



## WEEKLY UPDATE ON ASEAN PLUS THREE FOOD SECURITY RELATED INFORMATION

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### Lao PDR

**Recently, the United Nations World Food Programme and the National Agriculture and Forestry Research Institute under the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Lao PDR has signed an agreement to develop new tools for farmers to adapt to climate change, leading to national food security.** This project will provide weather information, rainfall forecasts and crop management schools for farmers and will also have long-term impacts on agricultural development. Farmers in seven main rice planting provinces of Xayaboury, Borikhamxay, Khammuan, Savannakhet, Saravan, Attapeu, and Champassak are targeted.

**Source:** Vientiane Times (2016, Nov 23). *WFP helps farmers adapt to climate change.*

### Malaysia

**Flood since 29 November 2016 in the Terengganu State caused over 330 people from 82 families to evacuate and stay in five temporary relief shelters.** Kuala Terengganu and Kemaman districts were worst affected areas. Meanwhile, flash floods also

affected Sepang district in the Selangor State whereas Karabungan Miri and Trusan Limbang in the Sarawak State recorded heavy rainfalls around 40 mm in one hour.

**Source:** Davies, R. (2016, Nov 30). *Malaysia – Floods in Terengganu After 250 mm of Rain in 24 Hours.* FloodList.

### Philippines

**The Department of Labour and Employment in the Ilocos has recently distributed livelihood assistance to some 105 drought-affected farmers in Pinili, Ilocos Norte.** The farmers reported that their farmlands were affected and destroyed by El Nino since January and their productivity as well as revenue was reduced by the dry spell. By the assistance of 1.16 million peso (23,317 USD), affected farmers could rely on livestock production and dairying, apart from farming.

\* 1 USD = 49.75 Philippine peso

**Source:** Garma, C. (2016, Nov 30). *DOLE-1 distributes over P1M worth of livelihood assistance to Ilocos Norte farmers.* The Philippine Information Agency.

### Singapore

**The north-east monsoon was expected to bring showers in late November until January next year.** Heavy rain with high tides could lead to localized flash floods in the low-lying areas. There were averages of 18 and 13 rain days in December and next January, respectively. Heavy rain warnings and flood advisories would be issued by national authorities. Also, there were inspection of construction sites and drainage systems.

**Source:** Derek, W. (2016, Nov 24). *Expect heavy rains and possible flash floods from late November to January: Met Service.* The Strait Times.

## **Thailand**

**Since 1 December 2016, Floods due to heavy rains claimed 11 lives and affected 366,000 people in 10 southern provinces.** Four injured and missing people were reported in Surat Thani whereas floods prompted evacuations and affected transportations between villages and cities in Nakhon Si Thammarat and Krabi. The government closely monitored situations and provided relief operations to victims. Related units pumped floodwater out of residential areas and trains were also rerouted around flooded areas. However, heavy rains were persistent except in Surat Thani.

**Source:** Bangkok Post (2016, Dec 5). *11 dead as floods hit southern provinces.*

**Rice fields across 44 provinces were severely damaged by floods.** It was updated that, since September 2016, floods affected rice fields by 1.52 million rai (242,627 hectares) and severely damaged 771,850 rai (123,496 hectares). The total assistance was worth 1,297 million baht (36 million USD).

**The implementation results of water management plan for drought season 2016/17 starting from 1 November 2016 to 30 April 2017, were reported.** Since 1 November 2016, the total used amount of water was 2,994 million m<sup>3</sup> out of the planned amount of 17,661 million m<sup>3</sup> or 17 percent. This plan has been set forth by 9,579 m<sup>3</sup> and 2,339 m<sup>3</sup> or 54 and 13 percent of the total for agriculture and consumption, respectively.

\* 1 rai (Thai system) = 0.16 hectare

\*\*1 USD = 35.65 baht

**Source:** Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives of Thailand (2016, Dec 2). *Report of disaster situation in agriculture (Thai Version).*

## **Viet Nam**

**Damages by floods and rainfalls on lives, properties, and farmlands in Binh Dinh and Quang Ngai provinces were reported.** There were four dead and

injured in Binh Dinh whereas there were two missing people in Quang Ngai. Apart from a few kilometres of damaged roads and canals, 4,200 houses and 7,410 hectares of paddy fields were reported flooded across these two provinces. However, rainfalls were expected to return to coastal provinces from Thua Thien-Hue to Phu Yen next week and flood alerts still remained.

**Source:** Tuoi Tre News (2016, Dec 3). *Four killed, missing as rain, flood wreak havoc in central Vietnam.*

**Deputy Prime Minister Trinh Dinh Dung requested for coordination among localities in central coastal regions and relevant ministries in response for the aftermath of floods.** Localities were asked to support affected families, to search for the missing people, to enhance safety of reservoirs, and to design preventive measures and response plans. The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development was tasked by evaluation of flood impacts on reservoirs and irrigation systems as well as by forest protection and development. Reportedly, floods and heavy rains in October and November 2016 left 65 people dead and missing. Around 192,000 houses and more than 22,100 hectares of rice fields were flooded. Total damage was estimated at about 7 trillion dong (317 million USD). Over 4,400 tonnes of rice and a large amount of medicine were provided to Thanh Hoa, Nghe An, Ha Tinh, and Quang Binh provinces. Localities and ministries proposed the government to support 305 billion dong (13.50 million USD) as well as thousands of tonnes of seeds to 14 provinces.

**Source:** Viet Nam News (2016, Dec 3). *Deputy PM urges better flood response.*

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