



## WEEKLY UPDATE ON ASEAN PLUS THREE RICE SITUATIONS

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### **Cambodia**

#### ***Cambodia turns from food insecurity and poverty to a rice-exporting country.***

According to the Prime Minister of Cambodia, Cambodia is aggressively promoting the agricultural sector, particularly the rice exports. With the Covid-19 pandemic, the country rice export grows significantly, which could exceed 800,000 tonnes in 2020 from usually 500,000 tonnes a year. In the first five months of 2020, the country exported 356,000 tonnes of rice, an increase of over 42 percent compared to the same period of 2019, which was only 250,000 tonnes. This figure is considered as the most significant growth in Cambodia, reported from the Cambodia Rice Federation. Besides, Cambodia has developed from a country mired in poverty and serious food insecurity to a rice-exporting country.

**Source:** Khmer Times.(2020, Jun 28). *Cambodia's transformation from a food insecurity to a Rice-exporting nation.*

### **Philippines**

#### ***The Philippines halts on a plan to import 300,000 tonnes of rice through a government-to-government (G2G) deal.***

The government has dropped a plan to import 300,000 tonnes of rice through a G2G scheme after Viet Nam lifted its export ban. According to the Ministry of Agriculture of the Philippines, the rice import under the current situation is unnecessary because domestic supply has been properly addressed with the lifting of the rice export ban by Viet Nam and arrival of rice imports around 1.3 million tonnes as of the third week of June 2020. Earlier, the government had planned to import 300,000 tonnes of rice under G2G scheme to ensure sufficient supply and the Philippines International Trading Corp had issued a tender to import rice, which opened on 8 June 2020.

**Source:** Reuters. (2020, June 28). *Philippines drops multinational rice purchase as Vietnam resumes exports.*

### **Viet Nam**

#### ***Prices of Vietnamese rice fall due to low-quality rice and dwindling demand.***

On 25 June 2020, rates for Vietnamese 5 percent broken rice were quoted at 405-450 USD per tonne, down from 450 USD per tonne a week earlier. The winter-spring rice is offered at 450 USD per tonne, while the ongoing summer-autumn harvest is being offered at only 405-410 USD per tonne due to the low quality from heavy rains during the harvest season. Besides, the harvest period is expected to last until the end of July 2020. Furthermore, the weak demand from foreign buyers together with the cheaper Indian rice have caused lower prices for Vietnamese rice.

**Source:** Reuters. (2020, Jun 25). *Asia Rice-Quality concerns hit Vietnam rates; India's demand improves.*

***Vietnamese rice farmers in Dong Thap province use machines in their farms.***

Farmers in the Cuu Long (Mekong) Delta province of Dong Thap are using agricultural machines for all rice cultivation processes on nearly 100 percent of farmlands. The machines are used for ploughing rice fields, transplanting rice seedling, providing fertilizer, spraying pesticides, and harvesting paddy. Mechanisation reduces production costs whereas increases production efficiency and profit for farmers. In the winter-spring crop of the crop year 2019-2020, farmers grew 200,000 hectares of rice and harvested 1.4 million tonnes of paddy worth 18-20 million VND (770-860 USD) per hectare, up 5 million VND (215 USD) per hectare year-on-year.

\*1 USD = 23,239.60 VND

**Source:** Viet Nam News. (2020, Jun 25). *Rice farms in Dong Thap fully mechanized.*

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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.