



# WEEKLY UPDATE ON ASEAN PLUS THREE RICE SITUATIONS

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## Cambodia

***Cambodian milled-rice exports significantly increase by 42 percent from January to May 2020.***

According to the Secretariat of One Window Service for Rice Export Formality (SOWS-REF), in the first five months of this year, Cambodian milled-rice exports to the international market soar to 42 percent to 356,097 tonnes from 250,172 tonnes year-on-year. The milled-rice exports are fragrant rice, white long-grain rice, and long-grain parboiled rice, accounted for 289,287 tonnes, 62,779 tonnes, and 4,031 tonnes, respectively. The export markets are the European accounted for 122,010 tonnes, up 51.10 percent, the China 136,825 tonnes, up 25.26 percent, Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) countries 45,825 tonnes, up 45.39 percent, other destinations 51,437 tonnes, up 79.40 percent, compared with the same period last year.

**Source:** Phnom Penh Post. (2020, May 31). *Milled-rice exports soar 42% in first five months of this year.*

## Myanmar

***Government buys 2,200 tonnes of rice for the national reserve in May 2020.***

The Ministry of Commerce (MOC), the Myanmar Inspection and Testing Service (MITS), and the Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF) have been implemented the rice reserve scheme since 30 April 2020. As of 27 May 2020, the government purchased about 2,200 tonnes of rice from 80 companies, in the line with the set rules and regulations. Regarding the mentioned rules and regulations, the exporters have to sell rice at 10 percent of the total export volume as reserve, stated in the export declaration. Besides, the reserved rice will be sent to the country's warehouse and the MITS will inspect and verify the quantity and quality.

**Source:** Global New Light of Myanmar. (2020, May 30). *Govt buys 2,200-tonne reserved rice in May.*

## Thailand

***The ban on paraquat and chlorpyrifos came into force on 1 June 2020.***

The ban on paraquat and chlorpyrifos was endorsed when the Ministry of Industry (MOI) decided on 15 May 2020 to place these two chemicals on the list of hazardous chemicals and ban their use in Thailand, effective from 1 June 2020. The chemicals were declared to be the type-4 toxic substance. The Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives (MOAC) warned farmers to return their stocks of herbicide paraquat and pesticide chlorpyrifos to sellers within 90 days or by 29 August 2020 to avoid legal action. Additionally, the MOAC assigned agriculture officials to ensure that farmers are informed about the ban. If farmers were arrested after the deadline, agricultural officials would be held accountable for malfeasance.

**Source:** Bangkok Post. (2020, Jun 2). *Farmers to hand back chemicals.*

## **Viet Nam**

***Prices of Vietnamese rice remain unchanged this week but seems to raise in the incoming week due to uptick demand.***

This week, rates for Vietnamese 5 percent broken rice were unchanged at 450-460 USD per tonne. However, prices are likely to increase in the incoming weeks. Demand is rising faster than supplies from the summer-autumn harvest season. The higher demand is from Cuba, Malaysia, and the Philippines, who are building up stockpiles to cope with the Covid-19 pandemic.

**Source:** Reuters. (2020, May 28). *Asia Rice-India prices retreat from highs, Vietnam sees fresh offers.*

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*\* This Weekly Update on ASEAN Plus Three Rice Situations is based on all available sources during the period. The APTERR Secretariat shall take no responsibility for data accuracy in this publication and any consequence of their use.*