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Thailand

Grain and Feed

Weekly Rice Price Update

2008

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Report Highlights:

Premium white and parboiled rice prices fell seven to ten percent from last week as foreign buyers continue to source Vietnamese rice. India's anticipated resumption of non-basmati rice exports could increase downward pressure on Thai rice prices. Despite this, the Thai Government will likely release 2.1 million tons of old-crop intervention stocks for exports by next month.

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

Indicative Prices (Week Ending Aug. 18):

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	810	-	-	-	850	800	-	820	853
WR 100 B	660	-	720	680	680	690	650	680	733
PB 5%	-	-	-	-	710	675	670	685	783
WR 5%	640	-	710	670	660	680	640	667	716
WR 10%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
WR 15%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
WR 25%	-	-	-	-	-	650	-	650	670
WR 35%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
A 1 SUP	405	-	-	-	480	430	450	441	489
A 1 SPEC	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Source: Average actual prices received from exporters, Exchange rate: 33.5 baht/U.S.\$

Market Tone

Export prices continued to decline from the previous week. Premium white rice and parboiled rice prices fell seven to ten percent from last week as foreign buyers continue to source Vietnamese rice which is reportedly offered \$120-\$170/MT lower than Thai premium white rice. India is expected to resume non-basmati rice sales next month, which could increase the downward pressure on Thai rice prices. Indian parboiled rice prices are anticipated to be \$200/MT less than Thai prices.

The Thai Government will likely release 2.1 million tons of old-crop intervention stocks for exports by next month. Currently the intervention stock of new crops (MY2007/08) is expected to increase to 1.5 million tons by the end of the program (September 30). To date, the program has bought 1.3 million tons of new-crop paddy. The harvest of new second-crop is almost completed.

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

WEEK ENDING	QUANTITY	4-WK AVG	YEAR TO DATE	YEAR AGO	YEAR TO DATE AS % OF LAST YEAR
	(MT)	(MT)	(TMT)	(TMT)	%
JUN 15	180,467	189,198	4,132	2,385	73.3
JUN 22	159,051	132,930	4,291	2,494	72.0
JUN 29	212,103	190,391	4,503	2,579	74.5
JUL 6	168,072	179,923	4,671	2,679	74.3
JUL 13	171,699	177,731	4,843	2,784	73.9
JUL 20	178,180	182,513	5,021	2,877	74.5
Jul 27	182,769	175,180	5,204	2,980	74.6
Aug 3	101,488	158,534	5,305	3,062	73.3
Aug 10	122,027	146,116	5,427	3,165	71.4
Aug 17	125,268	132,888	5,553	3,254	70.6

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/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 11-17, 2008 totaled 125,268 up 3,241 from the previous week, and down 7,620 from the four-week moving average of 132,888 tons. Exports during Jan. 1 – Aug 17, 2008 totaled 5,592,695 tons, as compared with 3,253,968 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 8, 2008, amounted to 7,035,591 tons, up 43.6 percent from 4,899,505 tons in the previous year.

End of Report.