



## WEEKLY UPDATE ON ASEAN PLUS THREE RICE SITUATIONS

**No. 117**  
**8 - 14 May 2019**

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### Philippines

***The Philippines' rice imports are expected to drop by 3.5 percent for the marketing year (MY) 2019/2020.***

The country's total rice imports have been increasing since the last few years. In MY 2018/2019, rice imports stood at 2.8 million tonnes which was significantly higher than 2.5 million tonnes and 1.2 million tonnes recorded in MY 2017/2018 and MY 2016/2017 respectively. For MY 2019/2020, however, rice imports are expected to fall by 3.5 percent, or 100,000 tonnes, to 2.7 million tonnes because of ample stocks and larger forecast production. In contrast, consumption of rice is expected to increase by nearly 4 percent to 14.45 million tonnes from 13.9 million tonnes a year earlier. Likewise, the country's ending stocks of the staple would hit 3.6 million tonnes, a 14.2 percent rise from 3.17 million tonnes in the previous MY.

**Source:** The Manila Times. (2019, May 14). *PH seen to reduce rice imports.*

***The Philippines' rice inventory rose by 20.5 percent in April this year.***

As reported by the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), the country's rice inventory as of 1 April 2019 was at 2.63 million tonnes, a 20.5 percent increase from the previous year's record of 2.18 million tonnes and up 18.4 percent from the previous month's level of 2.22 million tonnes. Of the total rice inventory, 44.79 percent were in the households, 33.29 percent were in commercial warehouses, and 21.92 percent were in the National Food Authority (NFA) depositories. With reference to the previous month, stocks in the households, commercial warehouses, and NFA depositories showed increments of 13.9 percent, 25.8 percent, and 17.1 percent, respectively. Year-on-year, rice stock in commercial warehouses rose by 10.2 percent. On the other hand, household stocks showed a decrease of 14.4 percent. Meanwhile, there was a substantial increase of 4,609.3 percent in NFA depositories.

**Source:** The Manila Times. (2019, May 13). *Rice stocks rise to 20.5% in April – PSA.*

### Viet Nam

***Two Vietnamese companies will export 84,000 tonnes of rice to China.***

An Giang province-based Loc Troi Group and Tan Vuong Food Joint Stock Company will export 84,000 tonnes of rice per year to China. The export of rice is under five memorandums of understanding signed between the two companies and their Chinese partners during a seminar on rice trade cooperation between Viet Nam and China held in the southern province of An Giang last week. An Giang province annually exports more than 400,000 tonnes of rice to foreign countries, earning about 220 million USD. Apart from this, earlier this year, the Vietnam Southern Food Cooperation (Vinafood 2) and the Food Valley of China (FVC) signed a memorandum of understanding on rice trade, in which Viet Nam will export 100,000 tonnes of rice to Chinese market.

**Source:** Viet Nam Plus. (2019, May 13). *Lộc Trời Group and Tân Vương Food JSC to export 84,000 tonnes of rice to China.*

### ***The Mekong Delta of Viet Nam prepares for summer-autumn rice crop.***

According to the Southern Plant Production Centre, the Mekong Delta region plans to grow rice on a total of 1.6 million hectares of summer-autumn rice crop this year. With assistance from the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development's plant cultivation department, the Mekong Delta region is scheduled to sow the rice between April and June. The authorities have also warned farmers to sow rice crop on schedule to ensure water for irrigation and avoid diseases. Meanwhile, rice farmers have been encouraged to switch to grow drought-resistant crops in areas where there is a water shortage. Of the total 1.6 million hectares, farmers have so far sowed nearly 857,000 hectares.

**Source:** Viet Nam News. (2019, May 8). *Mekong Delta prepares for summer-autumn rice crop.*

## **China**

### ***A new hybrid rice generates ample outputs and saline land improvement.***

The new hybrid rice variety, which was developed by Yuan Longping - the father of hybrid rice, sees fruitful achievements in total outputs and saline land improvement, showing a bright future in addressing famine and improving the environment. The hybrid rice named Chaoyou 1000, which was cultivated in a test field in the southern China's Hainan province of Sanya city, achieved an average yield of 887 kilograms per mu (0.07 hectare) that is believed to be enough to safeguard the country's self-sufficiency in grain production. Besides the ample outputs, Yuan's team also endeavored to breed salt-tolerant rice to improve the utilisation of saline land. According to Deputy Director of Qingdao Sea Rice Research and Development Center, the cultivation of salt-tolerant rice can help improve not only total rice output but also ensure the safety of food supply. Moreover, in the long run, the rice planted on saline land would gradually improve the soil and environmental protection.

**Source:** Ecns.cn. (2019, May 14). *China's super hybrid rice yields achievements in output and saline land improvement.*

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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