



## WEEKLY UPDATE ON ASEAN PLUS THREE RICE SITUATIONS

**No. 181**  
**12 - 18 August 2020**

### Malaysia

***The Malaysian Agriculture Research and Development Institute (MARDI) discovers a way to control weedy rice.***

The weedy rice is an unavoidable threat of paddy rice due to its disposal through the seed combination. It could become herbicide resistance and some species are difficult to remove from crops. In the early stage, if it is uncontrollable, the crop could be reduced up to 70 percent. Regarding the issue, the MARDI has provided the Weedy Rice Control Technology Manual, a guideline on the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP), for farmers to adopt with their rice fields. This manual contains the latest situation of weedy rice in Malaysia, control strategy as well as a new SOP for the wet direct seeding method. During the implementation, the new method can reduce weedy rice by 30-45 percent in the first season and 70-85 percent in the second season.

**Source:** Bernama. (2020, Aug 25). *MARDI discovers method to control weedy rice*; and Malay Mail. (2020, Aug 25). *Mardi discovers method to control weedy rice, say D-G.*

### Thailand

***Thailand launches a “Better Farms, Better Lives” scheme to support farmers.***

On 20 August 2020, the Bayer Thai Co., Ltd, in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, the Rice Department, the Cooperative Cyber Brain Foundation, the Kasetsart University, and the Charoen Pokphand Co., Ltd, launched an initiative “Better Farms, Better Lives” scheme to assist and help uplift the overall status of smallholder farmers, who face greater challenges than usual due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Under the scheme, smallholder farmers will get starter kits, personal protective equipment, crop protection products. Additionally, the relevant training will be distributed to 50,000 farmers. This initiative scheme worth 20 million baht (630,517 USD) in total.

\*1 USD = 31.72 baht

**Source:** Bangkok Post. (2020, Aug 24). *“Better Farms, Better Lives” initiative launched to support smallholder farmers impacted by Covid-19 in Thailand.*

### Viet Nam

***Viet Nam sets up an Artificial Intelligence (AI) Rice ATM in Da Nang to help local people amid the Covid-19 pandemic.***

A Rice ATM using AI technology was installed in Da Nang on 18 August 2020 under the collaboration of the Da Nang’s Red Cross Society, donors and the city-based VBPO Joint Stock Company (JSC), which provides business process outsourcing services and technology solution. The objective of this machine is to help struggling local families amid an ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. It is expected to provide about 20 tonnes of rice worth 300 million VND (12,968 USD) to about 3,000 affected families. With the AI technology, personal information of the recipients, including phone number and ID card’s image, will be uploaded to the VBPO JSC’s management system. Also, the appointments

and the text message will be sent to inform the recipients about time for getting rice.

\*1 USD = 23,134.39 VND

**Source:** Vietnam News Agency. (2020, Aug 22). "Rice ATM" using AI helps the poor in Da Nang.

***The Vietnam National Seed Group Joint Stock Company (Vinaseed) gets a brighten prospect to export rice globally.***

On 23 July 2020, the Vinaseed obtained the certificate of Food Safety Management System (FSSC 22000) for processing, packaging, and distribution from Bureau Veritas, a recognised world leader in testing, inspection, and certification services. Regarding the mentioned certificate, it is one of the comprehensive food safety standards established by the combination of the two certificates, which are ISO 22000 and PAS 220. Therefore, it could guarantee that the Vinaseed products meet the highest standard to access the most demanding market, such as the European Union and the United States, and it is meaningful for the company's rice exports under the EU-Vietnam Free Trade Agreement.

**Source:** Vietnam Investment Review. (2020, Aug 22). *Vinaseed rice products conquer international markets.*

Gathered by the APTERR Secretariat  
Tel: +66 (0) 2579 4816-17 Fax: +66 (0) 2579 4840  
Email: [nattakarn.san@apterr.org](mailto:nattakarn.san@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.