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|  | **Press Release** |
| **Embargoed until 11am, December 15, 2021** | |
| Agro-Industry Policy Division, Director Myeong-cheol Choi (044-201-2411), Deputy Director Chang-heong Lee (2423) / Provided on December 15 (3 pages) | |
| **Smart Farm Innovation Valley in Sangju started operation as an innovation hub for talents and technologies**  - Sangju held a completion ceremony on December 15, 2021  after 2-year construction - | |

<Summary>

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| ◈ Smart Farm Innovation Valley in Sangju, Geongsangbuk-do held a completion ceremony on November 29, 2021.  ○ Gimje held the ceremony after completing the 2-year construction through planning and detailed design after it was selected in August 2018.  ◈ The main functions of Smart Farm Innovation Valley include ①Smart-farm training for young agri-professionals, ②Smart-farm lease for young agri-professionals, ③research and demonstrate of smart-farm technology  ○ Smart Farm Innovation Valley in Sangju, the largest among 4 other valleys, will take the lead to attract smart-farm professionals, nurture them and help them take root in the smart-farm industry. |

* The Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (Minister Kim Hyeon-soo, MAFRA) announced that Smart Farm Innovation Valley in Sangju, Geongsangbuk-do has started its operation by holding the completion ceremony on December 15 2021.

❍ Gimje held the ceremony after completing the 2-year construction through planning and detailed design. The site was selected in August 2018 and broke ground in December 2019.

\* Gimje/Sangju (1st phase, selected in Aug. 2018), Miryang/Goheung (2nd phase, selected in March 2019)

* The government has implemented a policy to promote smart farms as a national work plan and one of 8 leading initiatives\* to address agricultural issues such as decreasing workforce and climate change. Smart farms provide the agriculture industry with infrastructure to leverage advanced technology.

\*  Hyper-connected intelligence, smart factory, smart farm, fin-tech, new energy industry, smart city, drone, and future car

❍ Among the initiatives, ‘Smart Farm Innovation Valley’ has been implemented a crucial project of the smart farm policy by announcing a plan to promote smart farms nationwide with related government agencies in April 2018.

❍ MAFRA introduces Smart Farm Innovation Valley as an innovation hub to nurture young agri-professionals, and research and develop state-of-the-art technologies in the agriculture industry.

* The main functions of Smart Farm Innovation Valley include ①Smart-farm training for young agri-professionals, ②Smart-farm lease for young agri-professionals, ③research and demonstrate of smart-farm technology

❍ The site has core facilities such as childcare, rental farms, demonstration greenhouses, the big data center and support center.

* Smart Farm Innovation Valley in Sangju, which will start operation this time, is the largest among the smart farm innovation valleys in the four regions and has 10ha of core facilities on the 43ha-site.

❍ By 2023, the valley will build a cultural street with various convenience facilities and accommodation for young farmers to settle in smoothly, and rental smart farms for existing farmers within the site.

* Gyeongsangbuk-do and Sangju have a plan to accelerate the virtuous cycle of the youth inflow, growth, and settlement seamlessly by making synergy with the valley’s youth incubation system, funding and greenhouses.

❍ The valley will create a win-win model between existing and new farmers as leading farms in the region by passing on smart-farm operation and crop cultivation technology, and helping open a new market.

* In the meantime, MAFRA will provide its comprehensive support to promote smart agriculture based on big data and artificial intelligence by building infrastructure for data, reinforcing competitiveness of agricultural businesses, and supporting their export.

❍ MAFRA will launch a new project\* to diagnose problems at farms such as pests and cultivation management based on artificial intelligence with the aim to promote use of agricultural data.

\* Comprehensive support with technologies and equipment for a company which signed partnership with over 50 farms (6.2 billion won in 2022)

- To make itself different from other regions, Smart Farm Innovation Valley in Sangju plans to focus on demonstration of agricultural robots and plants for export.

❍ For exporting Korean smart farms, pilot greenhouses will be built overseas. More efforts will follow to analyze overseas markets and make strategies to enter into the markets with relevant ministries.

* Minister Hyeon-soo Kim of MAFRA attended the completion ceremony and congratulated the opening on December 15.

❍ “We will elevate competitiveness of Korean smart agriculture to the next level by promoting smart agriculture led by on Smart Farm Innovation Valleys, providing data-based farm support services, and actively nurturing smart farm R&D and professionals,” he said in his congratulation speech.

❍ “We hope that this will revitalize the local economy in Sangju with young farmers and their dreams.”

❍ Prime Minister Kim Boo-kyum said in a video congratulatory speech, "smart farms will become the growth engine of agriculture, address issues in the agriculture industry such as declining and aging agricultural population, and give young farmers dreams and hopes."

❍ “We hope that many young farmers can grow business and realize dreams here for the future agriculture.”