

MOAC organizes World Food Safety Day



The Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives (MOAC) organizes World Food Safety Day: "Preparing to Build Confidence in Food Safety Throughout the Supply Chain"

Mr. Atthakorn Sirilatthayakorn, the Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives, disclosed that the United Nations General Assembly has designated June 7 of each year as "World Food Safety Day." The goal is to increase public awareness of the importance of food safety and to encourage them to consume food that meets safety standards. This aim is to elevating the quality of life and well-being of the global population, eliminate hunger, increase agricultural production capacity, and develop sustainability. This year, the Joint FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius Commission, or Codex, has set the campaign and activity under the theme "Food Safety: Prepare for the Unexpected."

The World Food Safety Day campaign for 2024 has been organized by the MOAC through the National Bureau of Agricultural Commodity and Food Standards (ACFS), which serves as the central agency for setting national standards and engaging in technical negotiations related to hygiene and phytosanitary measures at the bilateral and multilateral levels, as well as participating in Codex standard

setting. This campaign has the theme of "Preparing to Build Confidence in Food Safety Throughout the Supply Chain". There are activities including the declaration of intent on food safety, showcasing certified agricultural and food products, creating innovative local-to-luxury menus, and a panel discussion on "Preparing to Build Confidence in Food Safety," with speakers including the Secretary-General of ACFS, the Secretary-General of the Food and Drug Administration, and the President of Thai Food Processors' Association. The event also includes the awarding of "Q Restaurant" signs to restaurants that use safe food ingredients at the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperation. In the afternoon, a World Food Safety Day walk campaign was held, and provided "Q Market" signs to certified restaurants at at Thonburi Market, Thawi Watthana District, Bangkok.

Food safety is crucial as it affects the overall health of the population. The Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives is aligning its operations with Thailand's Food Management Action Plan (2023-2027), focusing on food security, quality, and safety strategies. Key projects seek to achieve national strategic objectives by increasing value and productivity in agricultural and food production, particularly value-added agriculture. These are 1) Local Identity Agriculture, 2) Good Agricultural Practice (GAP), 3) Bio-Agriculture, 4) Processed Agriculture, and 5) Smart Agriculture. The GAP sub-plan encourages and supports farmers, communities, localities, and entrepreneurs to produce high-quality agricultural and food products that meet standards such as GAP and organic agriculture. This ensures that food is produced in accordance with international food safety standard, consumer protection and trade regulations.

"Increasing consumer confidence in the safety of Thai food and agricultural products is essential. Standards reflect the quality of Thai food and agricultural products. Therefore, MOAC is dedicated to develope standards that are internationally recognized. When Thai agricultural products are of high quality and recognized globally, it will increase farmers' income, ensure their stability, improve consumer health, and create overall societal sustainability," Mr. Atthakorn stated.

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