



USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agriculture Information Network

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Egypt

Grain and Feed

Rice Exports Suspended

2008

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Report Highlights:

Citing rising domestic prices, Egypt recently announced a ban on rice exports effective as of January 19, 2008. As a result, the export forecast for 2007/08 is reduced from 1.1 million tons to 800,000 tons.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Trade Report
Cairo [EG1]
[EG]

Citing rising domestic prices, the Government of Egypt (GOE) recently announced that as of January 19, 2008, rice exports will be banned indefinitely. This decision was taken after the consumer price of rice topped 4 Egyptian pounds/Kg, which is equivalent to about \$730/ton, and about 30 percent higher than traditional levels. This increase reflects the high prices for rough rice, which are currently about \$325/ton, compared to about \$220/ton last year. The steep rise in prices has led to allegations that traders are speculating and storing rice awaiting further price increases. GOE is hoping that the ban will result in traders selling more rice to the local market, leading to an easing in prices, or at least will stop the increase. No specific time-frame has been set for the duration of the export ban.

As of September 15 2007 (the beginning of rice export marketing year) through January 10, 2008, Egypt exported 350,000 MT, about 100,000 MT less than the same period of last year. Due to this slow pace, plus the announcement of the ban, rice exports in MY 2007/08 are forecast at 800,000 tons. The current average export price for Egyptian rice is \$500/ton FOB.

PSD Table

Country Commodity	Egypt Rice, Milled								
	(1000 HA)			(1000 MT)			(MT/HA)		
Market Year Begin	2005 USDA Official	Revised Post Estimate	Post Estimate New	2006 USDA Official	Estimate Post Estimate	Post Estimate New	2007 USDA Official	Forecast Post Estimate	Post Estimate New
		10/2005	10/2005		10/2006	10/2006		10/2007	10/2007
Area Harvested	645	645	668	650	650	675	0	0	675
Beginning Stocks	502	203	502	357	200	255	297	190	438
Milled Production	4130	4130	4135	4140	4140	4383	0	0	4380
Rough Production	6354	6354	6362	6369	6369	6743	0	0	6738
Milling Rate (.9999)	6500	6500	6500	6500	6500	6500	0	0	6500
MY Imports	0	0	0	0	0	100	0	0	100
TY Imports	0	0	0	0	0	100	0	0	100
TY Imp. from U.S.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Supply	4632	4333	4637	4497	4340	4738	297	190	4918
MY Exports	1000	1100	1039	900	1100	1000	0	0	800
TY Exports	1000	800	1039	900	850	1000	0	0	800
Total	3275	3033	3343	3300	3050	3300	0	0	3618
Consumption									
Ending Stocks	357	200	255	297	190	438	0	0	500
Total Distribution	4632	4333	4637	4497	4340	4738	0	0	4918
Yield (Rough)	9.851163	9.851163	9.523952	9.798462	9.798462	9.98963	0	0	9.982222