



WEEKLY UPDATE ON ASEAN PLUS THREE RICE SITUATIONS

No. 111
27 March - 2 April 2019

Philippines

Paddy output goal for 2019 is still attainable despite a weather disturbance.

The Department of Agriculture (DA) remains optimistic that paddy rice output would reach a record high of the set target 20 million tonnes for 2019, in spite of the onslaught of El Niño. The DA is depending on the increase in wet season harvest to offset paddy damaged by weather phenomenon, said Agriculture Secretary. According to the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), the latest estimate of paddy production in the first quarter (January-March) this year would remain flat. Harvest area may contract by 3.3 percent from 1.19 million hectares in 2018. Nevertheless, yield per hectare may increase to 4 tonnes from the previous year's level of 3.87 tonnes, said the PSA.

Source: Business Mirror. (2019, Mar 31). DA: Rice output goal for 2019 still attainable.

Thailand

High prices and strong baht cause rice exports fall in February 2019.

Thai rice exports declined in both volume and value in February this year with blame falling on high prices relative to competitors, notably Viet Nam, as well as the strong baht. According to president of the Thai Rice

Exporters Association (TREA), outbound rice shipments totalled 687,560 tonnes in this February, worth 11.69 billion baht, down 27.7 percent in volume and 23.5 percent in value from the same period last year. In addition to the price, Viet Nam's rice prices were 40-50 USD lower than Thais and attracted buyers from the Philippines and Malaysia. Although rice exports fell in February, exporters still believe that shipments will recover in this March to 700,000-800,000 tonnes, because of the huge outstanding purchase orders for white rice and parboiled rice from key buyers such as, Benin, South Africa, Cameroon, China, and the Philippines. Moreover, import demand for Hom Mali rice from potential buyers like the US and Canada remains strong. Rice export target is still maintained at 9.5 million tonnes for 2019, said president of TREA.

Source: Bangkok Post. (2019, Mar 30). High prices, strong baht cause rice export drop.

Viet Nam

Rice exports in the first quarter of 2019 dropped in both volume and value.

According to Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD), Viet Nam exported over 1.3 million tonnes of rice with the earnings of 567 million USD during January to March 2019, seeing year-on-year decreases of 11.5 percent in volume and 23.6 percent in value. As of mid-March this year, Viet Nam had planted nearly 3.1 million hectares of Winter-Spring rice crop, up 0.8 percent against the same period in 2018. This year, Viet Nam expects to export 6-7 million tonnes of rice, compared with roughly 6.1 million tonnes worth about 3.1 billion USD last year. Regarding this, the country will intensify application of advance technologies in growing paddy rice, which will make it able to produce 43.5 million tonnes of paddy from 7.5 million hectares of paddy rice-growing area in 2019.

Source: Xinhua. (2019, Apr 1). Vietnam's rice export decreases 23.6 pct in Q1.

Republic of Korea

Drones help save as much as 90 percent of manpower in rice cropping.

On 27 March 2019, the GyeongGi-Do Agricultural Research & Extension Services invited a hundred of agricultural experts and farmers to conduct a demonstration of rice cropping by using drones. The institution plans to focus on educating farmers about the new method as part of its initiative to resolve increasing labor shortages in the agricultural industry. Compared to the traditional methods, using drones offers manpower savings of as much as 90.6 percent while reducing personnel expenses by half. This new method only requires 11 workers instead of 22 workers which normally needed for carrying out traditional methods. The cost for drones is about 20 million won (17,600 USD) each, which is much cheaper than rice-planting machines that usually cost as much as 40 million won (35,200 USD). Besides, drones are capable of spreading rice seeds over 3,300 square meter in less than 10 minutes, adding that sowing rice by using drones will speed up the entire rice growing process by 30-35 days, according to the institution.

* 1 USD = 1,137 won

Source: The Korea Bizwire. (2019, Mar 28). *Drones to Save as Much as 90 pct of Manpower in Rice Cropping.*

Gathered by the APTERR Secretariat
Tel: +66 (0) 2579 4816-17 Fax: +66 (0) 2579 4840
Email: 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.