



RAIN in August: Monthly Digest

Get updated with #thaiRAIN's recent outreach to farmers, agrifood businesses, and organizations. In August, we continued to progress in scaling up climate-smart innovations for Thailand's key economic crops and growing our network.

Let's get into the details...



A New Chapter for Thai Rice: #thaiRAIN Partners with Thai Rice Foundation

Rice is central to Thai agriculture and the people's way of life. The crop accounts for over half of the country's agricultural area and 65% of all farmer households, totaling more than 5 million.

#thaiRAIN is proud to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with the Thai Rice Foundation under Royal Patronage, a key step in bringing climate-smart solutions to Thai farmers. This partnership aims to teach the next generation of rice farmers about Climate-Smart Innovations (CSI), helping to reduce costs, increase yields, and lessen environmental and health impacts.

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#thaiRAIN Teams Up with TTDI to Enhance Cassava Production

Extreme droughts and floods, aggressive Cassava Mosaic Disease (CMD), and shortage of seed stems have limited Thailand's cassava productivity and plantation in recent years, despite the country accounting for one-fifth of worldwide cassava export sales and high global demand.

#thaiRAIN is delighted to have signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Thai Tapioca Development Institute (TTDI) to tackle climate challenges affecting Thailand's cassava farmers.

The new Memorandum of Understanding will provide training on climate-adaptive practices such as land preparation, irrigation, and innovative fertilizer use and expand access to CMD-resistant cassava varieties, improving crop yields and seed quality. This collaboration aims to support over 500,000 cassava-growing households and advance Thailand's cassava industry.



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DOA and Winrock Discussed Collaboration at D.C. Home Office

thaiRIAN is very excited that Mr. Rapibhat Chandarasrivongs, Director General of Thailand's Department of Agriculture, visited Winrock International's Home Office in Washington D.C.

This second meeting, which follows an initial meeting with Dr. Theerawut Chutinanthakun, DOA's Director of Greenhouse Gas in Agricultural Research Group, held in RAIN's Bangkok office in early August, is expected to cement our future partnerships.

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thaiRAIN to Help DOAE Leverage Digital and Drone Technologies

To help Thai farmers deal with climate change, labor shortages, and rising production costs, the Department of Agricultural Extension (DOAE) is actively promoting drone, digital, and data technology to advance smart farming.

ThaiRIAN is pleased to have recently met with DOAE to talk about potential areas of our collaboration. Ms. Duangsamon Pruttikul, Director of the Plant Protection and Soil Fertility Promotion Division,



chaired the meeting, which also included representatives from Kasetsart University's Faculty of Engineering and the Thai Agricultural Innovation Trade Association.

It highlighted technologies such as VR training for farmers, drones, and big data for crop monitoring.

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#thaiRAIN Supports Innovative Fertilizer Initiative for Sustainable Rice Farming

#thaiRAIN is thrilled to announce its first grant to PWS System Evolution, a key player in northeastern Thailand's rice trade. This grant of \$2,406 will fund a pilot program introducing soil test kits and the "Miximizer" mobile fertilizer mixer to 250 rice farmers in Nakhon Ratchasima, Chaiyaphum, Khon Kaen, and Ubon Ratchathani. In partnership with Livelihoods Venture, the program will also provide essential training. By utilizing customized fertilizers, farmers will reduce chemical risks, lower costs, and enhance crop yields while minimizing environmental impact. This initiative aims to foster a shift towards sustainable agriculture, with plans to expand to 2,000 farmers by 2027,



including new regions such as Roi Et and Yasothon.

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#thaiRAIN Collaborates with DOA on Greenhouse Gas Reduction

Thailand's Department of Agriculture (DOA) and thaiRAIN have launched a collaboration to tackle greenhouse gas emissions. The initial meeting highlighted eight potential areas of cooperation, including a greenhouse gas reduction program for six crops with Winrock International and enhancing the "3R" approach for reducing agricultural burning. This partnership aims to innovate practices, promote carbon credit programs, and advance the ASEAN-Climate Resilient Network. Dr. Theerawut Chutinanthakun from the DOA presented strategies for model farms and sustainable practices to support Thailand's Net-Zero goal.

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#thaiRAIN Engages Youth on Climate Change and Agriculture

William Sparks, Chief of Party at #thaiRAIN, led a thought-provoking discussion with 30 finalists at a youth pitching competition, addressing the impacts of climate change on agriculture and the importance of supporting farmers. This session, part of the 4th International Conference on Environment, Livelihood, and Services (ICELS2024), aimed to connect climate challenges with food safety and production. The event, organized by The Chaipattana Foundation, Kasetsart University, and the Royal Laem Phak Bia Project, benefits from #thaiRAIN's technical input and documentation.

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RAIN and Mitr Phol Group Discuss Climate-Smart Innovations

#thaiRAIN joins our key partner, Mekong Institute, in holding a discussion session for its annual “Mekong Forum” which aims at sharing knowledge and practices for sustainable development in the Greater Mekong Subregion. With the theme “Digital Horizons: Scaling up Digitalization, Innovation, and Technology



in the GMS,” participants discussed the role of digital technology in development. #thaiRAIN has set up a booth to showcase agrifood’s climate-smart innovations under collaboration with our partners.

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#thaiRAIN Explores Innovative Soil Solutions with BIOM

RAIN recently engaged with BIOM, a biotech spin-off from Chulalongkorn University, to discuss their groundbreaking approach to reducing chemical pesticide and fertilizer use. BIOM is testing a microbial powder that effectively breaks down harmful residues in soil, promoting healthier plant growth even in contaminated areas. The trial demonstrated improved crop resilience and yield. BIOM’s versatile products, including soil solutions and seedling treatments, aim to cut costs and environmental impact while enhancing crop quality and compatibility with both organic and traditional farming methods.

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RAIN Launches First Annual Performance Survey with New Partners

RAIN is partnering with RISE International Consulting LLC and Rapid Asia to conduct our inaugural performance survey. We're excited to gather valuable insights from farmers in northeastern Thailand.



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Empowering Farmers and New Collaborations

PWS, a #thaiRAIN partner, recently conducted mobile training for rain-fed rice farmers in Khon Kaen on soil testing and fertilizer customization using "Miximizer," setting the stage for more sustainable rice production. RAINmakers also met with Mitr Phol Group to explore partnerships on climate-smart innovations and greenhouse gas reduction. Additionally, RAIN is partnering with RISE International Consulting LLC and Rapid Asia to launch our first annual performance survey, gathering insights from northeastern Thai farmers. We also had a productive discussion with the NorthEast Tapioca Trade Association (NETTA) about scaling innovations for cassava farmers, with a special event planned soon.

[See more](#)



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#thaiRAIN is supported by U.S. Department of Agriculture Foreign Agricultural Service, and implemented by Winrock International.