



WEEKLY UPDATE ON ASEAN PLUS THREE RICE SITUATIONS

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Indonesia

The Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) confirms that the country has plenty of rice in the stocks for May 2020.

The MOA has assured the Indonesian people of food security during the Covid-19 pandemic. Based on the National food balance, the government has prepared three scenarios in calculating the availability of rice throughout May 2020. Currently, the country has 3.5 million tonnes of rice in the stock and the upcoming harvest period is estimated to produce an additional 12.4 million of rice. Additionally, the State Logistic Agency (BULOG) has stocked 1 million tonnes of rice along with the rice in the milling approximately 15 tonnes. Besides, the MOA has carried out objective monitoring through satellite by ensuring the validity of the data more than 400 regional government chiefs through teleconference. Until the next three months, the country will have rice available.

Source: Tempo. (2020, Apr 27). *Govt Assures Plenty of Rice Stocked for May.*

Myanmar

Myanmar establishes the rice reserve scheme to cope with the Covid-19 pandemic.

According to the Ministry of Commerce (MOC), the country will purchase 500,000 tonnes of rice for reserve from 10 percent of export volume. The 38 billion kyats (26.9 million USD) has been allotted for the state's reserve rice purchase plan. The MOC has projected the first-ever reserve scheme for basic foodstuffs to settle with a possible emergency from the Covid-19 pandemic. The ministry has asked the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) to make some suggestions on rice purchasing, warehouse location, and distribution plans.

*1 USD = 1,410.72 Kyats

Source: The Global New Light of Myanmar. (2020, Apr 23). *MOC Union Minister remarks rice reserve scheme.*

The Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF) sets to reopen rice depots on 27 April 2020.

The MRF will reopen the rice depots on 27 April 2020 in order to prevent rice insufficiency and avoid a negative impact upon the local farmers from the summer paddy price falling. The MRF has already arranged to spray the disinfectants and keep social distancing between traders and buyers to prevent the spreading of the Covid-19 pandemic under the guidance of the Health Department. Meanwhile, the rice depots have been inspected by the officials of the Township Health Department, Township municipal Committee, and the Hluttaw Representative. It is announced that dealers have to follow the rules and regulations prescribed by the Ministry of Health and Sports (MHS) in the depot.

Source: The Global New Light of Myanmar. (2020, Apr 26). *Rice depots to reopen on 27 April.*

Viet Nam

Viet Nam decides to resume rice exports as normal from 1 May 2020.

The Prime Minister of Viet Nam agreed to fully resume the country's rice exports from 1 May 2020. This decision came after a proposal from the Ministry of Industry and Trade (MOIT) to remove rice export quota and resume fully shipment of grain from May. Viet Nam has 6.5 million to 6.6 million tonnes of rice left for exports in 2020, after setting aside a portion for domestic consumption and stockpile.

Source: Reuters. (2020, Apr 28). *Vietnam PM says to fully resume rice exports from May.*

Viet Nam increases the white rice export quota of April to 500,000 tonnes.

Viet Nam decided to raise the white rice export quota for April to 500,000 tonnes from 400,000 tonnes. The extra 100,000 tonnes is the rice that had been transported to ports before 24 March 2020, when the government announced a ban on rice exports to ensure domestic supply sufficiently during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Source: Reuters. (2020, Apr 22). *Vietnam increases April white rice exports quota to 500,000 tonnes.*

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