



Food Security and Food Supply in Thailand

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Preface

Food security and supply are main topics which every international organization and state give important these development process to promote peace, stability, and security for environment, economic, and society in the 21st century. This writing is the part of my Bachelor Thesis in Political Science International Development at Portland State University. In that time, many countries all round the world discussed about global sustainable development way a lot inside the international community, such as the United Nations and ASEAN.

Therefore, I wrote my Political Science Thesis on Thailand food and agricultural development because I would like to let all global readers know that Thailand is the most successful state on food and sustainable agricultural programs in Asia and the world. This nation will bring the planet to have more prosperity. Thailand is the best case study for other developed and developing countries to learn and acknowledge. This nation shows the world that some alternative development decisions, such as Sufficiency Economy and New Theory, are a good way to solve problems on extreme poverty and climate change. In that time, I read a lot of the King Bhumibhol the Great development projects on food security program in many remote areas. King Bhumibhol the Great inspired me to write this political science thesis before I graduated in 2018.

In that time, I also worked for Secretary of Portland State Thai Student Organization (PSUTSO). During I worked for this organization, I gave some information about Thailand Royal Development and Sufficiency Economy to American and foreigner by made Powerpoint Presentation to them. These decisions helped me to shape my knowledge on Thailand food policy program and persuaded me to keep write the thesis for undergraduate degree.

I would like to give this thesis to support Thai and foreigner audience on development perspective. I hope this book will help all readers enjoy and have fun with the fact and my analysis on Thailand food and agricultural development.

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PS 319 Environmental Politics

Professor Joshua Eastin

30 September 2017

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Thailand is a Southeast Asian nation that is successful in agricultural development. This Asian nation can support organic food farming to improve human stability and protect the ecosystem. Thailand has flooding which impacts crop farming. This natural disaster destroys many farms and also causes the Thai economic uncertainty. Every year, Thailand will have floods in many provinces especially the Northeastern, Northern, and Central parts of the country. For the government, these issues are very difficult to manage. Therefore, His Majesty the late King Bhumibol Adulyadej had the idea to support food stability. He established the non-governmental organization called Chai Pattana Foundation and the Royal Development Project Foundation to increase sustainable agricultural farming in local areas. His non governmental organization draws from the idea of sufficiency economy to manage the agricultural sector in Thailand. Piboolsravut says, “Sufficiency Economy is sealable, with universal domain applicability: individual, household, community, project, business, management, institution, policy, society, nation-state, region, humanity, and biosphere (128).” Sufficiency Economy Philosophy will focus on sustainable technology, education, environment, etc. New Theory which is the idea and plan that applies from Sufficiency Economy Philosophy will focus just only on food agricultural program in local Thailand. Meanwhile, Thailand has been using “sufficiency economy” to implement a new theory of agricultural development to protect the food diversity in local areas. This shows Thailand is a very successful state in

promoting agriculture sustainability programs to protect their food security and supply. For instance, “The first National Economic and Development Plan (NEDP) in 1961 was prevent forest and watershed destruction, to end opium cultivation, and to promote socioeconomic development of ethnic minorities in the upland” (Duanjai, Vogt, and Shrestha 180). In this essay I will argue that Thailand should implement the sustainable development plan to increase food resource by building sustainable agriculture farming for environmental prosperity and stability, because this policy will limit the damage of sustainable food farming, and protect local food prosperity in those areas. The Thai national government can apply this development plan by expanding sustainable agriculture farming to Thailand’s local government districts. Some government agencies, such as the Ministry Agriculture of Thailand and the Ministry Natural Resource and Environment of Thailand, should put this agricultural policy into law by applying the Sufficiency Economic development (New Theory) to running permaculture and polyculture farms to combat flooding by building water resources, such as lakes and canals all around the agricultural area.

His Majesty the late King Bhumibol Adulyadej’s foundations Chai Pattana and the Royal Development Project promote the “Sufficiency Economy” philosophy to increase sustainable food farming inside Thailand. A “Sufficiency Economy” philosophy can adapt to food policy in Thailand very well. This sustainable development idea can create Thailand public policy to develop agriculture to be more green, prosperous and stable. The Thai government and local agencies should apply this philosophy to promote green agriculture farming. Both the Thai government and local agencies can also design their own food and environmental law to support these sustainable development infrastructure.

Some policies, such as Thailand 4.0 provides digital economy, smart innovation, and improve social quality in local Thai area. These policies related to food security because it can improve Thailand has smart agricultural sector by promoting smart farmer to run their own food business. Thailand 4.0 is public policy under Prime Minister General Prayuth Chan-ocha to reform the agricultural sector from unsustainable farming to become smart farming. Thailand 4.0 is economic policy which promotes a new economic model to transform Thailand to become developed country. This policy can apply to food security because Thailand 4.0 wants to reform the agricultural farming to solve the problem on climate change. However, these policies do not enough to create a green economy and sustainable environment. The Thai government might have some kind public policy with implement Sufficiency Economy on sustainable and smart agriculture to improve farmer knowledge.

In the present, Thailand is the second largest economy in Southeast Asia and also one of the fastest economic growing economies in the Asian region. In the future, Thailand will face the challenge of climate change with limited food production in rural areas. Meanwhile, in the aftermath of flooding, most Thai people in rural areas could run their own food. The Thai government should seek solution to protect food for Thai citizens. Also, the Thai government should not just take care of only food supply in local areas, but it should have some infrastructure to limit the flooding outside Bangkok. In Thailand, sustainable development ideas around food and water have been related to human prosperity and stability. This idea relates to international development perspectives about food and water sovereignty. This means that water and food also impact Thai population growth, economic and social development, and policy. The local and national governments can design a policy to implement their sustainable development for food

and water security directly. Also, the population growth and economic development of recent decades has driven the demand for food and hence the associated demand (Feres, Orgaz, and Dugo 4079). The Thailand government can implement more clean food production and build more canal and lake to bring sustainable farming in the long term. This decision relates to their Asian idea called the New Theory.

The New Theory is one of Thailand's sustainable development idea which provides green agriculture resource management for local districts. The New Theory relates to Sufficiency Economy in the way of food and agricultural development. Piboolsravut says,

The philosophy of Sufficiency Economy calls for balanced and sustainable development at all levels. As a practical example of applying the Philosophy of Sufficiency Economy, His Majesty the King has developed land and water resource based with integrated agriculture over the year.

This new system of agriculture is commonly known in Thailand as "New Theory Agriculture", which is also regarded sustainable agriculture (129).

The New Theory guarantees farmer prosperity and biodiversity in those rural areas. This theory supports Thailand to have more sustainable farming without destroying natural areas, such as forest, lake, etc. In fact, King Bhumibhol Adulyadej articulated discoveries during that period in a system for agricultural land management known as the New Theory (South-South In Action Sustainability in Thailand 30). From these plans, some university and Thai non-governmental organizations Chai Pattana and Royal Foundation always examine New Theory agriculture for livelihood in those villages. Some Thai government agencies learn this development theory to maintain some development policy for environmental sustainability,

human prosperity, and green growth. New Theory agriculture can support the Thai government to run sustainable farming in the long term because this theory will include rice (30 percent), vegetable and fruit (30 percent), pond (30 percent), and resident and animal farm (10 percent). This decision will help farmers who live in the rural area can have their own food farming, and then they can have their own food business by themselves without the corporation manipulating. Also, farmers can have more income to take care themselves, too. This sustainable farming practice can maintain the environmental and agricultural public policy to support clean food production, smart farmer, and water reservoir for Thai citizens. These policies will help Thailand have more food supply and security and then help the ecosystem all around the country be more stable. Also, the Thai government can use these policies to support local people participation to run organic food farming by providing New Theory knowledge to them. Meanwhile, these government plans can be successful if they collaborate with the people in local community. These plans will let the government understand the local livelihood better, and then it will make developmental decisions for these people directly. For instance, if people in those communities want to have water to run their crop, then the government should bring New Theory and Sufficiency Economic planning to support water resource for their food productions. It will let the government run development correctly, and local society can have more stability to run green agriculture activity to protect flood and another environmental disaster.

Also, the Thai government can use New Theory and Sufficiency economy idea to run agroforestry for organic food and limit flash flood problem. In fact, the Thai Forestry Sector Master Plan (TFSMP) was formulated to strengthen sustainable management and conservation of natural forests and ecosystems, to develop a strategy for policy implementation through