



WEEKLY UPDATE ON ASEAN PLUS THREE RICE SITUATIONS

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Cambodia

Provincial authorities pump water from Takeo lake to save dry-season crops.

Takeo provincial authorities have decided to temporarily drain water from Takeo lake to save 130 hectares of dry-season rice crops in the Khan Khao village, Trapaing Laek village and Svay Russey village in the Baray commune. Also, dry-season rice will be harvested in the next 10-20 days. The authorities have been closely monitoring the water usage and the water level of Takeo lake, which is a primary source of water for household consumption. Normally, farmers took water from Canal 15 for cultivation but it has already run out.

Source: Phnom Penh Post. (2021, Mar 8). *Dry-season rice 'saved' using Takeo Lake water.*

Myanmar

Myanmar's rice exporters enjoy the high profit from the strong Chinese currency. According to the Muse Rice Wholesale Centre, Myanmar's rice and broken rice exports to China see strong growth amid the Chinese yuan appreciation because the rice exporters are receiving great benefits. A Chinese yuan is worth over 200 kyat, giving a higher profit for the exporters. Myanmar's rice export prices stand at 129 yuan (19.9 USD) per bag for broken rice, 133 yuan (20 USD) per bag for Ngasein rice variety, 135 yuan (21 USD) per bag for Thuka rice variety, and 142 yuan (21.9 USD) for Htonepu rice variety. Additionally, the exporters have started shipping rice to China under new permits, which was granted on 26 February 2021, through the Muse border trade.

**1USD = 6.5 yuan*

Source: Global New Light of Myanmar. (2021, Mar 5). *Myanmar rice exports to China strong as Yuan gains.*

Thailand

Thailand bumped down to the world's fourth-largest rice exporter.

According to the Thai Rice Exporters Association, Thailand exported 421,477 tonnes of rice in total worth 7.82 billion baht (252 million USD) in January 2021, dropping 23.2 percent in volume and 16.2 percent in value compared with the same period last year. In 2020, Thai rice exports for the whole year totalled 5.72 million tonnes with a total value of 115.9 billion baht (3.7 billion USD), down 24.5 percent and 11.2 percent year-on-year, respectively. The major factors attributed to the shipping container shortage, strong baht, and high rice prices. Consequently, Thailand fell to the fourth-largest rice exporter behind India, Viet Nam and Pakistan.

**1USD = 30.93 baht*

Source: Nation. (2021, Mar 9). *Thailand bump down to 4th global rice exporter.*

Viet Nam

Rates for Vietnamese rice remain unchanged due to low new contracts.

Vietnamese 5 percent broken rice rates were unchanged from last week at 505-510 USD per tonne. According to the local traders, recently, there are not many new contracts because importers are still waiting until the winter-spring harvest peak. Rice shipments during January to February are also forecast to drop by 31.4 percent year-on-year to 638,000 tonnes. Besides, domestic rice prices are decreasing due to more supplies from the main harvest in the Mekong Delta.

Source: Reuters. (2021, Mar 6). *Asia rice: Prices steady in most hub, BD mulls another import duty cut.*

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