

Thai News Update: 28 August 2020

1. Rice strategy to focus on yield, variety

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

The government wants to raise the average yield of domestic paddy production to 600 kilogrammes per rai by 2024 and focus more on premium-grade grains. Speaking on 27 August after a meeting of the working panel on rice strategy, Commerce Minister Jurin Laksanawisit said higher spending on R&D for rice seeds and variety are desperately needed to raise rice yields to 600kg per rai. Thailand allocates only 200 million baht a year to R&D on rice seed development, considerably lower than Vietnam, which splurges up to US\$100 million (3 billion baht) on its rice seed and variety development.

2. Govt agrees on charter path

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

Parties in the coalition government have agreed on a single version of a motion to initiate a constitutional amendment, which includes details of the formation of a panel which would write a new charter. The fate of the Senate is to be decided in the future. Chinnaworn Boonyakiat, deputy government chief whip, on Thursday said the version of the motion will be forwarded to parliament for approval after the Council of State, the government's team of legal advisers, finishes its review of its wording. The government-sponsored motion would allow the formation of a 200-member charter-drafting panel made up of 150 elected writers, the Democrat MP for Nakhon Si Thammarat said, adding senators, university presidents and the student movement would choose 50 others.

3. CPF pilots Thailand's new standard on cage-free farming practices

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

Charoen Pokphand Foods (CPF) is supporting Thailand's planned new standard on cage-free farming practices through a pilot project at Wang Somboon farm that will share knowledge with farmers on the humane raising of laying hens. Farming is integral to the operations of CPF, which focuses on animal welfare to deliver consumers safe food and address an increasing global demand for animal welfare products, said Somkid Wannalukkhee, CPF's senior vice president for egg business

4. High potential for Thai rubber glove makers to achieve greater market share

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

Thai manufacturers are capable of gaining 20 per cent of global market share in the rubber glove market, from the present 16 per cent, the Thai Rubber Glove Manufacturers Association said. Veerasith Sinchareonkul, the association chairman and the director of Sri Trang Gloves Thailand (STGT), explained that the gloves produced in Thailand were of high quality, meeting international standards, as well as having production capacity and marketing strength.

5. Thai fisheries alliance declares progress on sustainability

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

An alliance between the Thai fishery industry and the government has reported progress in its efforts to clean up Thailand's fishing sector. The Thai Sustainable Fisheries Roundtable (TSFR) said this week it is working on projects to develop sustainable fisheries in both the Andaman sea and the Gulf of Thailand. The European Union has slapped a yellow flag on Thai seafood exports, threatening penalties unless Thailand tackles its illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing problems.

6. UK and Asean launch economic relations with Covid recovery top of agenda

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

The UK launched formal economic ties with Asean on 26 August as economic ministers from all 10 members of the regional bloc met with the UK's top trade official. The UK-Asean Economic Dialogue 2020 was co-chaired by Asean Economic Community Minister Tran Tuan Anh of Vietnam and UK International Trade Secretary Liz Truss. The dialogue aims to further trade and bolster economic recovery efforts amid the Covid-19 pandemic. Truss said the meeting had discussed building a framework for economic collaboration between the UK and Asean.