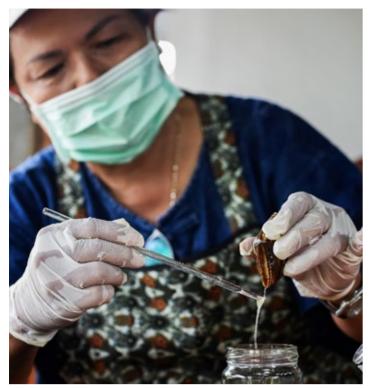
Thai farmers on the cash trail with snail slime



Phatinisiri Thangkeaw milking a snail of its serum at her farm in Nakhon Nayok

With her 1,000 snails, the teacher makes an extra \$320 to \$650 a month

It "triggers the skin cells... and helps heal the skin"

Nakhon Nayok, Thailand

mucus from the molluscs, which Insights. to some cosmetic firms are now

more valuable than gold.

The snails at Phatinisiri snail by dripping water over it \$46,300 a kilogram. Thangkeaw's farm were once using a pipette. the scourge of rice farmers, loathed for eating the buds of International, a Thai-based cos-

on the road or in the rivers," Phathe US. tinisiri said. "But now they sell them to me to earn extra money."

teacher makes an extra \$320 to \$650 a month.

in Nakhon Nayok province, two tarathuvanun. iant snails inch across hours from the capital Banga plate of pumpkin and kok, cashing in on the global cucumber in central snail beauty market, estimated brand, but also supplies Korean Thailand, an "organic" diet to at \$314 million, according to re- and American cosmetic comtease the prized collagen-rich search group Coherent Market

The precious slime is patiently kilogram, he said.

We found that our slime was very intense because the snails eat everything, including vegetables, grains and even mushrooms... producing good quality slime. the mucus can be used to heal sunburn and heal wounds

PHATINISIRI THANGKEAW



"milked" from the glands of the

Its raw form is sold to Aden metics company that primarily once every three weeks in Thai-"Farmers used to throw them ships its products to Korea and

The sole snail slime producer in Thailand, Aden was With her 1,000 snails, the started three years ago as a very intense because the snails business-savvy solution to the It is one of more than 80 farms ok, said founder Kitpong Put-

> And his bet paid off -- Kitpong sells the serum under the Acha panies with a dried powder at

Gold is currently worth skin firm with less

Compared to Aden's snail slime, the mucus produced in skin cells... and helps China -- milked daily instead of heal the skin". land -- is valued at about 80,000 baht (\$2,600) per kilogram, Kitpong said.

"We found that our slime was eat everything, including vegsnail infestation in Nakhon Nay- etables, grains and even mushrooms... producing good quality first in the area to try farming slime," he said, explaining that the slime, she said, and villagers the mucus can be used to heal sunburn and "heal wounds".

Somkamol Manchun, the doctor in charge of the purifi- baht to 30 baht (about \$1) per cation process, said snail mucus kilogram," she said. "But many 1.8 million baht (\$58,200) per contains collagen and elastin people are doing snail farms now -- ingredients that "can make so the competition is high."

wrinkles".

It "triggers the

At the moment, no scientific studies have been done on the curative qualities of snail serum and slime, but snail farmer Phatinisiri is already feeling the market heat up.

Two years ago, she was the readily gave her what they considered pests.

"Now I buy snails at about 25

China Southern Airlines to receive \$4 billion capital injection

Reuters | Shanghai

China Southern Airlines will carry out an equity diversification plan that will involve the injection of 30 billion yuan (\$4.36 billion) of capital from three inves-Saturday.

The Guangdong Hengjian Investment Holding Corporation, the Guangzhou Urban Construction Investment Group and the Shenzhen Penghang Equity Investment Fund will each inject 10 billion yuan into the airline, as part of the country's efforts to diversify ownership structures among state-owned firms.

The move will significantly improve the company's debt-to-asset ratio, generate funds for its growth and help modernize its decision-making mechanisms, the announcement said.

It will also use the funds to serve its main air transportation business, pay for construction related to China's Belt and Road Initiative and support aviation development in cities in the southern province of Guangdong.

China Southern is one of 96 enterprises owned and administered directly by the central government.

Indian government seeks to tap foreign lenders for small firms: sources

The government is in discussions with Germany's stateowned development bank KfW Group, the World Bank and some **Canadian institutions**

India has 63 million firms in the micro, small and medium firm sector

Seeks to provide as much as \$14.5 billion in credit

Reuters | New Delhi

Tndia's government is in talks **⊥** with foreign lenders to provide as much as \$14.5 billion in credit to millions of its small firms, two officials said.

The government is in discussions with multiple foreign lenders, including Germany's state-owned development bank KfW Group, the World Bank and some Canadian institutions to extend lines of credit to small enterprises, one of the officials, who did not want to be identified, told Reuters.

KfW's India office confirmed the discussions, though the



A worker operates a lathe as he makes spare parts of car gearboxes at a workshop in Kolkata, India

We are exploring. we are having discussions with various funding agencies if something can be done (for small and medium

> firms) OFFICIAL

main focus was on credit lines to support small businesses' so-

in India yesterday said the discussions with the government were in the early stages, adding that "further rounds of consultations will help us define the contours of this collaboration".

The official said the government plans to source up to 1 trillion Indian rupees of loans from foreign institutions.

"We are exploring, we are having discussions with various were at an early stage, KfW said. can be done (for small and me-A spokesman for World Bank dium firms)," the second official

> The officials did not provide full details of the discussions they are having with banks, or identify all those they are talking to, but said talks are at a very early stage.

India's micro, small and medium enterprise (MSME) ministry Bank of India, the first official is discussing the proposal to pull said.

in foreign banks with the country's ministry of finance, which will make a final call, the second official said. The push for foreign loans

comes on the heels of the Indian government's announcement earlier this month that it plans to borrow about 700 billion rupees by issuing overseas sovereign

India's 63 million firms in the micro, small and medium firm sector are responsible for more than a quarter of the country's manufacturing and services output, and must be re-energized for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government to kick-start the economy.

Last month, a study by a Reserve Bank of India panel said the overall deficit in credit for the MSME sector is estimated at about 20 trillion rupees to 25 trillion rupees.

But lending to such firms can lar power generation. The talks funding agencies if something be risky as some lack proper financial information, such as historical cash flow data, which makes it challenging for banks to assess the credit risks.

To mitigate such risks for foreign banks, the loans would be given sovereign guarantees and be routed through Indian government agencies such as the Small Industries Development