



WEEKLY UPDATE ON ASEAN PLUS THREE RICE SITUATIONS

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Myanmar

The paddy floor price is set at 500,000 kyats (327 USD) per 100 baskets.

According to an announcement released by the government's Leading Committee for Farmers Rights Protection and Interests Promotion, the basic reference price for paddy was set at 500,000 kyats for every 100 baskets, equivalent to 2.09 tonnes, of monsoon paddy grown in 2019 and summer paddy to be cultivated in 2020. With this condition, the paddy must have a moisture content of 14 percent and are free of dust, as well as sand and gravel, to meet the set standards. The reference price is expected to be fair and supportive of sustainable development across the whole rice supply chain in accordance with the Law of Protection of Farmers Rights. Currently, the price of high-quality Pawsan paddy grown in this year ranges between 800,000 to 1.2 million kyats (522 - 783 USD) for 100 baskets. Hence, the reference price announcement will ensure that the lower-grade Emata paddy will not fall below the set price, said vice chair of the Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF).

*1 USD = 1,533 kyat

Source: Myanmar Times. (2019, Oct 18). *Rice floor price set at K500,000 for every 100 baskets*; and The Irrawaddy. (2019, Oct 16). *Myanmar Govt Backs Minimum Price for Rice Amid Weak Market*

Philippines

Cash subsidy worth 3 billion pesos (58 million USD) will be given to rice farmers.

The Cabinet did not endorse the safeguard duties on rice imports, because of inflationary concerns. Instead of this, the government will give affected farmers a one-time cash subsidy to shield them from the impact of rice trade liberalisation. The government has decided to allocate cash subsidy to 600,000 rice farmer households with 5,000 pesos (98 USD) each, totaling 3 billion pesos. However, only farmers who own one hectare of land or less are expected to benefit from this programme. The guidelines for the programme is currently being drafted, while the subsidy is expected to distribute in December this year. The cash assistance under this programme will come from import duties collected by the rice tariffication law. So far, nearly 11 billion pesos (215 million USD) has been collected from rice importations, according to Agriculture Secretary.

*1 USD = 51.151 pesos

Source: Inquirer. (2019, Oct 19). *Rice farmers to get P5-K cash aid*; and GMA News. (2019, Oct 18). *Gov't shelves safeguard duty in favor of P5,000 cash gift to rice farmers — Dar.*

Philippines

The Philippines plans to decrease rice imports from foreign markets in 2020.

After setting the record-high imports this year, the Philippines plans to slow down rice imports from foreign markets next year amid excessive supply along with improvement in local production. According to the latest report of the US Department of Agriculture-Foreign Agricultural Service (USDA-FAS), the country is expected to import 2.4 million tonnes of rice next year, lower than 3.1 million tonnes of this year. Milled rice production is projected to increase by 3 percent to 12 million tonnes, while total paddy production will be up 2 percent to 19 million tonnes. Farmers will continue planting rice despite low prices, while progressive rice producers will become more efficient next year. Even the harvested area is decreased, rice output next year will slightly

increase due to favourable weather conditions. Together with adequate inventories, therefore, rice imports are expected to decline in 2020.

Source: Vietnam Plus. (2019, Oct 18). *Philippines to slow down rice imports next year.*

Thailand

The Rice Department (RD) is ready to distribute rice seeds to help farmers affected by drought and floods in 2019.

The Cabinet has approved plans to aid farmers affected by drought and floods this year through five projects with a total budget of 3.12 billion baht (102 million USD). Accordingly, one of the projects was assigned to the RD to develop the quality and quantity of rice production for the crop year 2020/2021. This project aims to deliver 63,200 tonnes of high-quality rice seeds to 872,000 farmers to grow in 6.32 million rai (one million hectares) of rice paddy. Besides, the RD has been allocated a budget of 1.7 billion baht (55 million USD) to deliver 10 kilogrammes of rice seeds per rai (0.16 hectare) to eligible farmers with a maximum of 10 rai (1.6 hectares) per household. Non-photosensitive rice seeds have been delivered since May and will continue until December this year, while photosensitive rice seeds are expected to be delivered starting in March 2020. The RD is also raising its target of high-quality rice seeds for the annual production from 85,000 tonnes in 2019 to at least 200,000 tonnes in 2020, according to Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives.

*1 USD = 30.4525 baht

**1 hectare = 6.25 rai

1 rai = 0.16 hectare

Source: Nation Thailand. (2019, Oct 17). *Rice Department readies seeds for flood/drought affected farmers.*

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