



## WEEKLY UPDATE ON ASEAN PLUS THREE RICE SITUATIONS

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### Myanmar

***Myanmar will export 200,000 tonnes of rice under government to government agreement (G2G) to Bangladesh before the end of December.***

According to the Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF), Myanmar and Bangladesh signed a memorandum of understanding to purchase 300,000 tonnes of rice under G2G agreement, when 100,000 tonnes of Myanmar rice was already shipped to Bangladesh this year in response to a shortfall due to severe floods. Myanmar has exported over 2 million tonnes of rice in the first nine months of the 2017-18 fiscal year. Also, about 500,000 tonnes of rice are expected to export in the remaining three months of this fiscal year, said the associate secretary of MRF.

**Source:** Eleven Myanmar. (2017, Dec 21). *Bangladesh buys 200,000 tonnes of rice under G to G agreement*; and Black SeaGrain. (2017, Dec 22). *Bangladesh buys 200,000 tonnes of rice under G to G agreement*.

### Philippines

***The National Food Authority (NFA) releases 25,488 bags of rice for Tropical Storm Kai-tak, also known as Urduja in the Philippines, relief operations.***

After suffering the severe damage from floods and landslides, the NFA has released additional rice around 25,488 bags to local government units (LGUs) and other relief agencies and organisations as of 21 December 2017 in order to ease the victims in affected regions of Tropical Storm Kai-tak (Urduja) which landed on Samar Island, the center of the Philippines, on 16 December 2017. Despite the limited rice inventory, NFA will continue to provide rice requirements for calamity victims to assure the public for relief operations, said the administrator of NFA.

**Source:** National Food Authority. (2017, Dec 21). *NFA ISSUES 25, 488 BAGS OF RICE FOR TYPHOON URDUJA RELIEF*; and AMDA Emergency Relief Bulletin. (2017, Dec 20). *Typhoon Urduja in Philippines*.

### Viet Nam

***Contrary to the forecasts earlier in 2017, Viet Nam beats the low expectations of rice exports.***

After disappointing results in 2016, Viet Nam has set a modest target to export 5 million tonnes of rice in 2017, due to an anticipated decline in demand and changes to the rice import policies of destination markets. However, according to a recent update from the General Department of Customs as of 15 December 2017, the level of Vietnamese rice exports reached 5.66 million tonnes worth around 2.6 billion USD, as a consequence of the significantly high demand in many markets, such as, China, Malaysia, the Philippines, South Korea, Bangladesh, and Iraq. Moreover, rice exports in December alone was estimated at around 400,000 - 450,000 tonnes,

bringing the total export volume for the entire year 2017 to 5.9 - 6 million tonnes, an increase of 1 million tonnes compared to 2016, according to the Ministry of Industry and Trade.

**Source:** Viet Nam News. (2017, Dec 25). *Rice exports beat low expectations in 2017.*

## **Japan**

***A new organisation was launched on 21 December 2017 for adjusting supply-demand conditions for rice.***

Due to the abolition in fiscal 2018 of the government's "gentan" system for curbing production of the staple food for Japanese people, the new organisation is set to gather information on rice production status and demand across the nation to prevent an oversupply. As part of its activities, the organisation is expected to call on farmers to increase production of rice for commercial use, which is currently in short supply, while encouraging food service companies to sign multiyear contracts for rice procurements. The group is made up of the Central Union of Agricultural Cooperatives, or JA-Zenchu, which serves as its secretariat, and other entities, including rice wholesalers and associations of restaurant operators and exporters.

**Source:** The Japan News. (2017, Dec 22). *New body launched to adjust rice supply-demand conditions.*

Gathered by the APTERR Secretariat  
Tel: +66 (0) 2579 4816-17 Fax: +66 (0) 2579 4840  
Email: [voraporn.mue@apterr.org](mailto:voraporn.mue@apterr.org)  
Website: <http://www.apterr.org/>

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