



- CP Group of Thailand to venture into coffee production in Cambodia
- 8 million tons of wet season rice production reported in 2019
- Lao Airlines to suspend flights on three Chinese routes
- City commerce department reveals plan to boost success of SMEs
- Myanmar-China trade volume reaches to US\$1.337 B within two months
- Myanmar attracts nearly 2 bln USD foreign investments in 1st quarter of FY 2019-20
- Pepper price to remain low this year
- Kien Giang aims to raise value of key farming products



## CP Group of Thailand to venture into coffee production in Cambodia



*Cambodia News | 28 January, 2020*

The Bangkok-based CP Group has expressed keenness in the production of coffee beans in Cambodia to supply to the Thai market as the coffee bean supply in Thailand cannot meet their domestic demand. The interest was expressed by a business delegation of CP Group while meeting with Pan Sorasak, Cambodian Minister of Commerce in Phnom Penh late last week. The Minister informed his guests of numerous coffee plantations in Cambodia, mostly found in Mondulkiri and Rattanakiri provinces. He also encouraged the company to conduct a field visit to the said areas and cooperate with coffee bean production communities to examine the real investment possibility. Mr. Sorasak also encouraged CP Group to expand its operation in Cambodia to other fields such the processing of rice, cassava, maize, etc., the potential products for export. In the first semester of 2019, the two-way trade between the two neighbouring countries reached more than US\$4 billion.

Source: <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50684520/cp-group-of-thailand-to-venture-into-coffee-production-in-cambodia>

reported at 620,106 tons, registering a year-on-year decrease of about 1 percent. Reports the from Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries revealed that as of December last year, paddy rice was cultivated on an area of 2.5 million hectares with an average yield of 3.1 tons per hectare. Cambodia's milled rice were shipped to 59 countries by 89 rice-exporting companies last year. China is the Kingdom's biggest rice market purchasing 248,105 tons, followed by France and Gabon with 81,905 tons and 36,663 tons, respectively. Though the quota to China is 400,000 tons for 2019, exports fell way below target for the second consecutive year. The dry season rice production, the report stated, were achieved at 528,136 hectares, equal to 114 percent of the yearly target. Cambodia produced 7.4 million tonnes of paddy rice in 2018, a 3.5 percent increase. Total production in 2018 was only 88.47 percent of what the government expected, adding that 2.4 million hectares were harvested out of 2.7 million hectares of available agricultural land. On average, each hectare produced 3.07 tonnes of rice, the report says, noting that in 2006 the average yield was only 2.6 tonnes.

Source : <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50684529/8-million-tons-of-wet-season-rice-production-reported-in-2019>

2019

## 8 million tons of wet season rice production reported in 2019



*Cambodia News | 28 January, 2020*

Some 7.9 million tons of wet season paddy rice were harvested in 2019 while the milled rice export was

## Lao Airlines to suspend flights on three Chinese routes



*Laos News | 28 January, 2020*

Lao Airlines will temporarily cancel all flights from Vientiane to three destinations in China, namely Changzhou, Shanghai, and Hangzhou, as part of precautions in the wake of the coronavirus outbreak in Wuhan. Director of the national flag carrier's Commercial Department, Mr Noudeng Chanthaphasouk, said "We plan to temporarily halt flights from Vientiane to these three destinations, in a bid to control the spread of the virus." "The route from Vientiane to Changzhou will be closed from February 8, while the route from Vientiane to Shanghai will close from Wednesday January 29, and all flights from Vientiane to Hangzhou will be suspended from February 5," he added. "These routes will remain closed until we receive further notice from the Chinese government about the situation." Since the virus outbreak was reported the number of passengers on these routes has decreased, while some flights were cancelled due to the closure of airports in China. Lao Airlines has flights to nine destinations in China. From Vientiane, flights go to Kunming, Guangzhou, Changzhou, Changsha, Shanghai, Wenzhou and Chengdu, and from Luang Prabang to Changsha and Jinghong. During Visit Laos-China Year 2019, more than one million Chinese visitors came to Laos, an increase of nearly 27 percent compared to 2018. Chinese

nationals comprised the second largest group to visit Laos by nationality after Thai nationals.

Source : <http://annx.asianews.network/content/lao-airlines-suspend-flights-three-chinese-routes-112774>

## City commerce department reveals plan to boost success of SMEs



*Laos News | 28 January, 2020*

Vientiane authorities have devised a six-point work plan to help small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to access finance, and aim to increase the number of SMEs by 10 per cent this year. Director of the Vientiane Industry and Commerce Department, Mr Berlin Phetchanthalath, unveiled the plan at last week's meeting of the Vientiane People's Council. The meeting was attended by the Council's President, Mr Anouphap Tounalom, Vientiane Mayor Dr Sinlavong Khoutphaythoun, and members of the Council. Mr Berlin said the development plan for SMEs had been adopted and would be put into practice. The objectives include creating favourable conditions for SME operations and their establishment, improved access to finance, creation and development of new SME operators, greater market access and expansion, increased use of technology and innovation, and greater use of consulting services for business development. "To make this plan a success, we will focus on the SME Service Centre in Vientiane under the Lao National Chamber of Commerce and Industry, which opened in February 2017. We are now building a dedicated SME Service Centre and in April last year laid the

foundations of a project for SME promotion and development as well as product distribution by members of the Vientiane Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Naxaithong district,” Mr Berlin said. The new building is scheduled for completion next month, he added. The Vientiane Industry and Commerce Department is working with the Bank of the Lao PDR and commercial banks in Vientiane to make payments for SMEs easier through an e-commerce platform (Plaosme.com). There are currently 474 SMEs registered as members, of which 385 have used this platform to advertise 1,344 products, Mr Berlin said. The department is continuing to strength the capacity of SMEs in various areas, such as writing business plans, keeping proper accounts, and making use of financial services so they can obtain financing, as well as receiving training in certain areas of business. The department is also trying to create markets for SMEs to ensure they can sell their products, such as by organising exhibitions and trade fairs around Laos and in other countries.

Source : <http://annx.asianews.network/content/city-commerce-department-reveals-plan-boost-success-smes-112776>

fiscal year and Myanmar had a trade surplus as it imported US\$551 million worth of products from China, according to Ministry of Commerce. Myanmar exported over US\$785 million worth of products to China in that period. Both countries are opened business centers and implemented to boost border trade and investments, according to the ministry. The ministry will sign MoUs with the China to establish border economic cooperation zones and will invite tender for Expression of Interest (EOI) for local businessmen to participate to work in the zones, said Dr Than Myint, Union Minister for Commerce. “We will call for EOI to develop border economic cooperation zones in Muse, Nantkhan, Kanpiketie, Laukkai and Chinshwehaw,” said the minister. Myanmar sent a proposal to China to sign the MoU to implement border economic cooperation zones and if the China replies about it, both countries will sign the MoU. “China formed a free trade zone in Shweli and we will do the same,” he said.

Source: <https://elevenmyanmar.com/news/myanmar-china-trade-volume-reaches-to-us1337-b-within-two-months>

**Myanmar-China trade volume reaches to US\$1.337 B within two months**



Trade volume between Myanmar and China is reached to US\$1.337 billion within two months of this

**Myanmar attracts nearly 2 bln USD foreign investments in 1st quarter of FY 2019-20**



YANGON, Jan. 28 (Xinhua) -- Myanmar attracted investment capital of over 1.83 billion U.S. dollars

from permitted foreign enterprises in first quarter of present fiscal year 2019-2020 which started in October last year, said a release issued by the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA) on Tuesday. From Oct. 1, 2019 to Jan. 24 of this FY, the Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) gave the nod to 100 foreign enterprises. At a recent meeting of the commission earlier this month, a total of 23 foreign enterprises with investment capital of over 433.8 million U.S. dollars were approved by the MIC. Creating 11,951 local employment opportunities, the investments from the recently approved enterprises entered the country's power, real estate, livestock and fisheries and manufacturing sectors, respectively. Meanwhile, the MIC gave the green light to 39 Myanmar citizen investment enterprises with over 647.6 billion kyats (431.7 million U.S. dollars) as of Jan. 24 in present FY 2019-2020. Regionally, the Yangon region attracted 60 percent of investments from both home and abroad, followed by Mandalay with 30 percent and the rest flowed into other regions and states. Singapore, China and Thailand are top leading investors in Myanmar. The new Myanmar Companies Law, which was enforced on Aug. 1, 2018, provides tax exemption and relief to investors depending on the development of the regions and states, allowing investors in far-flung areas to enjoy tax breaks of up to seven years.

Source: [http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-01/28/c\\_138739270.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-01/28/c_138739270.htm)

## Pepper price to remain low this year



*Vietnam News | 28 January, 2020*

HA NOI - Pepper prices this year are unlikely to recover after a strong reduction in 2019 due to abundant supply. The demand of pepper-consuming countries has not yet shown signs of strong growth. Viet Nam this year expects to have bumper harvests from the many pepper plantations created in 2017. The domestic market still has a significant stock of pepper from the previous crop, with many households and businesses stockpiling to wait for higher prices, the Viet Nam Pepper Association said. On the world market, pepper output is likely to increase from some major producing countries. In India, the pepper output this year is expected to reach about 61,000-62,000 tonnes, up by 30 per cent year on year. According to the association, Brazil has a production model at very low cost and high yield. Those factors help Brazilian pepper's competitiveness on the global market. With the sharp increase of pepper planting acreage in many countries in the 2016-17 period, the global pepper market is forecast to maintain supply until at least the end of 2020, the association said. Therefore, domestic pepper experts believe this year pepper prices are likely to continue falling. The pepper price is likely to continue to drop to about VND36,000-38,000 per kilo, and possibly VND35,000. In the early days of January, the price

was at VND39,000-42,000 per kilo. However, the pepper price would not plunge further because with prices at around VND37,000, speculators will purchase pepper, according to the association. The domestic pepper price is expected to remain at a low level until the end of this year's crop, it said. This price is forecast to increase slightly in 2021 and see strong recovery from 2022 when the strong reduction in output at home and abroad will help revive the price on the local and global markets. The lower future supply is due to farmers shifting to other crops. Exports Last year was the third consecutive year Viet Nam gained a record in pepper export volume. But its pepper export value declined against the previous year due to the plunge in the global price. In 2019, the average export price of pepper was US\$2,516 per tonne, a reduction of 23.6 per cent year on year. According to the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD), Viet Nam last year exported 284,000 tonnes of pepper, earning \$715 million. The exports rose by 23.4 per cent in volume but fell by 5.7 per cent in value year on year. Of which, the US continued to be the largest export market of Vietnamese pepper, accounting for 19.5 per cent of the total exports. Following were India, Germany and the Netherlands. Pepper exports to most markets saw surges in volume but decreases in value. However, Viet Nam saw significant growth in pepper exports to Germany in both volume and value. The nation also gained high growth in pepper exports to some markets including Thailand, Russia and Turkey. The exports surged by

89.4 per cent in volume and 46 per cent in value to Turkey, 40.6 per cent in volume and 10.3 per cent in value to Russia, and 34.8 per cent in volume and 0.6 per cent in value to Thailand. This year, the free trade agreement between Viet Nam and the EU (EVFTA) is expected to create good conditions and opportunities for the domestic pepper industry to promote exports to the EU, especially the German market. This agreement would also help pepper exporting enterprises expand their export markets and have more chances to attract foreign investment in the processing stage. - VNS

Source : <https://vietnamnews.vn/economy/591556/pepper-price-to-remain-low-this-year.html>

## Kien Giang aims to raise value of key farming products



Vietnam News | 28 January, 2020

Kien Giang (VNA) - The Mekong Delta province of Kien Giang will focus on increasing the value and competitiveness of its agriculture produce this year, especially key items such as rice and fisheries, according to the provincial Department of Agriculture and Rural Development. Kien Giang, the country's largest rice producer, targets producing 4.3 million tonnes of paddy this year, as well as catching and breeding a total of 755,000 tonnes of aquatic species, including 85,000 tonnes of shrimp. Last year, the province harvested more than 4.2 million tonnes of paddy and the rate of high quality rice farming area accounted for 72 percent of the

province's total rice farming area. The province also had 56 large - scale rice fields with a combined area of more than 33,000ha in many districts like Hon Dat, Go Quao, Tan Hiep and Chau Thanh districts. It caught and bred a total of 845,430 tonnes of aquatic species last year. Of the figure, the outlet of shrimp cultivation was more than 82,000 tonnes, up 11 percent against 2018. Agriculture production in the province faced several difficulties like early saltwater intrusion and declining fisheries resources last year, but it still exceeded the province's targets for agriculture production last year. To meet the targets this year, the province will focus on developing large commercial production to meet market demand. This year the province will also establish more concentrated farming areas for agriculture produce. Farmers will be encouraged to develop biological farming as well as cooperate with companies to establish value chains for agriculture produce. It will strengthen managing the quality of rice seeds and increase the farming area of high-quality rice to 80 percent of the province's total rice farming area this year. In the fishing sector, the province will gradually reduce the quantity of catches and regenerate natural fisheries resources. Quang Trong Thao, Deputy Director of the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, said fishermen had been encouraged to apply advanced techniques for post-harvest preservation to improve the quality and value

of caught aquatic species. "The province will better manage its fishing grounds and fishing activities in accordance with regulations," he said. In the aquaculture sector, the province will develop sustainable marine aquaculture along the coast, off-shore and islands. It will also diversify farming models and kinds of farmed aquatic species, especially aquatic species for export like shrimp. The province will expand the model of breeding shrimp in two stages as it has offered high yield and quality. Other effective and sustainable models like the rotation of shrimp and rice on the same rice field in coastal districts of U Minh Thuong and Hon Dat will be further developed. The province has about 62,500ha of shrimp – rice farming area, the largest area in the delta. Under the model, farmers grow rice in the rainy season and breed shrimp in the dry season on the same rice fields. The shrimp – rice farming model has been used for more than 20 years as it is environmentally friendly and is more effective than rice monoculture./.

Source : <https://en.vietnamplus.vn/kien-giang-aims-to-raise-value-of-key-farming-products/167850.vnp>