



WEEKLY UPDATE ON ASEAN PLUS THREE RICE SITUATIONS

No. 404

29 January - 4 February 2025

Indonesia

Refocusing on the budget helps boost rice production.

The Ministry of Agriculture informed that the budget refocusing helped push up rice production by 1.49 million tonnes year on year from August to December 2024. Due to the 2024 climate change, the budget was refocused with the allocation of 1.7 trillion rupiah (around 104.6 million USD) to purchase superior seeds, pumps, and agricultural tools and machinery instead of the previously meant for official travels, seminars, building renovation, and meetings at hotels. The result is rice production increased the value equivalent to 17.89 trillion rupiah (around 109.76 billion USD).

*1 USD = 16,248.65 rupiah

Source: ANTARA News. (2025, Jan 30). *Budget refocusing helped boost rice production: minister.*

Philippines

NFA Eastern Visayas sets goal to release 71,000 bags of cheaper rice.

Due to the declaring of food security emergency for rice on February 3, 2025, the National Food Authority (NFA) regional office is preparing to release 71,000 bags of rice to interested local government units (LGUs) in Eastern Visayas starting from February 15, 2025. Besides, the NFA will start selling its rice stocks in select Kadiwa ng Pangulo sites to LGUs, other government agencies, and government-owned, controlling corporations at 36 PHP (0.62 USD) per kilogramme. Then, the

customers may access the NFA rice for not more than 38 PHP (0.65 USD) per kilogramme.

*1 USD = 58.10 PHP

Source: Philippine News Agency. (2025, Feb 4). *NFA Eastern Visayas sets release of 71K bags of cheaper rice.*

The Republic of Korea supports the Philippines' rice supply chain.

Due to the seek of the public sector to boost rice supply and increase seed distribution, the Republic of Korea committed 4.5 million USD to strengthen the Philippines' rice sector, including the construction of a new rice seed warehouse in Isabela. The facility includes cold storage, a generator set, and a forklift, which is a part of the broader "Improving the Rice Supply Chain to Ensure Quality of Seeds and Milled Rice for Distribution and Buffer Stocks in the Philippines" project, funded through Korea's Official Development Assistance. This initiative would run until 2026, be useful in ensuring high-quality rice seeds, and be important in securing the country's rice production in the uncertain climate, the branch director of the Philippine Rice Research Institute in Isabela said.

Source: Philippine Rice Research Institute. (2025, Jan 31). *Korea backs PH's rice supply chain.*

Viet Nam

Viet Nam's rice exports have increased over 23 percent in the first 2 weeks of January.

According to the Vietnam Food Association (VFA), from January 1 to 15, 2025, Viet Nam has increased rice exports 38.7 percent to 268,700 tonnes, and 23.28 percent higher in value to nearly 165.7 million USD, compared to 2024. Nonetheless, the VFA predicted a challenging year for rice exports as rice prices and demand in the domestic market are decreasing. There is also global competition, and India returns to the export market. The projected annual export volume for 2025 is 7.5 million tonnes, a decrease from the 2024 record by 9.04 million tonnes. Besides, the erratic weather affects the heightened risks of diseases in rice. Therefore, the agriculture sector advises farmers to monitor their fields

and take preventive measures to minimise possible losses in the early part of the season.

Source: VietnamPlus. (2025, Jan 29). *Vietnam's rice exports increase over 23%*.

Gathered by the APTERR Secretariat
Tel: +66 (0) 2579 4816-17 Fax: +66 (0) 2579 4840
Email: sita.kum@apterr.org
Website: <http://www.apterr.org/>

** 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.*