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Thailand

Grain and Feed

Weekly Rice Price Update

2009

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Report Highlights:

Export prices were mixed this week as several traders and exporters remain closed for Chinese New Year until the middle of this week. Export prices of white and parboiled rice will likely be under downward pressure by the end of the first quarter when new-crop Vietnamese and Indian rice will reach the market. The current intervention program will likely absorb only 5-6 million tons, as compared to the previous target of 8 million tons as current program prices are growing less attractive while world and domestic market prices increase.

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

Indicative Prices (Week Ending Jan. 27):

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	-	-	-	-	860	830	-	845	868
WR 100 B	-	-	-	-	635	585	-	610	606
PB 5%	-	-	-	-	635	650	-	643	620
WR 5%	-	-	-	-	615	555	-	585	585
WR 10%	-	-	-	-	-	548	-	548	559
WR 15%	-	-	-	-	-	520	-	520	520
WR 25%	-	-	-	-	-	460	-	460	482
WR 35%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
A 1 SUP	-	-	-	-	320	325	-	323	330
A 1 SPEC	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Source: Average actual prices received from exporters,
Exchange rate: 34.7 baht/U.S.\$

Market Tone

Export prices were mixed this week as several traders and exporters remain closed for Chinese New Year until the middle of this week. Those open for business offered white rice export prices slightly lower as the Government finally released intervention stocks previously held pending the results of a tender transparency investigation. The investigation concluded that the second tender last November was conducted properly. Meanwhile, parboiled rice prices remain high due to strong demand from African countries. However, export prices of white and parboiled rice will likely be under downward pressure by the end of the first quarter when new-crop Vietnamese and Indian rice will reach the market.

Thus far, the MY 2008/2009 main-crop intervention program has absorbed 4.2 million tons of paddy valued at 49 billion baht (\$1.4 billion), of which 2.4 million tons are white rice paddy. It is expected that the intervention program will likely absorb only 5-6 million tons, as compared to the previous target of 8 million tons. Current intervention program prices are growing less attractive as current world and domestic market prices are reportedly increasing. Also, unusually cold weather has reportedly dropped yields during the current harvest.

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)	%
Nov 30	55,287	69,118	7,104	5,829	22.0
Dec 7	68,265	65,689	7,172	5,977	20.0
Dec 14	91,039	66,475	7,263	6,162	18.0
Dec 21	84,971	74,891	7,348	6,368	15.4
Dec 28	104,710	87,246	7,453	6,570	13.4
Dec 31	16,694	-	7,470	6,597	13.2
Jan 4	3,295	-	3	58	-94.3
Jan 11	87,324	-	91	220	-58.9
Jan 18	127,646	-	218	379	-42.2
Jan 25	141,973	90,060	360	557	-35.3

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 Jan. 19-25, 2009 totaled 141,973 tons, up 14,327 tons from the previous week, and up 51,914 tons from the four-week moving average of 90,060 tons. Exports during Jan. 1-25 totaled 360,239 tons, as compared with 556,945 tons in the previous year.

According to the Department of Foreign Trade, Ministry of Commerce, total rice exports (including fragrant rice) during Jan. 1-23, 2009, amounted to 477,295 tons, down 32.3 percent from 705,110 tons in the previous year.

Weekly Rice Sales

Private registered rice export sales for the period of Jan. 5-9, Jan 12-16, and Jan. 19-23, 2009 are as follows:

Movement (MT)	Jan. 5-9	Jan. 12-16	Jan. 19-23
Weekly sales	122,342	159,463	130,813
4 week sum	-	-	-
4 week mov. avg.	-	-	-
Total weekly sales	122,342	281,805	412,618

End of Report.