



WEEKLY UPDATE ON ASEAN PLUS THREE RICE SITUATIONS

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Indonesia

Indonesia is preparing to export rice to Saudi Arabia

Indonesia will export 2,280 tons of domestically produced premium rice to Saudi Arabia for the 2026 Hajj season to supply meals for 205,420 Indonesian pilgrims. The rice, sourced from government reserves under the food stabilization program, will meet the maximum 5 percent broken-rate quality standard. The National Food Agency will assign the state logistics agency, Bulog, to be in charge of the shipment after final approval, and the shipments are set to start in the third week of February, with up to 3,000 tonnes of rice to meet the additional demand.

Source: ANTARA News. (2026, February 3). *Japan's annual farm exports rise to new record 1.7 trillion yen.*

Philippines

The Philippines considers Viet Nam's rice as the new benchmark for import tariffs

The Philippines is considering adopting Vietnam's fragrant rice variety Dai Thom 8 (DT8) as the new reference point for its rice import tariff system, replacing the current benchmark tied to the Food and Agriculture Organization's (FAO) free-on-board price for 5 percent broken rice. According to the Department of Agriculture Secretary, using Viet Nam's DT8 rice is better than the standard 5 percent broken rice as the reference tariff, which more accurately measures the actual value of Viet Nam's rice traded in the international market. DT8 rice is currently quoted at 430 – 450 USD per tonne, which is

significantly higher than the FAO's quotation at 361 USD per tonne for 5 percent broken rice. The proposed change of the new tariff aligns with the Philippines' flexible rice tariff scheme, introduced this year, which allows import duties to adjust in response to movements in global rice prices. In addition, the Philippines is the world's largest rice importer in 2026, with about 5.5 million tonnes of rice, and also Viet Nam's largest rice export market in 2025, accounting for 38.3 percent of the total rice exports.

Source: Borneo Bulletin. (2026, February 9). *Philippines considers Vietnam's rice as new tariff benchmark.*

Thailand

Thailand Pushes Thai Organic Rice into Global Premium Markets in 2026

The Department of Foreign Trade plans to promote Thai organic rice in premium global markets in 2026, positioning it as a high-quality, environmentally friendly product for modern consumers. A trade delegation will visit Switzerland and Germany in February 2026 to meet organic rice agencies and key importers, aiming to expand markets and strengthen trade ties. The highlight activity is a one-week promotional campaign in 10 Thai SELECT restaurants in Zurich and Frankfurt, showcasing Thai organic rice through special menu offerings. The department will also collaborate with influencers in key markets, including the United States (US), China, and the European Union, to promote Thai organic rice via social media later in 2026. Additionally, 12 Thai community enterprises and SMEs will participate in major international trade fairs such as BIOFACH 2026 in Germany and Natural Products Expo West 2026 in the US to expand global trade networks. The initiative aims to boost exports, increase product value, and create stable income for local farmers and entrepreneurs.

Source: Thairath. (2026, February 4). *Department of Foreign Trade Promotes Thai Organic Rice to Global Premium Markets.*

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