



WEEKLY UPDATE ON ASEAN PLUS THREE RICE SITUATIONS

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Philippines

Crop production losses about 1.7 million Pesos (33,164 USD), due to the rice grain bug infestation in southern Negros Occidental, reported The Office of the Provincial Agriculturist (OPA). The reports showed that almost 38 hectares of rice farm in Sipalay City, covering 34 farmers, were damaged. Due to the Provincial Agriculturist, rice grain bug is an emerging pest which infestation occurs in both dry and wet seasons. According this, previously, only leguminous crops are attacked by this pest but now it has transferred to rice, said the official. However, as immediate measure, OPA already distributed 25 bags of metarhizium anisopliae as biocontrol to help affected farmers in the locality through the Sipalay City Agriculture Office.

* 1 USD = 51.260 Pesos

Source: Philippine News Agency. (2017, Nov 3). *Rice grain bug leaves P1.7-M damage to NegOcc rice fields.*

Thailand

Thailand's rice exporter, Asia Golden Rice, and Chinese online retailer, Tmall, signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to sell jasmine rice through Alibaba. Under the MoU with the assistance of the Thai Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Tmall, a Chinese-language website for business-to-consumer (B2C) online retail operated in China by Alibaba Group, and Asia Golden Rice, owner of the Benjarong brand, will identify 5,000 acres of land in Ubon Ratchathani province for producing jasmine rice for sale on Tmall, and also streamline the supply chain of jasmine rice production. The rice will be distributed through Alibaba's channels, including Hema and Tmall, with an omnichannel (online and offline) approach.

Source: The Nation. (2017, Nov 4). *Chinese online retailer to push jasmine rice sales.*

Over one million rai of rice farm land in the Northeast of Thailand have been damaged by flooding, due to the Thai Rice Exporters Association. According to the tropical storm Sonca in July-August 2017, the major rice-growing areas, including Roi Et, Ubon Ratchathani and Yasothon, were severely affected by flooding. As a result of massive flooding, Hom Mali rice yield for the 2017/18 crop is expected to drop by 5-6 percent, while sticky rice yield is expected to drop by 8 percent, according to the president of Thai Rice Exporters Association.

* 1 rai = 0.16 hectare

Source: Thai PBS News. (2017, Nov 3). *Floods cut rice yield in NE by 400,000-500,000 tonnes.*

Viet Nam

Viet Nam shipped 5.05 million tonnes of rice worth 2.25 billion USD in the first ten months of 2017, up 22.3 percent in volume and 21.1 percent in value year on year, said the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development.

In the above mentioned period, China still remained the biggest importer for Vietnamese rice, followed by the Philippines and Malaysia. In addition, the country also earned 206 million USD from exporting 430,000 tonnes of rice in October alone. Furthermore, according to the positive signs from a strong increase in the number of registered contracts for rice exports previously, demand for imported rice from regional countries will rise sharply in the remaining months while the rice export target for 2017 was raised from 5.2 million tonnes to 5.6 million tonnes, said the Viet Nam Food Association (VFA).

Source: VietnamPlus. (2017, Nov 2). *Vietnam exports over 5 million tonnes of rice in ten months.*

China

New rice variety that grows in salty water could feed millions in China.

According to high salinity in growing areas, scientists in China have developed several types of rice that can be grown in seawater. About 200 different types of the grain were planted in a field near the Yellow Sea coastal city of Qingdao in China's eastern Shandong province to investigate which would grow best in salty conditions. The scientists expected to produce 4.5 tonnes of rice per hectare but the crops exceeded the expectations, in one case delivering up to 9.3 tonnes per hectare. In accordance with the scientists, there are one million square kilometers of land in China which have high

salinity. If even a tenth of these areas were planted with rice, they could produce 50 million tonnes of food which is enough to feed 200 million people and boost China's rice production by 20 percent.

Source: BlackSeaGrain. (2017, Nov 2). *New rice variety that grows in salty water could feed millions in China.*

Japan

Thirty-three rice businesses have showed their intention to join in rice project to export 100,000 tonnes of rice in 2019, according to the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fishery.

Due to this project, the Ministry aimed at expanding overseas markets for Japanese rice. The 33 rice businesses, including wholesalers and trading houses, showed their intention to join in the project, announced on 31 October 2017. However, according to an official of the Crop Production Policy Planning Division of the Ministry, the overall amount of rice that the exporters aim to ship in the year of 2019 stands at 125,000 tonnes of rice, topping the target set by the government, adding that they hope to increase their rice exports particularly in China, Southeast Asia, North America, and the Middle East.

Source: The Japan News. (2017, Nov 1). *33 businesses to join rice export project.*

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