



## WEEKLY UPDATE ON ASEAN PLUS THREE RICE SITUATIONS

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### Malaysia

***A high-yield nuclear rice seed would increase the self-sufficiency of Malaysia.***

The Malaysian Nuclear Agency (Nuklear Malaysia) assures the cultivation of a nuclear rice seed named NMR152 would help to increase the national rice production. The NMR152 could produce the high-yield at 8-10 tonnes of rice per hectare compared with 2-3 tonnes of normal rice seeds. Also, it could survive in floods and drought, as well as withstand rice blast disease and strong wind. Besides, rice supply of Malaysia is still insufficient; therefore, the nuclear rice seeds would reduce dependence countries, such as Thailand and Viet Nam, to meet domestic demand.

**Source:** Bernama. (2021, Mar 18). *Nuklear Malaysia has produced a high-yielding nuclear seed for rice farmers.*

### Thailand

***Rice prices decrease due to the quiet demand and baht depreciation.***

Rates for Thai 5 percent broken rice eased to 505-513 USD per tonne this week from 505-515 USD per tonne a week earlier. According to the traders, the falling of rice prices attributed to the dwindling demand in the market together with the weakened baht against the US dollar.

**Source:** Reuters. (2021, Mar 18). *India, Vietnam rice rates gain on robust demand; Bangladesh eyes stocks.*

### Viet Nam

***Viet Nam exports 638,000 tonnes of rice in the first two months of 2021.***

From January to February 2021, Viet Nam exported 638,000 tonnes of rice worth 352 million USD, down 31.4 percent in volume and 18.3 percent in value year-on-year. The Philippines remains the largest importer of Vietnamese rice with almost 170,000 tonnes of imported rice valued at 91.4 million USD.

**Source:** Bizhub. (2021, Mar 18). *Viet Nam ships 638,000 tonnes of rice aboard in Jan-Feb.*

***Prices of Vietnamese rice increases due to the uptick in overseas demand.***

On 18 March 2021, Vietnamese 5 percent broken rice rose to 510-515 USD per tonne from 500-510 USD per tonne a week earlier. According to the local traders, overseas demand for Vietnamese rice seems uptick, especially in Indonesia, the Philippines and Bangladesh, as the buyers are seeking to buy winter-spring crop which has the best quality of the year. Additionally, Viet Nam had pledged to ensure long-term and sustainable rice supplies to the Philippines.

**Source:** Reuters. (2021, Mar 18). *India, Vietnam rice rates gain on robust demand; Bangladesh eyes stocks.*

### Republic of Korea

***The Republic of Korea will release rice reserve to cope with a supply shortage.***

According to the Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs, the government's plan for 2021 is to release up to 370,000 tonnes of reserved rice into the market as the long rainy season and typhoons last year reduced the rice output. Earlier, the country has already released 170,000 tonnes of reserved rice into the market. Also, the additional 100,000 tonnes of reserved rice was planned to release in April 2021.

**Source:** Korea Herald. (2021, Mar 17). *S. Korea to release more rice reserve to cope with supply shortage.*

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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.