

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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Report Categories:

Agricultural Situation

Market Development Reports

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Report Highlights:

TH1026 "SAWASDEE THAILAND" provides the latest information on Thai agricultural situation, market access for U.S. products, and upcoming events.

General Information:

HOT NEWS

FAS/Bangkok Forecast of Palm Oil Shortfall Turns Out

On August 2010, FAS/Bangkok forecasted that Thailand would encounter insufficient palm oil supplies (see GAIN Report [TH0114](#)) if it didn't change its import regime on palm oil and if the Government remained steadfast in requiring compulsory use of B5. By January, the Thai Government faced criticism due to widespread shortages of palm oil in market shelves. This prompted the Cabinet to authorize imports of 30,000 metric tons of crude palm olein for January and another 120,000 metric tons for February. Additionally, the Ministry of Energy interceded in postponing the full implementation of its biodiesel policy by delaying the compulsory use of B5 and requested petroleum oil refineries to adjust their B3 production to B2 during March-April 2011. This development was reported in [GAIN Report \(TH1021\)](#).

Results of the APEC High Level Policy Dialogue on Agricultural Biotechnology (HLPDAB)

APEC HLPDAB meeting was held in Washington, D.C. from February 28 – March 2. This meeting focused the role agricultural biotechnology can play in addressing food security and climate change challenges, such as addressing the rapid growth in demand for food products due to rising population and incomes, and research in this area can increase water use efficiency and reduce the use of chemicals. The United States relinquished the Chair of the Policy Dialogue after ten years of leadership, but would stay fully committed in APEC supporting the continuing work of agricultural biotechnology. Russia, which will be APEC's host in 2012, will become the new Chair.

MARKET ACCESS UPDATE

Export Accomplishment for U.S. Seed Potatoes in the Thai Market

On January 4, 2011, after negotiations between the Thai Department of Agriculture (DOA) and APHIS and FAS/Bangkok, DOA issued its notification on the eligibility of ten additional U.S. states to export seed potatoes. In addition to California, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington, the new states that are now eligible to export seed potatoes include Colorado, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, New York, North Dakota, Wisconsin, and Wyoming. This development was reported in [GAIN Report \(TH1018\)](#).

Update on Audits of U.S. Breeding Chicks, and Bovine and Boar Semen Facilities

The Thai Government required individual facility audits to be completed by December 31, 2010 for breeding chicks, bovine semen, and boar semen, however the results of audits for breeding chicks have yet to be finalized and the bovine and boar semen audits are pending by the Thai DLD. Nonetheless on February 23, 2011, in a meeting with APHIS/Bangkok, the DLD manifested that due to their delay

they would still allow the unabated trade for the breeding chicks' facilities that underwent the audits, and the facilities of bovine and boar semen that are pending.

Updated List of Color Additives Permitted to Thailand is Available On-Line

The Office of Agricultural Affairs has updated a list of food and color additives which use is permitted in Thailand. The list is available at [GAIN Report: Food Additives – Coloring Permitted in Thailand](#). The report also includes the relevant ministerial notifications on food additives and the set maximum amounts for each color additive to be used in specific food products.

MARKET OPPORTUNITIES

Looking for U.S. Manufacturers or Suppliers

Thai companies want to import:

Malt extract 5-8 tons per month, if U.S. exporters are interested please contact Ms. Phornvimol Charuthanawat, Mintana Co., Ltd., Email: phornvimol@mintana.com.

Corn gluten meal (USA origin) 500 MT and wheat flour (feed grade) 1000 MT per month, if U.S. exporters are interested please contact Mr. Roy Bartlam, Fairway (Thailand) Co., Ltd., Email roy@fairway-thailand.com.

Lactose 200 MESH about 400 MT for trial order, if U.S. exporters are interested please contact Mr. Saisit Chatametikul, Director of Maxway Co., Ltd., Email: Saisit@maxway.co.th.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Annual U.S. Fruit Importers and Distributors Reception

The Office of Agricultural Affairs, the California Table Grape Commission, and the Washington Apple Commission will host "U.S. Fruit Importers and Distributors Reception" on March 10 at the Novotel Bangkok Fenix Ploenchit Hotel. The reception will be a networking opportunity amongst U.S. fruit importers, wholesalers, and retailers to exchange views and also as an appreciation of their continued support of the U.S. fruit business in Thailand, which has more than doubled from \$15 million in 2004 to \$33 million in 2010. Leading exports are apples, California grapes and cherries.

USW's Overseas Varietal Analysis Program in Bangkok

The U.S. Wheat Associates (USW) will conduct the Overseas Varietal Analysis (OVA) program at the UFM Baking Center in Bangkok from March 28 – April 1, 2011. The participants are seven quality control managers from flour mills in Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, and Thailand. Various classes of wheat will be analyzed through numerous flour samples, the results are critical to the U.S. wheat breeding industry in order to specifically target varieties which traits are valued in the SE Asian market. In addition, participants will receive technical training in bakery analysis and quality

evaluation, and will be able to review the quality aspects deemed important in other markets in the region. For more information on U.S. Wheat Associates visit www.uswheat.org.

The Southern United States Trade Association Joining World of Food Asia 2011

On May 25-29, the Southern United States Trade Association (SUSTA) will join World of Food Asia, Thailand's premier international trade show in the food and beverage industry. The show will be held at the IMPACT Exhibition Center, Bangkok. SUSTA will be promoting U.S. food products from the Southern US, any U.S. company interested in participating with SUSTA should contact Ms. Marisol Rodriguez, Florida Department of Agriculture at Marisol.Rodriguez@freshfromflorida.com, Tel: (850) 488-4132 or Ms. Shehzin Jafar, Georgia Department of Agriculture at Shehzin.Jafar@agr.georgia.gov, Tel: (404) 656-3740. Information is available at www.worldoffoodasia.com.

Food Ingredients Asia 2011

Food Ingredients Asia will be held in Bangkok again this year during September 21-23, 2011. The show has maintained its position as the leading international trade event for food ingredients. In 2009, the show consisted of 130 exhibitors from 20 countries and 6,225 visitors from 45 countries. This year the following organizations will be joining the U.S. pavilion: Western United States Trade Association (WUSATA), U.S. Dry Pea and Lentil Council, U.S. Dairy Export Council, and U.S. Potato Board. The FI Asia show is a USDA-endorsed show. Any U.S. company interested in participating should contact Sharon Cook at Sharon.Cook@fas.usda.gov. Additional information about this show can be found at <http://fiasia-thailand.ingredientsnetwork.com/>.