

**COMMODITY STANDARDIZATION IN THAILAND:  
A STUDY OF ITS ORGANIZATION AND ITS FUNCTIONS  
AT THE FIRST STAGE OF ITS OPERATIONS**

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Thailand, by virtue of her soil and her climate, is one of the world's principal agrarian production regions. By far the majority of her population depends primarily upon agriculture which, however, is mainly produced for her own requirements, and secondarily upon industry and export. As in prewar year, the postwar exports of Thailand are still concentrated in four major commodities: rice, rubber, tin and teak. Rice has always been Thailand's leading export. The exports of tin and teak have been declining while rubber has made small gains. The production of other upland crops, such as maize, tapioca, jute and kenaf, castor and mungbeans has been steadily increasing and will become very important export products in the near future.

But one of the most important problems which Thailand is facing is the quality of the above mentioned goods. When they are exported, they are always mixed, camouflaged, reconditioned or modified in some way so that the specifications differ from those described in the standards certificate. For these reasons, if these deficiencies, which occur too frequently, are not remedied, Thailand will eventually lose much of her markets in foreign countries. This fear caused the enactment of a law governing export standards, called the "Export standards Act B.E. 2503 (1960)". According to this law, various kinds of commodities are to be standardized.

As commodity standardization is very new to Thailand, and it has not been studied by any one before, the writer decided to select this topic and began to study the organizations created by this law in order to clarify and to solve the problems. In this study some suggestions are also given as a guide to improve and to eliminate operational short-comings.

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