



WEEKLY UPDATE ON ASEAN PLUS THREE RICE SITUATIONS

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Cambodia

Cambodian rice shipments to China under the new rice export quota of 400,000 tonnes seem to be diminished.

This year, China has pledged to purchase 400,000-tonne rice, the new quota, from Cambodia in 2019. An initial agreement under the quota was signed on 5 November 2019 for shipping 125,000 tonnes. However, China has not implemented it as Cambodia has to complete the old quota for 2018 first. So far, Cambodia is shipping rice to China based on the quota of 2018 with the amount of 300,000 tonnes and expected to complete this quota by December this year. According to the Secretariat of One Window Service for Rice Export Formality (SOWS-REF), Cambodia exported 184,844 tonnes of milled rice to China from January to October 2019. Rice exports to China alone accounted for 40 percent of total Cambodia's rice exports of 457,940 tonnes, a 5 percent up from the corresponding period last year. Meanwhile, the European Union (EU), the second-biggest buyer of Cambodian rice, purchased 155,950 tonnes of rice from Cambodia, a 34 percent increase when compared with the same period last year.

Source: Khmer Time. (2019, Nov 27). *Rice exports to China still under last year's quota: CRF.*

Thailand

The Thai government has set to allocate 70 billion baht (2.3 billion USD) on the programmes to stabilise paddy prices.

As the annual harvest is expected to overflow the market this November, the government has set aside 70 billion baht into the programmes with the aim to shore up paddy prices. The programmes cover i.) a loan scheme for farmers who agree to delay their paddy sales; ii.) a loan scheme for agricultural cooperatives to gather and add value to the grain; iii.) soft loans for farmers, farm institutes, agricultural cooperatives and community enterprises to build rice barns and delay paddy sales to stabilise prices; and iv.) the 3 percent interest rate subsidy programme for rice traders who agree to hold their rice stocks for 2-6 months. The programmes are effective immediately as the National Rice Policy Committee chaired by Prime Minister already approved them in principle.

*1 USD = 30.38 baht

Source: Bangkok Post. (2019, Nov 25). *State allots B70bn to stabilise paddy prices;* and Matichon Online. (2019, Nov 25).

The Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives (MOAC) expects to export one million tonnes of rice to China.

On 25 November 2019, Minister of the MOAC had a meeting with Deputy Minister of the General Administration of Customs, China (GACC). On the occasion, the MOAC submitted a second list of rice manufactures to the GACC, while the GACC promised to finish the registration process under its import scheme. With the willingness to consider a second list, this could pave a way to export an additional one million tonnes of rice to China with an estimated revenue of 27 billion baht (888 million USD). Previously, the MOAC submitted the first list of rice manufacturers to the GACC for consideration based on product quality and safety standards. As a result, 49 exporters were given approval comprising both large manufacturers and Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs).

Source: The Nation. (2019, Nov 25). *Agriculture Ministry aims to export 1 million tonnes more of rice to China.*

China

China's super hybrid rice has created the new record-high output in double season.

The super rice engineering demonstration zone in Hunan province covers an area of 10,000 mu (666 hectares), while double-season super rice model demonstration area covers 2,500 mu (166 hectares) in the province. Recently, a Chinese research team has achieved the annual output of super hybrid rice in double seasons at 1,365 kilogrammes (1.37 tonnes) per mu (0.07 hectares) in the hybrid rice engineering demonstration zone of 2,500 mu. The total output on average has created a new-record high for a field of this size in China. This output is about 30 percent higher than the average high yield of double-season rice, and about 50 percent higher than common double-season rice production in the province.

**1hectare = 1.5 mu*

1 mu = 0.07 hectare

Source: Chinadaily. (2019, Nov 23). *Average output of double-season hybrid rice reaches new high.*

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