



## WEEKLY UPDATE ON ASEAN PLUS THREE RICE SITUATIONS

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### Myanmar

**Over 478,200 tonnes of Myanmar rice and broken rice were exported in April to June 2018, worth 164 million USD.**

During the first of April to the first of June 2018, 369,700 tonnes of rice were exported to 35 countries, while 108,500 tonnes of broken rice were exported to 13 countries. Rice exports via border trade earned approximately 91.5 million USD, whereas via sea trade saw 72.6 million USD. Besides, the export volume of rice and broken rice via border trade in May 2018 was increased. In May alone, the country exported about 158,735 tonnes of rice, valued at 56 million USD, and 18,300 tonnes of broken rice worth 5.5 million USD. Regarding to the figures, it was up 80,854 tonnes of rice and 15,000 tonnes of broken rice compared with April 2018. In the last 2017-18 fiscal year, Myanmar exported nearly 3.6 million tonnes of rice and broken rice, earning 1.1 billion USD.

**Source:** Global New Light of Myanmar. (2018, June 13). *Rice, broken rice worth \$164 million exported in past two months*; and Global New Light of Myanmar. (2018, June 17). *Border exports of rice increase by over 80,000 tonnes last month*.

### Philippines

**Initial rice shipments totalling 16,000 tonnes were unloaded after delays from bad weather conditions.**

The initial shipments of 16,000 tonnes as part of 250,000-tonne rice importation under government-to-government (G2G) tender, which arrived the ports of Subic (11,000 tonnes) and Surigao (5,000 tonnes) on 2 June 2018, were finally unloaded on 16 June 2018, after 13 days at harbour, due to tremendous delays caused by bad weather. The National Food Authority (NFA) started distributing rice on 18 June 2018 through 188 accredited retailers in Agusan and Surigao including the islands of Dinagat and Siargao with the price range between 27-32 Pesos (0.5-0.6 USD) per kilogram.

\* 1 USD = 53.313 Pesos

**Source:** National Food Authority. (2018, June 18). *NFA starts selling low-priced rice in Caraga region*; and National Food Authority. (2018, June 6). *NFA rice imports arrive*.

**The 75,000 tonnes of rice arrived Metro Manila, but have not been released**

The rice is a part of the 250,000-tonne rice importation from Viet Nam and Thailand under government-to-government (G2G) tender. According to a report, the 75,000-tonne rice arrived at the Harbour Center in Manila, but have not been released to the public due to the inclement weather conditions from monsoon rains enhanced by Typhoon Maliksi. However, the rice will be immediately sent out to commercial centers as soon as the weather improves.

**Source:** GMA News Online. (2018, June 18). *1.5M bags of rice arrive in Manila, but yet to be released due to weather conditions*.

**The Philippines is unlikely to become self-sufficient in rice production.**

According to the set target to become self-sufficient in rice production by 2020, this is unlikely to reach as shrinking farmland and growing population made it difficult to produce enough rice to meet the country's needs, said President Rodrigo Duterte, adding that the country still has to import rice in the next many years to fulfil domestic demand and maintain stockpiles. In April 2018, the president ordered the National Food Authority (NFA) to build up its depleted

rice stockpiles for 60 days of national consumption, or about 1.92 million tonnes. The NFA has so far bought 500,000 tonnes mostly from Viet Nam and Thailand and is set to import an additional volume of up to 805,200 tonnes under the Minimum Access Volume (MAV) scheme.

**Source:** Reuters. (2018, June 13). *Philippines unlikely to be rice self-sufficient - Duterte.*

## **Thailand**

### ***The state auction for the final lot of inedible-grade rice stocks is nearly gone after the bidding for the large proportion.***

According to inedible-grade rice stocks totalling around 2 million tonnes of rice, 18 of the total 22 bidders proposed the highest prices, on 14 June 2018, to buy 1.48 million tonnes fit for animal feed from the total 1.49 million tonnes, worth about 8.44 billion baht (264 million USD). Proposed buying prices averaged at 4,967 baht (153 USD) per tonne. The largest proportion was 5 percent white rice of 870,832 tonnes, followed by Grade A broken rice of 471,380 tonnes. Meanwhile, 11 of the total 13 bidders proposed the highest prices, on 15 June 2018, to buy 530,000 tonnes suitable for only fuel and energy production from the total 540,000 tonnes, worth about 1.8 billion baht (55 million USD). Proposed buying prices averaged at 3,220 baht (99 USD) per tonne. The largest proportion was for 5 percent white rice of 298,920 tonnes. The committee handling the government's rice sales will shortly consider the bidding prices on 19 June 2018 before submitting the figure to the National Rice Policy and Management Committee (RPMC) for approval in the beginning of July 2018 as expected. Due to this bidding, the rice is nearly cleared remaining only 20,000 tonnes, said Director General of Foreign Trade Department.

\* 1 USD = 32.33 baht

**Source:** Bangkok Post. (2018, June 16). *Eleven submit bids for 540,000 tonnes of energy-use rice*; Bangkok Post. (2018, June 15). *Bidders keen on inedible rice*; Commerce News Agency. (2018, June 15). *Private sector 11 buys 5.3 trillion tonnes of deteriorated rice worth 1,802 million baht*; and Commerce News Agency. (2018, June 14). *18 private sectors bid to buy 1.48 million tonnes of rice worth 8.441 billion baht.*

### ***The government of Thailand cooperated with Tesco Lotus to buy more jasmine rice from farmers.***

The Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives (MOAC) and Tesco Lotus have continued their cooperation in buying 9,000 tonnes of jasmine rice from agricultural cooperatives in four northeastern provinces, namely Ubon Ratchathani, Surin, Roi Et, and Si Sa Ket, aiming to boost incomes for more than 140,000 farmers. Previously, over 5,700 tonnes of jasmine rice were bought by the ministry. The rice will be packaged and sold under the Tesco Lotus brand.

**Source:** National News Bureau of Thailand. (2018, June 18). *Govt, private sector to buy more rice from farmers.*

## **Viet Nam**

### ***Rice exports see bright prospect as optimistic signs in importing markets.***

Pursuant to the report by the General Department of Vietnam Customs, in May 2018 alone, Viet Nam shipped 452,000 tonnes of rice abroad mostly to China worth 347 million USD, pushing this year's five-month rice export volume to 2.66 million tonnes with the value of 1.45 billion USD, up 25.7 percent in volume and 42.6 percent in value over the same period last year. Vietnamese rice quality has gradually approached international standards as the shift in global demand of higher-quality rice. Presently, importing countries prioritise the import of fragrant and Japonica rice varieties, adding that African countries are also increasing rice imports which would create opportunities to Vietnamese rice, according to Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD).

**Source:** Viet Nam Plus. (2018, Jun 18). *Bright prospect predicted for agricultural products' export.*

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