



## WEEKLY UPDATE ON ASEAN PLUS THREE RICE SITUATIONS

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### Myanmar

***Myanmar is exploring the new markets for rice exports via the maritime.***

According to the Ministry of Commerce (MOC), Myanmar has recently started exploring the new markets, such as Mozambique and Liberia, to export rice through the maritime trade. Rice export via border trade was relatively high earlier compared to the sea trade; however, rice exports through this channel have faced a drastic decline in the current fiscal year. During the current fiscal year, border trade has accounted for just 29 percent of the total rice exports, while maritime trade has constituted 70.9 percent. From 1 October 2018 to 30 August 2019, Myanmar exported over 2 million tonnes of rice and broken rice with the earnings more than 623 million USD. In relation to this, Myanmar earned about 179 million USD from rice exports via border trade, whereas maritime trade generated an income of 443 million USD, according to the Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF). Myanmar currently ships rice to 62 foreign markets with China is the major buyer of Myanmar rice, accounting for 33 percent of the total rice exports, followed by the Philippines and Ivory Coast.

**Source:** Global New Light of Myanmar. (2019, Sep 16). *Myanmar exploring new markets for rice exports.*

### Thailand

***Rice fields in Kalasin province of Thailand were damaged by a severe flood.***

According to local media reports, flooding in Kalasin province has caused severe damage to farmland, fishery, and livestock. Although the floodwaters in areas along the Pao and Chi rivers have been reducing steadily, many rice fields are still submerged. In all areas, the flooding has caused damaged to 141,574 rai (22,652 hectares) of rice fields and 2,023 rai (324 hectares) of the fishery, while 2,766 head of livestock were killed. Apart from this, teams of officials have been deployed to watch the situation all the time, particularly in areas along the Pao and Chi rivers in the province's districts of Khong Chai, Rong Kham, Kamalasai, Yang Talat, and Muang. In addition, farmers still plan to invest in the second-season rice farming after the situation has returned to normal.

\*1 hectare = 6.25 rai

1 rai = 0.16 hectare

**Source:** Bangkok Post. (2019, Sep 15). *Flooding causes severe damage to Kalasin rice fields.*

***Rice prices could be unstable due to the impact extension from a tropical storm.***

Thailand's benchmark 5 percent broken rice declined to 400-418 USD per tonne this week, compared with 410-422 USD last week. There was a new supply entering the market in August 2019 after the harvest; however, the flat demand leads to dropping in prices. Moreover, concerns over rice supply persist after flash floods caused by tropical storm Podul damaged over 240,000 hectares of agriculture land. Rice prices could further fluctuate as the extent of the impact from the flood becomes clearer on rice supply. Nevertheless, with the rice price decrease, Thai rice prices are still higher than Viet Nam and India.

**Source:** Reuters. (2019, Sep 12). *Vietnam rice prices plunge to near 12-year low as demand dries up.*

## **Viet Nam**

### ***The Vietnamese rice export prices hit the lowest level in almost 12 years.***

This week, Vietnamese rice export prices slumped to the lowest level in nearly 12 years due to dwindling demand. The lack of fresh deals, amid the expectation that the major buyers could cut down on imports to support local farmers, have squeezed the Vietnamese market with prices now about 13 percent decrease from the beginning of 2019. Vietnam's 5 percent broken rice prices fell to 325 USD per tonne this week, the lowest level since November 2007, compared with 325-330 USD per tonne last week. Meanwhile, only 82,450 tonnes of rice are scheduled to be unloaded at Ho Chi Minh City ports during 1-15 September this year with most shipments bound for West Africa and the Philippines.

**Source:** Reuters. (2019, Sep 12). *Vietnam rice prices plunge to near 12-year low as demand dries up.*

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