



## WEEKLY UPDATE ON ASEAN PLUS THREE RICE SITUATION

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### **Cambodia**

#### **Rice infrastructure bids sought**

The Rural Development Bank (RDB) had called for bidders who interest to develop and operate a 200,000 tonnes rice warehouse and a rice paddy drying facility which would have capacity to process 3,000 tonnes a day.

The Cambodian government was seeking to financial additional agriculture infrastructure to deal with a shortage of warehouse and drying facilities in order to make the rice sector more efficient and support farmers.

RDB CEO said the government has about USD 15 million to build the warehouse and drying facilities in Battambang province. The bank said project proposals and plans including financial and technical proposals are to be submitted by the end of this month.

**Source:** Sok C., (2016, Dec 15). *Rice infrastructure bids sought*, Khmer Times.

### **Philippines**

#### **Philippines approved rice trader imports of 641,080 tonnes, below quota**

The Philippines state grains agency approved the permits for local rice traders to import 641,080 tonnes of the staple grain from Thailand, Viet Nam, Pakistan and India. Private traders will import 284,780 tonnes of rice from Thailand; 294,020 tonnes from Viet Nam; 56,140 tonnes from Pakistan; and 6,140 tonnes from India. The shipment will boost the rice supply in the country which remains ample this year. Fresh demand from the Philippines could push export prices of rice especially in Viet Nam and Thailand.

**Source:** Rice HQ World Rice Industry News & Prices, (2016, Dec 14). *Philippines approves rice trader imports of 641,080 T, below quota*.

### **Thailand**

#### **State rice stocks headed for disposal**

The government committed to dispose all 8 million tonnes of state rice stock next year. According to Director-General of Foreign Trade Department, 5 million tonnes of total is not suitable for human consumption. The commerce Ministry consulted with the Energy and Industry Ministry to figure out the way to use those 5 million tonnes of rice that unfit for consumption. They might be used in biomass and ethanol production. For good quality rice, remaining 3 million tonnes, the authorities will call auctions at opportune periods.

The state-held rice stocks have fallen sharply from the 18.7 million tonnes through many rice pledging schemes during 2011-2014

**Source:** Phusadee A., (2016, Dec 20). *State rice stocks headed for disposal*, Bangkok Post.

## Viet Nam

### **Quality not quantity: Viet Nam should lower rice export target**

Chairman of the Vietnam Food Association (VFA) said that Viet Nam should adjust the export target down to 2-3 million tonnes instead of 7-8 million tonnes yearly due to declining demand of major buyers such as China, Philippines, Indonesia, and Malaysia.

These aforementioned countries have been trying to boost their rice product and gradually they are getting promising result. To expand Viet Nam's rice market, a rice trader in Vietnam said farmers should focus on quality of rice since now the domestic consumers are choosing for the Cambodian rice which is believed it's cleaner than local rice.

The figure from Agricultural Ministry revealed that Viet Nam exported 4.5 million tonnes of rice over the first 11 months, declined 25 percent compared with last year.

5 million tonnes is expected figure of exports rice in 2016, lower than the target of 5.65 million tonnes set in summer.

**Source:** Vietnam Express, (2016, Dec 15). *Quality not quantity: Vietnam should lower rice export target.*

## Japan

### **Japan rice exports soar to record year**

Japan's rice exports through October had already surpassed its last year record. Export volume increased 33 percent on the year to 7,673 tonnes in January to October. Even without the two last months of the year, that already exceeds 2015's record of 7,640 tonnes.

Japan's domestic demand is falling by 80,000 tonnes a year. High prices are the

main obstacle to sell on the international markets. In Hong kong, Japanese rice costs from USD 16.7 – 18 from 2 kilogramme.

**Source:** Nikkei, (2016, Dec 15). *Japan rice exports soar to record year.*

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