



## WEEKLY UPDATE ON ASEAN PLUS THREE RICE SITUATIONS

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### **Cambodia**

#### ***Cambodia plans to export rice to Africa via the Republic of Korea (ROK)'s firms.***

Apart from the Chinese market, Cambodia expects to export rice to African markets to help boost the country's export as the market share in the European Union (EU) shown signs of a drop in the first half of this year. Regarding this, on 10 July 2019, the Cambodian Rice Federation (CRF) met with the CEO of JS Global Corporation and several governmental small- and medium-enterprise agents from the ROK to explore opportunities to export white rice to meet market demand in Africa. The market expansion will further increase Cambodian exports; however, the main issue is that its white rice cannot compete with Viet Nam or Thailand in terms of price. The prices for Cambodian white rice currently are around 430 - 460 USD per tonne, whereas 300 USD per tonne from Viet Nam and Thailand. According to a report from the Secretariat of the One Window Service for Rice Exports for Formality, Cambodia's rice exports in the first half of 2019 rose 3.7 percent year-on-year to 281,538 tonnes, including 118,401 tonnes to China and 93,503 tonnes to Europe. In the meantime, rice exports to Africa were nearly 20,000 tonnes as reported by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF).

**Source:** Phnom Penh Post. (2019, Jul 12). *Cambodia seeks to export rice to Africa through Koreans firms.*

### **Myanmar**

#### ***Rice trading center in Shwebo city is planning to go to public cooperation.***

After opening its fifth outlets in Sagaing region, rice-trading center in Shwebo city is planning to change its cooperate status to the public to be on par with other trading centers in Myanmar. Unlike a private company, which a shareholder has a limitation of not more than 50, there is no shareholder limit for public companies. This will help elevate the center's presence in the international market as well as make it easier to conduct export activities. There are about a million paddy fields in Shwebo city of which 300,000 acres (121,405 hectares) are cultivated only the high-grade Paw San variety. Currently, 70 percent of rice in Shwebo city is exported to China via the border trade. Meanwhile, to export via maritime route, the city is trying to comply with the rice import regulations set by China.

*\*1 hectare = 2.47 acres*

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**Source:** Myanmar Times. (2019, Jul 15). *Rice Trading Center in Shwebo to go public.*

### **Philippines**

#### ***The Philippines will meet the set target of 10 billion pesos (194 million USD) in rice tariff collection for this year.***

The Bureau of Customs (BOC) was likely to achieve the programme tax take for 2019 under the Rice Liberalization Act or Republic Act No.11203 (RA 11203), which has been implemented since 5 March 2019. The rice tariffication law replaced the former quota system to make easier rice importation for traders to meet local demands and the country's inflation rate. With RA 11203, private rice importation jumped 422.25 percent to 966,696 tonnes between March and June from just 185,100 tonnes during the same period last year. Besides, an average of rice importation per month after the implementation of the act was recorded at 256,445 tonnes, compared to 46,275

tonnes average per month year-on-year. The steady volume of rice importation is a strong indication that the BOC will be able to meet the target of 10 billion pesos in rice tariff collection for this year for remittance to the Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (RCEF) and other concerned agencies in connection with the act. The RCEF was created to help rice growers and farmers' cooperative transition to a new rice regime. The BOC has so far collected 5.9 billion pesos (114 million USD) from rice importation, according to Customs Commissioner.

\*1USD = 51.23 Philippines pesos

**Source:** Inquirer Business. (2019, Jul 13). *Customs on track to collect P10B from rice import.*

## **Thailand**

***Thailand is likely to fail from its rice-exporting goal of 9.5 million tonnes.***

Rice exports have been struggled because of the strong bath. From January to June 2019, Thailand had shipped 4.2 million tonnes of rice and orders in the last two months were fallen as low as 600,000 tonnes which below the target monthly average of 800,000 tonnes. With rice exports falling short in the first half of this year, Thailand will likely to be unsuccessful with its set rice-exporting target of 9.5 million tonnes for this year.

**Source:** World-grain. (2019, Jul 15). *Thailand falling short of rice export goal*

## **Viet Nam**

***Viet Nam cooperates with the Republic of Korea (ROK) for the rice value chain improvement project.***

On 12 July 2019, a cooperation agreement on the improvement of the rice value chain in the Hong River Delta implementation project was signed in Hanoi between the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) of Viet Nam and the Korea Rural Community Corporation (KRC). Under the project, the ROK has contributed a total

budget of 5 billion won (4.5 million USD) and technology support to Viet Nam for the implementation programme that will be taken place in the northern province of Thai Binh from 2019-2023. Besides, the agriculture training center will be built in the province to provide training courses for farmers and managers. The objective of this project is to increase farmers' income and standard of living and quality of Vietnamese rice through improving the rice value chain and raising cultivation capacity in the Hong River Delta as well as promote economic efficiency in agricultural production by applying farming technologies. Regarding this, the ROK also hopes that the project will be expanded nationwide.

\*1 USD = 1,180.66 won

**Source:** Vietnam Plus. (2019, Jul 12). *RoK helps Vietnam improve rice value chain.*

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