



## WEEKLY UPDATE ON ASEAN PLUS THREE RICE SITUATIONS

**No. 105**

**30 January - 5 February 2019**

---

### **Cambodia**

#### ***Cambodian paddy rice production reached 7.4 million tonnes in 2018.***

According to the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF)'s annual report, Cambodia produced 7.4 million tonnes of paddy rice in 2018, a 3.5 percent increase. Due to better irrigation systems and the use of technology, each hectare produced 3.07 tonnes of rice on average in 2018, noting that in 2006 the average yield was only 2.6 tonnes. The total production in 2018 was only 88.47 percent of what the government expected, adding that about 2.4 million hectares were harvested from the total 2.7 million hectares of available agricultural land. In addition, the report shows that 96 percent of land was cultivated by using machinery, while livestock was used in only 4 percent of land.

**Source:** Khmer Times. (2019, Feb 5). *Paddy rice production reaches 7.4 million in 2018.*

### **Philippines**

#### ***Over half of rice importation via government-to-private (G2P) scheme have arrived the country as of 29 January 2019.***

According to the National Food Authority (NFA), 268,850 tonnes of rice or about

53.77 percent of the total rice importation under G2P scheme of 500,000 tonnes have arrived the Philippines as of 29 January this year. Regarding the arrived amount, about 123,905 tonnes have been unloaded in the various ports and the shipments have been received by the NFA's warehouses. While, the remaining of 231,150 tonnes are still scheduled to arrive the country. The 500,000-tonne rice has to be delivered to the 14 designated discharge ports, comprising of Manila, La Union, Subic, Batangas, Tabaco, Iloilo, Bacolod, Cebu, Tacloban, Zamboanga, Cagayan de Oro, Davao, General Santos, and Surigao. This G2P rice importation is part of the total 750,000 tonnes of rice imports, which is conducted by the NFA prior to the implementation of the rice tariffication bill.

**Source:** Business World. (2019, Jan 30). *NFA says over half of rice import orders have arrived as of Jan. 29.*

### **Thailand**

#### ***Thailand expects to export 9.5 million tonnes of rice in 2019.***

According to president of Thai Rice Exporters Association (TREA), this year's rice export situation will not run as smooth as last year because of a stronger baht and increased competition from India and Viet Nam. Regarding this, Thailand targets to export 9.5 million tonnes of rice in 2019 with the expected revenue of 4.8 billion USD, about 14 percent decline in both volume and value from 2018. Meanwhile, the Philippines and Malaysia are likely to turn from Thailand to Viet Nam due to pricing, which the baht has gained nearly 2.6 percent against the US dollar so far this year. Therefore, the government needs to take care of the baht to ensure that it moves in line with the competitors' currencies, said the president. Besides, Indonesia will import less Thai rice this year as the country has ample rice stocks. In 2018, Thailand totally shipped 11.09 million tonnes worth 5.61 billion USD, down 5 percent in volume but up 8.3 percent in value from 2017. India is the world's top rice exporter for 2018, followed by Thailand and Viet Nam.

**Source:** Bangkok Post. (2019, Jan 31). *Rice shippers take dimmer view of 2019*; Bangkok Post. (2019, Jan 30). Thailand aims to export 9.5m tonnes of rice in 2019; and Thansettakij Multimedia.

## **Viet Nam**

### ***Vietnamese rice will gain more global recognition from a rice brand logo.***

Even though Viet Nam exports rice to 150 international markets, global recognition of Vietnamese rice brands is still very low, according to the Ministry of Agricultural and Rural Development (MARD). In December 2018, the ministry unveiled the official Viet Nam's rice brand logo, hoping to create a firm foothold in the global market. This was an important move, because it would help consumers recognise Vietnamese rice since the logo is on the package. However, having a national brand does not mean that it would automatically enhance the value of Vietnamese rice, said director of Trung An Hi-tech Farming JSC – one of the biggest rice exporters in Viet Nam. Regarding this, acting director of MARD's Department of Agricultural Processing and Development had emphasised the importance of quality at the launch of the national brand logo. The main issue is product quality, because no brand will be accepted when the quality is poor. First and foremost, Viet Nam needs to improve the quality of rice to not only meet the requirements of traditional markets, but also niche markets in the future. Therefore, enterprises and farmers must work together very closely to enhance the value of Vietnamese rice, said acting director.

**Source:** Viet Nam News. (2019, Feb 1). *VN loses out on global market without rice brand.*

Gathered by the APTERR Secretariat  
Tel: +66 (0) 2579 4816-17 Fax: +66 (0) 2579 4840  
Email: [voraporn.mue@apterr.org](mailto:voraporn.mue@apterr.org)  
Website: <http://www.apterr.org/>

\* This Weekly Update on ASEAN Plus Three Rice Situations is based on all available sources during the period. The APTERR Secretariat shall take no responsibility for data accuracy in this publication and any consequence of their use.