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GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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Thailand

Rice Price - Weekly

Weekly Rice Price Update

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Report Highlights:

TH4027 – Domestic and export prices declined one percent due to the sales of government rice stocks and the weakening of the Thai baht. The government will issue another tender of 233,723 metric tons of rice via the AFET on March 26.

Post:
Bangkok

Author Defined:
Market Tone

Table 1: Export Prices (FOB) for various grades of Thai rice (USD/MT), Week ending March 24, 2014

Quality	Exporter Observations							Period Average	
	=1	=2	=3	=4	=5	=6	=7	CUR.	PRV
FWR 100 B	945	-	975	-	970	950	-	960	968
WR 100 B	435	-	415	-	400	390	415	411	415
PB 100%	445	-	445	-	425	410	415	428	433
PB 5%	440	-	440	-	420	405	410	423	428
WR 5%	425	-	395	-	380	385	395	396	399
WR 10%	-	-	-	-	-	380	-	380	380
WR 15%	-	-	-	-	-	375	-	375	375
WR 25%	-	-	-	-	-	355	-	355	355
WR 35%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
A1 SUP	-	-	-	-	310	315	-	313	313
A1 SPEC	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Exchange rate: 32.5 baht/US\$

Source: Average actual prices received from exporters

Domestic and export prices declined approximately one percent from the previous week due to the sales of government rice stocks and the weakening of the Thai baht (32.5 baht/US\$ compared to 32 baht/US\$ in the previous week). On March 19, 2014 the government conducted a tender of 244,454 metric tons of white and fragrant rice through the Futures Exchange of Thailand (AFET). Seven exporters and millers participated in the tender, which consisted of 103,522 metric tons of 5% grade white rice and 2,000 metric tons of 100% B grade fragrant white rice. The bids were 20-30 percent below market prices. The government is expected to issue another tender of 233,723 metric tons via the AFET on March 26, consisting of 183,139 metric tons of 5% grade white rice and 50,584 metric tons of fragrant white rice from MY2012/13 and MY2013/14 rice stocks. The revenues generated by these bids will be provided to the Bank for Agricultural and Agricultural Cooperatives (BAAC) to finance the MY2013/14 Main-Crop Rice Paddy Pledging Program.

As of March 23, 2014, the government has reportedly received approximately 11.6 million metric tons of main-crop rice paddy (7.7 million metric milled equivalent – Table 2) under the MY2013/14 Main-Crop Rice Paddy Pledging Program. The BAAC has reportedly loaned approximately 72 billion baht (\$2.2 billion) to 0.7 million rice farm households. The program is being financed through the revenue generated from the sales of government rice stocks.

Table 2: Results of the MY2013/14 Paddy Pledging Program (Main Crop: October 1, 2013 - February 28, 2014), as of March 23, 2014

Region	Number of Farmers (Million)	Amount of Rice Paddy (Million Metric Ton)					
		Fragrant Rice			White Rice	Glutinous Rice	Total
		Homali	Provincial	Pathumthani			
North	0.6	0.4	0.4	0.0	3.6	0.4	4.8
Northeast	1.0	3.3	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.2	3.7
Central Plain	0.3	0.0	0.1	0.1	3.0	0.0	3.2
South	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total	1.9	3.7	0.5	0.1	6.8	0.6	11.6

Source: Ministry of Commerce

Rice Export Update

Unofficial rice exports (excluding premium white and fragrant rice) for March 17-23, 2014 totaled 76,213 metric tons, up 10,112 metric tons from the previous week and up 4,020 metric tons from the four-week moving average of 72,193 metric tons (Table 3). Rice exports from January 1 – March 23, 2014 totaled 753,172 metric tons, down 24 percent from the same period last year.

According to the Thai Customs Department, the official rice exports (including premium white rice and fragrant rice) during January 1 – February 28, 2014 totaled 1.4 million metric tons, up around 40 percent from the same period last year. Exports are being driven by the sales of government's rice stocks.

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)	(%)
Jan 12	49,727	58,367	72	141	-49.2
Jan 19	67,805	51,357	140	232	-39.8
Jan 26	47,038	46,650	187	338	-44.7
Feb 2	65,878	57,612	252	416	-39.4
Feb 9	68,623	62,336	321	509	-36.9
Feb 16	63,400	61,235	385	578	-33.5
Feb 23	79,897	69,450	464	673	-31.0
Mar 2	83,611	73,883	548	766	-28.5
Mar 9	62,847	72,439	611	847	-27.9
Mar 16	66,101	73,114	677	912	-25.7
Mar 25	76,213	72,193	753	988	-23.8

*Note on data: * Export figures since March 22, 2002, do not include fragrant rice. In addition, starting May 1, 2013, the data will not include 100% - 25% grade white rice exports. The reporting authority 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 and white rice (100%-25% grades) export data. FAS/BKK will report only official export numbers available from the Board of Trade of Thailand. The reader should bear in mind the difference between the data.*

Source: Board of Trade of Thailand

End of report