

Thailand's Agricultural Ambition: A Global Vision of Sustainability

Minister touts innovation as key to transforming traditional farming into world-beating tech-driven industry.



In the heart of Southeast Asia, Thailand is quietly revolutionising its agricultural landscape, transforming from a traditional farming nation to a sophisticated, technology-driven agricultural powerhouse.

At the forefront of this transformation is Narumon Pinyosinwat, the Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives, whose vision extends far beyond simple crop production.

During the "Go Thailand 2025 Women Run the World" dinner talk hosted by Thansettakij newspaper on Monday, Narumon painted a compelling picture of Thailand's agricultural potential.

"We may be a small country," she declared, "but we possess the remarkable ability not just to ensure our own food security, but to contribute significantly to global food stability."

Her words reflect an ambition that goes beyond national borders.

Nurumon noted that Thailand has climbed to 15th place in global agricultural exports, consistently generating around one trillion baht in trade surplus.

"This achievement is no accident but the result of strategic planning and innovative approaches to farming," she stated.

The export portfolio is impressively diverse. Rice remains the flagship product, valued at nearly 200 billion baht, followed by chicken meat, durian, and rubber.

The ministry's strategy has three key pillars: high-value agriculture, sustainable farming practices, and domestic production efficiency.

"This isn't merely about increasing yields but about transforming agriculture into a sophisticated, technology-driven sector that respects both economic and environmental considerations," Narumon said.

One initiative involves implementing advanced water management technology in rice cultivation across 10 million rai. This project is expected to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by over 30%, demonstrating Thailand's commitment to environmentally responsible farming.

Precision agriculture is at the heart of this transformation. By leveraging agricultural technology, or agri-tech, Thailand is reimagining farming. The approach combines traditional agricultural knowledge with cutting-edge technology, promoting high-quality seed varieties, improving soil conditions, and implementing smart water distribution systems.

The ministry is also focusing on reducing import dependency by promoting crops like coffee, soybeans, and cocoa. This strategy not only enhances food security but also provides new economic opportunities for farmers.

International recognition is growing. Major global agricultural organisations are establishing regional offices in Thailand, a testament to the country's emerging importance in the global agricultural landscape. Primary trade partners, including China, the United States, Japan, Malaysia, and Indonesia, are taking note of Thailand's agricultural innovations.

Narumon's vision extends beyond mere economic metrics.

"We're not just producing food. We're creating a sustainable, innovative agricultural ecosystem that can feed the world," she emphasised.

This philosophy transforms agriculture from a traditional sector into a dynamic, forward-thinking industry.

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