



European Commission

# FACT SHEET RICE



## EU RICE MARKET CAN BE SUB-DIVIDED IN TWO DIFFERENT SEGMENTS:

**JAPONICA RICE** (short/medium grain) is the "traditional" European rice, representing **≈75%** of EU rice production and mainly **consumed in South Europe**. For japonica rice, the EU **is self-sufficient** and is even a (small) net exporter.

**INDICA RICE** (long grain) is the "traditional" Asian rice, representing **≈25%** of EU rice production and mainly **consumed in North Europe**. For indica rice, the EU **is not self-sufficient** and is indeed a (big) net importer.



**IN RECENT YEARS**, EU rice market switched towards **more EU production of japonica rice** (short/medium grain) and **more EU imports of indica rice** (long grain).

## EU RICE PRODUCTION

Total rice EU production: **≈ 3 Mio tonnes** of paddy rice **≈ 1.8 Mio tonnes** in milled rice equivalent

**Total rice EU area:**  
≈ 425 000 ha (ie average yield of 7 tonnes/ha)

**Rice is produced in 8 MS** (IT, ES, EL, PT, FR, BG, RO, HU) with **Italy** representing **50%** and **Spain** **30%** of EU rice area and production



**Rice is planted in May** and **harvested in September** with marketing year for rice going from 1st September to 31<sup>st</sup> August.

# EU RICE TRADE

**EU IS NOT SELF-SUFFICIENT IN RICE** (EU rice self-sufficiency  $\approx$  60%) and **needs to import** approx. **1.2 Mio tonne of milled rice/year** (mainly Indica/long grain rice) vs a EU production of 1.8 Mio tonnes and a EU domestic consumption of 2.8 Mio tonnes.

## EU RICE SUPPLY

**Production:**  $\approx$  1.8 Mio tonnes  
**Imports:**  $\approx$  1.2 Mio tonnes

## EU RICE DEMAND

**Domestic use:**  $\approx$  2.8 Mio tonnes  
**Exports:**  $\approx$  0.2 Mio tonnes

## MAIN IMPORT ORIGINS

Cambodia (24%), India (21%),  
Thailand (18%)

## MAIN EXPORT ORIGINS

IT (50%), ES (15%), EL (10%)

## MAIN IMPORT DESTINATIONS

UK (24%), FR (17%), BE (12%)

## MAIN EXPORT DESTINATIONS

Turkey (35%), Switzerland ( $\approx$ 10%),  
Lebanon ( $\approx$ 10%)

# EU RICE PRICES

**EU rice market prices vary significantly** according to the rice varieties but on average are close to

**+/- 300 €/TONNE**

for paddy rice (farmers level)

**+/- 600 €/TONNE**

for milled rice (industry level)



Japanica rice prices tend to be higher than Indica rice prices, in particular for certain premium quality varieties in Italy. (for which paddy rice prices can even exceed +/- 800 €/tonne at farmers level)

# EU RICE IN THE WORLD

**EU rice is not significant at global level** (less than 1%) as illustrated with the following numbers:

## GLOBAL RICE PRODUCTION/ CONSUMPTION

$\approx$  500 Mio tonnes (milled eq.)

## GLOBAL RICE TRADE

$\approx$  45 Mio tonnes (milled eq.)



## TOP 3 RICE PRODUCERS

China (25%),  
India (20%),  
Indonesia (10%)

## TOP 3 RICE EXPORTERS

Thailand (20%),  
India (20%),  
Vietnam (15%)