



## WEEKLY UPDATE ON ASEAN PLUS THREE RICE SITUATIONS

**No. 153**  
**22 - 28 January 2020**

---

### **Philippines**

***The Department of Agriculture (DA) supports hybrid rice technology for rice self-efficiency and climate change.***

According to the DA, the adoption of hybrid seeds to improve rice production and increase profit for rice farmers is attainable and doable. The use of hybrid technology is one of the department's strategies in response to climate change and rice self-efficiency because hybrid rice has higher yield potential compared to inbred varieties. The average harvest of hybrid rice per hectare was 3.9 tonnes or 80 cavans. Additionally, the rice self-sufficiency would be attained if hybrid rice seeds could be planted on more than one million hectares and the country should produce around 21-22 million tonnes of paddy, said the SL Agritech Chairman.

\*1 kilogramme = 0.02 cavan  
1 cavan = 50 kilogrammes

**Source:** Manila Bulletin. (2020, Jan 28). *DA backs hybrid rice technology for higher yield potential.*

### **Thailand**

***The rice farmers in Kalasin province are switching to grow zucchini.***

Farmers in Yang Talad district of Kalasin province are switching to grow zucchini instead of rice during the dry season. Even though Thai agriculture has been associated with rice over the centuries but the severe drought has forced farmers to grow other crops. Zucchini is an alternative for farmers. It is a drought-tolerant plant and their seeds can be exported to other countries, with 120 kilogrammes of zucchini seeds can sell for 96,000 baht (3,115 USD) - 100,000 baht (3,245 USD) compared to 3,200 baht (103 USD) - 6,000 baht (194 USD) per 400 kilogrammes of rice.

\*1USD = 30.82 baht

**Source:** Nation Thailand. (2020, Jan 27). *Rice farmers switching to zucchini.*

***Prices of Thai rice rose to the highest over two-and-a-half years.***

This week, prices of Thailand's benchmark 5 percent broken rice rose to the highest since June 2017 at 440-460 USD per tonne, from 435-445 USD per tonne week before. The ongoing drought is rising concern about supply shortage. Regarding this, some mills are refusing to sell rice, which is driving rice prices up. Meanwhile, a strong baht is another factor keeping Thai prices high despite the lack of a fresh deal.

**Source:** Reuters. (2020, Jan 23). *Asia Rice-Thai rates soar on drought, demand shifts to India.*

## **Viet Nam**

### ***Viet Nam is set to ensure the country's water security by 2030.***

The National Center for Hydro-meteorological Forecasting (NCHMF) reported that the region would see a drop of 30-45 percent in water flow by February 2020. During this period, the drought and saline intrusion could be as devastating as the historic drought in 2016. Regarding the matters, the country's Water Management Strategy has recently approved by the Deputy Primes Minister of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam. The aims are to support innovations and set the action plan to ensure water resources for farming, socio-economic development and daily use. The strategy is expected to maintain a stable water supply for 85 percent of rice cultivating areas by 2030. Meanwhile, the water-saving irrigation system and innovative farming methods will be applied in some 60 percent of rice cultivating areas by 2050 nationwide.

**Source:** Vietnam Plus. (2020, Jan 27). *Vietnam aims to ensure water security by 2030.*

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

*\* 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.*