



# WEEKLY UPDATE ON ASEAN PLUS THREE RICE SITUATIONS

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## Malaysia

### **Malaysia faced securing sufficient local rice supplies due to a decline in rice production**

Malaysia is struggling to secure sufficient domestic rice supplies due to declining paddy production, driven by reduced planting areas and lower productivity. In 2024, cultivation fell by 5.6 percent and productivity by 5.3 percent, affected by land conversion, irrigation issues, extreme weather, pests, and climate change. Output totaled 2.06 million metric tonnes of paddy (1.36 million tonnes of rice), down from 2.17 million tonnes (1.43 million tonnes of rice) in 2023, lowering the self-sufficiency ratio to 52.9 percent from 56.2 percent. To address this, the agriculture ministry plans to boost productivity, expand cultivation, adopt modern technology, strengthen buffer stocks, diversify imports, and expand the SMART Large-Scale Paddy Field program nationwide.

**Source:** The Vibes. (2026, February 12). *Domestic rice production declines amid multiple challenges, says Agriculture Minister.*

## Philippines

### **Farmgate prices of unhusked rice in the Philippines rebound after the import ban**

According to the Department of Agriculture (DA), farmgate prices of palay (unhusked rice) in the Philippines have begun to recover following the government's four-month halt on rice imports. As of Jan 30, 2026, dry unhusked rice prices increased to 21.52 PHP (0.37 USD) per kilogramme and fresh unhusked rice to 18.42 PHP (0.32 USD) per kilogramme, rebounding

from declines between late 2024 and 2025. In 2024, the Philippines recorded about 4.8 million tonnes of rice imports, exceeding actual requirements by 1 to 1.2 million tonnes. The surge in rice imports pushes farmgate prices down to 13.38 PHP (0.23 USD) per kilogramme during the October harvest. DA aims to balance farmer protection and consumer welfare by timing imports strategically, maintaining buffer stocks, and potentially introducing quantitative restrictions under the proposed Rice Industry and Consumer Empowerment (RICE) Act.

\*1 USD = 57.99 PHP

**Source:** Philippines News Agency. (2026, February 13). *Palay prices rebound after rice import halt.*

## Japan

### **Rice price remains high in Japan even after the stockpile releases**

Rice prices in Japan remain high at over 4,000 JPY (2.58 USD) per 5 kilogrammes, nearly double pre-shortage levels, despite the government's release of stockpiled rice. Initially, the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (MAFF) delayed releasing reserves in 2024, as production was expected to meet demand under rules allowing releases only for production shortages. In 2025, MAFF revised the rules to permit releases when distribution was disrupted, first through auctions and later via direct sales to retailers, which temporarily lowered prices. Although rice output in 2025 was projected to be the highest since 2017 and expected to ease price, agricultural cooperatives raised advance payments to farmers to secure supply, driving prices up again.

\*1 USD = 155.07 JPY

**Source:** The Japan Times. (2026, February 16). *Rice Prices Remain High in Japan Even after Stockpile Releases.*

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