



## WEEKLY UPDATE ON ASEAN PLUS THREE RICE SITUATIONS

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### Indonesia

**Indonesia plans to export rice after national production reached 79.17 million tonnes in 2016.** This was above the target set at 72 million tonnes. Indonesia has already exported organic rice to five countries, including Belgium. Indonesia gained Rp 10 trillion (USD 750 million) in 2016 by not importing rice during the period.

\*USD 1 = Rp 13,329

**Source:** Antara news. (2017, Feb 9). *Indonesia plans to export rice.*

### Myanmar

**More than 70 percent of Myanmar's exported rice goes to China. Between April 2016 and January 2017, the country exported 1.15 million tonnes of rice and broken rice worth more than USD 370 million.** Due to restriction on imports, Chinese authorities have confiscated the rice from Myanmar's border as smuggled goods. The Muse border trade halted temporarily due to

armed conflicts between government forces and armed rebels in November reducing total export.

**Source:** Nilar. (2017, Feb 13). *70% of rice exported to China. Eleven Myanmar.*

**Five firms won contracts for export of 50,000 tonnes of rice to Sri Lanka by June, 2017.** Myanmar Rice Federal invited companies to submit bids for rice exports to Sri Lanka. Ten companies applied and only five companies were selected. Sri Lanka and Myanmar signed a memorandum of understanding on rice exports at Nay Pyi Taw on January 23, 2017.

**Source:** Eleven Myanmar. (2017, Feb 11). *Five firms to export rice to Sri Lanka.*

### Philippines

**The Philippines government will retain the quantitative restriction (QR) on imported rice for two more years.** The Agricultural Secretary said his office decided to endorse the extension of an Executive Order that imposed tariff rates for imported agricultural products. The Department of Agriculture's chief belief it would be impossible to lift the QR on rice unless Congress passes the bill amending the Tariff Code.

Under its commitments to the WTO, the Philippines was supposed to lift the QR on rice years ago but the Philippines government negotiated an extension to June 30, 2017.

**Source:** Sunstar. (2017, Feb 8). *PH to maintain QR on imported rice for 2 more years.*

## Viet Nam

***Thailand's sale of 8 million tonnes of stockpiled rice sparked concerns that this will undermine Viet Nam's rice exports.*** Because of Viet Nam's less competitive prices, it will be hard to compete with Thailand in exporting white rice. In addition, export prices of Vietnamese rice are expected to drop further this year. The rice export market can recover only when Thailand's rice stockpiles are sold out. Viet Nam produce about 44 - 45 million tonnes of paddy rice a year, equivalent to 22 – 22.5 million tonnes of rice.

**Source:** Nation multimedia. (2017, Feb 14). *Thailand's sale of rice stockpile worries Vietnamese exporters.*

***Rice exports of Viet Nam are facing a tough time.*** There was an oversupply in the global market for 2016. Moreover, the major importing countries are also relying on domestic production to supplant imports which contribute to weak global demand. For these reasons, rice exports of Viet Nam would face another difficult year as supply outstrips demand and highly global competition. An exporter said farmers should cultivate fragrant and sticky rice to increase oversea sales in US and EU markets.

**Source:** Vietnam.net. (2017, Feb 9). *Rice exports of Vietnam face tough year ahead.*

## Republic of Korea

***Republic of Korea will strike balance between rice supply and demand by 2019 through effort to reduce rice cultivation and boost consumption.*** As a first step, the government will reduce the country's rice paddy to 711,000 hectares in 2019 from 779,000 hectares in 2016. In the first half of this year, they will donate some 1,000 tonnes of rice to the international community through the emergency rice reserve framework. Also, it will improve the nationwide network of rice distribution in a bid to lower the customer prices of staple grain.

**Source:** Sejong. (2017, Feb 9). *S. Korea to strike balance of rice supply, demand by 2019.* Yonhup News Agency.

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*\* This Weekly Update on ASEAN Plus Three Rice Situation is based on all available sources during the period. The APTERR Secretariat shall take no responsibility for data accuracy in this publication and any consequence of their use.*