WEEKLY UPDATE ON ASEAN PLUS THREE RICE SITUATIONS

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Indonesia

Indonesia Eyes Rice Exports as Talks Continue with Malaysia and Singapore

Indonesia's state logistics agency, Bulog, is continuing negotiations with Malaysia and Singapore on planned rice exports, focusing on pricing and commercial terms. Bulog is discussing a proposed 200,000-tonne rice export to Malaysia and a 10,000-tonne shipment to Singapore, with talks ongoing as it awaits Malaysia's readiness to receive an Indonesian delegation. Bulog said President Prabowo Subianto has instructed that any export agreements must safeguard the interests of Indonesian farmers while supporting the country's broader economic goals.

Source: The Star. (2026, July 13). *Indonesia continues talks with Malaysia and Singapore on proposed rice exports*.

Malaysia

Malaysia Strengthens Food Security as Rice Stocks Remain Stable

According to the Malaysia's Economy Minister, the country's food supply remains stable despite global geopolitical and weather-related uncertainties, with national rice reserves sufficient to meet domestic demand for 6 months and no change to local white rice prices. To support paddy farmers facing higher production costs and changing weather, the government has disbursed 45.98 million MYR (11.27 million USD) to 118,908 farmers and is diversifying fertiliser sources, with a Fertiliser Bill planned for early 2027 to strengthen governance and supply resilience. In addition, the government also acknowledged challenges facing the plastics industry from rising raw material and logistics costs. Authorities will review industry proposals while prioritising food and energy security, reducing unnecessary business costs, expanding market access, attracting investment, and accelerating technology adoption to strengthen Malaysia's long-term economic competitiveness.

*1 USD = 4.08 MYR

Source: The Star. (2026, July 13). *Malaysia's rice supply stable despite current global conditions, says Akmal Nasrullah*.

Philippines

Philippines' First-Half Rice Imports Hit Record 2.75 million tonnes

The Philippines imported a record 2.75 million tonnes of rice in the first half of 2026, up 20.1 percent from 2025 and already reaching 57 percent of the government's full-year import target of 4.8 million tonnes. The Department of Agriculture said the higher imports are aimed at ensuring adequate domestic supply, stabilising rice prices, and preparing for potential El Niño impacts amid rising fuel and fertiliser costs. Despite the increase in imports, domestic rice production remains under pressure, prompting the government to maintain sufficient stocks at affordable prices. Officials also noted that lower global rice prices have created an opportunity to import rice at competitive costs, while any decision on import restrictions will be made by the Agriculture Secretary. According to the US Department of Agriculture (USDA), the Philippines will remain the world's largest rice importer in 2026, with imports expected to reach 5.7 million tonnes.

Source: VietnamPlus. (2026, July 10). *Philippines posts record rice imports in first half of 2026*.

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