronic certificates, e-SPS, to speed up trade and provide transparency between the Parties.



Negotiation on SPS Text under ATIGA



The Department of Trade Negotiations, Ministry of Commerce, has hosted the 1st Meeting of the Trade Negotiating Committee for the ATIGA Upgrading Negotiation, ATIGA TNC, on 29-30 September 2022 in Krabi Province. The Meeting has the objectives to modernize the ASEAN Trade in Goods Agreement in order to address challenges in current trade situation and to meet with future trend. The Meeting has appointed 6 Working Groups to negotiate the draft of the new text. The Working Group on Sanitary and Phytosanitary was among these new groups, and Ms Rawinand Chamchalerm, was selected as the permanent chairperson of the SPS Working Group. The Meeting has set the time frame for the negotiations as the guide for working group chairpersons in conducting the negotiation with respect to the responsibility of their respective Working Group.



In addition, the Meeting for the ATIGA Upgrading Negotiation has a consultation on the possibility for an addition of new Chapters on significant trends in current economy and trade such as the issues of Remanufactured good, paperless trade, and the strengthening of micro, small and medium size enterprises (MSMEs). The aim was for ASEAN Member States to benefit more from ATIGA. In this connection, the Meeting has emphasized that the 6 Working Groups start their meetings within 2022 and report to the 2nd ATIGA TNC Meeting to be held in December 2022.



ACFS, as the Chair of SPS Working Group, in cooperation of the ASEAN Secretariat, was to determine the composition and direction for the negotiation of the SPS text which suits and benefits most in the current environment of global trade. The aim was to protect life of plants, animals, and human in Member States from diseases or plant pests which may present as contamination in imported trade while not becoming a trade obstacle between them.



Thailand Mexico Cooperation on Quality and Safety of Farm and Food Products

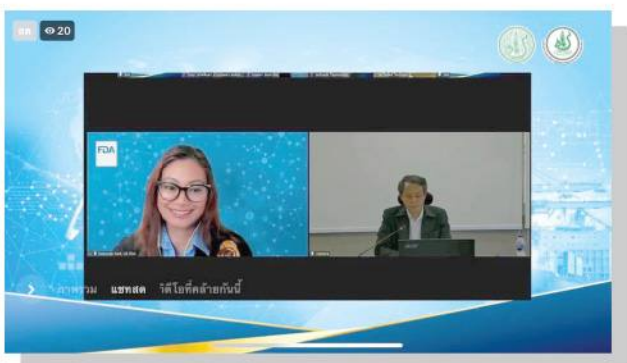
ACFS has convened a technical meeting on a Zoom cloud system on 21 September 2022 with the National Service for Agrifood Health, Safety, and Quality (SENASICA) of Mexico. The meeting was for exchanging information on rules and regulations for the import of food and farm products, and to promote the cooperation on quality and safety of food and farm products between Thailand and Mexico. **Thai delegation** was led by Ms. Ravinan Chamchalerm, Director of Policy on Agricultural Commodity and Food Standards. Representatives from the Department of Agriculture, Department of Fisheries, Section of Agricultural Affairs at the Thai Consulate in Los Angeles, and ACFS, with a total of 28 persons, also participated at the meeting. **Mexican Delegation** was led by Mr. Rene Hernandez Ruiz, Director of Project and Institution Development, with participation of 7 SENASICA Representatives.

The consultation has been successful with excellent cooperation and support of SENASICA. The two sides have exchanged information on the electronic exchange system for phytosanitary certificates (e-Phyto). Mexico was pleased to test the connection of the certificate exchange system with Thailand. Moreover, Mexico has presented on safety control system for fish and fish products of the country. Mexico has also consulted on the import of frozen shrimp from Thailand and Mexico was pleased to consider Thai proposal for the recognition of disease free zone in line with the guideline of the World Organization for Animal Health. The Department of Fisheries will submit the data on the status of shrimp diseases, the control measures, and other related data for the assessment of Mexico.





ACFS, with the cooperation of the Office of Agricultural Affairs in Washington D.C. and the Section of Agricultural Affairs at the Thai Consulate in Los Angeles, has taken a follow up action on the interception of farm and food products from Thailand and coordinated with business operators for the monthly notifications. ACFS has collected the information and made an inquiry into the facts of the incidents from business operators. The finding showed that farm and food products exported from Thailand to US have run into the problem on how to adhere to FSVP rule under the FSMA Act. In order to comply with the rule, the cooperation of US importers and Thai exporters is required.



In this regard, ACFS has set short and long term plans to develop understanding on the practices in compliance with FSMA Act, especially on FSVP enforcement along the chain of related industries.

- In the short term, a seminar was planned on “Revision of FSMA, bridging with Thai Industries, ensuring export to United States”. The target groups were relevant operators in the part of product collectors, exporters, and importers or consignee. The topics were on the Food Safety Modernization Act, FSMA, the Rules on Preventive Controls, and Foreign Supplier Verification Program: FSVP. The seminar was organized on Thursday 26 May 2022. The objectives were to disseminate information on how to operate under U.S. FSMA Act.





The focus was on the operation and how the operators from upstream producers to downstream importers to prepare for under the FSVP rules in order to prevent the impact which may occur to the farm and food products export from Thailand to U.S. In this connection, ACFS, the Office of Agricultural Affairs in Washington D.C. and the Section of Agricultural Affairs of the Consulate in Los Angeles, and the presenters of the U.S. food safety have had the official permission from Institute of Food Safety and Health (IFSH), Illinois Institute of Technology. The seminar has the honour of having the Representative from Division of West Coast Imports (DWCI), US FDA, on the Zoom Cloud Meeting which was also live streaming on Facebook and YouTube of ACFS.

- In the long term, database of practices of operators in each sectors would be developed and the dissemination would be provided with easy access to enable Thai business operators to export farm and food products in compliance with U.S. requirements.



Registration of Thai Food Producers for exporting to China in accordance with the new Decree 248



In this connection, ACFS and the relevant competent authorities i.e. the Department of Agriculture, Department of Fisheries, Department of Livestock Development, Food and Drug Administration, the Office of Agricultural Affairs in Beijing, and the Sections of Agricultural Affairs at the Thai Consulates in Shanghai and Guangzhou, have continuously taken actions to follow up on the development of the issue further. The cooperation with a close coordination among these offices has been arranged to get the exporters registered as smoothly as possible to avoid the impact on trade. In addition, public communication and information services were provided to related sectors with the distribution of handbooks, questions and answers, and the assistance was also provided for clearing of problems with goods intercepted at the border. As a result, there have been successful registration of more than 1,900 business operators as of December 2022.

As a consequence of the enforcement by the General Administration of Chinese Customs (GACC) on the newly revised Decree 248 which is the Regulations on the Registration and Administration of Overseas Producers of Imported Food, from 1 January 2022, producers of most categories of farm and food products, ranging from primary products, to processed products, food, condiments, and health food for exporting to China have been required to register with GACC to get the registration number before exporting.



The Project on ASEAN Economic Integration with additional EU support to Thailand (ARISE Plus – Thailand) on Trade-Related Assistance



The Project on ASEAN Economic Integration with additional EU support to Thailand on Trade-Related Assistance (ARISE Plus – Thailand) has been implemented by International Trade Centre: ITC, and ACFS. The financial support from EU amounted to 3 million euros for the three years period (2020-2023). Under ARISE Plus-Thailand, there was a project on the Strengthening of the Quality of Production of Organic Farm Products, with ACFS as the main responsible agency. The project intended to build knowledge and understanding on trade and policy on organic farming of Thailand and participating ASEAN countries with the aim of harmonization with international and EU standards, and the strengthening of the Thai standards for promoting trade growth. The products and locations were set for 1) organic rice in Mahasarakham Province and 2) mangosteen/mangosteen juice in eastern provinces.

The projects completed in 2022 were:

1. English Translation of the standard on Organic Agriculture: The Production, Processing, Labelling and Marketing of Produce and Products from Organic Agriculture



2. A meeting on “the assessment of communication strategy for developing and creating awareness on the benefit of organic farming” has been convened on 12 July 2022 at Centara Grand at Central Plaza, Lad Prao, Bangkok, which was participated by 20 representatives from public agencies, farmers, and business operators.



3. An extra training session on TAS 9000-2564 was held virtually for 22 participants of the ISO/IEC Training on 9 August 2022.



4. The Stakeholder Pilot Workshop: Technical Guide on the New EU Organic Regulation” was held virtually on 5 October 2022 at Centara Grand at Central Plaza, Lad Prao, Bangkok, for 50 participants from competent authorities and CBs certified by ACFS on the scope of organic agriculture, Green Net, and farmers/business operators.



5. The IRCA Certified ISO 9001: 2015 QMS Lead Auditor Training was organized for 39 participants in 2 groups of the public officers from the Department of Agriculture, Rice Department, and the Agricultural Land Reform Office, and CBs certified by ACFS on the scope of organic agriculture.



The Promotion and Development of Insect Industry of Thailand for a Sustainable Growth



The Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives has adopted a policy targeting Thailand to become a global hub for protein production from insects, or Global Insect Hub, in response to the modern market trend and the modern economic and social context and to the national policy on future foods development. Over the years, ACFS has continuously implemented missions in connection with the policy to increase competitiveness to the products of economic insects.

In 2022, ACFS has promoted and developed the move for insect industry of Thailand to grow sustainably emphasizing on the governmental operation with the participatory mechanism of the civil society and with the policy driven approach in 2 major implementations.



1. A workshop was held on “Brainstorming for developing the operational direction or solutions for driving insect industry of Thailand for a sustainable growth”. The event was held on 7 February 2022 at Thailand Creative and Design Center (TCDC), Central Post Office, Charoen Krung, Bangkok and also on Zoom Cloud system. The objectives were to brainstorm on setting work direction to develop insect industry in Thailand to become the location of alternative protein source for the future. The brainstorming was tackled by stakeholders and people with involvement along the insect industry chain on two points i.e. 1) the development of edible insects as human food and 2) the development of Black Soldier Fly (BSF) as an alternative source for animal feed. During the workshop the participants have expressed their views and exchanged the information. They have collaborated in drafting a proposal of the work direction and solutions for overcoming problem, obstacles and challenges facing at present.



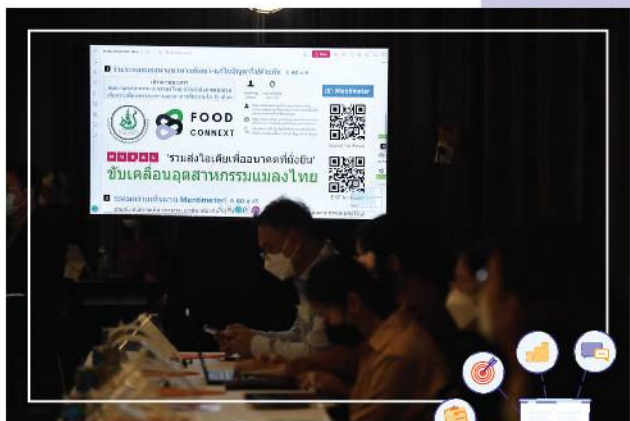
The proposal was submitted for ACFS to create a momentum or to operate in cooperation with relevant agencies to promote a sustainable growth of Thai insect industry.

The participants, 84 in total, composed of experts in public/private/academic sectors. Representatives of public agencies were from ACFS, Department of Livestock Development, Department of Agricultural Extension, Department of International Trade Promotion and Department of Foreign Trade. Representatives of private sector were from processing business operators, exporters, Thai Chamber of Commerce, and the Federation of Thai Industries. Representatives of academic sector were from Khon Kaen University; Chiang Mai University; and Agricultural Research Development Agency, Public Organization. There were also representatives among insect farmers.



2. The policy framework for the development of economic insect industry was drafted after an in-depth brainstorming workshop with stakeholders and involved parties in the insect industry. ACFS has analyzed the information from the brainstorming, together with the current guideline of the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives for setting promotion activities on economic insects, and the analytical data on strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats to the Thai insect industry. The information was processed into the policy framework for the development of insect industry of Thailand. The framework was outlined into 2 parts i.e. 1) the policy framework for the sustainable development of edible insects and 2) the policy framework for the development of insects as raw material substitute in animal feed.





In addition, ACFS has had a consultation with relevant agencies to jointly set the direction/guideline for the implementation of agencies under the policy framework. ACFS has also collated information and drafted a general guideline for an overall implementation of the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives. In the future, ACFS has had a plan to call for a technical collaboration with significant trade partner countries, for instance, the collaboration with the Agricultural Ministry of Korea and Japan on the policy/regulations/standards of edible insects.



“Current State of and Outlook for Plant-Based Food: Sharing Regulatory and Market Perspectives from Europe and Oceania”



ACFS has convened a virtual seminar on 18 May 2022 on “Current State of and Outlook for Plant-Based Food: Sharing Regulatory and Market Perspectives from Europe and Oceania”, to promote the information and understanding on the regulations, standards and requirements for importing plant-based food into the European Community, United Kingdom, Australia, and New Zealand, and the information on the market direction and trend of these products in those countries. The understanding was needed for achieving a compliance with the regulations of trade partners.

The seminar was attended by 457 participants including farmers, producers, exporters, importers, officials from public agencies, researchers, and academics from domestic and overseas universities. There were 16 presenters from UK Food Safety Agency (FSA), Lincoln University, European Commission on Agriculture and Rural Development, the Ministry of Primary Industry of New Zealand (MPI), Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ), Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (CSIRO), The European Plant-based Foods Association (ENSA), Thai Chamber of Commerce, Thai Union Group PCL, and CPF (Thailand) Public Company Limited.

The presentations were delivered by countries/region and the topics were such as the import requirements and standards of alternative protein products in trade partner countries, the global outlook and current state of plant-based food market, the consumer attitudes towards food with alternative protein in United Kingdom, EU requirements for defining the term “milk” in plant-based food, a survey of Flexitarian consumer group in European Union, and the industrial overview on plant-based products in Thailand. There was a panel discussion for exchanging views among small, medium, and large producers of plant-based food in Thailand.

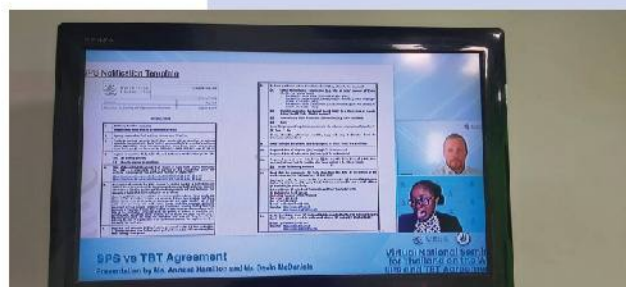
Virtual National Seminar for Thailand on SPS and TBT Agreement



The Virtual National Seminar for Thailand on SPS and TBT Agreement was held during 23-24 February 2022. The seminar has the objective to promote the understanding on how to adhere to the commitments under the WTO Agreements on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Agreement) and the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT Agreement). It was also to learn on experiences of experts on free trade negotiation tables and on how to deal with the measures of the partner countries in a situation where there was an increasing trend of notifications. It was also to learn from them on the importance of transparency principle in order to take appropriate actions for complying with the SPS and TBT Agreements. Mr. Pisan Pongsapitch, Secretary General of ACFS and Mr. Aik Hoe Lim, Director, Trade and Environment Division, WTO, have presided over the opening of the seminar. There were 151 participants, whose work related to SPS and TBT measures, from the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Ministry of Public Health, Ministry of Finance, Thailand Industrial Standards Institute, Office of the Consumer Protection Board.



The seminar has received technical cooperation with a kind support of experts from WTO namely, Ms. Anneke Hamilton (SPS Section), Mr. Devin McDaniels (TBT Section) and Ms. Lotte Drieghe (SPS/TBT online tool). The proficient experts of Thailand namely Mr Prakarn Virakul and Dr. Surmsuk Salakpetch, Advisors of ACFS, and Ms. Ravinan Chamchalerm, Director of Policy on Agricultural Commodity and Food Standards, have shared the expertise in a panel discussion on the topic of Thailand's Experience in implementing the SPS Agreement. The panel was for sharing experiences of the experts on the implementation in compliance with SPS and TBT Agreements. The participants have responded with an overall satisfaction of 87 percent.





ACFS has disseminated the translation of SPS and TBT Measures of WTO Members and also of Thailand to inform relevant public and private agencies and to have their views on these measures.

During 1 October 2021-30 September 2022, there have been 3,164 Notifications circulated by WTO Members (Thailand included) on SPS and TBT (Agriculture and Food) Measures.

1) On SPS Measures, there were 1,990 notifications of which 29 percent were emergency measures and 71 percent were measures in non-emergencies. The notifications were divided into 3 categories of food safety with 51 percent, animal health 30 percent, and 19 percent in plant health.

2) On TBT Measures (Agriculture and Food), there were 959 notifications of which all were in non-emergency situation. The notifications were divided into 2 categories according to the objectives which were on consumer protection with 92 percent and on labeling display with 8 percent.

For Thailand, there were 149 Notifications on SPS and TBT (Agriculture and Food) Measures during 1 October 2021-30 September 2022.

1) On SPS Measures, there were 185 notifications of which 92 percent were emergency measures and 8 percent were measures in non-emergency situation. The notifications were 93 percent on animal health and most of them were emergency measures to counter with the import or the zoonoses outbreak, and 7 percent were on food safety.

2) On TBT Measures (Agriculture and Food), there were 10 notifications, all in non-emergency situation. The notifications were divided into 2 categories according to the objectives which were 63 percent on consumer protection and on labeling display with 37 percent.

สถิติการแจ้งเวียน Notifications ของประเทศสมาชิก WTO และไทย

มาตรการ SPS และ TBT (สินค้าเกษตรและอาหาร) ของประเทศสมาชิก WTO

➢ แจ้งเวียนมาตรการ SPS และมาตรการ TBT (ด้านสินค้าเกษตรและอาหาร) ของประเทศสมาชิก WTO จำนวนทั้งสิ้น 3,164 ฉบับ



SPS Notifications 1,990



Emergency Notifications 29%

Regular Notifications 71%

TBT Notifications 959



Regular Notifications 100%

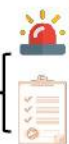


มาตรการ SPS และ TBT (สินค้าเกษตรและอาหาร) ของไทย

➢ แจ้งเวียนมาตรการ SPS และมาตรการ TBT (ด้านสินค้าเกษตรและอาหาร) ของไทย จำนวนทั้งสิ้น 185 ฉบับ



SPS Notifications 149



Emergency Notifications 92%

Regular Notifications 8%

TBT Notifications 10



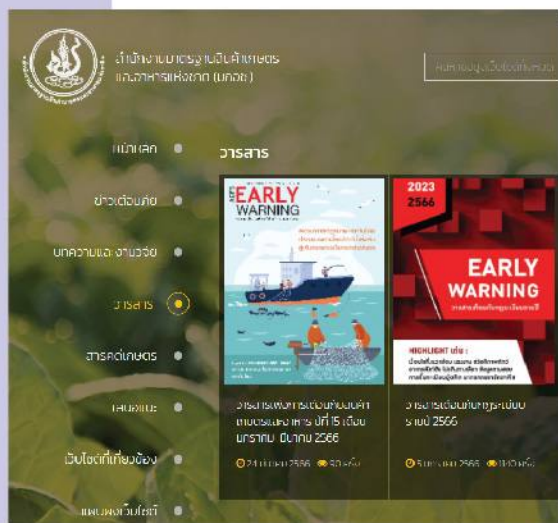
Regular Notifications 100%



หมายเหตุ: ข้อมูลระหว่างวันที่ 1 ต.ค. 2564 - 30 ก.ย. 2565 และ Notifications ของกลุ่มประเทศแสดงข้อมูลเป็น 1 ฉบับ

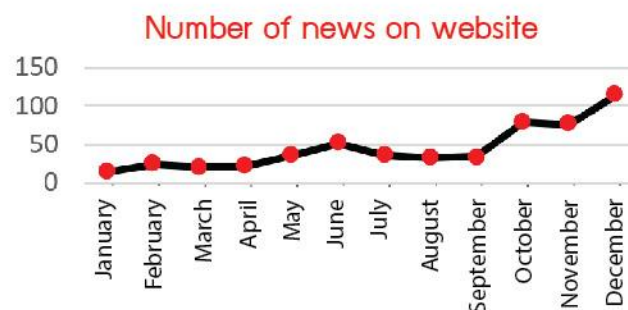


ACFS EARLY WARNING



Early Warning Project has been conducted to study, monitor, and build a collection of international trade regulations which have impact on the trade of farm and food products of Thailand. It was also to monitor news and international positions from extensive sources of information such as publications, documents, and websites, and develop into a database. Furthermore, it was to organize the information into varieties of communication material including articles, news, documents, and electronic files for disseminating to stakeholders and people who are interested. Some of these information were selected for publishing in the ACFS Early Warning Magazine.

In this regard, there have been an average of 44 pieces of news which have been published on the Early Warning website during October 2021 – September 2022 with the topics on meat and livestock products, plant and plant products, seafood and seafood products, processed and composite food, special dietary food and food for specific nutritional need, food additives, packaging, food contact material, and production machines. The information was from Europe, Asia, and Africa.



In addition, Early Warning has also gathered monthly statistical data for publishing in the quarterly and annual magazines with 60 volumes accumulatively. They can be downloaded from Early Warning website. During October 2021 – September 2022, there have been 4 volumes of the quarterly i.e. 1) GMOs: as the world changes its position on GMO- food 2) Zoonoses: threats to livestock industry and human health 3) tracing global crisis of animal feed and 4) popularity of functional food, a crucial step of Thai health products. There was also 1 volume of the yearly magazine.

Strengthening of Farm and Food Products retailers

The Audit of Q Modern Trade Retailers

ACFS has conducted a certification of Q product retailers in Bangkok and Provinces since 2009. In 2022, ACFS has adjusted the criteria for the audit of Modern Trade with additional requirements on control measures for Covid 19 contamination in Modern Trade retailers certified by ACFS to ensure consumer confidence. The consumers have also adjusted themselves to the new normal lifestyle with more attention on their health and that of the families. They have also changed the buying behaviour by putting their consideration not only to the selection of certified and safe products but also to the management for the control of Covid 19. Therefore, the Q Modern Trade retailers needed to adapt the management to include the measures for controlling Covid 19 to ensure the consumer confidence on the products and the services.

To this end, ACFS has audited retailers of 5 Modern Trade chains at 837 locations all over the country with the added requirements.



Central Food Retail Company Limited (Tops) at 278 locations.



Betagro Agro Industry Company Limited at 207 locations



Big C Supercenter Public Company Limited at 201 locations



Siam Makro Company Public Limited at 135 locations



The Mall Group Company Limited at 16 locations

The audit results have shown that the 5 Companies have met with the criteria for the assessment on the control of Covid 19 for Q products in Q Modern Trade Retailers. ACFS will coordinate with the Modern Trade to continue ensuring the consumer confidence.

Chains at
837

locations all



The Promotion of Consumption and Utilization of Q Products (Q market)



ACFS has supported the project of the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives on the certification of Q markets in provinces in accordance with the Community Master Plan at provincial level which is under the Project on Learning Center for Sufficiency Economy in Community guided by the Food Safety Strategy. The implementation since 2013 has been with the cooperation of the Provincial Agriculture and Cooperatives Offices in the activity on the Creation of Q Markets for Products with Safety Standards. The activity was to audit and certify vendors in fresh markets and other vendors selling Q products certified by the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives where Q products could be conveniently purchased.

In 2022, ACFS and the Provincial Agriculture and Cooperatives Offices have implemented 2 activities regarding the vendors of Q products in fresh markets under the project on the Promotion of Consumption and Utilization of Q Products in 69 provinces.

1. For the audit and certification of Q product vendors in fresh market/farm gates/others, the activity was implemented for 616 vendors in 280 fresh markets and 331 farm gate vendors. For Bangkok area, the audit and certification was implemented for 291 vendors in 16 markets.

Outside Bangkok

for
280
markets

for
616
vendors



331 farm gate vendors

Bangkok



for
16
markets

for
291
vendors



2. There was an activity to promote the vendors for enhancing the visibility of Q products. The promotion of certified vendors has been made on various media such as website, brochure, newsletter, and on mobile Q app.



www.acfs.go.th



Furthermore, a system was developed for reporting the audit results of Q market (Q market report) to facilitate a rapid action in reporting the results to the Provincial Agriculture and Cooperatives Offices and enable them to take the benefit on making use of the information more handily and quickly. The system has been beneficial in having the certified vendors and the Q products listed in one place.

Licensing, Monitoring, and Fee Setting

Licensing of Producers, Importers, Exporters and Import – Export Declaration of farm Commodities with Mandatory Standards



ACFS has already notified Ministerial Notifications to enact 7 agricultural standards for a mandatory enforcement. In this regard, producers, exporters, and importers of the agricultural commodities under these standards are required to apply for a license to operate their business and to declare the import-export of those products on TAS-License. The TAS-License system is an electronic system which now has an accumulation of 306 licenses of authorized producers, exporters, and importers under these 7 mandatory standards. The table shows the classification of these licenses into each standard.

Mandatory Standards	Number of License in 2022						Total
	Producer licenses		Exporter licenses		Importer licenses		
	New	Renew	New	Renew	New	Renew	
Code of Practice for Sulphur Dioxide Fumigation of Fresh Fruits (TAS 1004-2557)	40	46	66	68	0	0	220
Code of Practice for Mushroom Culture (TAS 2507-2559)	6	2	0	0	0	0	8
Peanut kernels: Requirements for Aflatoxin Limit (TAS 4702-2557)	0	1	0	0	8	3	12
Good Manufacturing Practices for Milk Collection Center (TAS 6401-2558)	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Good Aquaculture Practices for Hatchery of Disease Free Pacific White Shrimp (<i>Litopenaeus vannamei</i>) (TAS 7432-2558)	2	2	0	0	0	0	4
Good Manufacturing Practices for Frozen Durian (TAS 9046-2017)	14	6	29	11	0	0	60
Good Agricultural Practices for Layer Farm (TAS 6909-2019)	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Total	64	57	95	79	8	3	306

For the export, there were 19,997 declarations in fiscal year 2022 with a total weight of 721,361 tons.

Mandatory Standards	Export declaration		
	Export permit TAS 7-1 (number)	Export volume (ton)	Export value (million baht)
Code of Practice for Sulphur Dioxide Fumigation of Fresh Fruits (TAS 1004-2557)	18,159	665,423.37	14,713.21
Good Manufacturing Practices for Frozen Durian (TAS 9046-2017)	2,517	55,937.97	4,058.41
Total	19,997	721,361.34	18,771.61

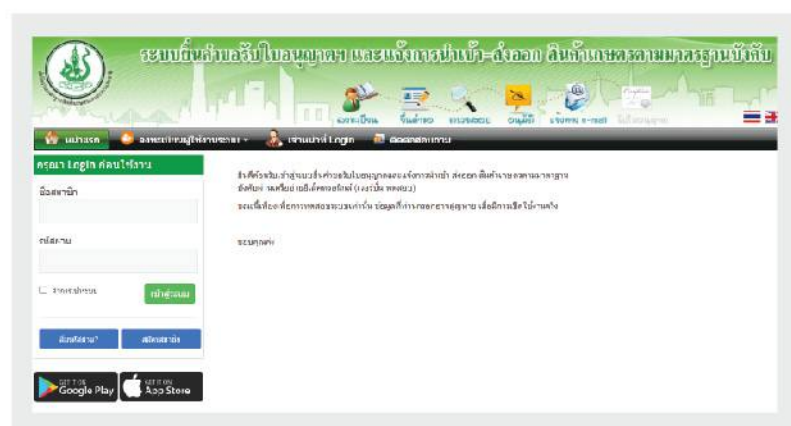
Data as of 21 July 2022

The import declaration in fiscal year 2022 amounted to 602 declarations with a total weight of 33, 906.83 tons

Mandatory Standards	Import declaration		
	Import permit TAS 8-1 (number)	Import volume (ton)	Import value (million baht)
Peanut kernels: Requirements for Aflatoxin Limit (TAS 4702-2557)	602	33,906.83	44.07
Total	602	33,906.83	44.07

Data as of 21 July 2022

ACFS has continued developing the TAS-License system for improving the efficiency and facilitating system users i.e. the business operators and officers who will be in charge once the licensing services are transferred as more standards become mandatory enforced in the future. The development is also to strengthen the admin of the agricultural commodities to be in compliance with the standards and relevant legislations.



Monitoring of Licensees as Producers, Exporters, and Importers under Mandatory Standards

ACFS has conducted a monitoring on 30% of 359 Licensees of Producers, Exporters, and Importers under Mandatory Standards. The detail is shown in table 1.



Table 1 Monitoring plan on Producers, Exporters, and Importers Licensees under Mandatory Standards

	TAS	Numbers of Licensees/plan						Total Number	
		Producers	plan	Exporters	plan	Importers	plan	Licenses	plan
1	Peanut kernels: Requirements for Aflatoxin Limit (TAS 4702-2557)	19	6	3	1	55	16	77	23
2	Code of Practice for Mushroom Culture (TAS 2507-2559)	60	18	0	0	0	0	60	18
3	Code of Practice for Sulphur Dioxide Fumigation of Fresh Fruits (TAS 1004-2557)	236	70	329	98	0	0	565	168
4	Good Manufacturing Practices for Milk Collection Center (TAS 6401-2558)	166	50	1	1	0	0	167	51
5	Good Manufacturing Practices for Frozen Durian (TAS 9046-2560)	90	27	165	49	0	0	255	76
6	Good Aquaculture Practices for Hatchery of Disease Free Pacific White Shrimp (Litopenaeus vannamei) (TAS 7432-2558)	58	17	16	5	1	1	75	23
Total		629	188	514	154	56	17	1199	359

Note: The monitoring of the mandatory standard on Good Agriculture Practices for Layer Farm (TAS 6909-2562) has been delegated to performed by competent officers of the Department of Livestock Development as advised in ACFS Notification.

The results of the monitoring showed that

- Among 334 licensees which was 93.52% (171 producers, 151 exporters, and 12 importers), there were requests for updating/changing addresses from 8 licensees (3 producers, 5 exporters), and for license revocation from 27 licensees due either to being out of scope for mandatory enforcement or business termination (17 producers, 9 exporters, and 1 importer).

- For the display of mandatory Q mark, 119 licensed producers who have been certified and possessed a certificate have been found to display the mark correctly in compliance with the Ministerial Notification determining the terms of characterisation, use, and presentation of certification mark for agricultural commodities, B.E. 2563. There were 31 producers who were ordered to take corrective actions on the display.

The implementation on the control, administration, monitoring, and inspection of the operation of the producers, importers, exporters who are licensees under mandatory standards as set forth under the terms in the Agricultural Standards Act, B.E. 2511 is an important mission which obliges the licensed business operators to operate in line with the relevant rules and regulations for enhancing consumer confidence on the quality and safety of agricultural commodities.



Fee Setting for Services on Inspection and Certification on Voluntary Agricultural Standards [GAP and Organic for Plant Products]



Since ACFS is the Accreditation Body and the Secretariat of the Subcommittee on the Establishment of Criteria, Conditions, and Fee Setting for Services on Inspection and Certification on Voluntary Agricultural Standards to be charge by Certification Bodies, therefore, ACFS has taken an action on the fee setting as a guide for certification bodies on the maximum service rates that they may charge their clients for the service on Inspection and Certification on Agricultural Standards.

Over the past years, the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives has notified the Ministerial Notification on Fees Setting for the Service on Inspection and Certification of Mandatory and Voluntary Agricultural Standards.

1. There have been 2 volumes of Ministerial Notification on Fee Setting for Service on Inspection and Certification of Mandatory Agricultural Standards i.e.



Volume 1 B.E.2562



Volume 2 B.E. 2563

The Notifications have set fees for services on inspection and certification of 7 mandatory standards i.e.



- 1) Peanut kernels: Requirements for Aflatoxin Limit
- 2) Code of Practice for Sulphur Dioxide Fumigation of Fresh Fruits
- 3) Good Aquaculture Practices for Hatchery of Disease Free Pacific White Shrimp (*Litopenaeus vannamei*)
- 4) Good Manufacturing Practices for Milk Collection Center
- 5) Good Manufacturing Practices for Frozen Durian
- 6) Code of Practice for Mushroom Culture
- 7) Good Agriculture Practices for Layer Farm

2. There have been 3 volumes of Ministerial Notification on Fee Setting for Service on Inspection and Certification of Voluntary Agricultural Standards i.e.



volume 1
B.E. 2562



volume 2
B.E. 2563

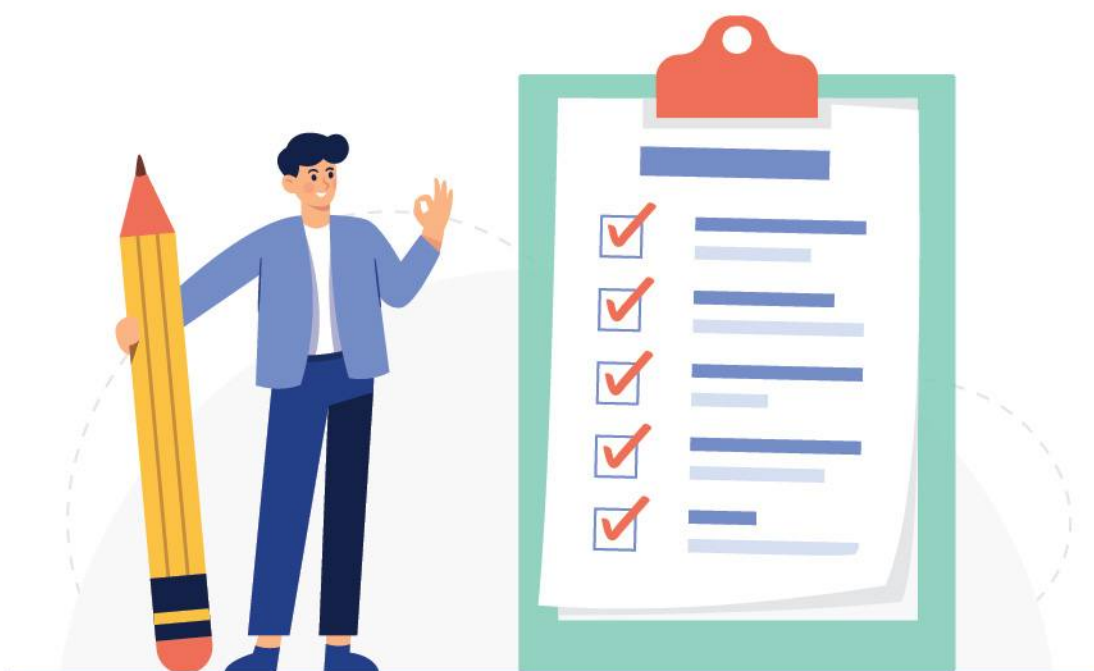


volume 3
B.E. 2563

3. The Fees for services have been set for the inspection and certification of following voluntary agricultural standards.

- 1) GMP/HACCP the agricultural commodities in the categories of plants, fisheries, livestock and others.
- 2) GAP and Organic Agriculture for livestock and there are in the categories of GAP for 17 animal species and Organic Agriculture for 18 animal species.
- 3) GAP and Organic Agriculture for aquatic animals.

In this regard, the Committee on Agricultural Standards have approved and submitted these notifications for the signature of the Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives and they have been expected to come into force in 2023.



2.

The Project for strengthening safety standards of farm production along the production chain.

The objectives of the project have been to bring practices of farm production system into compliance with standards and to ensure that the quality of farm products (rice, plants, livestock, fisheries) are assured. Furthermore, operators will have more farmers/business operators have knowledge transferred for entering into the production system in compliance of standards, and more of the farm location/operating premises (plot/farm: rice, plants, livestock, fisheries) are certified. In the past year, ACFS has conducted related implementation as described hereunder.

Transferring Services of the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives on Inspection and Certification of farm and food products

ACFS has been designated as the focal agency to coordinate with relevant agencies in connection with the policy of the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives on the transfer of inspection and certification services of farm and food products. The implementation in this regard were the opening for admission of CBs and IBs to be accredited, organizing seminars and training, setting up research, and establishing working group to set the direction for advocating the policy on services transfer. In 2022, the results of the implementation are described hereunder.



1

Accreditation of



21 CBs



CB/IBs.

2

Organizing a seminar on 30 March 2565 on the implementation for transferring Services of the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives on Inspection and Certification of farm and food products in the year 2022.

At the seminar, there was a special lecture by the Secretary General of ACFS on the policy and direction of the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives on the transfer of services on inspection and certification. There was also a panel discussion on the overall plan for the services transfer which was contributed by presenters from the Department of Agriculture, Rice Department, Department of Fisheries, Department of Livestock Development and ACFS.



The panel was the forum for exchanging views on the implementation on services transfer, and to take note on the policy and the implementation by the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, so that the information can be used to improve the implementation and drive the actions as guided by the policy. Furthermore, the seminar was also the channel to communicate the information to ensure the confidence of private sector in the move of the Ministry in this regard.



3

Establishing a Working Group for Driving the Transfer of Inspection and Certification Services to ensure the efficiency of the implementation, and to ensure that the inspection and certification covers all products which will permit farm products of Thailand to be considered as safe products.



ACFS has therefore established the Working Group to collect, coordinate, and follow up with related agencies, and to analyse and conduct a review on the direction for implementation in accordance with the policy. Mr. Ratchasub Nishida, the advisor of the Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Mr. Prapat Potasuthon, was appointed as the advisor of the Working Group.

The meeting of the Working Group was held on 5 September 2022 to consider on how to provide financial support for the inspection and certification of farm products. The solution will be submitted further to the Committee at the Ministerial level.

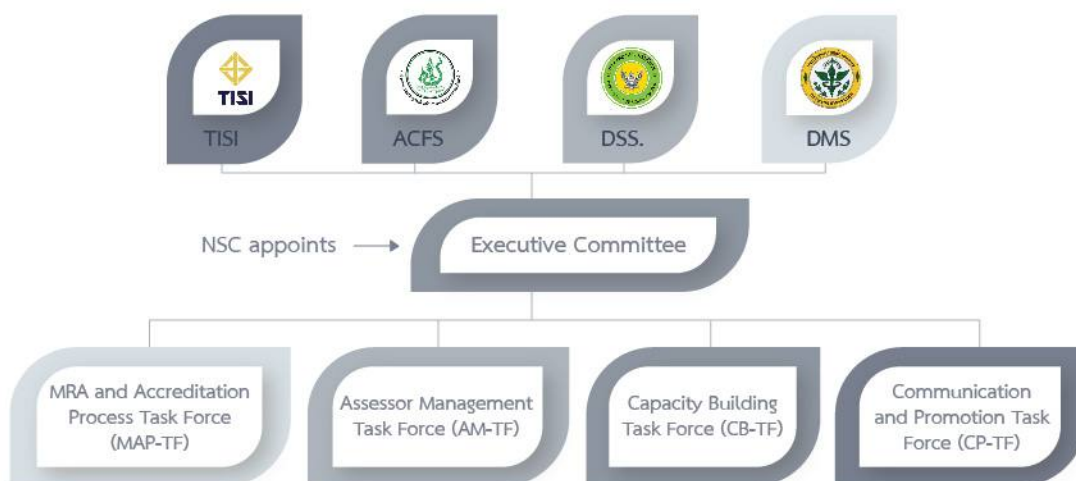
The Accreditation Bodies Network (Single platform)

on Single Platform of 4 Agencies



The National Reform Plan has called for the amalgamation of 4 Accreditation Bodies into the Council of the Productivity Promotion, Standardization, and Innovation of Thailand. At present, the 4 ABs are under the administration of 4 Ministries namely, the Thailand Industrial Standards Institute of the Ministry of Industry, the Department of Medical Sciences of the Ministry of Public Health, the Department of Science Service of the Ministry of Higher Education, Science, Research, and Innovation, and ACFS of the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives.

Administration Structure of the Accreditation Bodies Network on Single Platform



The amalgamated body has the objective to function in planning policy and master plan, and setting direction for the administration of the implementation on productivity promotion, standardization, and innovation of the country. The Ministry of Industry is the focal agency. However, the implementation according to the proposal in the National Reform Plan has not been materialized over the past period.

Therefore, the 4 ABs have agreed to collaborate in establishing a Single platform of 4 network members and signed MOU on the Network of Accreditation Bodies on a Single Platform. The purpose was to collaborate on the administration of work and agreement among the 4 ABs. The organization structure was set to compose of the Executive Committee and 4 specialized Task Forces. The Executive Committee has the mandate in laying out the Policy and Strategy on Accreditation, and in taking actions as guided by the policy of the National Committee on Standardization so that the goals can be accomplished. The 4 Specialized Task Forces are;

- 1 Assessor Management Task Force : AM-TF, with ACFS designated as Chair and Secretariat,



- 2 MRA and Accreditation Process Task Force : MAP-TF,



- 3 Capacity Building Task Force : CB-TF



- 4 Communication and Promotion Task Force: CP-TF. This Task Force is mandated to integrate and adjust work procedures to make them efficient, not redundant, supportive to the strengthening of Thai standards and in line with the objectives of the National Reform Plan of the Government.



System Development for Electronic Phytosanitary Certificates of Thailand

The project on electronic phytosanitary certificate or e-phyto has been the collaboration under the support of the Global Alliance for Trade Facilitation. The project was implemented by the cooperation of German International Cooperation (GIZ), the Department of Agriculture, Customs Department and ACFS. The objective was to assist the Department of Agriculture in operating the e-phyto system and to get the e-phyto system of Thailand connected with the IPPC Hub of the International Plant Protection Convention via the National Single Window (NSW) to enable the link of the Thai e-phyto system with various countries globally.

The implementation under this project composes of 2 parts.

1

The activity in IT part was the development of the link between the systems of the Department of Agriculture and the IPPC Hub through NSW which is under the administration of Customs Department. The link was to enable the exchange of e-phyto certificates of Thailand with trade partners which has the link with IPPC Hub. Currently Thailand has already been a member of IPPC Hub, and the system link is being developed. The Department of Agriculture has operated the system for submitting an application form for Phytosanitary Certificates, PC, on an online system since 1 July 2022.





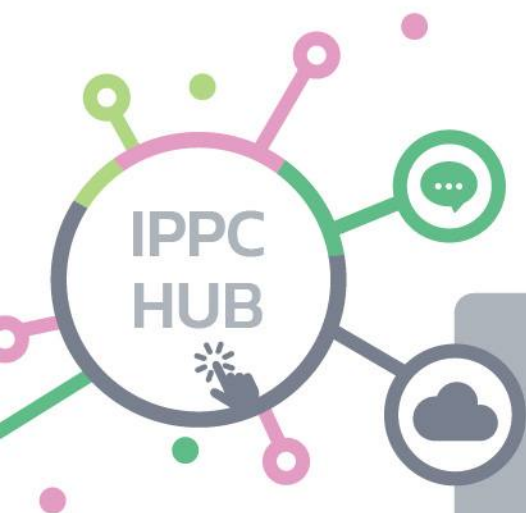
2

The promotion activities for improving potential of stakeholders were to communicate with the public and to educate the relevant parties in public and private sectors on how to use the system and exchange certificates with other countries. In this connection, ACFS, the Department of Agriculture, and GIZ have organized four training workshops for building capacity for exporters of plant products to get them ready for the use of e-phyto system.

The system has offered certificate issuances in an electronic format instead of paper certificates. Business operators are now able to submit the application form online from anywhere. The operation helps facilitate trade, reduces procedures, times and cost for operators. It also prevents the forgery of certificates and ensure confidences of trade partners.

There were 700 participants in many product groups such as the fruit exporters of Eastern Provinces, exporters of rice, cassava and its products, rubber products, vegetables, fruits, orchids, and cut flowers.





The consultation with IPPC Hub on the exchange of e-phyto data with partner countries suggested that there were possibility for running connection trials with 9 countries which are members of IPPC Hub i.e.

- | | | | |
|---|-----------------------------|---|-------------|
| 1 | Argentina | 6 | New Zealand |
| 2 | Australia | 7 | South Korea |
| 3 | Chile | 8 | USA |
| 4 | European Community (France) | 9 | China |
| 5 | Fiji | | |

ACFS has coordinated for consultation on the approach for getting the system connected and information exchanged between Thailand and China, New Zealand, and Australia. There will be consultation on technical issues for exchanging the information.

Preparation for Services Thailand-Lao-China Rail Route



Mr. Pisan Pongsapitch, Secretary General of ACFS has been appointed by the Permanent Secretary of Agriculture and Cooperatives on behalf of Chairman of Committee on Logistics System Development for Agricultural Products, to chair the Working Group on Operation Plan for Services on Thailand-Lao-China Rail Route with the mandate on drafting the immediate term, midterm, and long term plan for the operation of the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives. The Working Group has implemented the following during fiscal year 2022.



1 Organization of 2 Meetings on 4 October and

on 14 December 2021 to brainstorm for making the operational plan in the immediate time frame and in the midterm to synchronize with the services provided on the Thailand-Lao-China rail route which had been operated since 3 December 2021.

2 Conducted field work twice i.e.

1) On 7 January 2022, the field work was conducted in Nong Khai Province. The team from ACFS and representatives from the Department of Agriculture, Department of Livestock Development, and Department of Fisheries, have visited for a consultation with local authorities in Nong Khai Province comprising Customs Border Post, Plant Quarantine Post, Animal Quarantine Post, Fish Quarantine and Inspection Regional Center 2 (Nong Khai), Nong Khai Highway District, Food and Drug Border Control Post, and Nong Khai Railway Station. The mission was to collect information on existing difficulties /obstacles, and to analyse the opportunity for Nong Khai Province. It was also to elaborate the long term plan for the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives. In addition, the consultation has seen fit to support the setting up of Nata Railway Station as the common site to facilitate the import-export of agricultural commodities and food in a One-Stop Service and to become the International Dry Port of Thailand in the future.



2) During 23-24 August 2022, the field work was conducted at Thung Chang and Huai Kon Plant Quarantine Posts in Nan Province, and at Ban Huak Check Point, Payao Province. The team from ACFS and representatives from the Department of Agriculture, Department of Livestock Development, Department of Fisheries, and Food and Drug Administration have visited the sites for consultation on the opportunity for the future and to look at the implementation and obstacles in recent times in these two provinces to consider for a possibility to add Thung Chang and Ban Huak in the Protocol on the Requirements for Diseases Quarantine and Inspection of Fruits Exported and Imported via a Third Country between Thailand and China. The consideration for the addition had been requested by the Governors of the two provinces in official memos previously submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives. If the addition of posts in these two provinces into the Protocol was successful, the facilitation of border trade in these two provinces would be improved, especially on the increased options for transportation of fruits to China. These posts would be able to work also as spillways for fruit trucks when the traffic was overflow at Chiang Kong Border Post.





Efficiency Improvement in accordance with the Agricultural Standards Act

The Enforcement Administration of Mandatory Standards

ACFS has the role in drafting laws under the legislative power of the Agricultural Standards Act, B.E. 2551. In 2022, ACFS has completed drafting 11 laws.

1.1 Drafting 3 laws to be enacted into Ministerial Regulations.

- 1) Regulation on The Application for and the Authorization of Certification Bodies B.E. 2565
- 2) Regulation on the Exemption of Fee for Business Operation with Agricultural Commodities B.E. 2565
- 3) Regulation on the Establishment of the Standard on Elephant Facility as a Mandatory Standard B.E. 2565

1.2 Drafting a law to be enacted into Ministerial Notification

which was on the Appointment of Expert Committee under the Agricultural Standards Committee dated on 27 December 2021

1.3 Drafting 2 Notifications of the Committee on Agricultural Standards i.e.

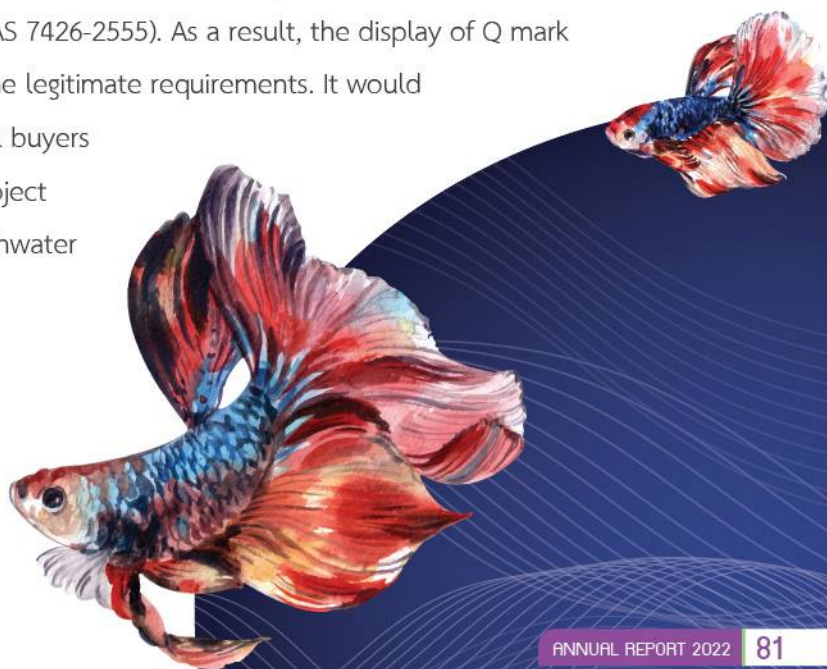
- 1) Notification on the Criteria and Procedures for Public Hearing Prior to the Issuance of a Ministerial Regulation on Enforcement of a Mandatory Standard, dated on 26 July 2022
- 2) Notification on the List of Continuous Businesses Related Further with Agricultural Commodities, dated 26 July 2022

1.4 Drafting 5 Notifications of the National Bureau of Agricultural Commodity and Food Standards i.e.

- 1) Notification on the Setting of Application Form and Authorization Form for Certification Bodies, dated on 3 November 2021
- 2) Notification on the Delegation of Power to Other Public Authorities to Issue a License for Producer, Exporter and Importer of Products with Mandatory Standard on the Good Agricultural Practices for Layer Farm (TAS 6909-2562), dated on 23 December 2021
- 3) Notification on the Setting of Information Recording Form for Taking During the Inspection of the Office/Storage Room/Vehicle of Producer, Exporter, Importer, Distributor, or Custodian of Agricultural Commodities for Marketing as set forth in the Agricultural Standards Act, B.E. 2551, dated on 29 June 2022
- 4) Notification on the Extension of working hour for Inspection and Export Declaration of Mandatory Standard Products in an Electronic Method, dated on 30 June 2022
- 5) Notification on Electronic Customs Procedures for Linking Data of Agricultural Commodities as Set Forth under the Agricultural Standards Act, dated on 29 June 2022

The Project for developing Understanding on how to display certification marks of agricultural standard for ornamental freshwater animals

The Project for developing understanding on how to display certification marks of agricultural standard on ornamental freshwater animals has been organized to educate the producers of ornamental freshwater animals on how to use and display Q mark correctly and to understand the requirements of the standard on GAP for Ornamental Freshwater Animal Farm (TAS 7426-2555). As a result, the display of Q mark on certified animals would be consistent with the legitimate requirements. It would ensure the confidence of local and international buyers of certified animals. The target groups of the project were producers and vendors of ornamental freshwater animals as well as relevant officers.



The project were organized in two groups.



Group 1



Group 2



organized on 31 May 2022
at Mida Hotel, Nakhon Pathom Province

organized on 1 June 2022 at convention hall of the Municipal
Office of Sam Kwai Peuk, Mueng District, Nakhon Pathom Province.

There were attendees more than the target of 120 participants. The follow up action was taken on 19 August 2022 at the whole sale market of ornamental fishes and pets (Fish village), Ban Pong District, Rachaburi Province. After the project completion, the producers have the knowledge and understand on how to use and display Q mark and understand the requirements of the standard on GAP for Ornamental Freshwater Animal Farm (TAS 7426-2555). The display of Q mark on certified animals has been consistent with the legitimate requirements. The confidence on certified animals of local and international buyers has been ensured. The project has empowered the producers of ornamental freshwater animals and improved their international competitiveness and they are able to respond to consumer demand.



Food Safety Network Formation

The Project on Food Safety in School (Q Canteen)



The Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives has responsibility in promoting and developing farmers which are the upstream producers of farm and food products in the production chain to produce good quality and safe farm products with standards before reaching consumers. ACFS has an implementation on the promotion of production sector and on standard certification. Q mark has been used to communicate that the produces have good quality, and are safe with consistency of production standards such as the Good Agricultural Practices: GAP, Organic Agriculture, etc., to ensure the confidence of consumers on the quality, standard, and safety of the products.



ACFS realizes the importance of product quality, safety and standards, therefore, ACFS has conducted the Project on Food Safety in School (Q Canteen) as a pilot in private schools in Bangkok and the perimeter since fiscal year 2020 and continued to 2022. The project aimed at promoting the establishment of canteens that use safe raw material in schools. It was to create the perception and awareness on the improvement of living standard for the public, through the food they consume, starting from students and teachers, and passing on to parents.

It was the market creation for GAP and organic products of farmers, vendors and distributors. It was also to promote the grouping for marketing of farm and food products in a large marketplace. The implementation has supported the Market-led Production Policy and the Policy on Collaborative Farming and has initiated the collaboration between ACFS and schools which supported the network cooperation with educational institutes.



Over the past years, ACFS has implemented the project in Beaconhouse Yamsaard School – Rangsit and Prasartvidhyanonthaburi School with a support of activities under 3 pillars.

1

Provide support for the establishment of school canteens using safe raw material

2

Elaborate food education curriculum as an additional course for teaching food safety in school.

3

Set up a nutritional menu (reference menu) for using in the implementation of the schools and to be used as a model in further implementation of Q Canteen project. There were learning activity organized in a training session on Zoom Meeting with lectures on Good Manufacturing Practice: GMP and Traceability, and Mini GAP.

The objectives were to build understanding in food safety and to enable the application of the knowledge and advancing it further. Memorandum of Understanding, MOU, has been signed at ACFS on 18 March 2022 between ACFS and Association of Private Educational Administrators Nonthaburi, Association of Private Educational Administrators Pathumtani, Prasartvidhyanonthaburi School, Pongsuwanwittaya School and Beaconhouse Yamsaard School - Rangsit on the Cooperation on Food Safety Implementation in School (Q Canteen).



The objectives were to cooperate in supporting the development of food safety culture in schools and the magnification of its effect further. ACFS has also conducted a field work in Chaiyapoom Province to evaluate the readiness of schools in implementing Q Canteen project.

Food Safety Network of Young Smart Farmers with the Communities

ACFS has carried out the first phase of a project to set up a Food Safety Network of Young Smart Farmers with the Communities. The objective was to transfer knowledge on Agricultural Standards (TAS) within the scope of plants, fisheries, and livestock. The target groups were students in secondary schools and colleges, and academics in Agriculture Colleges. The project was also expected that the knowledge on standards would be dispersed to communities for putting them into practices for the production and consumption of safe food. The participants were also expected to bring the knowledge on farm production system which is safe and consistent with standards (GAP/Organic) and disseminate/practice correctly and appropriately. They were expected to forward the knowledge to the communities to initiate cooperation for empowering the communities, and to create learning center for the production of farm products with quality and safety continuously. The activities were:

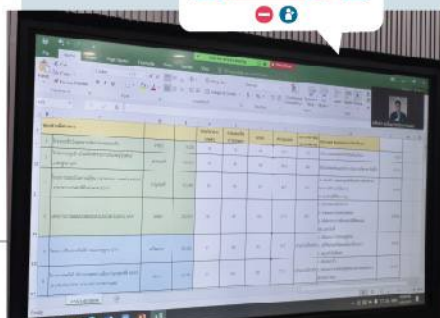
1

The activity on preparedness of young smart farmers and model communities with agricultural standards

A virtual training was organized at ACFS during 19-21 January 2022 on the guidance for practicing of GAP and Organic standards for plants, fisheries, and livestock. There were 120 participants.

Admission were invited for the selection of projects on farm with agricultural standards. There were 2 categories, one on Organic standard, and the other on GAP standard. There were applications of 30 projects.

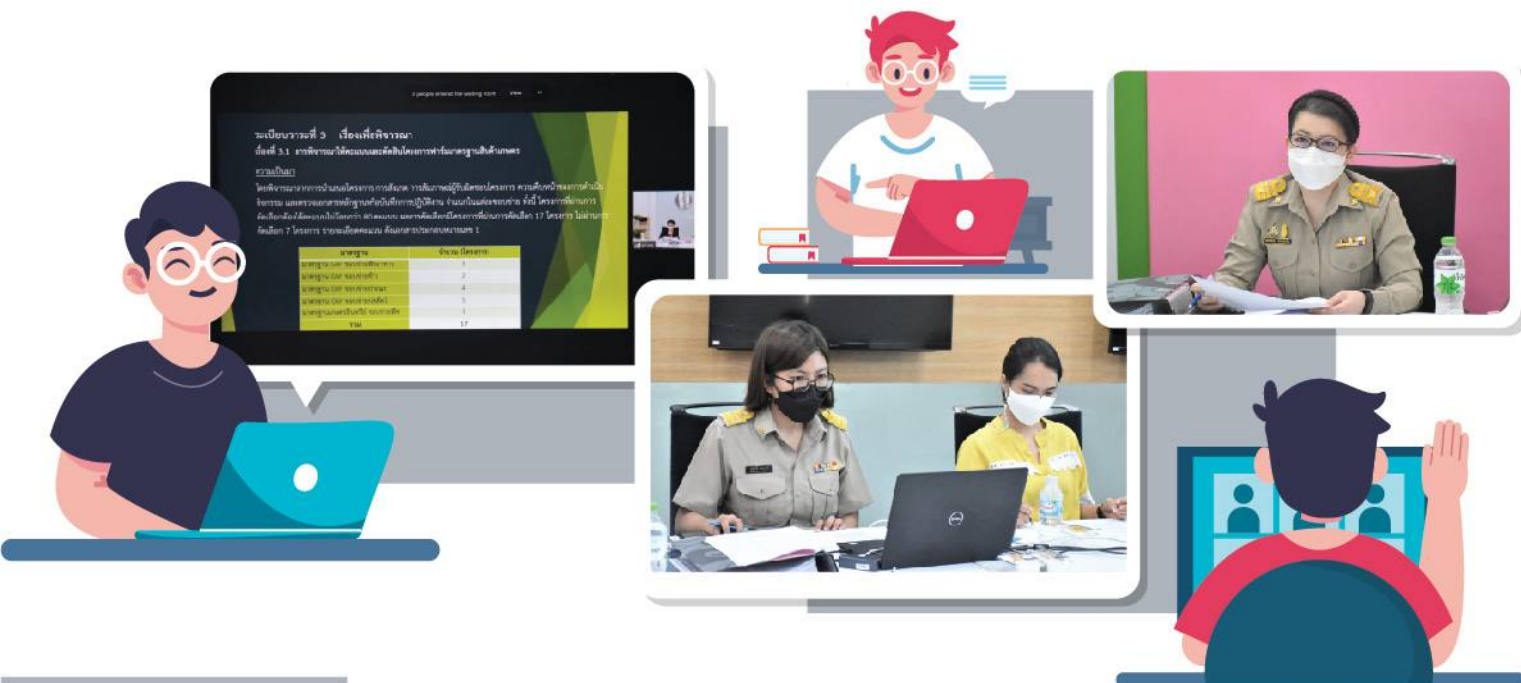
On the promotion for applying standards in farms, there were 24 projects from 13 colleges which have been selected.



2

A contest of projects was organized on the theme of food safety in accordance of agricultural standards (Model Community).

The contest was carried out online comprising activities on presentations and farm tours, follow up assessment for points awarding, and winners were decided.



3

The ceremony for the winners of the contest on Food Safety Network of Young Smart Farmers with the Communities was held during 19-20 September 2022 at Amari Hotel, Don Muang Airport, Bangkok.

The awards and certificates of honour were presented to 17 winners in the categories of GAP for food crop, rice, fisheries, livestock and the category of Organic for plant products. There were 112 participants composing of executives, academics, and students of participated Agriculture and Technology Colleges.



Training of Trainers on Agricultural Standards

ACFS has conducted training of trainers (TOT) on agricultural standards to build knowledge content on agricultural standards for developing farmers/farm advisors/ village farm volunteers /lecturers in Universities and Colleges (Agriculture and Technology). The objective was to train them to become trainers on agricultural standards in their communities in each location. They will be able to provide knowledge on agricultural standards and become a supporter to propagate agricultural standards in the communities. Training of trainers has been organized 3 times.



The first training

The first training of trainers was organized during 20-21 December 2021 at Cavali Casa Resort and at a GAP certified farm in Ayudhya Province. There were 34 participants composing of farmers, farmer leaders, farm advisors, village farm volunteers, officers of the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, ACFS, general public and relevant officers.



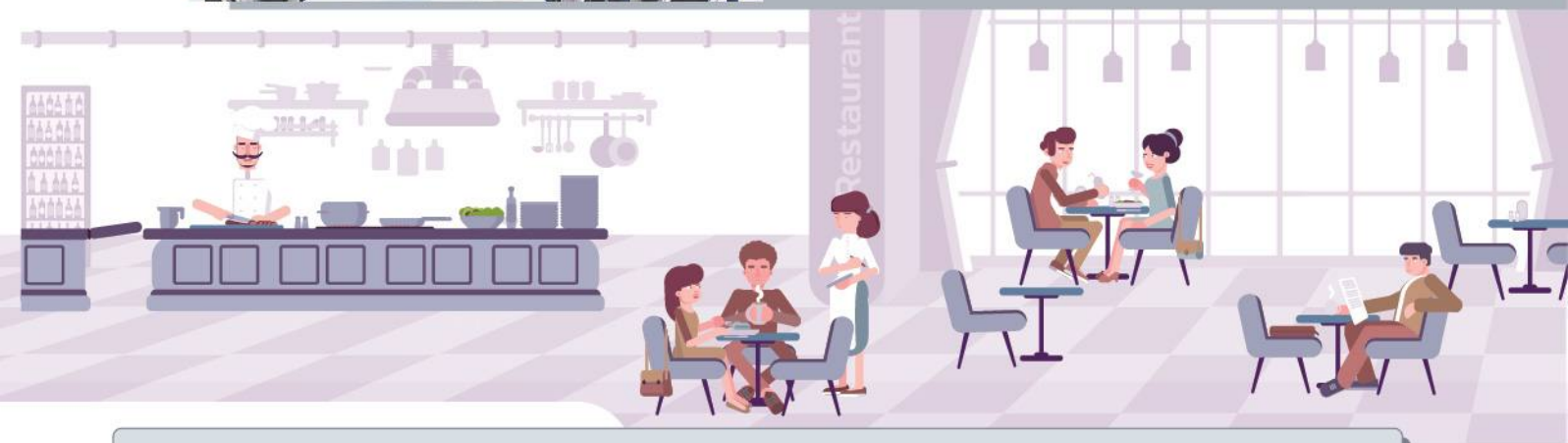
The second training

The second training of trainers was organized virtually on Zoom Meeting during 28-29 March 2022 from ACFS meeting room. There were 63 participants composing of lecturers from 9 universities i.e. Kasetsart University, Khon Kaen University, Chiang Mai University, Thammasat University, Naresuan University, Maejo University, Prince of Songkla University, Mahasarakham University, Rajamangala University of Technology Lanna, Agricultural Land Reform Office, and relevant officers.

The third training



The third training of trainers was organized on 21-22 September 2022 with a workshop on farm audit with GAP standard at ACFS meeting room and at GAP certified farms of Mrs. Nantana Haw-ou ,Mr. Surapon Yimnium and Mrs. Endu Suevajee in Nontaburi Province. The training was a continuation from the second training. There were 20 participants composing of lecturers from 4 universities i.e. Prince of Songkhla University, Naresuan University, Chiang Mai University, and Maejo University, Agricultural Land Reform Office, and relevant officers.



Safe Raw Material Restaurants opt for Q products (Q Restaurant)

ACFS has implemented a project Safe Raw Material Restaurants opt for Q products (Q Restaurant) to promote the consumption and utilization of good quality raw materials produced with GAP and GMP and to create additional marketing channel for safe products. Restaurants are not only the good places for offering safe food to consumers, but also the outlets for producers and farmers. It is therefore an encouragement for producers and farmers to produce safe materials more. The project is therefore able to promote and motivate the application of standards in the practices along the food chain. It also supports the second strategy of the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives Strategy (2018-2037) on the improving of production efficiency and strengthening of agricultural standards.

The project has been inaugurated at the end of 2010 with the establishment of criteria for the certification scheme of Q restaurants in a pilot project with the cooperation of 4 Provincial Agriculture and Cooperatives Offices i.e. Nakhon Pathom, Nakhon Srithammarat, Nong Khai, and Bangkok. In 2011, the project has been expanded nationwide. Last year, the implementation are outlined hereunder.



1

In 2022, Q Restaurants at 3153 locations/branches in 77 provinces were able to maintain their status. Among these, 2,501 were single location restaurants and 652 were branches of 2 restaurant chains, i.e. MK and Yayoi.



2

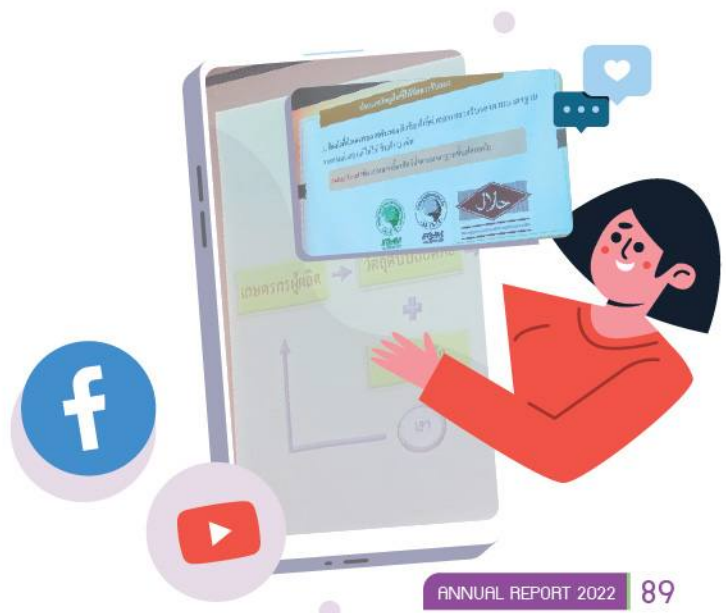
ACFS has supported the Provincial Agriculture and Cooperatives Offices to drive the project in activities such as the public relations of Q Restaurants and the hosting of food safety exhibitions in cooperation with various agencies.

3

ACFS has organized activities to promote premium Q restaurants.

3.1 Workshop was organized at Lert Nimitre Hotel, Mueng District, Chaiyapoom Province on the development of premium Q restaurants. The target groups were Q restaurant operators, and officers of the Provincial Agriculture and Cooperatives Offices. The workshop was also organized virtually on Zoom Cloud Meeting.

3.2 Activities on public relations of Q restaurants were organized on YouTube and on Facebook.



4

ACFS and the Provincial Agricultural and Cooperatives Offices have updated the data on Q Restaurant application for the promotion of restaurants on smart phone and to be used for a convenient communication between Q restaurant operators and consumers.



5

An activity to upgrade Q restaurants to be premium restaurants with the criteria on the use of 10 or more raw materials which were Q products from certified producers. Currently, there have been 70 restaurants in 16 provinces participating in this activity.

6

The coordination with the Department of Health, King Mongkut's University of Technology Thonburi Bangmod, and relevant agencies for a cooperation on the quality upgrading of restaurants into a new normal lifestyle under the BCG Economy Strategy.

Support Technology for Standardization

ACFS has employed technology to support the drive of certified agricultural products for the benefit of farm sector in the country. The objectives were to enable farmers in earning the opportunity and widening the channel for marketing, trade, and investment. It was also to assist farmers in keeping pace with changing of the modern digital world.



E-Learning

ACFS has established E-Learning system in the area of standardization and agricultural products at the internet site with the domain name <https://e-learning.acfs.go.th>

The site has been uploaded with 2 subjects, one with the title of Good Agricultural Practices for Food Crops (TAS 9001-2564) and the other was Agricultural Standard: Organic Agriculture: The Production, Processing, Labelling and Marketing of Organic Produce and Products (TAS 9000-2564). It was to facilitate the accessibility to knowledge for lecturers, students, and general public. It has served as an important contribution to an increasing learning accessibility which was adequate to the public demand.



Anyone who has completed the lesson will be knowledgeable having skill on inspection and certification of agricultural standard and they can apply the knowledge for preparing themselves for taking up a career in farm audit. The learner will have knowledge on standardization and can access into more standards. ACFS has organized a Kick-off activity of the E-Learning courses on GAP/Organic agriculture on 17 August 2022 at meeting room, 511, ground floor of Building 5, ACFS, and also on Zoom Meeting. The website has been available for public access since October 2022. There have been more than 100 users.

QR Trace On Cloud for Small and Medium Enterprises

QR Trace on Cloud is a system for individual farmers, farmer groups, farmer cooperatives, village enterprises, and producers of farm produces and products in the categories of vegetables, fruits, rice, eggs, fisheries, livestock, processed products/food to keep record of sources and destinations of their produces or products for traceability purposes and for efficient management of the production. The record information is also enabled for generating the QR Code to transmit the information to consumers in case there is a need for the information on the source of the products. The technology has added value to the farm products and it also empower farmers and producers in farm and food sector of the country in being competitive. It also responds to the consumer demand. The implementation in 2022 are outlined below.

The Activity on QR Trace on Cloud

1 There have been 2,550 subscribers on QR Trace on Cloud System.

Individual farmers	1,365 subscribers
Farmer groups	274 subscribers
Farmer cooperatives	93 subscribers
Companies	334 subscribers
Village enterprises	484 subscribers



2 There have been 2,709 product items on the website QR Trace on Cloud

Fruits/Vegetables	1,687 items
Rice	359 items
Eggs	46 items
Livestocks	41 items
Fisheries	63 items
Processed products	477 items



Website for Certified Farm Products (DGTFarm)

DGTFarm is an online distribution channel for GAP and Organic certified farm produces. It enhances the opportunity for farmers to meet consumers whose demand matches with these produces. DGTFarm classifies produces into 3 groups i.e. 1) GAP Produces 2) Organic Produces and 3) Produces with QR Trace (Produce sources can be traceback with QR Code traceability).

Strength of DGTFarm.com

1 Matching system for buyers and sellers

The buyers and sellers can match their demand by selecting types, prices, and quantity of produces, and province of origin as the criteria and they can prioritize the criteria with their preferred choice. The system will send an email to notify when matching occurs.

2 Trading system

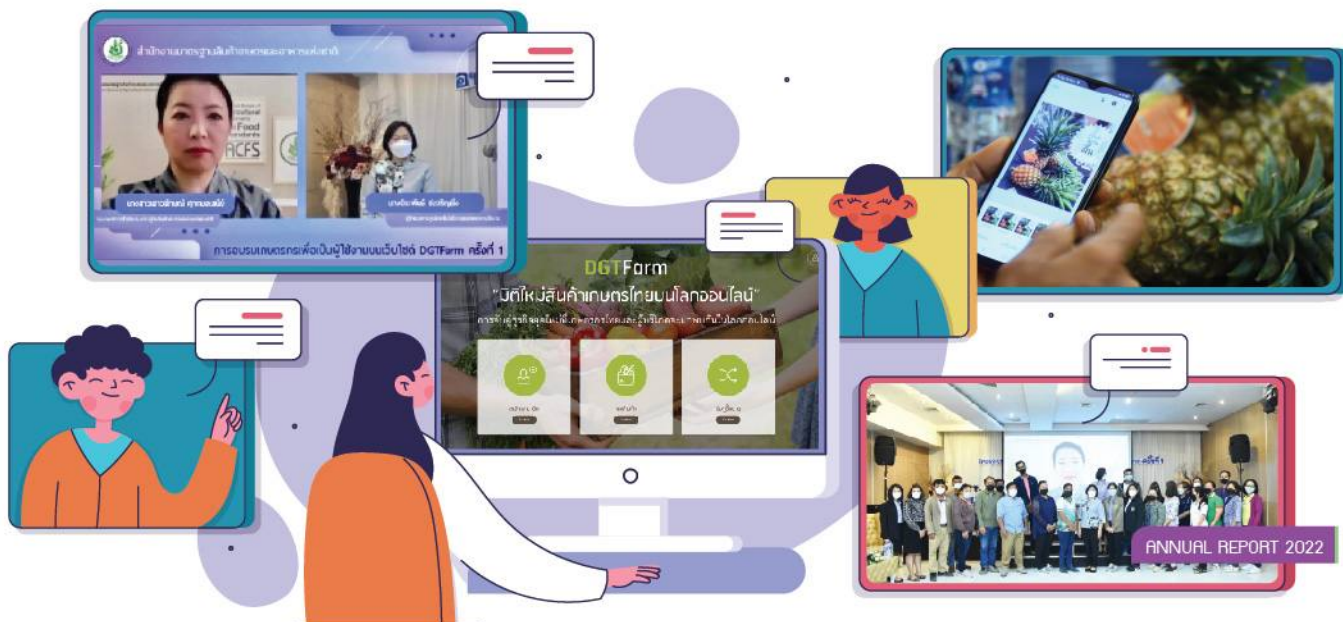
Offering and bidding can be managed on the system either in retail or wholesale option. The buyers and sellers can track the status of the deal, payment and delivery.

3 Shop management

Seller has their own Homepage and the theme of the Homepage is manageable. The merchandises can be listed on the webpage in preferred priority.

4 Promotion system

Promotion period can be set automatically. Sellers can add, delete, update items on promotion and the start and end dates can be specified. The system can generate email to inform clients on the new promotion and other information.





The outcome of DGTfarm

1 There have been 4,786 subscribers on website DGTfarm

members (sellers)

1,139 subscribers

members (buyers)

3,647 subscribers

2 There have been

768 shops

3 There have been 1,580 product items on website DGTfarm

Number of items (classified in group)

Organic

453 items

GAP

790 items

Products with QR Trace

337 items

Number of items (classified in type)

Vegetables

252 items

Fruits

453 items

Processed products

468 items

Rice and Cereals

329 items

Eggs

5 items

Fisheries

36 items

Livestocks

8 items

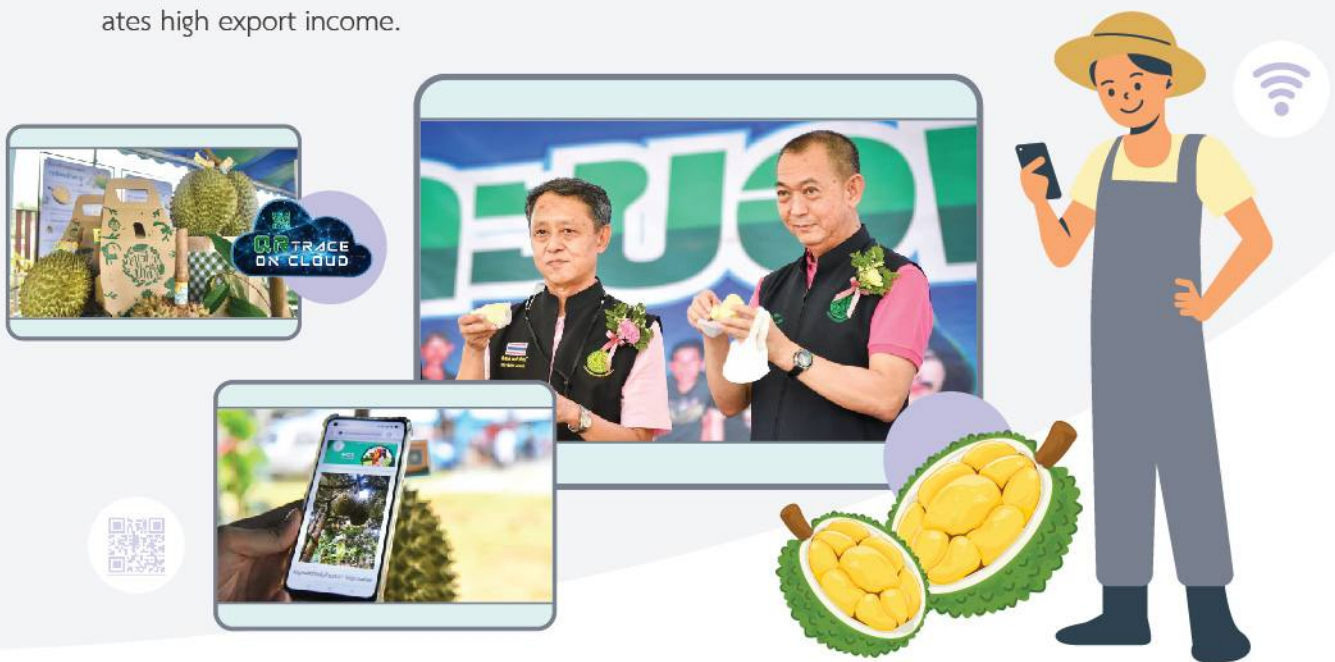
Herbs

29 items



GI Durian: Pa-La-U

“Agriculture to produce, marketing by Commerce” has been the major policy for the integration of work between the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives and the Ministry of Commerce. The implementation direction has been set to improve the link between the supply chain and the marketing chain. A Subcommittee on the Support for Ensuring Confidence on Quality, Standards, Safety, and Traceability is the driving force in the creation of added values to farm commodities. The Subcommittee has ACFS Secretary General as the Co-chair with the Director General of the Department of Foreign Trade. Standards and traceability system are used as the tools for ensuring the confidence in quality, and safety of farm commodities which generates high export income.



ACFS has implemented a project to build capacity for farmers in adding value of farm commodities with quality, standards, safety, and traceability. The project was conducted at durian plantation in Pa La U, Huai Sat Yai Subdistrict, Hua Hin, Prajuab Kirikhan. The objectives were to build capacity of the farmers by training them to understand the standard on Good Agricultural Practices for Food Crops (TAS 9001-2556), the QR Traces on Cloud system, and the DGT Farm online marketing system. Follow up actions have been made on the application of the standard in farmer practices, and Pre-audit of farms have been made.

The implementation were concluded and GAP certificates were awarded. QR Codes for traceability were also provided. In addition, the farmers have been able to display Q marks correctly. Story Telling have been developed for their produces. Activities for connecting link between producers and consumers have been organized to enhance marketing channel for the produces. The project has enabled the farmers to produce fruits with quality, standard, and safety, and traceability as market and consumer demand.

There are two famous varieties of Durians of Pa La U i.e. Mon Thong and Chanee. The fruits produced in Pa La U have been appreciated by consumers and they have been registered as products with geographical indication (GI). The Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives has promoted the improvement of production efficiency in Prajuab Kirikhan area with a collaborative farming approach of village enterprises and farmer groups. The improvement of standard for durian has been supported in parallel with the support on the efficiency improvement. The support has enabled 390 farmers to earn a certification on the GAP standard of their produces. The recognition of Pa La U durian as GI products was granted to 83 farmers. In 2022, ACFs has reached out to promote the application of QR Traces on Cloud to one of durian farmer groups certified with GAP and GI in Pa La U, Prajuab Kirikhan Province.

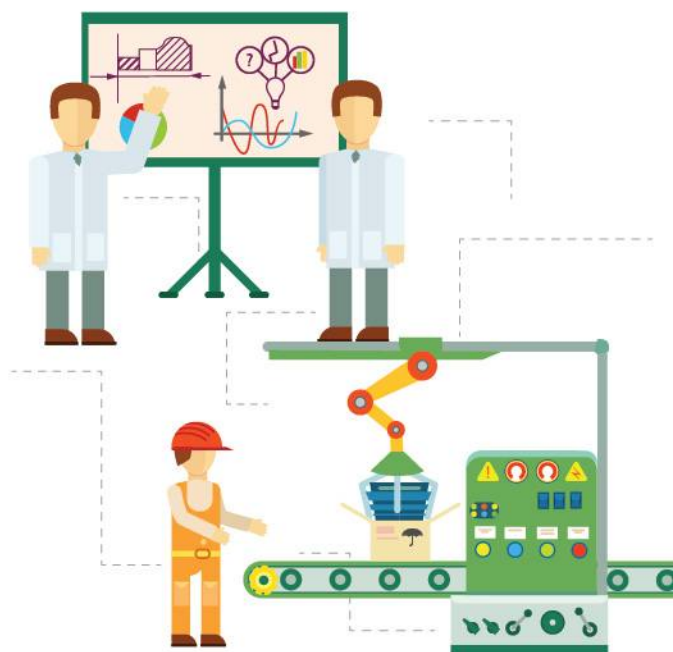


3. The Promotion of Collaborative Farming

The objective was to enable farmers to farm in group production with common management and with guaranteed market. The farmers are able to reduce production cost and have increased yield with required standard and international approval. The farmer group is able to efficiently manage the production, the yield, and the market. The group which has been trained can forward their knowledge to next generation. It also enables their collecting house/processing facility/packing house in getting ready for an audit. The training and can be used for implementing the work. can create the awareness. the implementing last year are described here.

Research Project on the Development of a Supplier Audit System for Product Certification

ACFS has carried out a research project on the Development of a Supplier Audit System for Product Certification since 2021. The project was conducted at 2 pilot locations to test a new way of product certification. The aim was to enable factories/operating facilities to conduct a preliminary assessment on produces of suppliers on their own. The first location was at the Royal Project Foundation and the second was located at a space under a network of the Federation of Thai Industries (FTI). The research was to prepare for transferring the audit functions out of the Ministry's work programme. The Supplier Audit system also prepares factories/operating facilities to apply for product certification so that Q mark can be displayed on the products.



In 2022, the working group has two meetings. First meeting was on 1 November 2021 and second meeting was on 28 June 2022. The implementation at the research sites are described below.

1 The Project at the Royal Project Foundation on the Development of a Supplier Audit System for Product Certification



- 1) A training course was organized online on 29 November – 1 December 2021 for farm advisor on GAP standard for food crops

- 2) A training workshop was organized on 18 May 2022 at Huai Leuk Development Center, Chiang Mai, on Good Agricultural Practices, GAP, and on Internal Control System, ICS, for applying in the Supplier Audit system.



- 3) A training course was organized during 15-17 August 2022' in Chiang Mai, on "Preparedness for Inspection Body: IB with ISO/IEC 17020: 2012".



4) A training workshop was organized during 9-12 May 2022 in Chiang Mai, on “Guidances and Technics for the Audit on Good Agricultural Practices: GAP” and “Internal Control System: ICS” for applying in the Supplier Audit system.



5) The implementation in collaboration with the Management System Certification Institute (MASCI) at the Royal Project Foundation, Chiang Mai, were:

- ▶ The application of the Guidances was followed up and data were taken for conducting a Gap Analysis to assess the potential of farmer groups on their performance in regard of internal control system. The Gap analysis was also conducted to assess factories/operating facilities on Supplier Audit system. The activity was conducted during 18-19 April 2022 at the Royal Project Foundation in Chiang Mai.
- ▶ Internal Quality Assurance (IQA) of the Supplier Audit system was assessed during 14-16 June 2022.
- ▶ The application of the Supplier Audit Guidances by factories/operating facilities and by farmer groups under the Royal Project Foundation was followed up during 24-26 July 2022.

2 The training courses at the network of the Federation of Thai Industries on the development of a Supplier Audit System for Product Certification



1) Two virtual training courses were organized on Good Agricultural Practices, GAP, and on Internal Control System, ICS, for applying in the Supplier Audit system.

- ▶ For the first group, the event was on 23 November 2021.
- ▶ For second group, it was on 24 November 2021.

2) Two training courses were organized on the Guidances and Technics for the Audit on Good Agricultural Practices: GAP” and “Internal Control System: ICS” for applying in the Supplier Audit system. The first one was during 5-8 January 2022 in Nong Khai Province and the second one was during 14-17 January 2022 at a farm of Sri Chiang Mai Industry Company Limited, in Nong Khai Province.



3) A training was organized on 10 August 2022 in Nong Khai Province on Good Agricultural Practices for Food Crops (TAS 9001-2564).



4) The implementation in collaboration with the Management System Certification Institute (MASCI) were:

The application of the Guidances and data collection for conducting a Gap Analysis to assess the potential of farmer groups on their performance in regard of internal control system. The Gap analysis was also conducted to assess factories/operating facilities on Supplier Audit system. The activity was conducted during 30-31 March 2022 at Sri Chiang Mai Industry Company Limited, in Nong Khai Province.

Explanation session of the draft document and training on Internal Quality Assurance (IQA) of the Supplier Audit system was provided to farmer groups. Consulting/amending the draft document was also conducted virtually during 24-26 May and on 20 June 2022.

The application of the Supplier Audit Guidances by factories/operating facilities and by farmer groups and a workshop with MASCI on the internal audit (IA) of the internal control system were organized during 19-21 July 2022 for farmers of Sri Chiang Mai Industry Company Limited, Nong Khai Province.

Follow up actions on the internal control system of farmers and the internal audit of factories/operating facilities in Supplier Audit system were conducted at Sri Chiang Mai Industry Company Limited, Nong Khai Province during 23-24 August 2022.

Q Volunteer

“Q Volunteer” is defined as the agricultural volunteer who is an advisor on agricultural standards and has capacity for performing a preliminary audit and providing advices to farmers for the adaptation for ensuring a consistency of farm practices with requirements in agricultural standards.

The duties of Q volunteers are:

- 1 To conduct public relations on activities or projects of the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives to get the participation of villagers and the communities in those activities, and to inform and give warning to relevant agencies on natural hazards.
- 2 To coordinate with, and provide assistance and advices to the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives and relevant agencies in resolving problems in agriculture and cooperatives of farmers in villages or communities.
- 3 To transfer knowledge on agriculture and cooperatives.
- 4 To conduct work which benefit farmers and communities or those in need of assistance as required by the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives or other agencies.



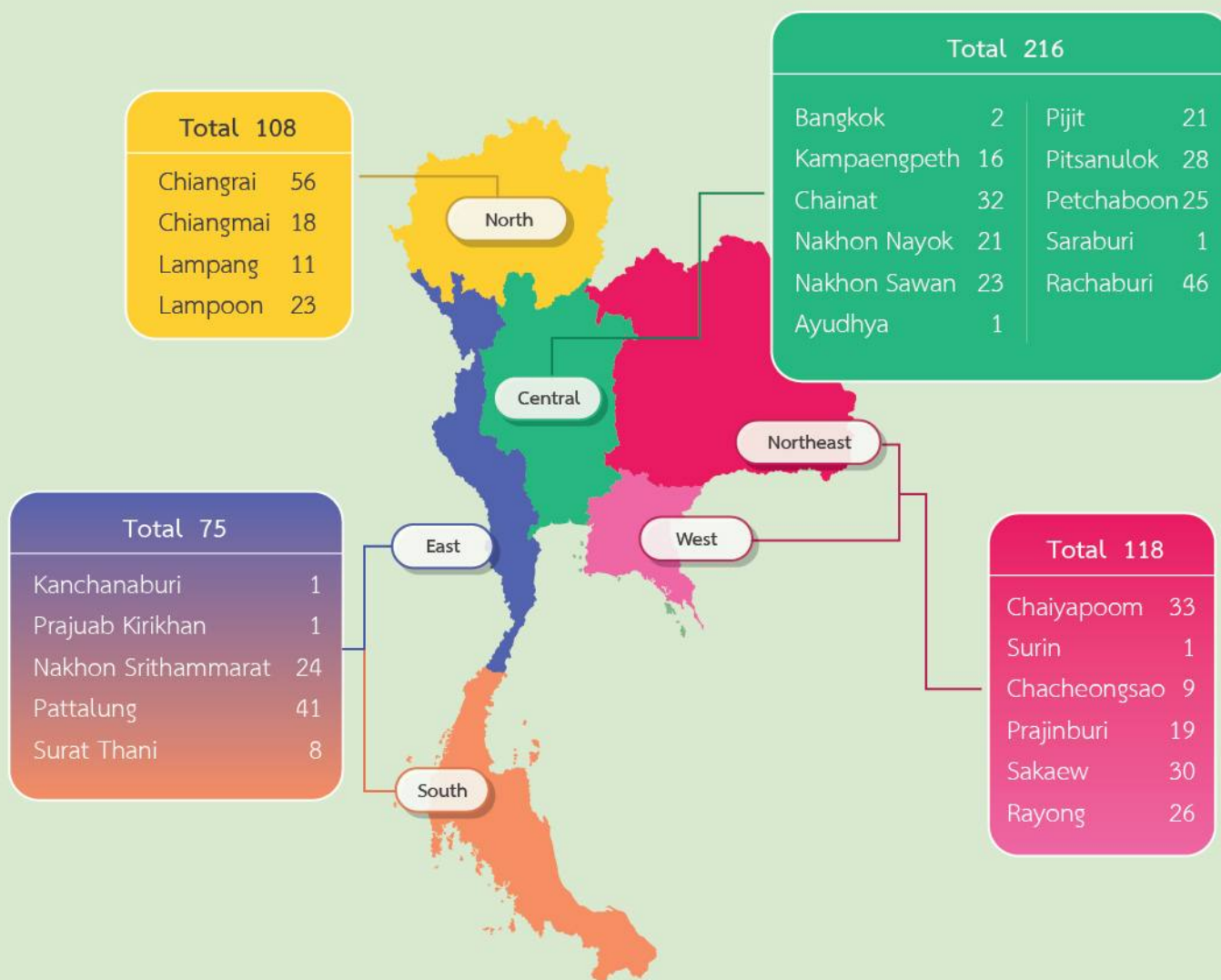
Q Volunteer

2565

In 2022, ACFs has developed Q volunteers from Chairpersons of Learning Centers for the Improvement of Agricultural Production Efficiency , farmer leaders and network, and farmers growing vegetables/fruits in collaborative farms who has volunteer spirit and are interested in becoming Q volunteers. The aim was to institutionalize

Q volunteers in 882 Learning Centers for the Improvement of Agricultural Production Efficiency. A workshop was organized on GAP standard for food crops, how to use Department of Agriculture Checklist in farm audit activity, how to take down record of farm data, and how to draw farmland map, how to use plant protection products safely. Then there was a practice on conducting farm audit on GAP standard for food crops. The workshop was organized at a farm. There was a group discussion and the conclusion from the lessons was drawn.

List of participants in Q volunteer training will be uploaded in the Ministry's Database at <https://asa-center.doe.go.th> with the title "Agricultural Volunteer and Village Agricultural Volunteer Database". There have been 517 Q volunteers from 2016 – 2022 in following classification.



Improvement of Potential for Farmers in Longan Collaborative Farms in Nan Province

to earn a Certification on GAP Standard for Food Crops (TAS 9001)

With the policy of the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives on the promotion of collaborative farming, ACFS has therefore set a project to improve the potential of farmers in collaborative farms to enable them in earning a certification on GAP Standard for Food Crops (TAS 9001). In 2002, the target group was farmers in longan collaborative farms in Ban Fa Subdistrict, Ban Luang District, Nan Province. The project was conducted with the cooperation of related agencies.

1 On 25 November 2021, ACFS and the officers from Ban Luang District Agricultural Extension Office under the Department of Agricultural Extension, and Nan Research and Development Center under the Department of Agriculture, have taken up the applications for the participation in the project on Improvement of Potential for Farmers in Collaborative Farms. The applications were from 101 of a total of 126 members of Ban Fa Longan Collaborative Farm whose farms have not been certified on GAP standard for food crops. The group has a total area of 919 Rai of Longan plantation.

2 On 19-20 January 2022, ACFS and officers from Ban Luang District Agricultural Extension Office under the Department of Agricultural Extension, and Nan Research and Development Center under the Department of Agriculture, have organized a workshop on Improvement of Potential for Farmers in Collaborative Farms in Nan Province on GAP Standard for Food Crops (TAS 9001). The workshop shared a knowledge on the demand of longan with exporter standard, GAP standard for food crops (TAS 9001), how to use plant protection products safely and how to manage postharvest for longan. There were 120 participants from Ban Luang District Agricultural Extension Office under the Department of Agricultural Extension, and Nan Research and Development Center under the Department of Agriculture, and farmers of Ban Fa Longan Collaborative Farm, Ban Luang District, Nan Province.



3 On 21-25 March 2022, ACFS and officers from Ban Luang District Agricultural Extension Office under the Department of Agricultural Extension, and Nan Research and Development Center under the Department of Agriculture, have conducted Pre audit on GAP standard for food crops (TAS 9001) for longan farmers in collaborative farm in Nan Province. The activity was to enable farmers to get ready to apply for the audit by the Department of Agriculture. In addition, a training was organized for farmers representing the Ban Fa Longan Collaborative Farm on how to add value to longan by employing digital technology of QR Trace system and DGT Farm online marketing.



4 On 19 July 2022, ACFS has organized a seminar to evaluate and draw the conclusion on the implementation on the Improvement of Potential for Farmers in Longan Collaborative Farms in Nan Province to earn a Certification on GAP Standard for Food Crops (TAS 9001). The certificates were also presented to the farmers by ACFS Secretary General, Director of Nan Agricultural Extension Office, Ban Luang District Chief, and Representative of Director of Regional Center for Agricultural Research and Development Office 1. The event took place at the Learning Centers for the Improvement of Agricultural Production Efficiency (Ban Fa Network), Ban Fa Subdistrict, Ban Luang District, Nan Province.



Strengthening of Mango Collaborative Farm of Ban Wang Nambor, Pitsanulok Province, with GMP standard

ACFS has implemented a project on the **Strengthening and Improving of Agricultural Production with GMP standard** in Pitsanulok Province. The implementation of the project was conducted by developing a Mango packing house having a consistency with the agricultural standard on Good Manufacturing Practices for Packing House of Fruits and Vegetables (TAS 9035-2563). The implementation took place at the Village Enterprise of Ban Wang Nambor Mango Collaborative Farm, in Nurn Maprang District, Pitsanulok Province. The objectives were to educate farmers, producers, and farm advisors on the requirements of the standard so that they will be ready and able to submit their application for a certification with the standard, and to enable it to serve as a learning center for extending the knowledge to other producers. The farm sector in Thailand as a whole will be advanced to international standard.




Pitsanulok Province has been the area with potential and it has been one of major areas in Thailand that exports mango. The Village Enterprise of Ban Wang Bor Mango Collaborative Farm in Nurn Maprang District, Pitsanulok Province is especially the collaborative group that grows a lot of Nam Dok Mai Sri Thong mangoes and also other seasonal varieties. They have a total area of 632 Rai with a production of 600 tons. The fruits were exported to South Korea, Japan, USA, China, and Hong Kong. Their produces have been appreciated by many Modern Trade.

Group members have already had their farms certified with GAP standard and wish to proceed to the development of a GMP packing house. The objective of ACFS was to enable them in improving their facility to get ready for the application for the certification and to use them as a learning center for providing advisory to other producers. The project will empower the group, reduce trade obstacles and improve their competitiveness locally and globally.

Herb Production in Adherence to Standards, Establishing Knowledge Base for Developing further in the Herbal City Project

The Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives has driven the development of herb production under First National Master Plan on the Development for Thai Herb, 2017-2021. ACFS and relevant agencies have been mandated to integrate their support in developing the potential of Thai herbal plants for enabling the response to increasing consumer market. The activities implemented are described hereunder.



1 Establishment of agricultural standard on Good Agricultural Practices for Herbs (TAS 3502-2561). The standard covers requirements for good agricultural practices for herbs on all steps of the practices in the field to postharvest practice. The objective is to get the raw material with quality and safety fitting for processing into herbal products. The standard has been promoted for applying in farmer practices.

2 Promotion on herb production with GAP and Organic standards. The promotion has been driven in the Herbal City Development Projects. The project on the Promotion and Improvement of a Model for Herb Production with Agricultural Standard has been conducted in Chainat Province and the project on the Development of a Model for Organic Herb Production has been conducted in Herbal city, Amnat Chareon Province. The training on GAP and Organic Agriculture standards has been organized for farmers and farmer groups. The objective was to build knowledge and improve a system of herb production that provides good quality and safe raw material in adherence to agricultural standards. There were 207 farmers in the training.





3

A plan for the promotion and improvement of herb production in 2023 has been developed.

3.1 An extension of Herbal City Development Project has been conducted with the Project on the Promotion and Improvement of Economic Herb Production in Herbal City. A training has been organized for herb growing farmer groups in a collaborative farm in Uthai Thani Province. This province is the supplying source of natural grown herbs which are in good demand of the market. The supply is needed by hospitals where reliable herbal medicines are produced with GMP standard.

3.2 A project on the development of farm advisors on the standard of economic herbs (cannabis) has been conducted in Chiangrai Province. The training has been organized on GAP standard, cultivation technics, authorization and relevant legislations, for officers of the Department of Agricultural Extension, Cooperative Promotion Department, Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Land Reform Office.



4. Project on the Promotion of Organic Production and Marketing

The objectives of the project were to persistently create a correct awareness to stakeholders on the promotion of organic standards and how to earn an organic certification. It was also to disseminate knowledge to farmers on organic production with the consistency to standards by way of group certification as well as to certify organic product vendors. Additionally, it was to enable packing houses of fruits and vegetables and rice mills to become ready for applying for conformity assessment. The goals were to enable farmers in developing products and services in the area of organic agriculture with the consistency to national and international standards and in moving organic agriculture in Thailand to take the lead in ASEAN region. In 2022, ACFS has implemented following activities.

ACFS Implementation on ASEAN Organic Standard

ACFS has driven together with relevant agencies in the implementation on the ASEAN Organic Standard of plants and plant products by participating as members in the ASEAN Expert Working Group for Organic Agriculture; EWG-OA. The Working Group has a view that Member States should elaborate National Organic Standard with the consistency with ASEAN Standard for Organic Agriculture; ASOA.

It was due to the ASEAN decision in getting agreement on the ASEAN Mutual Recognition Arrangement on Organic Agricultural Products; MRA OAP. The agreement will facilitate trade of organic products in the region. The agreement will also establish ASEAN Certification Scheme for Organic Agriculture to designate the operating procedures for certification of organic products and certification marks for ASEAN organic products.





In 2022, Thailand has hosted virtual meetings i.e. the 6th EWG-OA Meeting (7 April 2022) and the Special Session of EWG-OA (1-2 November 2022). The outcome is described hereunder.

1 On the alignment of Thai organic standard and that of ASEAN: in 2022, the revision of Thai organic standard (TAS 9000-2564) has been completed in the section on organic plants and ACFS has submitted the English version of the standard and the alignment matrix from self-assessment to the ASEAN Secretariat. The alignment indicated that the Thai standard has already aligned with ASEAN standard. The alignment is currently assessed by Malaysia and Myanmar which are line up assessors number 1 and 2 respectively.

2 On the establishment of ASEAN Mutual Recognition Arrangement on Organic Agricultural Products; MRA OAP, and related annexes, Member States are under the scrutiny of the draft MRA OAP and related documents i.e.

2.1 The draft ASEAN Mutual Recognition Arrangement on Organic Agricultural Product; MRA OAP

2.2 Annex A draft ASEAN Certification Scheme for Organic Agriculture

2.3 Annex C ASEAN Mark for Organic Agriculture and Requirements for its Use

In addition, Member States has proposed for a support of ASEAN Secretariat and EU ARISE Plus to the activities on the creation of public awareness on the MTA OAP and the promotion on the use of ASEAN certification mark for Member States. The activities were proposed for improving understanding and boosting a consumption of organic products certified with ASEAN standard.

The Project of Certified Organic Retailers in 2022

ACFS has certified retailers of organic products for ensuring confidence of consumers and facilitating consumers in buying organic products. ACFS has also provided public relations to keep consumers informed of these retailers and to increase marketing channel for the retailers. The public relations was also to encourage the retailers to be selective for their sourcing of organic products and able to sell authentic organic products which are traceable. The project benefits producers, consumers along the whole supply chain. During last year, the outcome is outlined hereunder.

- 1 Listed hereunder are 18 retailers with 502 branches which have joined the project.

	branch
The Mall Group Company Limited	6
Big C.Supercenter Public Company Limited	25
FoodlandSupermarket Company Limited	20
The Marketing Organization for Farmers (MOF) Organic Zone	1
Health Society Company Limited (Lemon farm)	17
Tantraphan Supermarket (1994) Company Limited (Rimping Supermarket)	8
Moral Rice Group@Green Market Yasothon	1
Dairy Home Organic Outlet Company Limited	1
Jing Jai Famers Market ChiangMai	1
Central Food Retail Company Limited (Tops)	278
Siam Makro Public Company Limited	137
Sudkhum Organic Food	1
Kasikamrisanpit Lavo Thani Company Limited	1
Organic Farm Outlet Lotus Park Sakon Nakhon	1
Lanpansook	1
Q-Shop Farm Outlet, Kalasin Province	1
Phuree Organic Market	1
Amazone Organic Farm Outlet	1

2

A total of 80 Samples of organic products have been taken from the retailers applying for the certification. Among these,



70 samples were in the group of vegetables, fruits, and plant products



8 samples were animal products



2 samples were fisheries products



The samples were tested in laboratories for pesticides and veterinary drug residues. Residues were found in 4 samples or 5% which was greater than that found in previous year of 4.76%.

Upgrading of Organic Farms in Participatory Guaranteed System to the Standard Certification System

ACFS has implemented a project to upgrade organic farms in participatory guaranteed system to standard certification system. The objective was to inform farmers in the group with participatory guaranteed system on the organic certification system of Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives and to develop them into a group with participatory guaranteed system. The summary of the project outcome is given in the next paragraphs.



1 Field survey was conducted during 4-5 November 2021 to select farmer groups with potential for developing into participatory guaranteed system in Phrae and Uttaradit Provinces.

2 Workshops were organized during 30 November -2 December and during 14-16 December 2021 in Phrae and Uthradit Provinces. The workshops were on the development of internal auditors of the participatory groups. There were 120 participants (Phrae Province 50, Uthradit Province 70).



3 A seminar was organized during 23-24 February 2022 to get the farmer groups ready for applying for organic certification with organic standard of the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives. The lectures were provided by officers from Rice Department, Department of Agriculture and ACFS. There were 90 participants (Phrae Province 45, Uthradit Province 45). There were 43 farmers who were interested in applying for the certification. Among these, 27 were from Phrae Province and 16 were from Uthradit Province.



4 A follow up was conducted on 5 March and 19 May 2022 to observe the internal audit of the groups for group certifications. The follow up took place at the locations of Viti Insee Group in Uthradit Province and of PGS Organic Group in Pa Mat Subdistrict, Phrae Province.



Development of Trainers on Organic Agriculture Standard in Educational Institutes, Phase 1

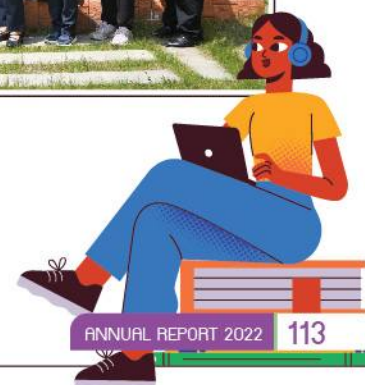
ACFS has emphasized on the significance of learning process on organic agriculture from the preparation of farm inputs, the production system, processing, marketing, and certification. Therefore, ACFS has implemented a project on the **Development of Trainers on Organic Agriculture Standard in Educational Institutes, Phase 1**.



The objective was to develop educational institutes into learning center and to build knowledge on organic standards to the staffs of the related institutes. It was also to train the trainers and to conduct public relations on the agricultural standard “Organic Agriculture Part 1: the Production, Processing, Labelling and Marketing of Produce and Products from Organic Agriculture (TAS 9000 Part 1(G)- 2564)”. Additionally, it was to drive the organic production in Thailand ensuring the confidence of local and international consumers. Last year, ACFS has conducted following implementation.

1

A model of learning center on organic agriculture was developed. A virtual workshop was organized to build knowledge on the agricultural standard “Organic Agriculture Part 1: the Production, Processing, Labelling and Marketing of Produce and Products from Organic Agriculture (TAS 9000 Part 1(G)- 2564)”. Educational institutes were selected as models on organic standards, Pre-audit, and monitoring on the management of corrective actions.





2

A training of trainers on organic agriculture was organized in a virtual workshop on the construction of knowledge and competency for the trainers on the agricultural standard “Organic Agriculture Part 1: the Production, Processing, Labelling and Marketing of Produce and Products from Organic Agriculture (TAS 9000 Part 1(G)- 2564)”.

3

Publications and learning media were created on how to develop handouts, education media, video, and other media for teaching and building understanding on organic standards and related knowledge.



ACFS has convened two seminars to draw conclusions from the project implementation for wrapping up the outcomes from the project implementation and from the support on the learning media. It was also to take the views and suggestions, and exchange experiences arising from joining the project implementation.

- The events were on 27 September 2022 at the Faculty of Agriculture, Khon Kaen University.
- On 29 September 2022 at Majoe University-Phrae Campus, Phrae Province.

5.

Royal Initiatives Project

The objectives were to promote and develop a system of agricultural standards for supportive units of the work in Royal Initiatives Project, and to take an approach to accommodate the participation of all network parties, from those of local civil societies, to those in the public and private sectors. Last year, ACFS has conducted following implementation.

Cooperation for Strengthening of Agricultural Standards between ACFS, the Royal Project Foundation and HRDI

ACFS has implemented a promotion project to support the work guided by the Royal Initiatives.

1

On human resource development, ACFS had cooperated with the Royal Project Foundation and the Highland Research and Development Institute (Public Organization) (HRDI) in the organization of a workshop on “Guidance on the Application of Thai Agricultural Standard on Good Agricultural Practices for Food Crops (TAS 9001-2564) and on Organic Agriculture (TAS 9000-2564)”. The target groups were farm advisor officers and supporting officers of other related systems to prepare them for the system audit by the Department of Agriculture. There were 695 participants.

As the outcome of the project,

farmers in the Royal Project Foundation area were equipped with knowledge in plant production with the consistency of GAP and Organic standards, and they were able to establish cultivation system with GAP and organic farming system. As a result, 100% of vegetable and herb farms of the Royal Project Foundation have been audited and earned group certification by the Department of Agriculture. They were also all certified by other standards such as that of AVA Singapore, and IFOAM’s standards.

The project has benefitted
15,209 families

(11,000 farmers)

Total land of

30,138 Rai

Covering area in all of

39 centers/stations
of the Royal Project.



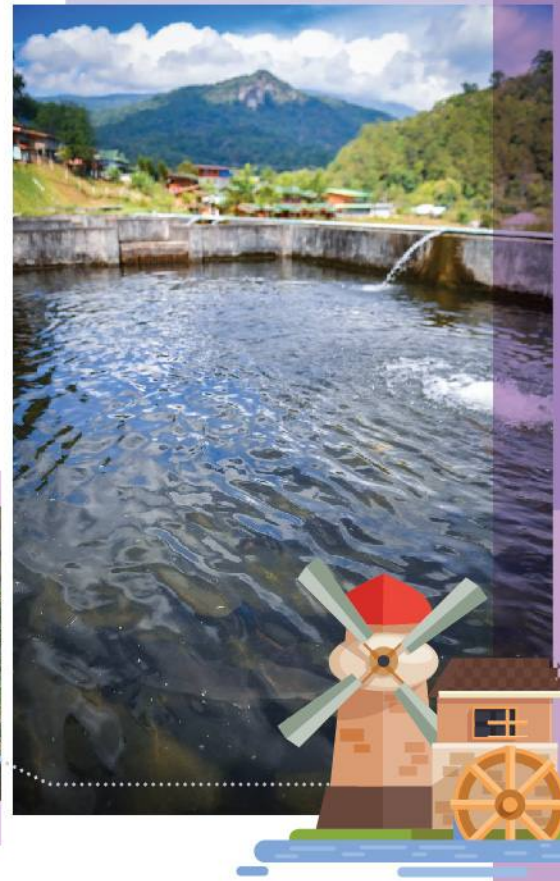
The development for safety of food from animal origins with the consistency of the standards on Good Aquaculture Practices for Food-Aquatic Animals Farm, Good Manufacturing and Supplier audit system.

2.1 As the outcomes from the development of safety standard for aquatic animals with the consistency of the standard on Good Aquaculture Practices for Food-Aquatic Animals Farm (TAS 7436-2563),

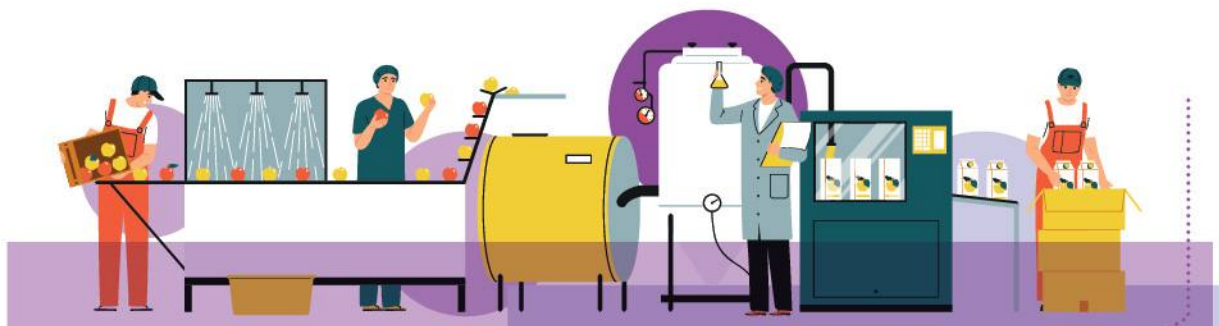


(with the exception for crocodile, seaweed and crayfish), at the Royal Agricultural Station Intanon, the Rainbow trouts were sold at the shop and in the restaurant of the Royal Agricultural Station Intanon and were also sold to restaurants which has placed direct orders to the station.

Sturgeon were also farmed for the production of eggs into caviar which were sold in a can of 100 grams at 6,000 baht a piece. Rainbow trout and sturgeon are able to create economic value around 15-20 million baht annually. They are able to reduce the foreign import.



2.2 On the development of production facility in accordance with the Good Manufacturing Practices for Packing House of Fruits and Vegetables, last year the audit were conducted at 3 facilities and they have been certified with GMP standard by the Department of Agriculture i.e.





1) At Royal Agricultural Research Station Mai Lod

Product type

: Japanese sweet potato, chayote, Chinese cabbage, cabbage, mango, and passion fruit

Certificate

: Certified with the Good Manufacturing Practices for Packing House of Fruits and Vegetables (TAS 9035-2563)

Certificate number : AC 03 9035 50 000 387806

The certificate valids from 15 August 2022 to 14 August 2023



2) At Royal Project Research and Development Center at Huai Luk

Product type

: Chinese cabbage, cherry tomato, cabbage, and aubergines

Certificate

: Certified with the Good Manufacturing Practices for Packing House of Fruits and Vegetables (TAS 9035-2563)

Certificate number : AC 03 9035 50 000 387807

The certificate valids from 15 August 2022 to 14 August 2023



2) At Royal Project Research and Development Center at Mae Sa

Product type

: Chinese cabbage, lettuce, potato, cabbage, heart cabbage, cos lettuce, carrot, Hong Kong kale, chayote, Japanese radish, Royal Project tomato, Japanese cucumber, green sweet chilli, and Mexican hot chili

Certificate

: Certified with the Good Manufacturing Practices for Packing House of Fruits and Vegetables (TAS 9035-2563)

Certificate number : AC 03 9035 50 000 387808

The certificate valids from 15 August 2022 to 14 August 2023

As the outcome, the standards have been driven from upstream GAP to downstream GMP. The project has promoted the production of produces with quality along the whole chain which is consistent with standards. The project has assisted farmers in selling produces and in processing for value added which created sustainable income to community.



The Development of Small Packing and Collecting Houses of Fruits and Vegetables

ACFS has improved the consistency with GMP standard for small packing and collecting houses of fruits and vegetables to get them ready for submitting an application for certification. The objective was to enable them to become suppliers to distribution center (DC) of Modern trade. Four packing and collecting houses have been certified.

1 Pineapple Collecting House

Pong Krating Housewife Village Enterprise,
Ban Bueng Subdistrict, Ban Kha District,
Rachaburi Province.



2 Fruits and Vegetables Packing House

Northern Agricultural Cooperatives,
Chang Puek Subdistrict, Mueng District,
Chiang Mai Province.



3 Thung Pong Fruits and Vegetables Packing House

87, Moo 1, Thung Pong Subdistrict,
Ubolrat District, Khon Kaen Province.



4 Ban Tan Village Enterprise of Pumelo Collaborative Farm

Ban Tan Subdistrict, Ban Tan District,
Chaiyapoom Province.



One packing and collecting house is in the process i.e.

Bang Pae Village Enterprise Mango
Production for Export, Don Kha Subdistrict,
Bang Pae District, Rachaburi Province,

The Office of National Anti-Corruption Commission (NACC) has conducted Integrity and Transparency Assessment: ITA; of Governmental Agencies for the fiscal year 2022. The result of the assessment was posted on NACC website on 1 August 2022. The pass mark was 85 points and ACFS has earned 86.17 points which was classified as A level. The assessment was based on 3 main indicators.

1

Internal Integrity and Transparency Assessment: IIT; there were 30 respondents from ACFS staffs and ACFS has earned 87.02 points. There were 5 sub-indicators.

1) Work performance	92.53 points
2) Budget spending	88.10 points
3) Exercise of power	86.08 points
4) Asset management	83.24 points
5) Anti-Corruption management	85.14 points

2

External Integrity and Transparency Assessment: EIT; there were 83 respondents from individuals and legal entities outside ACFS and from other Government agencies. ACFS has earned 95.75 points from 3 sub-indicators.

1) Quality of work performance	96.96 points
2) Efficiency of communication	95.09 points
3) Improvement of operation	95.21 points

3

Open Data Integrity and Transparency Assessment: OIT; the assessment considered on the information published on ACFS website and ACFS earned 78.35 points from 2 sub-indicators.

1) Data openness	69.21 points
2) Corruption prevention	87.50 points

DIGI DATA AWARDS

The implementation on Data Catalog as a mean for Open Data of ACFS has won the Digi Data Award which is the award for public agencies with Open Data and the provision of data was standard compatible and the agency can be role model on the data organization for dissemination on Data.go.th platform of Data Innovation and Governance Institute (Public Organization): (DIGI).

ACFS has made a consideration to select indicators for developing into digital organization for the realization of governmental Open data. The outcome has been rated to be in an advanced stage meaning there is data catalog, with at least 50% of data in the catalog were in the group of public data, and with data accessibility was compatible with standard procedures of the DIGI. In this regards, ACFS has organized 22 data sets in the catalog with 13 sets among these data were Open Data which can be accessed on digi.go.th and <https://catalog-acfs.data.go.th/>. These data are outlined hereunder.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. List of registered laboratories | 2. List of Certification bodies |
| 3. List of ACFS certified inspection bodies | 4. List of Q markets/ farmgate vendors |
| 5. Key Performance Indicators | 6. List of Q restaurants |
| 7. Early warning information | 8. Trade regulations of partner countries |
| 9. WTO Notifications | 10. Reports of international meetings |
| 11. Agricultural standards | 12. List of QR Trace users |
| 13. List of sellers on DGTFarm.com | |



The 8th Financial Management Excellence Award

for Fiscal Year 2021

On 1 December 2022, Mr. Pisan Pongsapitch, Secretary General, and Ms. Saowaluck Suppakamolseenee, Deputy Secretary General, along with Representatives of other Public Agencies, have attended the Ceremony of the 8th Financial Management Excellence Award. The award was presented to winning agencies by General Prayuth Chan-Ocha, Prime Minister, at Santi Mitree Building in the Government Office Complex.

The Financial Management Excellence Award has been organized by the Comptroller General's Department to promote the efficiency practices of financial management in public agencies. The award is given to the agency of which practices in financial management comply with rules and regulations, are transparent and acceptable. The Evaluating Committee takes the decision by looking at the financial management procedures in 5 dimensions.

- 1) Procurement
- 2) Redemption
- 3) Accounting
- 4) Internal audit
- 5) Free from infringement



In this regard, ACFS has won 2 awards namely;

- 1 The Award at excellent level in the dimension of Free from Infringement
- 2 The Award on Excellent financial management staffs/team in the dimension of Free from Infringement



Golden Ship Award 2022



Mr. Pisan Ponsapitch, Secretary General has attended the ceremony to receive Golden Ship Award for the year 2022. The award has been presented by Dr. Wissanu Krea-ngam, Deputy Prime Minister, to the Departments in public sector which have provided assistance to reduce trade obstacles and facilitate business operations fruitfully leading to the enhanced competitiveness of national businesses. The Award ceremony was organized by the Thai Chamber of Commerce on 14 December 2022 at the Convention Hall, Building 23, University of the Thai Chamber of Commerce.





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