



WEEKLY UPDATE ON ASEAN PLUS THREE FOOD SECURITY RELATED INFORMATION

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Lao PDR

Drought hit Lao PDR causing crops damaged. The country has been facing with the lowest seasonal rainfall in decades. It causes a severe impact on farmers' livelihoods and affects food security.

The lack of rain has delayed rice production in the country's 800,000 hectares of wet-season rice fields. The wet season rice transplantation is only 40 percent completed, according to Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Forestry.

The Ministry told provincial and district authorities to send officials to help farmers immediately and prepare varieties of rice for farmers while they are waiting for the rains. Additionally, for the regions that have water resources, the officials have been instructed to help farmers to pump it into their fields.

Source: The Nation. (2019, July 24). *Drought destroying the future of Lao farmers.*

Philippines

A series of earthquakes struck Batanes province. On 27 July 2019 at 4:15 a.m. (local time), the quake hit the province. Two

strong quakes measured 5.4 and 5.9 magnitude followed by at least three aftershocks.

In Itbayat, the hardest-hit town of the province, there were eight people killed and around 100 people injured and other two people still missing.

The quakes damaged a hospital and patients had to be moved to safe places. At least one high school and the town's famous 19th-century church were also ruined.

Source: The Manila Times. (2019, July 28). *8 dead, dozens injured in Batanes quakes.*

Viet Nam

Several areas of Viet Nam have faced with severe drought, heat wave and saltwater. The heat wave was forecasted to stay in the central and south-central region, especially the country's western areas while water flow in rivers would continue declining, particularly in Quang Nam, Binh Dinh and Phu Yen. It was also predicted the possibility of widespread drought and water scarcity, which would seriously affect local resident's lives.

The drought and water have hit 21,600 hectares of crops in the region's northern areas and affected 16,340 hectares in southern areas. Meanwhile, the result of saltwater intrusion shown water shortage of 5,800 hectares of plants and affected nearly 114,000 households in the central region.

In this regard, the Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc urged the local authorities to take urgent actions to cope with the prolonged heat wave, drought and saltwater in central region, Da Nang City and many provinces.

Source: Viet Nam News. (2019, July 26). *Prime Minister requests urgent actions to cope with drought.*

Japan

Due to unexpected heatwave rising after the end of the rainy season, eleven people died and 5,664 people were taken to hospital. In Particular, 119 of those affected around the country had severe symptoms and 1,792 suffered less serious issue

Aichi Prefecture had the most people rushed to hospitals at 392, followed by Osaka Prefecture at 388 and Tokyo at 299 respectively.

The Fire and Disaster Management Agency urged people to stay hydrated and to take rest occasionally.

Source: Japan Today. (2019, July 30). *11 dead, 5,600 sent to hospitals last week due to heatwave.*

The Republic of Korea

A heatwave has begun in the Republic of Korea after a monsoon season ended. As of 11 a.m. (local time) on 29 July 2019, a heatwave advisory was issued for Seoul, Busan, parts of all the provinces and Jeju Island and heatwave warning was also in effect in Daejeon, Gwangju, Daegu, Sejong and most of the provinces.

The heatwave advisory is issued when daytime temperatures are expected to stay above 33 degrees Celsius for two consecutive days, while the heatwave warning is issued when temperatures are likely to be above 35 degrees Celsius.

The heatwave alert could expand to other regions and will continue until 8 August 2019.

Source: The Korea Herald. (2019, July 29). *Sweltering heat wave hits Korea.*

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