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Philippines partners with Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) in Thailand to accelerate innovation and sustainability in farming

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The Philippine Department of Agriculture (DA) and the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) have signed a five-year memorandum of understanding (MOU) in Bangkok, Thailand, to advance innovation and strengthen the agricultural workforce.

DA Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. highlighted the partnership as a critical step toward achieving food security and sustainability amid challenges such as climate variability, resource limitations, and pest and disease pressures.

â??This collaboration will empower the next generation of agricultural leaders, enhance scientific and academic communities, and provide practical solutions to support sustainable agricultural development,â? Secretary Tiu Laurel said. â??Progress in agriculture is progress for our people, and through this partnership, we are harnessing the power of collective expertise to create lasting impact.â?•

The partnership is set to build a robust pipeline of trained professionals, facilitate knowledge exchange between the Philippines and Thailand, and develop technologies and practices that boost productivity and resilience in agriculture.

Key areas of cooperation include ; Joint PhD and Masterâ??s programs, professional development, consultancy services, collaborative research, and publications.

The MOU also opens opportunities for exploring additional initiatives aimed at turning research into actionable solutions that benefit farmers, students, and the broader agricultural sector. Both institutions are committed to addressing pressing global and regional challenges, such as climate-smart farming and sustainable resource management.

By integrating academic expertise with government policy priorities, the collaboration seeks to deliver scalable, innovative solutions that benefit not only the Philippines but also the wider Southeast Asian region.

The DA and AIT will closely monitor and evaluate the outcomes of their joint initiatives to ensure tangible benefits for farmers, researchers, and rural communities. This strategic partnership underscores the potential of collaboration to create a more innovative, resilient, and food-secure future in an increasingly uncertain global landscape.