



## WEEKLY UPDATE ON ASEAN PLUS THREE RICE SITUATIONS

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### Cambodia

***Rice exports in the first seven months of 2018 reduced by 6.3 percent in volume compared with the same period of 2017.***

During January to July this year, Cambodia exported 297,080 tonnes of rice, declined by 6.3 percent year-on-year. According to Director General of the general directorate of agriculture, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF), this is the first time that export figures have kept decreasing consecutively. The reduction in rice exports is mainly due to a lack of storage facilities, which causes inability to meet demand. Nevertheless, the country opened the four new rice storage and drying facilities in four provinces in July this year, including Battambang, Kampong Thom, Prey Veng and Takeo, with the aim to boost the country's rice exports as well as maintain the local price of paddy. This year, the total rice exports are expected to drop by 10 percent from 635,679 tonnes of rice last year, said Director-General.

**Source:** Phnom Penh Post. (2018, Aug 7). *Experts say year won't pan out well for rice exports*; Viet Nam Plus. (2018, Aug 7). *Cambodia's rice export down in 7-month period*; and Phnom Penh Post. (2018, Jul 4). *Facility for rice opens in Battambang*.

### Lao PDR

***Flooding threatens rainy season rice harvest target 2018 in Lao PDR.***

In 2018, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) targeted about 4.2 million tonnes of rainy season rice on 817,800 hectares along with 100,000 hectares of upland rice. More than 625,000 hectares or about 77 percent of the target already planted. However, Laos may not be able to meet its rainy season rice harvest target this year, as the recent widespread flooding affects many parts of the country. Due to estimates, thousands of hectares of rice crop in Northern provinces have been damaged. Nevertheless, authorities have not yet issued any official reports.

**Source:** Vientiane Times. (2018, Aug 1). *Flooding threatens rice harvest target in Laos*.

### Myanmar

***Flood destroyed more than 100,000 acres (40,000 hectares) of paddy fields.***

According to Deputy Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation (MOLI), more than 700,000 acres (280,000 hectares) of plantations have been submerged, with over 100,000 acres (40,000 hectares) of paddy fields were destroyed. Bago region, Mon and Kayin states, where flash floods occurred, are the main regions for paddy plantations. At present, respective departments, organisations, and Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF) are coordinating to find the ways to replant, make up for paddy plants in damaged paddy fields, and prevent low productivity.

\*1 acre = 0.40 hectare  
\*1 hectare = 2.47 acres

**Source:** Eleven Myanmar. (2018, Aug 3). *More than 300,000 acres of sesame and paddy fields destroyed: Agri Official*.

## Philippines

***Rice prices are still high as of mid-July 2018, according to data from the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA).*** State-run National Food Authority (NFA) expected the rice prices would be stabilised in the beginning of June 2018. However, delays on the unloading of vessels, due to weather disturbances, slowed down the distribution of low-priced rice to the markets. Despite the arrival of NFA imported rice, the average price of well-milled rice still rose to 42.09-44.81 pesos (0.8-0.84 USD) per kilogram, up by 7.05-7.81 percent compared with a year earlier. The average price of regular-milled rice was between 38.8-41.21 pesos (0.73-0.78 USD) per kilogram, up by 8.91-9.85 percent from the previous year. Meanwhile, NFA rice is sold at 27-32 pesos (0.5-0.6 USD) per kilogram. To boost the country's buffer stocks, avoid delays in shipping and distribution, and ensure the availability of low-priced rice for the second half of the year, the NFA Administrator was proposing an additional 500,000 tonnes of rice importation last month, expecting to be delivered by October 2018. The new importation still has to be approved by NFA Council. If approved, NFA prefers the government-to-government (G2G) scheme to facilitate the importation.

\*1 USD = 53.146 pesos

**Source:** The Manila Times. (2018, Aug 6). *Rice prices still high as of mid-July – PSA*; The Manila Times. (2018, Aug 1). *NFA: Rice imports must be fast-tracked*; and The Manila Times. (2018, Jul 14). *NFA wants additional rice import*.

## Thailand

***Rice exports see bright prospects until next year, due to strong global demand.*** According to Director General of the Foreign Trade Department, the prospects for Thai rice exports are likely to stay in a good shape until next year, with the minimum 10 million tonnes predicted for this year, boosted by continuously robust purchase demand. As of 1 August 2018, Thailand had exported 6.4 million tonnes, down 0.2 percent in volume year-on-year,

with the value of 3.26 billion USD, up by 17.9 percent year-on-year. Additionally, department officials are scheduled to speak with Chinese counterparts to follow up on China's plan to buy an additional 1 million tonnes of rice this year as part of an investment package agreed earlier, including the initial high-speed rail project and sales of 2 million tonnes of rice, along with the 200,000 tonnes of rubber, said Director General.

**Source:** Bangkok Post. (2018, Aug 4). *Bright prospects for rice exports*.

## Viet Nam

***Vietnamese rice exports in the first seven months of 2018 hit 3.86 million tonnes.*** From January to July this year, Viet Nam shipped 3.86 million tonnes of rice worth about 2 billion USD, up 12.8 percent in volume and 32 percent in value against the same period last year. In the first half of this year, China still remained the largest market of Vietnamese rice with 1.13 million tonnes, followed by Indonesia with 776,000 tonnes, African market with 537,000 tonnes, the Philippines with 429,000 tonnes, and Malaysia with 305,000 tonnes. According to experts, demand for Vietnamese rice will grow in the last quarter of the year. The five traditional importers, namely Cuba, Iraq, Indonesia, the Philippines, and Malaysia, will probably purchase 3-4 million tonnes. Meanwhile, Bangladesh also intends to import 400,000 tonnes of rice from Viet Nam in this August.

**Source:** Vietnam Economic Times. (2018, Aug 4). *Revenue from rice exports sees year-on-year increase of 32 per cent*; and Viet Nam Plus. (2018, Aug 3). *Vietnam's rice exports on the rise*.

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