

Impacts of liberalising investment in ASEAN

Since the liberalisation of agricultural trade from ASEAN in 2010, which eliminated the tax on almost all agricultural commodities, rice and other agricultural produce from neighbouring countries flooded into Thailand. It looks like the Thai government is preparing to liberalise “investment” in three more sectors:



- Crop nurseries
- Tree plantations
- Fish breeding



Major Thai corporations will benefit from new opportunities to invest in neighbouring countries, however liberalisation will also allow investors from other ASEAN countries and elsewhere (foreign-owned ASEAN investors) to have the same rights to invest in Thailand as any Thai citizen.

- 1 Foreign companies could enter Thailand easily to profit from our biological resources
- 2 There will be impacts on Thai community enterprises and small businesses in all 3 sectors
- 3 Foreign investors are likely to take over agricultural land and resources
- 4 Monoculture tree plantations and aquaculture will have impacts on local ecosystems
- 5 Conflicts between Thailand’s big corporations and small-scale farmers /local communities in neighbouring countries are likely to increase.

Thai people still have the right to stop the liberalisation before negotiations are concluded in 2013

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