



WEEKLY UPDATE ON ASEAN PLUS THREE RICE SITUATIONS

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Philippines

The Philippines plans to set a temporary price cap on rice imports

The Philippines is planning to impose a temporary price cap on imported rice to address rising food costs driven by higher global fuel prices amid Middle East tensions. According to the Department of Agriculture, the National Price Coordinating Council has launched a proposal to set the maximum prices of imported rice at 50 PHP (0.83 USD) per kilogramme for imported rice, which is effective for 30 days. This measure is aimed at controlling the crucial price increases and preventing market abuse, as rice is the country's key food staple.

*1 USD = 60.24 PHP

Source: Bloomberg. (2026, March 28). *Philippines Seeks 30-Day Price Cap on Rice as Fuel Costs Surge.*

Thailand

Thai farmers struggle with fuel shortage and rising fuel prices

Thai farmers are currently struggling with a severe diesel shortage, which disrupts the farming process, and rising diesel prices have increased the rice production costs. The crisis, driven by Middle East tensions, has disrupted energy supplies across Thailand and nearby countries that depend on imports. The shortages are not only affecting the rice sector, but also including transport and fisheries. Farmers and fishers are among the hardest hit, with concerns that a continued fuel shortage could halt production. The increase in diesel prices, rising from 29.94 THB (0.91 USD) to

38.94 THB (1.19 USD) per liter, has raised serious concerns about future harvests as more fuel will be needed during the upcoming harvest season. Experts warn of long-term impacts, including fertilizer shortages and rising food production costs, potentially worsening food insecurity in the region. Although the Thai government is launching support measures such as price support for rice and fertiliser subsidies, many farmers remain worried about sustaining their livelihoods.

*1 USD = 32.75 THB

Source: Thailand Business News. (2026, March 31). *Soaring Fuel Prices Threaten Livelihoods of Thailand's Rice Farmers.*

Viet Nam

Rice exports have been delayed due to Middle East tensions

Viet Nam's rice exports are being affected by rising shipping costs and higher insurance premiums caused by tensions in the Middle East. Shipping times have increased from 10 to 15 days, while domestic shipping costs have risen from 20,000 VND (0.8 USD) to 30,000 VND (1.2 USD). The report, citing the Director General of the Agency of Foreign Trade under the Ministry of Industry and Trade, stated that exporters are facing container shortages and disruptions in shipping, forcing them to renegotiate contracts, delay shipments, or reduce new orders. According to the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment, Vietnam's paddy output in 2026 is expected to reach approximately 45.6 million tonnes, with 7.73 million tonnes available for export.

*1 USD = 25,000 VND

Source: Xinhua. (2026, March 30). *Vietnam rice exports face delays amid Middle East tensions.*

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* This Weekly Update on ASEAN Plus Three Rice Situations is based on all available sources during the period and may be missing some important facts. The APTERR Secretariat shall take no responsibility for data accuracy in this publication and any consequence of their use.