

## **WORLD RICE SITUATION AND OUTLOOK**

**Year-to-Year Changes:** Global trade in 2003 is estimated at 26.7 million tons, down 1.1 million tons from last year's estimate. Global production in 2002/03 is estimated at 382.1 million tons (milled basis), down 15.0 million tons from 2001/02; this can primarily be attributed to a drop in Indian production due to a weak monsoon. Global ending stocks in 2002/03 are estimated at 107.8 million tons, 26.6 million tons below revised 2001/02, with revisions mainly in China and India. Global consumption in 2002/03 is estimated at 408.6 million tons.

**Price:** Price quotes for Thai 100B strengthened \$7 this month and are currently quoted at \$204 per ton (FOB). Meanwhile, in Vietnam, increased demand from buyers in Southeast Asia offset the increased supplies of rice due to the harvest; currently, Viet 5% remains steady and is quoted at \$170 per ton (FOB). The uncertain availability of rail transport in India is forcing exporters to use trucks; export price quotes increased \$6 to \$166 per ton.

The export price quote for U.S. long grain grade #2/4 is up \$6 from last month and is currently quoted at \$208 per ton (FOB). Additionally, the price quote for California medium grain #1/4 strengthened \$10 to \$290 per ton (bulk, ex-spout Sacramento).

### **Trade Changes in 2003**

#### **Selected Importers**

- **Bangladesh** up 100,000 tons to 500,000 based on a drop in production.

### **Trade Changes in 2002**

#### **Selected Exporters**

- Changes made to the following countries reflect final, year-end trade data:  
**Australia, Burma, India, and Pakistan**

#### **Selected Importers**

Changes made to the following countries reflect final, year-end trade data: **Bangladesh, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, El Salvador, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Japan, South Korea, Mexico, Nigeria, Nicaragua, Peru, Philippines, Russia, Senegal, Singapore, and Uzbekistan.**

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