



## WEEKLY UPDATE ON ASEAN PLUS THREE RICE SITUATIONS

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### Thailand

#### ***Prospect for Thai rice exports in 2021 remains dim due to the unfavourable factors.***

According to the Thai Rice Exporters Association, rice exports are expected to reach 6.5 million tonnes in 2021 from an anticipated 5.8 million tonnes in 2020, the lowest in 20 years. However, rice exports this year remain gloomy because the consumers worldwide are likely to switch for cheaper rice from India. Concurrently, the container shortage is another obstacle, citing the Thai National Shippers' Council estimated that the problem would be last for six months. The strong baht is also disadvantaged for rice exports and it may appreciate to below 28 THB per USD this year. Apart from these, the relatively low domestic rice production but high rice stockpiles of millers and traders could drive domestic rice prices up.

**Source:** Bangkok Post. (2021, Jan 18). *Rice exports remain gloomy.*

### Viet Nam

#### ***Local authorities asked farmers to stop sowing winter-spring rice.***

The Mekong Delta is expected to face severe saltwater intrusion this year. Therefore, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development has instructed 12 provinces in the Mekong Delta and Can Tho City to restructure their sowing schedules as well as sowing rice earlier to avoid the saltwater intrusion and drought at the end of the crop. In relating to this, local authorities have warned farmers in many areas to stop sowing rice for the winter-spring crop now because the sowing schedules have ended. If farmers continue growing late winter-spring crops, especially in the coastal areas, the irrigation system will be unable to supply efficiency water for their crops.

**Source:** Viet Nam News. (2021, Jan 18). *Mekong Delta authorities ask farmer to stop sowing winter-spring rice.*

#### ***Viet Nam sets to export 1,600 tonnes of high-value rice to Singapore and Malaysia.***

According to the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Trung An High-Tech Agriculture Joint Stock Company (JSC) will export 1,600 tonnes of high-value fragrant rice to Singapore and Malaysia. Of which, 450 tonnes of Jasmine 85 rice will be shipped to customers in Singapore at 680 USD per tonne, while 1,150 tonnes of Huong Lai fragrant rice will be exported to Malaysia at 750 USD per tonne. This movement is a significant event after Viet Nam has signed the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership in November 2020. Besides, the company is also preparing to export over 2,000 tonnes of rice to Germany.

**Source:** Bizhub. (2021, Jan 15). *Viet Nam to export 1,600 tonnes of rice at high price to Singapore, Malaysia;* and Vietnam News Agency. (2021, Jan 13). *Vietnam to export 1,600 tonnes of rice at high price to Singapore, Malaysia.*

## China

### ***China plans to transform saline-alkali land into rice cultivation fields.***

A team of Chinese agronomist signed contracts with companies and local government of the Inner Mongolia and the Xinjiang autonomous regions, and Gansu, Qinghai and Heilongjiang provinces to obtain 400,000 hectares of saline-alkali land nationwide for producing a saltwater rice variety this year. This rice variety was created to grow in the tidal flats or other areas with heavy salt concentrations and it has been developed through crossbreeding and other technology by experts. Besides, the team planned to expand saltwater rice cultivation land to 6.7 million hectares of saline-alkali lands nationwide in the next eight to ten years.

**Source:** Xinhua News Agency. (2021, Jan 16). *Chinese team to turn 6.7 mln hectares of saline-alkali land into rice paddies*; and People's Daily Online. (2021, Jan 16). *Growing of seawater rice to be greatly expanded*.

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*\* 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.*