



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THAILAND
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

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Opening remarks

by

H.E. Dr. Suriya Chindawongse

**Ambassador and Permanent Representative
of the Kingdom Thailand to the United Nations**

at the Celebration of World Soil Day 2022

UNHQ, New York, 15 December 2022

Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. I would like to warmly welcome everyone to the celebration of World Soil Day 2022 and express my appreciation to the support by our friend from Namibia, as well as the Food and Agriculture Organization, the UN Convention on Combat Desertification.

2. Soil is a finite resource, covering only 22 percent of the earth's land surface, but soil is the source of 95% of the world's food. As the world is facing food insecurity from the triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution, this year's theme of "Soil: where food begins" could not be more relevant.

3. Thailand is world-renowned for our flavourful culinary delights with dishes like Pad Thai and Tom Yum Kung. But all of this is only possible because of one simple fact – Thailand is fortunate to enjoy an abundance and diversity of agricultural produce. As one of the world's largest food producers and the 13th largest food exporter, Thailand attaches great importance to the 3S policy which consists of food safety, security and sustainability, and believes that **sustainable soil management is one of the main solutions to ensure sustainable and resilient food system.**

Excellencies,

4. For the Thai people, the 5th of December is our National Day and the Birthday Anniversary of our beloved King, His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej The Great, whose **lifelong achievements reflect a true dedication and advocacy for sustainable development, which prominently features soil management,** among others.

5. In his lifetime, His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej The Great initiated more than 4,000 development projects for the betterment of the Thai people's livelihoods, all of which were based firmly in his philosophy of **Sufficiency Economy Philosophy and the New Theory** which seeks to foster balanced and sustainable living through sustainable management of soil and water. This, in turn, allows farmers and small-scale land owners to holistically manage their lands while living harmoniously with nature and within society as they can rely on locally sourced produce for sustenance, even in the face of economic hardship.

6. His Majesty's most prominent royal project includes **crop diversification**, which sustains soil health, preventing farmers from planting a single crop while eliminating all other vegetation and upsetting the natural balance of the ecosystem. Diversification not only protects farmers from fickle markets, but also allows them to maintain sufficient food for consumption in their household and community.

7. In view of the importance of sustaining harmony with nature, Thailand has built on the principles of the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy and has pursued the **Bio-Circular-Green (BCG) Economy Model** which creates the much-needed balance between human and nature, thus ensuring human security while protecting the planet.

Excellencies,

8. With us today are this year's laureates of the King Bhumibol World Soil Day Award and the Glinka Award from whom you will hear practical perspective on how they promote sustainable soil management through their initiatives.

9. To conclude, we thank you for your interest in World Soil Day. I believe the celebration of this year World Soil Day will foster greater awareness and understanding on the importance of soil and its contribution to attaining SDGs as we are close to half way of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

10. Thank you.
