



WEEKLY UPDATE ON ASEAN PLUS THREE RICE SITUATIONS

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Cambodia

Cambodian milled rice export is up 17.2 percent in eleven months.

From January – November 2017, Cambodia exported 562,237 tonnes of milled rice, up 17.2 percent compared with the same period of 2016, according to the report from the Secretariat of One Window Service for Rice Export Formality. During the aforementioned period, China is still the top buyer of Cambodian milled rice, followed by France and Poland, which exported rice accounted for 165,000 tonnes or 29.3 percent of the total rice exports. Cambodia also expected to sell up to 300,000 tonnes of milled rice to China next year. Based on the trend, milled rice exports would reach 600,000 tonnes by the end of 2017, said Director General at the General Directorate of Agriculture.

Source: Xinhua. (2017, Dec 11). *Cambodia's rice exports up 17 pct in 11 months*; Phnom Penh Post. (2017, Dec 11). *Rice exports to soon hit 600K tonnes*; and Khmer Times. (2017, Dec 11). *Duterte hungering for Khmer rice*.

Cambodia and China will sign an agreement to support research on growing a new rice variety in Cambodia.

The proposed agreement will issue the rules for cooperation between both nations in conducting studies on the rice variety known as *Oryza Sativa japonica*. While the ultimate goal is to grow the crop in Cambodia and export to China, where demand for japonica rice is huge, according to the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF). Today, japonica rice is very popular in Northern China, while Cambodia only supply the south of the country. Therefore, this agreement will be an important step forward in helping Cambodia expand its exports to the north of China, said Director General of MAFF's General Directorate of Agriculture.

Source: Khmer Times. (2017, Dec 6). *New rice variety in the spotlight*.

Philippines

National Food Authority (NFA) assures that there's enough rice supply for the country's national requirement.

According to the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), the country's rice stocks, at 1.944 million tonnes, are good to last for 62 days. In November 2017, a total of 394,308 bags of rice were already distributed to 1,630 NFA-accredited outlets, from the total of 16,335 rice-accredited outlets nationwide, in National Capital Region (NCR) or Metro Manila, said NFA administrator. In addition to NFA rice prices, there's no price increase. The agency continues to sell low-priced NFA rice, at 27 Pesos (0.53 USD) per kilogram for 25 percent broken rice and 32 Pesos (0.63 USD) per kilogram for 15 percent broken rice, in order to help low-income countrymen continue to access good quality rice in an affordable price, stressed NFA administrator.

* 1 USD = 50.666 Pesos

Source: National Food Authority. (2017, Dec 7). *THERE'S ENOUGH RICE SUPPLY – NFA*.

Thailand

The cabinet has approved a budget of 1.7 billion baht (53.5 million USD) in rice policies to cut second-crop rice output in 2018.

According to Deputy Agriculture and Cooperatives Minister, the measures aim to decrease rice plantation by almost 1 million rai (160,000 hectares) and encourage rice farmers to grow other crops in lieu of rice in the 2018 off-season as a part of the government's strategic move to create greater balance between rice demand and supply. Of the total budget, 647 million baht (19.8 million USD) is for a project to promote alternative crops, 240 million baht (7.3 million USD) is for a promotion to grow more green manure crops, and 860 million baht (26.3 million USD) for a promotion to grow animal feed crops.

* 1 USD = 32.608 baht

** 1 rai = 0.16 hectare

Source: Bangkok Post. (2017, Dec 12). *B1.7bn budget to cut second-crop rice output*; and Thai PBS English News. (2017, Dec 12). *Farmers paid to not grow second-crop rice next year.*

Viet Nam

Vietnamese rice exports hit 5.52 million tonnes during the first eleven months, worth 2.49 billion USD.

According to the figures, during January - November 2017, rice export volume and rice export value are up 24.1 percent and 24.9 percent, respectively, compared to the same period in 2016. Due to the Ministry of Industry and Trade, 2017 is a successful year for Viet Nam's rice sector as major importers such as China, the Philippines, Malaysia, and South Korea were in great demand. Meanwhile, new import markets such as Bangladesh and Iraq also helped push up rice exports. Furthermore, the country forecast rice exports in December will reach around 400,000 - 500,000 tonnes,

bringing the total rice export volume to 5.9 - 6 million tonnes in 2017.

Source: Blackseagrain. (2017, Dec 7). *Vietnam: Rice exports hit almost US\$2.5 billion.*

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