

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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Report Highlights:

"TH1087" "SAWASDEE THAILAND" provides the latest information on Thai agricultural situation, market access for U.S. products, and upcoming events.

General Information:

HOT NEWS

Compulsory Biodiesel B3 Production

On June 20, 2011, the Ministry announced it will replace its compulsory production of B3 (petrodiesel with 3 percent content of biodiesel) with B4, but only for 3 months from July-September 2011 as the peak oil palm harvest season comes into play. These changes in policy are being done to avoid repeating the shortage mishaps that occurred in early 2011. In addition, the Ministry of Energy has stated that they are closely monitoring the palm oil supply situation in the next few months to decide whether the introduction of compulsory B5 production is possible, which by plan should have been in place since January 1, 2011.

MARKET ACCESS UPDATE

IKEA Store in Thailand

IKANO (Singapore based IKEA owned subsidiary) together with Siam Future Development (land developer) and S.P.S. Global Trade Co. (contracting furniture manufacture for IKEA) signed a contract to invest 10,000 million baht (\$333 million) in the "Mega Bangna" Project. This project will feature the first IKEA lifestyle home furnishing center in Thailand and will open in November of 2011. Mr. Kerati Sermpraphasilp, President of S.P.S. Global Trade Company, has stated that his company has a contract to supply IKEA stores worldwide on 20 household furniture products. He's interested in companies that can offer particle board at competitive prices, he is currently purchasing from Vanachai Group. For additional information please contact us at AgBangkok@fas.usda.gov or go to www.spsthailand.com and www.vanachai.com.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Regional APEC Lab Capacity Building

USDA/FAS will host a Regional APEC Lab Capacity Building Project under the auspices of the APEC PTIN (Partnership Training Initiative Network) in Bangkok from August 25-26, 2011. The goal of this project is to narrow the identified priority topics related to food safety laboratory capacity in the APEC region and create an action plan to address those topics over the next several years.

APEC Regional Food Defense Workshop

Building on the APEC Food Defense Pilot Project which was organized in Peru in 2008 and Thailand in 2009 and 2010, FAS/OSTA will be holding the last such event of this pilot project in Thailand on September 19-20, 2011. This final event will highlight the efforts and technical expertise acquired by four pilot economies targeted which include Peru, Thailand, the Philippines, and Vietnam as a model to

be implemented in the rest of the APEC community.

U.S.-ASEAN Food Safety for Aquaculture Products Workshop in Thailand

The Government of Thailand on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) food safety regulatory authorities will host "U.S.-ASEAN Food Safety for Aquaculture Products" during July 11-14, 2011 at the Holiday Inn Hotel Bangkok, Thailand. The goal is to increase the participants' understanding of U.S. FDA regulations and requirements for ensuring the safety of domestic and imported aquaculture products in the United States. Representatives from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the U.S. Department of Commerce's National Marine Fisheries Service will be participating in this event.

Successful-First Ever Food Coloring and Flavoring Conference in Thailand

On July 1, the Flavor and Extract Manufacturers Association (FEMA), FAS Washington and FAS Bangkok hosted the EMP funded "Food Colors and Flavors: A Global Perspective on Safety Evaluation and Use Conference" in Thailand. The purpose was to give regional participants the necessary information on the FEMA safety evaluation of chemicals or substances, and the international process for flavor safety evaluation carried out by Joint Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA). The conference was very successful with over 125 food industry and government officials in attendance. More information on Flavor and Extract Manufacturers Association is available at www.femaflavor.org.

Taste of USA - All American Favorites!

From June 29 - July 26, Central Food Retail Company Limited is holding its annual "Tastes of USA, All American Favorites!" food promotion at all Central Food Hall and Tops Market Place outlets across Thailand. The promotion will feature a wide assortment of American candies, snacks, cooking ingredients, beef, seafood, and fresh fruits. Central Food Retail Company Limited is the largest supermarket chain in Thailand operating since 1996 with 190 branches nationwide. More information is available at www.centralfoodhall.com and www.tops.co.th.

Mark Your Calendar for Food and Hotel Thailand

Food and Hotel Thailand will be held during September 13-16, 2011 at Royal Paragon Hall Exhibition and Convention Center. This must-go trade show will be suitable to all chefs, food and beverage professionals, hotels groups and caterers, and bakeries that want to learn about the latest trends in the food and hospitality industry. Last year the show hosted 758 exhibiting companies from 36 countries and attracted 26,037 trade visitors from 62 countries, an increase of almost 2,000 buyers from 2009. This year the U.S. Potato Board, U.S. Meat Export Federation, and U.S. Poultry and Egg Export Council together with U.S. exporters will showcase a variety of new and existing U.S. products. More information is available at www.foodhotelthailand.com.

Food Ingredients Asia 2011 - Biggest Food Ingredients Show in Southeast Asia

Food Ingredients Asia will be held once again in Bangkok during September 21-23, 2011 - the leading

international trade event for food ingredients. In 2009, the show attracted 130 exhibitors from 20 countries and 6,225 visitors from 45 countries. This year the following organizations have considered participating in the USA Pavilion: Western United States Trade Association (WUSATA) (Aloha Medicinals, Commercial Creamery, LaBelle, Pacific Valley Foods, and SunOpta), U.S. Dry Pea and Lentil Council, and U.S. Dairy Export Council. The FI Asia Show is a USDA-endorsed show. Any U.S. company interested in participating should contact Sharon Cook at sharon.cook@fas.usdda.gov. Additional information about this show can be found at <http://fiasia-thailand.ingredientsnetwork.com/>.

USGC Seminar on DDGS

The U.S. Grain Council will conduct an educational seminar on "Optimizing DDGS Use in Poultry Nutrition" on July 21, 2011 from 8:30 - 5:00 at Shangri-La Hotel in Bangkok. The seminar will highlight the latest information on the use of DDGS on poultry feed and feed technology by Dr. Park Waldroup. Dr. Park Waldroup is a professor from the University of Arkansas and a leading poultry nutritionist. The seminar will also have regional speakers that will be able to showcase their latest work on DDGS poultry rations.