



WEEKLY UPDATE ON ASEAN PLUS THREE RICE SITUATIONS

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Cambodia

Cambodian rice exports rose 1.9 percent in the first two months of 2019.

Cambodia exported about 112,486 tonnes of rice during January to February 2019, an increase of 1.9 percent over the same period of 2018. In the first two months of this year, China is still the biggest buyer of Cambodian rice which about 43,452 tonnes were exported to the country, up 32 percent over the same period last year. Meanwhile, Cambodia shipped 33,969 tonnes of rice to the European markets during the mentioned period with a decrease by 33 percent from last year, due mainly to the tariff imposition started in January 2019.

Source: Xinhua. (2019, Mar 8). *Cambodia rice export up 1.9 pct in 1st two months.*

Myanmar

Rice exports reached 2.1 million tonnes, earning nearly 700 million USD.

From 1 April 2018 to 15 February 2019, Myanmar earned about 699 million USD from exports over 2.1 million tonnes of rice and broken rice, according to the figures of

Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF). During the period, Myanmar exported rice to 50 countries and broken rice to 21 countries. Rice and broken rice exports via border trade reached over 1.076 million tonnes with the earning more than 360 million USD, while shipments via sea trade hit 1.038 million tonnes worth nearly 340 million USD. In addition to this, as Myanmar was lately negotiating with China for the official export quota of 400,000-tonne rice to China, both nations will soon sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), according to vice president of MRF.

Source: Eleven Myanmar. (2019, Mar 10). *Rice and broken rice exports expected to decline*; and Eleven Myanmar. (2019, Mar 6). *Rice and broken rice export earnings hit nearly 700 million US dollars.*

Philippines

Rice imports by the National Food Authority (NFA) in 2018 will help boost the Philippine buffer stock this year.

As part of the 1.25 million tonnes of rice ordered in 2018, a total of 203,000 tonnes of rice from Thailand and Viet Nam under the government-to-government (G2G) scheme already arrived the country. Whereas the 500,000-tonne rice under government-to-private (G2P) scheme, a total of 478,050 tonnes have also been delivered with the balance already in transit and expected to arrive soon. According to NFA, its current imported rice inventory will stand to the last until August 2019. With the implementation of the Rice Tariffication Act (RA 11203), the NFA will no longer be allowed to import rice and will have to beef up its buffer stock by purchasing rice from local farmers. The NFA is exerting all efforts to boost the country's buffer stock to provide Filipino consumers with affordable rice.

Source: The Manila Times. (2019, Mar 12). *Buffer stock boosted by rice imports – NFA.*

Rice imports are forecast to hit a record-high 2.6 million tonnes in 2019.

After the Philippines has implemented the Rice Tariffication Act (RA 11203) replacing quantitative restrictions on rice imports with tariffs on 5 March 2019, the country's rice imports in 2019 are forecast to hit 2.6 million tonnes, up from 2.3 million tonnes expected last month, according to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). As a result of this legislation, higher rice imports are expected from ASEAN countries, with their relative low cost and preferential access to the Philippines. Furthermore, the opening up of the Philippine rice market will push its forecast imports this year to a record high, which the 2.6 million-tonne rice is a record not seen since the international price spike in 2008, and would make the Philippines the second-largest global importer in 2019, added the USDA.

Source: Business Mirror. (2019, Mar 11). *PHL rice imports to hit 2.6 MMT–USDA.*

Gathered by the APTERR Secretariat
Tel: +66 (0) 2579 4816-17 Fax: +66 (0) 2579 4840
Email: voraporn.mue@apterr.org
Website: <http://www.apterr.org/>

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