



WEEKLY UPDATE ON ASEAN PLUS THREE RICE SITUATIONS

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Cambodia

The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) encourages planting of japonica rice after the successful tests.

The tests on japonica rice were conducted in Kampong Thom province and the yields of the rice strain are nearly double of other varieties grown in Cambodia. A hectare of land normally yields 3.5 tonnes of rice on average, while the hectare of land planted with japonica rice can produce 6.5 tonnes. Farmers were encouraged to begin planting japonica rice after the successful tests, adding that agriculture officials were asked to promote this rice strain to farmers in order to help boost rice exports, according to the MAFF. Tests on japonica rice and its adaptability to the Cambodian soil have been conducted in some provinces since January 2018 after the MAFF signed an agreement with two Chinese laboratories, Hunan Hybrid Rice Research Centre and Jiangsu Long An Agriculture Technology, to study the grain jointly. The ultimate goal of the agreement is to grow the crop in Cambodia and export to China, where demand for this rice is huge particularly in the north.

Source: Khmer Times. (2019, May 28). *Ministry encourages planting of Japonica rice*; Khmer Times. (2018, May 9). *Japonica rice ready for farming*; and Khmer Times. (2018, Jan 22). *New MoU to study japonica rice variety*.

Philippines

The National Food Authority (NFA) purchased over 200,000 tonnes of paddy during the first five months of this year.

As of 20 May 2019, the NFA has purchased 201,250 tonnes of paddy rice from farmers, surpassing 3,571 tonnes of rice which were bought during the first five months of 2018. The 201,250-tonne rice accounts for 27.83 percent of its new procurement target of 723,000 tonnes for 2019, which is nearly double the original target of 389,000 tonnes. According to Officer-in-Charge Administrator, the NFA has been aggressively buying paddy rice from farmers in recent weeks, following the deregulation and liberalisation of the country's trade regime. More farmers are now selling paddy rice to the NFA as the agency have increased its effective buying price with the additional 3 pesos (0.05 USD) per kilogram in accordance with Buffer Stocking Incentive (BSI). This increased the NFA's maximum buying price for paddy from 17.40 pesos (0.33 USD) per kilogram for individual farmers and 17.70 pesos (0.34 USD) per kilogram for members of farmer cooperatives to 20.40 pesos (0.38 USD) per kilogram and 20.70 pesos (0.39 USD) per kilogram, respectively.

* 1 USD = 52.522 pesos

Source: Business Mirror. (2019, May 24). *NFA's purchases of local unhusked rice hit 4 million bags*.

Thailand

A joint public-private project was launched to transform the central plains of Thailand to low-carbon rice farming.

The Thai Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives had joined with the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, which is the German federal enterprise supporting sustainable development worldwide, to carry out the project called Thai Rice NAMA (Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions). Under the project, some 100,000 local rice farmer households covering 2.8 million rai (448,000 hectares) of rice fields in the six central provinces of Thailand, consisting of Chainat, Angthong,

Pathum Thani, Sing Buri, Ayutthaya, and Suphan Buri, would shift to a sustainable method of rice growing. The project's main objectives are to create benefits to farmers in terms of promotion of zero emission of rice-growing and the promotion of Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) for rice, as well as to develop and expand business that provide technology to reduce greenhouse gas emission from rice-growing. As a result, this project will not only be able to significantly reduce methane emissions from rice production, but also to strengthen environmental sustainability and to support farmers to become more competitive and resilient. The project received financial support worth 14.9 million euros, about 530 million baht (16 million USD), from the governments of Germany, the United Kingdom, and the European Union through the multi-donor NAMA facility project (2018-2023).

* 1 USD = 31.794 baht

** 1 hectare = 6.25 rai, 1 rai = 0.16 hectare

Source: The Nation. (2019, May 28). *Project launched to introduce low-carbon rice farming*; and Sustainable Agrifood Systems in ASEAN. (2019, May 21). *Farmers in six central provinces of Thailand targeted to start low-carbon farming*.

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