



## WEEKLY UPDATE ON ASEAN PLUS THREE RICE SITUATIONS

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### Myanmar

***The 52.50 tonnes of rice donated by Japan's government were handed over to flood victims in Tanintharyi region.***

On 5 August 2018, the APTERR Secretariat together with Deputy Director General of Department of Agriculture (DOA), Chief Minister of Tanintharyi region, and local officers attended the ceremonial distribution of 52.50-tonne rice contributed by Japan's government through the APTERR's Tier 3 programme to support affected people by heavy monsoon floods in Tanintharyi region. The rice will be allocated to more than 5,000 beneficiaries in 19 villages in Tanintharyi region with the amount of 10 kilograms per person. At the ceremony, Chief Minister also expressed her thanks and appreciation to Japan government as well as the APTERR Secretariat for providing the rice assistance to the people in areas affected. This 52.50-tonne rice is part of Japan's 500-tonne rice contributed through APTERR Tier 3 programme in preparing for an emergency response in Myanmar.

**Source:** APTERR Secretariat. (2018, Sep 11). *Japan's 52.50-MT rice to flood-affected people in Tanintharyi, Myanmar.*

### Philippines

***The additional importation of 250,000 tonnes of rice was approved to beef up the National Food Authority (NFA) stocks.***

Following a meeting on 4 September 2018, the National Food Authority Council (NFAC), the policy-making body of the NFA, ordered the NFA to hold an immediately tender for the additional importation of 250,000-tonne rice this year to increase the agency's stocks and ensure the availability of low-priced rice. The additional rice imports are scheduled to arrive the country in November 2018 via government-to-private (G2P) importation. Under G2P, private suppliers or traders from different countries are allowed to participate in the bidding and would be covered by the procurement law. So far, the NFA has imported 500,000 tonnes of rice, including 250,000 tonnes via government-to-government (G2G) scheme from Viet Nam and Thailand, and 250,000 tonnes via G2P. In total, the NFA's rice imports for this year will now reach 750,000 tonnes.

**Source:** National Food Authority. (2018, Sep 7). *NFA COUNCIL APPROVES ADDITIONAL 250K MT RICE IMPORTS*; and The Manila Times. (2018, Sep 6). *NFA Council OKs additional 250,000 MT rice imports.*

### Thailand

***Thai rice exports have been increased in both of volume and value.***

According to Department of Foreign Trade of Ministry of Commerce, from 1 January to 7 September 2018, Thailand had exported about 7.65 million tonnes of rice with the earning of 3.85 billion USD, up 0.8 percent in volume and 17.14 percent in value compared to the same period last year. This year, the government is upbeat about achieving 11 million tonnes of rice shipments, predicting exports of as much as 900,000 tonnes a month for the remainder of 2018. In addition, the department will continue beefing up rice sales through government-to-

government (G2G) and government-to-private (G2P) contracts, adding that the department will also focus on promoting speciality and coloured rice in the world market, when the roadshows are scheduled to be held soon in Australia and New Zealand, said Director General of the department.

**Source:** Bangkok Post. (2018, Sep 11). *Rice pledging hoard cleared*; Commerce News Agency. (2018, Sep 11); and Prachachart.Net. (2018, Sep 10).

## **Viet Nam**

### ***Rice exports see bright prospects in the remaining months of 2018, due to increasing demand in many markets.***

According to a report by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD), rice exports in the fourth quarter of 2018 are forecast to be optimistic, when demands from China, the Philippines, Indonesia, Iraq, and African countries are expected to be high. The Philippines plans to import an additional 500,000 - 800,000 tonnes of rice this year to supplement its depleting stocks and stabilise prices. While, Indonesia and African countries will have higher demand for rice due to an output decline triggered by storms and floods. Also, Chinese enterprises have recently worked with rice exporters in the Mekong Delta of Viet Nam to seek cooperation opportunities in rice trade. Besides, new Decree 107/2018 with many preferential policies, which has recently approved by the government and will take effect in October 2018, is expected to remove difficulties faced by rice businesses in expanding exports. From January to August 2018, Viet Nam exported 4.4 million tonnes of rice with the earning of 2.2 billion USD, up by 6.8 percent in volume and 22.1 percent in value year-on-year.

**Source:** The Saigon Times Daily. (2018, Sep 10). *Optimistic outlook forecast for rice exports in Q4 of 2018: report*; Viet Nam News. (2018, Sep 8). *Rice exports set to go up on increasing demand*.

Gathered by the APTERR Secretariat  
Tel: +66 (0) 2579 4816-17 Fax: +66 (0) 2579 4840  
Email: [voraporn.mue@apterr.org](mailto:voraporn.mue@apterr.org)  
Website: <http://www.apterr.org/>

\* 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.