



WEEKLY UPDATE ON ASEAN PLUS THREE RICE SITUATIONS

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Indonesia

The National Logistics Agency (Bulog) will distribute 400,000 tonnes of subsidised rice in an attempt to stabilise the price in March 2018.

According to Bulog president director, 250,000 tonnes of the total 400,000 tonnes was taken from the March allocation and a further 150,000 tonnes from the April allocation would be pushed forward to March. According to data from the Central Statistics Agency (or Badan Pusat Statistik: BPS) released on 1 March 2018, the price of all qualities of rice had increased in February compared to January. The price of premium rice increased by 0.31 percent, while the prices of medium and low quality rice increased by 0.37 percent and 1.99 percent respectively.

Source: The Jakarta Post. (2018, Mar 3). *Bulog to disburse 400,000 tons of subsidized rice in March.*

Thailand

Baht appreciation likely slows Thai rice exports in 2018, due to the president of the Thai Rice Exporters Association (TREA).
The strong baht has become an obstacle to

Thai rice shipments, notably Hom Mali fragrant rice, less competitive. Even worse, limited Hom Mali supply in the market kept Thai premium rice prices at a relatively high 1,135 USD a tonne as of 28 February 2018, against 650 USD a tonne for Vietnamese aromatic grains and 880 USD a tonne for comparable Cambodian rice. In January, Thailand shipped a total of 961,860 tonnes with a value of 15.39 billion baht (487 million USD), up 16.8 percent in volume and 24.9 percent in value from the same month in 2017. Regarding to this, white rice was 440,340 tonnes, up 8.7 percent year-on-year; parboiled rice was 308,999 tonnes, up 112.4 percent; premium Hom Mali was 146,822 tonnes, down 28.1 percent; glutinous rice was 48,032 tonnes, down 12 percent; and jasmine rice was 17,667 tonnes, up 27.6 percent. In the first half of 2018, rice exports are estimated at 4 - 4.5 million tonnes, averaging 800,000 tonnes a month compared with one million tonnes in 2017, said the president of TREA.

* 1 USD = 31.5510 baht

Source: Bangkok Post. (2018, Mar 6). *Strong baht likely slows rice exports.*

Viet Nam

Viet Nam expects to export 6.5 million tonnes of rice in 2018.

According to Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, to get high export value, high-quality rice will still account for a large proportion of the total export volume, while normal rice makes up less than 20 percent. Due to efficient restructuring the production of rice by improving quality and value, the export price of Vietnamese rice rose from 435 USD per tonne in 2016 to 450 USD per tonne in 2017, and 475 USD per tonne during the period of January - February 2018. In the first two months of this year, Viet Nam shipped 861,000 tonnes abroad and earned 419 million USD, up 17

percent in volume and 34 percent in value compared with the same period last year. The biggest Vietnamese rice importer was the Philippines, accounting for 26.9 percent of the market share, followed by China with 23.5 percent. Viet Nam will start to focus on improving the brand name of its rice, after increasing rice quality is going well, said the Deputy Minister.

Source: Vietnam Plus. (2018, Mar 5). *Vietnam likely to export 6.5 million tonnes of rice in 2018*; Viet Nam News. (2018, Mar 6). *Việt Nam expects to export 6.5 million tonnes of rice in 2018*.

Republic of Korea

The Republic of Korea (ROK) donated 10,000 tonnes of rice in humanitarian aid to people affected from Typhoon Damrey 2017 in Viet Nam.

This donation is under the APTERR's Tier 3 programme. The first shipment of 5,300 tonnes of rice was already delivered to Viet Nam at Cam Ranh Port in the central coastal province of Khanh Hoa on 3 March 2018, benefiting people in six provinces of Khanh Hoa (2,000 tonnes), Phu Yen (1,000 tonnes), Binh Dinh (1,000 tonnes), Gia Lai (500 tonnes), Kon Tum (500 tonnes), and Dak Lak (300 tonnes). The second shipment of 4,700 tonnes will arrive at Da Nang Port in Da Nang city on 17 March 2018 to benefit people in four provinces of Quang Tri (500 tonnes), Thua Thien Hue (1,500 tonnes), Quang Nam (1,700 tonnes), and Quang Ngai (1,000 tonnes). On behalf of the beneficiary provinces, Vice Chairman of the People's Committee of Khanh Hoa thanked the ROK government for the aid and pledge to dispatch the rice to people in need as soon as possible.

Source: Vietnam Plus. (2018, Mar 4). *RoK offers 10,000 tonnes of rice in aid to typhoon-hit provinces*; and APTERR Secretariat.

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