



## WEEKLY UPDATE ON ASEAN PLUS THREE RICE SITUATIONS

**No. 177**  
**15 - 22 July 2020**

### Cambodia

***The BlockRice project is set to expand to 500 households in phase two.***

The BlockRice project is a collaboration between the Schuttelarr & Partners, Oxfam Novib, Sano Rice, Amru Rice and a farmers' cooperative in the Cambodian village of Reaksmei. The BlockRice project phase I, the first usage of blockchain technology in the country, was launched in April 2018 and ended in March 2019 with an aim to ensure that farmers can sell their product at a higher price. The pilot programme comprises 50 household farmers in one agricultural community in Preah Vihear province. After a successful pilot, the partners decided to upscale the project to 500 households in phase two. The goal of this the phase two project is to utilise the blockchain technology for million households in all agricultural crops, not only rice.

**Source:** Khmer Times. (2020, Jul 22). *Top rice exporter gets more hi-tech*; and Chain Business Insights. (2019, May 22). *BlockRice makes a case for blockchain in smallholder farming*.

### Thailand

***Thailand rice exports of 2020 seem to touch the lowest point in a decade at only 6.5 million tonnes.***

According to the Thai Rice Exporters Association, Thailand rice exports are likely to plummet to 6.5 million tonnes in 2020, the lowest in a decade, from an earlier projection of 7.5 million tonnes. The rice exports are hampered by negatives factors, which are the Covid-19 crisis that weakened global demand, a strong baht that makes Thai rice more expensive, and continued drought cutting rice production. Price of Thailand's 5 percent broken rice is quoted at 520 USD per tonne, while rice from Viet Nam and India stands at 440-450 USD per tonne and 360 USD per tonne, respectively. With this expensive price, buyers have switched for grains from competitors. In the second half of this year, Thailand is estimated to ship about 3.5 million tonnes of rice.

**Source:** Bangkok Post. (2020, Jul 21). *Rice exports primed for decade-low*.

### Viet Nam

***Bac Lieu province of Viet Nam will expand the area of planting two world's best rice varieties in 2020.***

The Bac Lieu province has decided to expand the rice cultivation of two local rice varieties that rank among the world's best, which are the ST 24 and the ST 25, in 2020. At the World's Best Rice Contest, the ST 24 was ranked the third place in 2017 and the ST 25 has won in 2019. For the 2020 summer-autumn rice crop, the province has undertaken field demonstrations for growing these two varieties and benefit for 60 households in five districts and Gai Rai town on a combined area of 60 hectares. After the crop is harvested, the cultivation area for two varieties will be expanded to 3,500 hectares with using the rice-shrimp rotation model.

**Source:** Vietnam News Agency. (2020, Jul 20). *Bac Lieu cultivation of world's best rice varieties*.

***Purchasing of rice for the national reserves is set to be done by 15 August 2020.***

The General Department of State Reserves is set to complete the purchasing of rice for national food reserves of the year 2020 by 15 August 2020. As of 10 July 2020, the agency had purchased 158,880 tonnes of husked rice and 60,200 tonnes of unhusked grain, equivalent to 83.5 percent and 75 percent of the respective targets for this year.

**Source:** Vietnam News Agency. (2020, Jul 15). *Rice purchases for national reserves to be completed by mid-August.*

Gathered by the APTERR Secretariat  
Tel: +66 (0) 2579 4816-17 Fax: +66 (0) 2579 4840  
Email: [nattakarn.san@apterr.org](mailto:nattakarn.san@apterr.org)  
Website: <http://www.apterr.org/>

*\* 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.*