Rice sector and trade News



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News

PRESS RELEASE

"IT IS UNACCEPTABLE TO IMPORT RICE FROM CAMBODIA AND MYANMAR AT ZERO DUTY WHILE THE UN CONFIRMS TORTURE, CHILD LABOUR AND WAR"

Two recent United Nations reports lift the veil on systematic human rights violations in South-East Asia. Natalia Bobba, President of the Ente Nazionale Risi: "Brussels must immediately halt EBA concessions: it is unacceptable that the European rice sector should face unfair competition from a system based on exploitation and illegality."

On the one hand, European farmers, subject to the world's strictest standards on workplace safety, social protections, environmental sustainability and the traceability of plant protection products. On the other, shipments of rice arrive unhindered at European Union ports duty-free, originating from countries where fundamental human rights are trampled upon every day whilst international institutions remain silent.

Two damning reports published by the United Nations in August 2026, concerning Cambodia and Myanmar, have once again turned the spotlight on this unsustainable ethical and commercial paradox: Countries that continue to benefit from the EBA (Everything But Arms) preferential tariff regime, the fast-track scheme created by the EU to support Least Developed Countries, but which is – on paper – conditional upon compliance with UN and ILO conventions.

The picture painted by the report from the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), released on 25 August 2026 and strongly criticised by High Commissioner Volker Türk*, (https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2026/08/human-rights-situation-myanmar-plummets-new-low-amid-unrelenting-violations)* describes a descent to a 'new all-time low' for the people of Myanmar. Between June 2025 and May 2026, the military junta and opposing militias (including the Arakan Army) perpetrated systematic atrocities against the Rohingya minority: air raids on civilians, the burning of entire villages, rape and the illegal expropriation of land.

In this country ravaged by the coup, the collapse of civil order has given rise to an unscrupulous market for forced labour: children as young as six are forced to clear the jungle, carry out heavy labour and even clear away the skeletal remains of massacre victims. Those who attempt to escape this forced labour are subjected to inhuman torture: beatings, cigarette burns, being suspended upside down, and the mutilation of their fingernails.

At the same time, the report states that, in addition to the population's health problems, toxic wastewater from leachate ponds, discharged directly onto agricultural land downstream, has rendered the soil barren or significantly compromised crop yields and quality, thereby reducing farmers' incomes.

No less worrying is the photograph taken on 5 August 2026 by Thomas Andrews, the UN Human Rights Council's Special Rapporteur on Cambodia *(https://news.un.org/en/story/2026/08/1168086).*

News

PRESS RELEASE

Ahead of the 2027 and 2028 elections, Andrews condemns the arbitrary arrest and detention of over 100 political opponents, the use of special laws that contravene international standards to suppress dissent, and the proliferation of criminal organisations run by trafficking networks.

Furthermore, on the northern border with Thailand, over 20,000 displaced Cambodians continue to live uprooted from their homes and lands due to the military occupation resulting from recent border tensions.

Faced with this evidence, the *Ente Nazionale Risi* response is unequivocal.

The President Natalia Bobba has spoken out strongly: *"The data certified by the United Nations leaves no room for interpretation or procrastination: in Myanmar and Cambodia, we are not dealing with mere transitional challenges, but with systematic violations of human dignity, child labour, violent expropriations and environmental devastation used as an economic weapon. It is intolerable that the European Union should allow the duty-free import of hundreds of thousands of tonnes of rice from theatres of war and repression, whilst continuing to grant trade advantages - intended to foster cooperation - to regimes that finance terror and violence".*

The President also lays bare the situation of a total lack of reciprocity that is threatening to strangle Italian and European rice farming: *"Brussels imposes the strictest rules on the planet on our rice farmers regarding sustainability, workers' welfare and restrictions on plant protection products. Yet, at the same time, it opens the door to social and environmental dumping by nations that drive down production costs to zero by exploiting children and damaging the environment. This is not free trade: it is legalised unfair competition at the expense of the victims and our businesses".*

Ente Nazionale Risi is calling for immediate action by the European institutions: "The automatic safeguard clause, with its current thresholds, is a blunt instrument that only kicks in once a disaster has already occurred", insists Natalia Bobba. "We call on the Commission to immediately revoke the EBA tariff preferences for Myanmar and Cambodia, as expressly provided for in EU regulations in the face of serious and proven human rights violations. We cannot allow the rice consumed on European tables to be tainted by such a humanitarian catastrophe, just as we cannot allow the work of our rice farmers to be undermined by a tariff system that benefits economies operating with utter disregard for human rights".

Food Safety

Rapid Alert System

- A border rejection notification was sent by Malaysia concerning unauthorized food additive E129 in Rice Puff.
- An information notification for attention was sent by Netherlands concerning Ochratoxin A (14.0 µg/kg – ppb) in rice from India.



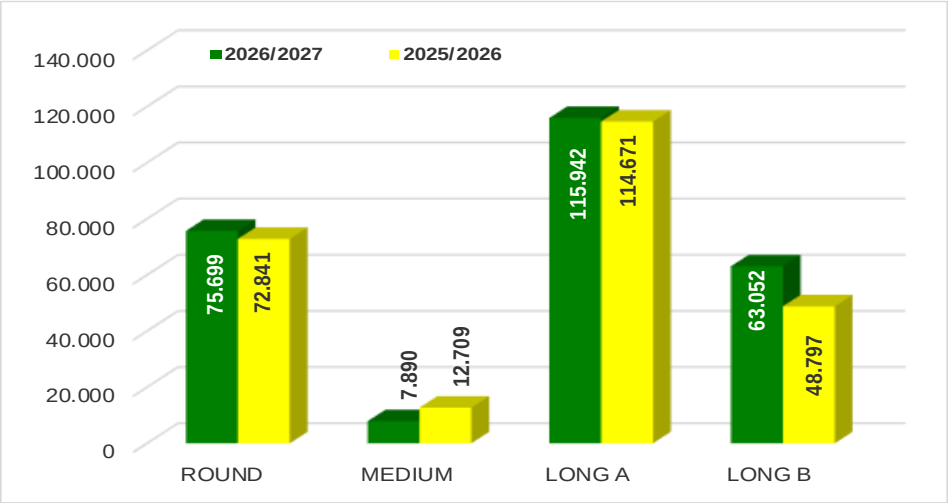
Italian market

Campaign 2026/2027

From September 1st to October 27, 2026

Paddy rice transfers

(in tonnes)

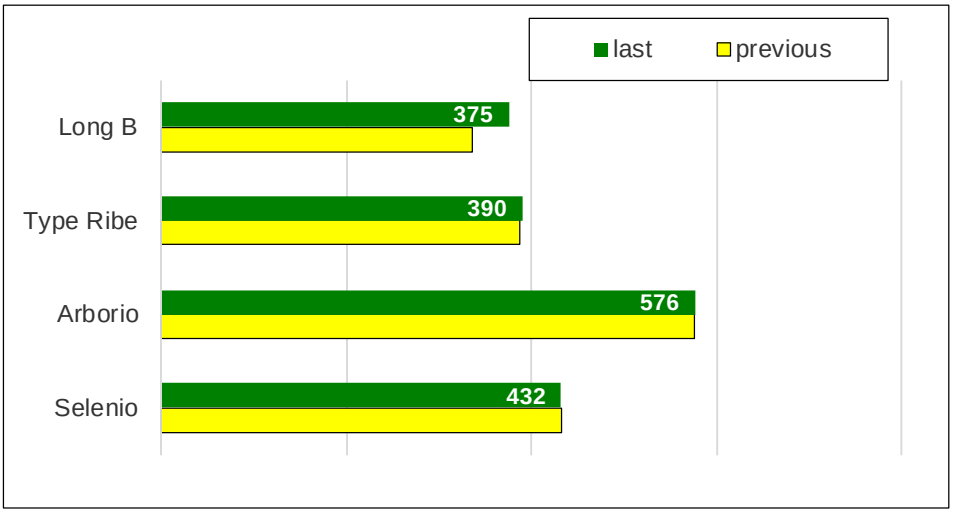


This week, 29,024 tonnes were transferred, of which 12,473 tonnes were “long A“, 7,910 tonnes were “long B“, 7,280 tonnes were “round“ and 1,361 tonnes were “medium“.

The total volume transferred amounts to 262,583 tonnes, representing an increase of 13,565 tonnes (+5%) compared with the previous season.

Rice paddy of the “round”, “long A” and “long B” types recorded increases of 4%, 1% and 29 respectively, whilst that of the “medium” type fell by 38%.

Paddy prices Vercelli (€/t)



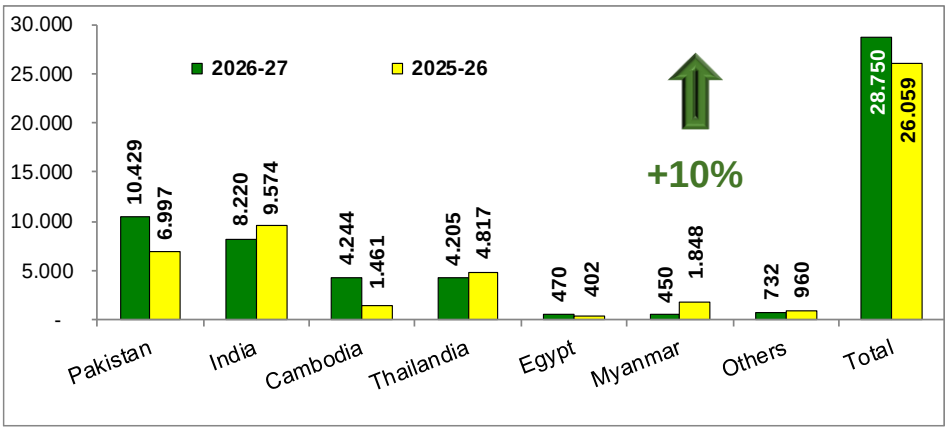
At the Vercelli Commodity Exchange there has been an increase in the price of “Long B” (+€39) and “Type Ribe” (+€2) compared with the previous week.

(*) weighted average of the maximum quotations for the varieties Kinder PV, Ely PV and Ronaldo

Import: husked + milled

tonnes in milled rice equivalent

(Source: MAECI Agrim Licences)



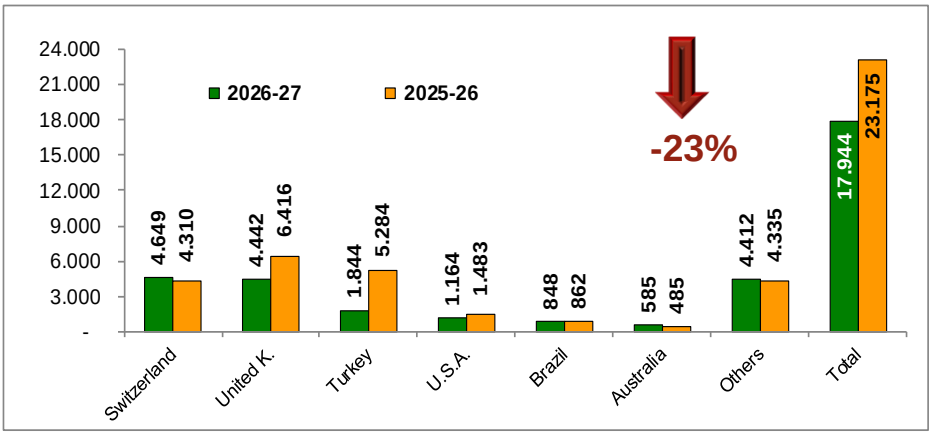
Traders have applied for import licences for a volume of 28,750 tonnes, in milled equivalent, representing an increase of 2,691 tonnes (+10%) compared with the previous marketing year.

Applications for licences for Indica rice relate to a volume of 28,357 tonnes, marking an increase of 3,417 tonnes (+14%) and accounting for 99% of the total volume; those for Japonica rice, amounting to 213 tonnes, are down by 726 tonnes (-77%).

Export: husked + milled

tonnes in milled rice equivalent

(Source: ENTE RISI Declaration)



Exports to third Countries totalled 17,944 tonnes, in milled equivalent, representing a fall of 5,231 tonnes (-23%) compared with the previous marketing year.

The most exported type was “long A” rice (9,499 tonnes), down by 3,570 tonnes (-27%), followed by “round” rice (4,800 tonnes), which recorded a decrease of 1,392 tonnes (-23%). Exports of “medium” rice (560 tonnes) and “long B” rice (3,085 tonnes) also fell by 3% and 7% respectively.



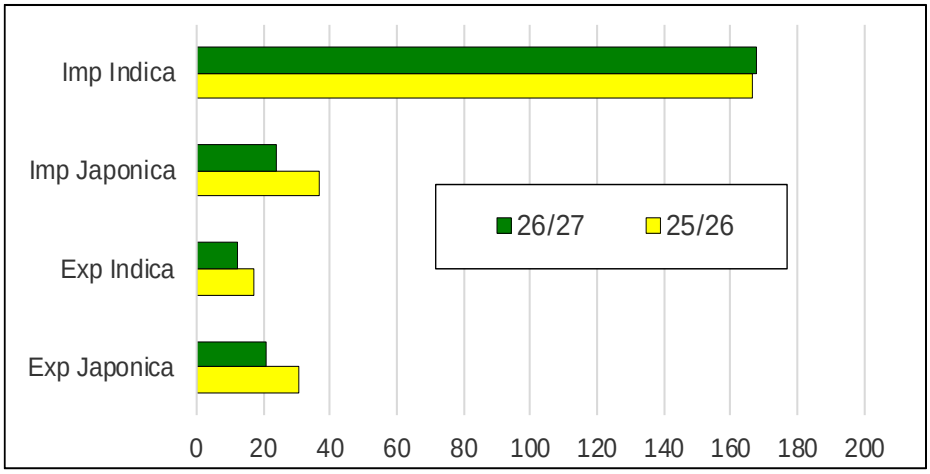
European Union market

Campaign 2026/2027

From September 1st to October 25, 2026

Import EU – Export UE

('000 tonnes milled rice equivalent)



Since the start of the marketing year, 192,000 tonnes - in milled rice equivalent - have been cleared through customs in the EU, down by almost 11,300 tonnes (-6%) compared with the previous marketing year.

Imports of Japonica rice, at around 24,000 tonnes, have fallen by more than 12,500 tonnes (-34%), whilst imports of Indica rice, at around 168,000 tonnes, have risen by over 1,200 tonnes (+1%).

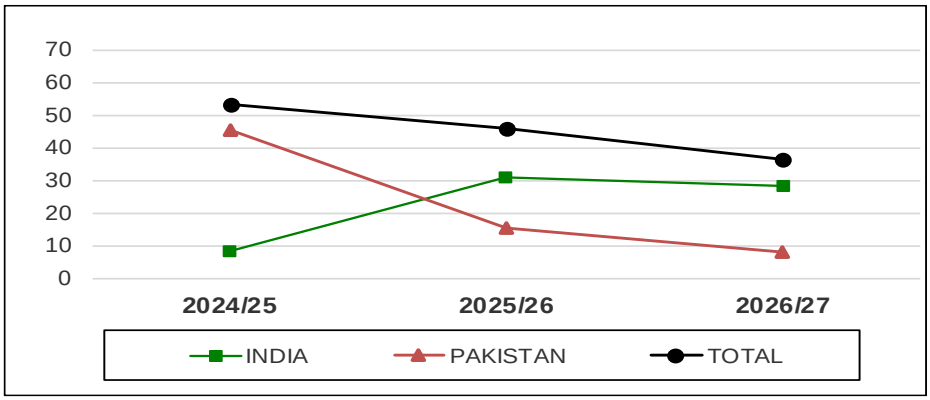
Italy and France, with approximately 30,800 and 30,300 tonnes respectively, were the countries that imported the largest quantities.

As regards exports, shipments to Third countries totalled almost 32,500 tonnes, down by approximately 14,800 tonnes (-31%).

The Commission notes that France, Belgium, Greece and Ireland have not provided a complete update on export volumes.

Basmati husked rice imports

('000 tonnes)



Imports of husked Basmati rice, amounting to approximately 43,700 tonnes, are down by 7,400 tonnes (-17%) compared with the previous marketing year.

32% of the volume of Basmati rice stems from licences issued to Italian operators.



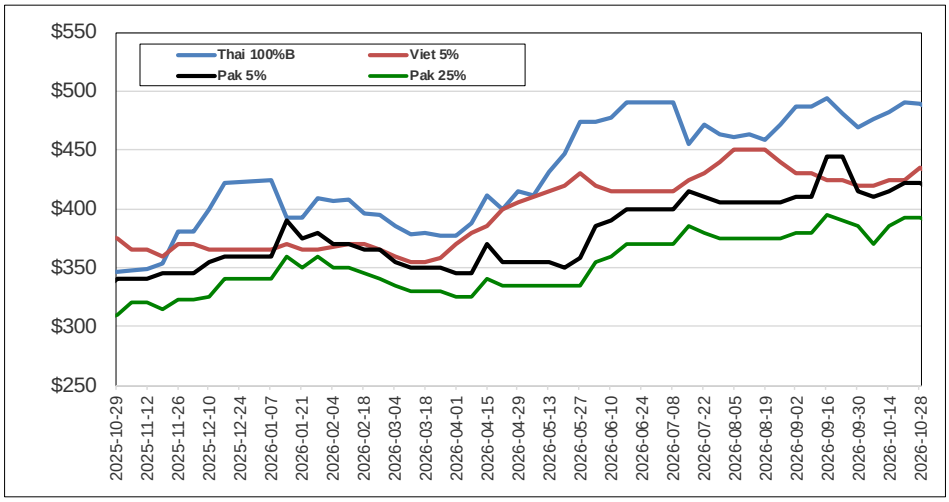
International markets

Data for the last year, updated as at

October 28, 2026

International prices

($/tonnes)



Weekly prices

Milled rice international FOB quotes		
Exchange rate	*€1 =*	*$1,1133*
Asian Markets	**$/t**	**€/t**
Thai 100%B	489	439
Vietnam 5%	435	391
India 5%	390	350
Pakistan 5%	422	379
Pakistan 25%	392	352
Myanmar 5%	460	413
Pakistan Basmati S. Kernel	1.080	970
Pusa Basmati India	1.050	943
Other Markets	**$/t**	**€/t**
Uruguay 5%	590	530
Argentina 5%	550	494
Brazil Type 1	600	539
USA LG 2/4% Fob Laredo TX	775	696
California MG 1/4% - Med -	920	826