DOA hosted the Role of Genome Editing in Global Food Security Seminar

On June 11, 2024**, Associate Professor Dr. Banpot Napompeth**, Advisor for Department of Agriculture, was the chairman of the academic seminar about "The Role of Genome Editing in Global Food Security." The seminar was organized by the Biotechnology Research and Development Office at the conference room of the Department of Agriculture (DOA)'s Division of Postharvest and Processing Research and Development. **Mr. Jack A. Bobo**, Director of the University of Nottingham Food Systems Institute and former Senior Advisor for Global Food Policy at the U.S. Department of State, was invited to share his knowledge, experiences, ideas about the future of food security, and agricultural innovations in genome editing.

Modern biotechnology is being used in plant and animal breeding around the world. Genome editing technology is the newest innovation. It is precise at editing genes to create characteristics that have agricultural benefits, for example, disease resistance, resistance to adverse environmental conditions, increased yields and nutritional value. Furthermore, genome editing technology supports Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). For instance, it supports the 2nd goal to end hunger, achieve

food security, improve nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture as well as the 13th goal to take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.

Through the Biotechnology Research and Development Office, the Department of Agriculture carried out work in 3 areas within the field of genome editing including 1) research and development 2) governance and 3) raising awareness about the benefits of genome editing technology in all sectors. To raise awareness, focus group meetings were organized for stakeholders, such as farmers, citizens, researchers, and public and private sectors. Various online communication channels were also utilized to achieve accurate comprehension of biotechnology on the basis of science. Moreover, the Biotechnology Research and Development Office had the opportunity to organize Department of Agriculture's Driving Genome Editing Technology exhibition. The exhibition was a part of Learning Center on Plant Production in line with His Majesty's New Theory's event for Inherit, Preserve, and Expand Project in honor of His Majesty the King on the auspicious occasion of His Majesty the King's 6th Cycle Birthday Anniversary, 28th July 2024The event occurred on June 13, 2024, at the Chaloem Phrakiat 55 Phansa Park, Department of Agriculture, Bang Khen.

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