



WEEKLY UPDATE ON ASEAN PLUS THREE RICE SITUATIONS

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Cambodia

Cambodian rice exports shrink over 30 percent because of the container shortage.

From January to May 2021, Cambodia exported 223,031 tonnes of rice, a drop of 34.56 percent compared with the same period last year. The decrease in rice export volume is due mainly to the lack of containers and high sea freight prices, up by five times compared with 2019, according to the Cambodia Rice Federation. The container shortage issue continued after the Covid-19 pandemic and affected the Cambodian rice market. The country's rice supply to the international market is insufficient whereas the demand is relatively high, especially from the United States, Australia, and China.

Source: Khmer Times. (2021, Jul 1). *Cambodia's rice exports in crisis due to lack of containers and five times higher shipping costs*; and Khmer Times. (2021, Jul 2). *Rice exports drying up but bananas more appealing*.

Thailand

Thailand seeks new rice varieties to boost rice export as well as reclaim the World's biggest rice exporter position.

Thai Rice Department (RD) and Thai Rice Exporters Association (TREA) are holding a rice contest to find new high-quality rice varieties, aiming to reach demand in the global market, increase the competitiveness and reclaim the country's position as the World's top rice exporter. In the contest, the RD and the TREA will select one rice variety in each category, which are fragrant rice, soft white rice, and hard white rice. After the

contest, the TREA will file three selected varieties for the Plant Variety Protection at the earliest opportunity before the cultivation of these rice.

Source: Nation. (2021, May 28). *Agency launches contest for new Thai rice varieties in bid to boost exports*; National News Bureau of Thailand. (2021, May 28). *Thailand seeks new rice varieties to reclaim position as rice export champ*.

Viet Nam

Northern Region of Viet Nam enjoys bumper winter-spring rice production.

According to the Department of Crop Production, the northern region harvested the winter-spring crop at an average of 6.36 tonnes of paddy per hectare with a total output of 6.9 million tonnes, an increase of 34,000 tonnes year-on-year. The bumper crop attributed to the favourable weather conditions. This achievement is deemed to be important for ensuring food security and socio-economic stability amid the Covid-19 pandemic.

Source: Vietnam Plus. (2021, May 28). *Northern region enjoys record rice output in 2020-2021 Winter-Spring crop*.

Viet Nam might lose the right to enter the World's Best Rice Contest in 2021.

The ST25 rice variety won the World's Best Rice Contest in 2019 and secured the second place in 2020. According to The Rice Trader, only the ST25 rice produced by the Ho Quang Tri company is allowed to use the "World's Best Rice" trademark to promote the product. However, many Vietnamese companies have been printing the trademark on their products without permission from The Rice Trader, which is regarded as a copyright infringement. If this issue continues, The Rice Trader will release the name of infringers and take away Viet Nam's right to participate in the contest this year.

Source: VNExpress. (2021, May 28). *Vietnam might lose entry to global rice contest*.

Gathered by the APTERR Secretariat
Tel: +66 (0) 2579 4816-17 Fax: +66 (0) 2579 4840
Email: nattakarn.san@apterr.org
Website: <http://www.apterr.org/>

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