



WEEKLY UPDATE ON ASEAN PLUS THREE RICE SITUATIONS

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Indonesia

Rice production is expected to surpass rice consumption through March 2018. According to the Ministry of Agriculture, rice production is expected to exceed the projected consumption in January, February, and March 2018, as the harvest season had commenced across the country. In accordance with the Head of Agency of Food Security, rice surplus production was estimated at 329,000 tonnes in January, 2.9 million tonnes in February, and 4.97 million tonnes in March, adding that the figures were calculated by the crop area of rice fields. According to this, rice stocks would reach 2.8 million tonnes in January, followed by 5.4 million tonnes in February and 7.4 million tonnes in March, said the Head of Agency of Food Security.

Source: The Jakarta Post. (2018, Jan 25). *Rice production to surpass consumption through March: Agriculture Ministry.*

Myanmar

Myanmar earned over 844 million USD from the export of 2.72 million tonnes of rice and broken rice, according to Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF). Over the first nine months, until 12 January 2018, in 2017-2018 fiscal year, Myanmar

earned 844.853 million USD from exports of 2.22 million tonnes of rice, worth 719.774 million USD, and 500,597 tonnes of broken rice, worth 125.079 million USD. According to the statistics, until 5 January 2018, there were 50 rice-exporting countries and 33 broken rice-exporting countries. Land-border trade accounts for about 53 percent of the total exports, while about 47 percent for sea trade. During this fiscal year, Myanmar exported rice mostly to China, Bangladesh, and Ivory Coast.

Source: Eleven Myanmar. (2018, Jan 30). *Export earnings from rice hit \$844 m in nine months.*

Philippines

The National Food Authority (NFA) is still pushing for the immediate replenishment of depleted buffer stock via rice importation for the agency to fulfill food security and stabilise prices. According to the data from Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), the country's paddy production for the first quarter might reach 4.67 million tonnes as the crop's harvest area and yield per hectare continued to improve. Resulting in the National Food Authority Council (NFAC) rejected the proposal of the NFA to import 250,000 tonnes of rice in 2018 as the agriculture sector continues to see a positive outlook in rice production. However, the NFA is still urging economic managers to approve its request to import rice this year to stabilise prices of staple and ensure food security. Although the NFA has not been able to control the prices of commercial rice, the agency sells rice at more affordable prices. NFA sells rice, which the quality is comparable to commercial rice, at 27-32 Pesos (0.53-0.63 USD) per kilogram, while commercial rice varieties are sold at 36-41 Pesos (0.71-0.81 USD) per kilogram. It is the function of the NFA to ensure the availability, affordability, and accessibility of rice to people, especially the poor and low-income sector that rely on

the government to fulfill this social responsibilities, said the NFA administrator.

* 1 USD = 50.807 Pesos

Source: Philippine Daily Inquirer. (2018, Jan 27). *NFA pushes rice imports to stabilize prices*; and National Food Authority. (2018, Jan 25). *NFA DEFENDS PRESENCE OF SUBSIDIZED RICE IN THE MARKET*.

Ceremonial turn-over of 225 tonnes of rice contributed by Japan through ASEAN Plus Three Emergency Rice Reserve (APTERR) to help people in Mindanao, due to the conflict in Marawi, was held on 12 January 2018.

The APTERR Secretariat officials together with the National Food Authority (NFA) Administrator, the Minister for Economic Affairs of Japanese Embassy in the Philippines, and the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) Undersecretary attended the ceremonial turn-over and actual distribution of 225 tonnes of rice at the Mahad Markazie evacuation centre in Balo-I, Lanao del Norte, Mindanao. The NFA in collaboration with the DSWD will allocate the donated rice to 7,485 households in 13 cities /municipalities, including Iligan City, Balo-I, Pantar, Pantao Ragat, Bacolod, Matungao, Munai, Baroy, Kolabugan, Linamon, Lala, Poon Piagapo, and Kauswagan. Each household will receive 30 kilogramme of rice. During the ceremony, 125 rice bags were allocated to those beneficiaries at the evacuation centre.

Source: APTERR Secretariat; and Bangon Marawi. (2018, Jan 23). *Japan gov't turns over 225 MT rice to Marawi IDPs*.

Viet Nam

Viet Nam has won a bidding to ship 141,000 tonnes of rice to Indonesia.

Previously, Indonesia planned to import 500,000 tonnes of rice from Thailand and Viet Nam to fix the insufficient rice supply and price hikes in the domestic market. However, the country was able to import only 346,000 tonnes of rice, due to the limited of time of shipment. According to

this, at the bidding, Viet Nam won the largest volume with 141,000 tonnes of rice, followed by Thailand with 120,000 tonnes of rice, Pakistan with 65,000 tonnes of rice, and India with 20,000 tonnes of rice. The winning price of Viet Nam, including cost and freight (C&F) price, is 466 USD per tonne for a package of 70,000 tonnes of 0-5 percent broken rice, while 464 USD per tonne for the package of 71,000 tonnes of 5-25 percent broken rice. The rice was harvested in the 2017-2018 crop and less than six months. The shipments will be delivered to Indonesia before 28 February 2018, according to the Ministry of Industry and Trade (MOIT).

Source: Communist Party of Vietnam Online Newspaper. (2018, Jan 24). *Vietnam to ship 141,000 tons of rice to Indonesia*; and Hanoi Times. (2018, Jan 22). *Vietnam wins rice export contract to Indonesia*.

China

Rice exports to Africa increased in 2017, according to the data from General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China (GACC).

In 2017, China exported over 781,000 tonnes of rice to almost 40 African countries, up around 74,000 tonnes from 2016. The rapid growth in Chinese rice exports to African nations is expected to continue in 2018, as buyers increasingly turn to China, due to very high rice stockpiles in the country with around 94 million tonnes of rice.

Source: Reuters. (2018, Jan 25). *Grain gain: China's rice exports to Africa surge*.

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