

Opening Address

by

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Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Cooperative
Royal Thai Government

on

Expert Consultation on “Coconut Sector Development in Asia and the Pacific Region”

30th October -01st November 2013
Bangkok, Thailand

His Excellency
Mr. Hiroyuki Konuma, ADG, FAO
Respected participants
Dear colleagues

Good morning to you all!

First of all I would like to inform you that due to state pre-occupations, His Excellency Minister and Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, are unable to attend this honored occasion and hence, I have been asked to speak as representative of them.

On behalf of the Royal Thai Government, I would like to welcome you all to this expert consultation and thank you very much for being here.

As we all know. Coconut is an important crop for all of us and it is an ideal crop in the pacific countries. This crop fits into the culture and the physical environment of our regions. Hundreds of millions of people consume coconut and coconut products every day. It is widely called the “tree of life” for its various important roles.

Dear participants,

Considering the importance of this crop, we believe this consultation is very time appropriate. I would like to thank FAO for organizing this event in Thailand as the Government of Thailand will also be benefitted from the outcomes of the three-day exercise. My personal understanding is that success of this consultation will largely depend on how we can develop a regional strategy to ensure optimal utilization of all components of the coconut tree in order to maximize its value and improve returns. It means we have to take into account value chain approach for speedy development of our coconut sector.

As far as Thailand is concerned, we still has a lot to undertake in order to improve the situation in this sector. Our productivity is low and most of the trees are old. Our scientists have been working hard to increase productivity and production of coconut within the shortest possible time. I am hopeful that the recommendations of this meeting will be very useful for us to revise our coconut sector development programmed, wherever appropriate.

Finally, I would like to thank FAO for inviting MOAC to open this consultation and wish success of this event.

I also wish you all a pleasant stay in Bangkok.

Thank you once again.