

## THAI NEWS UPDATE:13 JULY 2021

### **1. Chia Tai's "Century Star" watermelon earns prestigious AAS Regional Winner Award in America**

**Source: Bangkok Post ([Link](#))**

Chia Tai Company Limited, Thailand's leading innovative agricultural company, takes great pride in not only delivering high-quality products to Thai farmers for over a century, but also gaining global trust and reputation. Most recently, Chia Tai's "Century Star" watermelon has won the internationally renowned All-America Selections® Regional Winner Award. Chia Tai has amassed a wealth of plant breeding know-how over the course of a century. In this regard, Century Star Watermelon is one of the results of meticulous research and development aimed at meeting market demand and adding value to the product, while also commemorating Chia Tai's Centennial.

### **2. Ministry ready for more mini-FTAs**

**Source: Bangkok Post ([Link](#))**

Thailand aims to clinch deals to form deeper trade partnerships through "mini-FTAs" with Hainan, China and Telangana, India by August after the country on Monday inked a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to form a mini free trade agreement (mini-FTA) with Kofu city in central Japan. Commerce Minister Jurin Laksanawisit, who presided over the MoU signing on Monday, said the government is also pursuing similar mini-FTAs with other places including Gyeonggi province in South Korea. "We are accelerating this partnership process with other states, as mini-FTA plans are a key policy the ministry is pursuing to boost trade, investment and economic cooperation," he said.

### **3. PTTGC set to acquire Allnex**

**Source: Bangkok Post ([Link](#))**

PTT Global Chemical Plc (PTTGC), Thailand's largest petrochemical producer by capacity, has made a 148.41-billion-baht deal to acquire Frankfurt-based Allnex Holding GmbH (Allnex) from Allnex Holdings Sarl, a global coating resin maker, to expand its production of high value-added products. The deal was made through PTTGC's wholly-owned subsidiary PTTGC International (Netherlands) BV (GC Inter BV), according to a report sent to the Stock Exchange of Thailand yesterday. The acquisition is part of PTTGC's plan to strengthen its business in the downstream petrochemical segment as it wants to depend less on the production of commodity grade polymers, which are traded in the highly competitive and fluctuating global market, said PTTGC chief executive Kongkrapan Intarajang.

#### **4. Tookdee set to expand exponentially**

**Source: Bangkok Post ([Link](#))**

TD Tawandang Co, the operator of Tookdee convenience stores, looks set to spend 67 billion baht to expand the number of its stores to 50,000 by 2023 from 1,000 stores at present. Of the total spending, 45 billion baht will be slated to build 15 new warehouses across the country to support the company's future expansion, said Sathien Setthasit, the company's chairman. The remaining 22 billion baht will be used on technology, inventory management, and sales promotion campaigns for 22,000 new Tookdee convenience stores which will open next year.

#### **5. Chula research team comes up with innovative, fast, accurate, affordable Covid-19 test kit**

**Source: The Nation ([Link](#))**

With Covid-19 cases soaring in Thailand, a research team from Chulalongkorn University has come up with “Covid-19 Scan” – an innovative test kit that is more than 98 per cent accurate. The team, led by Assoc Prof Dr Sanchai Payungporn from the Faculty of Medicine’s Department of Biochemistry, aimed to develop a kit that is convenient, fast, inexpensive and efficient. “Those worried that they are at risk of Covid-19 infection but do not qualify for a test at the hospital can opt for the Covid-19 Scan kit, which is comprehensive and fast. The Chulalongkorn research team aims to create these kits as a service for the public to have the easiest access to screening,” Sanchai said.

#### **6. Thai Start-Up Solving Fashion’s Waste Problem Beats Over 1,000 Applicants To Win Prestigious Seed Award**

**Source: The Nation ([Link](#))**

Thai start-up which helps solve the problem of industrial fashion waste by upcycling dead-stock fabrics, has on 13 July been hailed as one of the winners of the SEED Low Carbon Awards (SEED Awards). SEED was founded as part of a global partnership between the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).