|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | **Press Release** |
| **Release from the morning of October 20, 2017** |
| **Acting Director Jang Jun-yeon Deputy Director Jeong Myeong-hee (82-54-912-0170),****Seed Industry Support Division, KSVS / Provided on October 19th (four pages in total)** |
| Korea Seed and Variety Service Takes Initiative to Develop Seed Industries in Developing Countries of ASEAN! |

<Summary>

|  |
| --- |
| ◈ MAFRA will invite and train seed-related civil servants from developing countries to enhance human resources capabilities in the development of the Asian seed industry.❍ **(Period and venue)** Oct. 22 (Sun) - Nov. 4 (Sat), Korea Seed and Variety Service and Seed Industry Promotion Center, and many more.❍ **(Participating countries: 12)** Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia, Iran, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan, China, India, Iraq, Myanmar❍ **(Purpose)** To contribute to the development of seed policies, systems and technologies by strengthening the capacities of human resources in order to lead the seed industry in ASEAN countries.❍ **(Main contents)** Seed test lectures and practice; briefing session on the status of the seed industry from each country, and many more |

□ The Korea Seed and Variety Service (director Oh Byung-seok) said that the organization will invite 12 civil servants from developing countries of the ASEAN, and train them in order to enhance their capacity to develop the Asian seed industry, by transferring Korea’s accumulated experience in the field of seed testing.

❍ The training program will run at the Korea Seed and Variety Service in Gimcheon and the Seed Industry Promotion Center in Gimcheon Valley for two weeks from October 22 (Sun) to November 4 (Sat). This program is aimed at enhancing the capabilities of human resources to lead the seed industry of their home countries, thereby contributing to the development of seed policies, systems, and technologies in developing countries, and to lead such countries to become receptive to Korean seed exports.

□ In the first week, trainees will be introduced to the status of Korea’s seed production and quality certification, and they will benefit from theoretical sessions.

❍ Trainees will learn methods such as gene analysis for seed purity and breed tests at the National Seed Test Research Center of the Korea Seed and Variety Service, the only Korean seed test laboratory certified by the ISTA (International Seed Testing Association). Accordingly, Korea will be able to publicize Korea’s advanced seed testing technology to participating countries.

❍ In addition, the trainees will share information on the status of seed industries and systems in each country through a nation-wide brifeing session on their seed industry status and industry trends, having time for mutual development and human networking.

□ In the second week, they will learn theories and practice what they learn about the careful selection, the application of variety protection and cultivation and tests at the Gyeongnam and Western Branches of the Korea Seed and Variety Service.

❍ The Gyeongnam Branch will provide a lecture on pre-basic seeds and basic seeds and an opportunity to a distributed see factory in Jeongseon. In the Western Branch, they will visit a cultivation test site of varieties applied for in a greenhouse with advanced geothermal heating and cooling system.

□ “Over 100 trainees have participated in this program from 2008 to 2016, they have gone on to make a significant contribution to the development of the seed industry in their home countries through the advanced knowledge and technology that they gained through the training program”, the Korea Seed and Variety Service said about the training program’s achievements.

❍ In addition, as countries have been steadily increasing exports to India, Indonesia, Vietnam, and Thailand—the main export markets for Korean seeds—the Korea Seed and Variety Service believes that the training program has been positively affecting the export of Korean seeds and is planning to include visits to research labs of Korean seed companies, to seed production fields, and many more.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Reference 1** |  |  **Asian trainees for capability enhancement of Asian seed industry (2008 - 2016)** |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Year** | **Total** | **Participating county (number of trainees)** |
| 2008 | 11 from 5 countries |  China (1), Indonesia (2), Mongolia (3), Russia (3), Vietnam (2) |
| 2009 |  6 from 3 countries |  Vietnam (2), Indonesia (2), Thailand (2) |
| 2010 | 8 from 8 countries | Malaysia, Vietnam, Indonesia, India, China, Cambodia, Thailand, Philippines |
| 2011 |  14 from 9 countries |  Indonesia (2), Philippines (2), Thailand (2), China (2), Cambodia (1), Laos (2), Malaysia (1), Myanmar (1) |
| 2012 | 15 from 9 countries |  Indonesia (2), Philippines (1), Thailand (4), China (2), India (2), Cambodia, Laos, Malaysia, Vietnam |
| 2013 | 15 from 9 countries | India (2), Indonesia (2), China (2), Pakistan (2), Philippines (2), Myanmar (1), Bangladesh (1), Thailand (2), Vietnam (1) |
| 2014 |  12 from 10 countries | Bangladesh (1), Cambodia (1), China (1), Indonesia (1), Malaysia (1), Myanmar (1), Pakistan (1), Philippines (1), Thailand (3), Vietnam (1) |
| 2015 |  14 from 12 countries | Afghanistan (1), Bangladesh (1), Cambodia (1), China (2), India (2), Malaysia (1), Pakistan (1), Philippines (1), Laos (1), Sri Lanka Thailand (1), Vietnam (1) |
| 2016 |  10 from 8 countries | Laos (2), Malaysia (1), Myanmar (1), Vietnam (1), China (1), Philippines (1), Cambodia (2), Thailand (1) |
| Total |  105 from 73 countries |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Reference 2** |  | **Vegetable Seed Exports**  |

(Unit: US$ 1,000)

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Country** | **2016** | **2015** | **2014** | **Annual** **Growth** **Rate (%)** |
| India | 7,343 | 5,341 | 4,266 | 31.2 |
| Pakistan | 1,738 | 1,580 | 1,354 | 13.3 |
| Thailand | 876 | 610 | 446 | 40.1 |
| Indonesia | 684 | 357 | 606 | 6.2 |
| Philippines | 368 | 174 | 141 | 61.6 |
| Sri Lanka | 235 | 180 | 183 | 13.3 |