Govt launches AgriTech 2020

Four digital projects to be introduced in the new year will revolutionize the agricultural sector

The Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives today announced AgriTech2020, a digital programme made up of four big projects designed to be the turning point into Agriculture 4.0.

Alongkorn Ponlaboot, adviser to agriculture and cooperatives minister, said that the agricultural technology policy targets reform of the ministry's management and services as well as the agricultural sector via digital technology and the four digital projects will be launched as New Year gifts to the people.

The Quick Win project which will be implemented by 22 units will start servicing six groups of farmers, state agencies and the public on January 1, while the One App scheme which combines more than 50 applications covering all ministry units will also start on the same day.

Aiming to establish agritech and innovation centres for promoting agricultural technologies, innovative agricultural machinery, farmer incubation and startups, the project is set to be completed within 2020. The Ministries of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Commerce and Industry will be joined by the agricultural sector, academia and the private sector in driving the project.

The last large project is the National Agriculture Big Data Centre (NABC) and the first phase will start by providing information services on major crops like rice, field corn, tapioca, oil palm and rubber as well as agricultural economics and household data from January next year. The second phase will involve data addition and connectivity with other state agencies and use of artificial intelligence for data analytics.

Ten state agencies today signed a memorandum of understanding for NABC system development, namely the Ministries of Education, Science and Technology, Finance, Digital Economy and Society, Natural Resources and Environment, Commerce, Industry, Interior, Public Health, Digital Government Development Agency and the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives. The Office of Agricultural Economics will be responsible for the system development.

"All four projects were designed without any need for extra funds and completed within 120 days by the Committee to drive Agricultural Technology 4.0. The subcommittees under this Committee are GovTech and Big Data, Smart Agriculture, Future Technology and E-Commerce with cooperation from 22 IT units from the Agriculture and Cooperatives Ministry, state agencies, academics and private sectors," Alongkorn said, adding that AgroTech2020 would be the turning point for agriculture.

Source: http://www.thailandtoday.co/govt-launches-agritech2020/