



WEEKLY UPDATE ON ASEAN PLUS THREE RICE SITUATIONS

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Cambodia

Cambodia exported 257,637 tonnes of milled rice in the first five months of 2017, up 10 percent compared with the same period last year. The top three buyers of Cambodian rice are China, France, and Poland. China imported 88,769 tonnes of milled rice from Cambodia during the January – May period this year. France imported 33,459 tonnes and Poland purchased 23,036 tonnes.

Cambodia produces more than 9 million metric tonnes (MMT) of paddy rice a year. With this amount, it has over 3 MMT of milled rice left over for annual export.

Source: Lifeng, S. (June 10, 2017). *Cambodia records 10-pct rise in rice export in the first 5 months.* XINHUANET.

Indonesia

Indonesia expected to produce 78.13 MMT of paddy rice in 2017 and 80.08 MMT in 2018 by increasing the annual planting frequency on the existing 8.1 million hectares of rice fields. Alongside a planting index rise to 2 from the current level of 1.7, the government also expected to see improved productivity.

Data from the Central Statistics Agency (BPS) revealed that the average Indonesian consumed 84.8 kilogrammes of rice in 2015.

Source: Stefani Ribka; Grace D. Amianti. (June 13, 2017). *RI's love of rice is secured.* The Jakarta Post.

Thailand

Rice prices are forecast to continue rising until the end of 2017 because Thailand state rice stocks due to be disposed of and natural calamities occurring in many countries. The Thai government now has around 2.9 MMT, 2.7 MMT of which is poor-quality and decaying grain only good for industrial use and animal feed. The figure has dropped sharply from as many as 18.87 MMT before 2014. State rice stock fit for human consumption have now dropped to only 160,000 tonnes after the Thai government sold off 1.66 MMT of rice for the second tender last month.

As of June 2, Free-on-Broad (FOB) Thai Hommali rice prices were sold at USD 715 a tonne, up from 632 per tonne last month.

Source: Theparat, C. (June 13, 2017). *Rice prices seen rising until year-end on lower stockpiles.* Bangkok Post.

The National Rice Policy Committee has approved the 16.56-billion baht-sale (USD 488 million) of 1.66 MMT of old rice, leaving 160,000 tonnes of edible rice in the stockpile.

The government has yet to release 2.7 MMT of deteriorated rice to the industrial sector. It would organize auctions for the inedible rice in June and July.

The government's rice stockpiles increased due to the rice-pledging scheme of the previous government. This effected the price and competitiveness of Thai rice, which plunged on global markets on oversupply and concerns about the quality of the ageing stockpiled grain.

*USD 1 = 33.90 Baht

Source: Arunmas, P. (June 7, 2017). *Most edible rice in old stockpile now sold.* Bangkok Post.

Viet Nam

Viet Nam's 5 percent broken rice average price hit USD 390 a tonne, highest level since December 2014.

The rise came after Bangladesh said it would buy 250,000-300,000 tonnes of Vietnamese rice immediately and increase rice import from Viet Nam to 500,000 tonnes by the end of this 2017. The Philippines also said it would issue a tender to import rice from key suppliers such as Thailand, Viet Nam, and possibly India.

Source: Pham, M. (June 2017). *Vietnam's 5 pct broken rice average hit \$390/tonne, highest since Dec 2014.* RICE NEWS TODAY.

P.R. Korea

P.R. Korea is expected to become the world's 15th largest producer of rice this year, following a report by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). P.R. Korea sets to produce 4.1 MMT of rice this year, down 3.1 percent from 4.2 MMT in 2016. Per capita consumption of stable grain are estimated at 74.9 kilogrammes, compared with 76 kilogrammes in 2016.

Source: YONHAPNEWS AGENCY. (June 13, 2017). *S. Korea expected to be 15th-largest rice producer in 2017;* FAO.

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