

## Announcement to certify 2 private laboratories in Thailand, boosting seed export sales

Department of Agriculture, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives gave the first 2 private laboratory certification in Thailand, pushing the export sales of seeds at least 15 billion baht per year.

Mr. Rapeephat Chantharasriwong, Director-General of the Department of Agriculture revealed that the Department has given the first 2 private laboratory competency certificates that have passed the Department's assessment. There are 2 more companies that are in the process of certification and another company has just submitted an application.



The Department announced on criteria, methods and conditions for requesting and issuing a phytosanitary certificate and a phytosanitary certificate for forwarding (issue 3) B.E. 2565 which entered into force on 13 November 2022. Then, the Department opens for application for accreditation of laboratory competency since 29 December 2022.

Thailand announces itself as the world leader of tropical seed production according to the policy of Ms. Mananya Thaiset, Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives who made such announcement at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Conference on November 14-19, 2022 and the APEC Agriculture and Food Ministers' Meeting. Emphasis was placed on food security policies, Thai kitchen to the World, and food safety. In 2023, Thailand set a target of seed exports of about 15,000 million baht, which is the result of having the private sector certified for laboratory competency. It is considered to help alleviate the burden of seed certification of the Department of Agriculture. Each year more than 30,000 requests are submitted for inspection, making exporting seeds more convenient and faster. Therefore, it is expected that the export sales in the year 2023 probably more than the target set, Mr. Rapeephat said.



The 2 companies received the laboratory certificate on February 21, 2023 are Seed Test Labs Asia Company Limited and Bayer Thai Company Limited. West Seed Co., Ltd., Chia Tai Co., Ltd. are in the ongoing process for certification while HM. Coles (Thailand) Co., Ltd. just applied.

Mr. Weerapol Charoenpanich, Business Group Manager of Crop Science Thailand, Cambodia, Myanmar under the Bayer Thai Company Limited said the company has a laboratory located in Phitsanulok province. The company has invested in seeds in many countries around the world. And in Thailand, there is a laboratory located in Phitsanulok province. Thailand has quality seed production, so it is ready to be a seed center especially in tropical seeds. Each year Thailand exports 31,000 tons of seeds accounted around 80 percent. Bayer exports seeds worldwide worth 3,600 million baht per year such as tomatoes, chili, watermelon, sweet corn. "Ms. Sutthana Klaimongkol," laboratory manager, Seed Test Labs Asia Co., Ltd., said that the company provides certification services to service users in general. The service charge rate is cheaper than the government sector. Most of the customers are seed producers in the North Eastern region.

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