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Thailand

Grain and Feed

Weekly Rice Price Update

2005

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Report Highlights:

Export prices remained under upward pressure in anticipation of new government intervention program for the coming crop.

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

Indicative Prices (Week Ending Aug. 22):

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	422	400	413	430	440	410	410	418	417
WR 100 B	290	289	293	288	289	288	285	289	288
PB 5%	281	287	287	285	287	286	280	285	285
WR 5%	285	284	287	283	283	282	280	283	283
WR 10%	280	276	282	281	281	279	275	279	278
WR 15%	270	273	277	278	270	270	270	273	271
WR 25%	258	261	269	276	260	255	265	263	261
WR 35%	256	-	-	271	258	253	260	260	258
A 1 SUP	214	217	222	216	220	215	215	217	216
A 1 SPEC	212	215	220	214	219	-	213	216	214

Source: Average actual prices received from exporters

Market Tone

Despite the recent government stock release, export prices for most grades of rice remained under upward pressure, as the Government is expected to continue the intervention program for MY 2005/06 crop, which will come onto the market in November. The intervention prices will likely be the same as in the previous year's levels, which are considered to be too high, given the official estimate of a bumper crop of around 21 million tons of paddy for 2005/06 main crop. In addition, current fluctuation of Thai baht resulted in around U.S.\$ 1/MT higher in offer prices. Also, the recent government stock release of 183,144 tons of white rice to Chiyaporn Rice Co., Ltd is just to fulfill the pending shipments to Iraq. This, in fact, could ease the tight supply situation, but it is not sufficient in boosting this year's rice exports to meet the official target of 8.5 million tons, as the prices remained too high for foreign buyers.

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

WEEK ENDING	QUANTITY	4-WK AVG	YEAR TO DATE	YEAR AGO
	(MT)	(MT)	(TMT)	(TMT)
JUL 3	107,829	104,676	2,722	3,664
JUL 10	92,405	95,725	2,815	3,831
JUL 17	101,983	93,016	2,917	4,009
JUL 24	83,854	96,518	3,000	4,201
JUL 31	79,477	89,430	3,080	4,400
AUG 7	90,466	88,945	3,170	4,545
AUG 14	93,909	86,927	3,264	4,669
AUG 21	98,165	90,504	3,362	4,793

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 (excluding fragrant rice) for Aug. 15-21, 2005 totaled 98,165 tons, up 4255 tons from the previous week's total and up 7,660 tons from the four-week moving average of 90,504 tons. Exports during Jan. 1 – Aug. 21, 2005 amounted to 3,362,448 tons, as compared with 4,793,027 tons in the previous year.

According to the Department of Foreign Trade, Ministry of Commerce, total rice exports (including fragrant rice) during Jan. 1 – Aug 17, 2005, amounted to 4,637,882 tons, down 23 percent from 6,026,203 tons in the previous year.

Weekly Rice Sales

Private registered rice export sales for the period of Aug. 1-5, Aug. 8-12, and Aug. 15-19, 2005 are as follows:

Movement (MT)	Aug. 1-5	Aug. 8-12	Aug. 15-19
weekly sales	79,049	98,965	126,357
4 week sum	407,574	377,809	422,684
4 week mov. avg.	101,894	94,452	105,671
Total weekly sales	3,288,963	3,387,928	3,514,285

End of Report.