



## WEEKLY UPDATE ON ASEAN PLUS THREE RICE SITUATIONS

**No. 178**  
**22 - 28 July 2020**

### **Cambodia**

#### ***Cambodia purchases 2,000 rice-sowing machines for rice farmers.***

The Prime Minister of Cambodia has ordered 2,000 rice-sowing machines from local processing firms, as aiming to boost the country's paddy production. In this procurement, there were 1,000 of each big and small machines, which cost 1,300 USD per each big machine and 1,100 USD per each small machine. This movement is a part of the government's commitment to further promote local agricultural activity. Amid the Covid-19 crisis, the Cambodian government has been paying high attention to agriculture productivity.

**Source:** Khmer Times. (2020, Jul 22). *PM orders 2,000 rice sowing machines for farmers.*

### **Myanmar**

#### ***Myanmar is set to purchase 20,000 tonnes of rice for the national reserve.***

Earlier this year, the government announced the first purchasing 50,000 tonnes of rice from local farmers for rice reserves to cope with the Covid-19 pandemic and it has successfully stored away 85 percent out of that quota so far. Currently, Myanmar's government is planning to purchase an additional 20,000 tonnes of rice to supplement the first purchasing of 50,000 tonnes. These rice reserves would be sold to people via retail shops in the regions and states with the help of the Myanmar Rice Federation.

**Source:** Myanmar Times. (2020, Jul 23). *Myanmar govt plans to purchase more reserve rice.*

### **Thailand**

#### ***Thailand's rice export sees continue to drop and falls in fifth place.***

According to the Thai Rice Exporters Association, Thailand is expected to the continuous drop in rice export and it risks falling to the fifth place in rice exports over the next decade if the country remains complacent and does not develop a long-term rice strategy for seeds and competitiveness. The priority is the limited budget for Research and Development of rice seed, particularly for soft-textured white rice that has high demand in the market. Thailand's production costs are relatively higher than competitors along with higher logistics costs and strong baht, which have caused Thai rice prices to become more expensive when compare to competitors. Besides, alternating drought and flood have affected rice production while a lack of accurate data on rice has made it hard to devise effective marketing plans. For the long-term strategies, the related authorities are being urged to speed up consideration of entire supply chain in the rice industry, which are seed development, rice millers, paddy traders, seed manufacturers and traders, packed rice producers and exporters.

**Source:** Bangkok Post. (2020, Jul 23). *Rice exports poised to drop in next decade.*

***The prolonged drought seems to destroy 4,000 rai (640 hectares) of rice fields in Pichit province of Thailand.***

The 4,000 rai of rice fields in Pichit province is dying due to the prolonged drought, leading farmers plead government to create artificial rain to tackle the problem. Normally, rice plantation in the province rely on provincial irrigation during the rainy season but it was disrupted by the drought this year. According to a local farmer, he planted rice when there was some rain but then the rain disappeared. Currently, 90 percent of his rice is dying and it would continue to 100 percent if the dire situation continues.

*\*1 hectare = 6.25 rai*

*1 rai = 0.16 hectare*

**Source:** Nation. (2020, Jul 22). *Drought strangling 4,000 rai of rice in Pichit, farmers plead for help.*

Gathered by the APTERR Secretariat  
Tel: +66 (0) 2579 4816-17 Fax: +66 (0) 2579 4840  
Email: [nattakarn.san@pterr.org](mailto:nattakarn.san@pterr.org)  
Website: <http://www.pterr.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.*