



Vietnam pepper monthly round-up

March 2023

Market

As noted, pepper prices in the world market in general tended to increase slightly in the period of February 2023, then remained stable in the first half of March 2023.

In addition to the increased selling price, pepper growers in Dak Lak province also had an increase in both output and quality thanks to cost-reduction measures such as applying science and technology in production, making organic fertilizer by themselves for pepper plants, drip irrigation, etc.

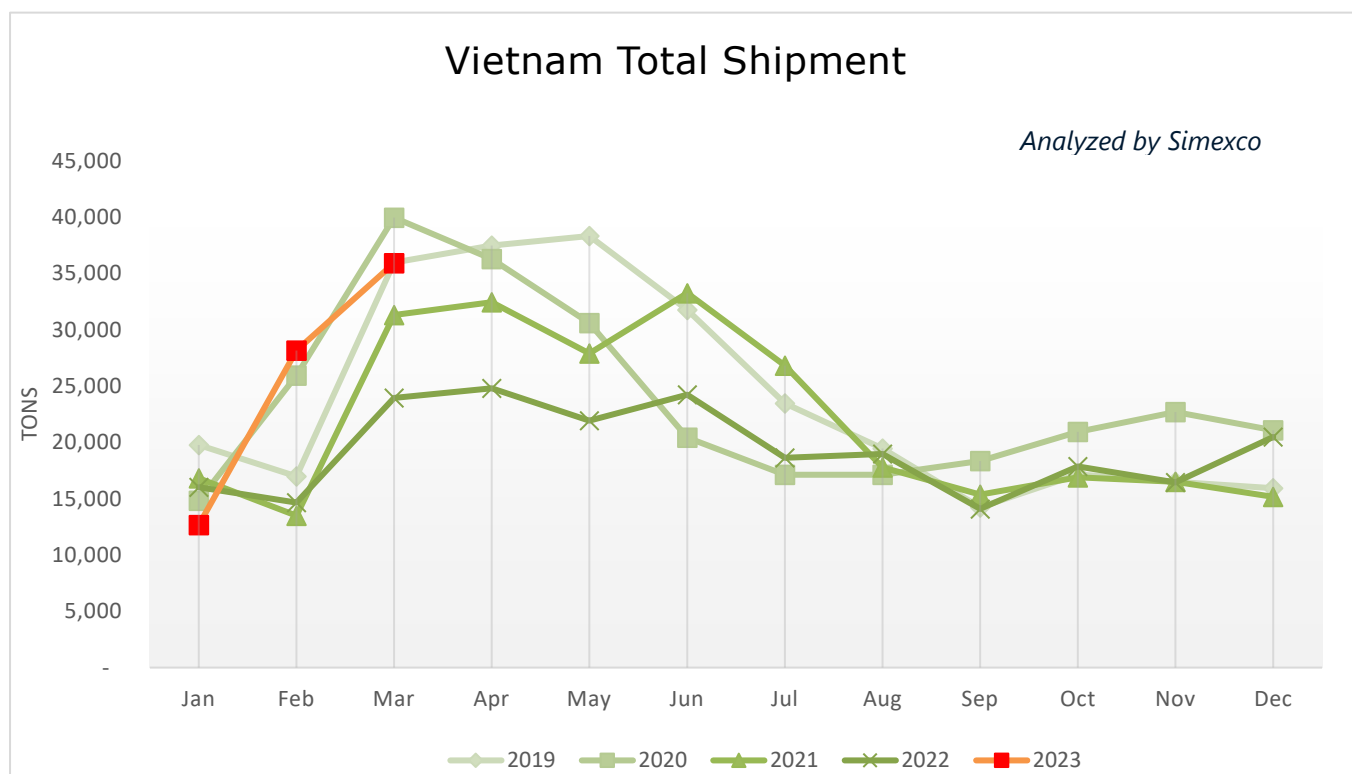
Export

According to preliminary statistics of VPA, in March 2023, Vietnam exported 35,913 tons, a breakthrough increase of 27.5% compared to February. In which, black pepper reached 32,642 tons, white pepper reached 3,001 tons. Total export turnover reached 107.2 million USD, black pepper reached 92.98 million USD, white pepper reached 13.65 million USD.

Exports to China in March reached 15,710 tons, this is the highest export volume ever in a month, breaking the highest export record of April 2020 at 11,953 tons, compared to February export volume to China increased by 85.2%. March also recorded an increase in exports to traditional markets such as the United States, Germany, the Netherlands, India, Egypt,

The continuous reduction of pepper prices in 2022 has had a significant impact on farmers' investment and care for this crop.

At the same time, the effects of climate change, pests and diseases, and high prices of materials, fertilizers, drugs, and labor also affect farmers' profits. Therefore, the fact that pepper prices are showing signs of improvement right from the beginning of the harvest season of 2023 is a positive signal for farmers to feel secure to invest in pepper plants for sustainable development.



France, Russia, Canada, and Spain, while exports to Saudi Arabia and Turkey increased. The United Kingdom and the United Kingdom decreased compared to February 2023.

Accumulated from January 1 to the end of March 2023, Vietnam exported 76,727 tons, of which black pepper reached 70,222 tons, white pepper reached 6,505 tons. Total export turnover reached 235.9 million USD, black pepper reached 205.4 million USD, white pepper reached 30.5 million USD. Compared to the same period last year, export volume increased by 40.5% or 22,112 tons, however, export turnover decreased by 7.3%, equivalent to 18.5 million USD.

Logistics

The International Air Transport Association (IATA) warned that the EU's "discrete" deployment of PLACI could lead to delays in cargo clearance procedures, which have already been difficult because of the epidemic and trade conflicts.

According to aggregated data from the European Statistics Agency (Eurostat) published in March 2023, the transport group price index in the basket of goods and services for calculating CPI in the EU continued to increase from 125, 42 in the first month of 2023 to 126.12 in February 2023.

According to a report by online container logistics company Container xChange, sea container freight rates continued to decline in Southeast Asian markets in March 2023 due to slowing consumer demand and excess inventory in Asia. ASIAN.

Inventory and crop

Pepper harvest is in the main season and will last until April.

While many areas in Dak Lak recorded increased production, other pepper farmers in Dong Nai, Binh Phuoc, Dak Nong provinces told that their productivity of pepper to be lower than previous year, partly because pepper is heavily affected by the weather and production cost; on the other hand, because of the aging pepper garden, farmers switched to other crops such as durian and jackfruit.

For this year's harvest, farmers have to pay from 280,000 to 300,000 VND/day for a labour, 30% increasing compared to last year.

Farmers

In April, the harvesting season has almost finished and farmers are entering the period of caring for the pepper trees after the harvest. However, the uncontrollable weather condition causes many challenges for farmers and even some of them did not pay much care to this stage, which reduces the disease resistance and productivity of coffee farms.

1. Caring after harvest, the pepper trees need to be in the resting stage. However, this does not mean that farmers should neglect their care. They should avoid exposing the roots and pepper stems to the sun as this can weaken the plants and make them susceptible to fungal diseases, farmers should use cover materials or maintain native coverage to protect the pepper trees. Therefore, after harvest, farmers need to maintain adequate moisture levels and provide enough nutrients to the trees.
2. Pest and disease management: After harvest, pepper trees are weakened and enter the dry season, making them vulnerable to fungal and other diseases, which can significantly impact their productivity and yield for the next season. Therefore, it's recommended that farmers should focus on proper care for their farms during this period.
3. After picking, pepper cherries are exposed to the sun for 3-4 days on a concrete yard or canvas. When the fruits turn from green to black and reach a moisture content of 11-12%, farmers can remove foreign matter (by using a fan), package them for sale, or store them for later use. Pepper can be stored for 1-2 years.



Farmer clearing their garden

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