



## WEEKLY UPDATE ON ASEAN PLUS THREE RICE SITUATIONS

**No. 106**  
**6 - 12 February 2019**

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### **Myanmar**

#### ***Rice exports from April 2018 to January 2019 reached 1.9 million tonnes.***

According to the Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF), the volume of rice and broken rice exports during 1 April 2018 to 18 January 2019 reached 1.9 million tonnes, worth about 642 million USD. Regarding the total amount of rice exports, Myanmar shipped over 1.6 million tonnes of rice to 46 countries with the revenue of 547 million USD. While, over 323,190 tonnes of broken rice were shipped to 21 countries with the earning of 95 million USD. Rice exports via border trade remained relatively high compared with maritime trade, accounting for 51.6 percent of the total rice exports. The exports of rice and broken rice through border checkpoints fetched about 335 million USD. Meanwhile, maritime trade generated an income of 307 million USD.

**Source:** The Global New Light of Myanmar. (2019, Jan 31). *Volume of rice, broken rice exports tops 1.9 mln metric tons in Apr-Jan.*

### **Philippines**

#### ***The country's rice stocks inventory increased 11.40 percent in January 2019.***

According to a report from the Philippines Statistics Authority (PSA), the total rice stock inventory as of 1 January 2019 was 2.55 million tonnes, rose by 11.40 percent from 2.29 million tonnes in the same period last year. Nevertheless, it fell by 6.23 percent from 2.72 million tonnes in the previous month. Of the total rice stock inventory, 48.91 percent were in the households, 47.25 percent were in the commercial warehouses, and 3.84 percent were in the National Food Authority (NFA) depositories. Month-on-month, rice stock level in the households and NFA depositories declined by 18.40 percent and 4.14 percent, respectively. On the other hand, stocks in commercial warehouses increased by 10.65 percent. Compared with the previous year, rice stocks in the households dropped by 5.88 percent. Likewise, stocks in NFA depositories were down by 8.37 percent. However, stocks in commercial warehouses increased by 40.59 percent.

**Source:** The Manila Times. (2019, Feb 9). *Rice stocks up, corn down in Jan.*

#### ***The National Food Authority (NFA) awaits arrival of last batch of imported rice.***

The NFA, which will be soon no longer be allowed to import rice, is now waiting for the delivery of the last batch of imported rice that the agency procured last year. To recall, the NFA was authorised to procure as much as 1.25 million tonnes of rice in 2018 through a series of government-to-government (G2G) and government-to-private (G2P) importations. According to a data from the NFA, about 1.01 million tonnes have already been delivered to the country. The balance of 236,196 tonnes of rice is now in transit and expected to arrive soon. This will be the last batch of imported rice that will pass through the supervision of the NFA. Once the Rice Tariffication Bill is

either signed by President Rodrigo Duterte or lapsed into law by 17 February 2019, NFA will no longer have regulatory functions and will only be allowed to boost its stocks through local paddy procurement. As of now, NFA's share in the rice market already went up from an average of 9.18 percent in 2018 to 11.76 percent in January 2019, due to the imported supply that arrived and was delivered to the agency's warehouses.

**Source:** Manila Bulletin. (2019, Feb 6). *NFA awaits arrival of last batch of imported rice.*

## **Viet Nam**

### ***The Bac Lieu province of Viet Nam is planned to continue expanding large-scale rice fields in 2019 and 2020.***

The Bac Lieu province, which is situated in the Mekong Delta region, has 21 large-scale rice fields with a total area of 11,400 hectares. According to the provincial Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, the province is planned to create five large-scale rice fields with a total area of 25,000 hectares in 2019, and create six more with a combined area of 31,000 hectares in 2020. According to Director of the department, in order to achieve the targets, the province would invest in infrastructure for large-scale rice fields, including electric pumping stations, roads, irrigation systems, drying facilities, and rice processing and preserving facilities. Presently, the provincial department is implementing the policies to stimulate consumption of agricultural produce, create large-scale rice fields, create tie-ups between farmers and companies to guarantee sales of their products, and restructure the agriculture sector towards value addition and sustainability. The province has about 183,000 hectares of rice-cultivating areas, and approximately produces one million tonnes of paddy annually.

**Source:** Viet Nam Plus. (2019, Feb 11). *Bac Lieu to continue expanding large-scale rice fields.*

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