

Global Rice Production Soars To 479 MT



Global rice production for 2013/14 is forecast at a record 479.3 million tons (milled basis), up 2 percent from a year earlier, a result of expanded area. Global rice area in 2013/14 is projected at a record 161.4 million hectares, up 2 percent from a year earlier.

Production is projected to be record high in South Asia, East Asia, and Southeast Asia, mostly due to larger area.

There were several significant production revisions for 2012/13. First, Afghanistan's 2012/13 production estimate was raised 110,000 tons to a record 460,000 tons based on a much higher yield brought about by favorable weather conditions, sufficient water availability, and technical support provided by the international community. Second, Burma's production was lowered fractionally to 10.7 million tons based on a weaker yield. Third, India's 2012/13 production was raised 3.0 million tons to 104.0 million tons based on a higher yield reported by the Government of India in its Third Advanced Estimate. Finally, there were several revisions to Sub-Saharan Africa production estimates largely based on year-end government data and recommendations from the USDA Office in Dakar, Senegal.

Global rice use (including a residual component) for 2013/14 is projected at a record 476.8 million tons, up 1.5 percent from a year earlier. Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Nigeria, and Vietnam account for most of the projected increase in global consumption in 2013/14. In contrast, consumption is projected to decline in 2013/14 in Japan, South Korea, and the United States.

Consumption has declined for several decades in both Japan and South Korea due to diet diversification.

Global ending stocks for 2013/14 are projected at 107.8 million tons, up 2 percent from 2013/14 and the highest since 2001/02. Thailand accounts for the bulk of the expected increase in global stocks in 2013/14. At 14.2 million tons, Thailand's 2013/14 ending stocks are up 22 percent from a year earlier and the highest on record. India's 2013/14 ending stocks are projected to increase 4 percent to a near-record 25.0 million tons, largely due to a record crop.

Global Rice Trade in 2014 Projected Nearly Unchanged from 2013

Total calendar year 2014 global rice trade is forecast at 38.6 million tons, nearly unchanged from this year, but 0.5 million tons below the 2012 record.

Vietnam is projected to export a record 7.7 million tons of rice in 2014, an increase of 0.3 million tons from 2013. Pakistan's 2014 exports are projected to remain at 3.2 million tons. Finally, U.S. 2014 rice exports are projected to decline 0.2 million tons to 3.2 million tons.

In Southeast Asia, 2014 imports are projected at 4.93 million tons, a 5-percent decline from 2013. The Philippines account for most of the projected import decline.

East Asia's 2014 rice imports are projected at 4.7 million tons, down 5 percent from a year

earlier.

South Asia's 2014 imports are projected at 1.0 million tons, up 17 percent from a year earlier.

South America's imports are projected to decline 7 percent to 1.83 million tons.

The Caribbean is projected to import 1.0 million tons of rice in 2014, down 7 percent from 2013. Cuba accounts for nearly all of the projected decline. Haiti's 2014 imports are projected at 400,000 tons, unchanged from a year earlier record.

Central America is projected to import a record 1.2 million tons, up 2 percent from a year earlier. The region's production cannot match consumption growth. Costa Rica's imports are projected to increase 15,000 tons to 100,000 tons. Honduras is projected to import 115,000 tons in 2014, also up 15,000 tons from this year. In contrast, Nicaragua is projected to reduce imports by 30,000 tons to 65,000 tons in 2014, a response to expectations of another record crop.

Elsewhere in the Western Hemisphere, the United States is projected to import a record 725,000 tons of rice in 2014, up 25,000 from 2013, a result of a smaller crop and expectations of continued growth in demand for aromatic rices from Asia. Mexico's 2014 imports are projected at a record 730,000 tons. Production is declining in Mexico, while consumption continues to grow. EU imports are projected to remain at 1.2 million tons in 2014.

There were several trade revisions for 2013 this month. On the export side, India's 2013 export forecast was raised 1.4 million tons to 9.0 million tons based on a larger crop and recommendations from the USDA Office in New Delhi. Pakistan's 2013 export forecast was lowered 100,000 tons to 3.2 million tons based on recommendations from the USDA Office in Islamabad. On the import side, China's 2013 import forecast was raised 600,000 tons to a record 3.0 million tons based on a very strong pace of purchases to date. Indonesia's imports were boosted 700,000 tons to 1.5 million tons, based on recommendations from the USDA Office in Jakarta.

Thailand's and Vietnam's Trading Prices Decline; U.S. Prices Increase

Prices for most grades of Thailand's higher and medium-quality white milled rice declined 1-2 percent over the past month, as the Government is speeding up its rice stocks sales.

Prices for Thailand's high-quality, 100-percent Grade B (fob vessel, Bangkok) milled rice for export were quoted at \$561 per ton for the week ending May 6, down \$12 from the week ending April 9.

Price quotes for Thailand's premium jasmine rice – an aromatic variety – were quoted at \$1,146 per ton for the week ending May 6, up \$5 from the week ending April 9.

Price quotes from Vietnam continue to decline, largely a response to a slowing pace of sales in 2013 and large supplies in Asia. For the week ending May 7, prices for Vietnam's 5-percent double-water-polished with 5-percent broken were quoted at \$375 per ton, down \$10 from April 9.

U.S. prices for long-grain milled rice have increased since early April, a result of tighter supplies and continued strong export demand. For the week ending May 7, prices for high-quality Southern long-grain rice (No. 2, 4-percent broken, bagged, free alongside vessel, U.S. Gulf port) were quoted at \$661 per ton, up \$53 from April 9. U.S. long-grain rough-rice (bulk, fob vessel, New Orleans) were quoted at \$375 per ton for the week ending April 9, unchanged from a month earlier. Δ