



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

Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives continues its measures
to address agricultural burning issues.



The Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives (MOAC) held the second meeting of the 2024 Committee for Preventing and Solving PM2.5 (particulate matter smaller than 2.5 microns) in the agricultural sector. The meeting approved a framework to address agricultural burning for 2024/2025, which focuses on three key areas:

1. Monitoring, Raising Awareness, and Suppression of Agricultural Burning: The Prime Minister has called for stricter measures to combat forest fires, smog, and PM2.5 dust. MOAC has been tasked with considering the revocation of state compensation and assistance for those found to be burning in agricultural areas. A database of farmers involved in burning will be created. Additionally, public awareness campaigns will be launched to deter agricultural burning. Monitoring units will be set up to track situations and prevent incidents. Relevant agencies, such as the Department of Agricultural Extension, the Cooperative Promotion Department, and the Agricultural Land Reform Office, will issue warning letters to highlight the environmental harm caused by burning,

which is illegal. Farmers will also be advised on how to manage agricultural residues properly.

2. Promoting Agriculture to Address Agricultural Burning: Efforts will focus on encouraging non-burning agricultural practices by promoting the management of agricultural waste without burning. This includes advocating for plowing under and producing organic fertilizers to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, providing economic incentives, and utilizing royal rainmaking to mitigate smog and PM2.5 dust. Relevant agencies will expedite the preparation of detailed plans and projects for the 2025 fiscal year to establish guidelines for preventing and resolving the issue of agricultural burning in 2024/2025.

3. Preparing for Future Prevention and Resolution of Agricultural Burning: Measures include the Department of Agriculture's announcement of criteria and conditions for certifying non-burning dry corn production processes (PM2.5 Free Plus) for 2024. Sustainable approaches to reducing PM2.5 in agricultural areas are outlined under the MOAC's 3R framework:

(1) **Re-Habit:** Changing crop cultivation practices to non-burning methods for crops such as corn, sugarcane, and rice, and encouraging farmers to participate in GAP (Good Agricultural Practices) programs.

(2) **Replace with Perennial Crops:** Substituting annual crops with high-value crops, such as fruits (coffee, macadamia, avocado, mango), or slow-growing trees that store carbon effectively.

(3) **Replace with Alternate Crops:** Replacing second rice crops with less water-intensive crops with high potential, such as legumes or animal feed corn.

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