



WEEKLY UPDATE ON ASEAN PLUS THREE RICE SITUATIONS

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Cambodia

Cambodian rice exports rose by 6 percent in the first quarter of 2019.

From January to March 2019, exports of milled rice reached 170,821 tonnes, up by 6 percent from 161,115 tonnes of the same period last year. In January, the Chinese government agreed to increase its import quota for Cambodian rice by 100,000 tonnes, totaling 400,000 tonnes for 2019. Accordingly, despite low season during January to March, about 20,000-30,000 tonnes were exported a month to China. Rice orders are forecast to be double in the second half of the year, because of the peak season, adding that Cambodia is expected to achieve the quota of 400,000 tonnes in the Chinese market. Apart from this, the Vietnamese government also expanded its quota for Cambodian rice to 300,000 tonnes a year.

Source: Khmer Times. (2019, Apr 4). *Exports of milled rice up 6 pct in Q1.*

Indonesia

A new superior rice variety was recently released to overcome stunting.

As partnership between the Indonesian government and the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) had been ongoing since 1972, the IRRI's rice varieties had significantly increased Indonesia's rice production. As the result of cooperation with the IRRI, Indonesia has around 300 varieties of new superior rice. In 2019, a new superior rice variety, namely Inpari IR NutriZinc, was released to overcome stunting. Inpari IR NutriZinc is the first rice variety in Indonesia that contains Zinc, which help put an end to stunting. It is also resilient to brown planthopper and able to provide up to 50 percent of daily zinc requirements, according to the head of the Agriculture Ministry's Research and Development Agency.

Source: The Jakarta Post. (2019, Apr 3). *IRRI variety increases Indonesia's rice production.*

Myanmar

Floor price was set for Myanmar rice as commodity demand plummets.

After the European Union (EU) reinstated tariffs on rice imports from Myanmar and Cambodia in January 2019, as well as stagnant demand from China, rice prices dropped to around K19,000 (12.61 USD) per pack (about 50 kilograms) compared with K26,000 (17.26 USD) at the same time last year. Consequently, the floor price of rice per pack has been set at K19,500 (12.94 USD) in order to contain the fall in prices, according to president of Myanmar Rice and Paddy Traders' Association. In addition, to create rice industry be more sustainable over the long term, Myanmar traders are now lobbying for China to raise the official import quota to 400,000 tonnes annually from 100,000 tonnes currently. Regarding this matter, both nations will soon sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

* 1 USD = 1,506 Myanmar Kyat (K)

Source: The Myanmar Times. (2019, Apr 4). *Floor price set for rice as demand plummets*; Eleven Myanmar. (2019, Mar 10). *Rice and broken rice exports expected to decline*; and The Myanmar Times. (2010, Sep 6). *High-quality rice prices up*.

Viet Nam

Southern region plans to grow other crops on low-yield rice fields.

The Mekong Delta and the southern region plan to grow other crops on more than 126,300 hectares of low-yield rice fields this year for the purpose of adapting to climate change and improving farmers' incomes. Regarding this, farmers will rotate rice and other crops in the same fields or stop growing rice completely and plant only other crops. The switch helps save water amid more frequent droughts, improve soil fertility, and prevent diseases, adding that this also diversifies agricultural products, as well as fetches higher farmers' incomes. In the 2018-19 winter-spring crop, farmers switched to other crops on 32,840 hectares of rice fields in the southern region. They grew corn, peanut, soybean, sesame, vegetables, orange, grapefruit, mango, and dragon fruit. The rate of switching to other crops will be higher in the summer-autumn and autumn-winter crops this year.

Source: Viet Nam News. (2019, Apr 4). *Southern region plans to grow other crops on low-yield rice fields*.

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