

## CLIPPING DE NOTÍCIAS MARÇO-ABRIL 2021

### **Nestlé enters plant-based business in Thailand**

By Payungsak Wiriya bunditkul -25 February, 2021, AM

Nestlé (Thai) will launch its plant-based foods under the brand “Harvest Gourmet” next month, targeting restaurants. Cruawan Varunpaichit, Business Executive Officer, said the company will import products from its facility in Malaysia such as burgers, mince, meatballs, schnitzel, all made from soybeans and other ingredients. “In the first year, we will create brand awareness,” she said. The plant-based meat market in Thailand is valued at USD 30 million, growing 20% yoy, she added. Nestlé sells its plant-based products in China and Australia and it plans to launch the products in Malaysia, Singapore, and other countries.

### **Betagro partners with Huawei for smart farm project**

By Payungsak Wiriya bunditkul-26 February, 2021, PM

Betagro Group said it has signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Huawei Technologies (Thailand), to develop a smart farm project. Both parties aim to improve farm management and implement smart farming initiatives by deploying technologies such as cloud computing, artificial intelligence, and the internet of things. Betagro said this will help the company make the transition to digital agriculture. Meanwhile, Huawei Technologies (Thailand) said it will help enhance the quality of Thai agricultural products.

### **Thaifoods’ 2020 profit rises 78%, backed by swine business**

By  
Payungsak Wiriya bunditkul

-

1 March, 2021, PM

Thaifoods Group (TFG) reported profit of USD 84.1 million in 2020, up 78% yoy due to higher pork prices and sales. Its revenue increased 9.45% yoy to USD 1.04 billion, driven by swine and feed business. “Higher profit and revenue were backed by increased export volume as the Covid-19 situation improved,” Winai Teawsomboonkij, CEO, said. TFG’s feed revenue grew 21.95% due to higher external sales and expanded contract farming. The company targets 10-15% revenue growth this year, as it will expand pig production in Thailand and Vietnam. Mr Winai expects pork prices in Vietnam will remain high.

## **Fumonisin still prevalent in Asia**

By  
Meliyana

-

2 March, 2021, PM

The Biomin Mycotoxin Survey 2020 reported that fumonisin is the most prevalent mycotoxin in Asia. Biomin's Product Manager Mycotoxins, Anneliese Mueller said in Southeast Asia and East Asia, fumonisin occurs in 96% of corn, followed by deoxynivalenol in 80% of the samples tested. Zearalenone was present in 68% of the samples analyzed and a maximum of 11,786 ppb was found. In India, 97% of corn samples tested positive for this mycotoxin. Even in Indonesia, 100% was positive for fumonisin. Likewise, in Thailand fumonisin is mostly found among other mycotoxins.

## **CPF's 2020 net profit jumps 41%**

By  
Payungsak Wiriyabunditkul

-

2 March, 2021, PM

CP Foods reported net profit of USD 857.3 million in 2020, up 41% yoy on better performance of its swine business in Asia and shrimp business in Thailand. Its sales revenue increased 11% yoy to USD 19.4 billion. Sales from international operations rose 15%, while sales from Thai operations grew 3%. A decline in swine population increased the price of swine in the region, especially China, Vietnam, Thailand, and Cambodia, it said. Meanwhile, its shrimp sales increased in Thailand due to an adjustment in marketing strategy and enhanced operational efficiency. Prasit Boondoungprasert, CEO, expects this year's earnings to stay robust as the covid-19 situation is improving and purchasing power is expected to improve.

## **Thailand's feed costs expected to remain high**

By  
Payungsak Wiriyabunditkul

-

8 March, 2021, AM

Feed costs in Thailand will remain high in the first half of this year, driven by higher prices of corn and soybean meal, Boontham Aramsiriwat, Secretary General of Thai Feed Mill Association, told Asian Agribiz. China has bought more corn and soybean meal, while a late harvest in Brazil has contributed to higher prices, he said. Livestock producers should find alternative feed sources and develop new formulation to manage costs, he added. "Although we see some adjustments, we cannot escape the fact that overall feed costs have risen," he said.

## **Thailand expects to produce 20.69 mt of feed in 2021**

By

Payungsak Wiriyabunditkul

-

5 March, 2021, PM

Thai Feed Mill Association has projected feed production in 2021 to reach 20.69 mt, up 1% from 2020, Boontham Aramsiriwat, Secretary General, told Asian Agribiz. The country's livestock industry depends on the local economy and the export sector, but the global economy will take time to recover, while the Thai economy is expected to grow just 2-3% this year, he said. "Feed consumption will increase only slightly this year," he said. Meanwhile, growth in broiler feed production will remain flat as export of chicken products is projected to increase 1% this year.

## **Cambodia raises control on pig imports from Thailand**

By

Ha Thu

-

10 March, 2021, AM

Only licensed companies will be allowed to import live pigs from Thailand, said the General Directorate of Animal Health and Production (GDAHP). This move is an effort by Cambodia's Ministry of Agriculture in preventing the spread of diseases from imported pigs to its domestic herd. "The GDAHP will also check on the possibility of allowing Thai companies to export pigs into Cambodia if they fulfill the required procedures including adhering to the animals' health status and for transit to Vietnam," it said.

## **CPF to use more biotech products in pig feed**

By

Payungsak Wiriyabunditkul

-

10 March, 2021, AM

CP Foods said it will use more biotechnology products in its pig feed and the company will use less raw materials. Pairat Srichana, Senior Vice President of CPF said, the prices of soybean meal have almost doubled in the past 20 years, but the prices of L-Lysine HCl have decreased. "In the near future, we will rely less on raw materials, and more on synthetic amino acids," he said during a Kemin webinar. The synthetic amino acids are more efficient, have higher digestibility, and are more environment friendly, he said.

## Thaifoods to invest USD59m in PS pig farms

By

Payungsak Wiriyabunditkul

-

17 March, 2021, PM

Thaifoods Group (TFG) plans to invest USD 59 million in three PS pig farms with a 36,000 pigs capacity, Phet Nantavisai, Executive Vice President told Asian Agribiz. Two farms will be operational this year and another next year. "There is opportunity for well-organized players, with good biosecurity," he said. Meanwhile, TFG is investing USD 23 million to expand feed capacity at its Prachinburi plant. This will raise its capacity to 100,000 tons/ month, he said. It currently operates a 130,000 tons/month feedmill in Suphan Buri which produces both chicken and pig feed.

## Thai live pig export surged thanks to ASF around the region

By

Rajeswari Ramanee

-

18 March, 2021, AM

Thailand's pork industry noted a surge as the African swine fever (ASF) wiped out millions of hogs across Asia. While overall Thai exports fell 6% last year amid the Covid-19 pandemic, live pig export rose 339% in value as Thailand has not reported any ASF outbreaks yet.

Shipments of chilled, frozen and processed pork were up 69%. Phusit Ratanakul Sereroengrit, Director-General of the Commerce Ministry's Trade Policy and Strategy Office said: " We expect shipments of pork and other food products to continue growing this year as the government pushes for Thailand to be 'world's best quality food producer' and expand its share of the global food market. Shipments of food products, which made up 10% of Thailand's total exports, grew 2% in value last year. This year the ministry aims to increase exports of 'future food' such as organic, functional and plant-based foods."

Overall exports went to Cambodia at 61%, Vietnam 26%, Laos 10% and Myanmar 3%, according to the Commerce Ministry. According to the ministry, local pork exports are expected to continue growing in both volume and value over the next two years until the neighboring countries' herds return to normal levels, or when ASF-vaccines are found.

## Thai Union sets revenue target of USD32m for plant-based foods

By

Payungsak Wiriyabunditkul

-

11 March, 2021, AM

Thai Union Group (TU) anticipates a revenue of USD 3.2 million in 2021 and USD 32.5 million in 2025 for plant-based foods, said Thiraphong Chansiri, President & CEO. The company will launch its RTE plant-based meat and seafood under the brand, OMG meat, in modern trade including The Mall, Makro and Lotus's. For its food service and OEM

businesses, TU supplies its plant-based products to restaurants in Thailand and to clients overseas. Its new businesses including tuna oil, supplements, and alternative protein, will raise profitability, he said.

## Eco-friendly packaging represents brand value

By

Payungsak Wiriyabunditkul

-

12 March, 2021, PM

Product packaging represents brand value and content, but it should also be eco-friendly, Tunyawat Kasemsuwan, Director of Global Innovation at Thai Union Group (TU) told Asian Agribiz. “The new generation of consumers are eco-conscious and will not buy if the packaging cannot be recycled,” he said. Moreover, European retailers will soon demand eco-friendly packaging from the manufacturers. If producers do not comply, the products will be delisted by retailers, he said. Meanwhile, TU has pledged that 100% of its branded packaging will be recyclable or compostable by 2025, Dr Tunyawat added.

## Burger King Thailand tapping fried chicken market

By

Rajeswari Ramanee

-

17 March, 2021, AM

The **Burger King** chain in Thailand aims to push sales this year by tapping into the red ocean fried chicken market for the first time.

Its operator Burger Thailand’s General Manager Tanawat Damnernthong said: “Demand for fried chicken products in the fast food restaurant industry grew by 7-9% annually, with 10 brands entering into it despite the pandemic, such as Choongman and Gugu Chicken, two Korean crispy chicken brands. Texas Chicken Bonchon has also increased stores last year.”

The new menu called Chicken King will be introduced nationwide and will come in original or spicy while more chicken-related items will be added soon.

“Thailand is the first country to offer the menu as it is known as chicken consumption country,” said Mr Tanawat, adding that this move is also to pick-up pre-pandemic sales volumes.

“Even though we are latecomers to the fried chicken market, we are confident Chicken King will play a significant role and boost our sales this year to 2 billion baht (USD 65 million), as we achieved in 2019,” he said.

## Central Food Retail to increase cage-free eggs proportion to 50%

By

Payungsak Wiriyabunditkul

-

10 March, 2021, PM

Thailand's Central Food Retail, which operates Tops supermarket and Central Food Hall, said it will expand the proportion of cage-free eggs, at its stores to 50% by 2025. Stephane Coum, CEO, said the company offers safe food products and supports production that enhances animal welfare. "We want to ensure there is a market for cage-free eggs and the products will be in demand," he said. It will provide an alternative for consumers who value quality and socially responsibility, he added.

## Thailand's DLD denies reports about ASF

By

Payungsak Wiriyabunditkul

-

19 March, 2021, AM

Thailand's Department of Livestock Development (DLD) has denied local media reports that there are ongoing ASF outbreaks in the country. The Prachachat website reported that ASF has killed pigs in many areas, and it is believed that there are 50 high-risk provinces.

Sorravis Thaneto, Director General of the DLD, said that while there are ongoing PRRS outbreaks, there has been no ASF outbreak in Thailand.

Amid ongoing outbreaks in neighboring countries, the DLD said it has implemented strict measures to prevent the disease in all areas including pig farms, slaughterhouses, and places that sell pork and feed. The DLD has also asked farmers to place importance on disease prevention at their farms.

In October 2019, the country went on high alert against ASF after Myanmar, Laos, and Cambodia reported outbreaks. The government even ordered the culling of 200 pigs as preventive action after two pigs died mysteriously in the northern province of Chiang Rai, 20 km from the Myanmar border. Agriculture officials said pigs did not die of ASF.

## Thailand's DLD urges pig farmers to enhance biosecurity

By

Payungsak Wiriyabunditkul

-

24 March, 2021, PM

Thailand's Department of Livestock Development (DLD) has urged pig farmers to improve biosecurity amid ongoing PRRS (porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome) outbreaks in the country. Sorravis Thaneto, Director General of the DLD, said the disease can easily spread through vehicles, people, animals, and carcass. Although vaccines can

prevent PRRS, the volume of the vaccines available in the country, is insufficient and costly, he said, adding that farmers must also boost biosecurity. When there is an outbreak, pigs should be culled to prevent the spread.

## **Thailand's corn production expected to fall 2%**

By

Payungsak Wiriyabunditkul

-

25 March, 2021, AM

Thailand's corn production is forecast to decline 2% yoy in MY2021/22 as farmers are likely to revert to cassava due to attractive returns, according to a USDA report. Current farm-gate price of corn is 6% higher than the same period last year, while cassava prices are approximately 13% higher than last year. While short supply of local corn and tighter supplies of imports from neighboring countries persist, corn consumption in MY2020/21 is expected to increase 4%.

## **Thai pig production expected to grow at slower pace**

By

Payungsak Wiriyabunditkul

-

25 March, 2021, PM

Thailand's swine production, which accounts for 35% of total feed demand, is expected to grow at a slower pace than the 10% growth in 2020, according to the USDA. Thailand is experiencing reduced exports to neighboring countries because of more stringent import restriction of live pigs. Poultry production, which accounts for 55% of total feed demand, is expected to increase after a 2-3% reduction in 2020. Feedmills still rely on imported alternative ingredients, including feed wheat, DDGS, and barley, due to insufficient local corn and limited imports from neighboring countries.

## **Thailand's feed wheat imports to contract 19% in MY2020/21**

By

Payungsak Wiriyabunditkul

-

26 March, 2021, AM

Thailand's feed wheat imports are expected to decline to 1.5 mt in MY2020/21, down 19% from MY2019/20 due to larger supplies of locally produced corn, according to a USDA report. Feedmills and importers are also concerned about import prices that are 10-15% higher than the same period last year. However, the country's wheat imports are forecast to increase to 3.1 mt in MY2021/22, up 3% yoy due to increased feed and milling wheat imports in line with the expected gradual economic recovery in 2021 and 2022.

## **Agrifood can be a key driver of Southeast Asia's economic recovery**

By

Arief Fachrudin

-

26 March, 2021, PM

The agri-food sector's role in driving Southeast Asia's economic recovery, creating employment and putting food on the table at stable prices, is pivotal, according to a recent report by Food Industry Asia. Findings from the report show that in 2019, the sector made a GDP contribution of USD 717 billion across Indonesia, Thailand, the Philippines and Vietnam, and marked a 30% increase from 2015. The sector is also responsible for 127 million jobs, and contributed USD 95.6 billion in tax revenues across the region.

## **Thailand's corn imports expected to fall 50%**

By

Payungsak Wiriyabunditkul

-

6 April, 2021, AM

Thailand's corn imports are expected to decline to around 800,000 tons in MY2020/21, down 50% from MY2019/20 on better domestic production, according to a USDA report. Traders expect Myanmar corn exports to Thailand to contract on strong demand from China. In the first seven months of MY2020/21, corn imports totaled 0.3 mt, down 9% yoy. Imports from Myanmar declined around 0.2 mt, down 41% yoy. However, imports from Cambodia increased to around 0.1 mt, accounting for 36% of total corn imports. Meanwhile, imports of DDGS increased to 629,591 tons in 2020, up 8% yoy.

## **Lumpy skin disease detected in cattle in Thailand**

By

Payungsak Wiriyabunditkul

-

12 April, 2021, AM

Thailand's Department of Livestock Development (DLD) said cows in Roi Et province have been infected with lumpy skin disease. Sorravis Thaneto, Director General of the DLD, said these cows might be smuggled from a neighboring country. The DLD is conducting disease control to minimize losses, while suspending imports of live cows, buffaloes and meat from Myanmar since December 2020. Flies, ticks and mosquitoes are the main carriers of the disease. Mr Sorravis said farmers should spray insecticide at the farms and improve farming protocols.



## **Cambodia tightens control on pig smuggling**

By

Ha Thu

-

9 April, 2021, AM

The Cambodian government is tightening border controls to contain the entry and spread of ASF after the arrests of four traders smuggling pigs from Thailand and Laos to the country last week. "The traders did not have any papers to certify the origin of the pigs," said Tan Phanara, General Director of the Department of Animal Health and Production. About 100 of the smuggled pigs were tested for ASF, and four were positive. The Cambodian Pig Association said if ASF broke out again, it will cost the country about USD 60-70 million.

## **Consumers prioritize healthy food**

By

Conny Pereira

-

13 April, 2021, PM

The pandemic has left many consumers with lesser disposable income and this has led them to reprioritize what is important to them. At this point, the focus is on safety and health and they are willing to pay for food that will help boost their immunity. "CP Foods in Thailand for instance has introduced Benja Chicken that bears hormone and antibiotic-free labels. The chickens are fed with a brown rice supplement that contains antioxidants and Vitamin B complex. This addresses consumer demand for healthy, nutritious and delicious meat," Aileen Supriyadi Senior Analyst at Euromonitor International told Asian Agribiz. Listen to/download the podcast here.

## **Thailand's soybean meal imports expected to rise 2%**

By

Payungsak Wiriyabunditkul

-

16 April, 2021, AM

Thailand's soybean meal (SBM) imports are expected to increase to 2.8 mt in MY2021/22, up 2% yoy due to growing swine and poultry production. However, SBM imports are expected to decline 5% in MY2020/21 due to increased domestic supplies. In the first half of MY2020/21, SBM imports totaled 1.2 mt, down 14% yoy. Meanwhile, full fat soybeans are increasingly used in feed rations, as it is cheaper than the combined costs of SBM and oil ingredients. In MY2021/22, full fat soybean demand is forecast to increase 5%.

## **Thai agri exports with FTA partners up 10%**

By

Payungsak Wiriyabunditkul

-

15 April, 2021, PM

Thailand's Ministry of Commerce said the country's agricultural and processed agricultural exports with 18 free-trade agreement (FTA) partners rose 10% yoy to USD 4.36 billion in the first two months of 2021. While fresh, chilled and frozen pork value surged 17% to USD 17.76 million, fresh, chilled and frozen chicken export value grew 2.9% to USD 144.93 million. Auramon Supthaweethum, Director General of the Department of Trade Negotiations said, "economic stimulus measures, the relaxation of Covid travel restrictions and Covid-19 vaccine rollout are driving product."

## **Thailand's fishmeal demand expected to increase 2%**

By

Payungsak Wiriyabunditkul

-

16 April, 2021, PM

Thailand's domestic demand for fishmeal is expected to rise 2% in 2021 and 3% in 2022, due to growing poultry and aquaculture production. Both are forecast to increase as the domestic and global economies recover. Meanwhile, fishmeal production is forecast to increase 1-3% in 2021 and 2022, in anticipation of the increased production waste from canned tuna and surimi. Fishmeal imports are forecast to decline 6% in 2021, and further decline by 4% in 2022 in anticipation of larger supplies of locally produced fishmeal.