

1. Winning of winter-spring, lessons for summer-autumn season
2. Price stable of ordinary but sharply decreased of aromatic rice in Mekong delta provinces
3. Rice export price increased in March
4. Mixed changes of rice prices in Asian market

Vietnam rice market

The winter-spring crop 2006/07 in Mekong delta region's basically successful. Until the end of March, all southern provinces has harvested about 882.3 thousand hectares of rice, while Mekong delta provinces reaches 864.2 thousand hectares, equal 57.4% seeding areas. The average rice productivity of whole region is estimated about 5.9 ton/ha, then winter-spring rice yield is estimated about 8.9 millions ton.

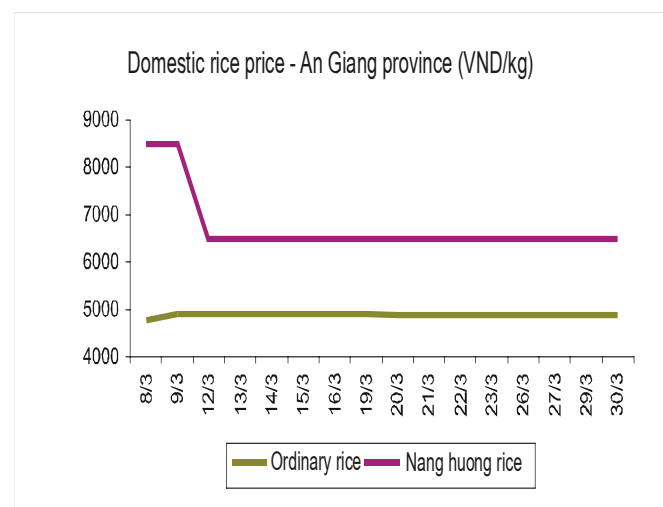
Since almost farmers used identified and qualified rice seeds, the quality of rice is quite good, though rice disease happening. Besides, agricultural sectors has guided farmers right science solutions in seeding, cultivating, linking crops which all helpful for resisting Ray Nau, VLLXL.

Domestic rice prices lately March generally decreased compared to early March, but the levels are different. In An Giang, at the end of March, price of "Nang huong" rice decreased 2000 VND per kg, price of aromatic rice decreased 1400 VND per kg, price of ordinary rice lightly decreased, about 50 VND/kg, compared to early March.

While the exporting rice market running favorably for Vietnam rice, international demand is quite big and stable, Vietnam only gain small deals in exporting aromatic rice, about 3000-5000 ton for one contract. The Vietnam rice trading enterprises stand on signing small contract for exporting aromatic rice since they estimated that the sup-

Provinces	Seeding areas (ha)	Productivity (ton/ha)
An Giang	230615	6,52
Ben Tre	20637	4,5
Vinh Long	67000	6-6,5
Hau Giang	81200	5,56
Tien Giang	83000	7
Long An	180000	6-8
Kien Giang	266000	5
Dong Thap	208406	6,9

Source: Agroinfo



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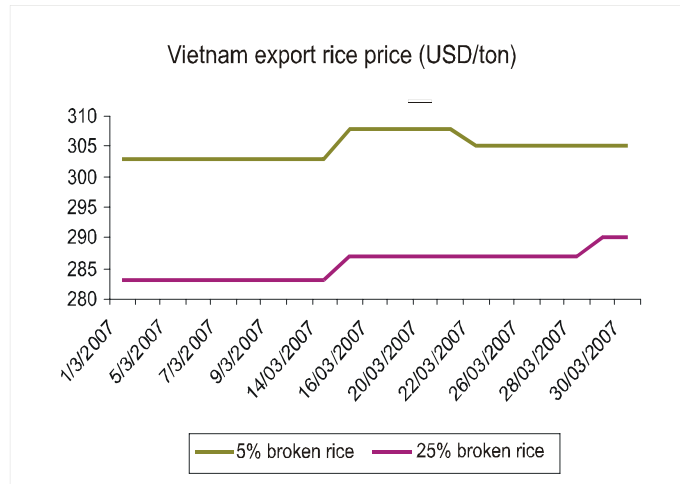
Vietnam export rice price (USD/ton, FOB - Source: AGROINFO)

Date	1/3	2/3	5/3	6/3	7/3	8/3	9/3	12/3	13/3	14/3	15/3
25% broken rice	283	283	283	283	283	283	283	-	283	283	287
5% broken rice	303	303	303	303	303	303	303	303	303	303	308
Date	16/3	19/3	20/3	21/3	22/3	23/3	26/3	27/3	28/3	29/3	30/3
25% broken rice	287	287	287	287	287	287	287	287	287	290	290
5% broken rice	308	308	308	308	305	305	305	305	305	305	305

ply cannot meet the demand for this type of rice.

During lately two weeks of March, export price of 25% broken rice increased compared to early March, and reaches 297 USD/ton. After increasing high price in mid-March to 308 USD/ton, in lately March, price of 5% broken rice lightly decreased to 305 USD/ton, but still stand higher than price levels in early March, only 303 USD/ton. Indonesia still be largest market for Vietnam exporting rice. Within month, exporting rice to Japan is developed and to Philippines is recovered. The main type of rice exported to these markets are 15% broken ordinary rice and 10% broken sticky rice.

Saigon port has the largest rice export flow, then Ben Nghe, Tan Cang. Until 22rd March, around 182 thousand tons of rice loading on boards, 65.9% in comparison with the same period last year, since facing with some difficulties in arrangement of vessels for government rice export contracts. In the week ended Tuesday, three vessels were waiting to be loaded with 31,300 MT of rice for export at Vietnam's Saigon port. Last week, two vessels left the port carrying a total 27,800 MT of 15% broken rice for the Philippines, one vessel with 14,200 MT of 15% broken rice left for Indonesia and one vessel left with 7,200 MT of 5% broken rice for Malaysia. Within week, 3 vessels are waiting to load 27.8 thousand tons of 15% broken rice to Philipin, 200 tons of 5% broken rice to Malaysia



Source: Agroinfo



World rice market

Asian rice prices were mixed Wednesday, with Thai export prices higher and Indian export prices mostly unchanged. In Thailand, lower rice prices over the last few weeks generated some export demand, pushing up prices. In a major export deal, Ghana has agreed to buy 400,000 metric tons of par-boiled rice and 100,000 tons of Jasmine rice from Thailand, though traders were unable to give any details on selling prices or shipment periods. In other deals, Thailand has agreed to sell a total of 380,000 tons of white rice to the Iranian and Indonesian governments. This is divided into 200,000 tons of 15% white rice to Indonesia and 180,000 tons of 100% grade B white rice to Iran, which is coming from the government's rice stock produced in the 2006-07 crop year.

The sale is part of a government-to-government program under which Thailand targets to sell 1 million tons of rice this year. Thailand's targeted

buyers under the program include Indonesia, the Philippines, Iran and Cuba. However, overseas buyers are not really going to step up buying in a big way anytime soon, as most of them still feel prices might come down further as Thailand's paddy harvest gathers pace.

Wednesday, 100% grade B rice was at \$322/ton, FOB Bangkok, up \$3 from Monday, while 5% broken was at \$317/ton, also up \$3. In India, export prices of rice remained little changed over the past few days, amid steady export demand. India's rice export prices may start falling as more rice from the ongoing harvest makes it to the market. India is currently exporting around 300,000-400,000 tons of rice every month, mostly to African countries. India's 25% broken rice was unchanged from Monday at \$268-\$270/ton, FOB Kakinada port. Most of India's rice exports are taking place through the port.

Domestic rice price - An Giang (VND/kg - Source: AGROINFO)

	8/3	9/3	12/3	13/3	14/3	15/3	16/3	19/3	20/3	21/3	22/3	23/3	26/3	27/3	29/3	30/3
Ordinary rice	4800	4900	4900	4900	4900	4900	4900	4900	4850	4850	4850	4850	4850	4850	4850	4850
Nang huong rice	8500	8500	6500	6500	6500	6500	6500	6500	6500	6500	6500	6500	6500	6500	6500	6500

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