

Highlight News / June 8, 2021



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ADVISORY INSTITUTE FOR TRADE AND INVESTMENT BY TCC (AITI)

More potential agricultural products named for export to China



Cambodia News | 7 June, 2021

Cambodia has named a number of potential agricultural products for export to China. This comes just after the Kingdom making its first official direct shipment of fresh mangoes to China. The agricultural products named include Palin longan, durian, dragon fruits and healthy bird saliva (the binding agent in bird's nests). These products would join fresh mangoes and fresh bananas as approved Cambodian agricultural exports to China. Prak Phanara, Cambodia's commercial attache in Beijing, said last month's first official shipment of fresh mangoes to China was extremely important for the promotion of the fruit to Chinese people. Fresh mangoes were the second agricultural product, after fresh bananas, to be approved for direct shipment to China. "With the concerted efforts of the two nations, more delicious and fresh agricultural products including Pailin longan, durian, dragon fruit, and healthy bird saliva, could be granted permission to enter the Chinese market soon," Phanara said last week. The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries recently announced the formation of a working group to study the potential of agricultural products for export to foreign markets, particularly to China and its population of 1.4 billion. "The ministry is working to identify the potential products and then provide support because technical assistance will need to be given to lift the production up from

planting to processing for export," he said. The ministry is also working to enhance sanitary and phytosanitary standards to meet the required obligations for export, he said. Commerce Ministry spokesman Penn Sovicheat said that the frameworks on exporting products to China have already been developed and the work remaining is to reply to China's required standards for export. "The Ministry of Commerce and the Chinese side have talked and agreed in principle on allowing Cambodian products to China. This means that we can export the products but we have to overcome the challenges of meeting standard requirements," Sovicheat said. Figures from the Agriculture Ministry show Cambodia exported 3 million tonnes of non-rice agricultural products Jan-May, a 67 percent rise year to date. Those exports resulted in revenue totalling \$1.799 billion.

Source: <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50869417/more-potential-agricultural-products-named-for-export-to-china/>

Another 500,000 doses of Sinovac vaccine to arrive in Cambodia



Cambodia News | 7 June, 2021

The Director General of the Ministry of Health, Mr Youk Sambath, has stated that the country is slated to receive 500,000 Sinovac vaccines. According to the plans, on June 8, 2021, 500,000 vaccines will arrive in Cambodia and will be ready to be distributed for administering. The Prime Minister, Hun Sen, has stated in a special voice recording on

May 29, 2021, that there will be 4.5 million doses of vaccine delivered to the nation for the month of June. The PM has also stated that before the end of the year the government plans to inoculate 5 to 6 million people.

Source: <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50869425/another-500000-doses-of-sinovac-vaccine-to-arrive-in-cambodia/>

Laos pledges cooperation with MRC for responsible Mekong development



Laos News | 9 June, 2021

Laos has committed to full cooperation with the Mekong River Commission (MRC) in addressing challenges to sustainable development on the river and improving the overall state of the basin over the next decade. Speaking during a recent online meeting, Minister of Natural Resources and Environment Mrs Bounkham Vorachit told the CEO of the MRC Secretariat, An Pich Hatda, that Laos is fully committed to the principles and objectives of sustainable development through MRC cooperation. Mr An Pich Hatda reported on the rollout of the new ten-year Basin Development Strategy for the Mekong River Basin, saying that a five-year Strategic Plan is well under way to enable the Mekong countries, including Laos, to address emerging challenges. Acknowledging the CEO's report that funding had mostly been secured to execute the Strategic Plan from 2021-2025, Mrs Bounkham stressed the

importance of effective implementation and support for the four Member Countries, including through the MRC's ongoing and planned support for flood and drought forecasting in Laos. Mr Hatda said the MRC Secretariat had been working closely with related Lao ministries and the Lao National Mekong Committee Secretariat on a few key strategies that were pending MRC approval. They include the Sustainable Hydropower Strategy, Preliminary Design Guidance 2020, and Transboundary Environmental Impact Assessment. The MRC looks forward to these strategies and guidance being approved, and the MRC Secretariat and Lao National Mekong Committee are working to ensure that key issues raised by Laos are addressed and resolved, Mr Hatda said. Next year Laos is due to host the 4th MRC Summit and International Conference, which takes place every four years. But in light of the Covid-19 pandemic Mr Hatda suggested that the meeting be held in April 2023. In response, Mrs Bounkham said she supported the proposal and would consult with other Member Countries. The two partners also discussed the importance of reassuring other Member Countries of their concerns around the Sanakham hydropower project currently undergoing the MRC six-month prior consultation process, which began in May last year. Because of the Covid-19 pandemic and in order to ensure a meaningful public consultation, the

six-month process has not yet been concluded. In the meantime, Laos and the other Mekong nations support actions to address current and future challenges facing the Mekong River.

Source: https://www.vientianetimes.org.la/freeContent/FreeContent_Laos_109.php

Soybean price rises on steady demand

 Myanmar News | 7 June, 2021

The strong demand from border markets hikes up soybean price to K80,100 per 60-viss bag (a viss equals to 1.6 kg). The soybean stood only at K68,550 per bag in January-end. The high foreign demand drove the price up to above K80,000 per bag in early June. Normally, Myanmar sends soybeans to China through Muse border post. In addition to Chinese market, Myanmar's soybeans are also sold out to Thailand to a small extent. It is also shipped to India through maritime trade. Soybeans are used for oil, animal feed and other non-food industrial products. The biggest challenge of Myanmar's soybean production was the decline in number of soybean sown acreage in the previous years. Between 2013-2014FY-2018-2019FY, over 40,000 acres of soybean farms dropped. Quality seeds play a pivotal role in soybean production, extraction of oil from soybean and value-added production. Myanmar's soybean sector needs technical support for pre-harvest diseases and post-harvest losses, along with market exploration. The growers turn to soybean due to the

market potentials. There are over 360,000 acres of soybean in Myanmar in the 2019-2020 financial year, which is up from over 340,000 acres registered in the 2018-2019 FY. Myanmar's soybean export is remarkably increasing year over year. The country exported over 1,700 tonnes of soybean in 2016, 2,000 tonnes in 2017, over 7,000 tonnes in 2018-2019 Fiscal Year. —KK/GNLM

Source: <https://www.gnlm.com.mm/soybean-price-rises-on-steady-demand/>

E-commerce boosts Vietnam's express delivery industry

 Vietnam News | 7 June, 2021

The outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic has stagnated Business-to-Business (B2B) express delivery services whereas Business-to-Consumer (B2C) emerged, pushing up the growth of the Vietnamese online retail and e-commerce industry. Delivery market boostedThe e-commerce and daily essentials goods industry in Vietnam is expected to drive the growth of e-commerce parcels due to an increased number of people shopping from home during the pandemic. According to Nguyen Thi Hong Ngoc, Commercial Director of GHN, the Vietnam-based delivery startup, besides the surge in the number of order deliveries in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City, the rest of the regions including rural areas also recorded galloping growth from 2020 to the first months of 2021. "In the early months of the year, the number of GHN's delivered orders in the rural areas, where accounts for more than 70% of the country's

total population, monthly increased by 25-50% compared to the same period of last year. In some areas, the surge is even by 100%," she told HanoiTimes. Ngoc added that online sales of the company's business partners operating in food & beverage and FMCG have earned a high growth during the pandemic. A report from the Kantar Worldpanel Division showed more than one-third of fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG) categories achieved a double-digit increase in 2020 despite impacts caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, growing faster than the pre-Covid time and higher than the FMCG market's 2019 growth, driven mainly by cooking, transfer from out of home and hygiene. Prospects for express delivery The latest report published by Allied Market Research showed factors, such as the growing e-commerce industry coupled with rising in B2C deliveries and rapid growth in international trade services, are expected to drive the market growth. Vietnam's express delivery service market is estimated to reach US\$2.19 billion by 2027, witnessing a compound average gross rate (CAGR) of 22.4% in the 2020-27 period, the report noted. Regarding end-use, the e-commerce platform segment accounted for the largest share in 2019, contributing to more than four-fifths of the Vietnam express delivery services market, and is projected to maintain its leadership status by 2027. According to a plan set by the Vietnamese government, the number of online shoppers would make up around 55% of the country's total population with annual average

spending of US\$600 by 2025. The growing e-commerce industry would provide opportunities for foreign and local logistics services, especially express delivery services, in the country. The Vietnam e-commerce and Digital Economy Agency (IDEA) has predicted the Vietnamese e-commerce market will reach US\$23 billion by 2025. The rise in the growth of value-added services in express delivery and same-day delivery services are some trending factors in the market. "Service providers in the market in Vietnam are increasingly focusing on providing distinct types of services such as grading & assortment of products, packaging, labeling, online tracking of parcels, mobile applications, e-mail, and SMS alerts," the latest report released in June by Allied Market Research noted. Kerry Express, the Thai express delivery services provider in Vietnam, has offered a diversified range of value-added services at origin and destination, including labeling, packing, gift packing, security tagging, reverse logistics, and call center support. According to Ngoc, GHN has put into operation its third automatic warehouse in Hanoi, increasing its daily capacity to more than 1.5 million orders and reducing the delivery time to 30 minutes instead of three hours as previously. She said the company plans to open 1,000 post offices nationwide this year, as part of the goal of shortening delivery time to meet the demand of customers. Nguyen Van Tu, General Director of Nhat Tin Logistics, a traditional service provider, said that the market has seen an increasing number of logistic providers having invested in

large-scale warehouses to optimize operations and offer high-speed delivery to customers. “The boom in e-commerce amid the pandemic is accelerating the warehouse expansion in Vietnam.”“We will continue to recruit employees, expand our networks and improve the quality of service to meet the increasing demand in Vietnam,” he said.

Source: <http://hanoitimes.vn/e-commerce-boosts-vietnams-express-delivery-industry-317650.html>

Vietnamese rice exports enjoy second quarter boost



Vietnam News | 7 June, 2021

VOV.VN - By recording high export prices coupled with a consistent increase in orders, Vietnamese rice exports are projected to continue witnessing an upward trajectory during the second quarter against the previous quarter, according to industry insiders. Despite facing fierce competition, the export price of local rice in the international market remained at a high level throughout the weekend, according to data released by the Vietnam Food Association. Most notably, the export price of the Vietnamese 5% broken white rice ranged between US\$488 and US\$492 per tonne. Meanwhile, the export price of 5% broken rice coming from India, Pakistan, and Thailand stood at US\$388, US\$443, and US\$455 per tonne, respectively. According to information provided by rice traders, the export price of the Vietnamese rice has fallen in comparison to the previous US\$500 per tonne mark recorded recently, due to a general decline in global

demand. Moreover, the Vietnamese rice continues to face tough competition in terms of price as some regional peers such as India, Thailand, and Pakistan offer their products at a cheaper price. Pham Thai Binh, general director of Trung An High-Tech Agriculture Joint Stock Company, says the current export price is roughly US\$30 - 40 per tonne lower compared to that from the first quarter. Experts believe that there are bright prospects ahead for rice exports in the second quarter of the year thanks to its high quality along with an increasing number of orders placed by foreign importers. Nguyen Trung Kien, vice president and general secretary of the Vietnam Food Association, says the supply source of ST25 rice which has been recognized as the best rice in the world will see improvements made over the course of the coming year as part of efforts aimed at meeting the huge demand that exists within the international market.

Source: [https://english.vov.vn/en/economy/vietnamese-rice-exports-enjoy-second-quarter-boost-](https://english.vov.vn/en/economy/vietnamese-rice-exports-enjoy-second-quarter-boost-864091.vov)

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