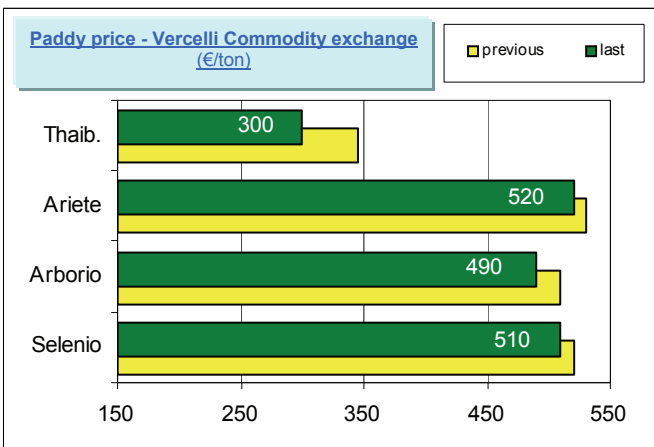
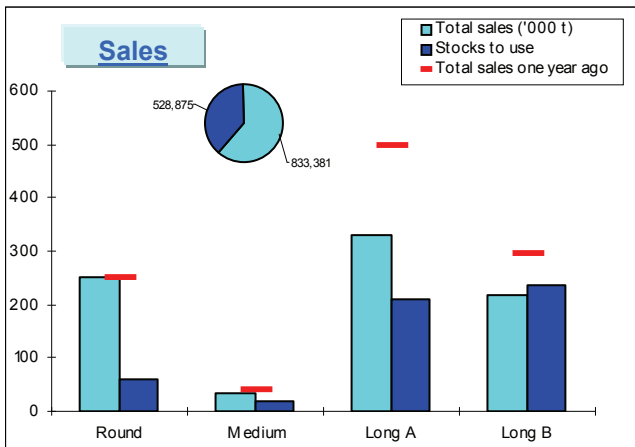




Italian Market



In focus

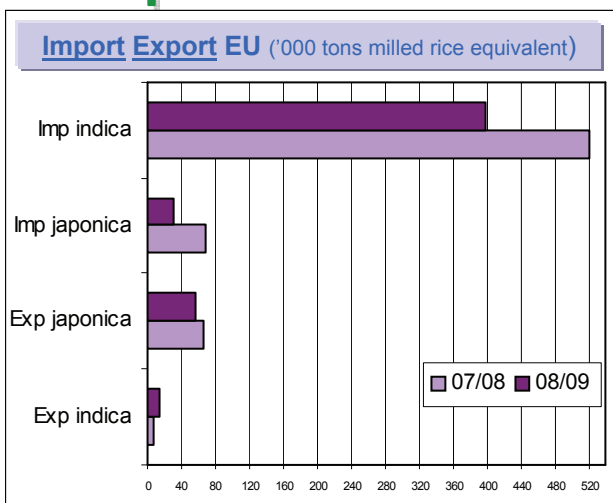
Paddy sales by farmers reached 26,034 tons this week: 8,885 tons of long A grain, 8,360 tons of round grain, 8,247 tons of long B grain and 751 tons of medium grain.

The gap between total sales this year compared to the higher items one year ago, is now -255,688 tons. At the moment the difference is -168,446 tons for long A grain, -79,659 tons for long B grain, -5,342 tons for medium grain and -2,241 tons for round grain.

Total sales reached 833,381 tons, 61% of the total stock. One year ago total sales were 1,089,069 tons corresponding to 70.3% of the total final stock (73% of the estimated stock).

Over last two weeks, all paddy prices at Commodity Exchange in Vercelli decreased; Thaibonnet is 45 €/ton off, Arborio is 20 €/ton off, Ariete and Selenio are 10 €/ton off.

European Market



Tariff quotas available for april 2009 superiod - Regulation EC n. 327/98 -

Order number	Origin	Type of rice	Tons
09.4127	U.S.A.	Semi-milled and milled rice	22,545.000
09.4128	THAILAND	Semi-milled and milled rice	8,738.852
09.4129	AUSTRALIA	Semi-milled and milled rice	1,019.000
09.4130	OTHER ORIGINS	Semi-milled and milled rice	1,805.000
TOTAL			34,107.852

In focus

The EU imports amount to 430,130 tons in milled rice equivalent, 26.8% below the previous year level (-121,793 tons of indica rice and -35,843 tons of japonica rice). Husked Basmati rice imports are on a decreasing trend compared to last year (-47.2%); imports decreased of 89,468 tons (61,700 tons in milled rice equivalent).

In the table above tariff quotas are listed for imports available for april 2009 subperiod.

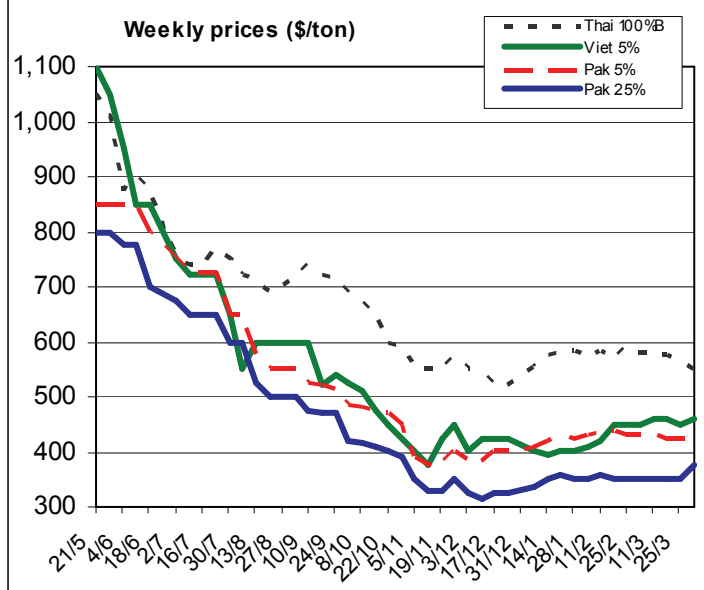
EU exports decreased of 1.2% compared to one year ago: from 73,229 tons in 2007/2008 to 72,326 tons this campaign. Last week licences were issued for 1,375 tons compared to 4,161 tons the previous week.

International Markets

Milled rice international FOB quotes

Exchange rate 1 € = \$1.3246

Asian Markets	\$/t	€/t
Thai 100%B	550	415
Vietnam 5%	460	347
India (MEP)	1,000	755
India Basmati trad.	1,700	1,283
Pakistan 5%	425	321
Other Markets	\$/t	€/t
Uruguay 5%	520	393
Argentina 5%	510	385
USA LG 2/4%	529	399
California MG 1/4%	1,250	944
Egypt 101	1,000	755



- Thailand** The quote of 100% B is \$25 lower than two weeks ago. It seems Thai Government will announce a G to G deal with Iran involving intervention stocks.
- Vietnam** No change for 5%. The signed contracts year to date now total almost 4 million of tons. Export shipments are ongoing at a rather vigorous pace against old contracts, primarily with The Philippines, Cuba, Iraq and various African destinations. Exports for the first quarter '09 were almost 1.75 million of tons, 70% greater than the same period last year.
- India** There is no substantive change in the market. The only export activity is limited to basmati.
- Pakistan** Export shipments are finding their way to core markets in the region like East Africa by containers, along with the usual border trade with Afghanistan and Iran. The Government has taken definitive steps to help local farmers.
- USA** The quotes of Long Grain and Medium Grain are, respectively, \$22 and \$100 higher than two weeks ago. According to the USDA, overall planting intentions for the '09 crop in the Gulf are up 6% compared to last year and the crop in California will be 7% higher than '08.
- Others** Another tender has been floated by Iraq for 30,000 tons of milled rice June/July shipment.

Food Safety

Rapid Alert System (Source: EFSA)

The Commission Services found unauthorised genetically modified (Bt63) rice noodles from Thailand, via the United Kingdom.

Other news

China exports (Source: www.mediumgrainrice.com)

China is projected to increase exports of 300,000 tons up to 1.3 million in 2009, a result of adequate supplies and a tight global supply situation for medium grain rice. China exports both high-quality medium/short rice - mostly to Japan and South Korea - and low quality long grain rice to Sub-Saharan Africa.

Basmati prices jump 40% (Source: The Economic Times)

The prices of Pusa 1121 variety, the latest entrant into the elite basmati club, have shot up by about 40% in the Indian domestic market in the past 10 days. The supply of the aromatic rice from Pakistan has probably exhausted, prompting buyers to turn to India. Export demand has increased from Saudi Arabia and a few European nations.

Colombia returning large paddy shipment after detecting fungus (Source: Stabroek News)

The Colombian Farming Institute (CFI) has announced that 1,000 tonnes of local paddy found to be contaminated with "an identified exotic disease" will be returned to Guyana. CFI has stated that the shipment is infested with *Tilletia* - a fungus which attacks rice kernels. The company which exported the paddy to Colombia stated that the presence of this fungus was never reported in Guyana. In Colombia the same fungus was detected in 5,493 tons of rice originating from the United States. Colombia in December approved a tender to import 75,000 tons of paddy at zero duty to reduce the cost of the product in the local market.

The C4 rice project (Source: Sunday Manila Times)

International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) announced a path-breaking research project that aims to develop a rice variety that needs less water and fertilizer but yields 50 percent more grain than best present-day varieties. The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation gave the C4 Rice Consortium \$11 million to begin the project.

Levi Montalcini: "GMO are not a danger" (Source: Il Sole 24 Ore)

According to scientist, prize Nobel, the GMO are not a danger for human beings. She said "I don't know why people are scared by GMO, it's difficult to explain how fear starts".

RiceNews will back on 22 april. Happy easter.

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