



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

77,000 Volunteer Soil Doctors Help Improve Thai Agriculture



Volunteer Soil Doctor Day, Thailand has over 77,000 volunteer soil doctors who help improve lands for agriculture.

"Anucha" honors "Volunteer Soil Doctor Day" for those who sacrifice and dedicate to land development. It is hopeful that capacities of producers and entrepreneurs are improved while purchasing power is expanded and generating income for 77,000 farmers in the agricultural sector.

On February 10th, 2024, Mr. Anucha Nakasai, Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives presided over the opening ceremony of "Land Development Department (LDD)'s Volunteer Soil Doctor Day 2024" with the theme "Smart Soil Doctors, Markets Lead, Innovations Support, Incomes Grow". The event was simultaneously broadcasted live via video conference system to Land Development Stations in 76 provinces across the country as well as LDD's Facebook live. At the event, in attendance were executives from the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, civil servants, LDD officials and volunteer soil doctors. More than 500 people attended the event at the LDD, Bangkok.

Mr. Anucha praised the success of LDD in directing the Land Development Stations throughout the country to promote and disseminate knowledge on land development to volunteer soil doctors who are farmers with public consciousness. They help other fellow farmers

to improve soil quality, take care of local natural resources and restore the soil so it can be sustainably utilized. This strong network is considered one of the largest and extremely farmer networks of the Ministry.

Currently, there are 77,804 volunteer soil doctors. The success of this initiative has inspired the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Global Soil Partnership to expand into an international soil doctor project. It will be used as a guideline to establish a sustainable network of soil management leaders.

The Thai Prime Minister and Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives realize the importance of increasing productivity in order to increase farmers' incomes. Fertilizer formulas are applied based on soil analyses prior to planting. This helps maximize the benefit of fertilizers and reduce costs. The use of technology is promoted to help ease the burden on farmers' expenses and reduce risk from exposure to chemicals. The Agri-Map project is established as a proactive management to develop land to its highest potential.

The LDD and over 70,000 volunteer soil doctors will cooperate to create more incomes, increase purchasing power, expand domestic trade and develop our land to benefit the whole country. We are proud of the volunteer soil doctors who extend their hands to other farmers and help them achieve a better life, emphasized Mr. Anucha.

LDD designated February 10th as Volunteer Soil Doctor Day in honor of the volunteer soil doctors for their sacrifice and working tirelessly along with LDD officers to serve the public for a long time. At the event, plaques and certificates were awarded to soil doctors with outstanding performances in various areas. There were also a number of other activities such as panel discussion of volunteer soil doctors from different regions, an exhibition of innovations from LDD, selling products from volunteer soil doctors etc.

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