



The Government is stepping up campaigns to make Thailand's Food Innopolis project better known. It is also planning to encourage entrepreneurs from Europe, the United States, Japan, Australia, and New Zealand to invest in this project.

The Thailand Food Innopolis was launched in 2016 as a global food innovation hub to support research and development and innovation for the food industry. It is located at the Thailand Science Park in Khlong Luang district, Pathum Thani province, north of Bangkok.

The project forms part of the Government's Super Cluster policy to develop the processing of agricultural products to give them high value added and to develop the country as "Kitchen to the World. It ranges from production on the farm to processing and marketing.

The project focuses on high-value and high-profit foods, such as geriatric nutrition, patient nutrition, and functional foods, as well as halal foods. It is fully equipped with qualified personnel and facilities to support food producers of all scales, be it local, regional, or global.

The Deputy Secretary-General of the National Science Technology and Innovation Policy Office, Akkharawit Kanjana-Opas, said that in the first five years of the project, from 2016 to 2021, at least 100 foreign companies would be attracted to invest in the project.

These investors comprise both large companies and startups. Their investment will generate more employment and increase the value of the Thai food industry and agricultural products.

Mr. Akkharawit, who is head of the Food Innopolis project, said that a budget of three billion baht had been set for the five-year plan to carry out the project. In 2017, the Ministry of Science and Technology and the Ministry of Public Health will join hands in implementing a project to produce food for older persons and athletes. The project will link with the Chao Phraya Abhaibhubejhr Hospital in Prachin Buri province, or the Department for Development of Thai Traditional and Alternative Medicine.

A One Stop Service Center has been established at the Food Innopolis, which will be developed as the first in ASEAN. Privileges and incentives are offered to investors in this project, such as personal income tax exemption for researchers and tax exemptions for imported R&D equipment and machinery.

Other incentives include the permanent residence visa status for international experts and permission for foreigners to own land to operate promoted activities.