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## Contract farming lifting farmers' living standards in Preah Vihear



*Cambodia News | 11 December, 2019*

The harvest season of paddy rice has almost come to an end and rice millers and exporters are now collecting paddy from farmers through contract farming schemes, benefiting more than 5,000 families in Preah Vihear province. Three local exporters – Amru Rice, Signatures of Asia, and Golden Rice – have entered contract farming agreements with a total of 34 communities in the province. This year the communities will sell those companies a total of 22,461 tonnes of organic rice, Preah Vihear's Department of Agriculture said on Tuesday. The body says contract farming benefits 5,341 families in the province. These families cultivate a combined 14,769 hectares of land. So far this year, Amru Rice has purchased 12,841 tonnes of paddy through contract farming, about 75 percent of its target for 2019. Signatures of Asia, meanwhile, has bought 1,000 tonnes of paddy, about 70 percent of what it intends to buy by the end of the year. Golden Rice has already met its target for 2019, having bought 3,129 tonnes of paddy as of this week. Signatures of Asia and Preah Vihear Meanchey Union of Agricultural Cooperatives last month reached a deal on the purchase of paddy rice. The exporter agreed to buy white (non-fragrant) rice for 1,200 to 1,300 riel (\$0.29 to \$0.32) per kilogram. The price of Jasmine rice was set at 1,450 to 1,650 riel (\$0.36 to \$0.4), according to Chan Pich, Signatures of Asia's general manager. "We are

looking for suppliers of organic rice in Banteay Meanchey and Siem Reap provinces," he said, noting that organic rice fetches 25 to 30 percent more than regular rice in international markets. Kan Kunthy, vice president of Amru Rice, said they were working with only a few communities when they started contract farming about five years ago. Now, the exporter works in partnership with thousands of families in the province. He said the company has been working with 9,000 farmers across the country, 5,000 of which grow organic rice. "Our goal is to expand our contract farming scheme. This will allow us to work directly with farmers and will generate more revenue for them," he said. Mr Kanthy said his company will export about 55,000 tonnes of milled rice in 2019, about 10 percent of all rice exports in the Kingdom. Last week, the government allocated an additional \$50 million to the Rural Development Bank (RDB) to expand the credit available to rice millers and rice exporters, aiming to stabilize the price of paddy and allow more of it to be stocked, milled, process and exported. Signatures of Asia's Mr Pich said his company is planning to apply for a loan. "We haven't done it yet but we will do it soon so that we can collect more paddy in Banteay Meanchey province," he told Khmer Times. From January to October, Cambodia exported 457,940 tonnes of milled rice, a 5 percent hike over the corresponding period last year. 184,844 tonnes were shipped to China, according to the Secretariat of One Window Service for Rice Export Formality (SOWS-REF). Cambodia exported 8,467 tonnes of organic rice to the European Union last year, representing 3.9

percent of all EU organic rice imports. This makes the Kingdom the fifth largest exporter of organic rice in the EU.

Source : <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50669031/contract-farming-lifting-farmers-living-standards-in-preah-vihear/>

## Two more provinces get to issue D forms



Cambodia News | 11 December, 2019

The Ministry of Commerce yesterday announced that two more provinces have started issuing the D form of the certificate of origin on a trial basis. Preah Vihear and Pursat provinces can now issue the form, which is seen as an important tool to save time and costs for exporters. The ministry is delegating the issuance of D forms to provincial departments of commerce across the country to facilitate business activity and exports and save companies time and money. The scheme has so far reached 16 provinces. Authorities in Preah Vihear and Pursat provinces started issuing the D form on Dec 9, the statement said. "Producers, traders, and exporters in Preah Vihear and Pursat can now apply online for certificates of origin for their exports, submitting applications through the website of their respective provincial commerce department," it said. Phann Sam Ang, director of Preah Vihear's Department of Commerce, said, "This is an important development that will help local exporters when shipping agricultural goods to neighboring markets." "Exporters won't have to travel to the ministry in Phnom Penh any longer," he told Khmer Times. Mr Sam Ang noted that Preah Vihear exports mostly corn and cassava, and added that mango exports might

begin next year. The D form must be obtained by firms that ship agriculture products to other Asean countries.

Source : <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50668982/two-more-provinces-get-to-issue-d-forms/>

## Lao statistics bureau researches growth of youth population



Laos News | 11 December, 2019

Lao Statistics Bureau is researching to estimate the growth rate of the youth population from 2015-2035 as a valuable data to assist the country's socio-economic development plans. Local daily Vientiane Times on Wednesday quoted Lao Deputy Minister of Planning and Investment and Head of the Lao Statistics Bureau Samaichanh Boupcha recently as saying that, a 2015 survey revealed that young people made up over half of Laos' population, the highest proportion among ASEAN countries. The fourth Population and Housing Census in 2015 showed 60 percent of the Lao populace was under 25 years old while those aged from 10 to 24 years reached 31 percent. One in three people now live in urban areas, but the rural population still represents a large majority of Laos. Samaichanh said the research carried out in 2015 was necessary because it provided statistics to facilitate planning and decision-making by government planners and policymakers. Laos will also conduct a population census in 2020 using age-cohort component analysis to provide updated information for

indicators, baselines and targets to be incorporated in the 2021-2025 National Socio-Economic Development Plan, said the report. The population census is used to set targets in national development plans and directly contributes to efforts to ensure Laos graduates from the least-developed country status. However, the country's young population will lead to both opportunities and challenges for the public health, education, welfare and labor sectors. Lao Statistics Bureau will continue researching the young population from 2015-2045, both on growth and changes such as the rate of birth, death, and immigration to set up plans and policies in human resource development to achieve the government's development goals. According to the fourth Population and Housing Census in 2015, the reported total population was 6,492,228. This increased from 5,621,982 in 2005, of which 3,237,458 were females.

Source : [http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-12/11/c\\_138622972.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-12/11/c_138622972.htm)

### Number of tourist arrival via Myawady border increases



*Myanmar News | 11 December, 2019*

A total of over 37,000 tourists from third party countries visited Myanmar via Myawady border within 11 months in this year, 23,000 more tourists compared with the number of tourist arrival last year, sources said. In 2018, only

over 14,000 tourists visited Myanmar via Myawady border and the number of tourist arrival rose this year as more Chinese tourists visited Myanmar. The Chinese also applied e-visas in this open season to start businesses in Myanmar and visited in groups. A total of 37,752 tourists from third party countries and 5,937 tourists from Thailand visited Myanmar during this year. More than 26,800 Myanmar citizens visited Thailand with passport visas within 11 months in this year and only over 13,000 of them came back to Myanmar. They are frequently detained by Thai authorities for staying illegally in Thailand. Only about 6,000 Thai tourists came to visit Myanmar in that period. Myanmar opened an international gateway for tourists to visit Myanmar via Myawady border on August 28, 2013 and more tourists applied e-visas via online.

Source : <https://elevenmyanmar.com/news/number-of-tourist-arrival-via-myawady-border-increases>

### Capital goods import value over \$1bn in two months



*Myanmar News | 11 December, 2019*

Myanmar has imported capital goods worth over US\$1 billion over the past two months this fiscal year, exceeding by over US\$80 million compared to the same period of last fiscal year,

according to sources released by the Ministry of Commerce. From October 1 to November 29 in the current 2019-2020 fiscal year, import value of capital goods reached US\$1.021 billion while last year's value amounted to US\$934.902 million. So, this year's amount exceeded US\$86.701 million. From October 1, the beginning of the current financial year, to November 16, 35 businesses with a total foreign investment US\$496.282 million were approved. During that period, the old businesses extended their investment amount to over US\$18 million. And new investment amount reached US\$514.882 million. The amount of foreign investment allowed at Thilawa Special Economic Zone in line with the special economic zone law has reached US\$14.303 million. Therefore, a total foreign investment of US\$529.189 million including improved existing investment was allowed in one and a half months this fiscal year. Myanmar is trying to receive a total foreign investment of over US\$220 billion in 20 years and see responsible investment. Myanmar is implementing foreign investment promotion projects with the aim of becoming a moderate-income country by 2030. Those projects are being implemented in short- and long-term periods—short-term period from 2016-2017 FY to 2020-2021 FY, short-term

period from 2021-2022 FY to 2025-2026 FY and long-term period from 2026-2027 FY to 2035-2036 FY.

Source : <https://elevenmyanmar.com/news/capital-goods-import-value-over-1bn-in-two-months>

## Hoa Phat's steel pipe export surges

### 22.3 pct in 11 months



*Vietnam News | 11 December, 2019*

The Hoa Phat Group said its subsidiary - Hoa Phat Steel Pipe Co., Ltd - exported 17,000 tonnes of steel pipe in the first 11 months of 2019, a year-on-year increase of 22.3 percent. The group said Hoa Phat's products are sold in North America, Southeast Asia, India, Australia and Latin America. In November alone, 72,500 tonnes of Hoa Phat steel pipe were sold out, up 27.6 percent from the same period last year, making it become the biggest steel pipe supplier in Vietnam with over 31 percent of the market share. The firm set to sell 750,000 tonnes of steel pipe in domestic and foreign markets in 2019, towards realising its sale growth target of 10 percent in 2020, Vice Director of the Hoa Phat Steel Pipe Co., Ltd, Nguyen Thai Son said. According Son, big-size steel pipe products of the firm will be officially introduced in late December, serving the country's major construction projects.

Source : [https://english.vov.vn/economy/hoa-phats-steel-pipe-export-surges-223-pct-in-](https://english.vov.vn/economy/hoa-phats-steel-pipe-export-surges-223-pct-in-11-months-407398.vov)

[11-months-407398.vov](https://english.vov.vn/economy/hoa-phats-steel-pipe-export-surges-223-pct-in-11-months-407398.vov)

## Fruit, vegetables exports see slight decrease



*Vietnam News | 11 December, 2019*

The export value of fruit and vegetables in the January-November period saw a slight decrease of 0.6 percent year on year to 3.5 billion USD, according to the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. The drop is attributable to falling earnings from some staples such as dragon fruit which accounted for 31 percent of total fruit exports (down 9 percent), durian (down 17.4 percent), coconut (down 35 percent), longan (down 56 percent) and watermelon (down 26.4 percent). The MARD's Agricultural Products Processing and Market Development Department said the strong decrease in exports to China, which accounted for 66.8 percent of all fruit and vegetable exports of Vietnam, was also a reason behind the fall. The rise in exports to the US, the European Union, Japan and the Republic of Korea was not enough to compensate for the reduction in the Chinese market. In the same period, 1.63 billion USD was spent on importing fruit and vegetables, up 3.4 percent from the same period last year. Imports from Thailand, still the biggest import market of Vietnam, went down 24.5 percent, while those from China picked up 10 percent and from the US up 54 percent.

Source : <https://english.vov.vn/economy/fruit-vegetables-exports-see-slight-decrease-407397.vov>

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