



WEEKLY UPDATE ON ASEAN PLUS THREE RICE SITUATIONS

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Cambodia

Cambodia's milled rice export to the international market grows significantly at 41 percent in the first half of 2020.

From January to June 2020, Cambodia exported 397,660 tonnes of milled rice, up 41 percent year-on-year. During this period, China remained the largest buyer of Cambodian rice with the shipments of 147,949 tonnes, an increase of 25 percent compared to the same period last year and accounted for 37 percent of the country's total rice exports. Meanwhile, the country exported 135,576 tonnes of rice to the European market and 52,987 tonnes to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations market, up 45 percent and 47 percent year-on-year, respectively. The Covid-19 pandemic had driven demand for Cambodian rice. Therefore, the country's rice export to the international market in 2020 is forecast to reach at least 800,000 tonnes.

Source: The Star. (2020, Jul 1). *Cambodia's rice export up 41 percent in first half of 2020.*

Indonesia

Indonesia ramps rice production up as expect to ensure ample supply.

The government pushed forward with the rice-planting season in 2020, as an aim to ensure sufficient supply, due to the warning signs from Food and Agriculture Organization about the drought and the World Food Programme about a food crisis in the world after the Covid-19 pandemic. Normally, Indonesian farmers plant and harvest rice later in the year, after the first planting season in March, when rainfalls increase because the country faces drought in May. With the accelerated planting season, the planting season started in May and June so that the harvest season will be in August and September. Therefore, the rice supply is expected to a surplus of 6.1 million tonnes at the end of this year. To maintain the country's production, the government was providing irrigation facilities to farmers and developing 164,598 hectares of rice fields in central Kalimantan.

Source: The Jakarta Post. (2020, Jul 6). *Ministry ramps up rice production amid farmers' losses.*

Thailand

Some 73,000 farmers whose appeals have successfully been reviewed will get the Covid-19 financial aid by 8 July 2020.

The Bank for Agriculture and Agricultural Cooperatives will transfer the Covid-19 financial aid on 8 July 2020 to some 73,000 farmers who have passed the appeal review process. According to the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, the ministry's appeal panel has examined almost 190,000 appeals lodged by farmers and approved 73,975 appeals, bringing the total number of eligible farmers to 7,596,747. Meanwhile, the 10,284 requests are still under review. Besides, more than 105,000 appeals had been rejected because the applicants had either already received financial aid from other Covid-19 relief schemes, which were state officials or the Social Security Fund.

Source: Bangkok Post. (2020, Jul 7). *73,000 farmers to received Covid-19 aid on appeal.*

Prices of Thai rice decrease due to softening currency and dwindling demand.

This week, Thailand's benchmark 5 percent broken rice prices slipped to 480-515 USD per tonne, the lowest level since late-May 2020, from 514-520 USD per tonne last week. Falling in rice prices attributed to currency depreciation and slightly demand from the global market. Additionally, the supply concern would continue until new supply enters the market in early next month. Until then, rice prices will remain higher than competitors.

Source: Reuters. (2020, Jul 3). *RPT-Asia Rice-Thai rates slip as demand drops, rains hamper Vietnamese harvest.*

Viet Nam

Viet Nam's rice export value up about 18 percent in the first half of 2020.

From January to June 2020, Viet Nam exported nearly 3.5 million tonnes of rice and earned 1.71 billion USD, up 17.9 percent in value and 4.4 percent in volume year-on-year. In June alone, the country shipped 400,000 tonnes of rice worth 207 million USD. In the first five months of this year, The Philippines was the top buyer of Vietnamese rice, importing 1.3 tonnes of rice worth 598.6 million USD or 40 percent of the country's total rice export, up 23 percent and 42 percent in volume and value, respectively. Meanwhile, rice export prices increased 13 percent compared to the same period last year to an average of 485 USD per tonne.

Source: Vietnam News Agency. (2020, Jul 6). *Rice exports up nearly 18 percent in H1.*

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