



WEEKLY UPDATE ON ASEAN PLUS THREE RICE SITUATIONS

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Philippines

The Cloud-computing technology is expected to benefit the rice sectors.

The agriculture and science community in the Philippines launched the Asia@connect-RICESTATS DATABASE: Leveraging the Cloud for Rice Statistics and Analytics on 29 November 2019 at the Dusit Thani Manila. The project, which is led by the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), intends to create a reference resource by using an ontology to combine data into a one-stop accessible database with a displayable dashboard for rice statistics. The platform runs on Amazon Web Services (AWS) for data extraction, transformation, and loading, while the transformed data is stored in AWS cloud warehouse Redshift. The database will contain data from existing household surveys conducted by IRRI globally and include data from national bureaus and international organisations. Moreover, the project will provide a unique resource for agricultural and social science researchers, academia, policymakers, donors, and investors in the rice sector and beyond.

Source: Agro News. (2019, Dec 3). *Cloud computing to help the rice sector in the Philippines.*

Thailand

Thailand needs to do more research and development on fragrant rice strains.

After winning the contest of the world's best fragrant rice for five consecutive years, Thailand's Hom Mali rice was beaten last year and also this year by Cambodia's fragrant rice variety. This failing to win the prize for two years in a row has come as a wake-up call for Thailand to overhaul its research and development into Hom Mali rice variety to catch up with the changing of global demand for fragrant rice. According to the President of Thai Rice Exporters Association (TREA), Thailand has stuck to its old varieties, such as Hom Mali and Pathum Thani 1, and has not created any new fragrant strains for a long time, due to a lack of effective research and development to create better rice strains. The yield of Thai Hom Mali rice is about 400 kilogrammes per rai, which is fairly low when compared with the 1,000-kilogramme yield per rai of Viet Nam. Therefore, the priority is to speed up the development of Hom Mali rice strain with a yield of at least 800 kilogrammes per rai, which will help lower the production costs. In order to cope with this problem, the government should make rice research a national agenda. If nothing is done to improve this problem, Hom Mali rice will soon become a thing in the past, said the President of TREA.

*1 hectare = rai

1 rai = 0.16 hectare

Source: Bangkok Post. (2019, Dec 1). *Thai rice feels the strain.*

Rice price is expected to increase next year due to a decrease in production.

According to the Department of Internal Trade (DIT), rice grown in the crop year 2019/2020 had been harvested 90 percent; however, the volume had decreased drastically due mainly to drought and floods. Rice volume for the in-season paddy decreased from 27 million tonnes to 24 million tonnes, while rice volume for the off-season paddy also went down from 8 million tonnes to 3.5 million tonnes. Consequently, Thailand will have only 16-17 million tonnes of milled rice, which 8 million tonnes will be earmarked for export and 9-10 million tonnes will be left for domestic

consumption. Therefore, this will certainly drive up the price of milled rice next year, said Director General of the DIT.

Source: The Nation. (2019, Nov 28). *Rice price may spike next year due to decrease in production.*

Viet Nam

New farming models increase the income of farmers in Kien Giang province.

With the use of new farming models and agricultural restructuring, the income per capita of rural residents in Kien Giang province has reached 46.2 million VND (1,990 USD) per year, up 1.5 times against 2015. Under the national programme on new-style rural areas, the province has seen good result in recent years. Many large-scale rice fields in the province have been planted with the high-yield and quality-rice varieties for exports. This year, the number of large-scale rice fields by 44 percent compared to last year. Farmers have also turned many inefficient rice fields to rice-shrimp fields that grow shrimp in the dry season while growing rice in the rainy season. The rice-shrimp fields expand from 77,866 hectares in 2015 to 83,458 hectares in this year, adding that an additional 20,000 hectares will be implemented after 2020, according to Director of the province's Agriculture Extension Centre.

*1 USD = 23,062.59 VND

Source: Vietnam News. (2019, Nov 28). *New farming models increase incomes in Kien Giang.*

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