



## WEEKLY UPDATE ON ASEAN PLUS THREE RICE SITUATIONS

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### **Cambodia**

***Cambodia's rice cultivation area and production volume in Marketing Year (MY) 2016/2017 and MY 2017/2018 are expected to increase because the drought eased in late summer of 2016, and the continuing government supports to the rice sector.*** The total estimated cultivation area of the MY 2016/2017 increased by 2 percent to 3.08 million hectares, and the production volume increased by 2 percent to 8.25 million metric tonnes (MMT). Similarly, a slight increase of 1 percent to 3.11 million hectares in cultivation area and 8.33 MMT in production volume are forecast in MY 2017/2018.

In 2016, Cambodia exported a total of 542,144 tonnes of milled rice, an increase of 0.7 percent over 2015. China became the top market for the second year, by importing 127,460 tonnes of milled rice from Cambodia.

**Source:** Thanh Vo. (May 15, 2017). *Cambodia Annual Grain and Feed Report*. USDA Foreign Agricultural Service.

### **Philippines**

***The Philippines is likely to import an additional 250,000 tonnes of rice from Viet Nam and Thailand.*** The Philippines would import more rice to boost its stocks ahead of the lean harvest season. The National Food Authority Council did not specify the quantity, but demand from the Philippines could support prices in Thailand and Viet Nam.

The National Food Authority (NFA) had been seeking the council's approval to import 250,000 tonnes under Government-to-government schemes with Viet Nam and Thailand. The NFA also announced it would shift from government-to-government importation to government-to-private importation to make the bidding more competitive, transparent and less corrupt.

**Source:** Viet Nam News. (May 18, 2017). *Philippines likely to import more rice from VN*.

### **Thailand**

***Thai government announced that they will issue a new tender for the remaining 1.8 MMT of the food-grade rice stocks on May 24, 2017.*** The tender will consist of approximately 1.5 MMT of fragrant rice, 0.2 MMT of white rice, and 0.1 MMT of comprised of broken rice and glutinous rice.

Unofficial preliminary rice exports (excluding premium white and fragrant rice) for May 1-7, 2017, totaled 176,315 tonnes. Rice exports from January 1 – May 7, 2017 totaled 2.93 MMT.

**Source:** Prasertsri, P. (May 16, 2017). *Thailand Weekly Rice Price Update*. USDA Foreign Agricultural Service.

## Viet Nam

***The Viet Nam Food Association (VFA) has warned that it would be difficult to export rice in 2017.*** The inventory volume has reached nearly 1 MMT because of oversupply. There are some factors that affect Viet Nam's rice export such as thin demand of international rice markets, high competition from neighbor countries, and restriction of major rice market such as China.

An expert in agriculture believes that it would be better to reduce the cultivation of rice and shift to grow other crops. The state needs to help enterprises boost exports to African countries to clear the stocks.

**Source:** Vietnam.net. (May 17, 2017). *Rice exports expected to face tough competition.*

## Republic of Korea

***Hundreds of tonnes of Republic of Korea's rice will be shipped to Southeast Asian developing countries as part of an international food aid program for the first time in history.*** A container vessel carrying 250 tonnes of rice was expected to reach for the Cambodian port of Sihanoukville on May 18, while 500 tonnes was expected to ship to Myanmar on May 19, according to the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs. It is part of the Republic of Korea's plan that was approved by the ASEAN+3 Emergency Rice Reserve (APTERR) to offer 750 tonnes of rice to the regional food aid program.

**Source:** Yonhap. (May 18, 2017). *Korean rice to be sent to Cambodia, Myanmar as int'l aid.*

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