



- Rice exports up 3.7 percent in first six months of the year
- Laos highway projects to boost Asean travel
- China and regional countries top rice and broken rice buyers list
- Agriculture sector will boost seafood, forestry production in H2



Rice exports up 3.7 percent in first six months of the year



Cambodia News | 08 July, 2019

Cambodia exported 281,538 tonnes of milled rice during the first half of the year, an increase of 3.7 percent compared to the same period last year. A recent report from the Ministry of Agriculture shows that, from January to June, 75 local exporters sent milled rice to 47 countries. China continues to be Cambodia's biggest market for rice, absorbing 118,401 tonnes, 42 percent of all exports. France came in at number two, buying 37,515 tonnes. By region, the EU was the largest buyer with 93,503 tonnes, or 33.21 percent of all exports. The report also mentions that five countries in Asean imported Cambodian rice – Malaysia, Brunei, Vietnam, Singapore, and Thailand – with Malaysia being the biggest buyer (13.936 tonnes or 12.78 percent of all exports). Amru Rice, one of the largest exporters in the country, sold 23,529 tonnes of rice abroad during the six-month period. Its CEO, Song Saran, told Khmer Times that rice exports are growing and that companies must aim to diversify their markets to sustain this growth. "We are now diversifying markets. The government and the Cambodia Rice Federation are working to produce premium rice to boost exports," Mr Saran said. "We must increase the production of fragrant rice because it has great quality and demand for it in China is high." By the end of the year, Mr Saran said he expects exports to reach 650,000 tonnes, explaining that the main

harvest season falls during the second half of the year. More than 82 percent (237,097 tonnes) of exported rice belonged to the fragrant variety. 39,854 tonnes of long-grain white rice were exported, while just 4,587 tonnes of long-grain parboiled rice were shipped abroad. Last year, Cambodia exported 626,225 tonnes of rice to international markets, a drop of 1.5 percent compared to 2017.

Source: <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50621684/rice-exports-up-3-7-percent-in-first-six-months-of-the-year/>

Laos highway projects to boost Asean travel



Laos News | 08 July, 2019

Travelling across Asean is likely to get easier thanks to the Lao government's plan to build an expressway and three motorways covering more than 1,700 kilometres which will link the country with China and Vietnam. The country needs at least 283 billion baht to fulfil its ambition, said Pheng Douangngeun, chief of the Lao Department of Roads. The expressway, whose construction has already started, will run 113.5km northward from the capital and allow easy access to the tourist town of Vang Vieng. "The project is now 30% complete," Mr Pheng said. "We expect to open it in 2021." The 45-billion-baht expressway is part of a larger project that will link Vientiane with southern China. In the future, officials will also build a 450-km motorway from Vang Vieng to Boten, a border city on the opposite side the Chinese town of

Mohan. That will require an additional investment of 80 billion baht, he said. The new expressways will not only make a trip to China faster, but it will also ease travel from Thailand. At present, Vientiane and the northeastern province of Nong Khai are connected by the Thai-Lao Friendship Bridge over the Mekong River. Once the expressway is complete, motorists can take a trip from the Lao capital to Vang Vieng. Looking at the route from Nong Khai to Vientiane and China, Mr Pheng compared it with a high-speed railway, which also links the three countries together as part of the Trans-Asean Line. "All will be built to satisfy the demands of travellers," he said. His government is also planning to build another two motorways to facilitate both domestic and international transport. Officials are conducting a feasibility study on a capital-to-capital motorway, which stretches 700km from Vientiane to Hanoi. Its construction cost, from Vientiane to the Lao border checkpoint of Namphao and Cao Treo in the neighbouring country, will cost 158 billion baht, Mr Pheng said. Domestically, the government is studying a plan to build a motorway linking Vientiane and Pakse in the South, a distance of 500km, he added.

Source: <https://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/general/1708174/laos-highway-projects-to-boost-asean-travel>

China and regional countries top rice and broken rice buyers list



Myanmar News | 06 July, 2019

Myanmar is exporting rice and broken rice to China, regional countries, African countries and European Union and about one third of them are bought by China and regional countries, according to Ministry of Commerce. "Myanmar earned US\$423.869 million from rice export to 58 countries and US\$88.606 million from broken rice export to 28 countries from October 1 to June 14 in this fiscal year. It earned US\$512.475 million in total from rice and broken rice export," said an official from the ministry. Myanmar is exported rice and broken rice to 88 countries this year and five top most buyers are China, Philippines, Cameroon, Ivory Coast and Ghana, according to Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF). Myanmar earned US\$162.782 million from rice export to China, US\$58.284 million from rice export to Philippines, US\$32.043 million from rice export to Cameroon, US\$31.972 million from rice export to Ivory Coast and US\$17.678 million from rice export to Ghana from October 1 to June 14. Myanmar exported over 1.68 million tons of broken rice to 88 countries till June 14 in this fiscal year and over 36 per cent of them are exported to China. According to statistics, Myanmar earned US\$423.869 million from over 1.35 million tons of rice and broken rice export to 54 countries from October 1 to June 14 in this fiscal year. Myanmar had over 16.6 million acres out of

over 17.6 million of paddy fields which can be reaped in 2017-18 FY, announced the ministry.

Source: <https://elevenmyanmar.com/news/china-and-regional-countries-top-rice-and-broken-rice-buyers-list>

Agriculture sector will boost seafood, forestry production in H2



Vietnam News | July, 08/2019

HA NOI – The agricultural sector in the second half of this year will focus on the development of commodities that have potential in production and export growth such as seafood and forestry products, said Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development Nguyễn Xuân Cường. Especially, fishery and forestry industries have many opportunities to support the sector in achieving its growth targets in gross domestic product (GDP) and exports for the whole year, he said. The global prices of seafood products are not high, but the fishery industry still has a chance to increase its revenue.

Therefore, the sector will focus on developing these two products in the second half of this year, Cường said. Nguyễn Quang Hùng, Deputy Head of the Directorate of Fisheries, said the fishery industry can gain strong development in shrimp and tra fish in the last six months with output growth of 7.5 per cent each in production and exploitation of aquaculture.

Particularly, the shrimp export value will contribute a large part to the agriculture sector's total export value in the second half of the year. Other commodities like tuna, crustaceans and molluscs

also have many opportunities to develop in the second half of the year, Hùng said. The forestry industry will focus on increasing timber production by over 8 per cent, meeting the demand for processing and exporting. Meanwhile, the effectiveness of the Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) on Forest Law Enforcement, Governance, and Trade (FLEGT) between the European Union (EU) and Việt Nam from June 2019 is a great opportunity to increase Việt Nam's wood product exports to the EU. The signing of the Việt Nam-EU Free Trade Agreement on June 30, 2019 will also create many opportunities on trading agricultural products between the two sides. However, it is certain that there will be non-tariff barriers and the agricultural sector must overcome those. Therefore, Cường said the sectors must reorganise production to have products with high quality, good design and more reasonable prices.

Besides that, the cultivation and livestock industry also needs to accelerate restructuring. Especially, livestock must have solutions to stop the spread of African swine fever, reducing damage and ensuring growth of the farming sector. Along with that is accelerating poultry and large livestock, but attention must be paid to sustainability factors. The agricultural development targets of 2019 include 3 per cent in GDP growth rate; export value at \$43 billion; rice output at a similar volume to 2018 and strong growth in production of vegetables, fruit and some industrial trees with high consumption.

Livestock industry will increase output of poultry products by about 13-14 per cent; eggs by about 12 per cent and beef by about 7 per cent. At present, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) is also preparing profiles to get permission on exporting some kinds of fruits to the US such as grapefruits, avocado, durian and others, and to Japan like lychees, longans, grapefruits, rambutans and star apples. In addition, the sector also has to pay attention to the domestic market, avoiding losses in the home market. According to the ministry, in the first six months, the export value of the whole industry is estimated at \$19.77 billion, a year on year increase of 2.2 per cent while its trade surplus reached \$4.2 billion, up 4.6 per cent compared to the first six months of 2018. Nguyễn Văn Việt, Director of the Planning Department, said in the first half of this year, many kinds of fruits were exported to new export markets such as mango to the US, the UK and Australia, and mangosteen to China. During the first half of the year, Việt Nam and China signed a protocol to export milk and milk products from Việt Nam to China. Việt said the sector could not gain high growth in export value due to the strong decline in export prices of many key agricultural products compared to the same period in 2018, including pepper, rubber, coffee, rice, cashew nuts, cassava and products from cassava, shrimp and tra fish, while Việt Nam's export value to China also decreased. Meanwhile, many export markets of Việt Nam have had more strict technical barriers, policies

on import quota, new requirements for traceability and export certificates, and quality inspections, especially China which is one of the largest export markets for Vietnamese farming products. — VNS

Source:<https://vietnamnews.vn/economy/522345/agriculture-sector-will-boost-seafood-forestry-production-in-h2.html#3L4cCpMfxoeJ9cJJ.97>
