



WEEKLY UPDATE ON ASEAN PLUS THREE RICE SITUATIONS

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Myanmar

Rice exports are expected to exceed the target, 2 million tonnes, due to the Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF). According to the Ministry of Commerce, Myanmar exports rice to over 50 countries while more than 70 percent of rice goes to China. Until October 6 of this 2017-2018 fiscal year, Myanmar has exported rice more than 1.6 million tonnes which is equivalent to 80 percent of rice export target, earning 494 million USD. Owing to this figure, Myanmar rice exports may exceed the target of 2 million tonnes and it will be the largest export volume in this decade, said the vice-chair of MRF.

Source: Eleven Myanmar. (2017, Oct 26). *Rice exports expected to exceed target.*

Thailand

The Ministry of Commerce has invited Hong Kong rice exporters to discuss Thai rice market expansion. The President of the Hong Kong Rice Trader Association will lead a delegation of 37 major rice traders to discuss the expansion of the Thai rice market. The business talks will be held with a hundred of Thai rice producers from 30 October to 2 November 2017 at Centara Grand Hotel, Central World, according to the Commerce Minister. Hong Kong is one of Thailand's major rice export market. The country currently accounts for 70 percent of rice market share in Hong Kong.

Source: National News Bureau of Thailand. (2017, Oct 29). *Commerce Ministry invites Hong Kong exporters to discuss Thai rice market expansion.*

Viet Nam

Rice output during the summer-autumn crop was estimated at 11.5 million tonnes, an increase of 127,500 tonnes, according to the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. The total rice farming land for summer-autumn crop was 2.1 million hectares, with 1.93 million hectares in the southern region while in Mekong Delta region alone had 1.65 million hectares. By mid-October 2017, 661,500 hectares in the Mekong Delta had been sowed for the autumn-winter crop while 870,800 hectares in the northern region, including 418,400 hectares in the Red Delta, had harvested the winter rice crop.

Source: VietnamPlus. (2017, Oct 31). *Summer-autumn crop yields 11.5 million tonnes of rice.*

The Viet Nam Food Association (VFA) hikes rice export target of 2017 from 5.2 million tonnes to 5.6 million tonnes, according to a strong demand.

The country's rice sector has already met 82 percent of its target for the entire year. According to the VFA's statistics, in the first nine months of 2017, Viet Nam shipped around 4.57 million tonnes of rice worth 2.02 billion USD, up 20.8 percent in quantity and over 18.6 percent in value from the same period of 2016. Especially in August, it showed the strongest growth for rice exports with 70 percent and 56.8 percent increases in terms of quantity and value respectively, due to the number of registered contracts for rice export. Most of contracts were with importers in China, the Philippines, and Africa. Moreover, in May, the government of Viet Nam and Bangladesh extended the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on rice trading for five years which Viet Nam will supply 1 million tonne of rice a year for Bangladesh, covering the period from 2017-2022. In addition, the Philippines also opened a minimum access volume (MAV) mechanism in 2017-2018. According this, the country will import 293,100 tonnes of rice from Viet Nam. China is also forecast to continue to maintain strong imports of Vietnamese rice in the year-end months. Owing to the strong growth, new markets for rice export can be Australia and West Asia, said the VFA.

Source: VietnamPlus. (2017, Oct 25). *VFA hikes rice export target on strong demand.*

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