



WEEKLY UPDATE ON ASEAN PLUS THREE RICE SITUATIONS

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Brunei

The 2017 Training Course on Hybrid Rice Yield Increasing Technology in Brunei was successfully completed.

The training course was conducted from 15 November to 28 December 2017, which was jointly organised by the Department of Agriculture and Agrifood and Yuan Longping High-Tech Agriculture Co., Ltd. with the support of the Ministry of Commerce of China. This is a part of an ongoing cooperation between Brunei and China in the field of rice production to support the Ministry of Primary Resources and Tourism (MPRT)'s initiative to increase Brunei's rice productivity to 12 tonnes per hectare in irrigated areas, meanwhile, to build the capacity of local farmers in hybrid rice technology and ensure the sustainability of rice farming.

Source: Borneo Bulletin. (2017, Dec 31). *Course aims to raise capacity of local farmers in hybrid rice technology.*

Cambodia

Cambodian rice exports in 2017 increased by 17.3 percent, moving from 542,144 tonnes in 2016 to over 635,600 tonnes in 2017, due to the latest report from the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF).

In 2017, the big market for Cambodian rice was China, which the country agreed to import 200,000 tonnes of rice, while shipments to European markets remained steady. Last year, the government also approved the disbursement of several loans, amounting to a total of 30 million USD, in order to build more warehouses and processing facilities with hope to increase rice exports in the coming years. According to this, the country could achieve the 15 percent of export growth per year, when the new rice storage and processing facilities are completed, said the director of the department of planning and statistics of MAFF.

Source: The Phnom Penh Post. (2018, Jan 2). *China order lifts rice imports for 2017*; Khmer Times. (2018, Jan 2). *Thriving rice sector sees hike in exports*; and Khmer Times. (2018, Jan 1). *Rice exports rise in 2017.*

Thailand

Strong baht will be the biggest risk for Thai rice exports in 2018, in accordance with the President of Thai Rice Exporters Association.

Thailand's rice exports hit the record high in 2017 of 11.2 - 11.3 million tonnes, up from 9.9 million tonnes in 2016. However, today's bath appreciation will depress Thai rice exports in 2018, especially Hom Mali rice, or fragrant rice, which supply is generally limited, making the premium grain more expensive than similar rice from other countries. As of 27 December 2017, Thai Hom Mali rice was quoted at 993 USD a tonne, while aromatic rice from Vietnam was quoted at 600 USD a tonne and Cambodian

aromatic rice sold for 800 USD a tonne. Nowadays, based on the sharp baht appreciation, Thai Hom Mali rice is now quoted at about 1,000 USD per tonne. This would slightly bring down Thailand's competitive edge, said the President of Thai Rice Exporters Association.

Source: Bangkok Post. (2018, Jan 5). *Strong baht to depress 2018 exports.*

A new campaign, "Think Rice: Think Thailand", aims at promoting the export of premium-grade Thai rice.

According to the Ministry of Commerce, this campaign will be started in 2018 as a pilot project to raise the export volume of premium-grade Thai rice, including Hom Mali, or fragrant rice, and coloured rice, by around 200,000 tonnes within 6 months to 1 year. The Ministry will start the campaign in focused markets by introducing major premium-grade rice brands to large importers, while work with the Agriculture Ministry to prepare plantation areas to help control rice production and avoid oversupply, as well as create new marketing channels and campaigns to promote Thai rice abroad, said the Deputy Commerce Minister.

Source: Bangkok Post. (2017, Dec 27). *New campaign promotes premium grade rice.*

Viet Nam

Viet Nam's rice export in 2017 was recorded a good year as export volume reached 6 million tonnes, due to an increased demand on the world market.

As the amount of exported rice 6 million tonnes, the country earned 2.66 billion USD, up 22.4 percent in volume and 23.2 percent in value over the same period of 2016. It was a great success when the rice export target for 2017 was set at 5 million tonnes, due to the prediction of challenges from unresolved issues in the rice markets and

the negative effects of climate change on rice production, according to the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD). In addition, Vietnamese rice industry has been asked to reorganise rice production and begin focusing on improving quality. Under the 2017-2020 strategy for rice export market development, Viet Nam aims to export from 4.5 - 5 million tonnes of rice per year, earning an average turnover of 2.2 - 2.3 billion USD per year. While during 2021-2030, the rice export volume will be reduced to about 4 million tonnes per year, but the annual revenue is expected to increase to 2.3 - 2.5 billion USD per year, focusing on high value rice.

Source: Viet Nam Net. (2018, Jan 8). *Vietnamese rice earns high export in 2017.*

Republic of Korea

South Korea will send 10,000 tonnes of rice to Viet Nam for food aid, due to the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (MAFRA).

According to the severe damage from Typhoon Damrey, a strong tropical cyclone that hit Viet Nam during early November 2017, affecting not only the country rice's harvest but also numerous deaths, South Korea agreed to send 10,000 tonnes of rice for food relief via the ASEAN Plus Three Emergency Rice Reserve (APTERR). Additionally, in 2017, South Korea had also provided rice aid under the APTERR to Myanmar and Cambodia.

Source: The Korea Herald. (2018, Jan 1). *Korea to send 10,000 tons of rice to Vietnam.*

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