

Japan almost doubles canned imports from Thailand in last five years

Japan has almost doubled canned seafood imports from Thailand in the last five years, as local production decreases, according to a report from ICEX, the Spanish institute for foreign trade.

Thai canned seafood exports to Japan have jumped from JPY 18.5 billion (\$15.3 million) in 2010 to JPY 33bn in 2014, shows the latest ICEX report on the Japanese canned seafood market, citing Japan Tariff Association figures.

Vietnam also shows a considerable increase in canned exports to Japan, up to JPY 8.1bn in 2014, from JPY 3.7bn in 2010.

Totalling JPY 87.5bn, China is the largest exporter of canned seafood products to Japan, although its export value has increased by just 9.6% from 2010 to 2014. This compares to the 78.3% and 118.9% jump in canned seafood exports from Thailand and Vietnam, respectively.

Local production has gradually decreased throughout the years, while canned seafood imports have increased by 21.4% to 45,878 metric tons between 2009 and 2013, representing about 40% of the total Japanese market. Tuna accounts for more than half of canned seafood imports, ICEX report shows.

"Imports market is dominated by canners from China and Southeast Asia, generally owned by companies of Japanese capital that have relocated their production plants to reduce costs," ICEX report reads.

From 2009 to 2013, Japanese canned seafood production has gone down by 4.21% to 112,452t, according to the Japan Tariff Association and Japan Canners Association.

Japanese consumption of canned seafood products has gone up by 2% to 158,333t throughout the five-year period. Consumption in 2013, however, has decreased by 3%, year-on-year.

The drop is partly due to a period of adjustment after a peak of imports following the Great East Japan Earthquake in 2011. That year, canned seafood imports went up by 18.7% to 47,254t, from 2010.

"It is normal that in later years there was a period of readjustment, this is why the percentage has decreased in 2013, but that does not mean a change in the overall uptrend," ICEX report reads.

Source : http://www.undercurrentnews.com/2015/05/06/japan-almost-doubles-canned-imports-from-thailand-in-last-five-years/?utm_source=Undercurrent+News+Alerts&utm_campaign=b98bfe1f70-Europe_briefing_May_06_2015&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_feb55e2e23-b98bfe1f70-92423501