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## Mangoes next in line for China export: Ministry



*Cambodia News | 11 September, 2019*

Mango is likely to be the next product that Cambodia exports directly to China, according to an official of the Ministry of Agriculture. The Ministry of Agriculture recently called on farmers growing ‘prioritised’ agricultural goods to register with the ministry in exchange for assistance to help them meet China’s stringent sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) requirements. However, only farms growing mango have registered thus far, according to Ke Monyvuth, director of the ministry’s crop protection and SPS department. As a result, ministry officials are now providing technical assistance to several mango farms to help them meet China’s SPS standards before they are inspected by a delegation of Chinese officials. Mr Monyvuth said on Tuesday that a team from China’s General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine will visit Cambodia next month to conduct inspections at registered farmers. “We expect that fresh mangoes will be the next agricultural product that Cambodia exports to China and we are now working to provide technical assistance to farmers to prepare for the requirements of the Chinese market,” Mr Monyvuth said. In July, the ministry made public a list of the agricultural goods that are being prioritised for export to China. The list contained six items – fresh mango, longan, pepper, dragon fruit, fragrant coconut, and bird nests. Agriculture Minister Veng Sakhon said recently that Cambodia wants to open negotiations on the

shipment of all ‘prioritised’ agricultural goods, and has proposed the idea to China’s General Administration of Customs, who is in charge of SPS requirements. According to Mr Monyvuth, China has not yet provided a reply to the proposal. “We want negotiations on the six agricultural products to take place simultaneously. This will save us time and will allow us to start shipping these products to China sooner,” Mr Monyvuth said. Cambodia earlier this year started shipping bananas to the Chinese market after the countries signed a protocol on banana exports in August last year. The other products that the Kingdom can export directly to the world’s second-largest economy are milled rice, sliced cassava, and corn.

Source : <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50641949/mangoes-next-in-line-for-china-export-ministry/>

## With Huawei’s help, 5G in Cambodia rolling out as planned



*Cambodia News | 11 September, 2019*

Cambodia’s major telecommunications companies are developing its 5G network as planned with the help of Chinese firm Huawei, sources familiar with the matter told Khmer Times this week. Using Chinese technology provided by Huawei, Metfone, Cellcard and Smart Axiata are preparing their 5G networks, sources said on Tuesday. Metfone, a subsidiary of Vietnam’s Viettel Group, is using Huawei’s technology for its 5G network, which was launched last week on a trial basis, a senior company official, speaking on condition of anonymity, told Khmer Times on Tuesday. The tests

started on Sept 5, according to the source. Metfone's parent company Viettel Group – Vietnam's largest mobile carrier – had previously refused to work with Huawei on its 5G network for Vietnam citing security concerns. Viettel CEO Le Dang Dung, in a recent interview with Bloomberg, said, "We are not going to work with Huawei right now. It is a bit sensitive with Huawei and there were reports that its service is not safe. "Viettel's stance is that, given all this information, we should just go with the safer ones and therefore we chose Nokia and Ericsson from Europe," he added. The Metfone official told Khmer Times that, "In Cambodia, we chose to work with the Chinese company based on the conditions of the local market." He added that the decision to work with Huawei was made after the Cambodian government signed an agreement with the Chinese company to develop 5G network infrastructure in the country. In April, China's Huawei entered an agreement with the Cambodian Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications, pledging to assist the Kingdom to develop 5G infrastructure. Apart from Metfone, Smart Axiata and Cellcard are also working with Huawei to ready their 5G networks. Smart Axiata, part of the Malaysia-based Axiata Group, hosted Cambodia's first 5G live trials in early July. Speaking during the event, Smart Axiata CEO Thomas Hundt, said the company's mission is to enrich the lives of millions of Cambodians through world-class networks and exceptional digital experiences. "This is why we invest \$70 to \$80

million every year, primarily in network infrastructure, to improve mobile broadband connectivity across the Kingdom." "Trust that we will continue to improve our existing 4.5G service while preparing for future technologies like 5G," he said. Cellcard CEO Ian Watson said his company will launch Cambodia's first 5G networks in the last quarter of the year. "Data is playing an ever-increasing role in people's lives as they increase their daily usage of digital services," he said. "We are already planning for data usage to change dramatically in the very near future as our pre5G and 5G network enables enhanced mobile broadband." Mr Watson said Cellcard will continue to invest in its 4G network nation-wide to enhance coverage. Im Vutha, spokesperson at the Telecommunications Regulator of Cambodia, on Tuesday said that Cellcard is expected to start testing its 5G network by the end of the year. "The 5G network trials are just a way of testing demand in the local market before launching the full service," he said, adding that companies should continue investing in their 4G networks while preparing for 5G. Speaking at Smart Axiata's 5G live trials in July, Aaron Wang, CEO of Huawei Wireless Network, said the company was proud to be involved in the rapid digitalisation of Cambodia. "Cambodia was a leader in the deployment of 4G technology in Southeast Asia, and, for 5G, I want Cambodia to be a leader again," he said.

Source : <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50641998/with-huaweis-help-5g-in-cambodia-rolling-out-as-planned/>

## Floods lead to increase in prices of rice and pork in southern provinces



Laos News | 11 September, 2019

VIENTIANE (Vientiane Times/ANN) - The prices of pork and rice have been increased in southern provinces of Laos affected by floods but they are within manageable levels due to the government's intervention. The price of rice increased by about 500 kip to 1,000 kip a kg, while the price of pork rose by about 5,000 kip a kg as traders were facing problems in transporting the commodities, according to Champassak province's Industry and Commerce Department. Many roads have been submerged by flood waters and damaged, which has resulted in traders facing difficulties in accessing their customers. However, the price of pork is currently within the normal level as authorities in the province have directed relevant sectors to closely monitor and control prices of consumer goods and services to prevent any unfair increases following floods in Pakxe and some other areas. The directive encouraged the Pakxe Industry and Commerce Department to regularly monitor prices in markets, especially those selling rice, meat, fish and vegetables, to ensure that prices comply with market mechanisms. But local residents fear that the serious flooding could lead to a shortage of rice in several provinces this year. The tropical depression Podul passed over Laos at the end of August and the beginning of September, bringing heavy rain and floods to the six provinces of Khammuan, Savannakhet, Attapeu, Saravan, Champassak and Xekong, according to a report from the National Disaster Prevention and Control Committee. The floods affected about 10,896 hectares of rice fields in Khammuan province, 47,457

hectares in Savannakhet province, 18,428 hectares in Saravan province and 1,711 hectares in Xekong province. There has been no report on the damage from Champassak and Attapeu provinces as yet. Some livestock farms, irrigation systems and fish ponds, which are part of the agricultural sector, were also affected by the flooding. A total of 101,000 hectares of wet season rice were impacted by flooding last year, about 12 percent of the total planted area of 817,800 hectares. Some 66,000 hectares of rice crops were estimated to have been destroyed according to the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. Last year's floods resulted in an increase in the price of paddy and polished rice in most southern provinces, with rates going up by about 1,000 kip to 2,000 kip per kg at the end of year. During this year's floods, some 377,703 people from 175,422 families of 1,466 villages in 43 districts have been affected. The floods killed 14 people, with three deaths reported in Savannakhet province, two in Saravan, five in Champassak, and four in Attapeu. One person in Champassak province is missing. Currently, flood victims are in immediate need of food, drinking water, kitchen equipment, bedding, and other essential supplies.

Source : <http://annx.asianews.network/content/floods-lead-increase-prices-rice-and-pork-southern-provinces-103889>

## Luxembourg extends support for Lao development projects



Laos News | 11 September, 2019

The Government of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg has agreed to continue funding of more than 11.7 million euros to implement development projects in Laos.

Luxembourg yesterday signed three agreements with the Ministry of Planning and Investment to carry on support for Laos in attaining its socio-economic development targets. The funding agreement was signed by Luxembourg Minister for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Affairs and Consumer Protection, Ms Paulette Lenert, and Lao Minister of Planning and Investment, Mr Souphanh Keomixay. Financial assistance of 1.3 million euros will be distributed for the Strengthening the Effectiveness of Official Development Assistance project from 2019-2022. Some 6.99 million euros will continue to support the implementation of the Rural Development and Poverty Reduction Strategy, and a total of 3.5 million euros will be disbursed for the Health Sector Support Programme. The funding agreement signing ceremony was conducted under the 12th Bilateral Partnership Commission Meeting between the Government of the Lao PDR and Government of Luxembourg in Vientiane. The meeting aimed to review the implementation of the two countries' development cooperation projects during 2018-2019 as well as forward plans for the 4th Indicative Cooperation Programme (ICP) of 2016-2020. The two partners also discussed the implementation of the Eighth National Socio-Economic Development Plan 2016-2020, and Laos' graduation from least developed country status by 2024. Laos and Luxembourg established diplomatic relations on September 25, 1997. Luxembourg has assisted Laos in priority sectors such as education, health, tourism, UXO clearance, hospitality and services, finance and banking, and rural and infrastructure development. The Luxembourg assistance to Laos is part of the overall ICP being implemented over four phases, with a total value of 178

million euros. The first ICP phase was implemented from 2003 to 2006 valued at 18 million euros, the second from 2007 to 2010 at 35 million euros, the third from 2011 to 2015 at 50 million euros, and the fourth ICP began in 2016 and will finish next year valued at 75 million euros.

Source : [http://www.vientianetimes.org.la/freeContent/FreeConten\\_Luxembourg.php](http://www.vientianetimes.org.la/freeContent/FreeConten_Luxembourg.php)

## Yangon electricity revenues up 65pc



*Myanmar News | 11 September, 2019*

Yangon Region collected K36 billion more in electricity payments for the month of July, which is a 65 percent increase compared to the month before, said Daw Soe Soe Nwe, general manager of Yangon Electricity Supply Corporation (YESC), at a press conference on Monday. The higher revenues was due to the Ministry of Electricity and Energy raising electricity charges on July 1 to reduce the burden of the government in subsidising tariffs. Yangon Region, which consumes more than half of the country's electricity, received more than K91 billion in electricity fees for the month of July compared to K55 billion in June, according to the YESC. "We received K12 billion in electricity bills paid by households and K24 billion more from other users," said Daw Soe Soe Nwe. The rise in revenue came even though some 1.4 million users in Yangon Region reduced their usage of power by a total of 21.9 million units in July. YESC data showed that

26pc of users consumed 1 to 75 units per month, 38pc consumed 75 to 200 units per month and 36pc consumed more than 200 units per month after the change in electricity rates. Under the new rates, electricity now costs K35 to K125 per unit for households and up to K180 per unit for commercial users. In comparison, the ceiling price for households was K50 million per unit for households and up to K150 per unit for commercial users before prices were raised. At those levels, tariffs were mostly lower than the cost of production and distribution, with the government subsidising the balance. The average production cost for each unit is K 114.6, which includes distribution cost. According to the data from Ministry of Electricity and Energy, the government forked out more than K 400 billion in tariff subsidies in fiscal 2016-17 and more than K600 billion in fiscal 2017-18. Subsidies are expected to exceed K500 billion in fiscal 2018-19. To meet its target of providing electricity to the whole of Yangon Region by December 2020, the Yangon Region Government is planning to spend more than K100 billion between fiscal 2018-19 and 2020-21 to build the necessary infrastructure required, YESC officials said.

Source : <https://www.mmtimes.com/news/yangon-electricity-revenues-65pc.html>

## Local peanut oil prices expected to stabilise



*Myanmar News | 11 September, 2019*

The prices of local peanut oil and groundnuts, which rose in August, are expected to stabilise this month, says an official with an industry organisation. “Groundnut prices last month rose to a high of K4200 a viss (1.6 kilos) and it caused problems for local edible oil millers. However, new groundnut supplies will enter the market this month and thus prices will become more stable,” said U Thein Tun, vice chair of the Myanmar Edible Oil Millers Association. “Even low quality nuts were bought by China in August and local groundnut prices shot up to between K3900 and K4200. It was as if they were buying all available supplies in the market. All stocks of groundnuts were low in the market and local demand couldn’t be met. In the same period last year, the price was under K3500,” U Thein Tun said. Due to the hike in groundnut prices, local peanut oil prices have risen to between K8000 and K10,000 a viss. “New groundnut harvests have entered the market in Tatkon, Yamethin and Kyaukpadaung and China hasn’t started buying because the road connections between China and Myanmar are not good yet. So, local prices will fall again and by mid-September, the prices may become stable at around K3000 to 3500, while peanut oil price may drop to K7000 a viss,” he said. The prices of peanut oil have been steadily rising, up from about K2200 a viss in 2018 to about K10,000. But price of palm oil remains unchanged at about K2000. As a result, only about 25 pc

of about 300 oil mills in urban areas of Mandalay have managed to stay afloat as people have opted for palm oil. In Myanmar, although oil crops are included as a priority in the National Export Strategy overseen by the Ministry of Commerce, the volume of imports is two times higher than exports, Mandalay Chief Minister U Zaw Myint Maung said at a meeting with the edible oil dealers in January this year. “Despite good soil and higher crop yields, good policies are still needed. Only 30 pc of over 3200 oil mills across the country, including 1000 in Sagaing, and 1500 in Mandalay, remain operating, while imports of edible oil reached US\$650 million compared with exports of US\$270 million,” U Zaw Myint Maung said. “Pure groundnut oil currently sells at K10,000 a viss. Due to the high price, only those who want to use pure oil buy it. The sellers don’t make much profit either. They only keep selling it despite the high price just because they want to keep their workers and customers. It’s been a long time since we made profit due to the high price of the raw materials. Where we recover the profit is from the selling of groundnut cake, the by-product of oil making. We have to use part of that profit now again to sustain operations,” said a groundnut oil dealer in Mandalay.

Source : <https://www.mmtimes.com/news/local-peanut-oil-prices-expected-stabilise.html>

## Vietnam August trade surplus jumps on Samsung phone shipments



*Vietnam News | 11 September, 2019*

Vietnam’s trade surplus in August widened dramatically from July, backed by a strong increase in smartphone shipments, as its surplus with the United States continued to increase, government data released on Wednesday showed. The Southeast Asian country’s trade surplus came in at \$3.435 billion in August, widening from a surplus of \$43 million in July and beating a previous government forecast for a surplus of \$1.7 billion, the Customs Department said in a statement. Exports in August rose 12.6% from the previous month to \$25.885 billion, while imports fell 2.1% to \$22.450 billion, the department said. Smartphones, garments and electronic home appliances were among the largest export earners in August. Main imports were electronics and machinery, the data showed. Vietnam’s exports of smartphones and spare parts, mostly produced by Samsung Electronics, rose 48% in August from July, the data showed. Samsung unveiled a new version of the Galaxy Note smartphones in early August. Wednesday’s data also showed Vietnam’s trade surplus with the United States, Vietnam’s largest export market, widened to \$4.99 billion in August from \$3.84 billion a year earlier. Meanwhile, Vietnam’s trade deficit with China rose to \$2.48 billion in August from \$1.37 billion a year earlier. Vietnam relies on China, its largest trading partner, for materials and equipment for its

labour-intensive manufacturing. For the first eight months of 2019, Vietnam's total exports climbed 8.1% from a year earlier to \$171.296 billion, while imports were also up 8.1% at \$166.071 billion, resulting in a trade surplus of \$5.225 billion. Its trade surplus with the United States in the January-August period widened to \$29.82 billion from \$22.14 billion a year earlier, while its deficit with China increased to \$25.11 billion from \$17.23 billion.

Source : <https://tuoitrenews.vn/news/business/20190911/vietnam-august-trade-surplus-jumps-on-samsung-phone-shipments/51241.html>

## Greece increases imports of Vietnamese tuna



*Vietnam News | 11 September, 2019*

Hanoi (VNA) – Vietnam's tuna exports to Greece increased 104 percent year-on-year to reach nearly 1.8 million USD by the end of July 2019, according to the Vietnam Association of Seafood Exporters and Producers (VASEP). The association noted that while the country's tuna exports to the European Union (EU) declined, exports to Greece enjoyed impressive growth. The export value of canned processed tuna to the EU accounted for more than 94 percent of Vietnam's total tuna exports to the market. Greek customers tend to favour Italian canned tuna. However, since 2016, demand for such high-quality products has been declining due to price hikes. Therefore, Greece has increased imports of canned tuna from Asian countries with

Thailand, the Philippines, Vietnam and Turkey being the biggest suppliers.

Source : <https://en.vietnamplus.vn/greece-increases-imports-of-vietnamese-tuna/160255.vnp>