



News

Foreign Affairs Council strongly condemns coup in Myanmar (Source: Ente Nazionale Risi)

On Monday 22 February, the EU Foreign Affairs Council condemned in the strongest terms the military coup carried out in the country on 1 February 2021. The Council stated that the EU stands ready to adopt restrictive measures targeting those directly responsible for the military coup and their economic interests, seeking to avoid measures that could adversely affect the people of Myanmar, especially those people who are in the most vulnerable circumstances.

The Council's position was taken up by the Commission at the Committee for the Common Organisation of Agricultural Markets - arable crops and olive oil - held on 25 February.

It is hoped that the European institutions will move from words to deeds, providing for the withdrawal of the benefits granted to Myanmar, as the Least Developed Country, which, so far, have allowed the import into the EU of the Burmese Japonica rice free of duty. These imports have increased dramatically in the last two years, going from about 31,500 tonnes in 2018 to about 158,700 tonnes in 2020.

Last year, the European Commission withdrew Cambodia's benefits due to human rights violations, but rice was excluded from the measure because of the safeguard clause on milled Indica rice. In the case of Myanmar, however, rice has to be included because the EU imports almost exclusively Japonica rice, which is not covered by the safeguard clause.

The reintroduction of duty on rice imported from Myanmar is a necessary step and the Commission should not be afraid to take this measure for fear of penalising Burmese rice growers because the only ones to benefit from the increase in trade to the European Union are Burmese exporters. In fact, this was verified during the drafting of the dossier requesting to open the investigation for the application of the safeguard clause against imports of milled Indica rice from Cambodia and Myanmar.

President Carrà said: "I wanted to raise the issue with Minister Di Maio to try to define an urgent proposal that, together with the political measures to be adopted to counter the effects of the coup in Myanmar, would also include the adoption of market measures to protect Italian and European rice farming, given the increase in exports of Japonica rice from that country to the EU".

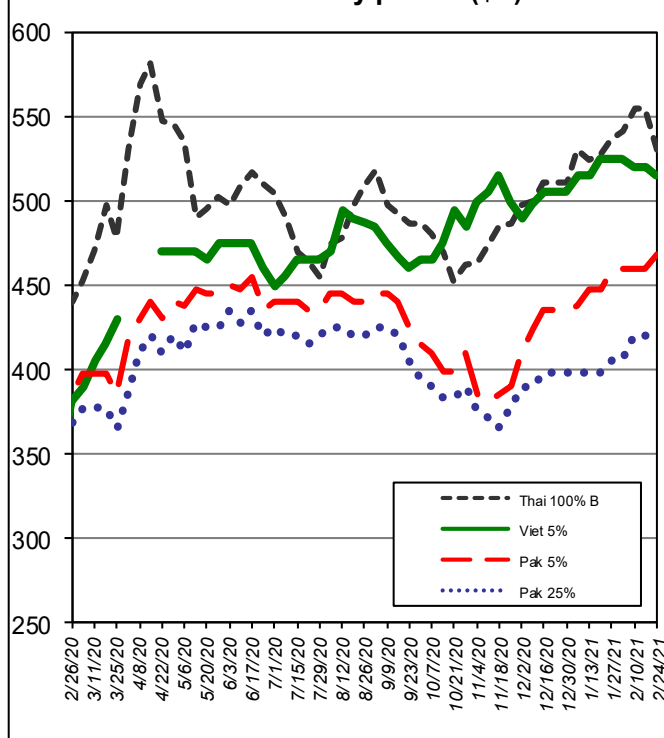
International Markets

Milled rice international FOB quotes

Exchange rate 1 € = 1.2146 \$

Asian Markets	\$/t	€/t
Thai 100%B	530	436
Vietnam 5%	515	424
India 5%	415	342
Pakistan 5%	468	385
Pakistan 25%	417	343
Myanmar 5%	N.A.	N.A.
India Basmati trad.	1,425	1,173
Other Markets	\$/t	€/t
Uruguay 5%	620	510
Argentina 5%	600	494
Paraguay 5%	560	461
USA LG 2/4% Fob Bulk Nola	610	502
California MG 1/4% Med	875	720

Weekly prices (\$/t)



Food Safety

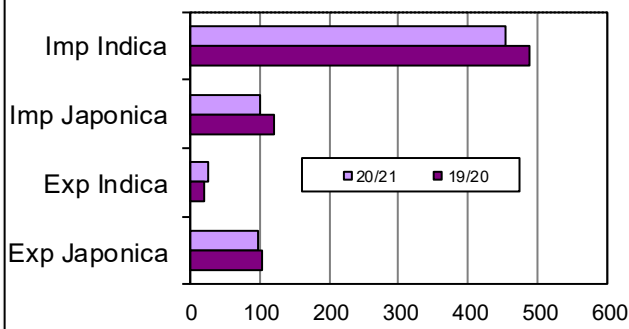
Rapid Alert System (Source: EFSA)

An alert notification was sent by Germany concerning glass fragments in sushi rice from Italy.

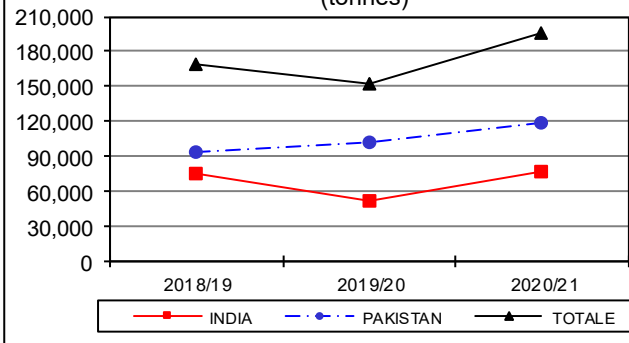
A border rejection notification was sent by Germany concerning unauthorised genetically modified (Bt 63) rice from China.

European Market

Import Export EU ('000 tonnes milled rice equivalent)



Basmati husked rice imports (tonnes)

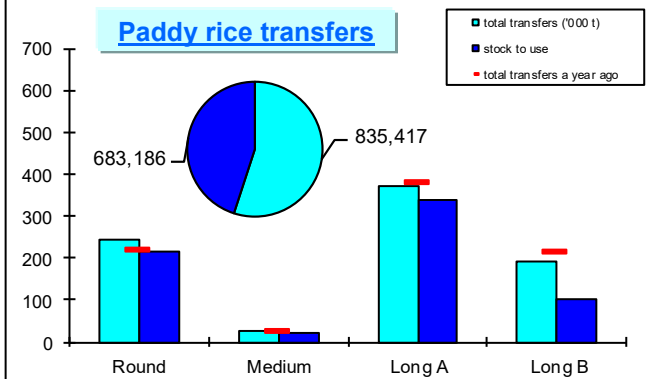


In focus

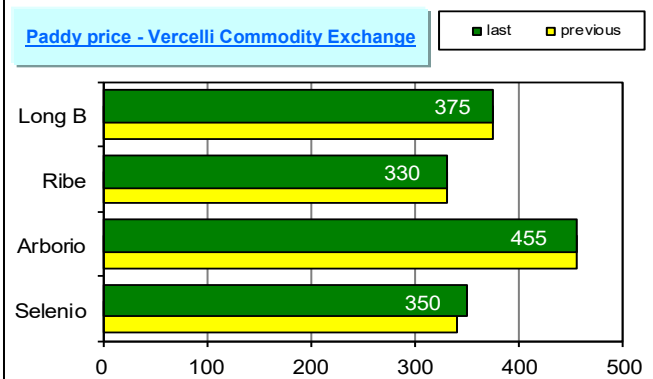
The volumes cleared through EU customs, including the UK pre-Brexit imports (about 84,000 tonnes), amount to 556,306 tonnes, in milled equivalent, 53,902 tonnes (-9%) less than last campaign. With 94,533 tonnes, the Netherlands are the main importer country in the EU, followed by France with 79,179 tonnes and Italy with 53,245 tonnes. Semi-milled and milled rice imports account for 57% of the imported total volume, husked imports account for 41% and paddy imports for the remaining 2%. Husked Basmati rice imports, amounting to 196,579 tonnes, increased by 43,599 tonnes (+28.5%), compared to last year: 119,497 tonnes came from Pakistan and 77,082 tonnes from India. EU exports, amount to 124,645 tonnes, in milled equivalent, 2,539 tonnes (+2%) more than last campaign. Italy exported 48% of the total volume. Japonica rice exports, amounting to 98,644 tonnes, decreased by 4%, while Indica rice exports, amounting to 26,000 tonnes, increased by +34%. From 1 January 2021, the export volumes also take into account the product destined for the United Kingdom.

Italian Market

Paddy rice transfers



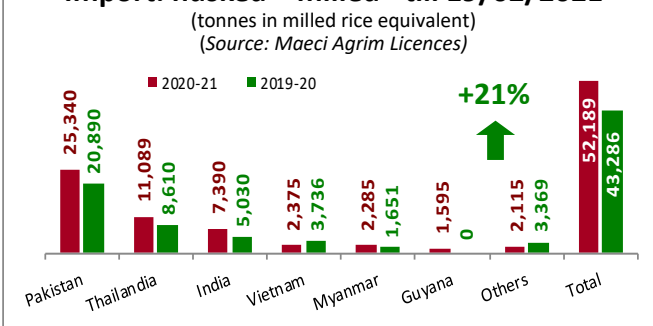
Paddy price - Vercelli Commodity Exchange



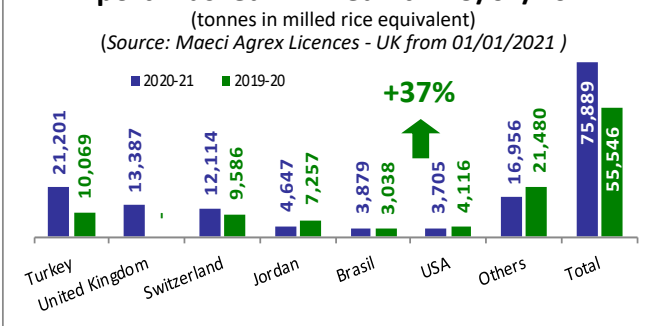
In focus

In the last week paddy rice transfers by farmers reached 35,417 tonnes: 17,772 tonnes of long A grain, 9,088 tonnes of round grain, 6,812 tonnes of long B grain and 1,745 tonnes of medium grain. The total transfers, amounting to 835,417 tonnes and accounting for 55% of the total supply, decreased by 8,537 tonnes (-1%) compared to last campaign. At Commodity Exchange in Vercelli, the paddy prices increased for Selenio (+€ 10). Italian husked, semi milled and milled rice imports amount to 52,189 tonnes, in milled equivalent, 8,903 tonnes (+21%) more than last year: 49,737 tonnes of long B grain, 1,760 tonnes of long A grain, 401 tonnes of medium grain 291 tonnes of round grain. The volumes cleared through customs increased by 8,610 tonnes (+19%) (see table at the bottom). Italian exports amount to 75,889 tonnes, in milled equivalent, 20,343 tonnes (+37%) more than last year. Exports to Turkey more than doubled (+11,132 tonnes, +111%), exports to Switzerland also increased (+2,528 tonnes, +26%), while exports to Lebanon and Jordan fell by 4,447 tonnes (-79%) and 2,610 tonnes (-36%) respectively. Exports to the United Kingdom, at 13,387 tonnes, accounted for 18% of the total volume exported.

Import: husked + milled - till 19/02/2021



Export: husked + milled - till 19/02/2021



Italian imports till 21/02/2021 - Customs declarations - Source: DG Agri (tonnes in milled rice equivalent)

Campaign	Paddy			Brown rice			Semi-milled / Milled rice			TOTAL		
	Indica	Japonica	Total	Indica	Japonica	Total	Indica	Japonica	Total	Indica	Japonica	TOTAL
2020/2021	4,414	-	4,414	19,921	505	20,426	27,052	1,353	28,405	51,387	1,858	53,245
2019/2020	3,949	-	3,949	15,300	1,583	16,883	21,338	2,465	23,803	40,587	4,048	44,635