



WEEKLY UPDATE ON ASEAN PLUS THREE RICE SITUATIONS

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Myanmar

The rice export volume has declined in this fiscal year due to flooding and low demand from China. In 2016-2017 fiscal year, the rice export volume was expected to reach 1 million tonnes, less than 2015-2016 fiscal year export volume of 1.3 million tonnes. Flooding in late July and early August 2016 affected more than 1.3 million acres (520,000 hectares) of rice paddies.

In Myanmar, monsoon season paddies are mainly planted between June and August and will be harvested in October. Dry season paddies are planted between November and December and will be harvested around April.

*1 acre = 0.40 hectare

Source: Kyaw Hsu Mon. (2017, Jan 23). *Rice Export Volume Drops*. The Irrawaddy.

Nay Pyi Taw, the region's agricultural department is aiming to plant over 15,000 acres (6,070 hectares) of summer paddy, from over 10,000 acres (4,046 hectares) last year. The Department of Agriculture has faced the main problem which is distributing

water to different kinds of crops in the same area. The government provided cultivation agents in villages in order to coordinate with the department with their water and machinery needs.

*1 acre = 0.40 hectare

Source: Htoo Thant. (2017, Jan 18). *Nay Pyi Taw dam helps boost summer paddy plans*. Myanmar Times

Philippines

National Food Authority (NFA) Davao city field office assured that rice supply will last up to 33 days at 350,000 bags of buffer stock. NFA had signed a memorandum of agreement with the Davao city government to make rice available during the calamity. Rice production in Davao city is not sufficient for the consumption in its area. NFA council had endorsed rice importation for the first quarter of 2017 to increase the current buffer stock.

Source: Dalumpines, J. S. G. (2017, Jan 23). *National Food Authority-Davao City assures rice supply will last up to 33 days*. Philippines Information Agency (PIA).

Paddy rice in the first half of the year could reach 8.54 million metric tonnes (MMT), 11.68 percent higher than the 7.65 MMT record a year ago. The Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) said favorable weather would boost unmilled rice output in the January-to-June period.

Based on standing crop and planting intentions of 2.08 million hectares, the January to June 2017 production may reach 8.54 MMT, 11.68 percent higher than the previous year's output of 7.65 MMT. Harvest area may expand by 7.62 percent from 1.93 million hectares in 2016. Yield may escalate to 4.11 metric tonnes per hectare from previous year at 3.96 metric tonnes per hectare.

Source: Arcalas, J. E. Y. (2017, Jan 22). *H1 rice output seen hitting 8.54 MMT*. Business Mirror.

The Philippines will operate under a tariff-based restriction to protect local farmers once the country's quantitative restriction (QR) expires in July this year. The tariff range could be at 40-50 percent. The government currently is fast-tracking the crafting of policy guideline for the amendment of Agricultural Tariffication Act. Under the domestic law, the Philippines still tied up to 35 percent duty. So the country had to amend it to conform with World Trade Organization (WTO) requirement since the Philippines are no longer going to work under the conditions set under the QR.

Source: Galvez, J. K. (2017, Jan 19). *PH eyes 40-50% tariff on rice after QR expires*. The Manila Times.

Thailand

Thai government aims to cut rice production to 27.2 million tonnes of paddy from an average of 33 million tonnes a year. The government planned to reduce rice plantation area to 60.6 million rai (9.6 million hectares) from 68 million rai (10.88 million hectares) as part of its agricultural reform. Farming in inappropriate locations that produced low quality rice, mainly during the second crop, will be encouraged to grow other crops such as green beans, soy beans, organic vegetables, sugar cane, tapioca and livestock using innovative technology. The reduction will be on voluntary basis and should take five to twenty years.

*1 rai (Thai system) = 0.16 hectare

Source: Therarat, C. (2017, Jan 19). *Second-crop rice farmers encouraged to diversify*. Bangkok Post.

Viet Nam

Rice exports in 2017 will reach over 5 million tonnes, slightly rise compared with 2016. Meanwhile, the major rice importer countries such as the Philippines, Malaysia, and Indonesia imported only 10 percent of their volumes that they bought each year from Viet Nam in previous year at 2-3 million tonnes. This was the consequence from new rice policies in food security in those countries that aimed to reduce dependence on import. The second factor was fierce competition from regional exporters. The rice exports to China also was predicted not to meet target since only 22 firms are currently allowed to export rice to the market with strict requirements in food safety and origin regulation.

Source: Vietnam.net. (2017, Jan 24). *Rice exports to rise slightly in 2017: insiders*.

China

China has agreed to buy 20,000 tonnes of organic rice a year from Laos. There are many rice mills in Laos; however, only rice production from IDP Rice mill is able to meet standards required by Chinese buyers.

More than 778,000 hectares of wet season rice and 126,000 hectares of rice fields in flatland areas are dependent on rainfall as lacking of effective irrigation system. By 2020, about 5 million tonnes of rice is expected to be produced to ensure food security in the country. In the 2016-2017 fiscal year, up to 4.35 million tonnes of rice is forecast to be produced.

Source: Zhangrui. (2017, Jan 16). *Laos to export more rice to China: PM*. CCTV.com.

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