

3rd May 2024

Strengthening Cooperation  
between the Governments of Japan and Thailand  
on Implementation of the ASEAN-Japan MIDORI Cooperation Plan,  
Facilitation of Agricultural and Fisheries Trade  
and Participation of International Horticultural EXPOs

The Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) of Japan and the Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives (MOAC) of the Kingdom of Thailand held a meeting in Bangkok on 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2024.

Various discussions on agricultural cooperation were made between the two ministers, especially on building resilient and sustainable agriculture and food system, facilitating agricultural and fisheries trade and participating in International Horticultural EXPOs.

The Ministers highlighted the importance of governments' efforts to build a resilient and sustainable agriculture and food system in the region and acknowledged the significance of the cooperation in implementing “ASEAN-Japan MIDORI Cooperation Plan,” which is in line with “Regional Guidelines for Sustainable Agriculture in ASEAN” and “Bio-Circular-Green Economy (BCG)” Model in Thailand.

The Ministers recognized that the projects, regarding the smart technology and innovation, to promote the reduction of environmental load and ecological impact, improve efficiency of farm management as well as increase productivity and yield and reduction of labor hours, were crucial for the resilient and sustainable agriculture and food system. The following projects would be implemented as the first priorities;

- (i) Contributing to the reduction of fertilizers through automatic plotting technology and soil diagnosis of farmland using satellite data
- (ii) Contributing to the increase of productivity and reduction of labor hours through automatic steering technology
- (iii) Promotion on smart irrigation system technology for fruits
- (iv) Activities to establish circular agriculture through public-private partnerships to train trainers to teach cultivation techniques and to utilize food residues as fertilizer.

The Ministers underscored the cruciality of agricultural and fisheries trade facilitation between the two countries in order to improve the livelihood and income of the people engaged in the agricultural, fisheries and food sector.

Furthermore, the Ministers emphasized the success of both sides in securing the A1 International Horticulture Expos that would be held in Yokohama (Japan) in 2027 and Korat (Nakhon Ratchasima, Thailand) in 2029, in which both ministers extended their invitations to the other governments to consider supporting and participating in the said events.

The Ministers underlined to cooperate with each other and provide the necessary support in their respective capacities to facilitate and implement the aforementioned issues.

The Ministers mandated high-level officials from both sides to further the discussions at the 14<sup>th</sup> JTEPA and the 4<sup>th</sup> HLCD meeting hosted by MOAC in June 2024.