



WEEKLY UPDATE ON ASEAN PLUS THREE RICE SITUATIONS

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Cambodia

Government contributes another 350 tonnes of rice seeds to flood-affected farmers in Prey Veng province.

According to the National Committee for Disaster Management, Minister of the Ministry of Interior distributed an additional 350 tonnes of rice seeds to 3,500 farmer families affected by floods in Prey Veng province on 12 November 2020. The province is the largest rice-producing province in the country and harvests two to three times per year. After the floods receded at the end of October 2020, more than 6,000 tonnes of rice seeds and vegetable seeds were given to the flood-affected farmers in 10 provinces, including Pursat, Battambang, Banteay Meanchey, Kratie, Kampot, Kampong Thom, Tbong Khmum, Prey Veng, Kampong Cham, and Stung Treng. This assistance programme facilitates the economic recovery in the rural areas as well as secures food security in the country.

Source: Khmer Times. (2020, Nov 12). *Prey Veng's flood-affected farmers receive rice seeds.*

An additional 30 million USD of the government special loan begin to release for rice millers and exporters.

The state-owned Agriculture Rural Development Bank (ARDB) has begun the disbursement of a new special government fund worth 30 million USD to rice millers and exporters to coincide with the harvest season. This special fund is set to release a step-by-step basis. In the initial stage, the ARDB have already released 3 million USD and the remaining balance would be distributed during the harvest of the premium aromatic rice varieties, including in January and February 2021. The percentage of non-performing loans is being well-managed. Meanwhile, the ARDB has been actively restructuring loans until customers are able to make repayments.

Source: Khmer Times. (2020, Nov 11). *Special fund keeps rice harvests on firm track despite heavy floods.*

Malaysia

The Zillion Ventures Sbd Bhd contributes 10,000 bags of rice to help people in Sabah amid the Covid-19.

On 15 November 2020, The Zillion Ventures Sbn Bhd contributed 10,000 five-kilogramme bags of rice, 1,000 bottles of hand sanitisers and 1,000 boxes of face masks to assist people in Sabah affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. Additionally, the company plans to expand the help for the Covid-19 frontliners in the state.

Source: Bernama. (2020, Nov 16). *10,000 bags of rice among item donated by company for needy in Sabah.*

Republic of Korea

The country's rice production falls to the lowest level in 52 years.

Rice output for 2020 of the Republic of Korea fell to 3.51 million tonnes, the lowest level since 1968, from 3.74 million tonnes in 2019. The falling of the country's rice production attributed to a record-long rainy season and typhoons, including Maysak and Haishen, that reduce the number of sunny days and hamper the grain growth. Apart from the natural impacts, a steady decline of rice cultivation areas and the changes in dietary habits among the population are the causes of the production shrinking.

Source: Korea Herald. (2020, Nov 12). *Rice output at half-century low in 2020 on bad weather.*

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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.