



## WEEKLY UPDATE ON ASEAN PLUS THREE RICE SITUATIONS

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### Cambodia

#### ***Ministry of Commerce has launched a new agency to certify rice origin.***

The new agency, which is staffed by officials from Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF), as well as members of the Cambodian Rice Federation (CRF), aims to inspect the production and supply chain of rice branded 'made in Cambodia' to guarantee its origin and provide assurance to foreign buyers. A total of 12 individuals will make up the team, which has the authority to look into data related to every stage of the production and supply process, including processing, storing and exporting the product. This initiative will help keep the reputation of Cambodian rice intact, as few cases of fake Cambodian rice have been reported, said Director-General of the General Directorate of Agriculture.

**Source:** Khmer Times. (2018, Feb 15). *New agency to certify rice origin.*

### Indonesia

#### ***Imported rice has started arriving at various ports across the country.***

According to the State Logistics Agency (Bulog) procurement director, about 57,000 tonnes of rice had arrived since Tuesday, 13 February 2018, in three Indonesian ports

including Tanjung Priok Port in Jakarta with 41,000 tonnes, Merak Port in Banten with 6,000 tonnes and Tenau Port in East Nusa Tenggara with 10,000 tonnes. Also, on 14 February 2018, the 1,500 tonnes arrived at Tenau Port and have been stored at Bulog's warehouse in East Nusa Tenggara. A further of 24,750 tonnes of rice is expected to arrive on 15 February 2018 which 20,000 tonnes will be at Panjang Port in Lampung and at Benoa Port in Bali with 4,750 tonnes, adding that Bulog is still waiting for the arrival of another 261,000 tonnes by the end of this month, said the procurement director.

**Source:** The Jakarta Post. (2018, Feb 15). *Imported rice starts arriving at various ports.*

### Myanmar

#### ***The ceremonial handover and distribution of 311.477 - tonne rice contributed by Japan through APTERR was held on 21 February 2018 in Kachin.***

The APTERR Secretariat together with the representatives from the Embassy of Japan in Myanmar attended the ceremonial handover and distribution of 311.477- tonne rice held by the Department of Agriculture (DOA), Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, Myanmar in collaboration with Kachin's state agencies, in order to help people affected by flash flood, landslide, as well as human conflict in Kachin State. 311.477 tonnes will be distributed to 8,369 households in four districts in Kachin State, consisting Myitkyina, Mohnyin, Bhamo and Puta-O. The rice can cover those affected people for about two weeks. This rice distribution is part of 500 tonnes of rice under APTERR's Tier 3 programme which have been stored in Myanmar for the emergency situations. After this release, there are still 188.5386 tonnes of rice remaining in the country.

**Source:** APTERR Secretariat. (2018, Feb 27). *Handover and distribution of rice in Kachin State, Myanmar, and The Daily Eleven Newspaper.*

***Myanmar's rice exports have risen to hit a record high in 55 years in the current 2017-18 fiscal year.***

From last April to the second week of February 2018, over 3 million tonnes of rice and broken rice was exported, earning 949 million USD. The exported volume of 1.39 million tonnes worth 406 million USD was shipped by sea, while 1.633 million tonnes worth 543 million USD was exported to neighboring countries via border trade routes. Currently, Myanmar exports rice and broken rice to 62 countries, up from 40 countries compared to the previous year, including China, Bangladesh, West African countries, Belgium and Sri Lanka as the major markets.

**Source:** The Global New Light of Myanmar. (2018, Feb 17). *Myanmar's rice export volume skyrockets.*

## **Philippines**

***The currently remaining supply of the National Food Authority (NFA) rice is only good for one and a half days.***

According to the NFA administrator, as of 14 February 2018, the total remaining NFA rice stock is equivalent to 1,122,376 bags (50 kilograms per bag) or 56,188 tonnes. This figure is composed of 90,253 bags (4,512 tonnes) of paddy rice, 52,697 bags (2,634 tonnes) of local rice, and 979,426 bags (48,971 tonnes) of imported rice. With a daily consumption rate of 640,260 bags (32,013 tonnes), the total number of bags that will be available for the country will only be good for 1.7 days. However, the rice industry in the country is not only composed of NFA rice, but also includes commercial stocks and household stocks. As of 7 February 2018, commercial stocks still have 857,300 tonnes of rice (17.146 million bags) and household stocks have 1,325,500 tonnes (26.51 million bags), which would last for 27 days and 42 days respectively. All in all, the rice stock is still good for 71 days. There is no rice shortage in the country, only inadequacy of affordable rice for the Filipino people, said the NFA administrator.

**Source:** The Philippine Star. (2018, Feb 22). *Rice supply good for 71 days – NFA*; and GMA News Online. (2018, Feb 20). *Supply of NFA rice only good for 1.7 days.*

## **Thailand**

***Despite concerns about strong baht, the government is still optimistic about Thai rice export prospects, particularly premium Hom Mali rice for Hong Kong.***

According to the Commerce Minister, Hong Kong is the third-largest rice export market for Hom Mali rice, after China and the US. In 2017, Thailand shipped 206,153 tonnes of Hom Mali rice to Hong Kong, up 10.18 percent from 187,092 tonnes in 2016, and also was the first time that Thailand's Hom Mali rice shipments to Hong Kong exceeded 200,000 tonnes since 2007, when 202,858 tonnes were shipped. In 2018, although the price of Hom Mali rice stay relatively high at over 1,000 USD a tonne, demand in Hong Kong remains strong. In addition, the shipments are expected to continue growing and reach 215,000 tonnes this year, said the Commerce Minister.

**Source:** Bangkok Post. (2018, Feb 17). *Rice forecast remains robust*; and National News Bureau of Thailand. (2018, Feb 19). *Thai Hom Mali Rice exports to Hong Kong exceed 200,000 tons for first time in a decade.*

***Plan to export 150,000 tonnes of rice to Bangladesh was canceled.***

October last year, Bangladesh planned to import 250,000 tonnes of parboiled rice from Thailand and India to shore up depleted stocks of the staple in accordance with high domestic prices after floods damaged its crops. However, the plan to import 150,000 tonnes from Thailand which the price was agreed at 456 USD per tonne, including shipping, insurance, and discharge costs, was canceled due to delays in finalising the deal, according to the head of the state grains buyer of Bangladesh.

**Source:** Bangkok Post. (2018, Feb 15). *Bangladesh scraps Thai rice deal*; and Bangkok Post. (2017, Oct 9). *Bangladesh to buy rice from Thailand, India.*

## Viet Nam

***About 59 percent of total rice area in Viet Nam, as many as 4.6 million hectares of land, has been cultivated with domestically - made varieties.***

According to the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD), in the Mekong Delta region alone, the varieties made by Vietnamese scientists have been grown on 77 percent of the total rice area. In particular, the high-quality OM5451 variety has been used for nearly one million hectares. The productivity of the new varieties is higher than old ones by an average of 10 percent, equivalent to an addition 1.65 million tonnes of rice worth over 8 trillion VND (351 million USD) per year. The MARD has also placed order for research on agricultural technologies for the sector's restructuring towards sustainable development, with 36 technology research projects and seven pilot production projects with the engagement of many enterprises. In 2018, the MARD will promote technology research and transfer to serve the sector's reform and the building of new-style rural areas in the 2018-2025 period.

\* 1 USD = 22,744 VND

**Source:** Vietnam Plus. (2018, Feb 26). *Made-in-Vietnam varieties cover 59 percent of rice fields.*

## Japan

***Following the end of government's production adjustment policy in 2018, rice planting for harvest this year is seen generally low from the previous year.***

According to the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF), planting of rice, excluding processed food and feed, is projected to be low in 36 of the 47 prefectures, reflecting concerns about a fall in rice prices on a possible production increase without the adjustment policy. Rice planting is expected to expand in the northeastern prefectures of Aomori, Iwate, Akita, and Fukushima, and the western prefectures of Tottori and Yamaguchi. However, rice planting is expected to shrink

in the eastern prefecture of Chiba, the western prefectures of Osaka, Wakayama and Kochi and the southwestern prefecture of Kagoshima. Additionally, rice will be planted in many places across the country around the Golden Week holiday period in early May, said the MAFF.

**Source:** Jiji Press. (2018, Feb 27). *Japan Rice Planting Seen Flat after End of Output Adjustment.*

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