



WEEKLY UPDATE ON ASEAN PLUS THREE RICE SITUATIONS

No. 489
14 - 20 October 2026

Indonesia

Indonesia's Rice Reserves Reach 4.5 Million MT For El Niño

Indonesia's government rice reserves have reached 4.5 million MT, nearly 200 percent higher than the 1.51 million MT recorded in October 2023, as the country prepares for potential extreme El Niño conditions and drought. According to the National Food Agency (Bapanas), the government secured these reserves after two years of proactive preparation to mitigate these climate threats. Head Andi Amran Sulaiman noted that the reserves came entirely from domestic production, with government rice procurement accounting for 14.4 percent of projected national rice production of 28.39 million MT from January to September 2026. Moreover, the government aims to achieve sustainable food self-sufficiency in 2026 while maintaining adequate supplies of other essential food commodities.

Source: ANTARA News. (2026, October 19). *Indonesia holds 4.5 mln tons of rice reserves for El Nio: Official*

Malaysia

Malaysia Loses 8,486 hectares of Rice Fields, Raising Concerns Over Rice Self-Sufficiency

Malaysia lost 8,486 hectares of rice fields between 2020 and 2025, raising concerns over

domestic rice production and food security. According to the Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Food Security, 5,676 hectares were lost in designated rice granary areas and 2,810 hectares outside these zones. The decline comes as Malaysia's rice self-sufficiency rate stood at 54.3 percent in 2025, highlighting challenges in reducing dependence on imports.

Source: nippon.com. (2026, October 20). *Decline in padi land raises food security concerns.*

Philippines

Philippines' Rice Tariff Revenue Rises 21 percent in January-September

The Philippines collected 15.95 billion PHP (250 million USD) in rice import tariffs from January to September 2026, up 21 percent from 13.2 billion PHP (210 million USD) a year earlier, driven by higher import volumes and a weaker PHP Currency. Rice imports reached nearly 4.2 million MT, about 25 percent higher than the 3.36 million MT recorded in the same period last year. Nine-month revenue already exceeded nearly 14 billion PHP (220 million USD) collected for 2025. The Department of Agriculture expects rice imports to surpass 5 million MT this year to ensure sufficient supplies amid anticipated El Niño-related production losses of 700,000 MT. The government projects a 75-day rice supply by year-end. However, the Congressional Policy and Budget Research Department warned that tariff collections remain below the 30 billion PHP (470 million USD) target needed to fund the Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (RCEF) sustainably, which is potentially putting additional pressure on government finances.

*1 USD = 63.21 PHP

Source: Philstar.com. (2026, October 20). *Rice tariff collection hits P16 billion in 9 months.*

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