



## WEEKLY UPDATE ON ASEAN PLUS THREE RICE SITUATIONS

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### Thailand

***The Rice Department discusses measures to prevent a fall in paddy price.*** The Rice Department has invited representatives from relevant government agencies and the private sector to discuss measures to prevent a decline in paddy rice prices during the 2025/26 harvest season and to maintain stable rice prices. According to the Rice Department, farmers across Thailand are expected to begin harvesting their crops from October to November 2025. Most rice fields have produced good yields this year, with minimal damage from natural disasters. As a result, the release of large quantities of paddy rice onto the market could depress paddy rice prices.

**Source:** Nation Thailand. (2025, October 19). *Rice Department to discuss measures to prevent fall in paddy prices for new harvest.*

### Japan

***Japanese rice farmers plan to expand their rice field areas.*** According to the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) survey showed that on Friday, 29 percent of Japanese rice farmers plan to expand their planting area for the 2026 harvest. Japan's rice prices stay near record highs following a surge in 2024, despite government stockpile releases to control rice prices. Meanwhile, the online survey of 8,095 farmers, conducted by the MAFF from June to August, found that about 56 percent of rice farmers will maintain current acreage in 2026.

Regarding production plans for the next five years, 11 percent expect to reduce or stop production, mainly due to a lack of successors.

**Source:** Japan Today. (2025, October 18). *29% of Japan's rice farms to raise crop acreage amid price surge: survey.*

**The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries (MAFF) is considering a review of the appropriate level for the government's rice stockpiling.** Due to the domestic rice demand having fallen 20 percent since 2001, set at about 1 million tons, when the current stockpiling level, MAFF plans to discuss the potential reduction of the government rice stockpile and expedite rice release for emergency response by subsidizing private storage costs. As part of a major review of paddy field policy scheduled for fiscal 2027, the stockpiling system is expected to be adjusted based on supply and demand, with specific volumes to be determined later.

**Source:** nippon.com. (2025, October 20). *Japan Mulls Review of Rice Stockpiling Level.*

### Republic of Korea

***Autumn rain delays rice harvest in the Republic of Korea (ROK).*** Due to unseasonal autumn rains in the ROK have disrupted the rice harvest has been disrupted, delaying new-crop shipments and worsening rice shortage. According to the Korea Agro-Fisheries & Food Trade Corporation (aT), as of 15<sup>th</sup> October 2025, the retail prices of rice were 67,351 KRW (46.86 USD) per 20 kilogrammes, up 27 percent from the same period in 2024, which was 52,980 KRW (36.86 USD).

\*1 USD = 1437.30 KRW

**Source:** Chosun Biz. (2025, October 17). *Autumn rain delays South Korea rice harvest and pushes fresh food prices up.*

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