



Indonesia Issues New Rice Import-Export Rules

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Oryza.com - Indonesia's Ministry of Trade has issued new regulation regarding export and import of rice, according to local sources.

The new rules (Decree No. 19/M-DAG/PER/3/2014) stipulate that National Logistics Agency (Bulog) can import rice for the purposes of price stabilization, combating emergencies and during periods of food insecurity in the country. Private companies registered as manufactures importer (IP) can import rice that can be used as raw material in industries and if that kind of rice is not produced domestically. Similarly, companies designated as registered importers (IT) are allowed to import specific varieties of rice for health purposes.

Indonesia can import 25% and 100% broken white rice; and 100% broken glutinous rice. The country can also import 5% broken Japonica rice, whole sticky 5% broken Thai Hommali rice, and 5% broken steamed rice as well as 5% broken basmati rice. Under the new regulations, ITs must obtain approval from the Ministry of Trade after seeking permission from the Ministry of Agriculture in order to import rice.

According to the new export regulations, Indonesia will export rice only when rice supply in the country exceeds domestic requirements. Other than the National Logistics Agency (Bulog), any party exporting rice has to seek permission of the Ministry of Agriculture. Black glutinous rice, which is not produced by organic farming systems, and 25% broken organic rice can be exported as per the new regulations.

The Director General of Foreign Trade stated that the new regulations have been framed considering the national economic stability and food security in the country as well as to increase income and welfare of farmers. Local sources say that the new rules will also help control smuggling of rice into the country.

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