



WEEKLY UPDATE ON ASEAN PLUS THREE RICE SITUATIONS

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Malaysia

Collaboration with agricultural land developers is promoted with the hope of reducing dependency on rice imports.

According to the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industries (MAFI), collaboration with the government's selected leading companies is expected to improve Malaysian rice production and reduce dependency on imported agricultural products. Agricultural land developers have signed a Memorandum of Collaboration, which is a part of the implementation of the Large-Scale Smart Paddy Field (Smart SBB) project, aiming to strengthen Malaysia's fragrant rice industry. Currently, Malaysia's self-sufficiency level for rice stands at 63 percent and it still depended on imported rice supplies mainly from Vietnam, Thailand, Cambodia, India and Pakistan. Therefore, MAFI intends to attract more private investments to make the rice industry more dynamic and competitive.

Source: New Straits Times. (2022, Mar 29). Agriculture land developers urged to join Smart SSB programme; and New Straits Times. (2022, March 29). FGV Holdings, Padiberas Nasional collaborates to strengthen fragrant rice industry.

Philippines

The 15 new developed rice varieties get a green light for commercial release.

The National Seed Industry Council has approved 15 new inbred rice varieties for commercial release. Of which, eight varieties were developed by the Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice), while the remaining seven varieties were bred by the International Rice Research Institute. They include varieties for irrigated lowland, rainfed lowland, pigmented non-glutinous, and zinc-biofortified. Farmers are expected to have more options to choose rice varieties that suit their farm's conditions. The varieties will be introduced to farmers through techno-demo farms under the various extension programmes of the Department of Agriculture-PhilRice and its branch stations.

Source: Philippine News Agency. (2022, Mar 28). *15 New inbred rice varieties get nod for commercial release.*

Thailand

The baht depreciation drives down Thai rice prices this week.

Rates for Thai 5 percent broken rice fell to 408-412 USD per tonne from 410-428 USD per tonne last week. The weak baht is leading to competitive prices and boosting sales. Thai Rice Exporters Association expects more than seven million tonnes of rice to be exported in 2022, exceeding the set target. However, logistics remained a challenge as there were insufficient ships and high freight rates, said the traders.

Source: Reuters. (2022, Mar 24). *RPT-ASIA RICE-Weak local currencies rein in India, Thai export rates.*

Viet Nam

Viet Nam's rice prices seem stable amid an increase in rice supplies during the harvest season in the Mekong Delta.

Prices of Vietnamese 5 percent broken rice remained unchanged from last week at 415-420 USD per tonne. Traders were buying rice from farmers to push domestic rice prices

down, while rice production is building up amid a harvest in Mekong Delta, said a trader based in Ho Chi Minh City. Referring to the preliminary shipping data, there are 232,000 tonnes of rice to be loaded at Ho Chi Minh City port in March 2022 with most of the orders heading to the Philippines and Africa.

Source: Reuters. (2022, Mar 24). *RPT-ASIA RICE-Weak local currencies rein in India, Thai export rates.*

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