



## **USDA #thaiRAIN in December**

*Get the Latest on USDA #thaiRAIN's Recent Activities*

*In December, USDA #thaiRAIN hosted a forum that brought together experts in agrifood innovations to share their insights and comments on two studies conducted by Michigan State University. One study reviews thaiRAIN's audit process for climate-smart innovations using evidence panels together with experts' audits. The other focuses on the structure of a permanent agrifood innovation hub. We appreciate the interactive participation of all attendees from various sectors. #thaiRAIN conducted an event to deliver the Drone Standard Operating Process Manual and discussions. This move will serve as a foundation for our support extended to partners, aiming to increase the number of certified sprayers and improve access for farmers. We also approved a grant to support the IoT Smart Farm system aimed at enhancing the number of local technicians. In addition, we are developing a plan to scale solutions for new Cassava Mosaic Disease-resistant stems and trackers to combat CMD effectively.*

*Let's get into the details...*



### **#thaiRAIN Drives AgTech Innovation for Thai Farmers**

USDA #thaiRAIN brought together over 40 representatives from various sectors to discuss scaling climate-smart innovations for Thai farmers. Michigan State University presented two studies for their comments. One is a review of the project's innovation audit by experts and evidence panel reviews. The other is on the concept of a permanent Agrifood innovation hub. #thaiRAIN prioritizes nine innovations, including microbial solutions, smart fertilizer, customized fertilizer, controlled-release nitrogen drone, IoT smart farm system, cassava tracker, disease-resistant cassava stems, and straw management.

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## #thaiRAIN Launches Drone Spraying SOP to Empower Thai Farmers

USDA #thaiRAIN, in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture and the Thai Agricultural Innovation Trade Association, launched the Drone Spraying Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) Manual to improve drone usage among Thai farmers. The manual outlines best practices for preparation, chemical mixing, spraying, and post-spray procedures, setting high industry standards. #ThaiRAIN will further support the initiative through training programs to certify drone operators and an online marketplace to connect farmers with certified services. The program is committed to strengthening infrastructure and fostering a climate-smart innovation ecosystem in Thai agriculture.

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## Advancing Smart Farming: USDA #thaiRAIN's Latest Initiative

USDA #thaiRAIN is advancing IoT-enabled smart farming by supporting S.K. Smart Farm & Garden Co. with a grant to train technicians and assist farmers in adopting these systems. The initiative



includes demonstrating precise irrigation for durian growers in Chantaburi Province, empowering smallholder farmers with tools to enhance yields and sustainability. This effort aligns with #thaiRAIN's mission to promote climate-smart innovations, addressing challenges like installation and maintenance while paving the way for resilient agriculture.

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### **#thaiRAIN at ASEAN+3: Advancing Climate Action**

#thaiRAIN joined the International Conference on ASEAN+3 Carbon Action, hosted by Kasetsart University, to discuss policies for climate change mitigation and adaptation. Participating in the panel “Policy Driven Towards Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation,” #thaiRAIN highlighted strategies for sustainable greenhouse gas reduction. The event fostered collaboration among policymakers, researchers, and practitioners, emphasizing innovative solutions and regional cooperation to address climate challenges, paving the way for a resilient and sustainable ASEAN+3 future.

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## **USDA #thaiRAIN Advances Cassava Innovation: New CMD-Resistant Varieties Presented to Thai Agricultural Leaders**

USDA #thaiRAIN Technical Director Chanakan Kupachaka recently presented to Mr. Peerapan Korthong, Director-General of the Department of Agricultural Extension, about seed trackers and new cassava varieties that are resistant to Cassava Mosaic Disease. Cassava is one of Thailand's most important crops for over 500,000 smallholder farming households. Thailand is the exporter of most cassava worldwide for animal feeds, consumption, and raw materials. The spread of CMD and lack of disease-free stems have affected the cassava yields.



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## **#thaiRAIN Collaborates with Cassava Experts to Combat CMD and Secure Thailand's Agricultural Future**

#thaiRAIN Technical Director Chanakan Kupachaka recently discussed with Thailand's leading cassava experts, including the developer of KU50, a crucial cassava variety for the country. Currently, we are working together to promote resistant varieties as a sustainable solution to address the challenge of Cassava Mosaic Disease. Our shared goal is to protect farmers' livelihoods and ensure a resilient future for Thailand's cassava industry.

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## **Exploring Agtech Partnerships: #thaiRAIN Visits Urmatt Ltd.'s Sustainable Rice Nursery in Chiang Rai**

It was a pleasure to visit the lush rice nursery of Urmatt Ltd., a firm dedicated to sustainable rice farming, in Chiang Rai. We discussed potential collaborations to scale many Agtechs and innovative use of rice straw that can improve smallholder farmers' sustainable practices.

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## #thaiRAIN Explores GPS Technology for Efficient Land Leveling

On December 18, 2024, USDA #thaiRAIN participated in the "Land Leveling with GPS Technology" workshop, exploring advanced AgTech solutions to address uneven rice fields. Hosted by HRDI, CRRRC, the Pa Tueng Subdistrict Administrative Organization, and GIZ, the event highlighted the benefits of GPS technology for improving water management, pest control, and crop yield. #ThaiRAIN also met with HRDI and CRRRC to discuss future collaboration on land leveling and sustainable farming practices.



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## #thaiRAIN Visits KU Radio: Empowering Farmers Through Media

#thaiRAIN recently visited KU Radio at Kasetsart University, an innovative platform that has been sharing agricultural knowledge since 1960. The visit emphasized the importance of collaboration between media and agriculture to support farmers with valuable information. #ThaiRAIN looks forward to future partnerships with KU Radio to expand the reach of agricultural



innovations and provide farmers with the tools for sustainable farming.

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### **#thaiRAIN Connects with Ag Journalism Experts to Amplify Climate-Smart Innovations**

#thaiRAIN's Outreach and Communications Department recently met with veteran agricultural journalists from [www.kasetkaoklai.com](http://www.kasetkaoklai.com) to explore collaboration opportunities. The insightful meeting, featuring top journalists and former editors from Thailand's leading agricultural newspaper, provided valuable insights to help #ThaiRAIN scale climate-smart innovations. This collaboration marks the start of a productive partnership to strengthen outreach and promote sustainable agricultural practices.



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