

Unofficial Translation

**First National Health Assembly
Agenda 3.5**

**Draft Resolution 1/5
21 November 2008**

Agriculture and Food in the Era of Crisis

The First National Health Assembly

Having considered the report on Agriculture and Food in the Era of Crisis,

Realizing the importance of the agricultural sector as a source of food production of the country and a source of employment for 40% of the population of working age,

Recognizing the problem of access to food faced by the poor arising from inflation and rice price increases while at the same time their income remains the same, resulting in the poor having to decrease their consumption both in quality and quantity,

Knowing that between 2537-2547, Thailand increased its imports of chemical substances by more than 4 times and the trend in importing pesticides is still increasing, and that such use in great quantity of agricultural chemicals have resulted in residues of agricultural chemicals and anti-biotics in the products often leading to rejection of Thai agricultural product exports by buyers. Furthermore, it is realized that the cost to the farmers' health and other costs borne by the state in order to control and monitor the use of chemical substances may be as high as 5.4 billion Baht per year, equal to the value of the imports of chemical fertilizers and pesticides,

Realizing the problem of deterioration of natural resources, especially of land and water sources which are basic factors for production in the agricultural sector, while at the same time knowing that there had arisen competition for resources between the agricultural and industrial sector and within the agricultural sector itself,

Anxious about the changes in climate conditions and the trend towards more frequent national disasters due to global warming which will greatly increase risks to production in the agricultural sector and which might result in small-scale farmers facing financial losses and falling into debts,

Anxious about the possibility of using land by foreigners for growing food crops and energy crops

The National Health Assembly hereby issues the following resolutions:

1. The Office of National Economic and Social Development Board, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, and other agencies responsible for the Strategic Plan for the Development of National Organic Agriculture, Plan No. 1 (2008-2011) are urged to encourage the community and locality to participate in the preparation and implementation.

2. The National Health Commission is urged to

2.1 Coordinate with the Food and Drug Administration, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Ministry of Public Health, and agencies concerned with the policy and strategy for food security, including academia and the people sector, to take the following actions:

1) To develop food security indicators suitable to the Thai context and report the food security situation of the country every three years,

2) To organize a surveillance system to give an early warning on food crisis;

2.2 Coordinate with the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Ministry of Public Health, National Health Security Office, Social Security Office, and other agencies concerned, including academia and the people sector, to support small farmers and facilitate a new generation of farmers. The social status of small farmers is to be upgraded, and welfare and security systems are to be developed and organized, including health system and universal healthcare for small farmers, hired hands and farmers under contract farming. At the same time, efforts are to be made to promote potential groupings of farmers designed to provide welfare assistance to each other;

2.3 Take action to form networks for food and agriculture policy development through participation of all sectors, exchange of learning between sectors concerned, surveillance and development of relevant public policy;

2.4 Monitor the implementation of this resolution and report to the Third National Health Assembly.

3. Requests the local governmental organizations and parties to the Health Assembly to:

3.1 Support the preservation and development of local seeds in the community, so the community can depend on itself basing on its traditional knowledge and bio-diversity.

3.2 Implementing legal and community measures to reduce and stop using pesticides in agriculture.

3.3 Support and strengthen the community and farmers' organization on small-scale farmers' right protection.