



WEEKLY UPDATE ON ASEAN PLUS THREE RICE SITUATIONS

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Cambodia

A new certification mark, “Malys Angkor”, was officially unveiled as the brand for Cambodian premium rice, due to the Cambodia Rice Federation (CRF). The official launch was made during the 6th Cambodia Rice Forum between 22 - 23 January 2018. According to the CRF, Malys Angkor will be the brand name for premium rice such as Somaly, Phka Romduol, Phka Chansensor, Phka Romdeng, Phka Romeat and Phka Khnei. Having a national brand of Cambodian premium rice would be essential as it could boost the reputation and popularity of Cambodia’s premium product on the international market, adding that this will help consumers stop confusion, as previously each export company used its own brand name and logo, and certify the quality, standard and the origin of Cambodian rice, said the CRF.

Source: Khmer Times. (2018, Jan 23). *Cambodia’s premium rice gets certified*; and Phnom Penh Post. (2018, Jan 22). *Unifying brand name unveiled as Rice Federation addresses its flaws.*

Indonesia

Indonesia can only import 346,000 tonnes of rice, due to the limited of time. As Indonesia planned to import 500,000 tonnes of rice to curb rice price hikes due to a supply shortage since late 2017, the country could only import 346,000 tonnes of rice, or 69.2 percent of the set amount. According to the procurement director of National Logistics Agency (Bulog), this is the best amount of rice that the agency can afford with the limited of time when the deadline of shipment is 28 February 2018. The eight winning bidders are Vinafood 1 and Vinafood 2 from Viet Nam, Ponglarp, Capital Cereal, and Asia Golden from Thailand, Amir Chand from India, and Al Buhks and Sind Agro from Pakistan. In addition to the date of arrivals, rice shipments from Thailand and Viet Nam would take 5 days to arrive in Indonesia, while it would take 14-16 days to arrive the country from India and Pakistan, said the procurement director.

Source: The Jakarta Post. (2018, Jan 22). *Indonesia can only import 346,000 tons of rice.*

Myanmar

Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF) and Ministry of National Planning and Finance will work together to support small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in the rice sector to secure loans. According to the MRF’s SME development plan which aims to increase rice exports during 2018-2020 with better finances, the government aims to set the target loan amount totaling 65 billion Kyats (48.3 million USD) to SMEs in rice sector. The MRF, with the applied SME loans, plans to allocate the financial resources into eight sectors, including seed production, warehouse construction, export business, joint-venture

formation, upgrading machineries, setting up rice mills and power supply, and value-added products. The construction of rice and paddy warehouses and related machineries will be set as priorities. Thus those projects will be given special consideration for loans, added the MRF. Loans will be granted to agriculture-related SMEs in this January, announced state-owned Myanmar Agricultural Development Bank (MADB).

*1 USD = 1,346 Kyats

Source: The Myanmar Times. (2018, Jan 23). *Rice industry targets increasing exports in 2018-20 with better finances*; and The Global New Light of Myanmar. (2018, Jan 15). *MRF to help businessmen in rice sector obtain government loans*.

Philippines

Paddy rice production in the first half of 2018 could rise by 1.63 percent to 8.7 million tonnes, compared with 8.5 million tonnes in 2017, according to the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA).

As a result of improved yields and increased harvest area, PSA data showed that paddy rice production during January to March 2018 would probably hit 4.67 million tonnes, up 5.65 percent, compared with 4.42 million tonnes in the same period last year. The projection was based on standing crop. Harvest area may expand to 1.19 million hectares, from 1.15 million hectares in 2017, or by 3.85 percent. Yield per hectare may improve to 3.92 tonnes, from 3.85 tonnes, said the PSA. In contrast, during the April to June period, harvest area may decrease by 3.89 percent to 910,000 hectares, from the previous year's 947,000 hectares. However, yield per hectare is seen to expanding by 1.29 percent to 4.44 tonnes, compared to 4.38 tonnes in the same period last year, add the PSA.

Source: Business Mirror. (2018, Jan 23). *Rice output in H1 seen exceeding 8.7 MMT*; and Malaya Business Insight. (2018, Jan 23). *Q1 rice output up 5.7% to 4.67M tons*.

Rice prices remain stable despite the new tax reform law, according to the National Food Authority (NFA).

With the rise in fuel prices under the Tax Reform for Acceleration and Inclusion (TRAIN) law, shipping of agricultural commodities, including rice, is expected to shoot up. However, NFA assured the public that the agency will continue to sell rice at the government prescribed price of 27 Pesos (0.53 USD) per kilogram for the regular milled variety and 32 Pesos (0.63 USD) per kilogram for the well-milled variety, said the NFA administrator. In accordance with this situation, NFA administrator also issued a warning to rice traders not to take advantage of the ongoing speculations by excessively increasing prices, adding that the agency could sanction traders who would violate the laws.

*1 USD = 50.793 Pesos

Source: Inquirer Business. (2018, Jan 18). *Rice prices remain stable despite tax reform*.

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