



## WEEKLY UPDATE ON ASEAN PLUS THREE RICE SITUATIONS

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### Cambodia

***The Cambodia Rice Federation (CRF) asks rice millers and exporters to continue buying paddy from local farmers.***

After the Prime Minister of Cambodia decided to suspend the export of paddy and white rice on 5 April 2020, the CRF now calls on all rice millers and exporters to keep buying paddy from farmers to reduce oversupply in the market amid Covid-19 pandemic. In order to help rice farmers, the government provided loans for rice millers and exporters to buy paddy through the State-owned Agricultural and Rural Development Bank (ARDB).

**Source:** Vietnam News Agency. (2020, Apr 6). *Cambodia calls on rice millers, exporters to buy paddy.*

### Myanmar

***Myanmar suspends issuing the new rice export licenses to ensure domestic supply amid the Covid-19 pandemic.***

According to the Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF), the government placed a moratorium on new rice export licenses after the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the Covid-19 as a pandemic in mid-March 2020. The move had made to secure domestic rice supplies. However, the existing licenses will be permitted to export the grain for the remainder of six-month validity. Besides, the

government plans to limit rice export to 100,000 tonnes per months in order to protect local farmers from rice prices falling and prevent rising in commodities prices, while the Covid-19 hits the economy.

**Source:** Radio Free Asia. (2020, Apr 1). *Myanmar Suspends New Rice Export License to ensure Domestic Supply Amid Virus Outbreak.*

### Thailand

***Prices of Thai rice rose to the highest in seven years due to the Covid-19 crisis.***

On 2 April 2020, Thailand benchmark 5 percent broken white rice were quoted around 560–570 USD per tonne, the highest since April 2013, from 468–495 USD per tonne a week earlier. The increasing in rice prices is on an expectation of a sales boost after Viet Nam temporarily suspend new export contracts, while Cambodia also stopped exports of white rice and paddy to ensure local food security during the Covid-19 pandemic.

**Source:** Reuters. (2020, Apr 2). *Asia Rice-Thai rates bounce to 7-yr high as virus limits exports from other hubs.*

### Viet Nam

***Viet Nam is set to export 800,000 tonnes of rice in April and May 2020.***

The Ministry of Industry and Trade (MOIT) has asked the government to resume rice exports, but limit the volume to 800,000 tonnes for April and May this year. The volume will be 40 percent lower than the same period last year. Additionally, 400,000 tonnes of rice will be exported in April. However, the plan is waiting for approval from the government as the government announced on 25 March 2020 to suspend signing new rice export contracts to ensure sufficient supply in the country amid Covid-19 pandemic.

**Source:** Reuters. (2020, Apr 7). *Vietnam trade ministry plans to export 800,000 tonnes of rice in April, May.*

***Viet Nam will continue export rice to the Philippines amid the Covid-19 pandemic.***

Viet Nam has reaffirmed its commitment to continue supply rice to the Philippines, more than a week after the country decided to cut down rice exports to ensure sufficient supply for the local. According to the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD), the country highly values the friendly and cooperative relations with the Philippines within the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) framework and bilateral cooperation on rice trade. Besides, information on rice export will be soon announced and provided to the public, business and international partners, with the Philippines will be one of the first to be informed of the revised rice export policy.

**Source:** Philstar. (2020, Apr 4). *Vietnam commits continued supply of rice to Philippines.*

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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.*