



WEEKLY UPDATE ON ASEAN PLUS THREE RICE SITUATIONS

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Myanmar

Raw rice will be exported if local market prices drop below the base price.

The Myanmar government expected to allow exports of raw rice if the prices in the local market drop lower than the new base price in order to stabilise the country's staple food. At present, the discussion about the basic price of rice is ongoing among members of the Assembly of the Union, the Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF), and representatives from farmer groups. The base price is initially set to be announced on 15 October 2019, while the rice will be exported with the designated quantity during the designated period, according to the Deputy Minister of Commerce. In 2018, the government set the base price at 500,000 kyats (327 USD) for every 100 baskets, roughly equivalent to 20.86 kilogrammes per each basket. Over the past few years, Myanmar had not allowed the raw rice exports to ensure the steady supply in the domestic market; however, the exports to other countries were occasionally permitted as an aim to raise the rice price in order to prevent local farmers from suffering losses.

Source: The Myanmar Times. (2019, Sep 30). *Govt to allow rice exports if local prices sink.*

Philippines

The Department of Agriculture (DA) together with the Philippine Competition Commission (PCC) will investigate the possible manipulation of rice prices.

After the Rice Tariffication Law (RA 11203) came into force at the beginning of this year, over two million tonnes of rice have been imported. However, rice prices have not gone down despite the importation and 3.5 million bags (175,000 tonnes) approved by the National Food Authority (NFA) were also released in the market. Regarding this, on the first of October 2019, the DA and PCC, a quasi-judicial body, signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) on information and resources sharing between the two parties. Due to the investigative power of PCC, this collaboration is necessary for finding out the possible manipulation of rice prices. They will look at whether happened fair trade or collusions among importers, traders, and millers.

Source: GMA News. (2019, Oct 1). *DA, PCC to investigate rice price manipulation.*

Thailand

The Department of Internal Trade (DIT) has set the rice-price guarantee criteria.

The DIT, under the Ministry of Commerce (MOC), has defined the price guarantee criteria for five types of rice for the 2018-2019 growing session. According to Director General, the DIT worked with the Rice Price Guarantee Committee for distributing 21.4 billion baht (695 million USD) allocated by the Cabinet to farmers. To be eligible for this scheme, the applicants must register as rice farmers in the said growing session before 31 October 2019, while until 28 February 2020 for farmers in the South. The scheme will cover 5 types of paddy with 15 percent moisture, including white rice with the price at 10,000 baht (325 USD) per tonne and up to 30 tonnes; sticky rice at 12,000 baht (390 USD) per tonne and up to 16 tonnes; Hom Mali rice from the northeast at 15,000 baht (487 USD) per tonne and up to 14 tonnes; Hom Mali rice

from elsewhere at 14,000 baht (454 USD) per tonne and up to 16 tonnes; and Pathum Thani rice at 11,000 baht (357 USD) per tonne and up to 25 tonnes. If farmers grow more than one type of rice, the combined quantity must not exceed the maximum limit for the rice type. The reference prices would be announced on 16 October 2019 and the committee will meet together every 15 days until October 2020 to consider possible revision.

*1 USD = 30.7753 baht

Source: The Nation. (2019, Sep 26). *Commerce Ministry cooks up rice-price guarantee criteria.*

Viet Nam

Kien Giang province aims to rise paddy output to 4.3 million tonnes in 2019.

According to the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD), the Mekong Delta province of Kien Giang, the Viet Nam's largest rice producer, is expected to produce 4.3 million tonnes of paddy this year, up more than 35,200 tonnes from last year. For the ongoing summer-autumn crop, over 290,000 hectares of rice fields in the province have been planted, increased about 9,000 hectares against the province's set target. The rate of certified rice seeds accounts for more than 77 percent of the crop's total area. The rice varieties are mostly OM5451, Dai Thom 8, OM4900 and OM 6976. The ongoing harvest was expected to be finished in late September this year, with an additional 1.5 million tonnes of paddy. The yield had met the province's target; however, inclement weather conditions and diseases had affected the output. Heavy rains and whirlwind flattened more than 17,470 hectares of rice fields, which had nearly ripened. Meanwhile, diseases from blown plant hoppers during the prolonged hot weather affected over 57,230 hectares.

Source: Vietnam Plus. (2019, Sep 30). *Kien Giang province increases rice output.*

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