



WEEKLY UPDATE ON ASEAN PLUS THREE RICE SITUATIONS

No. 46
18-24 October 2017

Cambodia

Cambodian government launched 20 million USD in Boosting Food Production Programme in order to support the growth of domestic farming.

The programme consists of two main sectors. The first sector focuses on production of fragrant paddy rice seeds and promotion of fragrant rice as a Cambodian export. To that end, the government is operating in 11 provinces including, Takeo, Kampong Speu, Kampong Chhnang, Pursat, Battambang, Siem Reap, Kampong Thom, Kampong Cham, Tbong Khmum, Prey Veng and Kandal, adding that this sector will work with 260 agricultural cooperatives to produce 500,000 tonnes of fragrant rice a year for export. The second sector focuses on safe vegetable production with the plan to supply 160 tonnes of vegetables to the local market daily, in order to reduce the amount of imports, according to the Deputy Director of the Department of Horticulture and Subsidiary Crops, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries.

Source: The Phnom Penh Post. (2017, Oct 23). *Business Insider: Agro Ministry wants to keep it local.*

Lao PDR

Although Savannakhet province has high potential to produce rice, the production of rice fell short of the target.

During the dry season of 2017, rice production was only 139,828 tonnes, a decrease of 5,500 tonnes. Overall crop production during the dry season dropped by 10 percent, compared to the same period of 2016. However, so far, the province has exported 4,500 tonnes of rice worth 3.1 million USD, according to the provincial governor.

Source: Vientiane Times. (2017, Oct 19). *Lao province sees huge increase in imports.*

Viet Nam

Vietnamese rice export goal is raised from 5.2 million tonnes to 5.6 million tonnes, following positive signals from remarkable increasing rice contracts.

According to the Viet Nam Food Association (VFA), in the first nine months of 2017, Viet Nam shipped around 4.57 million tonnes of rice, up 20.8 percent in volume and over 18.6 percent in value, equivalent to 2.02 billion USD while China was the largest importer of Vietnamese rice. Specifically, Vietnamese rice exporters shipped rice 150,000 tonnes to Malaysia and 250,000 tonnes to Bangladesh. Furthermore, in the rest of 2017, China was forecast to continue import of Vietnamese rice. Therefore, the VFA decided to raise the preset goal of rice export from 5.2 million tonnes to 5.6 million tonnes for 2017.

Source: Viet Nam Government Portal. (2017, Oct 23). *Rice export may exceed preset goal.*

Viet Nam rice exporters should put a special focus on Asian markets to ensure the country's rice trade stability in the long run, said secretary general of the Vietnam Food Association (VFA).

Vietnamese rice is shipped to hundreds of countries around the world, however, the most important market goes to Asia. In Asia, China is the vital market for Vietnamese rice, accounted for 40 percent of the country's rice exports, especially fragrant, glutinous and broken rice while another important market for white rice is the Philippines. The second largest market for Vietnamese rice is Africa with the best-seller is jasmine rice.

Source: VietNamNet. (2017, Oct 20). *Vietnam rice exporters should focus on Asian markets.*

China

China's new rice variety catches global attention, bringing 450 kilograms per mu (0.07 hectares) yields in dry soil.

The rice experimentation was done by Yuan Longping, also known as Father of Hybrid Rice of China. Normally, rice needs a lot of water to grow well, so the successful of dry soil trials mean that it is possible to grow rice in dry northern areas of China, which could provide a new way for farmers to reduce poverty and increase their incomes. This type of rice is priced at 4 yuan (0.6 USD) per kilogram.

* 1 hectare = 15 mu

Source: People's Daily Online. (2017, Oct 23). *China's new rice variety catches global attention.*

Republic of Korea

The government has started to buy 370,000 tonnes of rice harvested 2017 to stabilise domestic prices of the staple grain, said the agriculture ministry.

Moreover, another 350,000 tonnes of rice, which will be bought from growers for keeping market prices at certain levels, will be set aside as the country's emergency reserves, said the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs. Resulting in this 2017, South Korea will have 720,000 tonnes of rice in its storage, the largest amount to be acquired by the government during the fall harvest period and the highest on an annual basis since 2010.

Source: The Korea Herald. (2017, Oct 22). *Govt. buys 370,000 tons of rice to stabilize market price.*

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* This Weekly Update on ASEAN Plus Three Rice Situations is based on all available sources during the period. The APTERR Secretariat shall take no responsibility for data accuracy in this publication and any consequence of their use.