



WEEKLY UPDATE ON ASEAN PLUS THREE RICE SITUATIONS

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Philippines

SeedWorks joins hand with rice traders and millers to help local farmers.
SeedWorks Philippines, Inc has started forging partnerships with rice traders and millers to help farmers sell their US 88 paddy at a high price. In the initial stage of the programme, the company links its partner-rice farmers with different millers and traders, who prefer premium quality rice and agree to buy the US 88 paddy at 1 peso (0.02 USD) higher than the market prices. Apart from helping rice farmers, the company aims to support the country's self-sufficiency goal with their high-yield rice variety or the US 88 that could produce about 15 tonnes per hectare in optimal conditions. Besides, this programme is now implementing in Mindanao, Central Luzon, and the Bicol region and will further expand to other regions.

*1 USD = 47.85 pesos

Source: Manila Times. (2021, May 6). *SeedWorks assist local rice farmers.*

Thailand

Thailand's rice export shrinks by 23 percent from January to March 2021.
According to the Thai Rice Exporters Association, Thai rice exports dropped by 23 percent in the first quarter of 2021 to 1.13 million tonnes, while the value decreased by 23.6 percent to 21.8 billion baht (697 million USD) year-on-year. The sharply drop attributed to high rice prices because of the strong baht, high freight costs, and low

domestic supply caused by drought. However, Thai rice exports are expected to be better in the third and fourth quarters of this year as rainy season crops are delivered.

*1 USD = 31.2781 baht

Source: Bangkok Post. (2021, May 5). *Rice exports plunge in Q1.*

Viet Nam

Viet Nam exports 1.9 million tonnes of rice worth over 1 billion USD in the first four months of 2021.
From January to April this year, Viet Nam exported 1.9 million tonnes of rice worth 1.01 billion USD, a drop of 11 percent in volume but an increase of 1.2 percent in value year-on-year. Rates for Vietnamese rice are high as the average export prices rose 13.4 percent to 534 USD per tonne compared with the same period last year. Besides, the Viet Nam Food Association has forecast that the country's rice export value would continue in an upward trend because of high selling prices.

Source: VN Express. (2021, May 7). *Rice exports cross \$1 bln on higher prices.*

Viet Nam would sustain the world's second-biggest rice exporter position in 2021.
The United States Department of Agriculture has forecast that Viet Nam would maintain its position as the world's second-biggest rice exporter this year with 6.4 million tonnes of rice exports, an increase of 233,000 tonnes year-on-year. According to the Viet Nam Food Association, Viet Nam's rice export structure has shipped towards quality rice with high prices and value-added. Additionally, rice farmers and traders are focusing on quality improvement to meet the strict standards from the demanding markets, such as the European Union, the United States, and the Republic of Korea.

Source: Voice of Vietnam. (2021, May 11). *Vietnam predicted to retain its position as world's second largest rice export.*

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