



WEEKLY UPDATE ON ASEAN PLUS THREE RICE SITUATIONS

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with rice imports already reaching 3.3 million MT. To support farmers, the National Food Authority (NFA) will purchase up to 500,000 MT of paddy, offering 21 PHP/kg (0.35 USD/kg) for fresh wet paddy rice and 25 – 27 PHP/kg (0.41 – 0.44 USD/kg) for dry paddy rice. In addition, the DA also plans to clear NFA warehouses in September to accommodate increased procurement while expanding the distribution of older but good-quality rice under the 20-PHP/kg (0.33 USD/kg) Benteng Bigas Meron (BBM) Na program.

*1 USD = 60.70 PHP

Source: Philippine News Agency. (2026, August 4). *PH won't impose rice import ban; support to farmers in place*

Malaysia

Malaysia Expands Rice Stockpiles Amid Global Supply Risks

Malaysia is strengthening its national rice stockpiling strategy to safeguard food security amid rising geopolitical tensions, climate risks, and export restrictions from supplier countries. As of 14 July, the country held 1.249 million MT of rice stocks, including a 200,000-MT buffer stock sufficient to meet domestic demand for 6.2 months. To enhance supply security, Malaysia has diversified its rice import sources beyond Thailand, Vietnam, and India to include Pakistan, Myanmar, and Cambodia. The government is also implementing measures to boost domestic rice production, including the Smart Sawah Berskala Besar (SBB) programme, soil rehabilitation, irrigation upgrades, and the "5 Seasons in 2 Years" initiative to increase planting frequency in key granary areas.

Source: VietnamPlus. (2026, July 31). *Malaysia moves to strengthen rice reserves to bolster food security*

Philippines

Philippines Maintains Rice Imports to Strengthen El Niño Preparedness

The Philippine Department of Agriculture (DA) will not impose a temporary rice import ban despite the upcoming local harvest season. According to the DA Secretary, the government is building buffer stocks to ensure food security through the first half of next year,

Thailand

Thailand Accelerates Irrigation Development to Support Farmers

The Prime Minister (PM) of Thailand announced plans to accelerate irrigation development nationwide to raise rice farmers' incomes and reduce the impacts of recurring floods and droughts. During a visit to Suphan Buri Province, the PM stressed the government's commitment to improving water management, lowering rice production costs, and ensuring farmers receive a fairer share of agricultural returns. In addition, the Central Plains, which is a key flood-receiving area, require stronger irrigation infrastructure to mitigate natural disasters and support stable agricultural production. The PM pledged to seek budget approval for irrigation improvement projects and highlighted the need for coordinated policies to enhance long-term agricultural development.

Source: Bangkok Post. (2026, August 2). *PM vows irrigation for farmers*

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