

**Background of the
Anti-Corruption Center (So.Po.Tho.)**
Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives

Establishment

On 24 July 2012, the Cabinet resolved to establish an Anti-Corruption Action Center in the Office of the Permanent Secretary of the Prime Minister's Office, the Office of the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Justice, etc., to integrate efforts, facilitate, and move forward with the plans to prevent and suppress corruption. These were established as government agencies under Section 31, Paragraph 2 of the State Administration Act of 1991, as amended.

The Ministerial Regulation of the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives (No. 4) BE 2556 (2013 AD) designated the establishment of the Anti-Corruption Center in the Office of the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives to act as the main agency to coordinate and implement anti-corruption efforts as well as promotion of ethics in the ministry.

Administration

Mr. Surapong Cheasakul, as Deputy Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, was appointed as the first Director of the Anti-Corruption Center of the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives.

Authority of the Center

The Anti-Corruption Center has the authority to act on the prevention and suppression of corruption and misconduct, and the promotion of ethics in the Ministry. The Center receives and acts on complaints about corruption, illegal actions or dereliction of duty of officials in government agencies and other organizations under the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives. The Center also safeguards the ethics of officials under the Office of the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry.

Organizational Structure of the Center

The Anti-Corruption Center of the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives consists of two working groups:

1. The Working Group to prevent and suppress corruption and misbehaviour
2. The Working Group to promote the safeguard of ethics