



WEEKLY UPDATE ON ASEAN PLUS THREE RICE SITUATIONS

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Cambodia

The Cambodia Rice Federation (CRF) guarantees that rice stockpiling is enough.

Fear of Covid-19 drives people to stockpile food, which causes some supermarkets may run out of essential commodities such as rice. According to the CRF, an extra 100-500 tonnes of rice will be supplied to shops in Phnom Penh and Siam Reap. The additional rice will ensure the price of the commodity does not surge. Moreover, all members of the CRF have over 400,000 tonnes of rice in their stock and it will be available at an affordable price. Besides, the Signature of Asia Company, a CRF member, will soon ship 1,000 tonnes of rice across the country.

Source: The Phnom Penh Post. (2020, Mar 8). *Rice Association responds to stockpiling concerns.*

Philippines

A Dalisay rice, the Philippines high-quality rice brands is set to export to the overseas markets in this year.

The Chen Yi Agventures, Inc., a rice-processing firm of the Philippines, plans to start exporting Dalisay rice brand, its ultra-premium rice brand, to Asia or the Middle East in 2020. Dalisay brand has won the Third Best Rice at the World Rice Conference last year, marking the first time the Philippines has been recognised as a world-class producer of

rice. The company invested 1.7 billion pesos (about 33.5 million USD) in a processing center in Leyte, which uses end-to-end Japanese technology.

Source: Vietnam News Agency. (2020, Mar 7). *Philippines rice producer eyes exports of high quality rice brand.*

Thailand

Prices of Thai rice surge this week as the widespread drought in many areas is rising concern over a supply shortage.

On 5 March 2020, Thailand's benchmark 5 percent broken rice prices jumped to 460-467 USD per tonne, the highest since August 2013, from 430-452 USD per tonne last week. The prolonged drought in many rice-producing areas caused market concern over possible supply shortage and it is the main reason for rising in rice price, as the overseas demand remained flat. Most of the demand is from domestic buyers who are hoarding rice amid fears of supply dearth.

Source: Reuters. (2020, Mar 6). *Asia Rice-Drought-hit Thailand's rate soar to 6-1/2 yr peak on supply dearth.*

Viet Nam

Prices of Vietnamese rice rose to the highest due to strong demand in the market.

As of 5 March 2020, rates for Vietnamese 5 percent broken rice rose to 390-400 USD per tonnes, which is the highest since December 2018, compared with 365-375 USD per tonnes last week. The Philippines remains the largest buyer of Vietnamese rice, while there were more orders from Malaysia, Cuba, and Africa. In the first two months of this year, Viet Nam's rice exports are likely to rise 11.5 percent from a year earlier to 811,000 tonnes. The strong demand has outpaced the rise in suppliers because local farmers are still harvesting rice from the winter-spring crop.

Source: Reuters. (2020, Mar 6). *Asia Rice-Drought-hit Thailand's rate soar to 6-1/2 yr peak on supply dearth.*

Vietnamese rice exports to Senegal seem to continue growth in 2020.

According to the Viet Nam Trade Office in Algeria, Viet Nam would have opportunities to continue increasing rice exports to Senegal and a whole Africa in 2020 because of the high demand from those markets. Senegal's demand for imported rice is forecast to be high because people are storing more food, including rice, during the serious outbreak of locusts in East Africa, which destroyed crops, and Covid-19 epidemic. Africa's rice demand this year is estimated at 15.7 million tonnes and 1.3 million tonnes of this number is Senegal's rice imports. In 2019, Viet Nam had strong growth in rice exports to Senegal at 96,665 tonnes worth 32.6 million USD, up 13 times and 10.2 times in volume and value, respectively, compared with 2018.

Source: Viet Nam News. (2020, March 5). *Senegal a potential market for Vietnamese rice.*

China

A new rice research center will be built in Baoqing county of China.

The National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (MARA) approved the construction of the northern rice research center of the China National Rice Research Institute (CNRRI) of the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Science (CAAS) with total investment about 90 million yuan (about 13 million USD). The center is set to build in Baoqing county, Shuangyashan city, Heilongjiang province and it is expected to significantly improve the contribution of science and technology and promote the development of a high-quality rice industry. Furthermore, the rice research center will focus on rice resources innovation, new variety selection, ecological research, cultivation technology innovation and soil fertilization, and remediation research.

Source: China Daily. (2020, Mar 5). *Major rice research platform to be built in northeast China.*

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