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GAIN Report

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Weekly Rice Price Update

Report Categories:

Grain and Feed

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Report Highlights:

TH9198 Despite steady domestic prices at high levels, export prices declined slightly due to the Thai baht weakening to 33.2 baht/\$. Thai rice exporters reportedly received some enquiries from foreign buyers who are normally customers of Vietnam.

Market Tone

Table 1: Export Prices (FOB) for various grades of Thai rice (USD/MT), Week ending Dec. 28, 2009

Quality	Exporter Observations							Period Average	
	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6	#7	CUR.	PRV.
F WR 100 B	1,000	-	990	-	1,000	960	-	988	990
WR 100 B	585	-	620	-	610	600	580	599	600
PB 100%	600	-	630	-	610	600	600	608	611
PB 5%	590	-	620	-	600	595	590	599	603
WR 5%	555	-	600	-	600	575	570	580	581
WR 10%	545	-	590	-	590	565	-	573	574
WR 15%	520	-	580	-	-	545	-	548	550
WR 25%	490	-	530	-	-	505	-	508	510
WR 35%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
A1 SUP	380	-	-	-	375	435	-	397	400
A1 SPEC	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Exchange rate: 33.20 baht/U.S.\$

Source: Average actual prices received from exporters

Despite steady domestic prices at high levels, export prices declined slightly due to the Thai baht weakening to 33.2 baht/\$ from 33.0 baht/\$ the previous week. However, some quotations remained unchanged at 33.0 baht/\$ as the exchange rate is still volatile. Thai rice exporters reportedly received some enquiries from foreign buyers who are normally customers of Vietnam. These enquiries reflected tighter Vietnamese rice supplies driven by its large contracts of approximately 1.3 million tons of 25% grade white rice under the Philippines' tenders. Thailand will likely provide 0.5 million tons under these contracts. Thai rice exporters are fulfilling these contracts, particularly for the first shipment in January 2010 at approximately \$536/MT, FOB. Domestic prices were unchanged at high levels from the previous weeks as the government stock release plan remained uncertain.

Table 2: Price Insurance Scheme for MY 2009/2010 rice crop

	Rice paddy				
	Fragrant rice (Hommati)	Provincial fragrant rice	Pathum fragrant rice	Glutinous rice	White rice
1. Eligible tonnage (ton/household) ^{a/}	14	16	25	16	25
2. Insured prices (Baht/ton) ^{a/}	15,300	14,300	10,000	9,500	10,000
3. Benchmark prices (Baht/ton) ^{b/}					
Oct. 1-15	14,986	13,899	9,896	7,523	8,806
Oct. 16-31	14,940	13,860	8,940	7,470	8,466
Nov. 1-15	14,840	13,729	9,175	7,680	8,389
Nov. 16-30	13,002	12,620	10,501	8,473	8,914
Dec. 1-15	13,720	13,388	10,565	9,591	9,242
Dec. 16-31	14,895	14,503	12,072	11,533	10,212
4. Compensation (1-2), (Baht/ton)					
Oct. 1-15	314	401	104	1,977	1,194
Oct. 16-31	360	440	1,060	2,030	1,534
Nov. 1-15	460	571	825	1,820	1,611
Nov. 16-30	2,298	1,680	-	1,027	1,086
Dec. 1-15	1,580	912	-	-	758
Dec. 16-31	405	-	-	-	-
5. Market prices (Baht/ton)					
Oct. 1-15	n.a.	n.a.	8,500	n.a.	8,600
Oct. 16-31	13,675	n.a.	8,575	n.a.	8,150
Nov. 1-15	14,075	14,000	9,775	8,800	8,525
Nov. 16-30	14,577	14,000	10,550	8,967	9,600
Dec. 1-15	15,125	14,000	12,050	11,500	10,738
Dec. 16-31 ^{c/}	15,213	14,000	12,258	11,750	10,498

Note:

^{a/} Cabinet approval on Sep. 22, 2009

^{b/} The benchmark prices will be published twice a month on the 1st and 16th, based on average historical wholesale prices of the last 15 days in Bangkok. These prices are set by the Subcommittee on Benchmark Price Determination, chaired by the Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Commerce.

^{c/} As of Dec. 28, 2009

Rice Export Update

Unofficial exports (excluding fragrant rice) for December 21-27, 2009 totaled 126,910 tons, up 6,456 tons from the previous week, and up 15,797 tons from the four-week moving average of 111,113 tons. Exports of white rice during January 1 – December 27, 2009 totaled 5,837,297 tons, as compared with 7,411,544 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 17, 2009 amounted to 8,236,067 tons, down 15.5 percent from 9,747,592 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)	(%)
Oct 11	108,202	115,782	4,669	6,536	-28.5
Oct 18	102,396	105,849	4,771	6,692	-28.7
Oct 25	145,259	113,002	4,916	6,771	-27.4
Nov 1	114,220	117,520	5,030	6,827	-26.3
Nov 8	93,983	113,965	5,124	6,908	-25.8
Nov 15	112,300	116,441	5,237	6,997	-25.2
Nov 22	113,768	108,568	5,350	7,047	-24.1
Nov 29	75,104	98,789	5,426	7,101	-23.6
Dec 6	80,501	95,418	5,506	7,170	-23.2
Dec 13	116,586	96,490	5,623	7,258	-22.5
Dec 20	120,454	98,161	5,743	7,348	-21.8
Dec 27	126,910	111,113	5,870	7,453	-21.2

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/BKK 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)	Dec. 7-11	Dec. 14-18 (Revised)	Dec. 21-25
Weekly sales	115,601	115,015	76,581
4 week sum	402,845	467,231	458,158
4 week mov. avg.	100,711	116,808	114,540
Total weekly sales	6,024,642	6,139,657	6,216,238

End of report