



WEEKLY UPDATE ON ASEAN PLUS THREE RICE SITUATION

No. 4 1-6 December 2016

Myanmar

Commerce ministry swapped paddy export for purchase program

The Ministry of Commerce has cancelled plans to allow paddy exports as part of measures to address a slump in prices. Instead the government intends to buy paddy directly from farmers. There were some criticisms on the proposed floor price for the government purchase program for being too low.

The ministry was planning to buy 100 baskets of average-quality paddy (about 1.5 tonnes) for K380,000 (about USD 278) said assistant secretary at the commerce ministry. However prices in several areas are higher than that. The price for 100 baskets in Ayeyarwaddy Region was around K400, 000. (about USD 195.3 per 1 tonne)

*USD 1 = K 1,364.40

Source: Su Phyo Win, (2016, Dec 1). *Commerce ministry swaps paddy export for purchase program*, Myanmar Times.

Thailand

Thai Rice Exports Seen at 10 million tonnes in 2016, 2017

Thailand's rice exports this year should reach 10 million metric tons and shipments next year could be the same, the country's rice export association said, both higher than the government's forecast.

Honorary president of the Thai Rice Exporters Association, told Reuters, estimating it would be worth around 170 billion baht (USD 4.70 billion). He also added that rice exports in December should rise as Chinese buyers will order for the Lunar New Year holiday in January.

Source: Rice HQ World Rice Industry News & Prices, (2016, Dec 2). *Thai Rice Exports Seen at 10m Tons in 2016, 2017*.

Viet Nam

Rejected rice export consignments to US are not toxic: officials

Head of the Department of Processing and Trading Agricultural, Forestry, Aquatic Products and Salt under the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD), said the exports were refused because the products could not meet the requirements on Isoprothiolane.

Isoprothiolane is an active element contained in 60 plant protection products allowed to be used in Vietnam to prevent disease on rice. Since the US has not set the MRL (maximum residue limits) for the element, export products must temporarily accept the 0 ppm level, i.e. no Isoprothiolane.

Chair of the Vietnam Food Association (VFA), of the substances the US has given warnings, there are four without MRLs, namely Isoprothiolane, Hexaconazole, Fenitrothion and Flusicolazole. Therefore, the US will refuse any products containing these substances. Therefore, export countries need to set MRLs and register with the US farm produce import management agencies. Since Vietnam still doesn't have MRLs for the substances, there is no basis for it to negotiate with the US.

Source: Rice HQ World Rice Industry News & Prices, (2016, Dec 6). *Rejected rice export consignments to US are not toxic: officials.*

China

Customs police bust traffickers of rice, other grains

Chinese customs authorities said they had solved 57 grain trafficking cases in the first ten months of 2016, involving rice and other grains worth 1.086 billion yuan (USD 157.8 million). The smuggled grain weighed 218,500 tonnes, said the General Administration of Customs.

Smuggling of rice and other agricultural produce not only affects China's domestic prices, but also poses threats to food safety.

Source: Xinhua, (2016, Dec 2). *Customs police bust traffickers of rice, other grains*, China.org.cn.

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