

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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Success Story of Borlaug Fellowship Program in Thailand

Report Categories:

Export Accomplishments - Other

Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety

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Report Highlights:

A 2016 Borlaug Fellowship Program Alumni has developed a dietary risk assessment spreadsheet that is now used in both the pesticide registration process and the establishment of pesticide maximum residue levels (MRLs). The use of this new tool has helped the Thai government defend their pesticide MRLs from challenges and has reduced the processing time for pesticide registration from 3 to 4 months to just 1 month.

General Information:

Borlaug Fellowship Program Leads to Quicker Pesticide Registration Process

Ms. Panpilad Saikaew, a Standards Officer for the Thai National Bureau of Agricultural Commodity and Food Standards (ACFS), was a Borlaug Fellow in 2016 under the theme of “Evaluation of Models to Improve Pesticide Dietary Risk Assessment in Thailand”. As a Standards Officer, Ms. Saikaew conducted the dietary risk assessment that was used to set pesticide MRLs and to register new pesticides. Prior to her joining the Borlaug program, dietary risk assessments had been a time consuming process that required multiple manual calculations. Using the knowledge that Ms. Saikaew gained through the Borlaug program, she constructed a dietary risk assessment spreadsheet that standardizes and speeds up the dietary risk assessment process. Her office uses this new spreadsheet to establish pesticide MRLs, to estimate pesticide dietary exposure, and to register new pesticides. This spreadsheet has reduced the processing time to register new pesticides from three to four months to just one month. This allows her office to facilitate trade while at the same time protecting Thai consumers. Additionally, ACFS has begun to use the dietary assessment spreadsheet to set default limits, which are used by ACFS when the MRL has not yet been defined. Previously, products without MRLs would have been banned for use. Finally, the knowledge Ms. Saikaew gained through the Borlaug program has benefited her when she is serving as a delegate or helping set Thailand’s position on the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues (CCPR).

The dietary risk assessment spreadsheet is just the first part of what Ms. Saikaew plans to do. Building on her Borlaug Fellowship training and the work she has already done, Ms. Saikaew wants to develop dietary models similar to the models used by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Ms. Saikaew is also exploring opportunities for collaboration with other agencies to develop more comprehensive databases to be used in dietary risk assessments.