

Thailand's Annual International Training Courses (AITC) 2017

“Sufficiency Economy – From Theory and Practices to Standardization”

I Course Title: Sufficiency Economy – From Theory and Practices to Standardization
(Priority for ACMECS Member Countries)

II Duration: 4-23 December 2017

III Closing date for application: 20 October 2017

IV Background and Rationale

Sufficiency Economy Philosophy (SEP) was introduced in 1974 by His Majesty the late King Bhumibol Adulyadej, as an approach for sustainable development which espouses moderation, reasonableness and prudence as development framework based on knowledge and virtue. Thousands of His Majesty's royal initiated development projects base on application of the SEP concept. The successful application of SEP attracted national attention especially after the financial crisis in 1997. At the individual level, SEP can be applied as a life guidance that reminds of risk management in our everyday pursuit of economic growth. A number of farmers had opted to follow His Majesty's “**New Theory of Agriculture**” which is a sustainable farming practice based on SEP. The New Theory guides farmers out of a monoculture practice towards an integrated and sustainable agricultural system. Several villages have also been working with the Community Development Department to adopt SEP as their development strategy. Increasing number of successful cases of SEP application can be seen in many areas of sustainable development. Some of the more prominent applications include poverty eradication, food security, sustainable economic growth, sustainable industrialization and sustainable consumption and production.

This course aims at offering insights and practical knowledge on how SEP, through the New Theory, can be applied to achieve sustainable agricultural development in the current economic system using Chiang Rai province as a case study. The New Theory aims at creating sustainable agriculture and self-reliant community development. To apply the New Theory, farmers as well as communities are advised to follow three steps/phases.

Phase I : Farmland Division for Optimum Benefits

Phase II : Communal Agriculture

Phase III : Loan and Credit Outreach

Chiang Rai presents an interesting case as several healthy connections have been established between the community application of SEP and the market, The province also hosts a number of SEP-led institutions and enterprises such as;

- “Mahavijalaya of Buddhist Economics” offers a lifelong learning curriculum, called “Farmer School”, for those interested in organic farming. Led by the Venerable V. Vajiramedhi, the school organizes classes over the weekends for duration of one year on good agricultural practices. The graduated farmers usually gain guaranteed access to market for their organic produces.
- “Hilltribe Organics”, a social enterprise based in Wiang Chai, is a producer of organic free-range eggs. The produce enjoys a premium status in the market due to its rigorous work on traceability.
- “MiVana” is another social enterprise that adopts a participatory auditing approach to secure funding from private investors and premium prices for its organic, fair-trade, shade-grown coffee in Chiang Rai.

Moreover, a network called “Chiang Rai: City of Food Safety” is also formed to encourage hotels and restaurants to work with their local suppliers including SEP-led villages, for guaranteed standard but lower cost products and services.

V Objectives

The course is design to:

- Provide basic understanding of SEP concepts and the three phases of development according to the New Theory.
- Provide practical knowledge on key requirements for different market standards such as good agricultural practice (GAP), organic farming, food safety, and fair trade.
- Share experiences among participating countries on rural development, community-based management of natural resources and standardization of grass-root products.

VI Course Contents

Course Outline

Module 1: Fundamentals of Sufficiency Economy Philosophy

- 1.1 The Philosophy and its Three Pillars
- 1.2 The New Theory and its Three Development Phases

Module 2: Relevancy of Sufficiency Economy Philosophy

- 2.1 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- 2.2 Traceability and green supply-chain management

Module 3: Market Standards and Auditing

- 3.1 Good Agricultural Practice (GAP)
- 3.2 Organic farming
- 3.3 Food safety
- 3.4 Fair trade

Module 4: Organization following Sufficiency Economy Philosophy

4.1 Community-based management

4.2 Network management

Study Trips

- Mae Fah Luang University's: green university initiatives and manufacturing workshop of soil from organic residues with earthworms
- Mahavijalaya of Buddhist Economics: weekend class of the Farmer School and workshop on organic farming
- MiVana Coffee plantation or Hilltribe Organics: workshop on auditing and traceability
- Baan Phong Srinakorn's Learning Center: workshop on community-based management of natural and waste resources (3Rs)

Country Report

Participants are required to submit a country report outlines the rural development policies and best practices in their respective countries and territories and prepare for 15 minutes presentation.

VII Number of Participants: 20 persons (Priority for ACMECS Member Countries)

VIII Qualifications

Candidates must possess qualifications as specified in "Guideline for Thailand's Annual International Training Course Programme" No. 2 "Qualifications" as well as following qualifications;

- policy maker, government official, community leader, owner or manager of social enterprises and member of the academia in relevant fields are preferred;
- Age between 30-50 years old;
- At least five years work experiences in relevant fields.

IX Application

- Nomination must be made by central government agencies in charge of nomination of national candidates (such as Ministry of Foreign Affairs) or by relevant central government agencies for which the nominated candidates currently work. Nomination must be in line with relevant rules and regulations of the nominating countries/territories.
- Each eligible countries/territories are invited to nominate up to two (2) candidates per course.

- The application must be submitted to TICA through the Royal Thai Embassy/ Permanent Mission of Thailand to the United Nations/ Royal Thai Consulate-General accredited to eligible countries/territories. (See “List of Eligible Countries/Territories”)

For more information on qualifications, application forms, and application procedures, please visit our website at <http://www.tica.thaigov.net/main/en/information/73803-Annual-International-Training-Course.html>

X Evaluation

- Participants are required to attend all activities organized during the course as attendance in all sessions is obligatory. TICA reserves the rights to revoke its fellowship offer or take appropriate action deemed appropriate in case a participant is in attendance of less than 90 percent of the training hours.
- Group presentation will be assigned.

XI Training Institution and Venue:

Mae Fah Luang University
Thasud, Muang,
Chaing Rai, Thailand

XII Contact

For more information, please contact;
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