



## WEEKLY UPDATE ON ASEAN PLUS THREE RICE SITUATIONS

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### Cambodia

***The state-owned Agriculture and Rural Development Bank (ARDB) will disburse an additional loan for rice millers.***

The ARDB of Cambodia will allot an additional loan of 30 million USD to help rice millers in purchasing paddy during the upcoming harvest season. The additional fund aims to ease concerns among millers over the capital shortage as they gear up to buy crops in November and December 2020. Under the plan, the loan is set to release in this November to coincide with the harvest season of the Sen Kra Op and Phka Romduol rice varieties.

**Source:** Phnom Penh Post. (2020, Oct 18). *Loans disbursed for rice millers.*

***The Cambodia Rice Federation (CRF) calls on members to buy paddy after the flood hit many rice fields in the country.***

The CRF has asked rice miller members to purchase wet paddy from farmers in flood-affected areas at an affordable price after recent deluges. Therefore, some rice millers have already purchased the paddy from farmers, especially in the most affected areas. A series of flash floods have been hitting several hectares of paddy fields in Battambang, Pursat, Banteay Meanchey, Oddar Meanchey, Preah Vihear, Kampong Speu, Stung Treng and Siem Reap province. The data from the National Committee for Disaster Management as of 15 October 2020

show that nearly 65,657 hectares of rice fields were affected.

**Source:** Phnom Penh Post. (2020, Oct 18). *Loans disbursed for rice millers;* and Khmer Times. (2020 Oct 14). *Assessment of flood damage on rice awaited.*

### Thailand

***Prices of Thai rice have decreased for seven consecutive weeks due to dwindling demand and upcoming rice production.*** Rates for Thailand's benchmark 5 percent broken rice were quoted at 445-480 USD per tonne, decreasing for a seventh straight week, from 470-475 USD per tonne last week. The falling prices are due mainly to low demand and new supply expected to enter the market at the end of October 2020.

**Source:** Reuters. (2020, Oct 16). *RPT-Asia Rice-Vietnamese rates gain on hopes of deal with Philippines.*

***A researcher team of Chiang Mai University successfully invents new rice breeds with using an ion beam.***

Chiang Mai University's Scientific and Technological Research Institute has been successful in using the ion beam to induce mutation of existing rice breeds, creating three new breeds which have a better yield as well as reliance against pest and diseases. The new breeds are FRK-1 fragrant rice for consumption, MYS-4 rice for the starch industry, and OSSY-23 rice for animal feed. To be completed successfully, a research team has been working for 10 years with Dr. Thirapat Wilaithong from the university Excellence Centre, who develop a particle accelerator to create the ion beam. Apart from this, the university has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Ratchaburi Farmer Council to test using new rice breeds in Huai Phai subdistrict of Ratchaburi province. The seeds would be distributed to the farmers in other provinces with instructions after the demonstration crop is successful.

**Source:** Nation. (2020, Oct 15). *Chiang Mai University research team successfully creates new rice breeds using ion beams.*

## Viet Nam

### ***Vietnamese rice prices increase because of demand from the Philippines.***

Prices of Vietnamese 5 percent broken rice rose to 485-490 USD per tonne from 470 USD per tonne last week. The traders are buying rice in anticipation of a move from the Philippines government to buy 300,000 tonnes of rice soon. However, the trade is mute due to weak demand. Besides, the country's rice exports in September 2020 fell 36.4 percent from the previous month to 385,429 tonnes. During January to September 2020, rice exports declined by 1.4 percent year-on-year to 4.99 million tonnes.

**Source:** Reuters. (2020, Oct 16). *RPT-Asia Rice-Vietnamese rates gain on hopes of deal with 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.*