



Systemic Threats to the EU Rice Milling Industry:
Navigating Direct Imports, PGI Challenges,
and International Trade Dynamics

21 June 2024 – Rice CDG

- Imports of packed rice to the EU are 0-5kg and 5-20kg, respectively, and are sensitively growing. In 2023, we reached $\frac{1}{4}$ of the total imports of rice to the EU.
- The EU is working to facilitate the application for a PGI certification to India and Pakistan, even if the two countries failed to present a joint application, against the usual procedure for trans-border products' certifications.
- The EU is working to close FTAs to liberalise tariffs with the same countries that are exporting packed rice to the EU.

Update on the main dossiers

Indian & Pakistani application for a Basmati PGI

- As they **failed to present a joint application**, India and Pakistan are presenting distinct applications that will **simulate the effects of a joint application**.
- The European Milling Industry presented its serious concerns regarding:
 - On the legal grounds of the application presented individually by both countries (non-compliance with the PGI regulation)
 - On the legitimacy of the proposal and the framework that the PGI unit is presenting to the Member States (de facto imposing the assessment of the two PGIs as if they were a joint application), when not only there is no precedent but also bends the principles of the EU Regulation 1151/2012 on PGIs.
- This without considering:
 - The scientific criteria that safeguard the authenticity and quality standards for Basmati rice, to the detriment of the EU consumers.
 - The well-documented socio-political issues that come with such applications.
 - The potential economic impact for the EU rice growers, millers and packers.
- The European Code of Practice on Basmati (which was presented at the Rice CDG in 2023) presents a far better framework to safeguard the interests of all the operators and of the EU consumers:

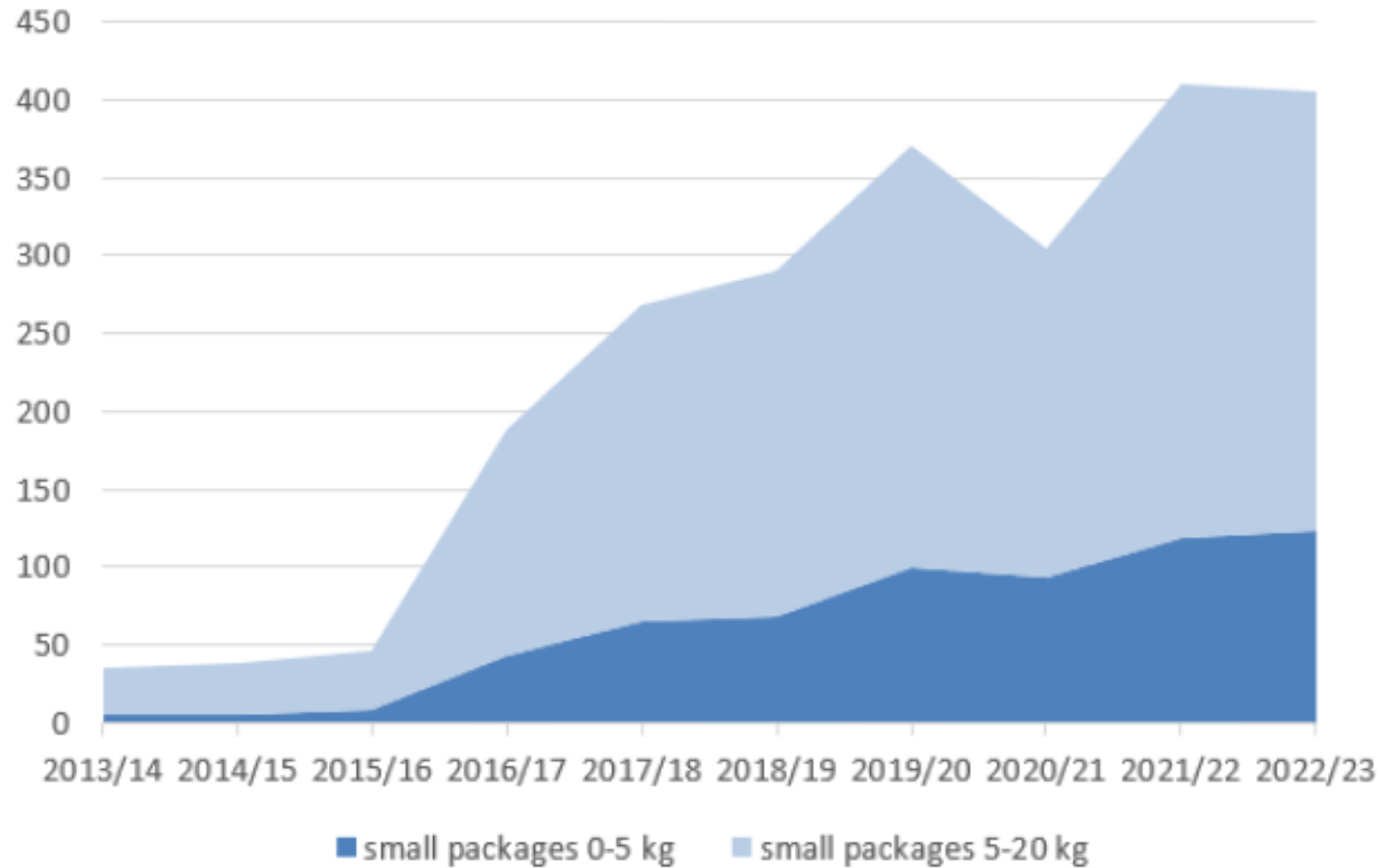
Direct imports of packed rice to the EU

Total EU 27 imports and small packs quota (milled equivalent). UK not included in the years following Brexit

t x 1000	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
total import						1.241	1.397	1.180	1.644	1.508
small packages 0-5 kg	6	6	9	44	65	69	100	93	119	124
small packages 5-20 kg	30	33	38	144	203	222	270	212	291	282
total packages	36	39	47	188	268	291	370	305	410	406

AIRI elaboration on DG AGRI and TAXUD data.

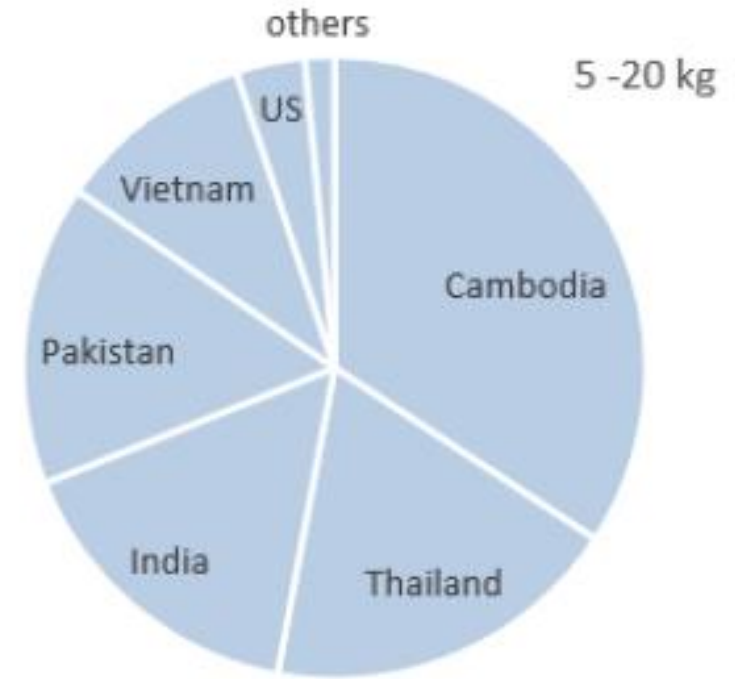
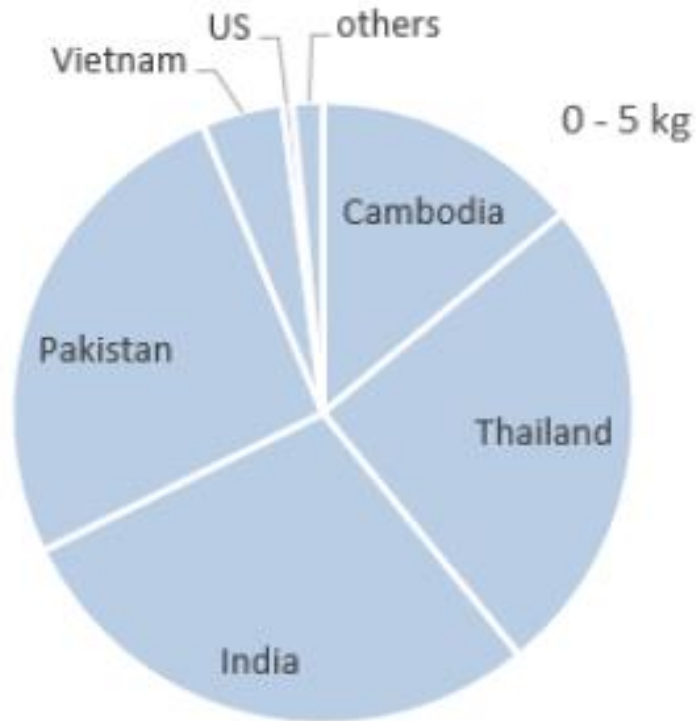
Direct imports of packed rice to the EU



Direct imports of packed rice to the EU

tx1000	0-5 kg	5-20 kg	total small packages	total EU rice import	% 0-5 kg on total imports	% 5-20 kg on total imports	% small pack on total imports
Cambodia	16,2	96,8	113	187,0	8,7%	51,8%	60,4%
Thailand	29,3	52,8	82,1	158,7	18,5%	33,3%	51,7%
India	33,2	45,3	78,5	182,6	18,2%	24,8%	43,0%
Pakistan	30,2	44,2	74,4	250,8	12,0%	17,6%	29,7%
Vietnam	4,9	29,1	34	81,4	6,0%	35,7%	41,8%
US	0,6	10,1	10,7	16,0	3,7%	63,0%	66,7%
others	1,8	4,3	6,1	631,8	0,3%	0,7%	1,0%
total	116,2	282,6	398,8	1.508,4	7,7%	18,7%	26,4%

Direct imports of packed rice to the EU



International Trade: Free Trade Agreements



Other Key Files & other threats

- Revision of GSP Regulation
- New Genomic Techniques
- Sustainable Use of Pesticides



Thank You!

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