



AGRICULTURAL LAND REFORM IN THAILAND



Background:

Following the Agricultural Land Reform Act (1975), agricultural land reform in Thailand means improvement of rights and holdings in agricultural land, as well as provision of dwelling places on such agricultural land; whereby the Agricultural Land Reform Office (ALRO) allocates state land or land purchased by ALRO to farmers who own no land or have small pieces of land that are insufficient to earn their living and to farmer institutions on a hire-purchase, leasehold, or usufruct basis.



1933

Pridi Banomyong's Yellow Book

A reform idea concerning land rights, frameworks, aiming to transfer land rights to the state in the form of cooperatives

1942

Land Allocation for the people

Establishment of land settlement cooperative and self-help settlement to provide the people with land for residence and livelihood in accordance with the Allotment of Land for Living Act 1942

1954

Land Tenure Limitations

According to The Land Code Act 1954, limits were set on land tenure as follows:

- Agricultural land : no more than 6 hectares
- Industrial land : no more than 153 hectares
- Commercial land : no more than 0.8 hectares
- Residential land : no more than 0.8 hectares

1959

Abolition of Land Tenure Limits

The Revolutionary Council led by Srisdi Dhanarajata (Field Marshal) abolished the land tenure size limits as specified in The Land Code Act 1954

1968

Land Allocation for Cultivation

The government announced the enforcement of the Allotment of Land for Living Act 1942, aimed at adjusting land tenure and providing land for cultivation to the people.

1970

Study on Land Tenure Issues Among Farmers

Dr. Chaibong Chuchat, Deputy Director-General of the Land Development Department, proposed a project to improve the land tenure system and land consolidation.

1993

Land Allocation in Degraded Forest Reserve Areas

The Royal Forest Department transferred Zone A (Agriculture) and Zone E (Degraded Economic Forest) areas to the ALRO to implement land reform.

1989

Second Amendment to the Agricultural Land Reform Act

The Agricultural Land Reform Act 1975 was amended for the second time regarding the expansion of land allocation scope and the authority to utilize reserved forest lands. The declaration of a land reform area would result in the revocation of national reserved forest status for that particular plot.

1976

First Amendment to the Agricultural Land Reform Act

The Agricultural Land Reform Act 1975 was amended for the first time to streamline the process for payment or land compensation or real estate.

1975

Enactment of the Agricultural Land Reform Act

The government of Prime Minister Sanya Dhamasakti enacted the Agricultural Land Reform Act 1975, which came into effect on March 6, 1975. In the same year, King Rama IX donated 51,967 rai or about 8,315 hectares for land reform purposes across 8 provinces.

1973-1974

Demand for Resolution of Agricultural Land Issues

Government officials, politicians, and farmers jointly called on the government to address agricultural land issues faced by farmers, pressuring the government to implement land reform.

1972

Land Reform Project

The Revolutionary Council approved, in principle, the concept of land reform. The National Land Allocation Committee approved a draft framework for the land reform project. However, the Revolutionary Council resolved to "defer consideration" of the Project.

2004

Asset Capitalization Project

The ALRO implemented an asset capitalization project in land reform areas. Farmers could use their Land Use Certificate (Sor-Por-Kor 4-01) as collateral for loans from financial institutions.

2015

Land allocation to Farmer Institutions

The Agricultural Land Reform Office allocated the land for fifteen cooperatives and one farmer group in ten provinces. The total area were 4,074 hectares and 2,241 farmers were benefited. This has been implemented under land allocation project for the community in accordance with the National Land Policy Council.



**Land reform area covering
40.21 million rai or 6.43 million hectares**

Managed by Three Key Bodies:

- Agricultural Land Reform Fund
- Agricultural Land Reform Committee and Provincial Land Reform Committee
- Central and Provincial Agricultural Land Reform Office

Missions:



Land allocation and Land right management

- Allocation for agricultural purposes, public utilities, activities supporting or related to land reform, and other uses
- Permission of the use of natural resources within land reform areas
- Monitoring and assessment of land utilization
- Permission for the use of natural resources within land reform areas
- Monitoring and assessment of land utilization



Infrastructure Development

- Develop water sources and distribution systems
- Develop and provide public utilities (electricity, water supply)
- Develop transportation routes



Farmers and Farmer Institutions Development

- Create model farmers
- Select farmer representatives (ALRO volunteers)
- Establish farmer institutions and networks
- Support knowledge, production inputs and technologies
- Provide agricultural credit assistance



Environmental Restoration

- Sustainable agriculture
- Soil and water conservation
- Reduce burning in agricultural areas

Sources of Land for Allocation:

According to the Act, a Land Reform Area means an area designated in the Royal Decree as an agricultural reform area. Therefore, the sources of land operated under the land reform program stage are State (Public) and Private Land.

Private Land:

Land with a document of rights according to the Land Code, such as a land title deed or Nor Sor 3 Kor.

State Land:

Land parcels that are state property or public domain under the Civil and Commercial Code, as well as land within national reserved forests where the Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives grants individuals the right to live or utilize, under the law on National Reserved Forests.



Types of Land for Allocation:

According to the Agricultural Land Reform Act 1975, section 30, the ALRO shall have the power to allocate all land acquired by the ALRO to farmers or farmer institutions or public organizations or private sectors under rules, procedures, and condition prescribed by the Agricultural Land Reform Committee:

- (1) **Agricultural Land:** Farmers may utilize the land of not more than 50 rai (8 hectares) except those raising larger animals could utilize not more than 100 rai (16 hectares).
- (2) **Non-Agricultural Land:** The Agricultural Land Reform Committee has the authority to authorize cooperatives, public organizations, and/or the private sector to utilize the land for public utilities (e.g., electricity, communication systems, post offices) and other activities that benefit land reform farmers, such as mini gas stations or minimarts.



Benefits of Agricultural Land Allocation:

1

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Helping achieve four Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which are: Goal 1 - No Poverty, Goal 2 - Zero Hunger, Goal 5 - Gender Equality and Goal 15 - Life on Land

2



Ensuring land tenure security and reducing inequality in access to land

3



Protecting areas suitable for agricultural activities and expanding green spaces

4



Alleviating global warming and climate change through promoting sustainable agriculture and reducing burning in agricultural areas

5



Providing guarantees for heirs and successors to have land for agricultural purposes in the long term

6



Receiving merits from essential infrastructure development for agricultural activities and essential public utilities for daily life

7



Ensuring access to funding for area development and agricultural activities through support from the Agricultural Land Reform Fund





Farmers/Farmer Institutions Development:

Emphasis on supporting knowledge, technologies, and innovations that can improve the productivity of farmers through various areas of development as follows;

1. Farm Production and Management

- Improve land use efficiency
- Promote good agricultural practices and sustainable agriculture (agroforestry, organic farming, new theory of agriculture)
- Elevate farmers' capacities

2. Postharvest Management and Agricultural Products Processing

- Develop community businesses
- Support knowledge, technologies, and tools necessary for developing production and processing of agricultural products

3. Market Development

- Assist farmers in expanding marketing channels such as community markets, shopping malls and online markets

4. Environmental Conservation and Restoration

- Reduce and prevent environmental damage by promoting sustainable agriculture
- Campaign to prevent and stop burning in agricultural areas to reduce the problem of PM 2.5 through various measurements, such as promoting management and use of agricultural residues, and promoting the Biochar

Area Development:

Area Development: Focusing on developing infrastructures, public utilities, and essential constructions for agricultural occupations and living

- Cadastral survey and plot design land utilization using geoinformatics technology
- Develop irrigation systems, especially agricultural water sources and distribution systems, such as irrigation canals, pumping stations, weirs, reservoirs, groundwater wells, and solar-powered water tower
- Develop transportation routes, particularly main roads, and local roads in land reform areas
- Develop tools, technologies, innovations, and constructions related to agricultural production, such as packing houses, agro-processing plants, rice seeders, agricultural shredders, greenhouse solar dryers, and Internet of Things
- Coordinate with relevant agencies in developing public utilities essential for agricultural occupations and the farmers' livelihood in land reform areas



Agricultural Land Reform Office

Tel: +660 2282 9004 ext. 1195, 1196

www.alro.go.th

Email: inalro.inter@gmail.com