



สำนักงานที่ปรึกษาการเกษตรต่างประเทศ
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Office of Agricultural Affairs - Royal Thai Embassy - Washington DC

CMU – Atlanta Invest Over 1 Billion Baht in Closed-System Medical Herb Production



Chiang Mai University and Atlanta Medicare invested more than 1 billion baht in establishing a closed-system medical herb plant for the production of medical cannabis. The plant is the first in Thailand to meet international standard. It is gearing towards full production which will be ready for actual supply in early 2024.

Chiang Mai University (CMU) and Atlanta Medicare Co., Ltd., an importer and distributor of medicines and medical supplies, are committed to being a leader in medicine innovation, particularly on medical cannabis products. A memorandum of understanding (MOU) on technical cooperation to produce medical grade cannabis extracts for medical purposes has been signed by the 2 parties. The CMU expert research team will develop medical cannabis that meets international standards and is further utilized to improve the quality of patients' lives. The

collaboration has led to an establishment and opening of the medical cannabis processing plant on August 15, 2023.

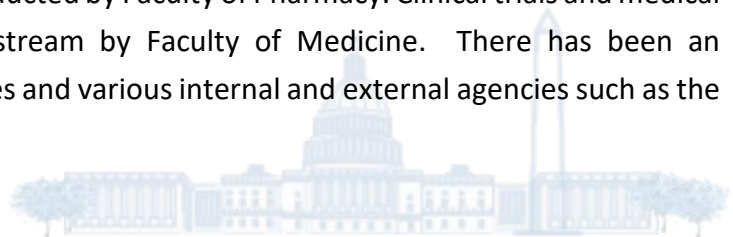


Professor Emeritus Dr. Sanchai Jaturasitha, Science and Technology Research Institute, CMU, as the coordinator for collaborative research and development to produce medical cannabis products reported that the technical cooperation project between CMU and Atlanta Medicare Co., Ltd. to produce medical grade cannabis extracts for medical purposes has

been conducted since 2019. Many dangerous and chronic diseases nowadays are not curable or alleviated by drugs such as epilepsy that is difficult to treat and resistant to medicines as well as Parkinson's disease. Medical doctors have turned to modern drugs made from medicinal plants, especially medical cannabis, to help in treatment. It is necessary to research and develop medical grade cannabis throughout the process by



CMU's expert team. The upstream started from variety selection and studies on appropriate planting conditions by Faculty of Agriculture. At midstream, the extraction, quality control and development of drug formulas were conducted by Faculty of Pharmacy. Clinical trials and medical applications were conducted at downstream by Faculty of Medicine. There has been an integration of knowledge among Faculties and various internal and external agencies such as the



Science and Technology Park, Sriphat Medical Center etc. in order to promote integrated innovations and focus on efficient utilization of resources.



Mr. Suphadej Amnuaysakul, Managing Director of Atlanta Medicare Co., Ltd., said that the studies by CMU have been applied in the commercial production at the medical cannabis plant in order to obtain high quality medical cannabis products. Over 1 Billion baht has been invested in putting up the facilities in the 16 rai area and made available the fund for research and development by CMU. The complex consisted of 2 main buildings which are planting facilities and manufacturing plant. The cannabis is grown using indoor cultivation technology in accordance with international standard, Good Agricultural Practices for Medicinal Plants - TAS 3502-2561 and Good Agricultural and Collection Practices (GACP) in Cleanroom Class D. Its production capacity is over 7,000 kilograms of dried cannabis flowers per year. The machine used for extraction is the high performance Supercritical CO2 imported from the US. Other machinery and equipment are brought in from world leading companies in compliance with Good Pharmaceutical Production (GMP PIC/S). At the early stage, the factory is expected to produce over 220,000 bottles of Oral Liquid Dosage Form annually. The knowledge and advanced technology obtained from CMU research and development are integrated in order to produce the most effective medical cannabis products.



Asst. Prof. Dr. Thanyanupap Anantana, Vice President of CMU, is responsible for coordinating and negotiating the preparation of business models and application of the research outcomes. He informed that an MOU on the cooperation and commercial utilization of the research results have been signed. Ang Kaew Holding Co., Ltd. as a holding company of CMU and Atlanta Medicare Co., Ltd. established a joint venture company, Canndou Pharma Co., Ltd., which will be the grower and manufacturer of medical cannabis products derived from research. The products will be supplied to the hospital system for use with patients requiring medical treatments. Every lot of the products is traceable to the origin.

Prof. Dr. Pongrak Sribanditmongkol, President of CMU, said that the grower and manufacture of medical cannabis products aimed to domestically grow and manufacture the products at all steps to minimize imports, improve the quality to meet relevant standards and further expand to become a world-class supplier. CMU and the partner company will apply the research outcomes to continually develop medical cannabis formulas for other diseases such as patients with chemotherapy-induced nausea and vomiting, neuralgia, spasticity in patients with multiple sclerosis etc. This will lead to an increase in the quality of lives not only for Thai people but also for the benefit of the whole world, as the concept "Manufactured by Thais with international standards for the whole world".

Source: <https://www.mcot.net/view/m4fjf7TV#:~:text=ขนาดตัวอักษร%20ก%20ก,งานจริงค้ันปี%202567>

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