



WEEKLY UPDATE ON ASEAN PLUS THREE RICE SITUATIONS

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Cambodia

Cambodian rice export 2018 slightly declined by 1.5 percent compared to 2017.

According to the figures from the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF), Cambodia exported 626,225 tonnes of rice to international markets in 2018, down by 1.5 percent from 635,679 tonnes in 2017. The main destinations for rice exports were the European Union (EU) with a total of 269,127 tonnes and China with 170,154 tonnes. Despite rice storages and facilities already being developed, rice exports are still decreasing. This is because of high production costs that limited the ability to purchase paddy, resulting in rice millers did not have enough rice to process and export. However, for 2019, the government has agreed to lower electricity costs, which will be good for the rice sector. The big issue now remains to be solved is transportation costs. Besides, Cambodia is still waiting the EU's final say on whether it imposes tariffs on Cambodian rice. If the tariffs are approved, Cambodia will have to shift the focus from the EU market to other countries, according to vice president of the Cambodia Rice Federation (CRF).

Source: The Phnom Penh Post. (2019, Jan 11). *Kingdom's rice exports down 1.5%*; and Bangkok Post. (2019, Jan 11). *Cambodian rice exports down slightly last year.*

Indonesia

The state rice stock is sufficient to meet demand in the coming months.

On 10 January 2019, Indonesian President, Joko Widodo, assured that rice stocks at the State Logistics Agency (Bulog) warehouses are adequate to meet demand in the coming months, adding that the management of Bulog has improved compared to three or four years ago. Normally, by the end of December, Bulog has between 700,000 to 800,000 tonnes of rice in its warehouses. However, December 2018, Bulog's rice stock stood at 2.1 million tonnes. Regarding the figure, about 1.7 million tonnes was the imported rice arrived in 2018, while the remaining came from the farmers that Bulog purchased last year. This sufficient rice stocks will give confidence to the public because Bulog would be ready to intervene in the market when prices are too high, said the President.

Source: The Jakarta Post. (2019, Jan 11). *Jokowi assures adequate rice stock in Bulog's warehouses*; and ANTARA News. (2019, Jan 10). *Rice stock adequate: President Jokowi.*

Philippines

San Roque city is eyed to be developed as the biggest rice seed production for a better life of residents.

The Department of Agriculture (DA) and the Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice) are working together to develop San Roque city in the Northern Samar as the country's biggest rice seed production center, which could potentially produce high-yielding varieties in 2,000 hectares of land. The two agencies would coordinate with the local government of San Roque, a private company, and farmers for the implementation of the Samar Rice Development Programme (SRDP). According to Agriculture Secretary, the SRDP, which will be launched in 2019, targets to turn about 100,000 to 200,000 hectares of lands into rice production areas. The DA and PhilRice will support the programme by providing the farmers with

technical training, equipment, and loan support. San Roque is a poor city in the country. Once implemented, the programme would transform the poor town into one of the most progressive localities in Northern Samar. Moreover, the DA will purchase the seeds produced in San Roque city to distribute to rice farmers in the rest of Samar Island. The SRDP also targets to boost the average rice yield in Samar Island to 6 tonnes from the current 2 tonnes per hectare by 2020, said Agriculture Secretary.

Source: The Manila Times Online. (2019, Jan 10). *Samar town eyed as PH's biggest rice seed producer.*

Thailand

Rice exports hit the set target of 2018.

According to Director General of the Foreign Trade Department, Thailand's rice exports exceeded 11 million tonnes in 2018 as targeted by the government. The country totally exported 11.14 million tonnes, down 3.36 percent from 11.52 million tonnes in 2017, with the earnings of 5.62 billion USD, up 10 percent from a year earlier. For 2019, Thai rice exports are predicted to stay at 10 million tonnes, but the prices are likely to become much higher as the department plans to increase the export value by promoting more about high-quality rice and specialty rice, such as Hom Mali rice, coloured rice, organic rice, and RD 43 rice. The department would also launch marketing campaigns to promote rice exports in Asia, particularly Hong Kong, Singapore, China, the Philippines, Indonesia, as well as the Middle East, Europe, the United States, and Canada. Moreover, the department set the target to complete the government-to-government (G2G) contract to supply rice of 1 million tonnes to China in 2019, when 700,000 tonnes were previously done.

Source: Bangkok Post. (2019, Jan 9). *State rice sale target met, stockpiles finally spent*; Bangkok Post. (2019, Jan 8). *Rice exports hit target last year*, and Commerce New Agency. (2019, Jan 8).

Viet Nam

Viet Nam targeted to export 6.5 million tonnes of rice this year.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) has set a goal to export around 6.5 million tonnes of rice with a total revenue about 3 billion USD in 2019. The proportion of exports to markets until 2030 would be adjusted to include 50 percent to Asia, 25 percent to Africa, 10 percent to the Americas, 6 percent to Europe, and 9 percent to other regions. The structure of exported rice will be shifted with white rice accounting for 25 percent, and 40 percent for fragrant rice and specialty rice. While, organic rice, parboiled rice, and rice with improved micronutrients account for over 10 percent each. Last year, 2018, Vietnamese rice exports reached 6.15 million tonnes worth 3.15 billion USD, up 5.7 percent in volume and 19.6 percent in value over the previous year. Export rice prices also sharply increased to 502 USD per tonne in 2018 from 452 USD per tonne of late 2017, according to MARD.

Source: Viet Nam Net. (2019, Jan 11). *Vietnam targets 6.5 million tonnes of rice exports this year.*

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