WEEKLY UPDATE ON ASEAN PLUS THREE RICE SITUATIONS

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Cambodia

Cambodia Eyes Rice Export Growth Amid Potential El Niño-Driven Demand

Cambodia expects to expand rice exports as neighbouring countries prepare for potential El Niño impacts in late 2026, which could reduce agricultural output and increase regional demand for imported rice. The Philippines has already stepped up purchases, with Cambodia supplying nearly 20,000 MT through City Rice. According to officials, stronger demand could support higher rice prices and benefit Cambodian farmers and millers, although water shortages and rising irrigation costs remain key challenges. Cambodia exported 792,212 MT of milled rice worth more than 464 million USD to 66 destinations in the first eight months of the year, while paddy rice exports reached 3.35 million MT.

Source: Kampuchea Thmey Daily. (2026, November 2). *Cambodia Targets Expanded Rice Exports As El Nino Threatens Regional Output.*

Myanmar

Myanmar Expands Pawsan Rice Cultivation After Winning World's Best Rice Award

Myanmar has cultivated 27,144 acres (10,984.79 hectares) of Pawsan rice in Yangon Region for the 2026 rainy season, with five varieties grown across 15 townships. The expansion follows Myanmar Pawsan's win of the World's Best Rice Award for 2026, boosting its international reputation and export potential. Average yields are expected to reach 72.25 baskets (1,507.14 kg) per acre, slightly above last year's 72.21 baskets (1,506.30 kg).

*1 kg = 0.0479 Myanmar basket unit

1 hectare = 2.47 acres

Source: Global New Light of Myanmar. (2026, November 2). *5 Pawsan paddy varieties grown in 15 Yangon townships; yield tipped at 72.25 baskets per acre.*

Japan

Japan Considers Additional 100,000-MT Rice Reserve Buyback

The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) Japan is considering buying an additional 100,000 MT of rice to replenish government reserves, following a 210,000 MT purchase in September 2026. The government released 590,000 MT from emergency stockpiles in 2025, reducing reserves to around 320,000 MT, well below the 1 million-MT target. The ministry expects the buyback to have limited market impact, because while the government's own emergency reserves are low, private-sector commercial inventories reaching a record 1.5 million MT in August 2026. Meanwhile, the government is considering cutting its 2027 staple rice production target to 6.93 million MT from 7.4 million MT in 2026, while promoting rice production for animal feed and processing.

Source: Japan Today. (2026, October 28). *Japan gov't eyes buying back 100,000 more tons of rice for reserves.*

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