



WEEKLY UPDATE ON ASEAN PLUS THREE RICE SITUATIONS

No. 115
24 - 30 April 2019

Cambodia

Cambodia will soon export 400,000 tonnes of rice to China. China agreed to import 400,000 tonnes of Cambodian rice, consisting of jasmine rice, fragrant rice, and white rice, from August 2019 to December 2020. The memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed on 27 April 2019 by Green Trade Company, who was representing the Cambodian Ministry of Commerce (MOC), and China National Cereals, Oils and Foodstuffs Corporation (COFCO), China's largest food processor, during a forum on the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) which was held in Beijing, China. However, the MoU will become effective after the two parties implement a previous agreement, signed in January 2018, to sell 300,000 tonnes of rice, according to MOC. In the first quarter of 2019, Cambodia exported 75,214 tonnes of milled rice to China, a 59 percent increase compared to the same period last year, adding that China was the biggest buyer of Cambodian rice accounting for 44 percent of the country's total rice exports.

Source: Khmer Times. (2019, Apr 26). *China to sign MoU on expanding Cambodian rice import quota.*

Lao PDR

Laos plans to produce at least five million tonnes of paddy annually by 2025.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) expects the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of the agriculture and forestry sector to grow at an average rate of 3.4 percent, meaning that the sector would contribute 19 percent to the national economy. With good agricultural planning and cooperation with industry partners, Lao people will have a daily minimum intake of 2,600 kilocalories by 2025. Therefore, the MAF plans to produce at least five million tonnes of paddy rice every year until 2025, of which 30 percent is non-glutinous rice. Meanwhile, commercial production of paddy rice for both domestic consumption and export should reach at least 1.5 million tonnes. Economics have also urged the government to implement policies to assist the agriculture sector and rice growers in particular.

Source: Xinhua. (2019, Apr 29). *Laos to produce over 5 mln tons of rice annually by 2025.*

Philippines

The Philippines sets paddy rice production for 2019 at 20 million tonnes.

The Department of Agriculture (DA) still expected to achieve its national paddy rice production target of 20 million tonnes despite the impact of El Niño, citing the reports of rice output increases in the three rice-producing regions in Luzon - Central Luzon, Ilocos, and Cagayan Valley. As rice output increases in the mentioned regions, the DA expects more than 400,000 tonnes increase in paddy output, which will be enough to compensate the expected loss on rice of 190,000 tonnes due to El Niño. Regarding this, the DA is confident to maintain its paddy production target at 20 million tonnes this year, said DA Assistant Secretary. Increased utilisation of good

quality seeds from 48 percent to 60 percent has help raised the national rice production in the past years. By 2022, the DA is targeting to further boost utilisation of good seeds at about 70 to 80 percent, according to DA Secretary.

Source: The Manila Times. (2019, Apr 30). *20-MMT rice target for 2019 doable – DA.*

Rice yield in three rice-producing regions is still high, in spite of El Niño.

The Department of Agriculture (DA) reported that rice production in three rice-producing regions in Luzon, namely Central Luzon, Ilocos, and Cagayan Valley, for the dry season 2018-2019 is higher, despite the El Niño phenomenon. There are a 22.07 percent increase on harvested rice in Central Luzon, 14.44 percent increase in Ilocos, and 2.16 percent in Cagayan Valley, compared to the recorded rice yield from last year. As reported by the three regional directors, rice production in their areas was not affected by El Niño because the planted areas for the season are all irrigated. High yield was attributed to increase of using good quality seeds in the last three years. For wet season, planting in the said regions will start in early May 2019 to avoid agriculture loss due to the onslaught of tropical cyclones, which usually hit Northern Luzon provinces towards the end of the year, according to Agriculture Secretary.

Source: GMA News. (2019, Apr 29). *DA chief reports high rice yield in 3 top rice-producing regions despite El Niño.*

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