



WEEKLY UPDATE ON ASEAN PLUS THREE RICE SITUATIONS

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Indonesia

The government is urged to rethink the plan to import 1 million tonnes of rice.

Deputy Chief of House Commission IV urged the government to reconsider the plan to import 1 million tonnes of rice because it could lead to a drastic drop in domestic prices of unhusked rice. Even though the government purchase price of unhusked rice was set at 4,400 rupiahs (0.31 USD) per kilogramme, the current price fell below the set price, especially in Blora, Kendal and Ngawi, which were quoted at 3,300 rupiahs (0.23 USD) per kilogramme, 3,600 rupiahs (0.25 USD) per kilogramme, and 3,400 rupiahs (0.24 USD) per kilogramme, respectively.

*1 USD = 14,379.50 rupiahs

Source: Phnom Penh Post. (2021, Mar 14). *Lawmaker Urges Govt to Rethink Plan to Import Rice*

Malaysia

Pulut Legenda glutinous rice will become a signature product of Langkawi.

Glutinous rice, known as Pulut Legenda, will be Langkawi island's signature product when it enters the market. According to the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industries, the project of planting the glutinous rice has been carried for two years with a budget of 20 million ringgit (4.9 million USD) allocated by the government. The objective is to increase the income of participating farmers. Currently, the project covered 540 hectares of farmland and involved 326 participants, who are members

of the Pertubuhan Peladang Kawasan Langkawi.

*1 USD = 4.11 ringgit

Source: Bernama. (2021, Mar 13). *Legenda glutinous rice to be signature product of Langkawi.*

Thailand

Thailand decides to sign the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for rice trading with Indonesia.

According to the Ministry of Commerce, Thailand will sign the MOU with Indonesia in the last week of March 2021, aiming to sell rice under the government-to-government (G2G) deal. The MOU will cover no more than one million tonnes of 15 - 20 percent white rice for four years. However, rice sales will depend on the rice production of the two countries and the world rice price. Over the past five years, there was no G2G rice deal between Thailand and Indonesia since Thailand exported a total of 925,000 tonnes of rice under the G2G deal under the previous agreement from 2012 - 2016.

Source: Bangkok Post. (2021, Mar 11). *Thailand and Indonesia to ink rice MOU.*

Viet Nam

Viet Nam will export 50,000 tonnes of rice to Bangladesh under the Direct Procurement Method (DPM).

The Government of Bangladesh has agreed in principle to a proposal of importing 50,000 tonnes of white rice from the Southern Food Cooperation in Viet Nam under the DPM. Concurrently, the proposals to purchase 150,000 tonnes of rice each from India and Thailand have approved in principle. A total of 350,000 tonnes of rice purchasing is expected to meet emergency purposes. Besides, the price of import rice will be negotiated by Bangladesh ambassadors in Viet Nam, Thailand and India.

Source: Vietnam News Agency. (2021, Mar 11). *Bangladesh approves proposal to import rice from Vietnam.*

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