



## WEEKLY UPDATE ON ASEAN PLUS THREE RICE SITUATIONS

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### Cambodia

#### ***Cambodian rice shipments to China increased by 46 percent in 2019.***

China remained the top buyer of Cambodian rice during 2019. According to the Cambodian General Directorate of Agriculture (GDA), Cambodia exported over 248,100 tonnes of rice to China in 2019, up 46 percent year-on-year. The shipments to China accounted for 40 percent of the country's total rice export compared to 27 percent in 2018. On the other hand, the market share of Cambodian rice in the European Union (EU) dropped to 32.7 percent in 2019 from 43 percent in 2018, due to the EU's imposition of tariff on rice imported from Cambodia.

**Source:** Vietnam Plus. (2020, Jan 4). *Cambodia's rice export to China up 46 percent in 2019.*

#### ***The rice farmers in Cambodia affected the European Union's (EU) imposition of tax on Cambodian rice.***

In 2019, the EU imposed a tariff on Cambodian rice for three consecutive years, as aiming to protect the local producers. According to the government data, Cambodian rice exported to the EU dropped by 30 percent in 2019. Regarding this, the dealers are using this issue to drive Cambodian rice prices down

below the market value, leading to losses for farmers. However, the vice president of the Cambodia Rice Federation (CRF) recommended rice farmers to sell their rice directly to the millers to get better prices.

**Source:** VOA. (2020, Jan 2). *As Rice Exports to EU Drop, Dealers Are Reducing Prices Due To Tariff*; and ASEAN Today. (2019, Dec 26). *EU tariffs hurts Cambodia's farmers.*

### Philippines

#### ***The government distributes cash aids in order to help rice farmers from paddy prices falling.***

The 87,175 of rice farmers in Pangasinan province, who affected by the low prices of paddy, will receive 5,000 pesos (98 USD) of cash aid each and worth 435 million pesos (8.5 million USD) in total. The subsidy is under the rice farmer financial assistance (RFFA) programme of the Department of Agriculture (DA). On 23 December 2019, the DA has distributed cash cards to the initial 500 beneficiaries at the Pangasinan Training and Development Center. Additionally, the DA would allocate a total of 3 billion pesos (58 million USD) to the first 33 rice-producing provinces and qualified farmers nationwide.

\*1 USD = 50.88 pesos

**Source:** Inquirer. (2019, Dec 26). *As palay price falls, farmers get cash aid.*

### Thailand

#### ***Thailand's rice exports in 2019 could fall below 8 million tonnes.***

According to the President of the Thai Rice Exporters Association (TREA), the rice shipments will definitely stand below 9 million tonnes, as projected by the TREA for 2019, but could struggle to hit 8 million tonnes. In the first 11 months of 2019, Thailand shipped 7.11 million tonnes of rice, a dip of 30.4 percent from the same period a year earlier. The fall was attributed to the strong baht. Another factor is the lack of Thai rice variety development over a

period of 30 years to cope with changing market demand and consumer behaviour.

**Source:** Bangkok Post. (2020, Jan 6). *Rice exports struggle to hit 8m tonnes.*

***Thai rice export prices increase this week due to the drought rising concern about the future supply.***

Thailand's rice export prices rose this week on concern that a drought hitting the country might harm the future crop. As of 26 December 2019, Thailand's benchmark 5 percent broken rice prices were quoted at 424-435 USD a tonne from 395-420 USD a tonne last week. The ongoing drought could hurt the future supply and it is expected to last through to 30 April 2020. Hence, some mills and exporters are speculative buying rice and stockpiling, which has driven up the prices.

**Source:** Reuters. (2019, Dec 26). *Asia Rice- Thai rice export prices rise as drought triggers future supply concerns.*

## **Viet Nam**

***Viet Nam's rice research institute and agricultural company cooperate in new rice varieties development.***

The Loc trei Group, an agricultural company has been collaborated with the The Cuu Long Delta Rice Research Institute to build value chain models for sustainable rice production for many years. On 24 December 2019, two organisations has signed a five-year agreement to participate in the development of new rice varieties. Experts from the two parties would work together to research and create at least one new rice variety for production and providing seeds. Meanwhile, the training courses in rice seed selection, maintaining the purify and producing of seeds, were also planned to organise.

**Source:** Viet Nam News. (2019, Dec 25). *Company, research institute in tie-up to develop new rice varieties.*

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