



WEEKLY UPDATE ON ASEAN PLUS THREE RICE SITUATIONS

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Brunei

Brunei is striving to increase rice productivity and rice self-sufficiency through introducing China's hybrid paddy varieties which are acceptable to the country's environmental conditions.

According to local media, this was stated by Brunei's Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism, at the opening of a training course titled "Hybrid Rice Yield Increasing Technology in Brunei Darussalam", conducted by China's Yuan Longping High-Tech Agriculture Co., Ltd. with the support of the Ministry of Commerce of China. Due to the minister, Department of Agriculture and Agrifood aims to increase rice production to 11,500 tonnes by 2020 from 1,500 tonnes in 2016. Therefore, the hybrid paddy technology can not only have a significant impact on rice production in irrigated areas, but also generate more revenue for farmers and ensure sustainability of the country's rice industry, said the minister.

Source: Borneo Bulletin Online. (2017, Nov 21). *Brunei taking hybrid way to rice self-sufficiency: Minister.*

Source: Xinhua. (2017, Nov 21). *Brunei to increase rice production with China's help: minister.*

Cambodia

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed with Bangladesh is still valid, after an order was recently cancelled.

The rice deal of 250,000 tonnes of rice to export from Cambodia to Bangladesh was terminated, due to a delay in the shipment. According to the officials, however, the MoU is still valid. The purchasing agreements for Cambodian milled rice are a part of the MoU signed in August 2017 which Cambodia is to sell one million tonnes of rice for five years (2017-2022) to Bangladesh. In December 2017, the Commerce Ministry officials and members of the private sector will fly to Bangladesh again and discuss a new purchasing agreement for milled rice.

Source: Khmer Times. (2017, Nov 16). *Bangladesh rice agreement is still 'valid'.*

Indonesia

Rice stocks stored at the agency's warehouses are safe for public consumption until the year-end of 2017, according to the State Logistics Agency.

As of 19 November 2017, the rice stocks stood at 1.2 million tonnes and are expected to be around 1 million tonnes by December, said the Director of State Logistics Agency. To control rice prices, the Trade Ministry has applied a mandatory price ceiling for medium rice and premium rice varieties. Medium rice will be sold at 9,450 - 10,250 Rupiah (0.69 - 0.75 USD) per kilogram, while premium rice will be sold at 12,800 - 13,600 Rupiah (0.94 - 1 USD) per kilogram.

* 1 USD = 13,528 Rupiah

Source: The Jakarta Post. (2017, Nov 21). *Rice stock safe until year-end: Logistics agency.*

Myanmar

ASEAN Plus Three Emergency Rice Reserve (APTERR) distributes 267 tonnes of rice donated by the Republic of Korea to displaced people in eight townships in Rakhine State, Myanmar.

On 21 November 2017, the APTERR officials together with Minister of Rakhine State Government, Deputy Director General of Agriculture Department, and Administrative Officer of Maungtaw district, visited Buthidaung and Maungtaw townships to hand over the rice with the total amount of 78.1 tonnes and 142.5 tonnes respectively. For the rest townships, including Yathedaung, Ponnagyun, Sittway, Kyauktaw, Minbya, and MraukU, rice distribution will be handed over following the schedule set by the local officers. Presently, contributed rice of 233 tonnes from South Korea and 500 tonnes from Japan through APTERR are kept in the warehouses in Yangon and Nay Pyi Taw for further assistance.

Source: Myanma Alinn Daily. (2017, Nov 22). *ASEAN+3 Reserve Rice Group (APTERR) donates rice bags to Buthidaung and Maungtaw. and APTERR Secretariat.*

Myanmar rice exports continue to grow with over 80 percent of the target for 2 million tonnes has been achieved.

According to the official figures, Myanmar exported rice over 1.4 million tonnes in 2012-13, over 1.2 million tonnes in 2013-14, over 1.8 million tonnes in 2014-15, over 1.4 million tonnes in 2015-16, and over 1.7 million tonnes in 2016-17. So far, due to Ministry of Commerce, Myanmar has exported more than 1.86 million tonnes of rice in this fiscal year 2017-18 worth 558.14 million USD. Therefore, the rice targeted export amount of 2 million tonnes for this fiscal year is likely to reach. Furthermore, the country aims to increase rice export by 15-20 percent every year and expects to export up to 3 million tonnes by fiscal year

2020-21, said General Secretary of Myanmar Rice Federation.

Source: Eleven Myanmar. (2017, Nov 16). *Myanmar: Rice exports continue to grow.*

Philippines

The country's paddy production for 2017 is expected to reach 19.4 million tonnes, 10.11 percent higher than 2016.

According to the latest report of the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), probable paddy production for the October - to - December period of 2017 may surpass the 2016 level by 6.26 percent with the projected paddy output of 7.45 million tonnes. Despite the contraction in harvest area to 1.86 million hectares, from 1.88 million hectares of 2016, the yield per hectare may improve by nearly 6 percent to 3.99 tonnes, from 3.73 tonnes of 2016. Furthermore, paddy output in the first quarter of 2018 is forecast to rise by nearly 3 percent to 4.53 million tonnes, from 4.41 million tonnes in the same period of 2017, said the PSA.

Source: Business Mirror. (2017, Nov 21). *PHL rice output to hit 19.4 MMT.*

Viet Nam

Vietnamese rice exports in the first ten months of 2017 increased 21.6 percent in volume and 20.3 percent in value compared to the same period of 2016, due to the high demand from key markets.

China is the largest market for Vietnamese rice, followed by the Philippines, Malaysia, Ghana and ASEAN countries. In addition, during the period, the exports of rice to Senegal and Iraq also showed a sharp increase. The country exported 98,000 tonnes of rice to Iraq, worth 51.45 million USD, while the rice exports to Senegal reached nearly 25,000 tonnes, worth 8.18 million USD. With the satisfactory results of

rice exports, the Viet Nam Food Association (VFA) has raised the target of rice exports for 2017 to 5.6 million tonnes, from 5.2 million tonnes. So far, the country has reached 91 percent of its target.

Source: Nhan Dan Online. (2017, Nov 26). *Improving the position of Vietnam's rice.*

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