

Required Report: Required - Public Distribution

Date: June 05, 2026

Report Number: TH2026-0015

Report Name: Grain and Feed Monthly

Country: Thailand

Post: Bangkok

Report Category: Grain and Feed

Prepared By: Mana-anya Iemsam-arng, Agricultural Specialist

Approved By: Mariya Rakhovskaya

Report Highlights:

Thailand's rice exports fell year-on-year between January and April 2026 as the Middle East conflict halted shipments to Middle East markets. Key African and Asian markets partially offset the shortfall in demand. Although Thailand officially entered the 2026 rainy season on May 15, national rainfall through May 31, 2026, remained below the 30-year average. The Royal Irrigation Department reported the Chao Phraya basin usable water storage at 36 percent capacity and a risk of a June-July dry spell, particularly for farmers outside irrigation zones.

Market Tone

Thai Customs Department reported Thailand exported 2.2 million metric ton (MMT) of rice between January–April 2026 valued at \$1.25 billion, down 12 percent from the same period last year largely due to inability to ship to Iraq and other customers in the Middle East. On the other hand, Malaysia, the Philippines, South Africa, Angola, and Mozambique increased Thai rice imports as El Niño-driven food security concerns continue to underpin additional demand from major importing nations. With domestic and export demand slowing down, relevant Thai government agencies and rice industry stakeholders are accelerating longer-term competitiveness measures, including promotion of high-value and low-carbon rice, and developing higher-yielding varieties.

A likely longer-term impact of the Middle East conflict is felt through input costs for Thai rice production. The Thai Customs Department reported that nitrogenous fertilizer (Harmonized System (HS) 3102) import values averaged \$389/MT in January–April 2026, up 3 percent from the same period in 2025, a modest year-on-year rise that understates the supply shock, as the total nitrogenous fertilizer import volume (816,387 MT) fell by 20 percent compared to the same period in 2025. The fertilizer supply disruption is most visible in imports from key Middle East suppliers: Saudi Arabia, historically Thailand's largest urea source, collapsed 64 percent, Qatar and Bahrain fell to zero, and Oman dropped 85 percent. Thailand partially offset these losses by doubling Chinese nitrogenous fertilizer purchases and expanding fertilizer import volumes from Malaysia and Brunei, though at significantly higher prices.

The Royal Irrigation Department (RID) under the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives (MOAC) officially announced that Thailand entered the 2026 rainy season on May 15, with the overall seasonal rainfall forecast around 10 percent below the 30-year average with one to two tropical storms projected to affect the country. RID reported on May 31, 2026, that the cumulative national rainfall was 19 percent below the 30-year average, with the primary rice production zones in the Central Plain and Eastern regions down 29 and 34 percent, respectively. As of May 31, 2026, the total reservoir storage had 56 percent capacity with usable water at just 36 percent, only marginally above 2025 levels, while the four key Chao Phraya basin dams carried 36 percent usable reservoir, constraining early-season water allocation. A potential dry spell from June to July poses additional risk, particularly for farmland outside irrigation zones, before rainfall will likely recover in August and September. As of May 27, 2026, MY 2026/27 main-crop rice planting reached 4.36 million rai (0.7 million hectares) nationwide, with RID continuing to advise farmers in most regions to pace transplanting with actual rainfall availability.

Table 1: Average Export Prices (FOB) for Various Grades of Thai Rice (\$/MT)

| Grade | Apr 16 | Apr 21 | Apr 28 | May 5 | May 12 |
|--------------------|--------|--------|--------|-------|--------|
| F WR 100 B | 1,135 | 1,135 | 1,217 | 1,213 | 1,211 |
| WR 100 B | 394 | 392 | 401 | 401 | 413 |
| PB 100% | 389 | 385 | 392 | 390 | 405 |
| PB 5% | 381 | 381 | 387 | 386 | 400 |
| WR 5% | 379 | 377 | 386 | 386 | 398 |
| WR 25% | 377 | 376 | 381 | 380 | 391 |
| Exchange rate \$1= | 31.79 | 31.89 | 32.26 | 32.59 | 32.19 |

Sources: Average actual prices as shared by exporters. Exchange rate: Bangkok of Thailand

Table 2: Weekly Rice Exports (Excluding Hom Mali Fragrant Rice)

| Week Ending | Quantity | 4-WK AVG | Year to Date | Year to Date in 2025 | % Change from Last Year |
|---------------------|----------|----------|--------------|----------------------|-------------------------|
| | (MT) | (MT) | (TMT) | (TMT) | (%) |
| Mar 8, 2026 | 58,796 | 86,097 | 761 | 1,032 | (26.3) |
| Mar 15, 2026 | 75,261 | 78,282 | 836 | 1,165 | (28.2) |
| Mar 22, 2026 | 111,055 | 85,961 | 947 | 1,285 | (26.3) |
| Mar 29, 2026 | 116,332 | 90,361 | 1,064 | 1,412 | (24.6) |
| Apr 5, 2026 | 111,392 | 103,510 | 1,175 | 1,568 | (25.1) |
| Apr 12, 2026 | 110,949 | 112,432 | 1,286 | 1,700 | (24.4) |
| Apr 19, 2026 | 42,546 | 95,305 | 1,328 | 1,774 | (25.1) |
| Apr 26, 2026 | 97,892 | 90,695 | 1,426 | 1,963 | (27.4) |
| May 3, 2026 | 94,792 | 86,545 | 1,499 | 2,099 | (28.6) |
| May 10, 2026 | 96,963 | 83,048 | 1,600 | 2,222 | (28.0) |

Source: Board of Trade of Thailand

End of report.

Attachments:

No Attachments