



WEEKLY UPDATE ON ASEAN PLUS THREE RICE SITUATIONS

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Cambodia

The drought-hit farmers in Kampot province receive emergency water assistance to secure their crops.

Kampot provincial authorities have pumped water to help 204 farmer families rescue their rice fields as the 10-day drought had affected 195 hectares of rice fields in five villages of Kampong Trach district, including Prey Pruos, Derm Svay, Leak Chea, Koh Ta Kov and Prek Kroes. Also, the district governor requested localities and relevant specialists and departments to continue their cooperation to monitor the situation as well as pump water into needed rice fields promptly. The Ministry of Water Resources and Meteorology forecasts that there could be rainfall in the next few days but the amount will be insufficient to secure rice crops.

Source: Phnom Penh Post. (2021, Jul 5). *Kampot assists drought-hit rice farmers with emergency water.*

Thailand

Thailand strike to boost the country's rice export amid the sales plummeting in the first half of 2021.

According to the Thai Rice Exporters Association (TREA), Thailand exported only 2.2 million tonnes of rice worth 1,382 billion USD in the first half of 2021. The figures showed a drop of 21.03 percent in volume and 28.14 percent in value year-on-year. The country's rice export has continuously declined in many markets with the same problem for the past ten years, including high rice prices and a lack of rice variety to cope with demand in the market. Recently, there was still the problem of rising freight rates affecting export costs. To boost rice sales, the Ministry of Commerce (MOC) has joined hands with the TREA to push three main rice exports as well as accelerate the government-to-government (G2G) deals. Earlier, the MOC had negotiated an additional 20,000 tonnes of G2G white rice export to China. The ministry also plans to negotiate for the sale of G2G rice under the memorandum of understanding signed with Bangladesh and Indonesia.

Source: The Nation. (2021, Jul 5). *Uphill task to achieve Thai rice export target as sales plunge in first half.*

The range of Thai rice prices shrinks due to the flat demand in the market.

Prices of Thai 5 percent broken rice narrowed to 420-422 USD per tonne from 420-430 USD per tonne a week earlier, the lowest levels since late 2019. The demand has been flat because rates for Thai rice variety remain higher than competitors. The high freight costs have also kept the prices high, caused difficulties for exporters to sell their rice, said the local traders.

Source: Business Recorder. (2021, Jul 2). *Asia rice: Lockdown sparks panic buying in BD.*

Viet Nam

Prices of Vietnamese rice decrease as the exporters cut prices for the competitiveness over Thailand and India.

Rates for Vietnamese 5 percent broken rice fell to 470-475 USD per tonne from 478-482 USD per tonne last week. Local exporters have cut their offered price to compete with exporters from Thailand and India, according to a local trader. Besides, the rapid spread of the Covid-19 infections in southern Viet Nam is hampering rice transportation. The government's data showed that the country's rice export in the first half of this year is estimated to fall by 14.8 percent from the same period last year.

Source: Business Recorder. (2021, Jul 2). *Asia rice: Lockdown sparks panic buying in BD.*

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