



## WEEKLY UPDATE ON ASEAN PLUS THREE RICE SITUATIONS

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### **Cambodia**

#### ***Rice exports to China continue to increase during January to April 2019.***

Cambodia exported 95,066 tonnes of rice to China in the first four months of this year, a 66 percent increase over the same time last year, adding that this market is still the top buyer for Cambodian rice which accounted for 44.5 percent of the country's total rice exports. On the other hand, rice exports to the European markets during the period dropped 34 percent from a year earlier to 65,552 tonnes as the European Union (EU) imposed tariffs on rice imports from Cambodia and Myanmar in order to curb a surge in rice imports from both nations. Of the total rice exports, Cambodia shipped 213,763 tonnes to 46 countries and regions, up 8.3 percent year-on-year.

**Source:** Xinhua. (2019, May 17). *Cambodia's rice exports to China continue to rise in first 4 months.*

### **Philippines**

#### ***Paddy and rice prices continue to fall.***

Prices of paddy and rice continued to decline for the fourth consecutive month as the local market was slowly adjusting to the expected arrival of more rice importations this year after the government allowed the unimpeded entry of the staple to curb prices. As reported

by the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), in April 2019, the average farm-gate price of paddy fell to 18.37 pesos (0.35 USD) per kilogram, down 11.3 percent from 20.71 pesos (0.39 USD) last year. Similarly, the average retail prices of milled rice declined to 39.15 - 43.52 pesos (0.74 - 0.83 USD) per kilogram from 40.03 - 43.77 pesos (0.76 - 0.83 USD) last year. Meanwhile, farmers await the dismemberment of the Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (RCEF) of 10 billion pesos (191 million USD), which should aid them in the transition toward the deregulation of rice trade. The RCEF is intended to mitigate rice farmers from the blows of liberalisation by subsidising them with machinery and seeds, providing credit, and training to ensure that they become competitive against more affordable imported rice. Presently, 1 billion pesos (19 million USD) of the total subsidy has been funneled to the Agricultural Credit Policy Council to assist the Department of Agriculture in synchronising all credit policies and programs in support of the latter's priority programs.

\* 1 USD = 52.354 pesos

**Source:** Inquirer.Net. (2019, May 16). *Rice, palay prices continue to decline.*

### **Thailand**

#### ***Thai rice export is forecast to be maintained at 10 million tonnes this year, despite the global economic slowdown.***

According to Director General of the Foreign Trade Department, Thailand has reigned for over three decades as one of the world's leading rice exporters. Thai rice is exported to countries around the world, taking up 20-25 percent of the global market and generating an average annual income of over 150 billion baht (4.75 billion USD). The Ministry of Commerce still strongly believes that potential buyers and importers are confident in the quality of Thai rice. Moreover, the country puts great emphasis on premium quality rice and specialty rice which fetch higher export prices. In a related development to boost rice exports, Thailand

is scheduled to host the Thailand Rice Convention 2019 during 27-29 May 2019. This ninth convention is a great platform that promotes Thailand as the leading rice exporting country, while strengthening trade partnerships with representatives from related public and private sectors, said Deputy Minister of Commerce.

\* 1 USD = 31.569 baht

**Source:** Bangkok Post. (2019, May 16). *Rice forecast upheld amid downturn.*

## **China**

### ***China expanded its experimental land for rice cultivation in saline soil.***

The Saline-Alkali Tolerant Rice Research and Development Center in the coastal city of Qingdao, a major city in the eastern China's Shandong province, made the decision to expand its experimental land for rice cultivation in saline soil to over 667 hectares early this month. This move aims to accelerate research and development, optimise various types of saline soil rice, and seek the best cultivation methods. The center is not only expanding the experimental areas but also making stricter test parameters in order to simulate actual production. The center has set a target of 300 kilograms of rice yield per mu (0.07 hectares). Meanwhile, researchers will also study which saline-alkali land needs to be ameliorated and which rice varieties are suitable for.

**Source:** China.org.cn. (2019, May 17). *China accelerates rice cultivation in saline soil.*

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\* This Weekly Update on ASEAN Plus Three Rice Situations is based on all available sources during the period. The APTERR Secretariat shall take no responsibility for data accuracy in this publication and any consequence of their use.