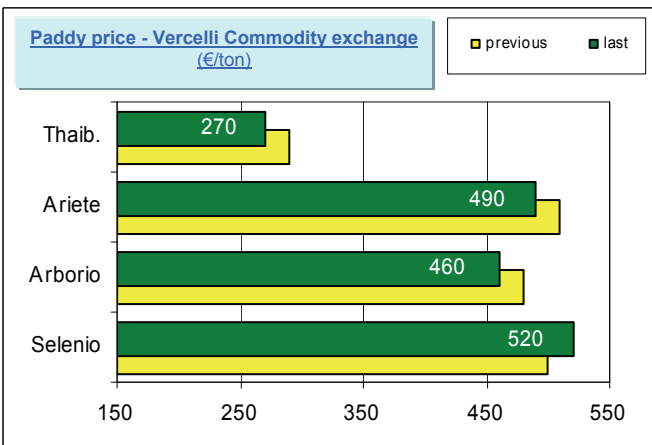
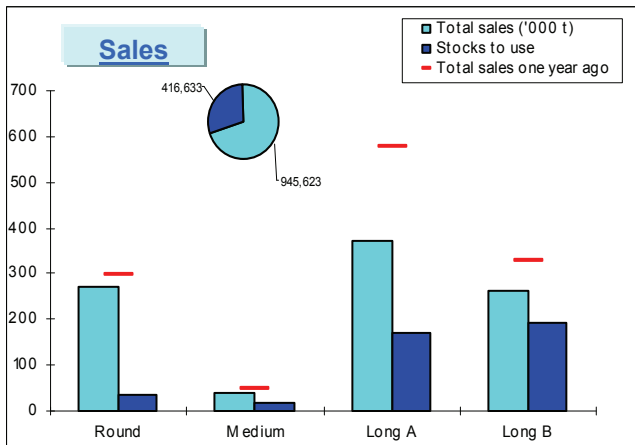




Italian Market



In focus

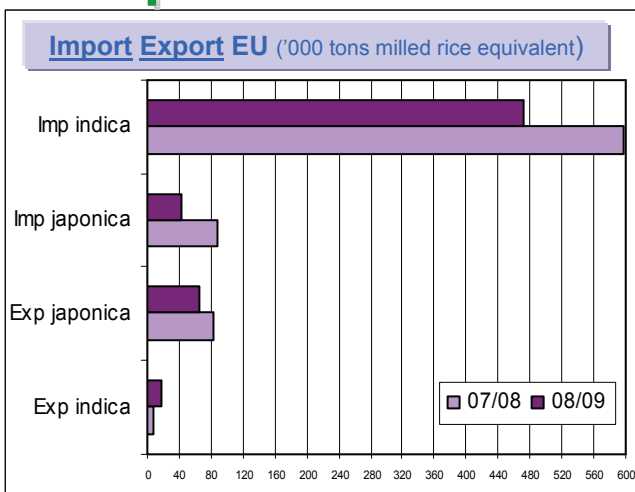
Paddy sales by farmers reached 23,951 tons this week: 10,890 tons of long B grain, 8,937 tons of long A grain, 3,458 tons of round grain and 666 tons of medium grain.

The gap between total sales this year compared to the higher items one year ago, is now -307,095 tons. At the moment the difference is -208,867 tons for long A grain, -65,960 tons for long B grain, -22,683 tons for round grain and -9,585 tons for medium grain.

Total sales reached 945,623 tons, 69.4% of the total stock. One year ago total sales were 1,252,718 tons corresponding to 80.8% of the total final stock (83.9% of the estimated stock).

Paddy prices at Commodity Exchange in Vercelli decreased of €20 for Thaibonnet, Ariete and Arborio; instead paddy price increased of €20 for Selenio.

European Market



- Reg. EC n. 327/98 - Quantities to be allocated for the April subperiod

Order number	Origin	Type of rice	tons
09.4127	U.S.A.	semi-milled and wholly milled	14,330.827
09.4128	THAILAND	semi-milled and wholly milled	7,200.916
09.4129	AUSTRALIA	semi-milled and wholly milled	185.000
09.4130	OTHER ORIGINS	semi-milled and wholly milled	1,805.000
TOTAL			23,521.743

In focus

The EU imports amount to 514,572 tons in milled rice equivalent, 24.9% below the previous year level (-125,994 tons of indica rice and -44,380 tons of japonica rice). Husked Basmati rice imports are on a decreasing trend compared to last year (-45.4%); imports decreased of 106,905 tons (73,800 tons in milled rice equivalent).

In the table above the quantities to be allocated for the April subperiod under Regulation N. 327/98 are listed.

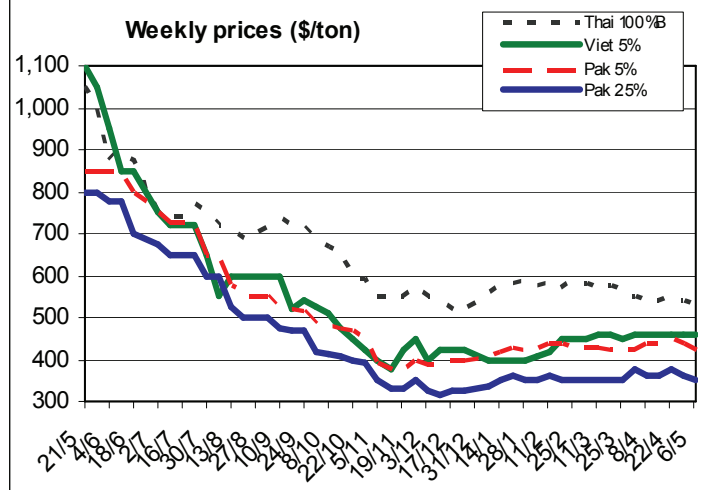
EU exports decreased of 10.2% compared to one year ago: from 91,081 tons in 2007/2008 to 81,812 tons this campaign. Last week licences were issued for 733 tons compared to 1,094 tons the previous week.

International Markets

Milled rice international FOB quotes

Exchange rate 1 € = \$1.3403

Asian Markets		
	\$/t	€/t
Thai 100%B	535	399
Vietnam 5%	460	343
India (MEP)	1,000	746
India Basmati trad.	1,800	1,343
Pakistan 5%	425	317
Other Markets		
	\$/t	€/t
Uruguay 5%	520	388
Argentina 5%	510	381
USA LG 2/4%	529	395
California MG 1/4%	1,225	914
Egypt 101	1,000	746



Thailand The quote of 100% B is \$10 lower than two weeks ago. The new Government Intervention Scheme started on 16th March and is due to run to 31th July. The Government has allowed for the purchase of up to 2.5 million tons of rice; about 2 million tons have been bought to date, leaving 0.5 million tons for the balance of the period. Iraq purchased 60,000 tons of Thai 5% at their tender last week.

Vietnam No change for 5%. The export ban has been lifted as the Government has stated that they will allow exports to resume in June, however, the MEP price of \$460 per ton will remain intact. There were offers submitted from Vietnam on this past Iraq tender and they will be again next week. Another development is the announcement by The Philippines Agriculture Ministry that NFA has been authorized to purchase an additional 350,000 tons from Vietnam.

India The Government will have no other choice but to commence liquidation of some of their stocks (2-3 million tons at least).

Pakistan The quote of 5% is \$25 lower than two weeks ago. There continues to be some shipments to East Africa due to freight advantage in this area but traders shipping to West Africa have opted for the Burmese alternative.

USA The quote of Long Grain is \$11 lower than two weeks ago. No change for the quote of Medium Grain.

Food Safety

Rapid Alert System (Source: EFSA)

No publication in the last two weeks.

Rules and Calls for bids

Commission Regulation (O.J.E.U. L 105)

The European Commission has published the Regulation (EC) No 346/2009 on the issue of licences for importing rice under the tariff quotas opened for the 2009 April subperiod by Regulation No 327/98.

Other news

Cambodia: 2 million tons for export (Source: LRBA)

The country's Ministry of Agriculture has announced that the yield from the 2008 rice harvest set a new record. A Government Minister said that over 7 million tons of rice were harvested in 2008, at least 2 million tons of which was destined to export.

Iran wants to import from Pakistan (Source: LRBA)

Iran has urged Pakistan to increase rice exports and there have been calls for the import duty imposed by Iran on agriculture products from Pakistan to be reduced. Iran imported 1.2 million tons of rice last year. Iran is also keen to increase cooperation with Pakistan to help develop an irrigation system in order to increase their production.

The Philippines will import more rice from Vietnam (Source: Manila Bulletin)

The Philippines, the world's biggest rice importer, has given its state grain agency (NFA) an option to import 350,000 tonnes more milled rice this year to boost stocks and ensure domestic prices remain stable, a government source said on Monday. The Southeast Asian nation, which imports around 10 percent of its annual rice needs, has also allocated up to 400,000 tonnes of rice import rights to private firms this year, up from a previous allotment of 300,000 tonnes, the same source said. If the government uses its option to bring in additional stocks via a tender or a government-to-government deal, and the private sector takes up all of its allocation, the Philippines' total rice imports this year would reach 2.25 million tonnes, slightly under the 2008 level.

17,000 strains native to Thailand risk extinction (Source: www.riceonline.com)

Farmers abandoned native varieties, which can be planted once a year, for new higher-yielding strains which can be grown two or three times a year. The Government have helped increase plantation areas and the market price of indigenous strains, reviving interest among farmers and consumers. Many indigenous strains have more nutritional value than modern, "improved" strains.

WTO members reappoint Lamy for a second term (Source: www.wto.org)

The General Council, on 30 April 2009, agreed to reappoint Director-General Pascal Lamy for a second term of four years as from 1 September 2009. The decision was unanimous.