



Professional Development Program On Sustainable Agriculture, Agribusiness and Value Chain Management in Thailand

Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), Thailand
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Background

Sustainable Agriculture supports farmers to transform their farms, with available natural resources, into more productive following a holistic and sustainable system. In particular it aims to capacitate farmers to adopt diversified farming practices including recycling of farm-waste, climate resilient farming system and maximizing benefits from their produces that lead to multiple livelihood options. Value Chain Management has become common topic of discussion in the Agriculture and Agro-food Processing industries in all over the World. Agricultural marketing on the other hand has been progressing fast and many Asian countries have already adapted modern and online marketing practices. At present marketing is considered as the most important aspect of any business, and the only action that results in revenue. It has been envisaged that adopting sustainable farming practices, modern agricultural marketing plan and value chain management will definitely create opportunities for businesses and employments to adapt to an increasingly challenging environment in any country.

Thailand is domestically food-secure and also given a boost to its economy by developing industrial sector and reforming other service sectors. The “Sufficiency Economy Philosophy (SEP)”, Thailand’s home-grown approach to sustainable development, is considered to be the main thrust for proliferating agricultural enterprises. Today, Thailand is well known for exporting of rice, fish and fishery products, and processed agricultural products. Technological intervention, innovations in farm machinery, development of agro-processing industries, and uplifting the livestock sector have proven to be some of the successful strategies for the revolution of the agriculture sector in Thailand.

Thailand has developed its agro-based industries and associated service sectors including small and medium enterprises and cottage industries significantly in the past few decades. The Government of Thailand is found very much supportive in promoting country’s agricultural sector, its improvement and sustainability using local wisdom and by laying emphasis on innovation and development of new technology as an important tool in addition to proper management and access to markets. Therefore, the country is an excellent hub for learning lessons and experiences within the Southeast Asian region for Sustainable Agriculture, Agribusiness and Value Chain Management.

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Program Content and Delivery

The “Sustainable Agriculture, Agribusiness and Value Chain Management in Thailand” is a one-week long professional development program, which has been designed to address the key issues dealing by the agriculturists and development professionals in other countries often with similar or different agro-ecological zones. The delivery of the program will be participant centered combining plenary discussion sessions followed by different organizational and project/site visits, and a wrap-up plus group/individual action plan preparation session at the end. The panel discussion sessions will be comprised of class lectures, case studies and group discussions. Field visits will be a major part of this program, which will deepen the learning experiences and will provide a ‘live’ experience for the participants on how the farming practices are being pursued in Thailand and what are the roles of various government departments, farmers and research organizations. At the end of this program participants are expected to be widen their views and understandings on modern and sustainable farming practices in different agro-ecological zones including low land or wetland ecosystems.

Draft Program Schedule

Day 1

Panel Discussion on Modern & Sustainable Agriculture, Livestock and Aquaculture/Fisheries Practices in Thailand.

Day 2

Panel Discussion on Agro-Processing, Value Chain Management and Agricultural Marketing in Thailand.
Visit to the Model Farm under the Department of Agricultural Extension (DOAE), Thailand.

Day 3

Visit to Fish Farm and Hatchery under Department of Fisheries as well as the Poultry and Cattle Farm under Royal Development Project in Thailand.

Day 4

Visit to the Department of Agricultural Machineries and Equipment, Kasetsart University, Thailand.

Day 5

Visit to Agro-food Processing, Packaging and Marketing for Value Addition (CDD under OTOP Project).

Day 6

Social and Cultural Visit.

The six days program schedule excludes the international travel.

Who Can Participate?

Farmers, agriculturists, aqua-culturists, poultry or livestock farmers, researchers, academicians, NGO and development workers, business entrepreneurs, and anybody interested in Sustainable Agriculture, Agribusiness and VCM.

- Seats are limited to 20.
- The Tuition Fee is USD 1250 per participant.
- All sessions will be delivered in English.
- The Venue is AIT Conference Center.
- Field Visits are in Central and Eastern Thailand.