



WEEKLY UPDATE ON ASEAN PLUS THREE RICE SITUATIONS

No. 236

22 - 28 September 2021

Cambodia

A new Laser land levelling technology is disseminated to rice farmers.

Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, in close cooperation with the private sector and Non-governmental Organisations, has introduced a new laser technology to help farmers accurately level their cultivated lands. With the new technology, the rice grows equally and has healthy grains because of the same water level in the rice fields together with the same amount of fertiliser absorption. It also becomes easy for farmers to use the machine for ploughing and harvesting as well as get maximum yield results. To date, training programmes on the usage of laser-land levelling machine have been organised in 18 different areas across the country with 284 farmers participated in from Kampot, Takeo, Kampong Chhnang, Battambang, Banteay Meanchey, and Kampong Thom provinces.

Source: Khmer Times. (2021, Sep 27). *Laser technology raises rice yield via levelling.*

Soldiers help farmers harvest flooded rice crops in Banteay Meanchey.

Troops of the Provincial Military Operations Area and Military Division were dispatched to help farmers harvest their rice from the flooded fields in Santepheap Village, Banteay Meanchey Province, before any further damage. Some 25,000 hectares of rice fields in the province were completely submerged, according to a report from local news. Additionally, the deluge situation in the province is further exacerbated by the draining flood water from Thailand.

Source: Khmer Times. (2021, Sep 28). *Rice in flooded Malai District harvested by military.*

Thailand

Thai rice exports stay in an upward trend due mainly to the weakened baht.

According to the Department of Foreign Trade (DFT), Thai rice export in June and July 2021 rose by 7.35 percent compared to the same period last year. Furthermore, based on the rice export license applications DFT received, rice shipments in August and September increased year-on-year by 133.13 percent to 831,260 tonnes and 61.78 percent to 631,363 tonnes, respectively. The rice shipments to South Africa, China, Yemen and Iraq have risen and the orders were mostly for parboiled rice, white rice, and brown rice. The main factor contributing to this increase is currency depreciation, which has brought prices of Thai rice to a closer level to rice from Viet Nam and India. With the positive signal, it is expected that Thailand's rice export would achieve the 2021's target of 6 million tonnes.

Source: The Nation Thailand. (2021, Sep 24). *Export of Thai rice surges due to weaker baht, bigger harvests.*

Rates for Thai rice slip as the currency has weakened.

Thailand's 5 percent broken rice prices decreased to 380-386 USD per tonne, the lowest level since March 2019, from 380-393 USD per tonne a week earlier. Thai baht has weakened by around 3 percent against the US dollar since the end of August 2021, which

brought rice prices down. However, rates for Thai rice could be volatile because September to November is the period before the arrival of new supply, said Bangkok-based traders.

Source: Business Recorder. (2021, Sep 24). *Asia Rice: Thai prices slip to 1-1/2-year low on weaker baht.*

Viet Nam

Vietnamese rice prices seem stable this week amid the dwindling demand. Rates for Vietnamese 5 percent broken rice were quoted at 415-420 USD per tonne, almost unchanged from 410-420 USD per tonne last week. Trading activity seems quiet as not many clients have returned to buy rice from Viet Nam due to high shipping costs and slow delivery, said a local trader. However, Viet Nam is easing some Covid-19 movement restrictions gradually, so, the trading activity is expected to be revived over the coming weeks.

Source: Business Recorder. (2021, Sep 24). *Asia Rice: Thai prices slip to 1-1/2-year low on weaker baht.*

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