



WEEKLY UPDATE ON ASEAN PLUS THREE RICE SITUATIONS

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Cambodia

Cambodia is set to initially export rice to East Timor in May 2020.

According to the Cambodia Rice Federation (CRF), Cambodia plans to export rice to East Timor next month, where is the newest market for the Cambodian rice exports. Regarding the shipment plan, East Timor will soon send an official letter to outline the timing, quantity, types of rice, shipping and other trade conditions to Cambodia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MFAIC). The tightening restriction of Vietnamese rice exports during the Covid-19 pandemic had led East Timor to deal with Cambodia. Meanwhile, the Cambodian government and the CRF strive to find new markets for rice exports to boost the country's exports in the second quarter.

Source: Phnom Penh Post. (2020, Apr 21). *Cambodia could export rice to East Timor 'as soon as May'.*

Indonesia

The State Logistic Agency (Bulog) plans to request an additional fund worth 10 trillion rupiahs (637 million USD) from the government to buy rice.

The government has asked the Bulog, a government body responsible for securing the staple food supply, to raise stocks of basic commodities to control rising staple food prices, including rice. This government's order aims to anticipate surging demand during Ramadan and Idul Fitri and logistical disruptions due to large-scale social restrictions amid Covid-19 pandemic. Regarding this, The Bulog plans to ask for an additional 10 trillion rupiah (637 million USD) from the government to buy rice from farmers to maintain rice stocks. Currently, prices of milled rice and unhusked rice are high and this extra fund is expected to be enough for procuring 1.2 million tonnes of rice. If the Bulog has to borrow fund from the bank without the government's support, it would be a huge cost for the Bulog.

**1 USD = 15,545.50 rupiahs*

Source: The Jakarta Post. (2020, Apr 16). *Bulog asks for additional Rp 10 trillion to buy rice.*

Viet Nam

The Deputy Prime Minister requests to use 100,000 tonnes of rice from the export quota in May to help exporters.

At the meeting between Deputy Prime Minister and relevant ministries, the Deputy Prime Minister requested the supply of rice at 100,000 tonnes from the export quota in May to the rice exporters that have goods stuck at the ports but could not open the customs declarations in April. Additionally, the Deputy Prime Minister asked for permission to export without quotas for rice exports that have been ordered by foreign importers, who have supplied seeds, technology and material for rice producers.

Source: Viet Nam News. (2020, Apr 21). *Dputy PM requests to use part of May rice quotas for this month.*

An inspection team was set up to examine the actual rice volume stuck at ports.

An inspection team, led by the Ministry of Industry and Trade (MOIT), includes the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD), the Ministry of Finance (MOF), the Ministry of Public Security (MPS), and the Vietnam Food Association (VFA). The mission of this team is to work with customs authorities and agencies to determine the actual amount of rice volume at ports. The team will write a report on the rice export situation in April and recommend measures to regulate rice exports in May. This report will be submitted to the Prime Minister. Besides, the working time is expected to be during 20-24 April 2020 and it will dissolve when the task is completed. The establishment of the inspection team came after the online process problem occurred when the General Department of Customs began accepting online customs declaration from rice exporters on 12 April 2020. Many rice exporters were left disappointed since the quota of 400,000 tonnes was full within three hours and many firms with rice consignments stuck at the ports were unable to submit declarations.

Source: Viet Nam News. (2020, Apr 20). *Inspection team set up to check rice volume stuck at ports.*

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