

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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Agricultural Situation

Market Development Reports

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Report Highlights:

TH0071 - This month learn about Thailand's new biodiesel requirements, public hearings on biotechnology, and information on upcoming events.

General Information:

HOT NEWS

Biodiesel Policy Implementation

According to the Department of Alternative Energy of the Ministry of Energy, the effective date to replace the use of B2 biodiesel with B3 biodiesel in Thailand is slated for June 1, 2010. This change will require an increase in supply of B100 from 1.8 million liters to 2.1 million liters/day which must be supplied by 52,000 tons of crude palm oil (CPO) in the second half of 2010 (June-December).

Biotechnology Public Hearings (Update)

On April 2, a government appointed environmental task force completed a series of six public hearings on its proposal to include biotechnology, along with other projects, as an activity that could pose potential danger to a community's well-being. The committee, chaired by former Prime Minister Anand Panyarachun, will review the comments obtained from the public meetings on May 4 and a final outcome is expected by the end of the month. Biotechnology stakeholders actively participated in these meetings providing comments in an effort to overturn this proposal.

MARKET OPPORTUNITIES

DVC Product Presentations

FAS/Bangkok can help facilitate digital video conference with Thai importers. Please contact us for more information at agbangkok@fas.usda.gov.

UPCOMING EVENTS

AHEC Exhibition in the Architect Show 2010

The American Hardwood Export Council is showcasing U.S. hardwood furniture prototypes, developed at the American Hardwood Design Camp II, at Architect Show 2010 in Bangkok on April 30 - May 5, 2010. The event is open to the public and visitors are able to appreciate the prototypes and discuss U.S. hardwood applications with a professional at AHEC's booth.

American Premium Wine Event in Thailand

On May 17, the US Embassy, FAS/Bangkok, and FEDEX will host the first-ever American Premium Wine Event in Bangkok. The event will be hosted at the Ambassador's Residence where guests will have the opportunity to taste high-end wines such as Staglin, Harlan, Bond, Costa Brown, Hudson, and Shramberg which will be paired along with fine American cuisine. For more information on this event please contact agbangkok@fas.usda.gov.

Thai Delegation to Participate High Level Policy Dialogue on Agricultural Biotechnology (HLPDAB)

Thailand will send a delegation to the 2010 HLDAB "Agriculture and the Role of Biotechnology in Mitigating and adapting to Climate Change" on May 28-30, 2010 in Sapporo, Japan. The delegation will be represented by Mr. Alongkorn Korntong, Director of the Office of Biotechnology Research and Development of the Department of Agriculture and Dr. Chanin Charoenpong, Senior Expert of the Food and Drug Administration of the Ministry of Health. In addition to the HLPDAB, they will participate in a roundtable discussion on low-level presence of biotech traits on May 27-28.

Thailand Celebrates 2010 International Year of Biodiversity

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment will hold a series of activities to celebrate the International year of Biodiversity in Thailand. These activities include a May 20-21 Biosecurity workshop at Rama Garden Hotel, an official launching event at the National Zoo in Chonburi on May 23 and the World Environment Day Exhibition and Workshop at the Impact Muang Thong Thani Center on June 4-5. The U.S. Embassy, along with FAS, will be participating in these events.

US Wheat Associates to Conduct Courses in Bangkok

On May 3 – June 11, US Wheat Associates will be conducting the 6-week Baking Science & Technology Short Course at UFM Baking School in Bangkok. Followed by the Cookie & Cracker Technology Course on July 12-30, 2010. Bakers from around the ASEAN region will attend these courses to learn the latest baking techniques.

Thai Importer Joining Summer Fancy Food Show

Food Export USA has selected Surasak Import Export Commercial to participate in its "Summer Fancy Food Buyers Mission" on June 24-29, 2010. Company representatives will attend the Summer Food Show (www.specialtyfood.com/fancy-food-show) June 27-29, 2010 at the Jacob K. Javits Convention Center in New York City, where they will meet with U.S. exporters of value-added products. More information about Food Export USA is available at www.foodexportusa.org.

Thaifex - World of Food Asia 2010 Rescheduled

World of Food Asia 2010 show has been postponed to June 30- July due to recent closures of major European airports and the Thai political crisis, which could significantly affect attendance. U.S. companies are committed to continue their participation in this event which includes Carmi Flavor & Fragrance, Jans Enterprises Corporation, and Healthee® USA. More information on the show is available at www.worldoffoodasia.com.

Natural Product Expo East 2010

Food Export USA has selected American-European Products Co., Ltd to participate in its "Natural Products Buyers Mission" in Boston, Massachusetts on October 11-17. Company representatives will

attend the Natural Product Expo East 2010 Show where they will meet with U.S. suppliers of natural, organic, and specialty foods. Information on the show can be accessed at www.expoeast.com.

Taste of America Promotion by Villa Market

Villa Market, one of Thailand's leading supermarkets, along with Food Export USA and U.S. Embassy in Bangkok will hold a promotional event, "Taste of America", at their 18 retail outlets in Bangkok, Phuket, Hua Hin, and Pattaya. This event will celebrate the new 19th outlet of Villa Market as well. The promotion will highlight new U.S. food and beverage products. Additional information about Villa Market is available at www.villamarket.com.