

**SEMINAR IN THAILAND**

**Organisation of a seminar on import of plant and plant products into Thailand**

***Tentative dates: 24-25 March 2021, Bangkok, Thailand***

**OBJECTIVE**

The aim of the seminar, which is conceived as a follow up to a similar activity done in October 2019. The seminar may be followed by a virtual study visit of Thai experts to EU Member States to deepen the information exchange and trust building.

The EU has an advanced phytosanitary system which provides solid guarantees in line with international standards (WTO, International Plant Protection Convention –IPPC-)

The unique set of phytosanitary provisions are binding for all Member States and actors in the phytosanitary chain

The European Commission carries out audits in Member States (reports publicly available) to verify the functioning of the system on a regular basis.

Staff in competent authorities are trained so as to ensure the proper functioning of the system

Monitoring of the phytosanitary conditions within EU territory

Updating of EU legislation following scientific and technical developments and possible new threats

Permanent consultation and cooperation with phytosanitary experts and scientific bodies (EFSA, IPPC, EPPO, Universities, National Research bodies, etc.)

This seminar is aiming to create an opportunity for officials of the Thai government and the European Union, as well as representatives of Thai and European business operators, to build contacts and deepen the understanding of phytosanitary control systems established in the EU and in Thailand.

***The main products of interest for EU Member States are pears, kiwis and table grapes. Applications from Belgium, Italy, Netherlands, Germany, Spain and Greece are pending.***

The objectives are:

- To strengthen and facilitate exchange among policy makers and F&V industry on both sides
- To better understand decision making structures in Thailand with regard to market access
- To accelerate market access for pending (European) dossiers
- To discuss challenges for market access for F&V to the EU and Thailand

**HYBRID SOLUTION WITH F2F AND REMOTE PRESENTATIONS**

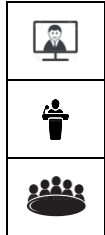
Seminars will take place partly physically, partly online via a purpose-built e-platform. The audience of the seminar attending in the host country (representatives from national competent authorities, EU Delegations, EU MS Embassies, business people: importers, retailers, distributors, media, researchers, etc.) will join physically in a conference venue and via video link. Due to Covid restrictions the overall audience at the site of the event will be limited to around 60 participants for which 20 will be senior officials and senior level representatives from Thailand will be invited to attend the seminar organised in a hotel with **social distancing rules applied**.

The programme of the event organised so as to allow – as much as possible – live interactions between high level officials of the EU and host country whilst respecting all necessary health and safety measures. In practice this means:

- Event managers from AETS Team will be mobilised at the site of the event and from AETS Offices to guide speakers and participants at the site and on-line towards ensuring a smooth event delivery allowing presentations to be made in an interactive manner

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- The Seminar should be organised by sessions of pre-recorded / live presentations and interactive sessions when time difference between Europe and Asia allows. Typically, afternoon session should be interactive, but pre-recording may also be considered for presentations given before 15:00 h (Bangkok time).
- Presentations by key-note speakers will be either pre-recorded or given live depending on the situation: in the case of pre-recorded presentations, that means that each speaker will give their PowerPoint presentation in front of their computers. Dos and Don'ts will be clearly indicated to the speakers;
- All pre-recorded presentations will be placed on a special online platform made available to all seminar participants 7 days before the seminar. This way, participants from the EU can tune in to presentations at their own pace, and still can take part in Questions and Answer sessions.



If necessary, questions will be recorded during the sessions and sent to the key-note speakers for them to answer during the interactive sessions.

To ensure video-recording of presentations to the highest possible quality, some instructions for recording will be given to speakers in due time.

### STRUCTURE OF THE SEMINAR

The seminar will comprise two sessions with informative presentations on SPS cooperation i.e. Plant Health requirements, Food Safety requirements for plant products and quality standards e.g. organic certification and Geographical Indications. **The first day will be focused on the Thai market, its opportunities and market access conditions, whereas the second day will be dedicated to the EU regulatory framework, i.e. how EU Member States can provide the phytosanitary guarantees required by Thailand, EU quality standards and how to better collaborate.**

The seminar will also be the opportunity to introduce the preparation of a guide on import F&V into Thailand.

The elements of the guide could be, but not limited to:












- ✓ Market profiles (consumption, production and distribution, imports and market access challenges and opportunities)
- ✓ Overview of the import regime for plant and plant products
- ✓ What can be imported into Thailand, what is required?
- ✓ What are the exporters and importer responsibilities?
- ✓ General process for importing plant and plant products and formalities into Thailand

**SEMINAR IN THAILAND**

**Seminar on Imports of Plants and Plant products into Thailand**








**Tentative agenda**

**24 MARCH 2021 [AUDIENCE: DOA, IMPORTERS AND RETAILERS ASSOCIATIONS AND MOC]**

<b>Introduction to Seminar</b>		
08:30 – 09:00	Welcome of participants - Registration	
09:00 – 09:30	Inauguration of the Seminar by representatives of: - the Delegation of the European Union to Thailand - the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives of Thailand	 
09:30 – 10:00	Fruits and Vegetables Market trends and Consumer behaviour <i>Keynote speaker in Thailand representing Importers and Retailers (e.g. associations)</i>	
10:00 – 10:30	Presentation from EU Fruits and Vegetables Exporters <i>Keynote speaker in Europe (e.g. Freshfel)</i>	
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee break	
11:00 – 12:00	Presentations from Members States on product import to Thailand and potential changes in controls for market access ( <i>Digitalisation of the audits during Covid and beyond</i> ) <i>Keynote speakers in Thailand (e.g. Commercial Attachés, apples from Italy) (Pre-recorded presentation will be made available before the seminar to allow participants from EU to listen and ask questions in the afternoon session).</i>	 
12:00 – 12:30	Questions & Answers (from the audience in Thailand)	
12:30 – 14:00	<i>Restricted lunch for leaders and officials</i> <i>Lunch break for participants</i>	
14:00 – 14:30	Update on ASEAN common requirements on Plant Health and safety of plant products and current initiatives toward trade facilitation among ASEAN member states <i>Keynote speaker from ASEAN (e.g. Representative of WG on crop) (Pre-recorded presentation will be made available before the seminar to allow participants from EU to listen and ask questions in the afternoon session).</i>	
14:30 – 15:30	Plant Health Regulation in Thailand and formalities <i>Keynote speaker in Thailand (e.g. DoA, Thailand) (Participants from EU could make an early start to listen directly and potential pre-record to allow more participants from EU to listen)</i>	
15:00 – 15:30	Coffee break	
15:30 – 16:30	Round Table discussion on <i>Trade Facilitation for Fruits &amp; Vegetables: market opportunities and challenges</i> , with representatives from: - Department of Agriculture - DG TRADE and DG SANTE of the European Commission - EU Delegation to Thailand - EU Member States official missions - EU Fruits and Vegetables Exporters - Fruits and Vegetables Importers and Retailers in Thailand - <b>Including contributions from the audience: Questions &amp; Answers</b>	 

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**25 MARCH 2021 [AUDIENCE: DoA, IMPORTERS AND EXPORTERS ASSOCIATIONS AND MoC]**

<b>Session 1 – Phytosanitary controls and certification</b>		
08:30 – 09:00	<i>Welcome of participants</i>	
09:00 – 09:30	The new EU 'Plant Health Law' <i>Keynote speaker in Europe (e.g. DG SANTE)</i>	
09:30 – 10:00	The new of EU Official Controls Regulation and TRACES NT, e-certification including link to e-Phyto <i>EU speaker resident in Thailand</i>	
10:00 – 10:30	<i>Coffee break</i>	
10:30 – 11:30	Official controls in the fruit and vegetables sector. How Member State Competent Authorities implement additional guarantees related to the absence of quarantine pests requested in phytosanitary certificates? <i>EU Speaker from Member States (NL or Italy or Spain or France)?</i>	
11:30 – 12:00	Update on the EU market perspectives such as organic products, Geographic Indications <i>Keynote speaker in Europe (e.g. Freshfel, DG AGRI)</i>	
12:00 – 12:30	Questions & Answers	
12:30 – 14:00	<i>Lunch break for participants</i>	
<b>Session 2 – Strengthening cooperation between operators</b>		
14:00 – 14:30	The European Green Deal: from farm to fork, and its impact on third countries <i>Keynote speaker in Europe (e.g. DG SANTE)</i>	
14:30 – 15:30	Round Table discussion on <i>Trade Facilitation for Fruits &amp; Vegetables</i> with representatives from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Department of Agriculture, ACFS</li> <li>- DG TRADE and DG SANTE of the European Commission</li> <li>- EU Delegation to Thailand</li> </ul> Including contributions from the audience: Questions & Answers	
15:30 – 16:00	<i>Conclusions and Closing remarks</i>	