

### **Mr. Suriya Pushes Forward Plans for the Development of Hemp Industry Aiming to Become the Center of Industrial Hemp of ASEAN Within 5 Years**

**The Ministry of Industry pushes forward plans for the development of the hemp industry towards commercialization and focuses on upgrading the hemp processing to new economic crops in order to upgrade the basic economy and generate income and employment throughout the supply chain ready to respond to the BCG economic policy that emphasizes sustainable growth. Thailand is aiming to be the center of the Industrial Hemp Hub of ASEAN within 5 years, generating income for entrepreneurs by at least 25 billion baht and generating more income for farmers by at least 20,000 baht per rai.**

**Mr. Suriya Jungrungruangkit, Minister of Industry,** revealed that the hemp industry in the world market is likely to grow exponentially in many countries, such as the United States, Canada, Australia, the European Union, China, Japan and South Korea. After starting to relax the law to allow more commercial development of hemp products. The value of the global industrial market in 2020 is about 1422 billion baht, an average growth of 22.4% per year, and is expected to be worth around 558 billion baht by 2027. The Ministry of Industry is therefore accelerating the development of the hemp industry towards commercialization and assigning the Office of Industrial Economics (OIE) to prepare an action plan for the development of the commercial hemp industry which is a new economic crop to create added value for the Thai economy, generate income for related businesses, create employment throughout the hemp supply chain and upgrade the basic economy ready to respond to the BCG economic policy that emphasizes sustainable growth and environmentally friendly. Furthermore, Thailand is aiming to be the center of the Industrial Hemp Hub of ASEAN within 5 years, generating income for entrepreneurs by at least 25 billion baht and generating more income for farmers by at least 20,000 baht per rai.

Mr. Thongchai Chawalitpichet, Director of the Office of Industrial Economics, said that the preparation of an action plan for the commercial development of the hemp industry will focus on the development of the hemp processing industry as a mechanism to drive the country's economy. There are four measures for the development of the hemp processing industry: 1) **Measures to support research and development of innovative products throughout the hemp chain**, contributing to developing prototypes of products and technologies to support the industrial level and build a network to connect research to the industry ready to promote innovation and protect intellectual property 2) **Measures to promote commercial production and processing**, aiming to promote SME businesses to expand and empowering personnel throughout the hemp chain, supporting the application of technology and innovation to commercial production and promoting the upgrading of products to meet international standards 3) **Marketing promotion measures**, creating a marketing channel through the Hemp Forum and promoting digital marketing in order to link global trade, including the development of linkage with the production logistics system throughout the hemp industry chain and stimulating demand from government agencies, such as supporting the use of textiles from hemp fibers and 4) **Measures to create factors supporting the development of the hemp industry**, providing guidelines for developing and improving laws, regulations and facilitating in the certification of important documents and product standards, raising product standards to international, building stability in the agricultural sector, establishing the Center of Hemp Excellence (CoHE) to develop a platform to manage the supply chain as well as financial support and private investment.

“Hemp plant is an important plant in many countries. Because it can be used in all parts from roots, stems, bark, inner core, leaves, inflorescences and seeds, it has evolved into more than 50,000 commercially viable products, unlike in the past to be used for textiles and paper. Each part of hemp has specific properties that can be used in medicine, food, beverages, animal feed, cosmetics, textiles, building materials and materials in the S-Curve industry such as the modern automotive industry, and the aerospace and aviation industry. If the action plan is approved, it will be an interesting economic crop and benefit the economy greatly for people” Thongchai said.