

# Medicinal Landscape of Thailand : Stakeholder and Policy Challenges

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# Cannabinoid Medicine Institute, Biomedicine Institute, Environmental Medicine Institute

The Occupational and  
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Thailand established **in**  
**1964**



# Cannabis

- ▶ 2012 Medical cannabis as interesting medicine related issues
- ▶ Scientific reviews and workshops 2015, Cannabinoid Med Ins
- ▶ Conference on medical cannabis and cannabinoid medicine 2016
- ▶ Hosted Scientific Meeting on Cannabinoid Medicine 2017
- ▶ Projects on Technical books on Cannabinoid Medicine 2017
- ▶ 7 books of Cannabinoid Medicine
- ▶ Training courses on Cannabinoid Medicine, 6 batches
- ▶ Training courses on Medical cannabis and researches, 5 batches
- ▶ Co organized Conference on Medical Cannabis Extracts with GPO (Gov Pharma Org), etc.
- ▶ Proposals for Policy makers on medical use purposes of cannabis, consultants
- ▶ Medical cannabis networks - medical research networks - 22 projects in interdisciplinary approaches (on going) 511
- ▶ Thai cannabis industry forum 31 bodies

## Thai Medical Council - Sub committee on cannabinoid medicine

- ▶ 2018 - providing lecture on cannabinoid medicine for all representatives of royal medicine societies at medical council
- ▶ 2019 - first meeting



# Thailand has a long history with cannabis.

- ▶ Marijuana was once classified as a traditional herb before it was re-categorized as a narcotic in the 1970s -- which prohibited its production, consumption, sale and possession.
- ▶ readily available despite high penalties for those caught smoking it.
- ▶ Several nations have embraced the use of medicinal cannabis, including Canada, Australia, Israel, and more than half the states in the US.
- ▶ US-based Grand View Research has estimated the global market for medical marijuana could reach \$55.8 billion by 2025.

# Status of Cannabis in Thailand

## NARCOTICS ACT B.E. 2522 (1979)\*

**Section 5** This Act shall not apply to the Office of the Food and Drug Board (FDA), Ministry of Public Health but the FDA shall submit semi-annual report on the receipt, distribution, storage and other operational procedures pertaining to the control of narcotics to the Committee for information, and the Committee shall submit such reports together with its opinions to the Minister for further issue of orders.

**Section 6** The Minister of Public Health shall have charge and control of the execution of this Act and the power to appoint competent officials, issue Ministerial Regulations prescribing fees not exceeding the rates provided in the schedules hereto attached, granting exemption from fees, and prescribing other activities, and to issue Notifications for the execution of this Act. Such Ministerial Regulations and Notifications shall come into force upon their publication in the Government Gazette.

# "medicinal formula" means a formula of preparation regardless of form or description which

- ▶ contains narcotics, and includes narcotics in the form of finished pharmaceutical products ready for human or animal use
- ▶ "licensee" means a holder of a license under this Act;
- ▶ "licensing authority" means the Secretary-General of the Food and Drug Board or person
- ▶ entrusted by the Secretary-General of the FDA Food and Drug Board



## Section 7: Narcotics shall be classified into 5 categories:

- (1) **Category I** consists of dangerous narcotics such as heroin;
- (2) **Category II** consists of ordinary narcotics such as morphine, cocaine, codeine, medicinal opium;
- (3) **Category III** consists of narcotics which are in the form of medicinal formula and contain narcotics of category II as ingredients in accordance with the rules prescribed by the Minister and published in the Government Gazette;
- (4) **Category IV** consists of chemicals used for producing narcotics of category I or category II such as acetic anhydride, acetyl chloride ;
- (5) **Category V** consists of narcotics which are not included in category I to category IV such as **marijuana**, kratom plant. Provided that the names of narcotics shall be specified by the Minister in accordance with section 8 (1).



## **Section 8 The Minister, with the approval of the Committee, shall have the power to notify the following in the Government Gazette**

- (1) specifying the names of narcotics in order to indicate the category of narcotics under section 7;
- (2) revoking or altering the name or category of narcotics under (1);
- (3) prescribing standards on quantity, ingredients, quality, purity or other descriptions of narcotics as well as packaging and storage of narcotics;
- (4) prescribing the quantity and additional quantity of narcotics to be used annually for medicinal and scientific purposes throughout the Kingdom ;
- (5) prescribing rules and procedure of prescribing quantity of narcotics which a licensing authority may permit to produce, import, dispose or possess;
- (6) prescribing rules concerning narcotics of category III under section 7(3);
- (7) establishing medical establishments;
- (8) prescribing rules and regulations for the control of treatment and disciplinary rules for medical establishment.

**Section 26** No person shall produce, dispose of, import, export or possess narcotics of category IV or category V unless the Minister has issued the license with the approval of the Board for each case.

- ▶ The possession of narcotics of category IV or category V in quantity of ten kilograms upwards shall be regarded as possessing for disposal.
- ▶ The application for a license shall be in accordance with the rules, procedure and conditions prescribed in the Ministerial Regulation

**Section 64** In carrying narcotics of category I, category II, category IV, and category V in transit

the carrier must obtain a license issued by the competent authority of the exporting country accompanying the narcotics, and must produce the said license to the customs official and consent to the keeping of or having the narcotics in custody by the customs official.

**Section 75** Any person who, in violation of Section 26, produces, imports or exports narcotics of category V shall be liable to imprisonment for a term of 2-15 years and to a fine of 200,000 - 1,500,000 Thb.

If the narcotics which constitute the corpus deficit is Kratom plant (*Mitragyna speciosa*), the offender shall be liable to imprisonment not exceeding two years and to a fine not exceeding two hundred thousand baht.

**Section 76** Any person who, in violation of Section 26, if the possesses narcotics of category V shall be liable to imprisonment for a term not exceeding five years or to a fine not exceeding one hundred thousand baht or to both.

If the narcotics which constitute the corpus deficit as defined in paragraph one is Kratom plant (*Mitragyna speciosa*), the offender shall be liable to imprisonment for a term not exceeding one year or to a fine not exceeding twenty thousand baht or to both.

# Narcotics control Division, FDA

## Tasks

- ▶ **Control and supervise the uses** of Narcotics and Psychotropic Substances in Medicines, Sciences and Industries in order to have the standard qualities and safety;
- ▶ **Provide News and Regulations** concerning Psychoactive Substances to be systemic and widespread for the relevant offices and peoples in order to know correct knowledges;
- ▶ **Develop the cognition**, follow the assessments of situations and study, research guidelines of epidemics of Narcotics, Psychotropic Substances and Volatile Substances to problems proffers which may occur in the future;
- ▶ **Obtain, store, destroy and make uses** of Confiscated Narcotics and Confiscated Non-Narcotics as indicated in the regulations to prevent the leakage back to the society;
- ▶ **Develop the systems of the controlled tasks** of the Psychoactive Substances.

# Standards and Regulations Sub-Division, FDA

## Tasks

- 1 Consider provisions and Rules, Regulations and Notification of the Acts about Narcotics, Psychotropic Substances and to prevent the illegal uses of Volatile Substances
- 2 Study, compile, analyse technical data, assess problems, situations and submit guidelines in order to control Narcotics, precursors and other Essential Chemicals to put together considerations to specify or improve the controls of the Acts of Narcotics, Psychotropic Substances
- 3 Study, compile, analyse data, assess problems conditions and submit the guidelines in order to improve and develop rules, criteria and specifications concerning the Psychoactive Substances
- 4 Consider the decisions to specify the kinds of products



**Legalization:**  
National Legislative Assembly  
(NLA) bill will allow medicinal  
and research purposes

On Dec 25, 2018

Prior to the voting on the new drug law, the NLA carried out the second and third readings of the bill, which consists of 28 sections.

Important part of the new law is about the allowance of medicinal and research purposes marijuana and kratom.

## Eligible groups:

1. Medical professionals;
2. Pharmacists;
3. Dentists;
4. Practitioners of traditional Thai medicine;
5. Educational institutions offering medicinal studies and research;
6. Farmers in registered community enterprises;
7. Operators of inter-country transport services;
8. Patients needing prescribed marijuana or kratom while travelling abroad and
9. Other parties as approved by the public health minister are also eligible to seek permission to handle the two plants.

# 16 traditional cannabis-based medicines in the pipeline



สภาการแพทย์แผนไทย  
Thai Traditional Medical Council

- ▶ Traditional medicine authorities will proposed 16 cannabis-based medical formulas for production and application approval.
- ▶ The sixteen formulas had been developed mainly to treat pain, insomnia, haemorrhoids, mental illness and skin disease and boost health and appetite

E.g. Sanun Tripop, Suksaiyart,



# The forbidden medicine, cannabis

before 2000

feel better  
relieve pain  
MS  
nausea  
seizures

since 2000

epilepsy  
paraplegia  
glaucoma  
chronic pain  
migraine  
depression  
Insomnia  
cancer

**Cannabinoid Medicine -  
evolution of medicine  
for mankind????? A challenge**