



WEEKLY UPDATE ON ASEAN PLUS THREE RICE SITUATIONS

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Myanmar

The 86 tonnes of rice donated by Japan's government were handed over to flood victims in Mon and Kayin states.

On 17 August 2018, the APTERR Secretariat together with Myanmar's Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation (MOLI), Chief Minister of Kayin State, Chief Minister of Mon State, as well as Third Secretary of the Embassy of Japan in Myanmar attended the ceremonial hand-over of 86-tonne rice contributed by Japan government through the APTERR's Tier 3 programme. The Myanmar government planned to provide 136 tonnes of rice to the recent flood victims in Bago region, Mon and Kayin states. These areas are the most severe areas caused by the flood. The 50 tonnes was completely distributed to affected people in Bago region. Meanwhile, this 86-tonne rice will be continuously allocated to Kayin and Mon states. This rice distribution is part of the total 500-tonne rice contributed by Japan to be stored in Myanmar for emergency situations. After the recent release, there are about 52.523 tonnes left in the APTERR emergency rice aid.

Source: Eleven Myanmar. (2018, Aug 19). *Japan donates 50 tonnes of rice to flood victims in Kayin State*; Embassy of Japan in Myanmar. (2018, Aug 17). *Japanese government provides emergency rice to victims affected by the flood disaster*, and APTERR Secretariat.

Philippines

The 228,400 tonnes of rice have already been delivered to various National Food Authority (NFA) warehouses.

As of 10 August 2018, a total of 228,400 tonnes, as part of the 250,000 tonnes of rice importation under government-to-government (G2G) scheme from Viet Nam and Thailand, have already been delivered to various NFA warehouses. On 13 August 2018, about 15,555 tonnes were already issued to various local government units (LGUs) and relief agencies, such as the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), for the pre-positioning of rice stocks for the relief operation activities. Meanwhile, monitoring teams were deployed immediately to assess rice supply and price situation in the market to ensure that NFA rice are being sold at the government support price by accredited rice outlets. Additionally, the 250,000 tonnes of rice importation under government-to-private (G2P) or open tender scheme has started arriving the country. However, the arrivals and unloading of imported stocks are delayed due to bad weather conditions, according to NFA.

Source: National Food Authority. (2018, Aug 16). *NFA Ready to Supply Rice in Flooded Affected Areas*.

The Philippines' paddy output dropped in the second quarter of 2018.

According to a report from the Philippines Statistics Authority (PSA), the paddy production during April to June 2018 slightly dropped by 1.44 percent to 4.09 million tonnes from 4.15 million tonnes of 2017, when yield per hectare was not changed from last year at 4.38 tonnes per hectare. The decrease output was attributed to the early plantings in some areas during October to December 2017 due to sufficient water supply. Also, there were crop shifting in some areas to cassava and sugarcane instead. Based on standing crop, probable production of paddy for July to September 2018 (third quarter) is predicted to drop by 1.97 percent from 3.39 million tonnes last year, due to the delayed plantings resulting

from late release of irrigation water and late onset of rainfall. However, yield per hectare may improve to 4.01 tonnes from 3.98 tonnes in 2017.

Source: The Manila Times. (2018, Aug 16). *Rice, corn output lower in Q2 – PSA*; and Philippine Statistics Authority. (2018, Aug 14). *RICE and CORN Situation and Outlook, July 2018 Round*.

Thailand

Rice exports grow by 19.15 percent in value during January to August 2018.

According to Director General of the Foreign Trade Department, during 1 January to 14 August 2018, Thailand has exported 6.99 million tonnes and generated about 3.52 billion USD in revenue, accounting for 2 percent increase in volume and 19.15 percent in value year-on-year. During the period, the largest proportion was white rice with 51 percent, followed by parboiled rice 25 percent, and Hom Mali rice 16 percent. In accordance with Customs Department, during January to June this year, Thai rice exports have increased in many major markets, for instance, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, and South Africa. Presently, the volume of 120,000 tonnes of exported rice to the Philippines under government-to-government (G2G) scheme is now on the process of delivery and expected to finish in this August. Meanwhile, the exportation of 212,500 tonnes of rice to the Philippines under government-to-private (G2P) scheme is also scheduled to start delivering in this month, said Director General.

Source: National News Bureau of Thailand. (2018, Aug 17). *Rice export grows by 19.15% in value during Jan-Aug*; and Commerce News Agency. (2018, Aug 15).

China

Chinese scientists have discovered a new characteristic of rice gene to help increase rice tolerance to cold climates.

By combining population genetics, evolutionary biology, and molecular biology techniques, Prof. Chu Chengcai and colleagues from Institute of Genetics and Developmental

Biology of the Chinese Academy of Sciences identified a new characteristic of rice gene, bZIP73, which may have facilitated the northward expansion of japonica rice by improving rice tolerance to cold conditions. The discovery may help breed new rice varieties which can be grown in high latitude and high altitude regions, said Prof. Chu. The research was published in the latest issue of the open access journal Nature Communications.

Source: Xinhua. (2018, Aug 18). *Chinese scientists discover gene helping rice adapt to cold climate*; and Institute of Genetics and Developmental Biology, Chinese Academy of Sciences. (2018, Aug 17). *Gene bZIP73 Facilitates Adaptation of Japonica Rice to Cold Climates*.

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