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GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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Date: 12/14/2011

GAIN Report Number: TH1155

Thailand

Rice Price - Weekly

Weekly Rice Price Update

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Report Highlights:

TH1155 Domestic and export prices declined significantly by 2-7 percent due to lack of new enquiries and the weakening of the Thai baht to 31.1 baht/\$. The cultivation of off-season rice crop has begun with anticipated bumper production of 10.0 million tons of paddy.

Post:
Bangkok

Market Tone

Table 1: Export Prices (FOB) for various grades of Thai rice (USD/MT), Week ending Dec. 13, 2011

Quality	Exporter Observations							Period Average	
	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6	#7	CUR.	PRV.
F WR 100 B	1,105	-	1,100	-	1,070	1,015	-	1,073	1,093
WR 100 B	615	-	620	-	615	595	620	613	624
PB 100%	595	-	595	-	600	590	600	596	603
PB 5%	585	-	590	-	595	585	595	590	595
WR 5%	600	-	600	-	600	580	610	598	610
WR 10%	595	-	-	-	590	575	-	587	603
WR 15%	590	-	-	-	585	570	-	582	598
WR 25%	585	-	-	-	580	565	-	577	592
WR 35%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
A1 SUP	555	-	-	-	550	550	-	552	562
A1 SPEC	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Exchange rate: 31.1 baht/U.S.\$

Source: Average actual prices received from exporters

Domestic and export prices declined significantly by 2-7 percent due to lack of new enquiries and the weakening of the Thai baht to 31.1 baht/\$, compared to 30.8 baht/\$ in the previous week. However, some exporters are reluctant to lower their quotations due to the concern over current exchange rate volatility. Meanwhile, the cultivation of off-season rice crop has begun in the lower Northern and most of the Central Plain regions as floodwaters in rice growing areas receded. The harvest will likely begin in early March 2012. The government expects bumper off-season rice production of 10.0 million tons of paddy (6-7 million tons milled equivalent).

As for the Paddy Pledging Program, 2,941,905 tons of paddy have been pledged since the program started on October 7, which accounts for 13.4 percent of the expected total production of 21-22 million tons of main-crop paddy, and an increase of nearly 50.0 percent from the previous week. The program has been aggressive pledging since mid-November when the harvest of the main-crop paddy began in the Northeastern Region, and also due to an increase in the number of rice mills participating in the program after the government allowed rice mills from the Central Plain to pledge rice from this region.

The Northeast Region accounts for half of the total main-crop production, and consists mostly of fragrant and glutinous rice. In addition, farmers in the North and Northeast Region are eligible for the on-farm storage, effective December 1, 2011 – February 29, 2012. The target of the on-farm storage is 1.0 million tons of paddy, especially for glutinous rice. Post expects the program will be able to absorb 10.0 million tons of paddy (6-7 million tons milled equivalent) of MY2011/12 main crop production, particularly for white rice and fragrant rice.

Unit: Metric Ton							
Region	Number of Farmer	Amount of Paddy					
		Fragrant Rice			White Rice	Glutinous Rice	Total
		Honmai	Provincial	Pathumthani			
North	175,899	170,215	224,726	2,528	817,170	73,937	1,288,576
Northeast	244,052	881,490	-	3	17,321	13,937	912,751
Central	87,151	-	48,157	9,753	682,667	-	740,577
Total	507,102	1,051,705	272,883	12,284	1,517,158	87,874	2,941,904

Note: As of October 7 - December 11, 2011

Source: Department of Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce

Rice Export Update

Unofficial rice exports (excluding fragrant rice) for December 5-11, 2011 totaled 56,254 tons, down 24,820 tons from the previous week, and down 17,586 tons from the four week moving average 73,840 tons. Exports of white rice and parboiled rice during January 1 – December 11, 2011 totaled 8,088,068 tons, up 32.3 percent from 6,113,493 tons in the previous year.

According to the Department of Foreign trade, Ministry of Commerce, total rice exports (including fragrant rice) during January 1 – December 2, 2011 amounted to 10,162,108 tons, up 26.1 percent from 8,061,203 tons in the previous year.

Table 3: Weekly rice exports (excluding fragrant rice)					
WEEK ENDING	QUANTITY	4-WK.AVG	YEAR TO DATE	YEAR AGO	YEAR TO DATE AS % OF LAST YEAR
	(MT)	(MT)	(TMT)	(TMT)	(%)
Sep 25	144,852	142,710	7,074	4,355	62.4
Oct 2	161,057	145,941	7,235	4,521	60.0
Oct 9	136,317	143,831	7,371	4,658	58.3
Oct 16	94,870	134,274	7,466	4,808	55.3
Oct 23	88,685	120,232	7,555	4,969	52.0
Oct 30	85,087	101,240	7,640	5,143	48.5
Nov 6	74,610	85,813	7,711	5,302	45.5
Nov 13	81,265	82,412	7,793	5,471	42.4
Nov 20	79,201	80,041	7,874	5,643	39.5
Nov 27	78,832	78,477	7,951	5,796	37.2
Dec 4	81,073	80,093	8,032	5,961	34.7
Dec 11	56,254	73,840	8,088	6,113	32.3

Note on data: Export figures since March 22, 2002, do not include fragrant rice. The authority to report fragrant rice exports was moved from the Thai Board of Trade to the Ministry of Commerce's Office of Commodity Standards, which does not release official fragrant rice export data. FAS/REK will report only official export numbers from the Board of Trade for non-fragrant and from the Office of Commodity Standards for fragrant rice when available, but the reader should bear in mind the difference between the data.

Source: Board of Trade of Thailand

Table 4: Weekly private registered rice export sales			
Movement (MT)	Nov 21-25 (Revised)	Nov 28 - Dec 2 (Revised)	Dec 5-9 (Preliminary)
Weekly sales	22,606	102,214	28,942
4 week sum	47,410	146,130	159,629
4 week mov. avg.	11,928	36,533	39,907
Year-to-date sales	8,484,354	8,586,568	8,615,510

End of report

