



WEEKLY UPDATE ON ASEAN PLUS THREE RICE SITUATIONS

No. 42
13-19 September 2017

Cambodia

The government - run Rural Development Bank (RDB) has extended the deadline for rice storage bidding. Due to, presently, there are not enough proposals from registered Cambodian agricultural firms for the bidding process. The RDB extended the deadline until 22 September 2017 in order to give the millers or investors more opportunities to submit their applications. In accordance with RDB announced on August that it would provide up to 15 USD million in low-interest loans for companies with strong track records in rice milling and storage to build and operate rice storage warehouses and rice-drying facilities. The project's warehouses and drying facilities are intended to be operational in time for the next rice harvest in January 2018.

Source: Phnom Penh Post. (2017, Sep 13). *RDB extends deadline for rice-storage bidding.*

Myanmar

Myanmar is requested to export of white rice 100,000 tonnes to Bangladesh, according to the meeting on 17 September.

In consonance with the Rohingya refugee crisis, the Bangladeshi government has to overcome a shortage of the country's staple food. The purchase will be made at 442 USD per tonne. The process to import will start after the approvals from the Prime Minister's Office and the cabinet committees on economic affairs and public purchase, said the Bangladeshi Food Minister.

Source: bdnews24.com. (2017, Sep 18). *Bangladesh to import 100,000 tonnes of white rice from Myanmar.*

Philippines

The country's rice inventory fell three percent to 2.02 million tonnes in August, according to the latest data from the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA).

On a monthly basis, rice stocks in all sectors decreased in households 25 percent, commercial 2 percent, and the National Food Authority (NFA) depositories 30 percent. Stocks held by households are sufficient for 22 days while those in commercial warehouses are good for 34 days. Meanwhile, the NFA depositories are only enough for 3 days when it is supposed to have a 30-day buffer stock since the lean season. Stocks are expected to boost in October 2017 as the 250,000 tonnes of rice import has started to arrive in the country.

Source: The Philippine Star. (2017, Sep 13). *Rice stocks continue to decline.*

Thailand

The cabinet of Thailand approved the three programmes of loan and subsidy for rice farmers, worth a total of 87 billion baht (2.6 billion USD), to help stabilise rice prices and reduce oversupply of the grain.

The 73 billion baht (2.2 billion USD) spending programme will cover 3.7 million households and span the seasonal harvest from the start of November 2017 to the end of February 2018. The remaining money will be used for loans and subsidies for agricultural institutes and business to stockpile rice. The three programmes are designed to stockpile 12.5 million tonnes of rice.

* 1 USD = 33.070 baht

Source: Bangkok Post. (2017, Sep 19). *Cabinet approves B87bn to help rice farmers.*

Viet Nam

Vietnamese rice export goal raised to 5.6 million tonnes of 2017, due to a strong signed contract during August and positive signs of the market.

In the first eight months of this 2017, the country exported more than 3.8 million tonnes of rice with free on board (FOB) valued at 1.66 billion USD, up 17.7 percent in volume and 16.6 percent in value, respectively. During the eight months, businesses signed export contracts amounting to 5.1 million tonnes of rice while more than 1.2 million tonnes of rice which have not been delivered yet. Positive signals were also seen in the shipment of glutinous rice to China which the country has a demand for 300,000 tonnes of glutinous rice between now and this year's end. Moreover, export of jasmine rice has

also performed well. Apart from African countries, new markets such as Iran, Iraq are likely to buy Vietnamese jasmine rice while japonica rice is gaining more popularity in Australia and China. Presently, China, Bangladesh and the Philippines remain potential rice importers of Vietnam, said the Vietnam Food Association (VFA).

Source: Vietnam Plus. (2017, Sep 15). *Rice export goal raised to 5.6 million tonnes this year.*

Gathered by the APTERR Secretariat
Tel: +66 (0) 2579 4816-17 Fax: +66 (0) 2579 4840
Email: voraporn.mue@apterr.org
Website: <http://www.apterr.org/>

* This Weekly Update on ASEAN Plus Three Rice Situations is based on all available sources during the period. The APTERR Secretariat shall take no responsibility for data accuracy in this publication and any consequence of their use.