

**AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS ACT,  
B.E. 2522 (1979)**

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BHUMIBOL ADULYADEJ, REX.  
Given on the 25<sup>th</sup> Day of February B.E. 2522;  
Being the 34<sup>th</sup> Year of the Present Reign.

His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej is graciously pleased to proclaim that:  
Whereas it is expedient to have a law on agricultural economics;  
Be it, therefore, enacted by the King by and with the advice and consent of  
the National Legislative Assembly acting as the National Assembly, as follows:

**Section 1.** This Act is called the “Agricultural Economics Act, B.E. 2522 (1979)”.

**Section 2.**<sup>1</sup> This Act shall come into force as from the day following the date of its publication in the Government Gazette.

**Section 3.** In this Act:  
“agricultural economics” means classification, description and priority setting of economic problems on the parts related to agriculture and implementation of solutions to such problems;

“agricultural development” means expansion of agricultural production capacity and increase of agricultural products, and improvement of investment, production and market conditions, prices of agricultural products, incomes of agriculturists, nutrition and other welfares of agriculturists including the businesses related to such actions;

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\* Translated by Ms. Arriya Phasee under contract for the Office of the Council of State of Thailand's Law for ASEAN project. – Tentative Version – subject to final authorisation by the Office of the Council of State.

<sup>1</sup> Published in the Government Gazette Vol. 96, Part 40, Special Issue, Page 19, dated 23<sup>rd</sup> March B.E. 2522 (1979).

“agricultural economic area” means an area of agricultural production including livestock production and forest plantation designated as suitable for the market conditions and agricultural economics of the country, taking into account the similarity of major factors, e.g. climate, water sources, crops planted, livestock raised, types of agriculture and principal sources of income of agriculturists;

“agricultural policy” means agricultural development guidelines having definite objectives, targets and periods of operation;

“Committee” means the Committee on Agriculture and Cooperative Development Policy and Planning;

“Minister” means the Minister having charge and control over the execution of this Act.

**Section 4.** There shall be a Committee on Agriculture and Cooperative Development Policy and Planning, consisting of the Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives as Chairperson; the Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives as Vice-Chairperson; the Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Commerce, the Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Industry, the Secretary-General of Office of the National Economic and Social Development Board, the Director of Bureau of the Budget, the Secretary-General of National Statistical Office, one Deputy Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, the Director-Generals of the departments in the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives and the Secretary-General of Agricultural Land Reform Office as members, and not more than eight other members appointed by the Council of Ministers, four of which from qualified persons and four of which from the representatives of agriculturist groups and agricultural cooperatives.

The Secretary-General of Office of Agricultural Economics shall be a member and secretary.

**Section 5.** The Committee shall have the power and duties as follows:

(1) to consider formulating agricultural policy and development plans for agriculture and cooperatives in accordance with the National Economic and Social Development Plan;

(2) to consider designating agricultural economic areas;

(3) to follow up and accelerate the implementation of the development plans for agriculture and cooperatives performed by work units in the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives;

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(4) to consider solving problems and obstacles including constraints that hinder the achievement of the goals of agricultural policy and agricultural development;

(5) to provide suggestions and comments to the Council of Ministers on policy and measures for agriculture and cooperative development planning;

(6) to consider and provide opinions on improvement and solutions for the agricultural economic conditions of the country to the Council of Ministers;

(7) to consider any other matters in relation to agriculture or cooperatives as assigned by the Minister.

In performing the duties above, the Committee may entrust the Office of Agricultural Economics to perform such duties or prepare proposals for submission to the Committee for considering taking actions accordingly.

**Section 6.** A member appointed by the Council of Ministers shall hold office for a term of three years. A member who vacates office may be reappointed.

**Section 7.** In addition to vacating office on the expiration of term under section 6, a member appointed by the Council of Ministers vacates office upon:

(1) death;

(2) resignation;

(3) being bankrupt;

(4) being incompetent or quasi-incompetent;

(5) being subject to an imprisonment penalty by a final judgement or valid order to imprisonment, except for an offence committed through negligence or a petty offence;

(6) being dismissed by the Council of Ministers.

If a member vacates his or her office prior to the expiration of the term, the Council of Ministers may appoint another person to replace his or her position and the appointed person shall replace such position for the remaining term of office of the member whom he or she replaces.

If the Council of Ministers has appointed an additional member while the appointed members are still in office, the person appointed as an additional member shall be in office for the remaining term of office of the members already appointed.

**Section 8.** At a meeting of the Committee, if the Chairperson does not attend or is not present at the meeting, the Vice-Chairperson shall preside over the meeting.

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If the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson do not attend or are not present at the meeting, the members present shall elect one among themselves to preside over the meeting.

At each meeting of the Committee, the presence of not less than one-half of all members is required to constitute a quorum.

A decision of the meeting shall be made by a majority of votes. In casting a vote, each member shall have one vote. In the case of an equality of votes, the presiding member shall have an additional vote as the casting vote.

**Section 9.** There shall be an Office of Agricultural Economics, having the following duties:

(1) to analyse agricultural policy and development plans for agriculture and cooperatives for proposing to the Committee;

(2) to study and analyse agricultural production planning and sources of cultivation and livestock production according to climatic conditions, water sources, types of agriculture, principal sources of income of agriculturists and domestic and foreign market demands and report the same to the Committee for consideration in the designation of agricultural economic areas;

(3) to study and analyse the organisation of marketing and transportation systems and development of agricultural product markets in an efficient manner, and to analyse the prices and demands of agricultural products;

(4) to study and analyse agricultural resources, to analyse resource utilisation and to study and analyse production economics and the organisation of crop cultivation and livestock production system in an efficient manner;

(5) to compile statistical information of all types of agriculture in terms of crop and livestock products, agricultural economic conditions, incomes and expenses of agriculturists, indebtedness conditions of agriculturists, market conditions of agricultural production and other agricultural economic information necessary for the analysis of agricultural policy and development plans for agriculture and cooperatives and the preparation of agricultural economic statistics for dissemination and advertisement of agricultural statistical information;

(6) to analyse and evaluate the results of the investment in agricultural projects and follow up and evaluate the success and progress of the projects and action plans of work units in the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, and to propose guidelines to solve problems or obstacles which require urgent action to the Committee;

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(7) to analyse economic development in other sectors including international agricultural economic conditions necessary for agriculture and cooperative development planning;

(8) to prepare registers in relation to agricultural business operations, classified by types, categories or groups of each field;

(9) to coordinate to formulate agricultural policy and development plans for agriculture and cooperatives with official agencies and relevant State enterprises including coordinating with the Office of the National Economic and Social Development Board;

(10) to perform any other acts as stipulated in the laws to be the duties of the Committee or the Office of Agricultural Economics.

**Section 10.** In performing the duties under this Act, the Committee shall have the power:

(1) to summon work units and State enterprises in the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives to propose the working plans and projects for agriculture and cooperative development including technical and financial details together with statistics and information necessary for the study of the agricultural economic conditions of the country, and the working plans and projects for agriculture and cooperative development for which assistance from foreign countries is requested together with information necessary for the study of the agricultural economic conditions of the country prior to submission to the Office of the National Economic and Social Development Board for consideration;

(2) to summon work units and State enterprises under (1) to furnish facts necessary for considering evaluating the success, progress or obstacles of the projects and working plans;

(3) to arrange registration of agriculturists with respect to their agricultural operations.

**Section 11.** The Office of Agricultural Economics shall have the power and duties to deal with statistics under the law on statistics for the matters relating to agricultural economics and agricultural development.

**Section 12.** The Secretary-General of Office of Agricultural Economics shall have the duties to command, control and exercise general supervision over the official services of the Office of Agricultural Economics.

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**Section 13.** The Committee or the Office of Agricultural Economics may invite any person to come to give statements, explanation, opinions or recommendations.

**Section 14.** The Committee may appoint a sub-committee to consider any matter or carry out any act as assigned by the Committee.

Section 8 shall apply, *mutatis mutandis* to the meetings of the sub-committee under paragraph one.

**Section 15.** The Minister shall have the power to announce agricultural economic areas in accordance with the resolutions of the Committee.

Within the agricultural economic area under paragraph one, the Minister may establish measures to promote agriculture and provide assistance for agricultural development including the provision of assistance for price guarantee or price support for agricultural products and formation of a cooperative or other agricultural institutes to improve income levels of agriculturists.

**Section 16.** The Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives shall have charge and control over the execution of this Act.

Countersigned by:

S. Hotrakitya

Deputy Prime Minister

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