



WEEKLY UPDATE ON ASEAN PLUS THREE RICE SITUATION

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Indonesia

Indonesia's holiday food stock enough for 4 months

Trade Minister said the government already had an agreement with big rice traders. In addition, the State Logistics Agency (Bulog) has stockpile of rice up to 1.6 million metric tonnes which could last until May 2017.

To avoid the stockpiling, the major traders must register their storage and make monthly report to the government. Currently, there are 14,400 rice storages which already been registered, Bulog itself has 152 storages.

Source: Hermansyah, A. (2016, Dec 23). *Indonesia's holiday food stock enough for 4 months*. The Jakarta Post.

Philippines

Philippines ready to lift rice restrictions next year

The Philippines is ready to operate in the environment without quantitative restrictions on rice imports in 2017. The Department of Agriculture determined

to support the rice sector as the foundation of the Philippines' food security policy. The deadline was postponed twice in 2005 and in 2015 and waiver was obtained for another extension to July 2017.

Manila limits to 805,000 metric tonnes of rice allowed to enter the country under the Minimum Access Volume (MAV) at low tariff rate of 35 percent. This rate is lower than shipment outside the MAV.

Source: Gavez, J. K. (2016, Dec 22). *PH ready to lift rice restriction next yr*. The Manila Times.

Thailand

Rice export prices in Thailand are flat ahead of Christmas and New Year

Since there are less buyers during the Christmas and New Year, the price of rice in the markets was dull with the benchmark 5 percent broken rice quoted at USD 360 a tonne on 21 December, compared with the previous week between USD 355-360. Commerce Ministry said the exported figure of this year was 9.3 million tonnes of rice, worth USD 4.06 billion. The major imports countries of Thai rice are China and countries in Africa.

Source: Rewari, G. (2016, Dec 23). *Rice export prices in Thailand are flat ahead of Christmas and New Year*. Rice Outlook.com.

Viet Nam

Viet Nam to extend rice trade deal with Philippines

The Viet Nam government had issued a resolution to extend the rice agreement that was signed with the Philippines government in 2010 and due to lapse in the end of this year. The new extension is expected to last for the 2017- 2020 period.

Viet Nam will continue to supply rice for the Philippines through the exchange of note and approval of exchange notes.

The Philippines is among the biggest importers of rice from Viet Nam; however, the rice shipments from Viet Nam have a downturn recently.

The Viet Nam Food Association said domestic businesses have chance to boost rice exports as the Philippines plans to import 293,100 tonnes of rice from Viet Nam to meet the demand during the 2017 between-crop period. Viet Nam-Philippines bilateral trade topped USD 2.92 billion in 2015. It increased by 15.3 percent year on year to USD 1.52 billion in the first half of 2016, including USD 1.08 billion of Viet Nam exports, up 17.5 percent.

Source: VIETNAMNET. (2016, Dec 22). *Vietnam to extend rice trade deal with Philippines.*

Republic of Korea

Government imports rice to meet its tariff-rate quota

The Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs announced that they were importing 116,000 tonnes of rice to fulfill its WTO-regulated annual tariff-rate quota of 487,000 tonnes of rice.

The Republic of Korea was given a 20-year grace period for rice tariffs, under condition that it would import foreign rice 487,000 tonnes each year. The country so far imported 292,664 tonnes in 2016.

To stabilize the domestic rice market during harvest season, the imported rice will be released into the market at least April 2017. The government of republic of Korea had 1.71 million tonnes of stockpiled rice in November 2016.

Source: Lee, K. (2016, Dec 22). *Government imports rice to meet its tariff-rate quota.* The Korea Bizwire.

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