



ฝ่ายเกษตร ประจำสถานกงสุลใหญ่ ณ นครลอสแอนเจลิส Thailand Office Of Agricultural Affairs, Los Angeles

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Thailand's DOA moves forward with "Gap Monkey Free Plus", Presenting the certificates to coconut farmers



December 6, 2022 — Director - General of the Department of Agriculture announced the Monkey Free Plus or measures to prevent monkey labor in the coconut production for exportation and presented GAP Monkey Free Plus certificates to Thep Phadungporn Co. Ltd in Ratchaburi and K-fresh Co.,Ltd in Samut Sakhon.

Underscoring Thailand's commitment to safe coconut production without "monkeys harvesting coconuts," Mr. Rapibhat Chandarasrivongs, Director - General of the Department of Agriculture (DOA), launched the "Gap Monkey Free Plus" to certified coconut farmers. Ratchaburi and Samut Sakhon, the major coconut-producing provinces, serve as an initial area for this certification scheme.

Mr. Rapibhat Chandarasrivongs, Director - General of DOA, introduced the "GAP Monkey Free Plus" program during the "Consultative Virtual Meeting on Thailand Proposal for GAP Monkey Free Plus," a global forum for the coconut industry held by the International Coconut Community (ICC). He indicated that

a supply chain traceability system will be implemented to prevent animal labor (monkey). The measure has been supported by ICC members and third parties involved in order to restore trust in the Thai coconut exporting industry.



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DOA encourages coconut farmers with GAP certification to pursue for GAP Monkey Free Plus certification. The requests for certification can be filed to the Agricultural Research and Development Center located nearby. Simultaneously, uncertified farms are advised to develop for both GAP certification and GAP Monkey Free Plus certification. After this, it is anticipated that many coconut plantations would be certified as GAP Monkey Free Plus, which will benefit the Thai coconut sector and farmers.

Prachuap Khiri Khan Province's primary coconut supplier, Mr. Saichon Joyroy, has stated "I believe that the coconut export sector must adhere to the GAP Monkey Free Plus standard." As a result, I am pleased to support the GAP and GAP Monkey Free Plus

certifications by being the first to be audited and urging partner farmers to do the same." Thep Phadungporn Co., Ltd., as a buyer of raw materials, is eager to collaborate with the government towards GAP and Monkey Free Plus certification. Once its contract packing facilities have a complete grasp of the certification measure, the company will provide them with procedural guidance. This support and certification strategy from the Thai government provides clients with the assurance and confidence in purchasing Thai coconuts.

In both the United States and Europe, Thailand dominates the coconut milk market. Exports of young coconuts totaled 8,000 metric tons in 2021, while exports of coconut milk totaled 236,323 metric tons, valued 12,800 million baht. However, Thailand's 917,606 coconut trees are insufficient to meet industry demand during the shortfall, so the country had to rely on imports. Thus, DOA encourages all farmers to either plant new crops or replant in the same plantation with better variety, and use GAP Monkey Free Plus for good measure in building a solid foundation of advanced Thai coconut industry.



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A team led by Director-General Chandarasrivongs, consisting of representatives from the Horticulture Research Institute, the Plant Product Standards and System Development Division of the Agricultural Research and Development Center, Thep Phadungporn Co., Ltd., K-fresh Co.,Ltd., and NC coconut Co., Ltd., kick started the GAP Monkey Free Plus scheme by visiting and inspecting coconut plantations in Samut Sakhon, the pilot province.

Source:

<https://www.thansettakij.com/business/trade-agriculture/549370>

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