



WEEKLY UPDATE ON ASEAN PLUS THREE RICE SITUATIONS

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Myanmar

Myanmar Rice Federation urges not to hoard as fuel and fertiliser costs rise

The Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF) has urged industry stakeholders not to hoard fuel and fertilisers beyond their actual needs amid rising global oil prices and market instability. Fuel shortages are affecting all processes in the rice sector, including harvesting, milling, and transportation. The MRF encourages stakeholders to help farmers access diesel, reduce fuel use, and adopt alternatives like solar energy, especially in rice mills. Meanwhile, fertiliser prices are also increasing. The MRF advises farmers to shift toward organic and bio-fertilizers to reduce costs and maintain production efficiency.

Source: The Global New Light of Myanmar. (2026, March 21). *MRF urges against fuel, fertilizer stockpiling in rice industry.*

Thailand

Fuel crisis impacts the rice sector

Fuel shortages in Thailand are disrupting both agriculture and transportation, especially during the rice harvest season in late March. Farmers are unable to harvest or dry rice due to diesel shortages, leaving machinery idle and delaying seed processing. Facilities that rely on fuel for drying operations have been forced to stop, even as harvested crops pile up. The crisis is also affecting logistics. In Nakhon Ratchasima province, transport operators report difficulty finding fuel, with drivers needing to visit multiple stations due to limited or inconsistent supply. Although the government has introduced emergency

measures to stabilise fuel distribution and prevent hoarding. However, farmers and transport groups warn that without faster, targeted support, the shortages could disrupt supply chains and impact the wider economy.

Source: Bangkok Post. (2026, March 22). *Freight and farms suffer fuel blows*

Republic of Korea

South Korea's rice prices have risen for seven consecutive months to about 63,000 KRW

According to the Korea Agro-Fisheries & Food Trade Corporation (aT), as of the 18th March, rice prices in South Korea have risen sharply, with a 20-kilogramme bag of rice reaching 62,951 KRW (42.09 USD), an increase of 13.7 percent from 2025 and 16.5 percent from the average, while 10-kilogramme bag of rice prices have surged over 23.27 percent from 2025 and 25.92 percent from the average. The Production prices also reached 57,716 KRW (38.59 USD) per 20 kilogrammes, an increase of 19.7 percent from 2025 and 19.4 percent from the average prices. According to the February consumer price index, rice prices surged 17.7 percent compared to 2025, nearly nine times the overall inflation rate (2.0 percent). Moreover, the rise in rice prices also impacts food costs and puts pressure on households despite government efforts to stabilise prices. A fundamental issue cited is the ministry's miscalculation of demand. Policies to reduce rice cultivation areas have also exacerbated supply shortages. The ministry reduced rice paddies by 80,000 hectares last year and plans to cut an additional 90,000 hectares this year.

*1 USD = 1,495.57 KRW

Source: The Chosun Daily. (2026, March 19). *Rice Prices Surge to 63,000 Won, Seven Months.*

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