



WEEKLY UPDATE ON ASEAN PLUS THREE RICE SITUATIONS

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Cambodia

The country's rice production in the rainy season exceeds the target.

The country's rice cultivation area in the rainy season has reached over 2.6 million hectares or 101.90 percent of the yearly plan. The amount of light rice harvested during the early rainy season rose to 1,267,791 tonnes, an increase of 789,151 tonnes year-on-year with an average yield of 4.2 tonnes per hectare. However, nearly 68,000 hectares of rice fields in Banteay Meanchey, Pursat, Kandal, and Siem Reap were hit by drought. The drought-stricken areas accounted for 2.56 percent of the total country's rice cultivation area.

Source: Khmer Times. (2021, Aug 21). *Rice production beats rainy season target*; Khmer Times. (2021, Aug 20). *Cambodia sees cultivation of rainy season rice surpass target*; and Cambodia People's Party. (2021, Aug 20). *Rainy Season Rice Cultivation Goes Beyond Target*.

Thailand

Prices of Thai rice increase slightly this week but demand remains stable.

Thai 5 percent broken rice prices edged up to 387-400 USD per tonne from 380-395 USD per tonne last week. Demand for Thai rice remained flat, whereas the weak baht kept prices at a low level, said a local trader.

Source: Reuters. (2021, Aug 20). *ASIA RICE India rates at 4-1/2-year low on weak demand, high shipping costs*.

Government approves the 2021-2022 rice price guarantee scheme.

The National Rice Policy and Administration Committee approved a budget of 89 billion baht (2.7 billion USD) for the rice price guarantee scheme of the 2020-2021 crop year. It is estimated the budget would help 4.69 million rice-farming households. Under the scheme, five types of paddies will be guaranteed at 15,000 baht (450 USD) per tonne, up to 14 tonnes per household for Hom Mali rice grown in the Northeast region; 14,000 baht (420 USD) per tonne, up to 16 tonnes per household for Hom Mali rice grown elsewhere; 10,000 baht (300 USD) per tonne, up to 30 tonnes per household for short-grain rice; 11,000 baht (330 USD) per tonne, up to 25 tonnes per household for Pathum Thani rice; and 12,000 baht (360 USD) per tonne, up to 16 tonnes per household for sticky rice. To be eligible, farmers must be registered with the Department of Agricultural Extension from 1 April - 31 October 2021 and from 16 June 2021 - 28 February 2022 for farmers in the South.

*1 USD = 33.32 baht

Source: The Nation. (2021, Aug 23). *Govt approves Bt89bn price-guarantee scheme for rice farmers*.

Viet Nam

Rates for Vietnamese rice decrease amid the sluggish export activities and the high shipping costs.

Prices of Vietnamese 5 percent broken rice decreased to 385 USD per tonne, the lowest level since February 2020, from 390 USD per tonne a week earlier. Traders are hesitant to sign new export contracts as they are unsure if they can purchase rice from farmers during the movement restriction caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, said a trader based in Ho Chi Minh City. Also, export activities slowed down because of the high shipping costs.

Source: Reuters. (2021, Aug 20). *ASIA RICE India rates at 4-1/2-year low on weak demand, high shipping costs*.

Viet Nam will promote rice products in Australia through the 'Viet Nam, Land of World's Best Rice' programme.

A promotion programme titled 'Viet Nam, Land of World's Best Rice' will present 10,000 bags of Viet Nam's Ban Mai Cung Dinh rice to consumers in Australia. The programme is jointly organised by the Viet Nam Trade Office in Australia and a number of enterprises running from 18 August - 27 December 2021 to promote Vietnamese brand and trade connectivity. Additionally, AusViet company will offer hundreds of Viet Nam's ST 25 and Jasmin Vilaconic rice gifts in Melbourne. In Sydney, an event inviting local people to cook rice by using different Vietnamese rice products is scheduled. According to the Trade Office, despite Australia was cutting its rice import, Vietnamese rice exported to the market in July 2021 increased by 37.03 percent year-on- year.

Source: Viet Nam News. (2021, Aug 18). *Australian consumers to taste Vietnamese rice.*