



WEEKLY UPDATE ON ASEAN PLUS THREE RICE SITUATIONS

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Cambodia

Cambodia exported some 166,678 tonnes of milled rice to overseas during the first three months of 2017, up 3 percent compared to the same period last year. China is the biggest market for Cambodia's milled rice followed by France by buying 67,482 tonnes and 21,000 tonnes, respectively. In March, Cambodia's milled rice export dropped by 16 percent over the same period of 2016, while in January and February an increase of milled rice export by 10 percent and 17 percent, respectively.

Source: Vannak, C. (Apr 18, 2017). *Cambodia's Milled Rice Export Increases by 3% in First Quarter*. AKP.

Malaysia

About 32.3 hectares in Kampung Jawi-Jawi, Malaysia was on the project of implementation of technology and modern machinery from Japan to increase rice yields. This five-years

project is under collaboration between Kota Belud IADA, Alku Corporation, and Semai Agro. The first phase of project started implementing last January with capital of RM2.5 million (USD 568,000).

*USD 1 = RM 4.40

Source: Bernama.com. (Apr 16, 2017). *Kota Belud IADA Implements Japanese Technology To Increase Rice Yields*.

Philippines

Despite the warning of the National Food Authority (NFA) that it would not have enough rice stock during the lean season of July-September, the NFA Council had put off making a decision to import the staple.

In January 2017, the NFA had sought the NFA Council's approval for importing 250,000 tonnes of rice in order to secure its stock during the lean season. However, this plan was on hold since some officials believed there was no need to import rice due to projection of a good harvest. Then, on 10 April President Duterte ordered the NFA to buy rice from local farmers first before importing rice.

Source: Arcalas, J. E. Y., Ordinario, C. U. (Apr 18, 2017). *Government holds off decision to import rice to fill gap*.

Thailand

The Ministry of Commerce is set to launch a marketing scheme aimed at boosting Thai rice exports to Peru escalating demand. Peru consumes 1.8 million tonnes of rice each year, 9% from Thailand. In the past five years, demand for Thai rice in Peru has grown continuously with the export value standing at USD 15.3 million in 2016. To boost demand for Thai rice, the Ministry of Commerce has instructed the Department of International Trade

Promotion (DITP) to promote Thai rice among Peruvian importers.

Source: National News Bureau of Thailand. (Apr 17, 2017). *Demand for Thai rice in Peru grows.*

Viet Nam

International demand for Vietnamese rice remains thin even after the country exported less in the first quarter because of unattractive prices amid concern over rainfall affecting grain quality. Prices of the 5 percent broken rice stayed nearly unchanged at USD 350-355 per tonne, free-on-board (FOB) Saigon, which were less competitive than Thai rice prices. Vietnam's rice exports are expected to fall 23.9 percent annually to 1.19 million tonnes in the first quarter, after the grain shipments dropped 26.5 percent in 2016 due to lower production caused by climate changes.

Source: Talk Viet Nam. (Apr 14, 2017). *Vietnam's rice export prices stable despite concerns over quality.*

Farmers have slowed harvest of ripening winter spring rice in the Mekong Delta because unseasonable rains caused many areas and prices had dropped continuously. In Cao Lanh district, Dong Thap, the price dropped to VND4,400 (USD 0.19) per kilogram of normal rice, VND4,900-5,000 (USD 0.22) a kilogram of fresh long grain rice and VND5,200 (USD 0.23) a kilogram of fragrant varieties. The prices reduced by VND400-600 (USD 0.02-0.03) per kilogram on average compared to the early winter spring crop. Five percent broken rice price now is sold approximately at VND6,700 (USD 0.29) a kilogram, 25 percent broken rice is sold at VND6,500-6,600 (USD 0.29) a kilogram. The Mekong Delta has harvested over 1.2 million hectares of winter spring rice out of

the total of 1.5 million hectares. Productivity reaches 6.4-6.5 tonnes per hectare. Rice exports in Viet Nam take the total number since early this year to 1 million tonnes, worth USD 472 million.

*USD 1 = VND 22,727.27

Source: Viet Nam Breaking News (Apr 12, 2017). *Traders not but rice despite price reduction in Mekong Delta.*

China

The annual rice production of China's "super hybrid" rice may reach 17 tonnes per hectare, according to renowned rice scientist Yuan Longping, China's father of hybrid rice. This year they are striving for a new yield of 1,130 kilograms per mu [about 0.07 hectares], or 17 tonnes per hectare. The Ministry of Agriculture launched a super hybrid rice breeding project in 1996. The previous target of 16 tonnes per hectare was realized in 2015, Yuan said.

Source: Yan, L. (Apr 13, 2017). *China's 'super hybrid' rice expected to yield 17 tonnes per hectare.* People.cn.

Gathered by the APTERR Secretariat
Tel: +66 (0) 2579 4816-17 Fax: +66 (0) 2579 4840
Email: nisachol.see@apterr.org
Website: <http://www.apterr.org>

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