



## WEEKLY UPDATE ON ASEAN PLUS THREE RICE SITUATIONS

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### **Cambodia**

***Japonica rice variety is officially available for farming in 200,000 hectares after passing the performance tests.***

Tests on japonica rice and its adaptability to the Cambodian soil have been conducted in Kampong Speu province, after the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) signed an agreement in January 2018 with the two Chinese laboratories, Hunan Hybrid Rice Research Center and Jiangsu Long An Agricultural Technology, to cooperate in conducting research on japonica rice variety. According to the plan, the japonica seeds will be planted in 200,000 hectares across the country with the production up to six tonnes of paddy per hectare. The ultimate goal of the agreement is to grow the crop in Cambodia and export to China where demand for this rice variety is huge, particularly in the north, said the Agriculture Minister.

**Source:** Khmer Times. (2018, May 9). *Japonica rice ready for farming*; and Khmer Times. (2018, Jan 22). *New MoU to study japonica rice variety*.

### **Philippines**

***The country's rice imports are forecast to decline to 1.1 million tonnes in 2019.***

According to the report of US Department of Agriculture (USDA), the Philippines' rice imports in 2019 could decline by 21.42 percent, or 300,000 tonnes, to 1.1 million tonnes due to more abundant domestic supplies. Production of milled rice in 2019 is forecast to slightly increase by 5.25 percent from 2018 to 12.35 million tonnes. In terms of ending stocks, the country is expected to end 2018 with a volume of nearly 2.5 million tonnes. The total rice harvested area in 2019 is seen to slightly increase by 3 percent to 4.86 million hectares from 4.72 million hectares. Yield per hectare is also seen to slightly improve to 4.04 tonnes from 4.02 tonnes, said the USDA.

**Source:** Business Mirror. (2018, May 13). *PHL rice imports to hit 1.1 MMT in 2019—report*; and The Philippine Star. (2018, May 14). *USDA trims Phl rice import projection*.

***Sixteen rice exporters keen on participating the rice bidding to supply 250,000 tonnes of rice to the Philippines.***

As the country will import 250,000-tonne rice under government-to-private (G2P) scheme in order to boost the government buffer stocks for this year's lean months, the total of 16 rice traders have expressed interest to join in rice bidding. There are seven firms from Viet Nam, five from Thailand, and one each from Singapore, Pakistan, United Arab Emirates (UAE) and the Philippines. The deadline for the submission of bid application is on 22 May 2018. The first shipment of 200,000 tonnes of 25 percent broken rice is expected to arrive the country by the end of July 2018, while the second shipment of 50,000 tonnes of 15 percent broken rice should be delivered not later than 31 August 2018, according to the National Food Authority (NFA).

**Source:** The Manila Times. (2018, May 9). *16 firms keen on joining rice bidding*; and GMA News. (2018, May 8). *16 firms keen on supplying rice to PHL*.

## **Thailand**

### ***Thailand will expand specialty rice markets in Malaysia and Indonesia.***

Last week, on 7 to 9 May 2018, Department of Foreign Trade (DFT) together with the Thai Rice Exporters Association (TREA) went to Malaysia and Indonesia to meet with the Malaysia's commodities procurement agency (Bernas) and Indonesia's Logistic Agency (Bulog) in order to seek an opportunity to expand Thai rice markets in both of government-to-government (G2G) and government-to-private (G2P) schemes. As people in Malaysia have become more health awareness, DFT recommended specialty rice, including Riceberry, Hom Nil, Sung Yod, and RD43 which have high nutrients and low sugar, to subsidiaries of Bernas and received good responses. Regarding to this, DFT will cooperate with Department of International Trade Promotion (DITP) to create more public relations. Meanwhile, even most people prefer white rice, trend for health consciousness in Indonesia is increasing. According to this opportunity, DFT will also cooperate with Thai rice traders to expand market for specialty rice in Indonesia.

**Source:** National News Bureau of Thailand. (2018, May 14). *Department of Foreign Trade to expand Thai rice markets in Malaysia, Indonesia*; and Commerce News Agency. (2018, May 14).

## **Viet Nam**

### ***Vietnamese rice export sector later in 2018 is forecast to be bright.***

In late March 2018, Viet Nam obtained a contract to export 300,000 tonnes of rice to Indonesia, bringing the total committed amount of rice exports to the market to 441,000 tonnes. After winning the bid to supply 130,000 tonnes of rice to the Philippines under government-to-government (G2G) contract, price for 5 percent broken rice rose to 455-460 USD per tonne, the highest since August 2014, from 445-450 USD per tonne a week before due to

stronger demand. Presently, seven rice exporters are preparing to supply rice for the upcoming tender to the Philippines under the government-to-private (G2P) scheme, which the country is seeking to import from major rice exporting countries 250,000 tonnes. Besides, some rice traders has offered to sell rice to Republic of Korea (ROK) as the country opened tender to import 70,000 tonnes of non-glutinous brown rice. The tender results are expected to announce on 9 May 2018.

**Source:** Viet Nam Net. (2018, May 15). *Door to world market opens for Vietnam's rice exporters*; Viet Nam Net. (2018, May 11). *Bright outlook for Vietnamese rice exporters later this year*; and Reuters. (2018, May 10). *Vietnamese rice prices soar to near 4-year high*.

## **Republic of Korea**

### ***The tender results for supply 70,000 tonnes of rice were announced.***

The state run Agro Fisheries & Food Trade Corporation (KAFTC) successfully awarded rice procurement for supply 70,000 tonnes of non-glutinous brown rice from Viet Nam and China. KAFTC accepted to buy three batches from Viet Nam, including the first of 20,000 tonnes at the price 668 USD per tonne, the second of 20,000 tonnes at the price 638 USD per tonne, and the last of 10,000 tonnes at the price 608 USD per tonne. For China, KAFTC accepted to buy 20,000 tonnes at the price 706 USD per tonne. Rice shipments were set to deliver between 30 June 2018 to 1 January 2019.

**Source:** Oryza.com. (2018, May 12). *South Korea Announces Rice Tender Results*; and TREA.

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