



## WEEKLY UPDATE ON ASEAN PLUS THREE RICE SITUATIONS

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### Cambodia

#### ***Cambodian rice exports dropped 5.9 percent in the first six months of 2018.***

According to the latest report from the Secretariat of One Window Service for Rice Export, Cambodia exported 271,500 tonnes of milled rice during January to June 2018, down 5.9 percent in volume from 288,500 tonnes compared to the same period last year. Over the past six months of this year, China was still the top buyer of Cambodian rice, even rice shipments to the country were dropped 34 percent in volume from the same period last year to 62,100 tonnes, followed by France, Poland, Netherlands, and the United Kingdom.

**Source:** Xinhua. (2018, Jul 11). *Cambodia's rice export drops 5.9 pct in H1.*

### Philippines

#### ***State-run National Food Authority (NFA) wants to import more rice to boost its inventory and ensure the availability of low-priced rice for the rest of 2018.***

NFA is now planning to import an additional 500,000 tonnes of rice, due to the depletion of its buffer stock which is currently at 2.5 days. Under the law, NFA must at least maintain a 15-day buffer at any given time, and a 30-day buffer during the lean months, starting

from July to September. According to NFA administrator, the agency will ask the NFA Council in a meeting on 17 July 2018 to allow the importation of 500,000-tonne rice as early as possible. Once approved, the ideal arrival for the shipment would be during October to December 2018. This would bring NFA's imports in 2018 to 1 million tonnes. Earlier this year, the country secured 500,000 tonnes from importation under government-to-government (G2G) scheme and government-to-private (G2P) scheme with 250,000 tonnes each. The G2G shipment is currently being distributed to markets across the country, while the G2P shipment is expected to arrive in August 2018. For the additional 500,000-tonne rice, if approved, NFA prefers the G2G scheme to facilitate the importation, said NFA administrator.

**Source:** The Manila Times. (2018, Jul 14). *NFA wants additional rice import*; Philippine Daily Inquirer. (2018, Jul 13). *NFA wants to import another 500,000 MT of rice to boost inventory*; and The Philippine Star. (2018, Jul 13). *NFA mulls additional rice imports.*

#### ***National Food Authority (NFA) rice stockpile fell by 99 percent in June 2018.***

Despite the arrival of the first shipment of imported rice under government-to-government (G2G) scheme last month, the NFA rice inventory in June 2018 was still lower by 99 percent to 2,000 tonnes compared to June 2017 of 205,000 tonnes. Besides, rice in commercial warehouses in June 2018 also declined by 1.92 percent to 1.26 million tonnes compared to June 2017 of 1.28 million tonnes. The country's total rice stocks from the two sectors stood at 2.36 million tonnes, down 8.24 percent from 2.57 million tonnes year-on-year. Meanwhile, households stocks increased by 1.47 percent to 1.09 million tonnes from 1.07 million tonnes in the same period last year, according to data from the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA).

**Source:** The Manila Times. (2018, Jul 13). *PH rice stocks down in June*; and Philippine Daily Inquirer. (2018, Jul 12). *NFA rice stockpile still 99% lower than 2017 inventory.*

## Thailand

### ***Thai Commerce Ministry targets China to be the first market for RD43 rice.***

On 16 July 2018, Deputy Commerce Minister presided over a memorandum of understanding (MoU) between Midifoods (Thailand) Co.,Ltd. and Zhejiang Cereals, Oils & Foodstuffs Imp. & Exp. Co., Ltd. on a partnership to promote and market RD43 rice, the premium-grade rice recommended for diabetics due to low sugar level, to Chinese consumers via both retail channels and e-commerce through Tmall.com, under the Thai Rice Flagship Store scheme. In the near future, the ministry is expecting to promote RD43 rice in other markets, such as the United States, Canada, Europe, Australia, Hong Kong, and Singapore, said Deputy Commerce Minister.

**Source:** Bangkok Post. (2018, Jul 17). *Commerce targets China for premium rice exports*; and Commerce News Agency. (2018, Jul 16).

### ***Rice aid measures worth 34.5 billion baht (1.03 billion USD) for 2018/2019 crop year, starting in November, was approved by the National Rice Policy and Management Committee.***

According to the Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Commerce, rice aid measures cover three projects: a loan scheme for farmers, who agree to delay their paddy sales, and a grant for harvesting and price-quality improvement costs with an estimated cost of 22 billion baht (660 million USD); a loan scheme for farmer institutes to gather rice and add values to rice with the estimated cost of 12.5 billion baht (375 million USD); and the 3 percent interest rate subsidy programme for rice traders, who agree to keep their stocks, and the cost is yet to be estimated. The objective of the measures is to curb and delay rice supply particularly during the main harvest season. These will run from late October 2018 to March 2019, except the Southern provinces that will run from June to July 2019, said the Permanent Secretary.

\*1 USD = 33.30 baht

**Source:** Bangkok Post. (2018, Jul 12). *B34.5bn in rice aid measures approved.*

## Viet Nam

### ***Tan Long Group JSC, a private Vietnamese company, won a contract to supply rice to Republic of Korea (ROK).***

According to the Vietnam Food Association (VFA), Tan Long Group JSC has won the bid to export 60,000 tonnes of Japonica brown rice to ROK. This was the first time that the private Vietnamese firm defeated international businesses from China, Thailand, and Australia to win the contract providing rice to ROK under the government bidding process. The deadline for delivery of 60,000 tonnes to the port of ROK is 15 September 2018. So far this year, Tan Long Group JSC has won bids to export 110,000 tonnes of Japonica brown rice to the ROK government, including 50,000 tonnes in May 2018.

**Source:** Viet Nam Plus. (2018, Jul 16). *Vietnam wins contract to export rice to RoK.*

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