



USDA #thaiRAIN in November

In November, USDA #ThaiRAIN was honored to present “99 Mai Pao” campaign which demonstrates the use of microbial solutions to decompose rice stubbles and develop model farmers with the Chaipattana Foundation and Thai Rice Foundation under the Royal Patronage. The announcement of the campaign was made in front of Her Royal Highness Maha Chakri Sirindhorn at the International Conference on Environment Livelihood and Services (ICELS) 2024. We joined U.S. Consulate General Chiang Mai’s parade for the traditional Loy Krathong festival, promoting no-burn campaigns and also wrapped the community-level session under Chi River No-Burn campaign in Roi Et Province. We worked closely with the Department of Agriculture and the Thai Rice Department to scale microbial solutions and other climate-smart innovations and signed

an MoU with Mahidol University, focusing on their excellence in horticulture, particularly durian.

Let's get into the details...



USDA #thaiRAIN Presents “99 Mai Pao” Initiative at ICELS 2024

On November 19, Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn presided over the 4th International Conference on the Environment, Livelihoods, and Services (ICELS) in Bangkok. USDA #thaiRAIN was extremely honored to present its **“99 Mai Pao” (99 No Burn)** initiative, a collaboration with the Chaipattana Foundation, the Thai Rice Foundation under the Royal Patronage, and Winrock International, aiming to reduce PM 2.5 haze from burning. This initiative will also improve farmers’ productivity and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The project will establish nine microbial solution demonstration plots and train 99 lead farmers to promote sustainable practices. ICELS

fosters international collaboration to address environmental challenges, with this year's focus on sustainable solutions inspired by royal initiatives.

[Read more](#)

#thaiRAIN Partners with The Chaipattana Foundation

#thaiRAIN is thrilled to team up with The Chaipattana Foundation to launch no-burn promotion sites, using microbial solutions. A special thanks to the Thai Rice Foundation under the Royal Patronage for its initiative in helping farmers become community influencers.



[Read more](#)

#thaiRAIN Joins Loy Krathong Festival in Chiang Mai

USDA #thaiRAIN participated in the Loy Krathong parade at Tha Phae Gate with U.S. Consul General Lisa Buzenas and her staff. RAINmakers, dressed in traditional attire, carried “No-Burn” and #thaiRAIN Lanna flags, celebrating this vibrant festival with locals and tourists.



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#thaiRAIN Wraps Up No-Burn Sessions in Roi Et

USDA #thaiRAIN completed its final session in Thung Khao Luang, Roi Et, as part of the Chi River No-Burn initiative, which covers key off-season rice producer provinces of Khon Kaen, Kalasin, and Maha Sarakham. Farmers were encouraged to replace burning with microbial treatments to decompose rice stubble, reducing smog and fertilizer costs. Led by Dr. Krailert Taweekul, #thaiRAIN's consultant and local officials, the session emphasized the environmental and financial benefits of change.

Next: Demonstration plots and model farmers to inspire community adoption



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#thaiRAIN Partners with Mahidol University for Durian Grower Innovations

USDA #thaiRAIN has signed an MoU with Mahidol University, marking a promising



beginning in scaling innovations for durian growers. This partnership leverages MU's expertise in research and development to drive agricultural progress.

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#thaiRAIN Leads Discussion at GMS Ministers' Meeting

USDA #thaiRAIN and experts hosted a forum at the 3rd Greater Mekong Subregion Ministers' Meeting in Kunming, China. Joining Nikhom Ruamsit, our field technical specialist, are Dr. Wichien Yongmanitchai, a leading expert in microbiology; Bond Thaiyanurak, CEO and co-founder of Agrimomo Dr. Krailert Taweekul from Khon Kaen University and leaders of the "Chi-River no burn" project, and Ratchada Meethonglang, farmer agent in Khon Kaen.



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#thaiRAIN Collaborates with the Rice Department on Farmer Innovations

USDA #thaiRAIN and Wankaew Innovate met with Mr. Arnon Nonsiri, Deputy Director-General of the Rice Department, to discuss knowledge-sharing initiatives



for farmers. We're promoting innovations like microbial solutions, customized fertilizers, controlled-release nitrogen, and drone services to boost productivity, reduce environmental impacts, and improve market access.

[See more](#)

#thaiRAIN Explores Collaboration with DOA for Sustainable Farming

#thaiRAIN visited the Department of Agriculture (DOA) lab, where microbial solutions are developed to enrich soil and decompose rice straw—offering an alternative to burning. Exciting discussions are underway to scale this innovation to farmers.



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#thaiRAIN at SRP Conference: Empowering Smallholder Farmers

#thaiRAIN and the RAINmakers were at the UN Convention Center in Bangkok for the Sustainable Rice Platform (SRP) annual conference, presenting climate-smart innovations to over 250 attendees. Our goal is to connect with more partners



to scale these innovations and empower smallholder farmers.

It was a great day of technical exchange as we hosted a panel discussing innovations that support smallholder farmers, advancing sustainability in rice production.

[See more](#)

#thaiRAIN Discusses Drone Adoption with Ministry of Agriculture Officials

Rainmaker Phonlapat Amornrattanaket recently met with Ministry of Agriculture officials, including Mr. Chaisak Rinklun, Mr. Thawon Thamkorn, and Mr. Sirirak Phlai Kaew, to explore increasing Thai farmers' adoption of drones and other innovations. Together, we aim to integrate these innovations into Thailand's agricultural promotion efforts, helping farmers adapt to and mitigate climate change.

[See more](#)



#thaiRAIN Showcases Climate-Smart Innovations at Thailand Space Week 2024

#thaiRAIN joined GITSDA and partners to showcase satellite-based solutions at Thailand Space Week 2024. In collaboration with ListenField, we demonstrated a soil scanner using near-infrared light to analyze soil properties like pH, nutrients, clay, and moisture—empowering farmers to manage crops more efficiently and affordably. ListenField’s satellite technology also tracks open-field burning, analyzing intensity and areas affected. This innovation will play a key role in evaluating the impact of our “Chi-River No Burn” campaign.



[Read more](#)

If you have any comments or feedback about the newsletters, please feel free to let us know!

#thaiRAIN is supported by the U.S. Department of Agriculture - Food for Progress Program and implemented by Winrock International.