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Green Leader to build third dried mango plant



Cambodia News | 7 October, 2019

Green Leader Holding Group Limited, a Hong Kong-listed firm, announced last week that it is increasing investment in the local market by building a new mango processing plant in Tboung Khmum province. Michael Tse, Green Leader's CEO and executive director, recently announced plans to build the company's third mango-processing factory in the Kingdom. The new facility, which will produce dried mango, will be located in Tboung Khmum's Dambae district, Mr Tse told Nuth Chan Sokha, secretary of state at the Ministry of Agriculture, during the latter's official visit to Green Leader's plant in Kandal province on Friday. Green Leader's first dried mango factory in Cambodia began operations in 2018 in Kandal province's Angk Snuol district. The second plant, located in Kampong Speu's Aoral district, began manufacturing dried mango in June this year. According to Mr Tse, each of those factories occupies 25,000 square metres and can produce up to 2,000 tonnes of dried mango a year. Most of the production is exported to China, he added. "The company buys grade 2 fresh mangoes from farmers through contract farming schemes and processes them for export to the Chinese market," he said. He said Green Leader has already shipped 500 tonnes of dried mango to China and aims to reach 10,000 tonnes in exports per year in the future. "To increase the value of our offer, we also have a

long-term plan to invest in factories to make mango juice and mango puree," he said. Mr Chan Sokha praised Green Leader for its achievements and encouraged the company to keep working to contribute to the development of the local agriculture sector. "Their investment has played an important role in the development of the local agriculture sector, particularly in the processing of raw materials into finished products for export," he said. In May, Green Leader opened a \$20-million cassava-processing factory in Kratie's Snuol district. The company said the facility can process up to 130,000 tonnes of starch a year, absorbing 500,000 tonnes of raw cassava.

Source: <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50648298/green-leader-to-build-third-dried-mango-plant/>

Imported rice is cheaper than rice grown in Laos



Laos News | 4 October, 2019

VIENTIANE (Vientiane Times/ANN) - The majority of Lao people eat sticky rice and it is the main staple of the Lao population throughout the country. Over the years the price of rice grown in Laos has become higher and higher and there have never been any cuts in the price. The reason for this is that large swathes of rice-growing areas are often unable to produce expected yields, either because of prolonged dry spells or flooding. So some parts of the country are unable to grow sufficient rice and vendors take the opportunity of a shortage to raise

the sale price. This is a situation that is described in the Lao proverb: “when there’s plenty of water, take it, because when there is none you can’t get any”. In some years all areas of the country have a good harvest and are able to fulfil set targets, but even so the price remains high. This is because there is always high demand but low supply to meet the needs of local markets. This makes policy makers and ministries think about the fact that the cost of rice imported from Vietnam and Thailand is cheaper than rice grown in Laos. A 12 kilogram bag of Grade B sticky rice imported from Vietnam costs 70,000 kip while the cost of Grade B sticky rice grown in Laos is 90,000-95,000 kip. Surely, rice grown in Laos should be cheaper than imported rice, whose price must also include transport costs and other things. Yet imported rice is cheaper, is of good quality, and is altogether better than the rice produced in Laos. Some families in the provinces and in Vientiane eat sticky rice imported from Thailand because the price of that country’s Grade A sticky rice and non-glutinous rice is similar to the price of Grade A rice grown in Laos. But the difference in quality is significant. The government, especially the ministries involved, should make an in-depth study of ways to make the price of home-grown rice cheaper than that of imported rice. Almost all Lao people eat sticky rice as their staple food, but the price is high compared to other countries. It is well known that Laos is a land of sticky rice, but why does the price never get any lower? If we grow more rice, surely the price should come down, especially as the government has cut

the price of electricity for farmers and provided tax exemptions on fertiliser and other imported agricultural essentials. The price of rice grown here is very high compared to other countries, so how can Laos compete with its neighbours in the export market? If Laos is a rice basket, the price should be low. If the price is low, it would help to lower the cost of living. The cost of living in all provinces Laos is currently very high - the same as the cost of living in Singapore. If food here were cheaper, it would be good for tourism. More tourists would visit many parts of the country. Laos has untapped potential in the field of tourism which could bring great benefits in the future. But the government must focus on lowering the price of sticky rice so that it is in line with people’s spending power and they are able to obtain sufficient quantities of this daily staple at an affordable rate. Last month, the government approved the public sale of 2,000 tonnes of stockpiled rice to lower the market price after a shortage of supply meant the price rose by at least 20 percent above normal. The move was aimed at cutting costs for consumers and easing the hardship of people on low and medium level incomes.

Source: <http://annx.asianews.network/content/editorial-imported-rice-cheaper-rice-grown-laos-105519>

Local fuel prices see continuous fall over a week



Myanmar News | 5 October, 2019

Local fuel prices decreased again by K40 per liter in nine days as global oil prices went down to around

US\$52 per barrel on October 4, according to local filling stations. Global oil prices jumped to US\$76 per barrel on October 3, 2018. They then fluctuated. They were around US\$42 on December, US\$54 on January 21 this year, US\$64 per barrel on April 16 this year, US\$66 on April 23, US\$51 on June 12, US\$60 on July 10, US\$51 on August 7, US\$53 on September 3, US\$62 on September 16 and US\$52 on October 4. Local fuel prices increased by K160 to K255 per litre in nearly six months from January to May this year accounting for 18 percent to 36 percent. Then the prices were down 11 percent to 14 percent from May 30 to June 21. From June 21 to July 19, the prices increased again by 11 percent to 14 percent. The prices decreased by 3 percent to 5 percent from July 19 to August 10. As from August 15, local fuel prices increased a little. On October 4 in local market, maximum prices available at local filling stations were K920 for one liter of diesel (K4,182 per gallon), K930 for one liter of premium diesel (K4,227 per gallon), K825 for one liter of 92 Ron octane (K3,750 per gallon) and K915 for one liter of 95 Ron octane (K4,159 per gallon). Prices decreased by K40 per liter compared to the prices available on September 25.

Source: <https://elevenmyanmar.com/news/local-fuel-prices-see-continuous-fall-over-a-week>

Việt Nam, Indonesia lead ASEAN in internet economy growth



Vietnam News | 5 October, 2019

HCM CITY — The Southeast Asian internet economy has expanded by 39 per cent this year to hit US\$100 billion for the first time, according to a report released by Google, Temasek and new partner Bain & Company on Thursday. Indonesia and Việt Nam lead with growth rates of more than 40 per cent, while Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, and the Philippines registered 20-30 per cent growth. The e-Conomy Southeast Asia report for 2019 highlights the most significant industry trends observed in 2019 and analyses the current and future potential of the Southeast Asian internet economy across its six largest markets (Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Việt Nam). This surge across the region is attributed to an influx of around 100 million new online citizens in the last four years. This growing market of customers has incentivised businesses in the region, from established ‘unicorns’ like Gojek to smaller enterprises, to adopt and leverage digital tools to expand rapidly. Việt Nam's digital economy has topped \$12 billion this year and is expected to surge to \$43 billion by 2025, with e-commerce, online tourism, online communications and media, and ride-hailing being among the driving forces. Việt Nam has 61 million Internet users, and a Vietnamese spends an average of three hours and 12 minutes daily on the internet on mobile devices such as

smartphones. As a region, Southeast Asian users spend most of their time on social networks and OTT apps (52 per cent), video apps (20 per cent), games (11 per cent), and other working utilities apps. Việt Nam has become the third largest destination in the region for digital investment, with \$600 million flowing in in 2018 and the first half of 2019, thanks to Hà Nội and HCM City, which are among the seven major internet economy developing cities in the region. International investments in local tech firms including MoMo, Sendo and Topica have contributed to making Việt Nam a destination for investors. As the world's most engaged internet users, Southeast Asia is shaping technology trends. When it comes to services like ride hailing and food delivery, the region is growing as fast as anywhere in the world, and that momentum is only going to continue as a new generation comes of age and people outside big cities come online. By 2025 the regional Internet economy will have tripled to \$300 billion, closing the gap with more developed markets in terms of GDP contribution. Stephanie Davis, managing director, Google SEA, said, "Southeast Asia has an incredibly exciting digital economy as consumers are turning to digital to complete millions of tasks daily, resulting in unprecedented growth. "However, there's more to be done to realize digital's incredible potential. Whether it's providing support for small businesses to grow, teaching Southeast Asians digital skills, expanding Internet access to

more people or advocating for smart policy and regulation." — VNS

Source:<https://vietnamnews.vn/economy/536446/vietnam-indonesia-lead-asean-in-internet-economy-growth.html#t0jGYwAhAxtOfG7o.97>

Coffee exports down in 9 months



Vietnam News | 5 October, 2019

HÀ NỘI – Việt Nam's coffee exports in the first nine months of this year fell by 13.3 per cent in volume to 1.25 million tonnes and 21.9 per cent in value to US\$2.15 billion compared with the same period of last year. According to the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development's Department of Agricultural Product Processing and Market Development, coffee exports in September were estimated at 81,000 tonnes, earning \$143 million. Germany and the US were still the two largest coffee export markets of Việt Nam in the first eight months of this year with export value of \$270.6 million (accounting for 13.5 per cent of the total) and \$176 million (8.8 per cent), respectively. A strong decrease in average coffee export price was a factor leading to the reduction in Việt Nam's exports to most traditional markets such as Germany, the US, Italy and Spain. In the first eight months, the average coffee export price dropped by 10.7 per cent to \$1,709 per tonne year on year. The coffee price in the world market decreased because Brazilian coffee growers enhanced selling because of a drop

in Brazil's currency, meanwhile, coffee reserves in some major markets like the US continue to rise, according to the ministry. In the domestic market, the price also decreased along with the world market trend. The price of green coffee in September plunged by VNĐ100 per kilo to VNĐ32,400-33,400 in the Central Highlands provinces compared with August, reported the Công thương (industry and trade) magazine. The coffee price in the first nine months had a decrease of VNĐ100-200 per kilo compared to the end of 2018. The Brazilian government has reduced its forecast on coffee output for this year's crop to 49 million 60-kg bags, down from 50.9 million bags forecasted in May 2019, due to bad weather. By the end of this year, coffee production is expected to increase as usual, so the international roasters and traders will promote their brand overseas. - VNS

Source:<https://vietnamnews.vn/economy/536442/coffee-exports-down-in-9-months.html#09WvUq2efT3Rtgps.97>
