



WEEKLY UPDATE ON ASEAN PLUS THREE RICE SITUATIONS

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Lao PDR

Rice production in the wet season is forecast to reduce by 300,000 tonnes due to widespread flooding this year.

According to the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF), wet season rice production in 2018 is predicted to drop by 300,000 tonnes to 3.2 million tonnes from the expected target of 3.5 million tonnes after flooding this year affected many parts of the country. A total of 101,000 hectares of wet season rice were impacted by floods, equal to 12 percent of the total planted area of 817,800 hectares. Meanwhile, about 66,000 hectares of the rice crop were estimated to have been destroyed. In order to ensure food security and commercial sustainability, the MAF assigned the technical teams to join local agricultural authorities to restore production capacity after the flooding.

Source: Vientiane Times. (2018, Nov 9). *Laos: Wet season rice target revised down*; and Xinhua. (2018, Nov 9). *Wet season rice production down in Laos due to flood*.

Myanmar

Myanmar earns over 435 million USD from rice exports during seven months.

From 1 April to 26 October 2018, Myanmar exported over 1.25 million tonnes of rice and broken rice with the earning more than 435 million USD. During the period, over 1 million tonnes of rice were exported to 43 countries, and 251,224 tonnes of broken rice were exported to 18 countries. Of the total rice exports, exporting via border trade accounted for 53.4 percent, while 46.6 percent via sea trade. China is the major rice export market of Myanmar, accounting for 60 percent. Meanwhile, demand for Myanmar rice also comes from Asian countries, European Union members, and some African countries. Last 2017-2018 fiscal year, Myanmar earned over 1.1 billion USD from exports of rice and broken rice nearly 3.6 million tonnes, according to Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF).

Source: Xinhua. (2018, Nov 10). *Myanmar earns over 435 mln USD from rice export in 7 months*; Vietnam Plus. (2018, Nov 11). *Myanmar earns almost 436 million USD from rice exports*.

Philippines

The National Food Authority (NFA) conducted a pre-bidding conference for the importation of 500,000 tonnes of rice.

A total of 12 rice suppliers from Asian countries attended the pre-bidding conference on 7 November 2018 for the importation of 500,000 tonnes of 25 percent broken rice under government-to-private (G2P) tender. The pre-bidding conference is to allow prospective bidders to clarify provisions of the Terms of Conference (TOR) covering the importation. The opening of bid documents is set on 20 November 2018. The 500,000-tonne rice will be divided into nine lots with 14 designated discharge ports as follows: Subic - 118,000 tonnes; Manila - 75,000 tonnes; La Union - 65,000 tonnes; Batangas - 40,000 tonnes; General Santos City -

32,500 tonnes; Tabaco - 30,000 tonnes; Cagayan De Oro - 26,700 tonnes; Cebu - 25,000 tonnes; Iloilo - 20,000 tonnes; Tacloban - 20,000 tonnes; Zamboanga - 17,300 tonnes; Davao - 12,500 tonnes; Surigao - 10,000 tonnes; and Bacolod - 8,000 tonnes. The first 250,000 tonnes should be delivered not later than 31 December 2018, while the remaining 250,000 tonnes should arrive the country not later than 31 January 2019.

Source: The Philippine Star. (2018, Nov 8). *NFA retains bidding terms for importation of 500,000 metric tons of rice*; and National Food Authority. (2018, Nov 7). *NFA CONDUCTS PRE-BID CONFERENCE FOR 500,000 MT RICE IMPORT.*

The rebidding for the importation of 203,000 tonnes of rice was unsuccessful.

The National Food Authority (NFA) failed to secure offers for the supply of 203,000 tonnes of 25 percent broken rice under government-to-government (G2G) tender with the governments of Thailand and Viet Nam, the two countries with existing Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) on Rice Trade with the Philippines. According to NFA spokesperson, on 6 November 2018, Thailand and Viet Nam notified the NFA that they will not participate in the bidding, because they could not meet the Terms of Reference (TOR). The problem was not the price, but required dates of delivery, which could be difficult for compliance, said the NFA spokesperson. The 203,000-tonne rice represents the unawarded portion of the previous government-to-private (G2P) tender on 18 October 2018 for 250,000 tonnes, which the NFA secured only 47,000 tonnes from the three suppliers who offered prices lower than the approved budget.

Source: Food Evolution. (2018, Nov 8). *NFA fails to get supplier of 203,000 MT of rice*; National Food Authority. (2018, Nov 6). *NFA'S GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT BIDDING FAILS*; and Business World. (2018, Nov 6). *NFA rice import rebid fails to attract offers.*

Republic of Korea

Rice production dropped to the lowest level in nearly 40 years since 1980.

According to the data compiled by Statistics Korea, the country's rice production in 2018 reached 3.86 million tonnes, down 2.6 percent from 3.97 million tonnes produced in 2017. It marked the smallest amount since 1980, reaching 3.55 million tonnes. The decline is related to the decrease in rice cultivation area nationwide this year which stands at 737,673 hectares, lower than last year 2.3 percent. Also, the government has been pushing to control rice production by growing other crops instead as part of efforts to deal with a chronic overabundance of supply, when people have been eating less of staple grain and opting for more dietary variety.

Source: Yonhap News Agency. (2018, Nov 13). *Rice output drops to lowest level in nearly 40 yrs*; Yonhap News Agency. (2018, Sep 30). *S. Korea's rice production expected to hover around 3.85 mln tons in 2018*; and The Korea Herald. (2018, Sep 4). *Rice paddies down in 2018.*

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