



สำนักงานที่ปรึกษาการเกษตรต่างประเทศ
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Thai Pomelos make their debut into the US to Celebrate 190th Annivesary of US-Thai Diplomatic Relations



Thailand's D-Day to send its first-ever shipment of "pomelos" to the United States is scheduled on June 26th, 2023. A year-round export via air and sea frieght has been planned to ensure smooth operations. The Thai fruits promotion will be held on the occasion of US Independence Day on July 2nd, commemorating the 190th Annivesary of the US-Thailand Diplomatic Relations. Department of Agriculture (DOA) yet aims to propose to the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) to approve lower dose of gamma radiation for Thai tropical fruits.

Mr. Rapibhat Chandarasrivongs, the Director-General of the Department of Agriculture (DOA), revealed that the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) had assigned Mr. Marc Gilkey, Asia-South Pacific Regional Manager, a representative of the Office of Plant and Animal Inspection Services (APHIS) in Bangkok, to meet and hand over the official notification of approval.

Prior to the approval, an APHIS inspector was dispatched to conduct dose mapping on Thai pomelos. The results of the operations have successfully been finalized. The Thai Radiation Center is authorized to conduct irradiation for fresh pomelos for export to the US while a couple of packing houses have been approved for export.



This is excellent news for pomelo growers and fruit exporters as it will expand the export markets, said the Director-General. The U.S. is considered one of the most potential markets for Thai pomelos. The fruits are famous for their sweet taste, juiciness, beautiful color and high quality that meet international standards.

DOA and APHIS jointly established the Preclearance Program for Thai tropical fruits for export to the US since 2007. A minimum of 400 Grays irradiation is required for treatment of eight fruits permitted for market access which are mangoes, lychee, longan, pineapple, mangosteen, dragon fruit, rambutan and pomelos as the latest. In order to help the exporters, farmers and concerned parties to appropriately plan for all year round export, APHIS will dispatch inspector (s) to work in Thailand accordingly. It will be more cost effective and leading to a sustainable continuation of the program.

The Director-General advised Mr. Panya Phuksun, Director of Plant Protection Research and Development Office, to develop a plan for Thailand's first shipments for export to the US by both air and sea freight. The air shipment including 72 boxes (864 Kgs) of pomelos of Thong-dee, Kao-yai, Kao-nampueng and Kao-tangkwa varieties will leave Thailand for the US on June 26th, 2023. Additional 108 boxes (540 Kgs) of Nam Dok Mai, Mahachanok, Dang-Jakkrapad and Khiew Sawoey mango varieties along with 20 boxes (140 Kgs) of mangosteen will be shipped for promotion at the Sawasdee DC Thai Festival. The event will be held at the National Mall, Washington DC on July 2nd, 2023 in honor of the US Independence Day and the 190th Anniversary of US-Thailand Diplomatic Relations.

First sea freight shipment will be delivered to DP Produce Inc., an importer located in Los Angeles. Thong-dee and Kao-nampueng pomelos will leave Thailand's port on



August 1st, 2023. A 20 ton-container containing 700 boxes of pomelos weighed 840 Kgs will be shipped under controlled temperature of 13 °C or 55 °F. Ocean shipping takes approximately 30 days from Thailand to the US. The good quality and great taste of the pomelos can certainly be maintained during this timeframe.

In 2022, Thailand exported 33,531 tons of pomelos valued at 1,471 million baht to the global markets. Exporters wishing to export pomelos to the US may contact the Plant Protection Research and Development Office, DOA at Tel. 0-2940-6573 Ext. 142.

DOA has discussed with APHIS on the possible reduction of irradiation dosage below 400 Grays and the decrease in inspection costs for the Preclearance Program. A delegation from DOA will travel to the US for consultation and seeking cooperation on technological development and innovation. Exchanges of knowledge and personnel will help strengthen the long lasting diplomatic relations between the US and Thailand which marked 190 years, concluded Mr. Rapibhat.

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