



USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agriculture Information Network

Template Version 2.09

Required Report - Public distribution

Date: 11/13/2007

GAIN Report Number: TH7158

Thailand

Grain and Feed

Weekly Rice Price Update

2007

Approved by:

Corey Pickelsimer, Agricultural Attaché
U.S. Embassy

Prepared by:

Ponnarong Prasertsri, Agricultural Specialist

Report Highlights:

Despite the Government's stock release, domestic and export prices continue to increase due to aggressive loading activities and the strengthening Thai baht.

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

Indicative Prices (Week Ending Nov. 12):

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	585	595	600	585	590	595	585	591	579
WR 100 B	343	343	350	342	346	350	340	345	340
PB 5%	346	360	367	353	348	359	350	355	346
WR 5%	337	335	345	335	340	341	335	338	334
WR 10%	334	330	340	332	337	338	330	334	329
WR 15%	331	327	335	329	333	335	325	331	324
WR 25%	325	321	325	325	320	328	-	324	319
WR 35%	322	-	-	317	-	325	-	321	318
A 1 SUP	307	-	-	307	-	309	308	308	302
A 1 SPEC	304	-	-	304	-	-	305	304	298
Source: Average actual prices received from exporters, Exchange rate: 33.75 baht/U.S.\$									

Market Tone

Alongside intense loading activities, domestic and export prices surged despite the government's November 8 announcement to release 2004/05 – 2005/06 white rice and fragrant rice intervention stocks. The Government released 888,323 tons out of the last couple of tenders totalling 913,347 tons. Around 570,000 tons are for export, of which 370,137 tons are white rice (269,219 tons for 5% grade white rice and 100,918 tons for 25% grade white rice), with the balance being fragrant rice. Meanwhile, exporters are aggressively fulfilling outstanding shipments of white rice to Asian countries, particularly to the Philippines and Indonesia under the Government-to-Government contracts. Deliveries to these countries are expected to be completed by the middle of next month. However, domestic prices of white rice will likely remain strong as millers are currently sourcing white rice paddy for parboiled rice production for next year delivery (February). Also, the Indian non-basmati rice export ban should keep foreign demand for Thai rice high.

In addition, the Thai baht strengthened to 33.75 baht/\$U.S., as compared to 33.8 baht/\$U.S. in the previous week. Some exporters based their quotations on 33.0 - 33.5 baht/\$U.S.

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)	%
SEP 23	151,993	133,565	3,902	3,494	11.7
SEP 30	191,059	158,682	4,093	3,577	14.4
OCT 7	180,214	168,282	4,273	3,663	16.6
OCT 14	179,792	175,765	4,453	3,762	18.3
OCT 21	196,139	186,801	4,649	3,886	19.6
OCT 28	203,834	189,995	4,853	3,995	21.5
NOV 4	196,667	194,108	5,050	4,139	22.0
NOV 11	202,346	199,746	5,252	4,242	23.8

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 Nov. 5-11, 2007 totaled 202,346 tons, up 5,679 tons from the previous week's total, and up 2,599 tons from the four-week moving average of 199,746 tons. Export during Jan. 1 – Nov. 11, 2007 totaled 5,252,370 tons, as compared with 4,241,734 tons in the previous year.

According to the Department of Foreign Trade, Ministry of Commerce, total rice exports (including fragrant rice) during Jan. 1 – Nov. 7, 2007, amounted to 7,526,496 tons, up 19 percent from 6,311,942 tons in the previous year.

Weekly Rice Sales

Private registered rice export sales for the period of Oct. 22-26, Oct. 29 – Nov. 2, and Nov. 5-9, 2007 are as follows:

Movement (MT)	Oct. 22-26	Oct. 29 – Nov. 2	Nov. 5-9
Weekly sales	163,203	225,996	152,844
4 week sum	803,414	827,358	761,667
4 week mov. avg.	200,854	206,840	190,417
Total weekly sales	5,218,667	5,444,663	5,597,507

End of Report.