



WEEKLY UPDATE ON ASEAN PLUS THREE RICE SITUATIONS

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Lao PDR

Lao PDR received 1,320 tonnes of rice assistance from the Republic of Korea (ROK).

The ROK contributed 1,320 tonnes of milled rice worth about 1.26 million USD to the World Food Programme (WFP) in Vientiane to boost emergency response. The rice shipment, including 33,000 bags of rice weighing 40 kilogrammes per bag, from the ROK has arrived at the WFP's warehouse. The WFP will use part of the rice contribution for a central reserve in collaboration with the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare to cope with unforeseen disasters. Another part of rice will be used for other WFP's food security programmes, such as the establishment of community rice reserves in the disaster-prone areas.

Source: *The Star.* (2021, Jun 27). *Laos: Rice from South Korea boosts emergency reserves during economic woes*; and *Vientiane Times.* (2021, Jun 25). *Rice from Korea boosts emergency reserves.*

Philippines

The rice production of Eastern Visayas increases by 6.7 percent from January to March 2021.

According to the Philippines Statistics Authority, paddy production of Eastern Visayas in the first quarter of this year rose to 269,853 tonnes, up by 6.7 percent, from 252,869 tonnes last year. The increase in production attributed to the expansion of rice cultivation areas from 75,600 hectares in late 2020 to 83,522 hectares in early 2021. The massive intervention for rice output under the Bayanihan to Heal as One Act and the Bayanihan to Recover as One Act have contributed to the better harvest this year as the regional Department of Agriculture received 574.4 million pesos (11.7 million USD) of pandemic response fund to help farmers during the crisis. Most of the fund was used to enhance local production. Therefore, the additional allocation for rice seeds and fertilizer motivates farmers to plant rice.

**1 USD = 49.05 pesos*

Source: Philippines News Agency. (2021, Jun 29). *Eastern Visayas Q1 rice output up by 6.7%.*

Thailand

Thailand will export 20,000 tonnes of rice to China under a government-to-government (G2G) deal.

According to the Department of Foreign Trade, China will import 20,000 tonnes of 5 percent white rice from Thailand worth 10.4 million USD, scheduled to be delivered in June and July. This will be the eighth lot of rice export to China under the G2G contract of one million tonnes. The said contract is part of the high-speed train cooperation framework between the Government of Thailand and China. Under the contract, China has agreed to buy a total of two million tonnes of rice from Thailand throughout the project. The first contract covering one million tonnes of rice had been signed and China has already imported 700,000 tonnes of Thai rice. Besides, the remaining 280,000 tonnes of rice is expected to be shipped within this year.

Source: Nation. (2021, Jun 28). *Eighth lot of Thai rice set for export to China under 1m tonnes deal.*

Viet Nam

A freshwater reservoir is hoped to be built in Long An province to mitigate the impact of saltwater intrusion and drought.

Long An Province's Department of Agriculture and Rural Development has proposed the building of a freshwater reservoir project in Thanh Hoa District to ensure water supply in the dry season as the province has been severely affected by saltwater intrusion and drought in recent years. The reservoir and existing irrigation work would secure irrigation water for 1,500 hectares of hi-tech farming areas, as well as water for households, industrial production, and fire prevention for 3,300 hectares of protective forests. Saltwater intrusion and drought damaged more than 2,700 hectares of rice farming in the 2019-2020 dry season.

Source: Viet Nam News. (2021, Jun 26). *Long An seeks funding for freshwater reservoir.*

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