



## WEEKLY UPDATE ON ASEAN PLUS THREE RICE SITUATIONS

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### Indonesia

#### ***Indonesia bought 50,000 tonnes of rice from Pakistan in an international tender.***

According to the State Logistics Agency (Bulog), the purchase included 12,500 tonnes of 5 percent broken white rice and 37,500 tonnes of 15 percent broken white rice with the price, including cost and freight (C&F), 460 USD and 450 USD per tonne respectively. The purchase was divided among the eight Pakistani rice exporters, receiving the same allocation of 6,250-tonne rice each. The shipment period is set by the end of May 2018. Presently, Bulog is continuing its plan to import a total 500,000 tonnes by extending timeframe to June this year in order to help improve local supplies and stabilise domestic prices.

**Source:** Business Recorder. (2018, Mar 21). *Indonesia buys about 50,000 T rice in tender*, and Reuters. (2018, Mar 20). *BRIEF-Indonesia's Bulog extends timeframe for importing 500,000 T of rice*.

### Myanmar

#### ***Myanmar earned over 1 billion USD from rice exports this 2017-18 fiscal year, due to Ministry of Commerce.***

As of 9 March in 2017-18 fiscal year, Myanmar exported rice to 57 countries, earning 578 million USD from border trade and 477 million USD from maritime trade, which around 60 percent of the total rice exports went to African markets. In addition, Myanmar expected to export up to 4 million tonnes of rice by 2020-21 fiscal year, earning 1.5 billion USD in value. Presently, the major markets for Myanmar rice consist of China, Bangladesh, Ivory Coast, Belgium, Ghana, Madagascar, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan, Senegal and Poland, according to the Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF).

**Source:** Eleven Myanmar. (2018, Mar 22). *Myanmar earns over US\$1-bn from rice exports this year*.

### Philippines

#### ***The National Food Authority (NFA) will start the procurement of 250,000 tonnes of rice by May 2018.***

Early February this year, the NFA Council approved the importation of 250,000 tonnes via government-to-private importation, or open-tender scheme, considering that it should arrive by the first week of June. However, at the NFA Council Meeting on 19 March 2018, the NFA was tasked by President Rodrigo Duterte to expedite the importation of 250,000 tonnes to boost the government stockpile and ensure immediate stability of market prices. According to this, the mentioned rice import is set to arrive the country by May of this year. This is to allow the NFA to have enough buffer stock for the upcoming lean months which rice harvest is at its lowest, said the head of NFA Council.

**Source:** Manila Bulletin. (2018, Mar 24). *250,000 MT of rice due in May to boost NFA stockpile*; and The Philippine Star. (2018, Mar 21). *Duterte: Expedite importation of 250,000 MT of rice*.

## **Thailand**

***The Thai Government plans to boost rice exports through intergovernmental deals, hoping to help struggling farmers before a general election in February 2019.***

According to the Director General of the Commerce Ministry's Department of Foreign Trade, officials will be sent to major importers of Thai rice in order to accelerate negotiations. Several Southeast Asian importers will be targeted, for instance, the Indonesia's Logistics Agency (Bulog), the Philippines' National Food Authority (NFA), and Malaysia's commodities procurement agency (Bernas), which Indonesia and Malaysia import around 800,000 tonnes per year, while the Philippines imports around 1 million tonnes, due to the National Statistical Office. Furthermore, the government also hopes to engage importers in the Middle East such as Iraq and Iran, which each currently imports about 1 million tonnes of Thai rice annually.

**Source:** Nikkei Asian Review. (2018, Mar 22). *Thailand looks to intergovernmental deals to boost rice exports.*

## **Viet Nam**

***The ceremonial hand-over of 4,700-tonne rice donated by the Republic of Korea (ROK) through the APTERR's Tier 3 programme was held on 21 March 2018 in Quang Nam province, Viet Nam.***

There were representatives from the Korean government led by Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, the Vietnamese government led by Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, the APTERR Secretariat, as well as other relevant agencies attending this event. The distribution of 4,700 tonnes of rice was part of the total 10,000 tonnes of rice donated by ROK to help people affected by typhoon Damrey. The first delivery of 5,300 tonnes was arrived in Viet Nam in February 2018 and distributed to affected people in six provinces of

BinhDinh, KhanhHoa, Phu Yen, KonTum, Gia Lai, and DakLak. Meanwhile, this 4,700-tonne rice will be allocated to those beneficiaries in four provinces of Quang Tri, ThuaThien Hue, Quang Nam, and Quang Nam.

**Source:** APTERR Secretariat. (2018, Mar 23). *Release of 4,700-MT rice to help people affected by typhoon in Viet Nam;* and Vietnam Plus. (2018, Mar 21). *RoK donates 10,000 tonnes of rice to aid storm Damrey's victims.*

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*\* This Weekly Update on ASEAN Plus Three Rice Situations is based on all available sources during the period. The APTERR Secretariat shall take no responsibility for data accuracy in this publication and any consequence of their use.*