

"Agriculture – Thai Health Promotion Foundation – 40 Agencies Food for Health Partnership" to Collaborate on Sustainable and Innovative Community Food System under UN "Full and Good 2030" Plan



"Agriculture Ministry - ThaiHealth - 40 Agencies Food for Health Partnership" join forces to transform towards sustainable and developed innovative community food systems under the 5 aspects of "Full and Good 2023" plan, a big leap to achieve healthy outcomes. The concept will be presented at the international conference in Rome during July 24 - 26, 2023.

At the Thailand Food and Agriculture Systems Stocktaking event, Mr. Setthakiat Krachangwong, Deputy Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives (MOAC) participated in the press interview to exchange information and express the intention to transform Thailand's food and agricultural system to become sustainable. In attendance were

Ms. Nawarat Chalermpao, FAO's Assistant Representative to Thailand, Dr. Pairoj Saonuam, Assistant Chief Executive Officer of the Thai Health Promotion Foundation, Ms. Sirikorn Wirawong, Deputy Director of the Agricultural Research Development Agency (Public Organization) (ARDA), Assistant Professor Chol Bunnag, Director of Sustainable Development Goals Research and Support Center (SDG Move), Faculty of Economics Thammasat University. The event was held at the meeting room 112 of MOAC.

The Deputy Permanent Secretary of MOAC elaborated that at the United Nations (UN) Food Systems Summit 2021, the UN supported the member countries to transform their food systems including production, distribution and consumption to meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) under the concept of "Full and Good 2030". After the meeting, MOAC has continued raising awareness and ensuring understanding of "Sustainable Agricultural and Food System" among stakeholders in agricultural and Food system, government, private sector, society network, associations, institutions etc. Partnerships among parties concerned have been established and driven by ThaiHealth towards sustainable agricultural and food system since 2021. ARDA extended its support by conducting the project on Policy Research for Thailand's Food Systems Development.

In steering the UN sustainable agriculture and food systems under the concept "Full and Good 2030", there are 5 aspects including 1. "Full, Good, All", able to access safe and nutritious food; 2. "Full, Good, Happy", changing the way of consumption for sustainability; 3. "Full, Good, Preserving", promoting adequate production and environmental friendly; 4. "Full, Good, Thoroughly", promoting living in equity; and 5. "Full, Good, Always" establishing resilience in every crisis.

The event was organized with an aim to reviewing the progress, sharing experiences and preparing for the Ministerial Meeting on Food and Agriculture Stocktaking Moment to be held during July 24-26, 2023 at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (Food and Agriculture Organization: FAO), Rome, Republic of Italy and the SDGs Summit in September 2023. This will serve as the first review and follow-up efforts after the Food System Summit 2021. The progress and implementation of Thailand food system's transformation path will be reviewed and assessed, said the Deputy Permanent Secretary.

Dr. Pairoj Saonuam, Assistant Chief Executive Officer of ThaiHealth, revealed that ThaiHealth has a mission to promote and support healthy living for all age groups. ThaiHealth supports the transformation of a sustainable food system to achieve the SDGs by the year 2030. ThaiHealth works closely with network partners to promote healthy consumption throughout the food chain under 3 main objectives: 1. Strengthen education and integrate cooperation to

promote healthy food consumption with a sustainable food system both in normal and crisis situations; 2. Promote a safe food market system in the community and ensure food security at the household/community level; and 3. Drive public policies and encourage social campaigns to change behavior and environment that is conducive to health.

The community food system model emphasizes the importance of "Creating healthy outcomes in a big leap" by expanding the prototype of health promotion at 3 levels. At the upstream level, there should be a development of a model source of safe/organic food, an improvement of production and products that meet consumer demand and a stimulation of the community's food economy. At the mid-stream level, transportation systems in connection with the products and an entrepreneurial model suitable for specific community, culture and income generation (green market/community market/institutional market) should be promoted. Lastly at the downstream level, there should be a dissemination of knowledge on healthy food consumption, developing skill and creating awareness on healthy food consumption by reducing sugar, fat and salt. Healthy behaviors should be encouraged in order to reduce the risk of noncommunicable diseases and endorsed as a public policy. Sustainable learning processes and effective communication should be initiated at the local, national and international levels, said Dr. Pairoi.

Ms. Nawarat Chalermpao, FAO's Assistant Representative to Thailand, informed that the number of global hunger situation after COVID-19 is 820 million, an increase of 132 million from 2019. More than 3 billion people in the world do not have access to healthy food, and over 2 billion people suffer from nutrition problems such as inappropriate diets, overweight and obesity, which affect health expenditures on the country's public health. FAO supports Thailand in promoting an efficient agricultural food system that leaves no one behind. This is in line with the main goals of the new strategic framework focusing on developing a circular economy and a green food system particularly food loss and waste reduction. Sustainable management of soil, water, forest and marine ecosystems through biodiversity-friendly agriculture and disaster risk reduction (DRR) are emphasized leading to the advocacy of longterm agricultural solutions.

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