



WEEKLY UPDATE ON ASEAN PLUS THREE RICE SITUATIONS

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Philippines

The Department of Agriculture (DA) distributes the agriculture machinery to the farmers in the Davao region.

The DA gave the agriculture machinery worth 3.8 million pesos (78,480 USD) to rice farmers in the Davao region under the Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund. This programme aims to help rice farmers in reducing the cost of production whereas increasing their income. The distributed machinery comprised 32 floating tillers, 23 hand tractors, 13 combine harvest, 13 four-wheel tractors, 8 riding-type transplanters, 4 walk-behind transplanters, a reaper and a precision seeder.

*1 USD = 48.42 pesos

Source: The Manila Times. (2020, Sep 13). *DA gives P53.8-M agri-machinery to Davao rice farmers.*

Viet Nam

The rice industry needs to focus on product differentiation and value-added.

According to the trade promotion department under the Ministry of Industry and Trade, although Vietnamese rice has the export destinations more than 150 countries globally, it has been facing difficulty in entering the high-value segment. Therefore, Viet Nam should focus on diversify rice offering and value-added products using the latest technologies that would allow Vietnamese rice to enter additional markets, increase

competitiveness, whereas decrease dependence on traditional buyers. The rice industry also needs to establish a set of standards to ensure rice quality as the foundation for product innovation and to attract investments. Concurrently, the firms should invest in the Research and Development and seek for potential markets.

Source: Vietnam News Agency. (2020, Sep 15). *Rice industry must diversify products: expert.*

China

The Mixed rice-crayfish farming method enhances the income of farmers and sustainable agriculture development.

A new round of crayfish season has started in many rice-crayfish fields in southern China. This mixed farming mode is an important method for farmers to increase their income because it could generate crayfish at hundreds of kilogramme per mu (0.067 hectares) together with improving the quality of rice. The rice grown with the crayfish does not need pesticides or fertilisers while the crayfish in the rice field helps to shovel soil, pests elimination, and giving the natural fertiliser. Therefore, prices of rice planted without chemical is higher than the traditional ones. Besides, the output under the mixed mode is double compared with traditional rice planting, becoming a new path of poverty alleviation for local farmers.

*1 hectare = 15 mu

1 mu = 0.067 hectare

Source: People's Daily Online. (2020, Sep 13). *Mixed rice-crayfish farming leads new way of poverty alleviation in China.*

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