



WEEKLY UPDATE ON ASEAN PLUS THREE RICE SITUATIONS

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Cambodia

Two new rice seeds – Japonica and Indica – would be introduced to Cambodian farmers in order to diversify the markets for Cambodian rice.

Japonica can be grown in some parts of Cambodia, especially in Preah Vihear, Rattanakiri, and Mondulkiri province, because it cannot give good yield if the temperature is over 25°C at night. Cambodia is also trying to introduce a new variety of Indica. However, there is no information about the new type of Indica in Cambodia yet, said a rice milled company. During the first seven months of 2017, Cambodia has exported over 310,000 tonnes of milled rice, up by 8 percent compared with the same period of 2016. The biggest market is China, followed by France.

Source: Rasmei Kampuchea Daily. (2017, Aug 31). *Two new rice seeds to be introduced to Cambodian farmers.* Asia News Network.

Myanmar

Myanmar is likely to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to export rice about 300,000 tonnes for the next five years to Bangladesh under the government - to - government (G2G) rice export bilateral agreement.

The MoU is tended to be signed in early September 2017. However, Myanmar has to adjust the rice quota for Bangladesh, as they want to start importing in November 2017, in order not to affect the rice trade agreements with other countries. Moreover, Myanmar has further MoUs in the pipeline with China and Sri Lanka which the signing of those is expected to take place in October 2017, said the government.

Source: SU PHYO WIN. (2017, Aug 31). *First rice export bilateral agreement signed.* The Myanmar Times.

Thailand

Thai government approved 2.2 billion USD in loans and handouts to help stabilise rice prices for rice farmers.

The state will provide 1.57 billion USD in handouts to farmers and 633 million USD in loans that will cover 3.7 million households. The programme will be implemented from early November 2017 to the end of February 2018. After hitting a four-year high earlier in 2017, the price of benchmark Thai 5-percent broken white rice has fallen by 18 percent over the last two months to 372.50 USD per tonne, its lowest since April.

Source: Niyomyat, A. (2017, Sep 1). *Thailand approves \$2.2 billion in help for rice farmers.* REUTERS.

Thailand remains the world's No.1 rice exporter, said Rice Exporters Association of Thailand (REAT).

In accordance with the gross rice export volume in the first seven months of 2017, Thailand shipped 6.4 million tonnes of rice, worth 80.05 billion baht (241.39 million USD), making a growth of 17.5 percent in volume and 10.7 percent in value compared to the same period of 2016. This figure keeps Thailand as the world's number one rice exporter to the global market, followed by India and Viet Nam. However, the REAT expects the rice export figures in August to drop to only 700,000-800,000 tonnes owing to a slow delivery pending next harvest, while strengthened baht will also hurt the competitiveness of the country's export sector.

* 1 USD = 33.161 baht

Source: Kemtong, T. (2017, Sep 1). *Thailand remains world's No.1 rice exporter*. National News Bureau of Thailand.

Viet Nam

The summer-autumn rice crop in the Mekong Delta province of Long An is estimated to give a record yield of more than 1 million tonnes in 2017.

Farmers in Dong Thap Muoi in this province have so far harvested more than 90 percent of the summer-autumn rice crop out of the total 224,000 hectares and only over 100 hectares was lost due to the flooding, said the government.

Source: VietnamPlus. (2017, Aug 31). *Summer-autumn rice crop output hits record in Long An*.

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