



WEEKLY UPDATE ON ASEAN PLUS THREE RICE SITUATIONS

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Indonesia

Indonesia will donate 10,000 metric tonnes of rice to Sri Lanka on a request made by President Maithripala Sirisena. These stocks will arrive at Sri Lanka shortly. Sri Lanka paid attention to the need of importing rice from Indonesia, Viet Nam if the price of rice is reduced. The Cabinet of Sri Lanka decided to appoint a Cabinet Sub Committee for the issue of the balance paddy stocks after milling and to take action against mill owners who refrain from issuing rice stock to the market.

Source: Rice HQ World Rice Industry News & Prices. (2017, Jan 27). *Indonesia to donate 10,000 MT of rice to Sri Lanka.*

Malaysia

The Health Ministry said today Malaysia does not import fake rice as alleged in a recent viral media report. This was verified by Padiberas Nasional Berhad (Bernas). They said customers have no need to worry because food safety monitoring and enforcement were conducted constantly to ensure that food in the market was safe for consumption.

Source: Rice HQ World Rice Industry News & Prices. (2017, Jan 31). *Malaysia does not import fake rice as alleged.*

Philippines

The National Food Authority (NFA) in Bukidnon had strengthened technical team to ensure accessibility of rice during calamity. The technical team's role is vital in assessing the volume of rice needed in calamity-stricken areas. The technical team includes the enforcement and investigation services officer, the designated information officer, and warehouse supervisors involved in the release of rice for distribution when calamity happens.

Source: Philippine Information Agency. (2017, Jan 30). *NFA strengthens technical team to ensure accessibility of rice during disasters.*

Philippines' rice production was expected to increase 2 percent according to World Bank. The Philippines ranks 8th in rice output and was seen to produce 11.5 million metric tonnes (MT) of rice or 2.39 percent of the world production in 2016-2017, increasing from last year's 11.4 million MT of rice production in the country. Meanwhile, Philippines' rice imports were predicted to fall to 1.3 million MT in 2016-2017 from 1.6 million MT in 2015-2016.

Source: Uy, D. M. (2017, Jan 26). *World Bank sees Philippines rice output rising 2%.* Business World online.

The Department of Agriculture (DA) targeted 3.7 million metric tonnes of rice production in Central Luzon region for 2017 as it placed 130,000 hectares for hybrid production. The cultivation area for hybrid is higher than last year at 20,000 hectares. The DA had prepositioned P 100 million (USD 2 million) worth of seeds in place in case of natural calamities. The DA had allocated P 500 million (USD 10 million) to purchase farm machineries for the whole region.

**USD 1 = P 49.76*

Source: Flora, I. O. (2017, Jan 26). *DA targets 3.7 million metric ton palay production for 2017.* The Sun.Star Pampanga newspaper.

Thailand

Export prices dropped 1 percent due to lack of new inquiries during the Chinese New Year. Traders expected that the government will likely issue new tenders for food and non-food grade rice stocks in February 2017 before the supplies of marketing year 2016/17 off-season rice enter the market. Presently, the government has around 8 million metric tonnes of rice stocks which consist of around 3 million metric tonnes of food-grade rice and 5 million metric tons of non-food grade rice.

Unofficial preliminary rice exports (excluding premium white and fragrant rice) for January 16-22, 2017 totaled 90,329 metric tonnes, down 44,018 metric tonnes from the previous week. Rice exports from January 1-22, 2017, totaled 307,571 metric tonnes.

Source: Prasertsri, P. (2017, Jan 24). *Weekly Rice Price Update.* USDA Foreign Agricultural Service.

Viet Nam

Viet Nam exported 325,000 tonnes of rice worth USD 136 million in January, dropped 32 percent in volume and 35.1 percent in value compared with the same month in 2016. In 2016, China, the biggest buyer of Viet Nam's rice, purchased 1.74 million tonnes of rice worth USD 782.3 million. Other rice importers in ASEAN such as Philippines, Malaysia, and Indonesia also had sharp reduction of 64.1 percent, 45.5 percent and 51.8 percent, respectively.

Source: VNA. (2017, Jan 26). *Rice exports decline in January.*

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