

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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Thailand

Rice Price - Weekly

Weekly Rice Price Update

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Report Highlights:

TH3029 – Domestic and export prices declined again as millers continue to sell their old-crop rice stocks. The MY2012/13 Off-Season Paddy Pledging Program will likely begin on April 1, 2013 as the Thai Cabinet is expected to approve the program.

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Market Tone

Table 1: Export Prices (FOB) for various grades of Thai rice (USD/MT), Week ending March 18, 2013

Quality	Exporter Observations							Period Average	
	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6	#7	CUR.	PRV.
F WR 100 B	1,180	-	1,100	-	1,080	1,125	-	1,121	1,118
WR 100 B	585	-	575	-	575	550	560	571	574
PB 100%	570	-	575	-	575	555	560	567	570
PB 5%	565	-	570	-	570	550	555	562	565
WR 5%	570	-	565	-	565	540	550	558	560
WR 10%	-	-	-	-	-	537	-	537	537
WR 15%	-	-	-	-	-	536	-	536	536
WR 25%	-	-	-	-	-	535	-	535	535
WR 35%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
A1 SUP	-	-	-	-	530	530	-	530	535
A1 SPEC	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Exchange rate: 29.2 baht/U.S.\$

Source: Average actual prices received from exporters

Domestic and export prices declined from the previous week as millers continue to sell their rice stocks from previous harvests. Trade sources report that foreign buyers are purchasing Vietnamese and Indian white rice, which are approximately \$140 per metric ton (MT) below Thai rice prices.

The Thai Cabinet is likely to approve the MY2012/13 Off-Season Rice Paddy Pledging Program this week. The move comes on the heels of last week's National Rice Policy Committee's decision to keep intervention prices unchanged at 13,800 baht/MT to 15,000 baht/MT (\$460/MT to \$500/MT), which is 30 to 40 percent above current domestic farm gate prices. The program will cost approximately 100 billion (\$3.3 billion) for the pledging target of 7 million metric tons of rice paddy. The state-run Bank for Agriculture and Agricultural Cooperatives (BAAC) expects the program to begin on April 1, 2013 provided that the government sells enough rice stocks to finance the program.

The current MY2012/13 Main-Crop Paddy Pledging Program has preliminarily received pledges of approximately 10.9 million metric tons (7.2 million metric tons milled equivalent, as of March 14, 2013), which increased 60 percent from the same period last year. The pledges consist of 6.6 million metric tons of white rice paddy, 3.7 million metric tons of fragrant rice paddy, and 0.6 million metric tons of glutinous rice paddy. The BAAC has already provided loans to farmers totaling an estimated 136 billion baht (\$4.5 billion) and expects to dish out another 64 billion baht (\$2.1 billion) in additional loans.

Rice Export Update

Unofficial rice exports (excluding fragrant rice) for March 11-17, 2013 totaled 67,626 metric tons, down 9,805 metric tons from the previous week, and down 15,527 metric tons from the four- week moving average of 83,153 metric tons. Exports of white and parboiled rice from January 1 through March 17, 2013 totaled 915,220 metric tons, down 6.6 percent (980,368 metric tons) from the same period last year.

Total rice exports (including fragrant rice) from January 1 through February 28, 2013 amounted to 1,050,573 metric tons, down 0.5 percent from the same period last year.

Table 2: 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)	(%)
Dec 31, 2012	105,594	84,368	5,005	8,291	-39.6
Jan 6, 2013	53,439	-	53	44	20.5
Jan 13	94,996	-	148	150	-1.1
Jan 20	87,672	-	236	204	15.8
Jan 27	102,573	84,670	339	272	24.7
Feb 3	94,707	94,987	422	341	23.6
Feb 10	88,695	93,412	510	446	14.5
Feb 17	72,171	89,537	583	561	3.9
Feb 24	97,713	88,322	680	697	-2.4
Mar 3	89,843	87,105	770	784	-1.7
Mar 10	77,429	84,289	848	869	-2.5
Mar 17	67,626	83,153	915	980	-6.6

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

End of report