



## WEEKLY UPDATE ON ASEAN PLUS THREE RICE SITUATIONS

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### Thailand

***Thailand would see a significant decrease in rice cultivation areas in 2021 because of low water reserves.***

According to the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives (MOAC), rice cultivation areas for 2021 would be dropped by 3 million rai (480,000 hectares) to only 66 million rai (10.56 million hectares) because the water supply for in-season rice is significantly less than the previous year. A total of 11.1 billion cubic meters of water is available in different reservoirs nationwide, whereas the amount of water required for the entire year is 32.3 billion cubic meters. Also, the Meteorological Department has forecast a reduction in rainfall in the second half of this year along with the expected dry spell from late June to mid-July. Regarding this, the MOAC suggested farmers to plant a new crop after mid-August when the rainfall is forecast to increase.

\*1 hectare = 6.25 rai

1 rai = 0.16 hectare

**Source:** Nation. (2021, Jun 8). *Drop in water reserves reduces Thai rice harvest for next year.*

### Viet Nam

***A Vietnamese company won a bid to export over 20,000 tonnes of rice to the Republic of Korea in 2021.*** In mid-May 2021, the Republic of Korea (ROK) operated the tender to purchase three

lots of rice with a total volume of 23,222 tonnes. As a result, Trung An hi-tech Farming Joint Stock Company, a Vietnamese Company, won a bid to export two lots of long-grain brown rice with a total of 22,222 tonnes. The rice will be shipped to the ROK in September and October 2021. Also, prices of the first and the second batch with the same quality were quoted at 572 USD per tonne and 578.5 USD per tonne, respectively.

**Source:** Nong Nghiep. (2021, Jun 8) *Vietnamese rice continuously gets good news*; and Vietnam Plus. (2021, Jun 7). *Vietnamese firms win bids for rice exports.*

***Rates for Vietnamese rice decrease this week as buyers opt for cheaper rice.***

Prices of Vietnamese 5 percent broken rice fell to 485-490 USD per tonne after remaining unchanged at 490-495 USD per tonne for the past four weeks. Buyers are switching to cheaper rice from Thailand and India, while exporters are put off by high shipping costs. Besides, Viet Nam's rice exports in the first five months of 2021 fell by 11.3 percent from a year earlier.

**Source:** Viet Nam. (2021, Jun 3) *Asia Rice-Vietnam rates fall as buyers hunt cheaper deals.*

### Republic of Korea

***The Republic of Korea sets to release 80,000 tonnes of reserved rice.***

Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (MAFRA) plans to release 80,000 tonnes of reserved rice into the market in June 2021, aiming to cope with supply shortages and price stabilisation. The move would raise the amount of rice released into the market since January this year to 290,000 tonnes. Earlier, the MAFRA announced its plan to release 370,000 tonnes of reserved rice into the market in 2021.

**Source:** Yonhap News. (2021, Jun 7). *S. Korea to release 80,000 tons of rice in June to cope with supply shortage.*

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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.