



WEEKLY UPDATE ON ASEAN PLUS THREE RICE SITUATION

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Cambodia

Despite falling prices, rice exports up

The number of milled rice exports increased up to 3.3 % from 408,000 tonnes to 421,000 tonnes compared with the same period of previous year. China, France, and Poland are the major buyer countries. Last month, China signed MoU to buy 200,000 tonnes of rice from Cambodia annually. The government of Cambodia also signed the MoU with Vietnam and is negotiating with Indonesia and Timor-Leste. They expected to signed pacts by the end of this year or the beginning of 2017.

Source: Sok C. (2016, Nov 11). *Despite falling prices, rice exports up*, Khmer Times.

Myanmar

Myanmar government plans paddy rice purchase

Myanmar government discuss in the plan of buying paddy rice directly from the farmers to solve the falling rice prices. Vice President said warehouse and rice mills should be provided in the sale centre. They will decide which areas paddy rice

purchases are required and organize the purchases after the areas list is submitted to the committee. The rain during harvest costs more financial burden, such as cost of relocate and dry rice, to the farmers. Vice President said the paddy-drying machines were important for the rice sector.

Source: Myanmar Times, (2016, Nov 11). *Myanmar government plans paddy purchase*.

Philippines

National rice awareness month kicks off at PH's rice granary

The Philippines Rice Research Institute arranged the National Rice Awareness Month (NRAM) during the 31th anniversary of the institute on November 7, 2016. The NRAM this year focused on making brown rice, produced by removing only the hull, as a food staple to white rice. This aims to solve the malnutrition, low income, rice shortage, and hunger in the county.

There was social media campaign **#BROWN4good Challenge** which promoted brown rice. Every hash tag was equal of one cup of brown rice which will be donated to the partner- charities.

Source: Philippines Rice Research Institute. (2016, Nov 11). *National rice awareness month kicks off at PH's rice granary*.

Thailand

Thai exporters sign MoUs with Hong Kong buyers to sell rice, tapioca

On November 14, 2016, Thai exporters got five pacts of signed MoUs for a combined 11,000 tonnes of rice and 800,000 tonnes of tapioca chips at meeting organized by the Commerce Ministry. The Commerce Minister said this

event will boost up the disposal of Thai farm products in remaining months of this year which will accordingly improve domestic prices.

Thailand has shipped a total of 6.85 million tonnes for the first nine months of 2016, worth USD 3.08 billion.

Source: Bangkok Post, (2016, Nov 15). *Thai exporters sign MoUs to sell rice, tapioca.*

NFC chairman calls for farming reform

Chairman of the National Farmers Council urged the Agriculture and cooperatives Ministry to reform the agriculture sector and create the integrated farming. He also asked for establish a department for sustainable agricultural development; this will help 4 million farm households and reduce the government fiscal burden.

Integrated farming can encourage farmers to decline rice growing area and plant napier grass or raise farm animals.

The state-backed farm bank will find board approval to set up 5 billion baht capital fund to invest with farmers who have nice management but face shortage of fund.

Source: Bangkok Post, (2016, Nov 14). *NFC chairman calls for farming reform.*

Rice stocks hampering new harvest

Farmers begged the government for assistance since there is no space in their barns to keep new harvest. The severe problem found in Surin Province where the rice fields were affected by floods. The latest rice scheme aimed at helping farmers to store newly harvested crops in the barns cause dissatisfaction to those who have no their own barns. The administration also increased the number of sale channels through -

www. Co-opclick.com.

About one quarter of north eastern people believe the recent fall of rice costs came from the lack of preparation of the government, following from E-san poll.

Source: Bangkok Post, (2016, Nov 13). *Rice stocks hampering new harvest.*

Japan

Japan helps Sao Tome and Principe by donating rice.

Sao Tome Minister for Foreign Affairs reported that Japan granted food aid of 3,000 tonnes of rice worth up to 240 million yen (1.87 million USD) under the new food aid agreement for 2016. This aims to contribute food security in Sao Tome and Principe and to strengthening the democracy, economic, and social development of the group of islands.

The fund from the sale would be used for social work such as construction of rural road, schools, health centres and water supply to develop the living condition of people in Sao Tome and Principe.

Source: Macauhub, (2016, Nov 11). *Japan helps Sao Tome and Principe by donating rice.*

Republic of Korea

South Korea's rice output falls slightly in 2016

The rice production in the country reached 4.2 million tonnes this year, dropped 3% from 4.33 million tonnes in 2015 due to bad weather in harvest season. A total of 779,000 hectares of paddy was cultivated this year, down 2.6% from the previous year. Earlier, the government said they will buy this year's entire rice surplus, which forecasted to have about 300,000 tonnes, to deal with the oversupply of staple crop.

Source: Yonhap News, (2016, Nov 15). *South Korea's rice output falls slightly in 2016.*

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** This Weekly Update on ASEAN Plus Three Food Security Related Information is based on all available sources during the period.*