



## WEEKLY UPDATE ON ASEAN PLUS THREE RICE SITUATIONS

**No. 38**  
**16-22 August 2017**

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### Philippines

***Palay (Paddy) rice production in the first half of 2017 reached 8.57 million tonnes, 12.06 percent increase from the same period of 2016, while yield was at 4.09 tonnes per hectare, a growth of 3.16 percent.*** Owing to the increase in harvest area which this year reached to 947,000 hectares while the previous year reached to 848,000 hectares. Probable harvest area is also expected to swell in the coming months. However, this would be possible through government interventions and good weather conditions.

**Source:** Ocampo, K. (2017, Aug 17). *Palay, corn production up 17% in H1*. Philippine Daily Inquirer.

### Thailand

***Although around 1 million rai (160,000 hectares) of rice plantation in the northeast was destroyed by the recent floods, it is unlikely to have any***

***severe effect on Thai rice production and export.*** Thai rice export forecast was unchanged at 10 million tonnes in 2017 and the annual production forecast also remained unchanged at 28-30 million tonnes of paddy, or around 18 million tonnes of milled rice, which this amount is sufficient for domestic consumption and abundant exports, said the government. The effect of the recent floods has pushed the paddy price up by 5 percent to 7,600 baht (228.5 USD) per tonne, up from 7,200 baht (216.47 USD) previously, resulting in the offer price of Thai common grade white rice to 390 USD a tonne, higher than the 340 USD a tonne offered by other major exporting countries such as, India, Viet Nam, and Pakistan.

\* 1 rai (Thai system) = 0.16 hectare

\*\* 1 USD = 33.248 baht

**Source:** Arunmas, P. (2017, Aug 22). *Despite floods, rice output forecasts unchanged*. Bangkok Post.

### Viet Nam

***The Vietnam Food Association (VFA) aims to ship 2 million tonnes of rice to foreign countries in the last five months of 2017, increasing total rice export for the whole year to 5.2 million tonnes, up 6 percent year-on-year.*** Only July, 584,000 tonnes of rice was shipped abroad for more than 240 million USD, which was the highest monthly volume so far of 2017, with most of the rice shipped to China, Bangladesh and Africa. China remains Viet Nam's top rice importer, accounting for 40.65 percent of the total rice export, followed by the Philippines, Malaysia and Singapore. The global rice market will be led by high demand from Malaysia, Bangladesh, the Philippines and Sri Lanka, forecasted by the VFA. However, major rice exporters such as Thailand, India and

Pakistan are entering their main crop harvest, which will affect the rice market in the coming time.

**Source:** VietNamPlus. (2017, Aug 18). *Rice export target set at 5.2 million tonnes in 2017.*

## **Japan**

***Inadequacy of sunshine caused by prolonged cloudy conditions and lingering rain in Pacific coastal areas of northeastern Japan may cause problems for the rice harvest.*** Rainy and overcast conditions have prevailed since July 2017 in the Tohoku region. This has reduced the number of hours of sunshine to significantly below the level of the average year. The lack of sunshine is likely to lower the resistance of rice plants, causing a spread of disease, said the government. In doing so, the government call on farmers to check on their fields frequently and to spray pesticide immediately after finding infected plants which are unable to produce grain.

**Source:** NHK World. (2017, Aug 17). *Lack of sunshine may affect rice harvest.*

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\* This Weekly Update on ASEAN Plus Three Rice Situations 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.