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Korea, Republic of

Grain and Feed

Recent Weather and Rice Crop Situation

2003

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Report Highlights:

On August 27, 2003, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) released a brief crop production weather report. The report stated that the weather has been unfavorable for rice growing since early June. However, the MAF stated that weather conditions in September are more important in determining final rice yield and final rice production levels. Korea's rice crop is regularly subject to weather related damage, particularly in September. If conditions improve over the next 4 weeks, the overall level of damage could be minimal.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
Seoul [KS1]
[KS]

The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) released a brief weather report on August 27, 2003. Though weather factors have been unfavorable for the rice crop since June 1, the MAF believes that September weather is the most critical period in determining rice production levels. Nonetheless, Post anticipates that average crop yields are likely to decline over the next few weeks as the extent of the poor weather is taken into account.

1. Weather Situation:

MAF reports that precipitation has been higher 41 percent than 30-year-annual average from June 1 – August 25, 2003. Temperatures have been 1.9 degrees Celsius below average and sunlight levels have about 75 percent of the 30-year-average for the same period.

The Korean Meteorological Service (KMS) forecasts Korean weather conditions to continue to have lower temperatures and more precipitation through September 10, 2003. Conditions from August 26 through September 2, were generally cloudy, cool, and rainy.

2. Rice Crop Situation:

MAF reports that general growing conditions are similar to the five-year-average. However, the rice harvest is forecast to be delayed by two – five days because weather conditions caused delayed heading and flowering. Frequent rains also caused insect and diseases damage in 425,000 HA, up 43 percent from the previous year, but still 34 percent below the five-year average. Normal chemical treatments have generally been applied. Cold damage has occurred in 3,600 HA to date.

September weather conditions are considered to be critical in determining the level of rice production in Korea. Low daily sunlight levels can severely impact grain formation prior to harvest. Normal harvest begins in late September or early October depending on location in the country. The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) estimates the 2003 rice yield at a similar level to the five-year-average (4.922 MT/HA) if the weather improves in September. At present, this appears to be optimistic. Continued heavy rains, cool temperatures, and little sunlight since MAF's August 27 report appear to point to declining conditions. It is important to note that Korea regularly has typhoons and heavy rains in September. These conditions are built into the 5-year average of growing conditions.

Korea: Comparison of Weather Situation (June 1 – August 25)			
Period	Sunlight Received (hours)	Precipitation (mm)	Temperature in Average (Celsius)
2003	397	900	21.5
2002	504	751	22.7
Average 1/	533	638	23.4

1/ for 30 years

Source: The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry

Korea: Weather Situation in Rice Growing Period and Rice Crop Situation per Year					
Year	Yield (Kg/HA) (Milled)	Weather Situation			Remarks
		Monsoon	Summer	Fall	
1980*	2890	Low temperature and heavy rains	Recorded cold damage	Low temperatures and less than normal precipitation	Cool weather from July 29 – August 30 across the nation
1990	4510	Heavy rains	Same as normal	Heavy rains	No typhoon
1993*	4180	Low temperature and heavy rains	Recorded cold damage	Less than normal precipitation	Cool weather from July 17 –August 30
1995	4450	Less than normal precipitation	Heavy rains	Heavy rains	Na
1996	5070	Less than normal precipitation	Less than normal precipitation	Less than normal precipitation	Bumper crop
1997	5180	Less than normal precipitation	Less than normal precipitation	Less than normal precipitation	Recorded bumper crop
1998*	4820	Heavy rains	Heavy rains	Heavy rains	Typhoon in harvest season (September 29-October 2)
1999	4950	Less than normal precipitation	Less than normal precipitation	Less than normal precipitation	Two small sized typhoons
2000	4970	Less than normal precipitation	Same as normal	Same as normal	Two small sized typhoons
2001	5160	Less than normal precipitation	Less than normal precipitation	Less than normal precipitation	Spring drought; no typhoon
2002*	4710	Low temperature and heavy rains	Heavy rains	Heavy rains	Recorded heavy rains; typhoon (August 31-September 1)
2003	NA	Low temperature and heavy rains	Heavy rains		

* Denotes bad crop year affected by poor growing conditions.

Source: The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry