

Foreign Agricultural Service GAIN Report

Global Agriculture Information Network

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GAIN Report #TH2012

Date: 2/5/2002

Thailand Grain and Feed Update PSD Rice 2002

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Report Highlights:

Thailand's 2001/02 rice production is estimated at 25.0, a slightly drop from the record crop of 25.6 million metric tons last year. Exports in 2001 also recorded at 7.5 mmt, compared with 6.5 mmt in 2000.

PSD Table						
Country Thailand						
Commodity Rice, Milled	(1000 HA)(1000 MT)					
	Revised1999		Preliminary2000		Forecast2001	
	Old	New	Old	New	Old	New
Market Year Begin		01/2000		01/2001		01/2002
Area Harvested	9833	9970	9840	9900	0	9900
Beginning Stocks	1051	1176	652	1827	2002	1812
Milled Production	15180	16500	15850	16900	0	16500
Rough Production	23000	25000	24015	25606	ERR	25000
MILLING RATE (.9999)	6600	6600	6600	6600	0	6600
TOTAL Imports	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jan-Dec Imports	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jan-Dec Import U.S.	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL SUPPLY	16231	17676	16502	18727	2002	18312
TOTAL Exports	6679	6549	5500	7520	0	7000
Jan-Dec Exports	6679	6549	5500	7520	0	7000
TOTAL Dom. Consumption	8900	9300	9000	9395	0	9490
Ending Stocks	652	1827	2002	1812	2002	1822
TOTAL DISTRIBUTION	16231	17676	16502	18727	2002	18312

Post revised 1999/00, 2000/01 and 2001/02 rice harvested areas to in line with the data used by the Ministry of Agriculture. The 2000/01 rice production is revised upward to 25.6 million metric tons (19.6 mmt of main crop and 6.0 mmt of second crop). The 2001/02 rice output is expected to be 25.0 million tons (19.0 mmt of main crop and 6.0 mmt of second crop). The 2001/02 main rice crop production in the Northeast is estimated to be slightly less than last year's record production as the rainfall pattern in 2001, was not ideal as in 2000. Although there are very minor pests and disease problems in most regions and assuming that the upcoming second crop remains good, rice production in 2001/02 is estimated to be slightly less than last season's crop. The current main crop quality shows lower milling head yield due to unexpected rainfall during harvesting season.

Given current attractive pledged paddy prices for the 2001/02 main crop in which farmers receive 6,500 and 5,890 baht per ton for top grades fragrant and glutinous paddy, respectively (moisture standard not to exceed 15 percent), while market prices remain at 5,200-5,400 baht per ton. As a result, millers could not buy much of the new crop paddy as they use to. In order to keep their milling operation running, most of the major rice mills have joines the paddy mortgage scheme and mill rice for deliveries to the government.

Rice exports for 2001 were a record 7.5 mmt., a significant increase from last year's 6.5 mmt, due to strong overseas demand from Nigeria, Senegal, Ivory Coast and N. Korea. With a forecast of smaller production and exports in 2002, carry-over stocks should be about 1.8 mmt.