



WEEKLY UPDATE ON ASEAN PLUS THREE RICE SITUATIONS

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Cambodia

Cambodian rice prices are stable amid Covid-19 due to the increase in rice supply from the private sectors.

According to the Green Trade Company and the Cambodia Rice Federation (CRF), the increase of supply from milled rice in the local market has helped stabilise prices. Earlier this month, people were reported to be stockpiling staple goods, such as rice, in fear that the Covid-19 outbreak could lead to the supply shortage. To prevent the shortage of important commodities, the government and private sectors were working together to increase shipments of grain to local shops by 100-500 tonnes. The Green Trade Company has been selling about one tonne of rice per day since 9 March 2020. Additionally, people can buy rice at Amru Rice (Cambodia) Co., Ltd, Mekong Oryza Trading, Baitong Rice Export Company, Khmer Food Group, and through the rice millers.

Source: The Phnom Penh Post. (2020, Mar 19). *Rice price stabilized thanks to increase in supply, federation says.*

Thailand

Rice pack prices increase about 20 to 30 percent due to the drought and uptick in global demand.

According to the Thai Rice Exporters Association (TREA), currently, rice prices had risen to 15 baht (0.45 USD) per kilogramme (0.01 tonne) from 12.50 baht (0.37 USD) in January, or about 20-30 percent. A five-kilogramme white rice pack costs between 70 baht (2.1 USD) and 120 baht (3.63 USD) per pack and tends to rise to between 90 baht (2.7 USD) and 150 baht (4.5 USD) per pack, depending on the product brand. Meanwhile, a five-kilogramme Hom Mali rice pack was unchanged at between 160 baht (4.8 USD) and 250 baht (7.6 USD) per pack. Besides, prices of rice tend to increase until a new rice production season starts between August and September 2020. The worst drought crisis in 40 years had effected to 4-5 million rai (640,000-800,000 hectares) of farmland unable to plant and had caused rice prices to increase. Meanwhile, global demand for rice has also increased during the Covid-19 outbreak.

*1 USD = 33.02 baht

**1 hectare = 6.25 rai

1 rai = 0.16 hectare

***1 tonne = 1,000 kilogrammes

1 kilogramme = 0.01 tonne

Source: The Nation. (2020, Mar 23). *Rice prices increasing due to drought, Covid-19.*

Prices of Thai rice seem to continue increasing due to the worst drought and Covid-19 outbreak.

On 19 March 2020, Thailand's benchmark 5 percent broken rice were quoted at 480-505 USD per tonne from 470-495 USD per tonne last week. This is the sixth consecutive weekly rise. The main factor of increasing rice prices is market concerning over supply shortage from an ongoing drought. Meanwhile, some millers

are stockpiling rice as the domestic concern rises over food shortage, in case of the Covid-19 gets worse.

Source: Reuters. (2020, Mar 20). *RPT-Asia Rice-Thai, Vietnam rates jump as virus spread raises supply concerns.*

Viet Nam

Vietnamese rice prices increase due to low supply in the market.

This week, the rate for Vietnamese 5 percent broken rice rose to 410 USD per tonne, which is the highest since November 2018, from 400-405 USD per tonne a week earlier. The domestic supplies are thin, while the exporters are facing the difficulties in securing rice for their contracts. The farmers are not selling rice as fearing of Covid-19 outbreak will extend for a long time. However, the Vietnamese government will ensure an annual rice output of 22 million tonnes.

Source: Reuters. (2020, Mar 20). *RPT-Asia Rice-Thai, Vietnam rates jump as virus spread raises supply concerns.*

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