



Voluntary Report - public distribution

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GAIN Report #TH3058

Thailand

Grain and Feed

Weekly Rice Price Update

2003

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Report Highlights:

Export prices increased slightly due mainly to a recovery of demand from African countries.

Includes PSD changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
Bangkok [TH1], TH

Indicative Price (Week Ending May 12):

Thailand: Export (FOB) Prices for various grades of rice (USD/M.T.)									
	Exporter Observations							Period Avg.	
	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6	#7	CUR.	PRV.
F WR 100 B	475	465	516	490	480	463	460	478	475
WR 100 B	205	205	206	207	205	206	201	205	202
PB 5%	189	195	196	197	194	201	192	195	192
WR 5%	198	200	201	203	200	199	196	200	195
WR 10%	193	195	199	199	196	192	191	195	192
WR 15%	189	190	194	192	193	185	186	190	188
WR 25%	181	183	189	182	182	178	181	182	179
WR 35%	177	178	187	180	177	171	176	178	175
A 1 SUP	142	147	143	145	145	143	144	144	143
A 1 SPEC	141	145	142	144	142	NQ	143	143	142
Source: Average actual prices received from exporters									

Market Tone

Export prices for most grades of rice increased slightly due mainly to a recovery in foreign demand, in particular African countries which were Thailand's largest rice importers (about 40 percent of total Thai rice exports in CY 2002). Trade sources reported that the market for Thai rice was quite active as rice supplies of major competitors like India and Vietnam gradually declined. Also the Thai Baht strengthened to 42.08 baht/U.S. dollar, as of May 19, 2003, as compared to last week's average of 42.41 baht/U.S. dollar.

The following are reported rice exports (as is basis):

WEEK ENDING	QUANTITY	4-WK AVG	YEAR TO DATE	YEAR AGO
	(MT)	(MT)	(TMT)	(TMT)
APR 13	70,447	80,181	1,148	1,957
APR 20	43,896	71,884	1,192	2,053
APR 27	124,576	84,348	1,317	2,194
MAY 4	86,059	81,244	1,403	2,318
MAY 11	50,278	76,202	1,453	2,439
MAY 18	70,274	83,197	1,525	2,579

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.

Unofficial exports for May 12-18, 2003, totaled 70,274 tons, up 19,996 tons from the previous week's total and down 12,923 tons from the four week moving average of 83197 tons. Exports during Jan 1- May 18, 2003, totaled 1,525 thousand tons, compared with 2,579 thousand tons (including fragrant rice) during the same period in 2002.

According to the Department of Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce, total rice exports (including fragrant rice) during Jan1 - Apr 30, 2003 amounted to 2,134,490 tons, down 5.2 percent from 2,250,929 tons during the same period in 2002.

Weekly Rice Sales

Private registered rice export sales for the period of Apr 28 - May 2, May 5-9, and May 12-16, 2003 are as follows:

Movement (MT)	Apr 28 - May 2	May 5-9	May 12-16
weekly sales	61,213	90,425	114,956
4 week sum	366,329	347,407	412,594
4 week mov avg.	91,582	86,852	103,149
Total weekly sales	1,567,467	1,657,892	1,772,848