



WEEKLY UPDATE ON ASEAN PLUS THREE RICE SITUATIONS

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Cambodia

Pailin province will not rely on rice imports from Thailand as the minefields are converted to agricultural farming.

A total of 83,646,806 square metres (8,364.68 hectares) of minefields in Pailin province has been cleared and handed over to the people in the province for safe agricultural farming, especially rice farming. As a result, farmers can cultivate rice three times a year to feed 16,588 families or 71,483 people in the province without relying on rice imports from Thailand. Besides, the irrigation systems were built to support farmers for sufficient water in their farms. The achievement is attributed to the support and cooperation of the government, private sector, developing partners, and the agriculture association.

*1 hectare = 10,000 square metres

1 square metre = 0.0001 hectare

Source: Khmer Times. (2022, Feb 18). *Pailin stops rice imports thanks to landmine clearance.*

Philippines

Financial aid is being distributed to over 200 rice farmers under the rice farmers financial assistance (RFFA) programme.

Department of Agriculture continues to allocate cash assistance to 203 rice farmers in Barangays, Butige, and Cabuan of Paracelis

municipality, Mountain Province as they are scheduled to claim their assistance in February 2022 under the RFFA programme. The programme is a direct cash transfer to eligible rice farmers to compensate for their income loss caused by the drop in paddy prices. Under the programme, rice farmers cultivating two hectares or less will receive 5,000 pesos (97.62 USD) of unconditional cash assistance. Furthermore, the distribution is also ongoing in other rice-farming areas in the region covered by the RFFA.

*1 USD = 51.22 pesos

Source: Philstar. (2022, Feb 21). *DA continues rice farmers' cash assistance distribution.*

Thailand

The stronger baht pushes Thai rice prices to the highest since July 2021.

Prices of Thai 5 percent broken rice edged up to 410-420 USD per tonne from 407-415 USD per tonne last week. The increase in rice prices were attributed to a change in the exchange rate as the Thai baht strengthened by 1.7 percent against the US dollar from 11 to 17 February 2022. However, the traders said that prices could be weakened soon when the off-season rice harvest begins.

Source: Reuters. (2022, Feb 17). *RPT-ASIA RICE-Vietnam rates rise as activity picks up, India market subdued.*

Viet Nam

Rice producers and exporters see an increase in exports profit of around 15 percent.

Major rice producers and exporters of Viet Nam saw their after-tax profits in 2021 increase around 15 percent year-on-year due to strong domestic and overseas demand together with high export prices. In 2021, Viet Nam exported over 6.2 million tonnes of rice worth nearly 3.3 billion USD with an average export price of 526.8 USD per tonne, up 5.5 percent compared with 2020. Meanwhile, domestic sales also rose, partly due to the

restrictions imposed to curb the Covid-19 pandemic. Furthermore, the Vietnam Food Association predicted Viet Nam's rice export of over 6 million tonnes in 2022 as the country exported 505,700 tonnes of rice and gained 246 million USD in January this year.

Source: VnExpress. (2022, Feb 20). *Rice profits up around 15 pct.*

Prices of Vietnamese rice rise as the market activities resume.

Rates for Vietnamese 5 percent broken rice rose to 400 USD per tonne, the highest level since mid-December 2021, from 395 USD per tonne a week earlier. Viet Nam's rice prices increased slightly as trading activities are resuming and demand is rising. Traders were buying a moderate amount of rice from farmers before the upcoming winter-spring harvest, said the traders. Besides, some traders will be joining a tender issued by the Korea Agro-Fisheries & Food Trade Corporation, the Republic of Korea's state-backed organisation, to purchase an estimated 72,200 tonnes of rice.

Source: Reuters. (2022, Feb 17). *RPT-ASIA RICE-Vietnam rates rise as activity picks up, India market subdued.*

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