



Press Release

Six agencies team up to boost the production of high quality rice seed

5 June 2014 at Rice Department - Six leading agencies, consisting of the Rice Department, Bank for Agriculture and Agricultural Co-operatives (BAAC), Thai Rice Foundation under Royal Patronage, National Science Technology and Innovation Policy Office (STI), The Agricultural Research Development Agency (Public Organization) (ARDA) and National Science and Technology Development Agency (NSTDA), joined hands to promote the production of high quality rice seed. Present at the MOU signing ceremony were Mr. Chanpittaya Chimpalee, Director General of the Rice Department; Mr. Luck Wajanawat, President of BAAC; Dr. Kwanchai Gomez, Secretary General of The Thai Rice Foundation under Royal Patronage; Dr. Pichet Durongkaverroj, Secretary-General of STI; Ms. Kunvara Chotiphansophon, Deputy Director of ARDA and Dr. Thaweesak Koanantakool, President of NSTDA.

Shortage of high quality rice seed is one of the major problems faced by rice farmers and industry in Thailand. It directly affects the production and quality of rice grains entering the domestic and world market. Currently, only 40% of rice seed demand is met, leading to production problems such as low yield, inconsistent and low quality rice grains. The root causes of problems in rice seed production are present in various aspects, namely the access to elite lines and master seed, the lack of seed production knowledge among farmers, the shortage of inspectors to certify high quality seed, the disconnection between producers and distributors and weak financial structure to support this production/distribution chain. Therefore, six agencies coming together will work to address these problems based on the strength and expertise of each party. Overall objective of this collaboration is to develop the network of rice seed producers and distributors; upgrade system of production and certification of high quality seed and meet the rice seed demand of the country. The activities will comprise the launch of training program in seed production and boosting the human capital in the field of seed certification; raising the awareness on the importance of quality seeds among farmers, access to financial resources for farmers and business operators in the value chain.

With this collaboration, rice production in Thailand can be advanced, generating significant income for local rice farmers as well as increasing competitiveness of Thai rice industry in the world market.

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NSTDA



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