



WEEKLY UPDATE ON ASEAN PLUS THREE RICE SITUATIONS

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Cambodia

The government distributes 150 rice seeding machines to support agricultural communities affected by floods.

Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries has provided 150 rice seeding machines for agricultural communities to speed up rice production recovery in the flood-affected provinces after the water level receded. On 4 December 2020, the Pursat provincial Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries has distributed 48 rice seeding machines to 48 farming communities so far in Kandieng district, Pursat town, Krakor district, Talou Sen Chey district, and Phnom Kravanh district. The department officials also instructed communities to use the seedling machines. Additionally, the severe flood-affected provinces, namely Pursat, Battambang, Banteay Meanchey, will receive the rice seeding machines.

Source: The Phnom Penh Post. (2020, Dec2). *Provinces get rice seeding machines.*

Thailand

Thai Hom Mali rice won the first prize at the 12th World Rice Conference.

The 12th World Rice Conference, hosted by The Rice Trader, announced that Thai Hom Mali rice had seen off rivals from Viet Nam, Cambodia, China, and the United States. According to the Minister of Commerce, this award guarantees the quality of the country's rice production; therefore, it would benefit for farmers, country's entire rice trading industry as well as future exports. The World Rice Conference has held 12 contests so far and Thailand has won the first prize for six times. Additionally, the Thai government had vowed to strengthen Thailand's reputation as the World's best producer of quality rice through a marketing campaign that was set to run from 2020-2024.

Source: Bangkok Post. (2020, Dec 5). *Thai Hom Mali nets rice prize.*

Viet Nam

Long An province sets to raise the rate of hi-tech farming and high-quality rice cultivation between 2021-2025.

According to the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, the Long An province in the Mekong Delta region plans to increase the use of technology and push the rate of high-quality rice cultivation from 50 percent to 70-75 percent during 2021-2025 with the expected rice production of 2.5 million tonnes annually. To achieve the goal, advocacy of environment protection and quality improvement of agricultural produce would be undertaken. The province would research and create suitable sowing schedules, identify rice varieties to be planted for each area, organise the farming technique courses for farmers, speed up construction of irrigation, such as water pumping stations, ditches in crop fields, and saltwater prevention sluices.

Source: Viet Nam News. (2020, Dec 3). *Long An to expand high-quality, hi-tech rice farming.*

China

China imports 100,000 tonnes of rice from India for the first time in 30 years.

China has begun importing Indian rice for the first time in three decades because of tightening supplies from Thailand, Myanmar, and Viet Nam, together with the sharply discounted rice prices from India. The country has contracted with Indian traders to buy 100,000 tonnes of broken rice for the December 2020 - February 2021 shipments at around 300 USD per tonne on a free-on-board basis. China's traditional suppliers have limited supplies for export and the rates were quoted more expensive than India at least 30 USD per tonne.

Source: RT. (2020, Dec 3). *China starts buying Indian rice for first time in several decades.*

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