



WEEKLY UPDATE ON ASEAN PLUS THREE RICE SITUATIONS

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Cambodia

Rice export decreases by almost 36 percent during the first four months of 2021.

According to the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Cambodia exported 192,495 tonnes of milled rice from January to April 2021, a drop of 107,757 tonnes or 35.89 percent from 300,252 tonnes posted in the same period last year. Total rice shipments, fragrant rice accounted for 130,120 tonnes or 67.60 percent, followed by white long-grain rice for 59,026 tonnes or 30.66 percent, and long-grain parboiled rice for 3,349 tonnes or 1.74 percent. China remained the largest market for Cambodia rice with 104,756 tonnes of imported rice, equivalent to 54.42 percent of the country's total milled rice export.

Source: Phnom Penh Post. (2021, May 1). *Milled-rice exports dip 36% in January-April.*

Thailand

Cabinet gives a green light on a proposal to cut export tariff on Thai rice.

The Cabinet agreed in principle on the plan proposed by the Ministry of Commerce (MOC) to reduce surcharges for Thai rice exporters on rice shipment under the European Union (EU) and the United Kingdom (UK) quotas. Currently, exporters had to pay a surcharge of 2,500 baht (79.70 USD) per tonne to the

MOC. With this approved proposal, the export surcharge would be reduced to 1,500 baht (47.81 USD) per tonne and 1,200 baht (38.25 USD) per tonne for rice shipments to the EU and the UK, respectively. For the tariff-free quota of 2021, the EU has granted Thailand a quota of 17,728 tonnes of white rice and 48,729 tonnes of broken rice, while the UK has offered a quota of 3,727 tonnes for white rice and 3,721 tonnes for broken rice.

*1 USD = 31.3692 baht

Source: Bangkok Post. (2021, Apr 28). *Govt to slash rice export tax;* and Nation. (2021, Apr 28). *Cabinet okays proposal to cut export tariff on Thai rice.*

Thailand could fall to third place in the world's rice export in 2021.

From January to March 2021, Thailand exported 1,131,944 tonnes of rice worth 21.80 billion baht (732.9 million USD), a drop of 23 percent in volume and 23.6 percent in value year-on-year, according to the data from the Customs Department. Thailand's rice export currently ranked third behind India and Pakistan. However, with the export volume of 30,000 tonnes higher than Viet Nam, there is a chance that Viet Nam could topple Thailand from third place.

Source: Nation. (2021, May 4). *Thai rice exports drop to third in the world, Vietnam close behind.*

Rates for Thai rice increase slightly this week due to the demand from Africa.

Prices of Thailand's 5 percent broken rice went up to 470-500 USD per tonne from 467-500 USD per tonne last week. According to the traders, demand for parboiled rice from Africa drove prices up this week. However, the exporters have plenty of rice to ship but the demand seems dwindling, especially in the Middle East that went down during the Ramadan period.

Source: Reuters. (2021, Apr 30). *Asia rice: Indian rates hit 5-month low.*

Viet Nam

Ca Mau province of Mekong Delta will expand high-quality rice farming by using advanced technology.

According to the provincial Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, Ca Mau province is set to apply advanced technology to expand high-quality rice farming. Under this plan, farmers will cultivate rice in 110,000 hectares of farmland with an average yield of 4.7 tonnes per hectare and rice production of 520,000 tonnes by 2025. Additionally, the organic rice varieties would be developed to meet both domestic and international standards as well as to promote the value chain of food.

Source: Vietnam News Agency. (2021, May 2). *Ca Mau develops high-quality rice farming.*

Tien Giang province will grow two rice crops a year in the Coastal areas.

Tien Giang province will grow only the winter-spring and the summer-autumn rice crop in Go Cong town and the coastal districts, including Go Cong Dong, Go Cong Tay and Tan Phu Dong, to mitigate the impact of saltwater intrusion and drought. For the autumn-winter rice crop, the coastal districts and Go Cong town will grow other short-term crops resistant to saltwater intrusion and drought. Besides, in 2021-2025, the districts and Go Cong will converse 3,290 hectares of rice field without access to an irrigation system to plant other crops.

Source: Vietnam News Agency. (2021, May 2). *Tiền Giang stops growing three rice crops a year in coastal areas to cope with climate change.*

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