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WEEKLY UPDATE ON ASEAN PLUS THREE RICE SITUATIONS

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Thailand

The Prime Minister recommends promoting Kor Khor 43 (RD 43) rice for weight watchers and diabetic patients. Before a Cabinet meeting, the Prime Minister gave bags of RD 43 rice to Cabinet members and officials while urging the government spokespersons to promote the rice. The RD 43 rice is a product of the government's policy to develop and promote rice breeds that suit market demand and resistant to climate change and disease. The breed was certified by the Rice Department in 2009. It has a light fragrance and soft, short harvest period for only 95 days as well as able to withstand rice blast disease and brown planthoppers. Besides, the research by the Mahidol University revealed that the RD43 rice has lower glucose content compared to other breeds, which makes it suitable for weight watchers and diabetic patient.

Source: Nation. (2020, Oct 7). *PM recommends Kor Khor 43 rice for weight watchers, diabetic patients.*

Prices of Thai rice slightly fall due to the sway currency exchange and flat demand. Rates for Thailand's benchmark 5 percent broken rice were decreased to 470 -475 USD per tonne from 472 - 477 USD per tonne last week. The fluctuation in the currency exchange and flat demand has caused falling rice prices. Furthermore, prices could go lower after the new production entered the market around the end of October 2020.

Source: Reuters. (2020, Oct 9). *RPT-Asia Rice-Thai rates dip for 6th week as top hubs grapple with weak demand.*

China

A demonstration rice field in Da'an province results in high yield despite planting in heavy saline-alkali soil. On 10 October 2020, experts from the Cultivated Land Quality Monitoring and Protection Center, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, monitored the yield of a demonstration paddy field with heavy saline-alkali soil. This demonstration field covers an area of 1,000 mu (about 67 hectares) in Da'an City of northeast China's Jilin province, one of the world's three major soda saline-alkali lands. Regarding the process, the experts randomly selected three plots for sampling to calculate harvest and yields. The result from a sample group shown that average yield per mu (0.067 hectares) was 659.714 kilogrammes compared with 436.921 kilogrammes per mu of the normal fields. Additionally, the soil of the demonstration field was improved with the new technologies through the organosilicon soil conditioner and technical for saline-alkali soil treatment. The technologies develop soil granulation and permeability, which are favourable for beneficial organism encouragement. Meanwhile, it can interrupt the rise of salt-bearing groundwater to decrease the saline of the arable layer.

*1 hectare = 15 mu

1 mu = 0.067 hectare

Source: China.org.cn. (2020, Oct 13). *High rice yield in heavy saline-alhali soil of NE China.*

Republic of Korea

Rice production is forecast to decline by 3 percent in 2020 while rice cultivation areas decrease continually. Rice output of the Republic of Korea is expected to shrink by 3 percent to only 3.63 million tonnes this year compared to 3.77 million tonnes a year earlier. Also, it would be marked as the fifth consecutive year decline and the fourth straight year for the country's rice output falling below 4 million tonnes. The reasons attributed to the weather condition, a long rainy season and a series of typhoons, and the drop of cultivation areas, which is forecast to decrease by 0.5 percent year-on-year to 726,432 hectares. Apart from this, the domestic consumption of rice has been steadily declined in recent decades due to the changing in diet and eating habits.

Source: Korea Herald. (2020, Oct 8). *S. Korea's rice output forcast to dip 3% in 2020.*