



WEEKLY UPDATE ON ASEAN PLUS THREE RICE SITUATIONS

No. 186
16 - 22 September 2020

Thailand

The storm Noul brighten up the hope of rice farmers in Si Sa Ket province.

The farmers in Si Sa Ket province see hopes of salvaging their dying crop from severe drought as a tropical storm named Noul brought the rain to relive their rice fields even the storm did not hit as hard as expected. According to the report from the metrological, about one or two tropical storms could possibly reach the province until October 2020. Also, the storms could cause flooding if there were more than 30 millimetres of rain. Two dams and 16 reservoirs in Si Sa Ket province are expected to be full after the forecast storms and would resolve the drought problem, helping farmers to continue growing rice.

Source: Nation Thailand. (2020, Sep 18). *Storm brings rain and much-needed relief to Si Sa Ket farmers.*

Viet Nam

Farmers in the Mekong Delta's upstream areas are awaiting the flood season.

Farmers in the upstream areas of the Mekong Delta are waiting for the flood season, which caused by the rising level of the Mekong River in the rainy season. Actually, the flood season period is between August to November but this year, it has not appeared in the upstream areas. Floodwater brings aquatic resources and sediment, as fertiliser for soil, to the rice fields whereas destroys the pathogen and pests. If the low floodwater cannot enter rice fields, the next winter-spring rice will be affected by the wild grasses, pathogens and pests. Concurrently, the production costs will be high due to the lack of fertiliser from sediments. However, the Mekong Delta's flood season is expected to come late this year because of low rainfall.

Source: Vietnam News Agency. (2020, Sep 22). *Mekong Delta farmers wait for floodwaters.*

A Viet Nam-based company is set to ship 126 tonnes of fragrant rice to the European Union (EU) with zero tax.

Under the EU-Vietnam Free Trade Agreement (EVFTA), the Loc Troi Group Joint Stock Company, based in An Giang province of Mekong Delta, will export 126 tonnes of fragrant rice to the EU with zero tariff by the end of September 2020. The company has been making meticulous preparation in rice cultivation and has been working with the EU partners to reach customers' tastes since the EVFTA came into force on 1 August 2020. Under the Agreement, the EU gives a rice import quota of 80,000 tonnes per year with zero tax to Viet Nam. This quota comprises 30,000 tonnes each of milled rice and fragrant rice, and 20,000 tonnes of unhusked rice.

Source: Vietnam News Agency. (2020, Sep 22). *An Giang to ship 126 tonnes of fragrant rice to EU at zero tariff rate.*

Japan

A Japanese scientist team develops the new salt-resistant rice variety.

A Japanese biology scientist team, led by the National Agriculture and Food Research Organisation, has developed a new rice variety through the genetic improvement in an attempt to increase crop yields in a salty paddy field. The discovery increases more new rice varieties amid growing risks from salt damage. The gene could determine the root growth angle and it was found in one variety of the Indonesian rice, which has roots growing along the surface of the ground. To experiment that rice with root growing along the ground is more resilient, the team spent four years in monitoring production in salty paddy field of the crossbred variety, crossbreeding between the Japanese rice variety named Sasanishiki and Indonesian rice variety, compared with the ordinary Sasanishiki variety. As a result, the production of the crossbred rice planted in salty areas raises 15 percent while it has no different performance in the normal fields.

Source: The Japan Time. (2020, Sep 20). *Japanese scientist develop salt-resistant rice variety.*

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