

Highlight News / October 18, 2021 2021



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## Thailand and Vietnam remain key markets for Cambodian agricultural products out of 90 markets



*Cambodia News | 17 October, 2021*

Veng Sakhon, Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, said that the National Phytosanitary Database of the General Department of Agriculture of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries showed the results of agricultural exports to 90 countries in the first nine months of 2021 with a volume of 5.93 million tons. Among the 90 countries, Vietnam and Thailand, which are adjacent to Cambodia, are the main markets for Cambodian agricultural products, of which Vietnam received 64.11% of Cambodian agricultural products, Thailand 21.49%, and China 9.69%. and the rest of the 87 other countries received only 4.71%. The Minister of Agriculture has revealed that in the first nine months of this year, agricultural exports reached more than \$3 billion. Cambodia's agricultural exports include rice, dried cassava slices, fresh cassava, cassava flour, cassava waste, cashew nuts, corn, soybeans, fresh bananas, grapefruit, fresh mangoes, mango syrup, coconut oil, pepper, tobacco and mixed vegetables.

Source: <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50953268/thailand-and-vietnam-remain-key-markets-for-cambodian-agricultural-products-out-of-90-markets/>

## US remains the biggest market for exporters



*Cambodia News | 15 October, 2021*

The US remained the biggest market for Cambodia's export products in 2021 despite the Covid-19 pandemic. Cambodia's eight-month exports to the US increased sharply although some products were made without the Generalised System of Preference (GSP), which means tariffs would have been paid. A report from the Ministry of Economy and Finance stated the Kingdom's total exports were valued at \$14.6 billion in the first eight months of this year, a year-on-year increase of 26.7 percent. Exports to the US market accounted for 42 percent of total exports – \$6,219 million, a year-on-year increase of 40.2 percent. Cambodia's travel and bag products only receive GSP status in the US market and other products such as clothes and footwear are exported to the US under the Most-Favoured Nation status, which allows for discounts on imports. Pen Sovicheat, spokesman at the Ministry of Commerce, said exports of travel bags and other travel products saw a little decrease because earlier this year the GSP granted to 27 countries including Cambodia expired. "The exports of travel and bag products have not seen any big drop, but for our economic benefit we want the GSP renewed because, after the end of 2020, exporters to the US have had to pay tax. So when the GSP is renewed, we will receive the benefit of not paying tax and we then expect to increase more products under the preference,"

Sovicheat said yesterday. Cambodian importers and buyers of the Kingdom's travel goods to the US have been required to pay import duties after the GSP preferential tariff system expired on Dec 31. Cambodia and the other 26 countries, which used to benefit from the GSP, joined as an alliance submitted by letter to the US Congress on Sept 13. The private trade community sector also submitted a letter to the US congress on Sept 21 asking it to accelerate the renewal of the GSP, Sovicheat said. The US market remains the biggest market for Cambodia because the main products exported are cloth and footwear products, he said, adding that the travel and bag products benefited from the GSP and contribute a big share of the amount of exports. "Cambodia encourages the opening of more markets for Cambodian products to the US and we still request the GSP to be renewed," he said. Lim Heng, vice-president of the Cambodia Chamber of Commerce, echoed the remarks. "Exporters to the US can claim tax payment back once the GSP is renewed," he said. Last year, bilateral trade between Cambodia and the US was valued at \$6,921 million, an 18 percent increase over that the year before. Of this, Cambodia exported \$6.577 billion of goods, a 23 percent increase on the year.

Source:<https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50952218/us-remains-the-biggest-market-for-exporters/>

## Investment in agriculture, tourism can generate more jobs



*Laos News | 18 October, 2021*

The agriculture and tourism sectors have huge potential to boost inclusive growth in Laos in both the medium and long term, according to a recent report by the Asian Development Bank. The report, "Developing Agriculture and Tourism for Inclusive Growth in Laos", says it is critical to strengthen the linkages between these two sectors to recover the nation's economy post-pandemic. Agriculture and tourism provide jobs in rural areas and can support each other in two ways, according to the report. The first one is the demand for high-quality agricultural products by tourism-related businesses, which can be provided by local farmers. The second one is the fact that tourism can create employment opportunities outside of agriculture, thus boosting the off-farm earnings of rural households. The report stated that the link between agriculture and tourism can make a strong contribution to both agri-tourism and sustainable development. Agriculture employs 60 percent of the workforce in Laos, while about 42,000 people were employed in tourism before the pandemic hit. "Laos must continue to strengthen human capital so that workers can innovate, deliver higher-value tourism services, and rebuild public confidence to travel post-Covid-19," the report said. Special attention should be given to developing

managerial and digital skills at the beginner and expert levels. In addition, training programmes should be made accessible by increasing the number of training centres and promoting approaches such as on-the-job training. The ADB report highlighted the importance of modernising agriculture for growth and poverty reduction, saying that investment in agricultural research, development, and extension has proved to be one of the highest-payoff aspects of public investment. However, modernisation will require research on adapting high-yielding crop varieties to local conditions and ensuring the supply of complementary modern inputs. Over the past three decades, Laos' economy grew at an average of 7 percent annually. But this growth depended too much on the capital-intensive use of abundant natural resources, which created limited job opportunities. As most of the poor in Laos still rely on rural agriculture for their livelihoods, a more productive agriculture sector and new opportunities through tourism can help reduce poverty and achieve inclusive growth. Tourism was growing fast before the pandemic. International tourist arrivals reached 4.1 million in 2018, contributing 12 percent of the country's GDP. However, the ongoing pandemic is severely impacting this sector. The ADB survey for 2020 found that half of tourism enterprises were temporarily closed. Nonetheless, economists

say international tourism will become even more competitive once the pandemic subsides because more people are waiting to travel. To attract higher-spending visitors, Laos should expand visa exemption policies to countries with high outbound tourism expenditure, the report recommends.

Source: [https://www.vientianetimes.org.la/freeContent/FreeContent\\_Investment\\_203\\_21.php](https://www.vientianetimes.org.la/freeContent/FreeContent_Investment_203_21.php)

## Pwintbyu tomato growers enjoy fairer prices



*Myanmar News | 17 October, 2021*

The growers from Pwintbyu Township, Magway Region are planting seasonal crops using irrigated water from the Mezali Dam and underground water. The tomato growers are happy as they are getting good prices. In these days, the tomatoes are sold at K1,500 per viss, according to the growers from Thamanyin village, Pwintbyu township. The growers from Pwintbyu township are engaging with the agriculture and they are growing paddy, sesame, green gram, chickpea, sunflower, maize and other vegetables. This year, the local farmers are happy because of the good yield following reasonable rains and availability of underground water in Pwintbyu township. "People in the township rely largely on agriculture because of good water supply in our township. Most of them are growing tomato, chilli, onion, gourd, pumpkin, watermelon, eggplant, long bean, water spinach, Daikon and Kayl, which support their families' income. These days, the

tomato growers are happy that tomato has touched K1,500 per viss these days. Last month, the tomato price was sold for K400-500 per viss. Earlier, our farmers grew the crops with traditional method. Now, our farmers are aware of the update cultivation methods by linking with agriculture companies," said a local farmer from Thamanyin village, Pwintbyu township. — Ye Win Naing (NyaungU)/GNLM

Source: <https://www.gnlm.com.mm/pwintbyu-tomato-growers-enjoy-fairer-prices/>

## Việt Nam likely to achieve rice export target this year



*Vietnam News | 16 October, 2021*

HÀ NỘI — Việt Nam is expected to achieve its rice export target of 6.3 million tonnes worth US\$3.2 billion this year due to high global demand and an increase in export prices. Statistics from the General Department of Vietnam Customs showed the country exported 593,600 tonnes of rice in September, worth over \$293.1 million, increasing by 19 per cent in volume and 20.5 per cent in value compared to last year's figures. Việt Nam shipped abroad 4.57 million tonnes of rice worth over \$2.41 billion during the nine-month period, a drop of 8.3 per cent in volume and 1.2 per cent in value year-on-year. "The rice export has resumed since September despite the fact that social distancing is still being applied in many southern provinces and cities," said Nguyễn Quốc Toàn, General Director of the Agro Processing and Market Development Authority

under the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. Nguyễn Thanh Phong, Director of Vạn Lợi Company, attributed the increase in the Vietnamese rice export prices to the fact that the Government has boosted its purchase for national reserves, along with the rising demand in the global market since the beginning of September. Other insiders also expressed their optimism as foreign importers allow the resumption of rice trading once the COVID-19 pandemic is put under control. Some major rice exporters are predicted to increase their rice exports in the last months of this year and the first half of 2022, they said. The export prices of Việt Nam's 5-per cent broken rice soared to the highest level over the past three months, according to the Việt Nam Food Association. The country's five-per cent broken rice is currently sold at between \$433 and \$437 per tonne, surpassing that of other competitors such as Thailand, India and Pakistan. Specifically, the prices of Vietnamese rice were \$49, \$68 and \$55 higher than that of Thailand, India and Pakistan, respectively. In mid-August, the export price of Việt Nam's 5-per cent broken rice was offered at \$393-307, \$8 lower than the Thai product. — VNS

Source: <https://vietnamnews.vn/economy/1059961/viet-nam-likely-to-achieve-rice-export-target-this-year.html>

## Traditional markets in HCM City reopen



*Vietnam News | 16 October, 2021*

HCM CITY — About 47 out of 234 traditional markets in HCM City with traders of fresh food, dry food and essential goods have opened. According to the HCM City Department of Industry and Trade, traditional markets earlier this week remained closed in districts 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, Gò Vấp, Phú Nhuận, Bình Chánh, Hóc Môn and Nhà Bè. About 22 markets are planning to reopen, including Dân Sinh and Thái Bình in District 1; Bàn Cờ, Nguyễn Văn Trỗi and Vườn Chuối in District 3; Phùng Hưng, Tân Thành and Đồng Khánh in District 5; Tân Mỹ in District 7; Rạch Ông, Phạm Thế Hiển, Nhị Thiên Đường and Xóm Củi in District 8; Bình Hưng Hoà, Da Sà, Khu phố 2, Bình Long and Kiến Đức in Bình Tân District; Phú Nhuận, Trần Hữu Trang and Nguyễn Đình Chiểu in Phú Nhuận District and Phước Lộc in Nhà Bè District. All unofficial gathering and trading activities, however, that encroach on roads and fail to ensure epidemic prevention and control and food hygiene and safety are prohibited. Locals are encouraged not to support or trade at prohibited market areas. Resolution 128, classifying four levels of the epidemic, states that traditional markets, restaurants and eateries are allowed to operate on the basis of epidemic prevention and control. However, in very high-risk areas, the provincial People's Committees will announce necessary and specific conditions for these activities to be carried out more safely. Some

traders in traditional markets are concerned about a decrease in buying power from customers. Trinh Minh Quang told e-newspaper VnExpress that he has been able to sell one-tenth of his seafood compared to months ago. "Fresh seafood, when it cannot be sold within three to four days, will go to waste. We are trying to keep my store open as a reminder to our customers that we are still in business," he added. Meanwhile, Phạm Trung Hiếu, owner of a chicken eatery, pointed out that locals' habits of dining at home has discouraged them to order takeaways. — VNS

Source: <https://vietnamnews.vn/economy/1060902/traditional-markets-in-hcm-city-reopen.html>