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DOA moves towards sustainable development through sharing readily available research outcomes on plant varieties and technology



Mr. Rapibhat Chandarasrivongs, Director-General of the Department of Agriculture (DOA), announced DOA's moves on sharing readily available research outcomes of quality plant varieties and production technology for sustainable development. The action is in line with His Majesty King Bhumibol's initiative projects. The projects have been continuously carried out under King Maha Vajiralongkorn's oversight in order to support and improve living quality of local communities. There are over 100 initiative projects implemented in the country as a result.

Petchaburi Agricultural Research and Development Center (ARDC), Office of Agricultural Research and Development Region 5 (OARD 5), DOA, partners with the royal initiative projects. One of the collaborated projects is the reproduction of high quality plant varieties and utilization of the technology suitable for local conditions in Tha Yang and Cha Am Districts in Petchaburi Province. The activities are conducted under 3 Royal Initiative Projects including Chang-Hua-Mun Royal Initiative Project, Don Khun Huai Royal Desire Project, and Huai Sai Royal Development Study Center.



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“Quality plant varieties and plant production technologies are crucial for enhancing farmer production standards. Petchaburi ARDC has distributed quality plant varieties to farmers with Royal Initiative Project being the educational center. The crops include Petchaburi pineapple and Supanburi 50 sugarcane varieties. Petchaburi pineapple contains aromatic odor, sweet and sour tastes and golden color. The pineapple fruitlets and buds are easily separated. The distinctive characteristics of Supanburi 50 sugarcane are high production yield per rai, giving aromatic and favorable flavors as well as nice colored extract. Additionally, the remaining sugarcane stump can be used for propagation, resulting in not necessary to replant the crops every year”, said Mr. Rapibhat.

Petchaburi ARDC has disseminated Petchaburi pineapple production and growing techniques developed by DOA to local farmers. The production technologies include applying fertilizers appropriate with soil properties coupled with the use of natural fertilizers. The recommended technique will prevent Acremonium wilt disease in pineapple and result in an average yield of 7.7 tons per rai. If Petchaburi pineapple is planted in replacement of Smooth Cayenne, the farmers’ incomes could increase up to 10,674 baht per rai. The total agricultural farming areas in Prachuap Khiri Khan and Petchaburi provinces are accounted for 194,000 rai. If the pineapple is grown in those areas, the revenue can be escalated up to 2,071 million baht.

The Supanburi 50 sugarcane production technique includes the use of Ring-legged earwigs to control concerned insect pests and application of preventive measures to control sugarcane white leaf disease. Implementation according to the guideline would increase the sugarcane extract yield of up to 5,960 liters per rai resulting in an additional income of 7,420 baht per rai. Considering the growing area of 33,330 rai in Petchaburi Province, an additional income of 247 million baht would be obtained. Currently, there are a total of 17 farmers consisting of 12 pineapple and 5 sugarcane farmers who have adopted these techniques.

“Petchaburi ARDC has provided training for farmers under the Royal Initiative projects. Farmers are able to apply the knowledge gained in their own production. Furthermore, it has contributed to elevate production capacity and generate sustainable incomes for farmers. Petchaburi ARDC is planning for future activities including the development of new plant varieties, application of biotechnology and biofertilizers, implementation of smart farming technology and transformation of agricultural wastes. All are to promote the sustainable development for farmers. Thanks to the success of these efforts. The project addressing the dissemination of research outcomes on quality plant varieties and production



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technology for sustainable development in accordance with the royal initiatives was awarded the outstanding special project of 2023”, concluded Mr. Rapibhat.

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