

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

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Burma - Union of

Post: Rangoon

Bean and Pulse Monthly Trade Report March 2011

Report Categories:

Grain and Feed

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Report Highlights:

Burma exported 87,129 metric tons of beans and pulses in March, a decrease of 35 percent from the same period in 2009, with 52 percent going to India or 45,147 MT. Additionally, 15 percent or 13,259 metric tons of mung beans (green gram) were traded with China, all of it went through border trade.

Burma's beans and pulses exports in March 2011 totaled 87,129 MT, down 35 percent from 133,315 MT in March 2010. Most of the shipments were destined to India with 45,147 MT or 52 percent of the total export and China with 13,259 or 15 percent of the total exports. Mung bean (green gram) accounted for 35 percent of the total exports, followed by matpe (black gram) 30 percent and toor whole (pigeon pea) 18 percent.

Only 6,000 MT of Matpe ready cargo (RC) and 750 MT of Matpe Special RC were traded in Bayint Naung Wholesale Market.

Table 1. Beans and Pulses Exports by Types and Destination in March, 2011 (MT)

| Country | Butter | Matpe | Mung | Toor | Whole | Other | Total |
|----------------|---------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| India | | 20,155 | 6,704 | | 15,740 | 2,548 | 45,147 |
| China | | | 13,259 | | | | 13,259 |
| Pakistan | | | | | | 6,587 | 6,587 |
| Indonesia | | 1,809 | 4,278 | | | 376 | 6,463 |
| South Korea | | 2,326 | 1,700 | | | 352 | 4,378 |
| Japan | | 1,550 | 1,711 | | | 350 | 3,611 |
| Philippines | | | 1,426 | | | 1,250 | 2,676 |
| Singapore | | | | | | 2,534 | 2,534 |
| Tiwan | | | 1,437 | | | 87 | 1,524 |
| Malaysia | | | | | | 500 | 500 |
| Thailand | | | | | | 450 | 450 |
| Total | | 25,840 | 30,515 | | 15,740 | 15,034 | 87,129 |

Table 2. Monthly Export of Pulses and Beans for 2009-2010.

| Months | 2010 | | 2011 | |
|--------------|----------------|-------------------------|----------------|-------------------------|
| | Monthly | Cumulative Total | Monthly | Cumulative Total |
| January | 64,576 | 64,576 | 81,145 | 81,145 |
| February | 125,428 | 190,004 | 87,418 | 168,563 |
| March | 133,315 | 323,319 | 87,129 | 255,692 |
| April | 57,379 | 380,698 | | |
| May | 69,025 | 449,723 | | |
| June | 79,447 | 529,170 | | |
| July | 72,910 | 602,080 | | |
| August | 72,791 | 674,871 | | |
| September | 70,381 | 745,252 | | |
| October | 63,587 | 808,839 | | |
| November | 46,277 | 855,116 | | |
| December | 117,453 | 972,569 | | |
| Total | 972,569 | | 255,692 | |

Average exchange rate in March: one US\$= Kyat 830

Export prospects

Due to an exchange rate that continues to be unfavorable as the kyat has strengthen 17 percent against the US dollar since September of 2010, exports decreased by 25 percent from the same period in 2010. Current export prices for matpe, mung bean (green gram), and toor whole are \$900/ton, \$ 1100/ton, and \$ 900/ton respectively.

Unusual storm activity from the Bay of Bengal during March 14th to 16th caused crop damages and post harvest losses for mung bean and matpe in various states and divisions. Almost one third of Mung bean and 50 percent of Matpe left to be harvested were affected, which should decrease overall yield from 0.8 MT/HA to 0.72 MT/HA and also reduce grain quality. Nevertheless, due to concerns on water availability and more attractive prices over rice, this year farmers are expected to shift their cultivation patterns towards producing more beans and pulses, therefore it's expected that trade will be in the order of one million tons.

End of Report