



WEEKLY UPDATE ON ASEAN PLUS THREE FOOD SECURITY RELATED INFORMATION

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Cambodia

The government warned of severe drought due to an impact of El Nino. As Cambodia will face extremely hot weather and insufficient rainfall, the government instructed related agencies to conserve water for daily use in the dry season and cultivate rice only one time.

Prime Minister Hun Sen referred to the forecast showing that in 2019 Cambodia and other countries in the region were affected by El Nino phenomenon causing negative impacts such as temperature rises, delay of the rainy season and etc. Although the El Nino has gradually decreased its influence since July, water management and use issues are still considered a priority for rice cultivation at the end of the 2019-2020 rainy season, dry season and daily use until the rains come in the new year.

The Rural Development Minister ordered his subordinates to check on the wells and ponds in the communities and take immediate actions as necessary.

Source: Khmer Times. (2019, Nov 22). *Gov't warns dry season, extreme weather coming.*

Indonesia

East Sumba regency in East Nusa Tenggara (NTT) has been facing a

prolonged dry spell for almost a year. A number of regions in Indonesia have been reported of rainfall but East Sumba regency has been still experiencing extreme dry season condition.

The Rambangaru area of East Sumba has not had rain for 249 days according to the Climatology Station in Kupang. Meanwhile, many areas in the country are also facing similar conditions. The rainfall in NTT was at the lowest level of 0-50 millimetres.

Source: The Jakarta Post. (2019, Nov 21). *Dry spell persists in East Sumba as regency suffers 249 days without rain.*

Lao PDR

Powerful earthquakes struck near Thai-Lao border. The first tremor was felt in Xayaboury province, Lao PDR with a magnitude of 5.9 at 4.30 a.m. (local time) damaging people's houses and buildings at the Thai-owned Hong Sa power plant.

According to the Lao PDR National Disaster Management Office (NDMO), there were 11 districts in Xayaboury province affected and the mostly damaged were in Hongsa and Xaysathan districts. The estimated amount of damages was USD 278,874.

Later, the second earthquake, measuring 6.4 magnitudes, was occurred at 6.52 a.m. (local time) to the east and west of Chalerm Phrakiat district of Thailand's northern province of Nan.

The tremor was felt in 11 provinces in Thailand including Bangkok. However, due to the Earthquake Observation Division of the Thailand Meteorological Department, the damages only occurred in the provinces of Phrae, Nan and Loei.

Source: AHA Centre. (2019, Nov 22). *M6.4 EARTHQUAKE IN LAO PDR AND THAILAND FLASH UPDATE #1*; Thai PBS. (2019, Nov 21). *Two strong earthquakes hit Laos and Thailand Thursday morning.*

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