



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

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DOA Exports the First Thai Pummelo Shipment to the U.S.



Ms. Mananya Thaiset, Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives; Mr. Rapibhat Chandarasrivongs, Director General of the Department of Agriculture (DOA); and Mr. Marc Gilkey, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Representative, witnessed the exportation of Thailand's first fresh pummelo shipment to the U.S. along with other Thai fresh fruits, including mangoes (the first shipment of the 2023 season) and mangosteens, on June 26, 2023, at Suvarnabhumi Airport Plant Quarantine Station. On this occasion, Mr. Rapibhat also gave a briefing on the Pre-Clearance Program.

Ms. Mananya Thaiset stated, "We are pleased to announce that Thailand has reached a new export market access milestone." Today marks the first pummelo shipment to the United States, consisting of 72 boxes weighing a total of 864 kg and containing the Thong Dee, Khao Yai, Khao Nam Phueng, and Khao Tang Kwa varieties. We appreciate the participation of USDA representatives at today's event and their support for Thai fruits. We believe this is an excellent opportunity for commercial exporters and pummelos growers to further expand in one of the most lucrative markets, the United States. The purpose of today's event is to highlight the fact that we, the Department of Agriculture, have opened the door for the export of the eighth and most recent fruit to the United States, one of the countries with the strictest sanitary and



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phytosanitary regulations. Additionally, the DOA is currently in negotiations to reduce the degree of irradiation dosage required to eradicate pests from all eight species prior to export, thereby enhancing the consumer experience of the premium-quality fruits with vibrant colors and sweet, juicy flavors, just as they would be in Thailand. We anticipate that the transportation options, which include sea freight, will also increase our export opportunities."

Mr. Rapibhat Chandarasrivongs elaborated, "Mr. Marc Gilkey, Asia and South Pacific Region Manager, on behalf of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), presented the DOA with the official dose mapping result for Thai pummelos marking as the conclusion of the procedure for market access grant. Fresh pummelos from authorized orchards and packinghouses must be treated with 400 Grays of Gamma radiation for three hours at the Irradiation Center of the National Institute of Nuclear Technology.

Agri Active Co. Ltd., a DOA-USDA-recognized Pre-Clearance Program Cooperator, has been managing the products and coordinating with officers from both agencies from the pre-departure to post-arrival phases. Moreover, Asia Exotic Corporation Co. Ltd., a member of the program, was hoping to export the first shipment of Thai pummelo and requested that officers from the APHIS inspect and certify the produce prior to their distribution during the 190th Anniversary of Thailand-U.S. Diplomatic Relations and Independence Day celebration from July 2 to 4, 2566 in Washington, D.C.

"As Asia Exotic Corporation's first shipment from Thailand, 72 boxes containing 864 kilograms of Khao Nam Phueng, Khao Tang Kwa, Khao Yai, and Thong Dee varieties will be exported. In addition, 108 boxes containing 540 kilograms of Nam Dok Mai, Mahachanok, Daeng Chakraphat, and Khiaw Suay Mangoes will be exported as the first shipment of the 2023 season, along with 20 boxes containing 140 kilograms of mangosteens. DOA plans to assist the private sector in transporting the shipment via sea freight to minimize costs and deliver a larger quantity, which is currently undergoing fruit quality testing and assessment. If the results are favorable, it will increase the number of commercial channels available to exporters", as stated by Director-General of the DOA.

Source: www.doa.go.th

Thailand Office of Agricultural Affairs, Los Angeles
June 2023