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OAE projects key agricultural commodity production increase this year

สศก. คาดผลผลิตสินค้าเกษตรที่สำคัญหลายชนิดในปีนี้จะเพิ่มขึ้น
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Mr. Winit Atisuk, Deputy Secretary-General of the Office of Agricultural Economics (OAE), Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, revealed that various important agricultural commodity productions will be increased this year due to greater rainfall from Typhoon Noru in September 2022, resulting in higher water levels in most reservoirs and natural water sources compared to the previous year, which gives farmers confidence in having enough water to cultivate. Moreover, the favorable prices for most agricultural products encourage farmers to be especially attentive to their crops. In addition, certain agricultural commodities are part of high-quality off-season cultivation initiatives, which contributed to the increasing harvests.

Several key agricultural commodities were discussed during the meeting of the committee responsible for the development of data quality regarding agricultural production volume, which was held on April 10, 2023, and led by Mr. Suthep Sompram, Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives, and Mr. Winit Atisuk. The committee predicted that output of major agricultural commodities such as out-of-season rice, oil palm, rubber, durian, Vannamei shrimp, and tiger prawn will increase this year in comparison to the previous year. The projections are summarized below:



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Out-of-Season Rice



The total cultivated area for out-of-season rice will be 11.746 million rai nationwide (Δ 23.03% increase over the previous year), while the total unmilled rice production will be 7.614 million tons (Δ 23.39%). The crop yield for rice is estimated to be 648 kilograms per rai (Δ 0.31%).

The main factors that drive the increase are higher water levels in most reservoirs and natural water sources, as well as greater rice production by many farmers to compensate for crop losses due to flooding last year.

Oil Palm

It is projected that this year the total area of oil palm plantations will be 6.252 million rai (Δ 1.66%). The total production of oil palm across the country is expected to reach 19.892 million tons (Δ 4.36%). The crop yield will be around 3,182 kilograms per rai (Δ 2.68%).



The cultivated area is expanded because of the favorable prices. Some farmers are converting their acreage or replacing their crops with oil palm. At the same time, sufficient level of rainfall from late 2021 to 2022 after getting less rainfall from 2020 to early 2021 is the crucial component contributing to the increased crop yield.

Rubber



This year, the total area of rubber tapping plantation is projected to be 21.986 million rai (Δ 0.26%) producing 4.951 million tons of rubber (Δ 2.59%). The crop yield per rai is forecasted to be 225 kilograms (Δ 2.27%).

The increase in tapped rubber is due to the expansion of cultivation areas since 2017, the majority of rubber trees being in the optimal age range for tapping, adequate precipitation, rubber trees in ideal condition, and an increase in tapping days.



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Durian



This year, the total cultivated area for durian is estimated to be 1.055 million rai (Δ 11.95%) while the total cultivated durian is expected to be 1.577 million tons (Δ 25.20%). The crop yield per rai will be 1,495 kilograms per rai (Δ 11.82%).

The main reason for the increased number of harvested acres is that farmers have been substituting durian for crops such as rubber and other fruits since 2018. Whereas increased yield per rai is a result of better crop yields in Thailand's southern region due to a favorable climate, sufficient water from the previous year's rain, and the ability to secure additional water sources, which leads to healthy durian trees ready for the blooming stage. Furthermore, the favorable pricing trend motivates farmers to nurture their crops better.

Vannamei Shrimp

The total area for Vannamei shrimp farming will be 270,547 rai (Δ 0.55%) while the total production will be 375,809 tons (Δ 1.19%). The annual Vannamei shrimp yield per rai is expected to be 1,389 kilograms (Δ 0.65%).



These improvements are a result of the Shrimp Board's minimum price guarantee, which has resulted in satisfying prices for producers and increased confidence in shrimp cultivation. In addition, demand is growing on both domestic and international markets. Cold storage facilities and processing plants have increased their interest in purchasing shrimps. This year, farmers who abandoned their ponds due to reduced demand during the COVID-19 pandemic have resumed cultivation. The modest increase in annual yield per rai is attributable to enhanced farm management and the adaptation of cultivation techniques to better suit each region. Furthermore, in the central region of Thailand, Vannamei shrimp are cultivated alongside freshwater crustaceans and tilapia.

Tiger Prawn



The total farming area is estimated to be 9,601 rai (Δ 2.55%). The total production is expected to be 18,826 tons (Δ 3.53%). The crop yield per rai is projected to be 1,961 kilograms (Δ 0.99%).

The majority of farmers who are cultivating tiger prawns are knowledgeable professionals with prior experience. Some of them are switching between Vannamei shrimp and



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tiger prawn production in their facilities based on pricing trends and customer demand, particularly from China, which has been a key export market since the beginning of 2023. Furthermore, farmers have increased their confidence in producing tiger prawns as a result of the reviving tourism economy, increased availability of Phuket direct flights, and the resolution of a live tiger prawn transit issue from Thailand's southern region.

Source: www.oae.go.th

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