



WEEKLY UPDATE ON ASEAN PLUS THREE FOOD SECURITY RELATED INFORMATION

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23 – 29 May 2018

Cambodia

There were two injuries and nearly 500 homes during severe winds and heavy rains in Batheay District of Kampong Cham Province on 26 May 2018. Reportedly, 496 damaged houses were in San Dek and Tromp Communes. Of those, 20 houses were completely destroyed while the rest suffered structural damage. Around 200 officials from the district and provincial halls visited the communes for distributing supplies. Yet, they could not evaluate the total cost of the damage. According to the National Committee for Disaster Management, a total of 107 storms occurred nationwide in the first five months of 2018, leading to three deaths, 29 injuries, 2,278 destroyed houses and affected schools.

Source: The Phnom Penh Post (2018, May 28). *Kampong Cham storm injures two, damages houses.*

Indonesia

The shortage of clean water has affected the villages of Balerante, Panggang and Sidorejo in Kemalang District, Klaten Regency, Central Java Province. Kemalang residents were much more worried about a clean water crisis despite the recent eruption of Merapi Volcano. In several villages in the district, there has been no rain in the last two months and many springs have dried up. Some villagers started to buy clean water and others sourced clean water from the Bebung spring in Sleman Regency of Yogyakarta which is quite far. Residents pay 170,000 rupiah (12 USD) per tank with a capacity of 6,600 litres. According to Klaten Disaster Mitigation Agency, 22 villages in seven districts across Klaten were prone to drought. Eleven of the 22 villages are in the district of Kemalang.

* 1 USD = 14,167 rupiah

Source: The Jakarta Post (2018, May 25). *Klaten residents 'more worried' about water crisis than Merapi eruption.*

Significant seismic activity and two times eruption of Merapi Volcano in Central Java Province were reported on 23 May 2018. The eruptions caused 2,000 metres height of grey smoke. The volcanic ash rain fell around the Mount Merapi, affecting some areas of Sleman Regency of Yogyakarta as well as Klaten Regency of Central Java. There were 660 evacuees with growing numbers within these two provinces. The alert level was raised to the level 2 after the unsteady eruption. Related officers distributed aids to evacuees and were carrying out data collection. In addition, climbing activities were temporarily prohibited except for investigation and research activities related to disaster mitigation.

Source: ASEAN Humanitarian Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Centre) (2018, May 24). *Merapi Volcano Phreatic Eruption, Central Java Province, Indonesia Flash Update No. 03.*

Malaysia

Floods due to heavy rain since 26 May 2018 caused 395 evacuees from 112 families in Taiping in Perak State.

According to the Perak State Disaster Management, those victims are staying at four flood relief centres in the district consisting of the Kampung Bemban Nurul Hidayah Mosque for 110 people, SK Temelok Trong in Kampung Temelok for 200 people, Kampung Jawa Surau for 28 people and SK Batu Hampar for 57 people. Victims were directed to evacuate as waters began to rise.

Source: New Strait Times (2018, May 27). *Downpour triggers floods in Taiping; 395 evacuated.*

Myanmar

According to the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology, weather conditions contributing to rainy season are forming over the Bay of Bengal. In 2018, monsoons are starting later than usual but they will begin in few days because of the depression over the Bay of Bengal. The depression paves the way for a week of storms whereas the Rakhine coast and the Delta region should beware of storms. Plus, above average rains are likely to occur in Mandalay, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyarwady, Tanintharyi, Kayin and Mon whereas normal precipitations are expected in Sagaing, Magwe, Kachin, Shan, Chin, Rakhine and Kayah.

Source: The Myanmar Times (2018, May 25). *Monsoon arriving soon, says forecaster.*

Philippines

The Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration warned of possible flash floods and landslides over Palawan and Mindanao on 30 May 2018. This is because of the rain-inducing intertropical convergence zone (ITCZ) or the converging of winds coming from the northeast and southeast leading to thunderstorms and rain showers. At the same time, the warm and humid winds coming from the east or the easterly winds will bring cloudy skies with scattered rain showers and thunderstorms over the regions of Eastern Visayas and Bicol. The easterly winds could also bring flash floods or landslides over these areas. Metro Manila and the rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rain showers due to localised thunderstorms. Warm weather will also prevail over most parts of the country.

Source: Manila Bulletin (2018, May 29). *PAGASA warns of possible flash floods, landslides over Palawan, Mindanao.*

Thailand

As of 25 May 2018, storms and floods totally affected 30,023 farmers with 147,237 rai (23,558 hectares) of farmlands across 29 provinces all over the country. Agriculture in Chiang Mai, Phetchabun, Lampang, Uthai Thani, Sa Keo, Nakhon Ratchasima and Ratchaburi Provinces were affected by both disaster situations. Storms affected 24,409 farmers with 96,960 rai (15,514 hectares) while floods affected 5,614 farmers along with 50,277 rai (8,044 hectares) and 564 livestock. Paddy fields were also damaged by 855 rai (137 hectares). The assistance worth 10.8 million baht (337,198 USD) has been provided to 2,264 farmers together with 8,389 rai (1,342 hectares) and 564 dead livestock across affected provinces.

* 1 rai (Thai system) = 0.16 hectare

** 1 USD = 31.91 baht

Source: Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives of Thailand (2018, May 28). *Report of disaster situation in agriculture (Thai Version).*

Thailand has officially entered the rainy season and up to two storms are expected to hit the country in 2018 due to the Meteorological Department.

Rainfall from mid-June to mid-July will be scattered and irregular. This could lead to insufficient water for farms in many areas, especially those outside of irrigation zones. Farmers are therefore advised to conserve water supplies. The rainy season for the upper part is expected to last until mid-October while the southern region will experience continuous rainfall until December. In addition, up to two storms are expected to move through the country with a high chance of affecting the norther and northeastern regions from mid-August to September. Meanwhile, dry spells lasting up to two weeks could damage smaller plantations and farmers outside irrigation zones are advised to store water. Yet, the public was assured that rainfall in 2018 will not be as intense as in 2011, which caused severe floods nationwide.

Source: National News Bureau of Thailand (2018, May 28). *Thailand can expect 1-2 storms this rainy season.*

P.R. China

Northeast China's Jilin Province is suffering from a drought which has affected 1.36 million hectares of crops.

Precipitations in the province are down since mid-April by 46 per cent from average levels of the past ten years. The city of Songyuan is the worst-hit area. Due to the provincial flood control and drought relief headquarters, the drought in central and western Jilin was worsened by higher-than-average temperatures and windy weather. Local residents have dug 3,272 wells and renovated 238 river dams. In the meantime, local authorities dispatched 23 planes and fired 662 rockets in an attempt to seed clouds to increase precipitation.

Source: Xinhua (2018, May 23). *Northeast China province suffers drought.*

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