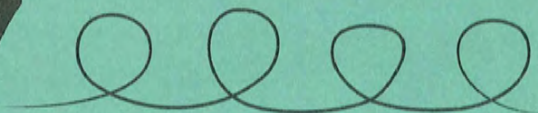
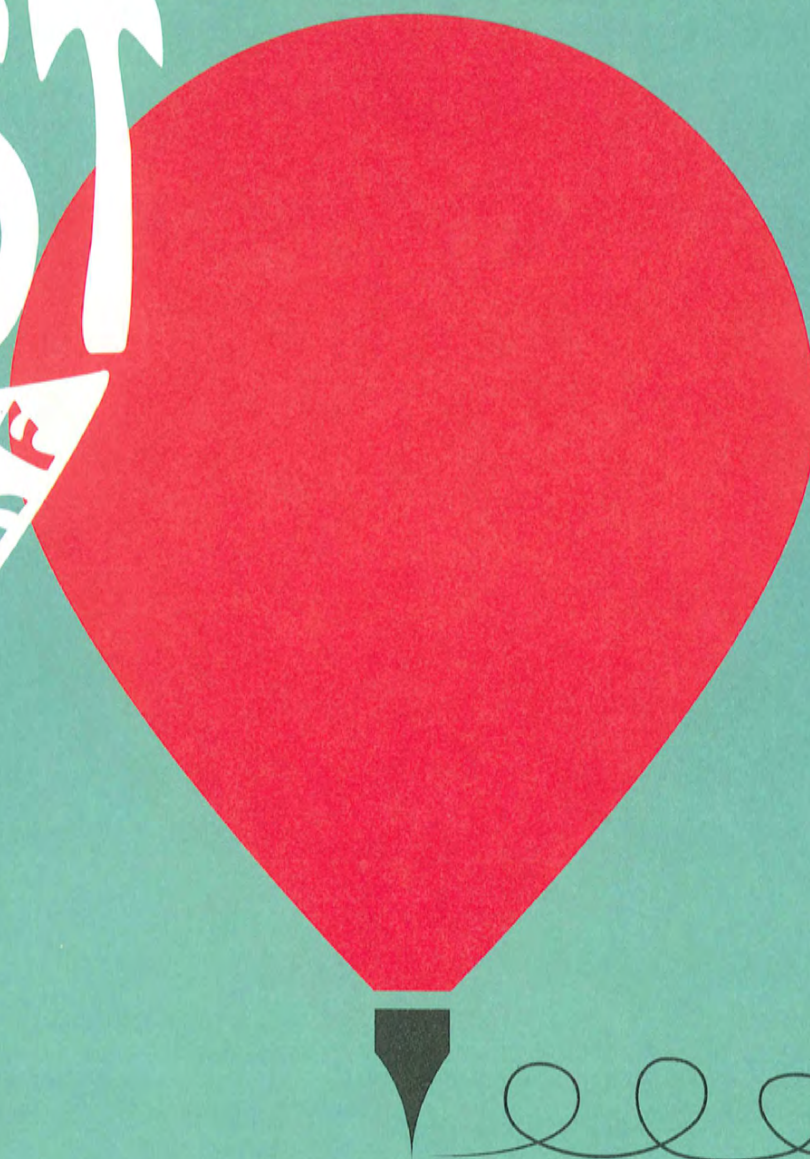




THE THAILAND RESEARCH FUND

BEA
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TRF



A CATALYST FOR CHANGE

The Thailand Research Fund

The Thailand Research Fund (TRF) was established in 1993 by the Research Endowment Act of 1992 as an organization under the Prime Minister's Office. It lies outside the government administrative bureaucracy. This autonomy allows great efficiency in the research supporting systems. TRF has since remained focusing on its main duty: supporting at both local and national levels the creation of knowledge to help tackling societal problems.

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Vision

TRF believes in the creation of the society driven by wisdom and knowledge culture through the application of research that helps promotes Thailand's potential, shapes its future, and creates new local and national opportunities.



Mission

TRF supports the knowledge creation endeavor through innovative research management system. TRF thrives to generate the flourish of research vital to the country's development both nationally and locally; to build research capability as well as enable the researchers to attain academic competitiveness in the global context; and to innovate research management tools and processes for the advancement of the research system.



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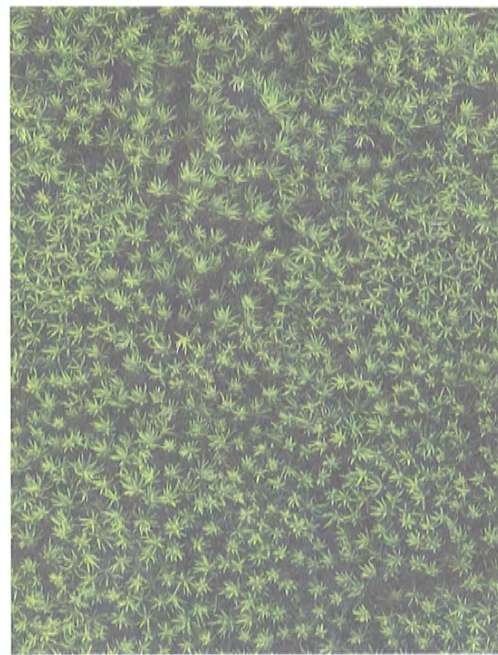
THE THAILAND RESEARCH FUND

Objectives

- 1 To support research projects of the importance to national development both those serving as a foundation for a knowledge-based society and those of direct practical use.
- 2 To foster professional researchers and build a strong research community.
- 3 To promote the dissemination of research results and their practical utilization.
- 4 To mobilize public and private funds for research activities.
- 5 To strengthen the national research system.



A
Catalyst
for
Change



Research Management Challenges

With almost twenty years' experience in research management, TRF has developed techniques and strategies in research granting and management to tackle the dynamic and multifaceted problems Thailand faces. How to pool the multidiscipline researchers to address the multidimensional of the problem is a major challenge facing TRF.

Research and Development (R & D):

TRF supports the development of a national repository of scientific, technological, social scientific and humanistic knowledge so as to make research responsive to development needs. Success is determined by capability of research coordinators and network in identifying research problems, organizing team monitoring the quality as well as conducting synthesis and downstream management. With over 40 research coordinators' offices as crucial arms, TRF is able to carry out its mission and face new challenges.

Strategic Research Issues (SRI):

The SRI aims at enhancing national capabilities for coping with crucial issues by building up core knowledge in key areas including food safety and security, energy security, water resource management, education reform, climate change, environmental protection, economy, and the ASEAN community. This involves the connecting and integrating among multiple research fields that cut across many divisions, a challenge for a new management.

Area-Based Collaborative Research (ABC):

Area-based collaborative research aims at strengthening the mechanism for integrating development in each province by providing crucial information to assist in provincial-level formulation of economic and social policy options and decisions. Through ABC, the entire research management process, from the formation of research questions all the way through to the review of findings, has become a tool to open up the social space for collaboration and interaction between development partners. ABC research is therefore highly responsive to the specific context of individual provinces and so paves the way for the application of knowledge by local stakeholders. Currently, ABC covers more than twenty-five provinces in all regions of the country.



TRF Organizational Structure

TRF comprises eight divisions as follows:

National Policies and International Relations Division (Division 1)

Given the dynamics of regional integration, aging society, and chronic inequalities, priority research agenda address the promotion of structural changes, institutional and social innovation, improved economic efficiency, social justice, and international cooperation. Through cross-disciplinary research and by linking issues at the community, national and international levels, this division encourages participation from and collaboration with public and private sectors, civil groups, and researchers in Thailand as well as in other ASEAN countries.

Research projects granted include programs focused on borderland management, transnational production, international migration, regional integration, country watches (Japan, China, Cambodia, Lao PDR and Myanmar), impacts of demographic transition, food and energy security, labor issues, tax reform, justice, corruption, and the role of education and media in social transformation

Division 1 also supports the TRF Forum, where policy makers, academics and stakeholders share knowledge and exchange views.



Agriculture Division (Division 2)

The overall aims of Division 2 are the competitiveness of Thai agricultural products as well as the well-being of farmers.

Division 2 supports knowledge-creation for specific end users. Research areas include: occupations and alternative occupations for farmers and entrepreneurs, policy options, value creation through the exploitation of indigenous plants and animals. The impact of climate change, the ASEAN economic community and free trade zone, new technologies, consumer trends and aging society are well taken in designing the research programs.

Three major areas of research:

- *Commodity-based research; involves the whole supply chain of plants, livestock and aquatic animals, as well as related issues.*



The expected outcomes are 1) appropriate technology for the development of the commodities specified along with a better understanding of the incurred risks and opportunities, 2) better knowledge of the functional effects of Thai fruits, 3) policy recommendations, 4) development of future research topics and capacity building to accommodate the needs of particular provinces and 5) total integration of the agricultural supply chain.



- *Issues-based research; covers food security, agricultural policy and Thai functional fruits.*
- *Area-based research; covers Chainat, Nakhon Pathom, Surat Thani, Chaiyaphum and Phrae provinces.*

Regarding the TRF Strategic Research Issues, Division 2 is responsible for research on food security.

TRF's Division 2 also supports the establishment of excellent centers in collaboration with the universities in order that the related field of studies could work together. Currently, 8 centers supported are as follows:

1. The R&D Center and Network for Meat Science and Technology
2. The R&D Center for Increasing the Value of Native Plants
3. The R&D Center for Animal Breeding (Native Chicken)
4. The R&D Center for Longan
5. The R&D Center for Testing Natural Products for Animal
6. The Duck Health Science Center
7. The Eri Silk Center
8. The Pomelo Science Center

Public Well-Being Division (Division 3)

This division focuses on developing a better understanding of environmental and social welfare, which is important for the social, economic and environmental matrix underpinning development. Division 3 encourages the utilization of research in public policy formulation, contributing to the well-being of Thai society.



Among the programs and projects currently supported by the division are "Highly-efficient water-resource management and distribution to all stakeholders", "Climate change in Thailand: an impact and adaptation program, multilateral environmental agreements", "A knowledge and strategic development think tank", and "A chemicals and hazardous waste management and disposal". In addition, research on a national marine management strategy, coastal erosion mitigation, earthquake and flood mitigation, and the promotion of good-governance in policy formation are also among priority issues.

Some examples of previous research projects include: development of a knowledge-base of non-tariff barriers and multilateral agreements, research on climate change impacts on Thailand, modeling of alleviation of mudflat erosion, development of GIS for area-based water resource management, and research on earthquake resistance and engineering design. The division has also helped in developing the national policy on marine management. Policy recommendations in this area have been put into action, most clearly seen in the establishment of a center supporting knowledge development in marine management. Green procurement in the government sector has been driven by research on sustainable production and consumption roadmap of Thailand.



Community and Social Development Division (Division 4)

This division has two goals, which together empower communities and encourage sustainable development:

1. To strengthen learning and management capabilities in local communities, natural resources and environmental management, welfare, local administration and sufficiency economy.
2. To steer system change at the policy and area implementation levels, using research to mobilize collaboration among concerned parties and to promote grass-roots democracy and social equality.

Major areas of research include local administration and decentralization, micro finance network, land management, conflict resolution, cooperatives movement, learning reform, justice and police reform, sufficiency economy and cultural heritage.





Industry Division (Division 5)

This division focuses on promoting research and development relevant to domestic industries using high-level local content which helps distribute benefits and contribute development to communities throughout their supply chains. The ultimate goal of this division is to distribute economic wealth throughout the country and to strengthen Thai industry's competitiveness in the world market.



Programs/projects supported by this division are divided into three groups:

1. Target-oriented projects for specific industries such as rubber, value-added for agricultural raw material for food industry and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), sustainable tourism industry, logistics and supply chain, and defense industry.
2. Science and technology education-industry linkage projects or Master Research Grants (MAG) for master degree students that help solve problems for domestic industries.
3. Research utilization promotion projects or a so-called innovation business plan grant: IBPG.

Examples of project completed include Thai jasmine rice-based anti-aging cosmetics developed by using biotechnological and nanotechnological processes. In defense industry, the division has conducted joint research projects with several agencies under the Ministry of Defense, and successfully produced some products such as bullet-shield that meets the American standard (U.S.NIJ.0101.04).

Academic Research Division (ARD)

The mission of the Academic Research Division is to provide financial support, in the form of research and career development grants, to qualified researchers to enable them to become professional researchers and have their research findings published in high impact international journals and for their research to tackle real-world problem. The ARD thus helps to strengthen the research community and encourage the use of research findings in national development.

The ARD recognizes the importance of basic research as the basis for applied research and knowledge-based development. As such, the ARD continues to grants support for basic research in all disciplines, including science, technology, social sciences and humanities. Research works are either published in reputable peer-reviewed national and international journals, or granted patents. The division also aims to help professional researchers on their career paths. These researchers fall into three groups: young researchers who have received a doctoral degree not more than five years previously (TRF New Researcher), mid-career researchers (TRF Research Scholar, and TRF Advanced Research Scholar), and senior researchers (TRF Senior Research Scholar and Distinguished Research Professor), the last level being considered highly prestigious.

The ARD's aims are:

1. To support basic research that will serve as the basis for the long-term social and economic development of the country.
2. To support the career path of qualified and professional researchers so that they can realize their full potential and become leaders in their fields.
3. To create networks of researchers and promote research collaborations both at the national and international levels.
4. To encourage the publication of research findings in high impact international journals, and assist in the application for patent rights which may then be exploited for economic and social benefits.



The Royal Golden Jubilee Ph.D. Program

(RGJ-Ph.D. Program)

This program focuses on supporting doctoral students in every discipline to study in Thailand and to carry out research abroad for up to one year during their study. To ensure that the academic outcome of The Royal Golden Jubilee-Ph.D. Program (RGJ) would attain international standards, granting is executed under three quality criteria:

1. Only Ph.D. advisors with good research records and having co-advisors or collaborators in recognized universities abroad would be awarded the grant.
2. Only bachelor or master degree students with high capabilities and best study performance would be awarded a research assistantship.
3. Every student is required to publish at least 1 research paper in an international journal or equivalent before graduation.

The RGJ-Ph.D. program was initiated in 1996 to commemorate the Fiftieth Anniversary of His Majesty the King's accession to the throne. Since its inception, the program has awarded approximately 300 Ph.D.'s fellowships each year and it has become the country's principal and best-known researchers' training scheme. Throughout the years, the program has created and fostered international research collaborations among Thai and overseas universities in over 40 countries around the world.

List of international organizations includes the Thailand-U.S. Educational Foundation (Fulbright), the French Embassy in Thailand, the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS) France, the National Science Foundation (NSF), USA; Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC), UK; British Council, Thailand, and others.



Community-Based Research Division (CBR)



The main purpose of this division is to empower and strengthen local communities through research. It is the research that solves the problem of the people, by the people and for the people in the community. CBR does not conform strictly to conventional academic research, focusing more on the participatory process of local people in identifying research questions learning and searching for solution appropriate to local context. The opportunities of marginal groups are the priority. The research cover all dimensions of community development, such as sustainable natural resource management, sustainable and organic agriculture, community history and culture, community health, community economy, local administration, alternative education, and community-based tourism.

Some CBR examples that produce social impacts in local context include; debt management by local community, food security and sovereignty at community level, water resource management at local level, coastal resource management by local community network, constructing community peace in southern provinces through reading Al Qur'an, community justice model at local level, community-based tourism model, revitalization and maintenance of language and culture for sustainable community development, etc. Most of these researches are conducted in collaboration with various agencies such as universities, government organizations, non-government organizations, and community organizations.

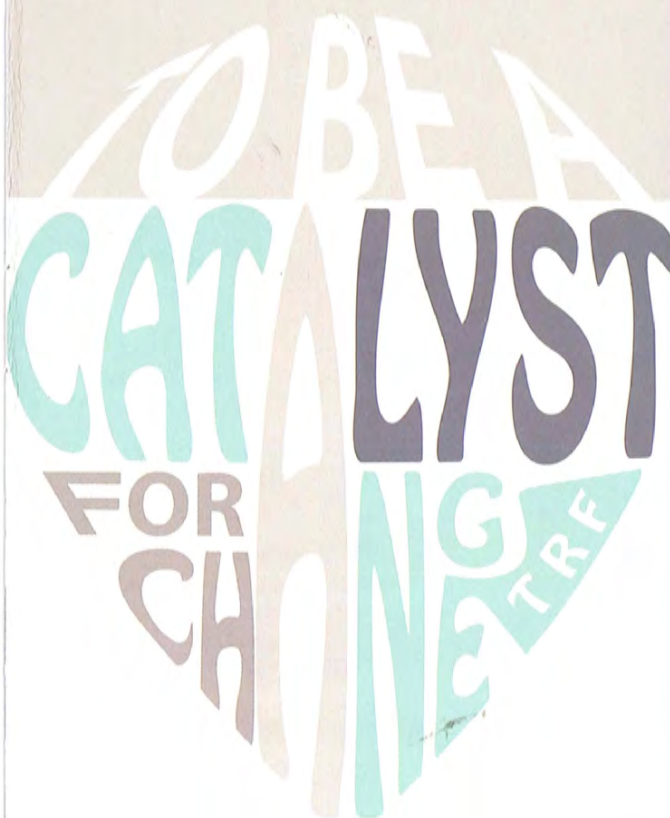
Downstream Management and Social Communication

In addition to fostering the development of researchers and creating the research-based knowledge, TRF also supports the exploitation of the research outputs for academic and commercial purposes, for policy-making, and for public education. TRF has regularly conducted several activities that allow for such knowledge and information transfer. The activities include:

1. Organizing the public forum for all key stakeholders and researchers to share and discuss their findings, ideas and views towards the policy synthesis.
2. Publishing research outputs in journals, policy briefs, newsletters and books.
3. Disseminating research findings through the website (www.trf.or.th) and linked websites (elibrary.trf.or.th, pr.trf.or.th, ezknowledge.trf.or.th and etc.).
4. Transferring knowledge through press agents and social media.
5. Organizing trips for research correspondents to visit research sites and have direct contact with researchers and research users.



These downstream management activities are expected to deliver knowledge, information, news and research recommendation in the hope to reach both general and specific uses and create a knowledge culture in Thai society.



Research Community Collaboration

In order to achieve synergy in national development through research knowledge, TRF operates closely with the following five research funding agencies:

1. The Office of the National Research Council of Thailand (NRCT)
2. National Science and Technology Development Agency (NSTDA)
3. Health Systems Research Institute (HSRI)
4. National Science, Technology and Innovation Policy Office (STI)
5. Agricultural Research Development Agency (ARDA)



International Collaboration

TRF has established and maintained good collaborations with individuals and institutes in many countries around the world. Various forms of collaboration were established ranging from individual cooperation to institutional support. Some academics help TRF with the review of research proposals, while others help supervising RGJ's Ph.D. students. Co-funding is provided by many foreign agencies, mainly in USA, Japan, Australia, UK, Germany, France, Canada and Sweden.





TRF's main role is to assist in the development of researchers and research-based knowledge through making research granting and research management. TRF does not itself conduct any research



TRF's core values



THE THAILAND RESEARCH FUND

Think globally

Research management excellence

Force for change

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