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Fisheries

Pangasius exports to recover by 3Q

Ministry of Agriculture & Rural Development expects full recovery in *pangasius* exports from 3Q

— The Ministry of Agriculture & Rural Development announced at a conference that it expects pangasius exports to fully recover from 3Q. Government officials and industry professionals met recently to discuss the impact of the coronavirus on pangasius production and consumption. The Ministry believes stabilization of export markets is currently underway in China and should expand to the US and EU by 3Q as these economies begin to reopen. The Directorate of Fisheries also confirmed that China export values turned positive in April and expects recovery in May. Export values for pangasius shipments were down 29% to USD334 million in 1Q. Weak selling prices at VND18,000 per kg continued to discourage farming and led to the 24% decrease in pangasius harvests to 180,000 tons and 6% drop in new farming area to 777 hectares during the quarter.

Overall industry growth should turn positive by August should 3Q recovery become reality

— Growth in monthly export values for *pangasius* shipments should turn positive from August due to: 1) recovery in major export markets in 3Q; 2) removal of the 2019's high-base effect from 2H; and 3) the start of the EV FTA from June 2020. This assumes Vietnam's major export markets successfully reopen and resume imports. The hangover from 2018's *pangasius* bumper year was largely cleared in the 1H of 2019 and export values returned to normal levels in the 2H of 2019. Although the coronavirus will make it difficult for 2020 export values to exceed 2019 levels, previous year comparisons should prove to be less troublesome and the overall industry should revert back to positive growth from 2H. Moreover, recovery in export volumes should also be helped by the elimination of the 5.5% tariff on *pangasius* shipments to the EU when the EVFTA begins from June.

Government focused on resolving overdue loans to support export recovery

— The Ministry of Agriculture & Rural Development is working with provincial governments and industry associations to ease any loan payments for Vietnam's pangasius exporters arising from delayed or cancelled orders during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Ministry also plans to coordinate with the Ministry of Industry & Trade to boost exports to China, Japan and other ASEAN countries as they lift pandemic restrictions as well as potential markets, such as Russia, India & Brazil.

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Investment Ratings for Stocks

(based on expectations for absolute price gains over the next 6 months)

Buy:	Hold:	Sell:
+15% or more	+15% to -15%	-15% or more

Investment Ratings for Sectors

(based on expectations for absolute price gains over the next 6 months)

Positive:	Neutral:	Negative:
Outperform the market	Perform in line with the market	Underperform the market

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