WEEKLY UPDATE ON ASEAN PLUS THREE RICE SITUATIONS

No. 492
4 - 10 November 2026

Cambodia

Cambodia's Milled Rice Exports to Philippines Surge, Reshaping Regional Trade Flows

According to the US Department of Agriculture (USDA), Cambodia's milled rice exports to the Philippines surged to 122,102 MT in January–August 2026, up from 3,500 MT in the whole of 2025, making it the country's largest ASEAN market. The shift towards direct milled rice shipments has reduced Cambodia's paddy exports to Viet Nam by 13 percent in the first four months of 2026, allowing domestic millers to capture more added value. Cambodia has contracted to supply a further 87,344 MT to the Philippines by the end of 2026, potentially bringing its total exports to the Philippines to around 209,000 MT in 2026.

Source: VietnamPlus. (2026, November 5). *Philippines increases rice imports from Cambodia.*

Thailand

Thailand Faces Declining Rice Competitiveness Amid Rising Production Costs

According to the honorary president of the Thai Rice Exporters Association, Thailand's rice export competitiveness is weakening as high prices, low yields and rising production costs drive buyers towards cheaper suppliers. Thai 5 percent broken white rice was priced at 485 USD per MT, compared with 410 USD for Pakistan and 388 USD for India. Cambodian and Vietnamese fragrant rice also competed with Thai jasmine rice, prompting traditional buyers such as P.R. China and Hong Kong, China to switch suppliers. In addition, Thailand could fall from the world's third-largest rice exporter to fourth if Pakistan overtakes it. Structural reforms are needed to boost rice yields, reduce production costs, and restore export competitiveness, as Thailand's average yield of 456 kg per rai (0.16 hectare) lags behind major competitors. Moreover, migrant labour shortages have extended rice loading times from one week to 20 days, increasing shipping costs for exporters.

*1 hectare = 6.25 rai

Source: Nation Thailand. (2026, November 9). *Thai rice exporter links US$97 per tonne gap to lost sales.*

Viet Nam

Viet Nam Rice Prices Hit Highest Level Since December 2024 on Strong Export Demand

Vietnamese 5 percent broken rice prices rose to 480 – 490 USD per MT, which is the highest level since December 2024, supported by renewed purchases from the Philippines and stronger demand from African markets. Traders said Philippine buyers had resumed purchases, focusing on 25 percent and 100 percent broken rice, while most 5 percent broken rice shipments were heading to Africa. According to government statistics, Viet Nam's rice exports in October 2026 increased 37.2 percent year on year to 475,000 MT, lifting total shipments in January–October to 6.83 million MT.

Source: Business Recorder. (2026, November 8). *Asia rice: Vietnam, Thai rice prices hit near two-year highs.*

Gathered by the APTERR Secretariat
Tel: +66 (0) 2579 4816-17 Fax: +66 (0) 2579 4840
Email: phattaranan.jir@apterr.org
Website: http://www.apterr.org/

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