



# WEEKLY UPDATE ON ASEAN PLUS THREE RICE SITUATIONS

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## Philippines

### **P20 rice programme serves as a strategic measure with over 6 million beneficiaries.**

The P20 Rice Programme is a government food security program that provides rice at PHP20 per kilo to vulnerable Filipinos. It has already reached more than six million people across 82 provinces nationwide, and the Department of Agriculture has expanded the program in Roxas City, Capiz. The Agriculture Secretary emphasized that the program is not just a subsidy measure but a strategic intervention to stabilise prices, protect vulnerable households, and ensure a reliable market for farmers. He added that its aggressive expansion not only cushions the impact of recent oil price surges but also advances the country's food security targets. The PHP20 per kilo rice is available in 661 Kadiwa ng Pangulo centers, kiosks, and other DA-accredited sites nationwide.

**Source:** Philippine News Agency. (2026, April 20). *P20 rice not mere subsidy, but 'strategic' action; 6M Filipinos.*

## Thailand

### **The Thai rice price is increasing due to fuel and fertiliser costs escalating**

Rice prices have increased sharply, with Thailand's benchmark 5 percent broken rice rising 10 percent to 423 USD per tonne, marking the largest increase in two years. The spike is driven by rising fuel and fertiliser costs linked to the Middle East Tension. In Thailand, some farmers have reduced or stopped planting as rising costs outpace profits and

make cultivation unsustainable. A prolonged dry season has further cut yields and tightened rice supply. Moreover, the stronger Thai baht, surging shipping, and insurance costs have also pushed prices up. Thailand, the world's third-largest rice exporter, is currently harvesting its off-season crop and preparing for the next planting cycle.

**Source:** ET Retail. (2026, April 20). *Rice prices in Asia soar as Iran war fallout threatens supply.*

## Republic of Korea

### **The Republic of Korea (ROK)'s rice production dropped for the fifth straight year**

According to a report from the Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) of the US Department of Agriculture, the rice production in the ROK is projected to decline for the fifth consecutive year, dropping to 3.5 million tonnes in 2026-27. The drop is driven by government policies encouraging farmers to shift to other crops and declining of rice consumption, which steadily dropped to 53.9 kilogrammes per capita in 2025. Meanwhile, wheat consumption is expected to rise to about 3.9 million tonnes, largely due to increased use in animal feed, and changing consumer habits, including demand for processed and ready-to-eat meals, are further reducing direct rice consumption. Government efforts to limit oversupply are also expected to reduce the amount of rice diverted to feed use, reinforcing the overall decline in production.

**Source:** World-Grain.com. (2026, April 16). *South Korea's rice output to decline for fifth straight year.*

Gathered by the APTERR Secretariat  
Tel: +66 (0) 2579 4816-17 Fax: +66 (0) 2579 4840  
Email: [phattaranan.jir@apterr.org](mailto:phattaranan.jir@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 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.*