



WEEKLY UPDATE ON ASEAN PLUS THREE RICE SITUATIONS

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Indonesia

Bogor District allots a budget of 900 million rupiahs (62,352 USD) for rice farming insurance in 2021.

Bogor District has allocated 900 million rupiahs of the regional budget for rice farming insurance in 2021 covering 25,000 hectares of rice fields. The farming insurance card is a synergy programme with the Ministry of Agriculture to protect farmers from drought-induced financial losses. At the end of 2020, nearly 245 farmers groups in the district with 2,020 hectares of farmland were covered under the insurance programme. Besides, the government expects to expand the scope to cover 5,000 hectares of rice fields annually in 2021, 2022, and 2023.

*1 USD = 14,434.08 rupiah

Source: Antaranews. (2021, Jun 17). *Bogor allots Rp900 million of budget for rice farming insurance.*

Philippines

Armyworms destroys over 93 hectares of rice fields in the Cagayan Valley.

Farmers in Cagayan Valley suffered from fall armyworms that destroyed rice fields and seedbeds in four provinces. The latest data from the Department of Agriculture showed 93.43 hectares of damaged farms, including 84.43 hectares of seedbeds and 9 hectares of direct-seeded fields. The situation is being controlled by using biocontrol agents and chemical pesticides, along with a massive information drive on the prevention and control of crop disease.

Source: Manila Times. (2021, Jun 19). *Armyworms destroy 93-hectare rice fields.*

Thailand

Thai rice won a bronze medal at France's Fine Grocery Contest.

According to the Department of International Trade Promotion, the Naga-Gold Company, a premium rice importer in France, sent Thai Riceberry rice to the Fine Grocery Contest at the Epicure 2021 event and the rice won the bronze medal. Regarding this, the department expects that the bronze medal would draw more consumers' interest in Thai rice, especially in France.

Source: Nation. (2021, Jun 19). *Thai riceberry wins bronze medal at French competition.*

Viet Nam

Origin fraud may destroy the reputation of Vietnamese rice as well as threaten the entire rice sector.

By mid-June 2021, Viet Nam imported a large amount of rice from India, especially 5 percent broken rice and 100 percent broken due mainly to the cheaper prices. However, the surge in rice import from India could increase origin fraud as the Customs Department of Ho Chi Minh City has detected several signs of fraud and violations by rice exporters and importers. Additionally, many enterprises polish and mix imported Indian rice with Vietnamese rice for export to foreign markets. Due to the importers' suspicion over the origin of Vietnamese rice, export prices have decreased while the number of export orders has been declining. Also, some companies sold Indian rice as Vietnamese rice at high prices in the domestic market. If this issue continues, the domestic prices will be in the downward trend and will cause losses of farmers, honest exporters as well as the entire rice industry.

Source: Vietnam News Agency. (2021, Jun 18). *Original fraud may erode Vietnamese rice's prestige: insider.*

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