

The future of the rubber industry looks bright as consumption is increasing among the NICs, China, United States, Japan and India.

Sugar

The sugar industry is the fourth major foreign currency earner in Thailand's farm sector. Sugar is produced from cane sugar grown predominantly in the western part of the country and in certain areas in the east and northeast. Thailand has reached self-sufficiency in sugar output; nevertheless, exports fluctuate year to year depending on the global demand.

To stabilize the industry and to ensure income for planters, the Thai government adopted a revenue sharing system between cane planters and sugar millers. The revenue derived from sales of sugar is taken into account and the balance shared at a ratio of 70-30 percent between cane planters and sugar millers. There are three types of sugar production. Quota A involves sugar produced for domestic consumption to ensure domestic supply, Quota B is for overseas sales and Quota C is either for local sale or export after the first two quotas are met.

Maize (Corn)

Maize is grown primarily in the upper central region and the northeast region and is of great importance to the high land farmers. It is used primarily for the animal feed industry. The major markets are Malaysia, Hong Kong, Saudi Arabia and Singapore.

Table 1

RICE (Major and Minor Crop): Area, Production, Yield, Farm Value

Crop Year	Planted Area ('000rai)	Harvested Area ('000rai)	Production ('000tons)	Yield Per Rai (kg/rai)	Farm Value (million baht)
1978/79	62,667	55,843	17,470	313	39,586
1979/80	58,971	54,087	15,758	291	42,656
1980/81	60,110	57,501	17,368	302	54,970
1981/82	59,970	56,906	17,774	312	51,118
1982/83	60,134	55,875	16,879	302	49,572
1983/84	62,596	60,038	19,549	328	54,443
1984/85	62,329	60,186	19,905	331	46,278
1985/86	63,422	61,457	20,264	331	46,278
1986/87	61,571	57,463	18,868	328	45,528
1987/88	58,474	56,768	18,042	318	67,910

Source: Office of Agricultural Economics