



WEEKLY UPDATE ON ASEAN PLUS THREE RICE SITUATIONS

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Cambodia

Cambodian fragrant rice sees an opportunity to supply a Japanese firm.

According to Secretary General of Cambodia Rice Federation (CRF), representatives of Tanaka Food Industry Corporation, a major rice importer and wholesaler in Japan, have recently approached the CRF in search of a partner who will supply Cambodian fragrant rice to the company. This is the first time that the Japanese company looks for Cambodian rice suppliers. So far, the CRF will arrange meetings between the company and local suppliers, however the amount of imported fragrant rice has not been disclosed. Cambodian rice is gaining popularity with consumers abroad, particularly after Malys Angkor, Cambodian premium fragrant rice, won the World's Best Rice award in 2018. This recognition boosts the country's image, adds reputation to the rice, and gives the country more exposure abroad, said CRF secretary General.

Source: Khmer Times. (2018, Oct 26). *Japanese firm seeks Cambodian rice supplier.*

Philippines

The Philippines will open biddings for 703,000 tonnes of imported rice next week.

Pursuant to the unsuccessful rice import tender to supply the initial 250,000 tonnes of 25 percent broken rice on 18 October 2018, which the National Food Authority (NFA) secured only 47,000 tonnes, the NFA has to rebidding for the remaining volume. According to Agriculture Secretary, the government will conduct all rice importations for 703,000 tonnes next week, including 203,000 tonnes, the remaining of the initial volume, and 500,000 tonnes. The rebidding for the remaining 203,000 tonnes will be held in the first round via government-to-government (G2G) scheme. After the G2G importation is done, the government-to-private (G2P) importation of 500,000 tonnes will be continued. The NFA is set to publish a new Terms of Reference (TOR) for the said rebidding.

Source: Manila Bulletin. (2018, Oct 24). *PH to bid import contracts for 703,000 MT of rice in a week.*

Thailand

Rice export 2018 is confident to reach 11 million tonnes due to bright prospects from robust purchase demand.

According to Director General of Foreign Trade Department, rice export prospects are optimistic for the last quarter of 2018 with continuous import orders, particularly from China, the Philippines, and Japan. China has agreed to buy 100,000 tonnes of rice from Thailand under government-to-government (G2G) scheme. Also, the Philippines was recently approved to open the bids for the additional rice importation of 750,000 tonnes for the rest of 2018. This provides a good opportunity to Thailand to boost its rice exports. Meanwhile, Japanese authorities have also called rice bids on a continuous basis between July and October this year and agreed to purchase a total of 87,000 tonnes of Thai rice. Regarding these factors, Thai rice export

2018 is confident to reach the set target of 11 million tonnes, said Director General. From 1 January to 19 October 2018, Thailand exported 8.93 million tonnes of rice with the earning of 4.61 billion USD, up 2.71 percent in volume and 21.2 percent in value year-on-year.

Source: Bangkok Post. (2018, Oct 25). *Optimism for rice export forecast maintained*; and Commerce News Agency. (2018, Oct 24).

Viet Nam

Annual flooding in Mekong Delta has damaged over 2,000 hectares of rice.

More than 1,270 hectares of rice fields in Ai Giang, 316 hectares in Kien Giang, and 182 hectares in Dong Thap were totally destroyed, while 265 hectares in Dong Thap and 24 hectares in Long An were damaged. Most of the destroyed and damaged fields are in areas with broken embankments and without embankments. According to the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development's Directorate of Water Resources, the flooding caused by the rising levels in the Mekong River during the rainy season is declining. However, in the remaining months of 2018, high tides would increase the water level in rice fields along rivers in the delta's central and coastal areas and cause inundation. In order to avoid damage to crops, the delta's provinces have been ordered to regularly inspect and strengthen embankments in areas where the water level is high, said the Directorate.

Source: Vietnam Plus. (2018, Oct 29). *Floods damage 2,000ha of rice in Mekong Delta.*

Mekong Delta is forecast to face drought and salinity in Winter-Spring crop.

According to the Department of Cultivation under the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, the rainy season in the southern area may end earlier than the average time, while the El Nino is likely to happen in early 2019. Therefore, coastal areas in the Mekong Delta region are likely to suffer from drought and salt-water

intrusion during the Winter-Spring crop, which normally starts between November to April. To cope with the situation, regional localities were advised to reserve water for the crop, and cultivate rice between October 2018 to early January 2019 with high quality and resilient rice varieties, such as OM 4900, OM 7347, OM 6976, OM 4218, OM 5451, and Jasmine 85, said the department.

Source: Vietnam Plus. (2018, Oct 24). *Mekong Delta likely to face drought, salinity in winter-spring crop.*

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