



## WEEKLY UPDATE ON ASEAN PLUS THREE RICE SITUATIONS

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### Indonesia

#### ***Indonesia reaffirms the plan to import 2 million tonnes of rice this year.***

The decision to import 2 million tonnes of rice was made during a coordination meeting among relevant ministries and the State Logistics Agency (Bulog) in April 2018. On Monday, 27 August 2018, the Indonesian government had reaffirmed its plan to import 2 million tonnes of rice this year to assure the availability of the commodity in the market. Meanwhile, the coordination meeting on Monday was decided to talk to Bulog into carrying out market penetration to assurance a balance between supply and demand, according to Trade Minister.

**Source:** The Jakarta Post. (2018, Aug 27). *Indonesia reaffirms plan to import 2m tons of rice this year.*

### Myanmar

#### ***Myanmar rice export earnings hit more than 280 million USD.***

From the first of April to the second of August of the mini budget year of 2018, Myanmar has earned over 288 million USD from exports of 833,663 tonnes of rice and broken rice, when about 363,878 tonnes were shipped via sea trade worth over 121 million USD and 469,785 tonnes were

exported via border trade with the value of 167 million USD. Last 2017-18 fiscal year, Myanmar was able to export 3.6 million tonnes of rice worth around 1.1 billion USD due to the market expansion, reaching the record high in 50 years. This year, Myanmar rice export is expected to reach 2.5 million tonnes. In 2020-21 fiscal year, rice export is expected to hit 4 million tonnes with the value of 1.5 billion USD, according to Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF).

**Source:** Eleven Myanmar. (2018, Aug 16). *Rice export earnings hit over \$ 280 million;* and Eleven Myanmar. (2018, Jul 2). Myanmar expects to export 2.5 million tons of rice this year.

### Philippines

#### ***Philippines plans to import more rice to address limited supplies of the staple food in the southern provinces.***

On 28 August 2018, Department of Agriculture Secretary has formally proposed the special importation of an additional 132,000 tonnes of rice by private sector to President Duterte and the National Food Authority (NFA) Council in order to address very limited of staple food in the southern provinces of Tawi-Tawi, Sulu, Basilan, and Zamboanga City, which these have been scrambling for rice supplies in recent weeks following a crackdown on rice smuggling. The smuggled rice is believed to come from Viet Nam and Thailand via the Malaysian state of Sabah, causing many local farmers to quit growing rice. Last month, Prime Minister of Malaysia and President of the Philippines agreed to stop smuggling activities in the countries' borders. This move curbed rice smuggling, but it had resulted in a rice crisis. The crisis was declared to have ended the other day in Zamboanga City with the arrival of new rice stocks from farmers' cooperatives and NFA. However, there are still very limited supply of rice in Tawi-Tawi, Sulu, and Basilan provinces, said Secretary.

**Source:** The Business Time. (2018, Aug 28). *Crackdown on smuggling sparks rice shortage crisis in Philippines;* and Manila Bulletin. (2018, Aug 28). *PH eyes more rice, fish imports.*

## **Viet Nam**

### ***The new decree was recently issued to support rice exporters.***

Following the proposal of Ministry of Industry and Trade, the government recently issued Decree 107/2018 on rice export business, replacing the earlier Decree 109/2010, with the aim to make doing business easier for rice traders. The new decree does not stipulate the sizes of warehouses or rice-husking mills. Rice exporters are no longer required to own at least one warehouse, with a minimum storage capacity of 5,000 tonnes, and a milling facility, with a minimum processing capacity of 10 tonnes per hour, to obtain a license to export rice abroad. Traders can now rent these facilities with a minimum lease period of five years per contract. However, rice traders who have obtained licenses to export rice are not allowed to put up their already-declared warehouses and rice-husking mills for rent. This will prevent other traders from using these facilities to obtain export licenses.

**Source:** The Saigon Times Daily. (2018, Aug 22). *New decree to support rice exporters.*

## **China**

### ***China produced less rice in the first harvest period of 2018 amid agricultural supply-side structural reform.***

The country produced 28.59 million tonnes of early rice, planted during February to April and harvested in June and July, down over 1 million tonnes, or 4.3 percent, from 2017. China's early rice planting area for this year stood at 4.79 million hectares, 6.8 percent less than last year, but yield per hectare increased 2.7 percent to 5.96 tonnes, according to the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS). The decrease in early rice production was attributed to proactive changes in crop structure amid agricultural supply-side structural reform, less rainfall, and crop rotation. However, the decline will have a very limited impact on the country's

grain supply as early rice accounts for a small share of the annual grain output, said NBS statistician.

**Source:** Xinhua. (2018, Aug 24). *China's early rice yield drops amid structural reform*; and Wikipedia. *Rice production in China.*

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