



WEEKLY UPDATE ON ASEAN PLUS THREE RICE SITUATIONS

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Cambodia

The Agricultural and Rural Development Bank (ARDB) will consider increasing a special rice loan plan for Cambodia.

The ARDB of Cambodia has agreed to assess the feasibility of the request from the Cambodia Rice Federation (CRF) to increase the scope of the special loan scheme for rice millers to buy paddy during the upcoming harvest season. According to the CRF, the CRF members are lacking in funds for purchasing paddy from farmers to hit the 2020's rice export target of 800,000 tonnes, which require additional budget of about 80 - 100 million USD. Apart from proposing the additional special loan, the CRF also asked the ARDB to extend the loan payment period to 12 months, as aiming to help rice millers.

Source: Phnom Penh Post. (2020, Aug 27). *ARDB to assess rice loan plans.*

Thailand

A new rice strategy is expected to halve production costs and boost yields.

According to the Minister of the Ministry of Commerce, the new rice strategy aims to secure Thailand's status as the global leader in rice production, marketing and innovation. The core of this plan is to reduce production costs for farmers from the current 6,000 baht (191 USD)

per rai (0.16 hectare) to less than 3,000 baht (96 USD) per rai within five years. Under the plan, four areas will be covered, including the domestic market, the international market, production, and process innovation. The marketing will focus on giving information to consumers while a strategy to balance domestic needs with the international demand will concentrate on developing the soft rice varieties, as aiming to raise the country's competitiveness in rice exports. However, this guideline will be presented to the National Rice Policy and Management Committee and then will be sent to the cabinet for approval.

*1 USD = 31.39 THB

**1 hectare = 6.25 rai

1 rai = 0.16 hectare

Source: Nation. (2020, Aug 28). *Thailand's new rice strategy aims to halve production costs, boost yields.*

Viet Nam

A Vietnamese company will export the first batch of rice to the European Union (EU) with zero percent of the tariff.

The Trung An High-tech Farming Joint Stock Company, based in the Can Tho city in the Mekong Delta, is processing the packaging of the first batch of rice to be exported to the EU with zero percent tax under the EU-Viet Nam Free Trade Agreement, which came into force on 1 August 2020. Earlier, the company signed rice contracts with the three German companies to export a total of 3,000 tonnes of rice. Of which, 150 tonnes of each ST20 rice and jasmine rice will be shipped in this first shipment.

Source: Bizhub. (2020, Aug 28). *Can Tho to export first batch of rice to EU with zero tariff.*

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