



Highlights of Rice Outlook

- Rice supply in ASEAN is forecast to grow by about 4 percent from 142.75 million (metric) tons in 2008 to 148.99 million tons in 2009.
- The increase in total supply is mainly due to the improvement in the beginning stock position from 18.77 million tons in 2008 to 24.57 million tons in 2009, up by about 31 percent. The ending stock is also expected to increase from 24.57 million tons to 30.06 million tons for the same period.
- The total rice production in the region in 2009 is forecast to be about the same as previous year. However, when we consider the performance country by country it is noted that Vietnam and Thailand, the major producing countries in the region, their production are forecast to decrease due to the response in declining price. For other countries, the production is forecast to increase.
- Total imports by ASEAN countries in 2009 are expected to decline about 32 percent from 3.84 million tons to 2.61 million tons, while total exports are anticipated to decrease slightly from 17.42 million tons to 17.04 million tons or down about 2 percent.
- The FOB prices for all exporting countries, in general, have continuously fallen since their peak in May 2008.
- The ratio of beginning stock to domestic utilization is expected to increase from 19 percent to 24 percent. This indicates that the food security in terms of rice situation in ASEAN as a whole is in good condition. It is further noted that an improvement in this ratio for Indonesia, Philippines, Malaysia and Singapore is expected for 2009.

Table 1: Summary of rice situation in ASEAN (milled rice)

Items	2008	2009	% change
Supply (Million tons)	142.75	148.99	▲ 4.37
Beginning stock	18.77	24.57	▲ 30.88
Production	120.14	121.82	▲ 1.40
Import	3.84	2.61	▼ -32.17
Demand (Million tons)	142.75	148.99	▲ 4.37
Domestic utilization	100.76	101.90	▲ 1.14
Export	17.42	17.04	▼ -2.21
Ending stock	24.57	30.06	▲ 22.32
Ratio of production to domestic utilization (%)	119.23	119.54	▲ 0.26
Ratio of beginning stock to domestic utilization (%)	18.63	24.11	▲ 29.41

ASEAN Rice Situation in 2008

Production

Paddy production in ASEAN in 2008 was estimated at 191.48 million tons, an increase of 10.27 million tons from previous year and by 0.3 million tons from the Early Warning Information report in March (EWI-2). Lao PDR has revised its estimate upward from 2.85 million tons to 2.97 million tons. Vietnam, Indonesia and Cambodia have also revised their estimates, but by relatively very small amounts. In other countries, the estimated production remained unchanged. The increase in production in 2008 occurred in almost every country except Malaysia and Brunei (Table 2, Figure 1). Most of the increase, in terms of quantities, was in Indonesia, Vietnam, and Thailand, respectively. The increase in most cases was due to the increase in both area and yield (Table 3 and 4, Figures 2 and 3). The planted area in the region has increased from 47.94 million hectares in 2007 to 48.01 million hectares in 2008 while the average paddy yield has increased from 3.89 tons per hectare to 3.99 tons per hectare. For the Philippines, even though the yield has decreased from 3.78 tons per hectare to 3.72 tons per hectare, the effect was not enough to pull down the total production because of the increase in area. The expansion in area was due to the positive response to the announced price increase right after the harvest of the main crop of 2007/08 which coincided with the planting season of the dry season crop.

Utilization and Stock

About 100.76 million tons of milled rice were utilized in the ASEAN region in 2008 (Table 5). This figure has been revised from 104.30 million tons in the previous Agricultural Commodity Outlook report (ACO-1) in December 2008. The ratio of total production to the total utilization for 2008 was 119.23 (Table 7, Figure 11). This implies that ASEAN as a whole produce 19.23 percent more than the total consumption within the region. On a country by country basis, however, the Philippines, Malaysia, and Brunei have ratios less than 100 which imply that these countries do not produce rice enough for their own consumption. Singapore does not produce any rice.

Regarding stocks, the ending stock of ASEAN as a whole in 2008 was estimated at 24.57 million tons of milled rice; with Vietnam and Thailand having the largest stocks. These two countries combined, account for about half of the total stock in the ASEAN region. The ratio of stock to domestic utilization can be used as a food security indicator. It was noted that only Thailand, Brunei and Vietnam have ratios above 20 which mean that these countries stocks would be good for 2-3 months utilization. Cambodia, Indonesia and Singapore have low stock to domestic utilization ratios (Table 8, Figure 12).

Trade

In 2008, ASEAN as a whole exported about 17.42 million tons of milled rice. Thailand and Vietnam, the two major exporting countries in the world, exported about 10.66 million tons and 4.74 million tons, respectively. Cambodia, which rank third in the region, exported about 1.41 million tons. Despite the damage caused by the cyclone Nagris, Myanmar was able to export about 0.55 million tons. It is interesting to note that Lao PDR was also able to export about 0.04 million tons due to the good crop harvested in this year. However, most of the export from Lao PDR was in the form of paddy rice (Table 5, Figures 4 and 5).

Regarding imports, in 2008 the combined importation of ASEAN countries totaled to about 3.84 million tons. This figure has been revised upward from 3.74 million tons in the earlier ACO-1 report. The major importing countries in the region for 2008 were the Philippines, Malaysia, Indonesia and Singapore which imported about 2.43, 0.82, 0.29 and 0.27 million tons, respectively (Table 5, Figures 7 and 8).

Prospects for 2009

Production

ASEAN paddy production in 2009 (crop year 2008/2009) is forecast to be 194.67 million tons, up from 191.48 million tons in 2008 (crop year 2007/2008) or an increase of less than one percent (Table 2, Figure 1). The increase in production in 2009 is mainly due to the increase in planted area since the average yield is forecast to be about the same (Table 3 and 4, Figures 2 and 3). However, the planted area is expected to increase very little because of the continuous decline in world prices which weigh down on prices received by local farmers. Going by individual countries, however, the paddy production in Vietnam and Thailand, the major producers in the region, are forecast to decrease. In contrast, the rest of the ASEAN countries are forecast to increase their paddy production. The increase, in terms of total quantity (not in percentage terms), is very pronounced in Indonesia, Myanmar, the Philippines and Cambodia.

For **Brunei**, the country introduced a government food security program “Towards Self-sufficiency in Rice Production” on April 2009 to increase the present self-sufficiency level of 3 percent to 20 percent by 2010 and 60 percent by 2015. The long term target will be 100 percent. Through this program the planted area has increased due to the opening of new areas and double cropping, and an increase in foreign direct investment (FDI) through joint venture with private sector. The harvested area also increased despite of the damage caused by flood and pests during the first crop. These phenomena also affected the average yield of rice in the country. It is expected that in the near future, rice production in Brunei

will increase tremendously through the introduction of HYV “Laila,” increase in government expenditure on mechanization and other inputs (fertilizers) and consolidated efforts and commitments from various Ministries. The new variety introduced needs only 3-4 months for each cropping compared to the 6-7 months for traditional varieties. Using this new variety, therefore, will enable Brunei to produce paddy more than once a year.

The increase in paddy production in **Cambodia** is due to the increase in both planted area and yield. Besides favorable weather, other factors that contributed to the increase in the area and productivity are the impact of government policy which promote and guide the private sector in agricultural investment especially in economic land concessions. Other small scale investments further promote agricultural productivity improvement and diversification to ensure food security and economic development.

In **Indonesia** the increase in production is the result of area expansion. The increase in planted area is due to the favorable weather.

In **Lao PDR** the increase in Paddy production comes mainly from increase in planted area due to government policy of shifting farmers to newer locations, improved irrigation facilities coupled with mix cropping with plantation crops like Rubber and Jastofa etc.

For **Malaysia** the increase in paddy production is the result of the increase in planted area and yield. The government is encouraging better farm management through more efficient use of inputs to increase soil fertility and is improving the irrigation system. To increase production, the government is also promoting private sector investment in paddy cultivation.

For **Myanmar**, due to favorable weather, use more improved variety and improvement of irrigation facilities, planted area, harvested area and yield per hectare were increased which intended to increase paddy production.

For the **Philippines**, the increase in the planted area is due to the positive response of farmers to the increase in domestic prices together with the favorable weather conditions during the growing season. The use of new and improved varieties is also a significant factor that contributed to the increase in yield.

For **Thailand**, even though the planted area of the wet season crop (main crop) has increased as a response to the very high price just before the beginning of planting period, the total planted area still decreased due to the reduction in planted area of the dry season crop. The increase in planted area in wet season rice was very limited because land is not available and there are not enough rice seed for planting. As for the dry season rice crop, the decrease in the planted area is due to government policy which discourage farmers to grow the third rice crop (in some areas rice can be grown any time of the year consecutively) because there is

not enough water supply. Furthermore, the farmgate price at that time was declining. Average rice yield is forecast to be reduced due to the abnormally cold weather in December 2008 through January 2009 which coincides with the vegetative and flowering stages of the dry season crop; thus leading to the decrease in yields. The total harvested area, however, may have increased because the damaged area in 2009 was less than in 2008.

In **Vietnam**, the paddy production in 2009 is forecast to decline due to the reduction in yield. The increase in planted area is due to the farmers' response to profitable prices of rice and the lower price of competing crops. The decrease in yield is principally due to unfavorable weather and incidences of pests and diseases. Improvement of rice quality through restructuring of cropping varieties also contributed to the yield reduction.

Utilization and Stock

The domestic utilization of rice in ASEAN is forecast to increase very little from 100.76 million tons in 2008 to 101.90 million tons in 2009 (Table 5 and 6). The change is mainly due to the increase in food consumption as a result of population increase. The usage for seed also increased in some countries which expand their planted areas.

Regarding stocks, the beginning stock within ASEAN in 2009 is estimated at 24.57 million tons, up from 18.77 million tons in 2008. The ending stock is forecast to increase from 24.57 million tons in 2008 to 30.06 million tons in 2009, up by about 18 percent. This is due to the increase in production and beginning stock in importing countries after large imports in the previous year to ensure adequate food supply. Most of the stocks are carried by Vietnam and Thailand. It is estimated that these two countries will have about half of the total stocks in ASEAN. In Thailand the bulk of the increase in stock is due to the market intervention by the government which set the mortgage price much higher than the current market price.

The ratio of production to domestic utilization in 2009 is forecast to be increased to 0.26 percent from 119.23 to 119.54, which is not significant (Table 7, Figure 11). However, the ratio of the beginning stock to domestic utilization is forecast to increase from 18.63 percent to 24.11 percent (Table 8, Figure 12). This indicates that the rice market condition in the region is not tight. On an individual country basis, however, some countries such as Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR and Malaysia have the stock-to-use ratio at relatively low levels, and they may need to monitor their stock very closely (Table 8, Figure 12). It is further noted that an improvement in this ratio for major importing countries namely Indonesia, Philippines, Malaysia and Singapore is expected for 2009.

Trade

Rice exports by ASEAN countries are forecast to decline from 17.42 million tons in 2008 to 17.04 million tons in 2009. Rice shipments from Thailand are expected to decline from the record high of about 10.66 million tons last year to about 9.00 million tons. The export target is still set at very high levels despite the present decline in export volume and strong competition from other exporting countries because the government is under pressure to release a large portion of stock under the rice mortgage scheme. Vietnam is planning to increase its export volumes from 4.74 million tons in 2008 to 5.0 million tons this year due to ample supplies. Myanmar and Cambodia are also expected to increase their exports, from 0.55 and 1.41 million tons to 1.50 and 1.47 million tons, respectively (Table 5 and 6, Figures 4 and 6).

For imports, ASEAN countries are forecast to reduce imports from 3.84 million tons in 2008 to 2.61 million tons in 2009 as a result of the increase in the production and improvement in stock positions in the importing countries in the region. The Philippines will still be the major importing country in ASEAN, followed by Malaysia, Singapore and Brunei, respectively (Tables 5 and 6, Figures 7 and 9).

Prices

The FOB prices of all kinds of traded rice in the exporting countries in ASEAN have been declining since their peak during the early months of 2008. The average price of the best quality Thailand rice or Thai Hommali rice (jasmine rice or fragrant rice), in calendar year 2008 was US\$ 903 per ton; in May 2009, the price for this kind of rice was US\$ 887 per ton, down by 26 percent from US\$ 1,205 per ton in May 2008. For the milled rice 5%-broken from Thailand, the average price in 2008 was US\$ 683 per ton. The FOB price of this grade of rice in May 2009 was US\$ 526 per ton compared to US\$ 973 per ton in May 2008 or down by about 46 percent.

For Cambodia and Vietnam, the annual average FOB prices of milled rice 5% -broken rice from these countries in 2008 were US\$ 685 per ton and US\$ 582 per ton, respectively. In May 2009, the FOB price for this kind of rice in Cambodia was US\$ 549 per ton, while in Vietnam the price was US\$ 519 per ton. It was also noted that the May 2009 FOB price of the milled rice 5% -broken in Thailand was US\$ 7 higher than the Vietnam price and US\$ 23 lower than Cambodia price (Table 9, Figures 13 and 14).

Table 2 : Paddy production in ASEAN countries, 2007-2009

Unit: 1,000 Tons

Country	2007 (2006/07)	2008 (2007/08)	change 2008 over 2007		2009 (2008/09)	change 2009 over 2008	
			Quantities	(%)		Quantities	(%)
ASEAN	181,134.44	191,481.92	10,347.47	5.71	194,666.71	3,184.80	1.66
Brunei	1.51	1.40	-0.11	-7.15	7.97	6.57	468.49
Cambodia	6,264.12	6,727.98	463.86	7.41	7,173.84	445.86	6.63
Indonesia	57,157.44	60,325.93	3,168.49	5.54	62,561.15	2,235.22	3.71
Lao PDR	2,663.70	2,969.91	306.21	11.50	3,028.83	58.92	1.98
Malaysia	2,375.60	2,374.19	-1.42	-0.06	2,451.67	77.48	3.26
Myanmar	30,923.00	31,442.47	519.47	1.68	32,053.61	611.14	1.94
Philippines	16,240.19	16,815.55	575.36	3.54	17,321.83	506.28	3.01
Singapore	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Thailand	29,641.87	32,099.40	2,457.53	8.29	31,650.63	-448.77	-1.40
Vietnam	35,942.70	38,725.10	2,782.40	7.74	38,417.20	-307.90	-0.80

Table 3 : Paddy planted area in ASEAN countries, 2007-2009

Unit: 1,000 Hectares

Country	2007 (2006/07)	2008 (2007/08)	change 2008 over 2007		2009 (2008/09)	change 2009 over 2008	
			Quantities	(%)		Quantities	(%)
ASEAN	47,935.21	48,006.66	71.45	0.15	48,762.81	756.15	1.58
Brunei	1.40	1.30	-0.10	-7.13	2.79	1.49	114.63
Cambodia	2,586.00	2,585.91	-0.09	0.00	2,615.74	29.84	1.15
Indonesia	13,543.90	12,619.65	-924.25	-6.82	13,322.79	703.14	5.57
Lao PDR	741.10	869.87	128.77	17.38	884.93	15.06	1.73
Malaysia	676.10	670.52	-5.58	-0.82	672.30	1.78	0.27
Myanmar	8,090.00	8,089.65	-0.35	0.00	8,094.30	4.65	0.06
Philippines	4,295.70	4,525.51	229.81	5.35	4,527.99	2.48	0.05
Singapore	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Thailand	10,793.60	11,229.94	436.34	4.04	11,171.96	-57.98	-0.52
Vietnam	7,207.41	7,414.30	206.89	2.87	7,470.00	55.70	0.75

Table 4 : Paddy yield in ASEAN countries, 2007-2009

Unit: Tons/Hectare

Country	2007 (2006/07)	2008 (2007/08)	change 2008 over 2007		2009 (2008/09)	change 2009 over 2008	
			Quantities	(%)		Quantities	(%)
ASEAN	3.78	3.99	0.21	5.56	3.99	0.00	0.09
Brunei	1.08	1.08	0.00	-0.02	2.86	1.78	164.87
Cambodia	2.42	2.60	0.18	7.41	2.74	0.14	5.41
Indonesia	4.22	4.78	0.56	13.27	4.70	-0.08	-1.77
Lao PDR	3.59	3.41	-0.18	-5.01	3.42	0.01	0.25
Malaysia	3.51	3.54	0.03	0.88	3.65	0.11	2.99
Myanmar	3.82	3.89	0.06	1.68	3.96	0.07	1.89
Philippines	3.78	3.72	-0.06	-1.72	3.83	0.11	2.95
Singapore	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Thailand	2.75	2.86	0.11	4.08	2.83	-0.03	-0.89
Vietnam	4.99	5.22	0.24	4.73	5.14	-0.08	-1.53

Table 5: Rice balance sheet by ASEAN countries, 2008 (Milled Rice)

Unit : tons

Country	Supply				Demand			
	Beginning Stock	Production	Imports	Total	Domestic Utilization	Exports	Ending stock	Total
ASEAN	18,773,909	120,135,675	3,842,114	142,751,699	100,756,178	17,423,569	24,571,951	142,751,699
Brunei	16,121	911	31,353	48,386	32,880	nil	15,505	48,386
Cambodia	96,000	4,305,000	nil	4,401,000	2,865,000	1,408,000	128,000	4,401,000
Indonesia	1,573,000	35,298,935	289,273	37,161,208	33,253,065	1,221	3,906,922	37,161,208
Lao PDR	238,025	1,781,946	nil	2,019,971	1,727,513	40,909	251,549	2,019,971
Malaysia	244,369	1,582,788	818,643	2,645,800	2,252,913	2,847	390,040	2,645,800
Myanmar	3,325,800	19,808,753	nil	23,134,553	18,241,745	549,600	4,343,208	23,134,553
Philippines	2,172,300	10,997,368	2,432,845	15,602,513	12,963,092	1,134	2,638,287	15,602,513
Singapore	10,000	-	270,000	280,000	165,000	14,000	101,000	280,000
Thailand	6,827,700	21,185,604	nil	28,013,304	11,097,504	10,664,000	6,251,800	28,013,304
Vietnam	4,270,594	25,174,370	nil	29,444,964	18,157,466	4,741,858	6,545,640	29,444,964

Table 6: Rice balance sheet in ASEAN countries, 2009 (Milled Rice)

Unit : tons

Country	Supply				Demand			
	Beginning Stock	Production	Imports	Total	Domestic Utilization	Exports	Ending stock	Total
ASEAN	24,571,951	121,815,324	2,606,034	148,993,309	101,899,953	17,037,847	30,055,509	148,993,309
Brunei	15,505	5,179	32,294	52,978	33,573	nil	19,405	52,978
Cambodia	128,000	4,590,000	nil	4,718,000	2,927,000	1,472,000	319,000	4,718,000
Indonesia	3,906,922	36,385,563	nil	40,292,485	33,475,151	nil	6,817,334	40,292,485
Lao PDR	251,549	1,817,297	nil	2,068,846	1,770,083	48,000	250,763	2,068,846
Malaysia	390,040	1,634,442	793,740	2,818,222	2,292,625	2,847	522,750	2,818,222
Myanmar	4,343,208	20,193,773	nil	24,536,981	18,463,560	1,500,000	4,573,421	24,536,981
Philippines	2,638,287	11,328,473	1,500,000	15,466,760	13,268,629	nil	2,198,131	15,466,760
Singapore	101,000	-	280,000	381,000	170,000	15,000	196,000	381,000
Thailand	6,251,800	20,889,417	nil	27,141,217	11,124,000	9,000,000	7,017,217	27,141,217
Vietnam	6,545,640	24,971,180	nil	31,516,820	18,375,332	5,000,000	8,141,488	31,516,820

Table 7: Ratio of rice production to domestic utilization in ASEAN countries
(Self-sufficiency ratio)

Unit: 1,000 tons

Country	2008			2009		
	Production	Domestic Utilization	Ratio (%)	Production	Domestic Utilization	Ratio (%)
ASEAN	120,135,675	100,756,178	119.23	121,815,324	101,899,953	119.54
Brunei	911	32,880	2.77	5,179	33,573	15.43
Cambodia	4,305,000	2,865,000	150.26	4,590,000	2,927,000	156.82
Indonesia	35,298,935	33,253,065	106.15	36,385,563	33,475,151	108.69
Lao PDR	1,781,946	1,727,513	103.15	1,817,297	1,770,083	102.67
Malaysia	1,582,788	2,252,913	70.26	1,634,442	2,292,625	71.29
Myanmar	19,808,753	18,241,745	108.59	20,193,773	18,463,560	109.37
Philippines	10,997,368	12,963,092	84.84	11,328,473	13,268,629	85.38
Singapore	-	165,000	-	-	170,000	-
Thailand	21,185,604	11,097,504	190.90	20,889,417	11,124,000	187.79
Vietnam	25,174,370	18,157,466	138.64	24,971,180	18,375,332	135.90

Table 8: Ratio of rice stock to domestic utilization in ASEAN countries
(Food security ratio)

Unit: 1,000 tons

Country	2008			2009		
	Beginning Stock	Domestic Utilization	Ratio (%)	Beginning Stock	Domestic Utilization	Ratio (%)
ASEAN	18,773,909	100,756,178	18.63	24,571,951	101,899,953	24.11
Brunei	16,121	32,880	49.03	15,505	33,573	46.18
Cambodia	96,000	2,865,000	3.35	128,000	2,927,000	4.37
Indonesia	1,573,000	33,253,065	4.73	3,906,922	33,475,151	11.67
Lao PDR	238,025	1,727,513	13.78	251,549	1,770,083	14.21
Malaysia	244,369	2,252,913	10.85	390,040	2,292,625	17.01
Myanmar	3,325,800	18,241,745	18.23	4,343,208	18,463,560	23.52
Philippines	2,172,300	12,963,092	16.76	2,638,287	13,268,629	19.88
Singapore	10,000	165,000	6.06	101,000	170,000	59.41
Thailand	6,827,700	11,097,504	61.52	6,251,800	11,124,000	56.20
Vietnam	4,270,594	18,157,466	23.52	6,545,640	18,375,332	35.62

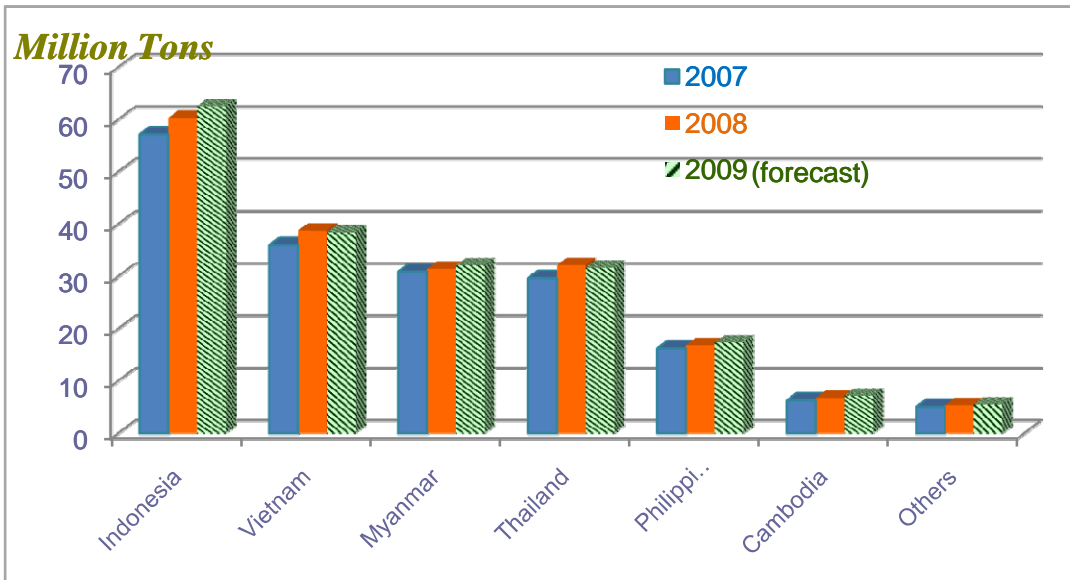


Figure 1 : Paddy production of selected countries in ASEAN, 2007-2009

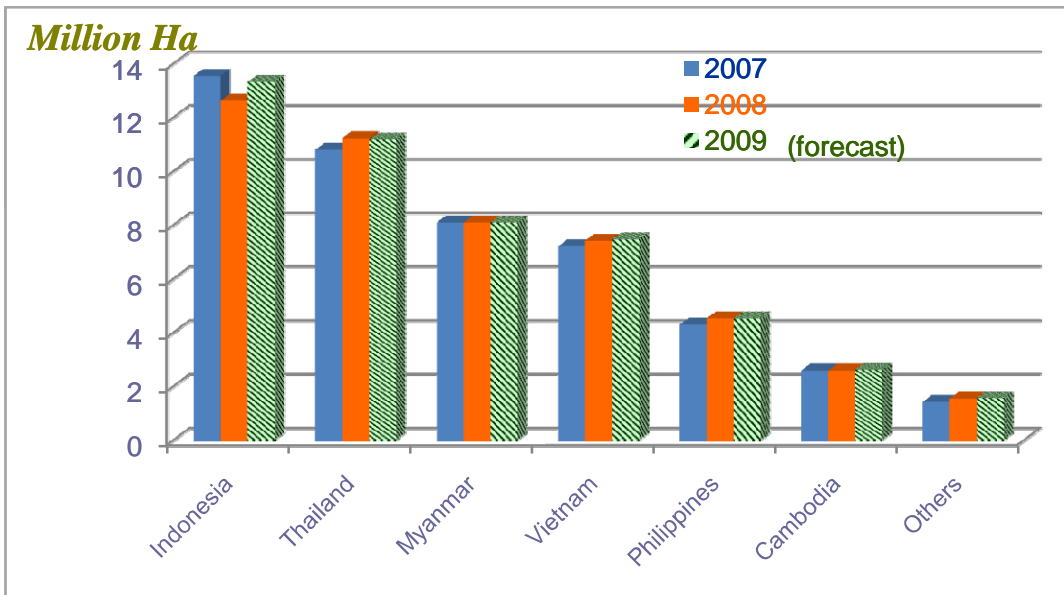


Figure 2 : Paddy planted area of selected countries in ASEAN, 2007-2009

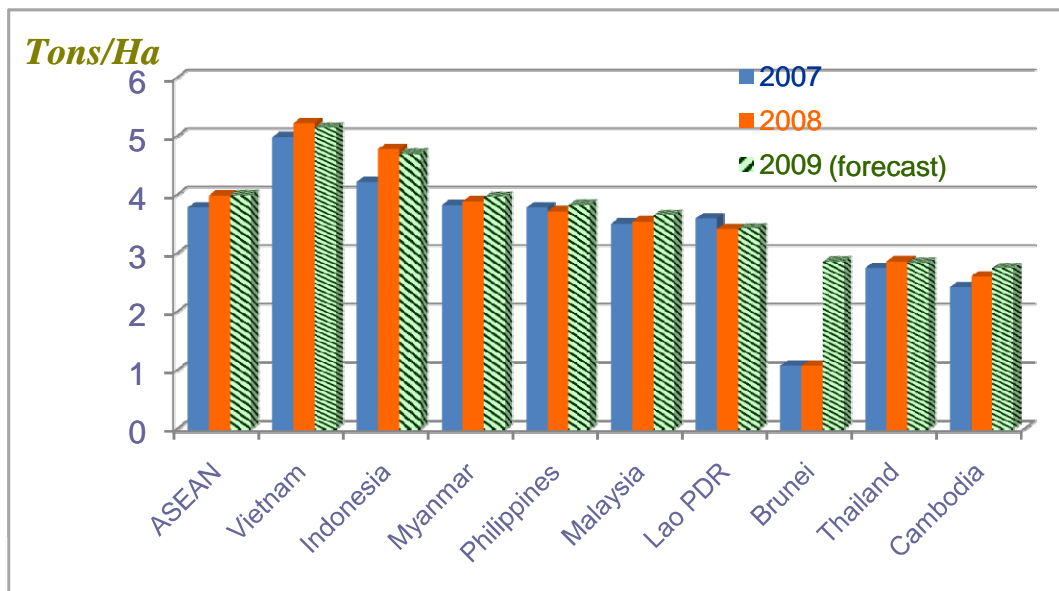


Figure 3 : Paddy yield of countries in ASEAN, 2007-2009

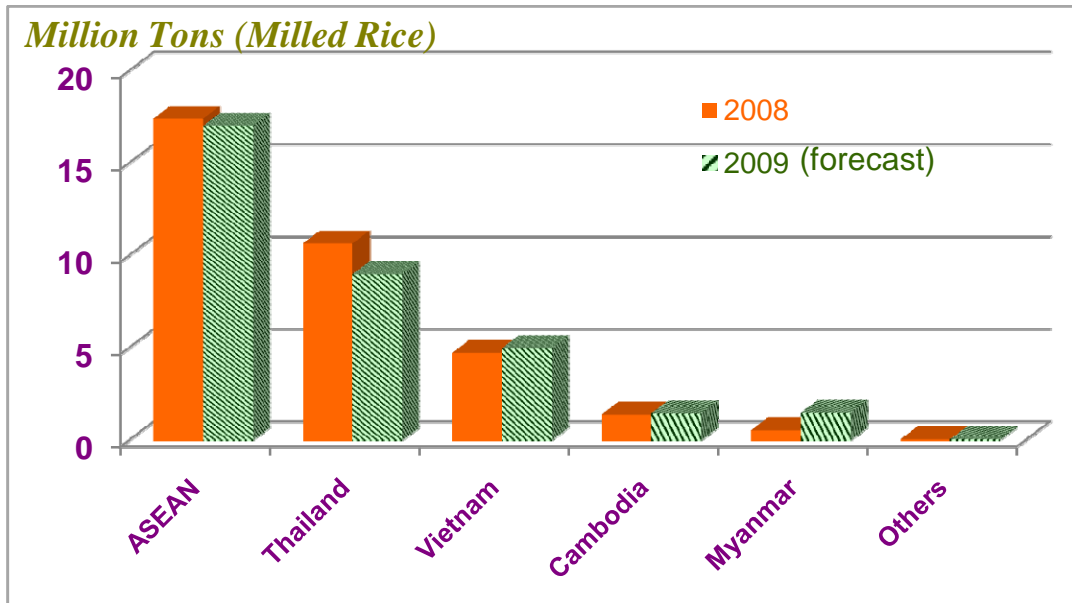


Figure 4 : Amount of rice export (million tons) of selected countries in ASEAN in 2008-2009

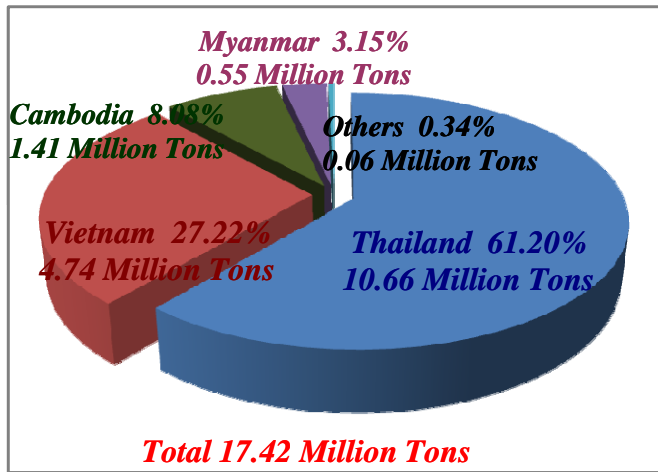


Figure 5 : Share of rice export among ASEAN countries, 2008

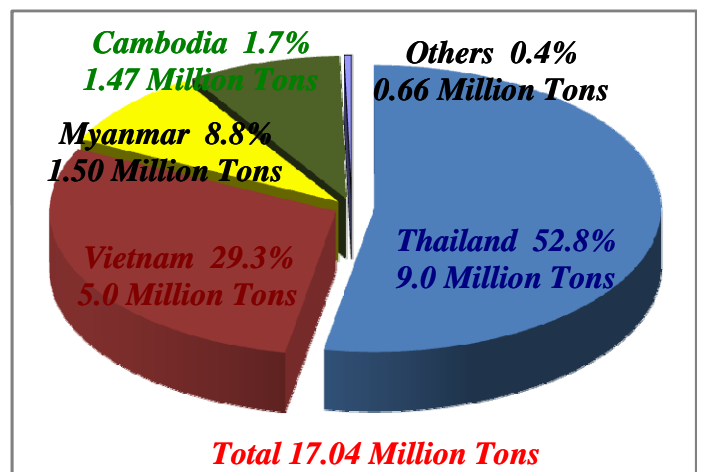


Figure 6 : Share of rice export among ASEAN countries, 2009

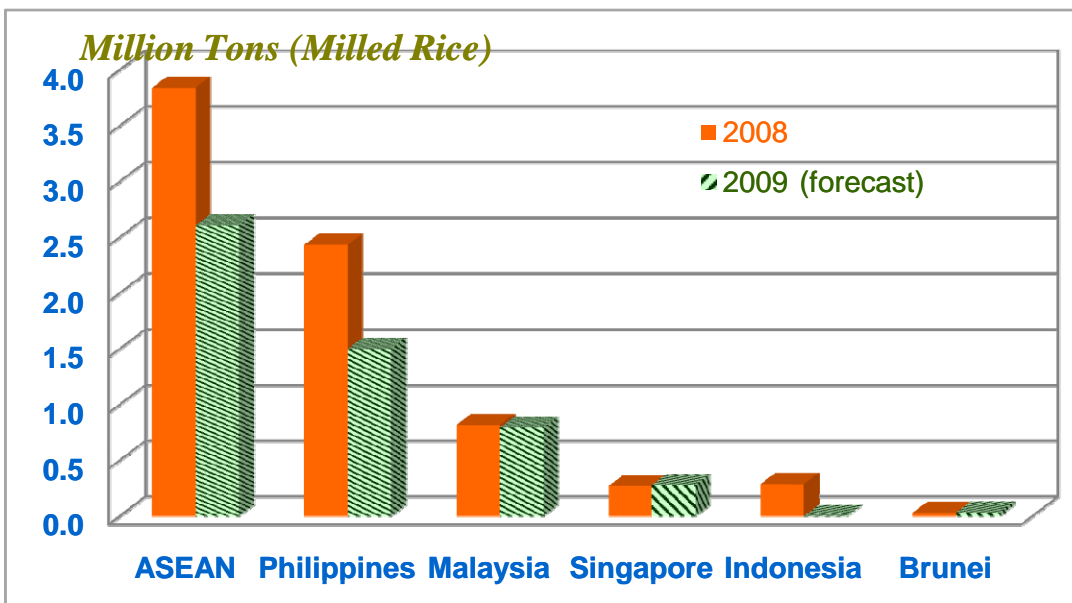


Figure 7 : Amount of rice import (million tons) by selected countries in ASEAN in 2008-2009

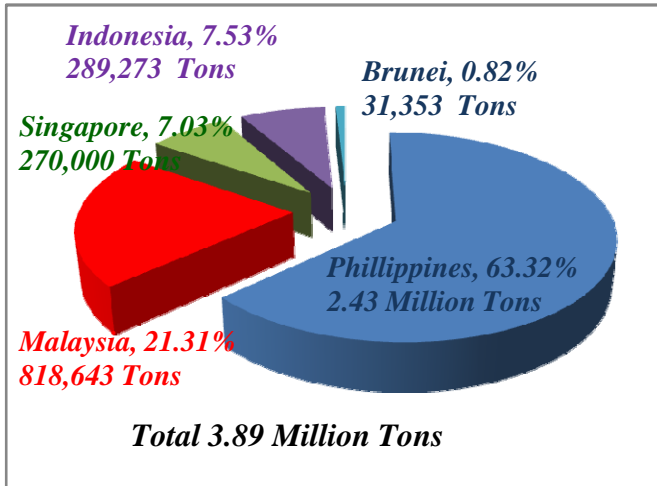


Figure 8 : Share of rice import among ASEAN countries, 2008

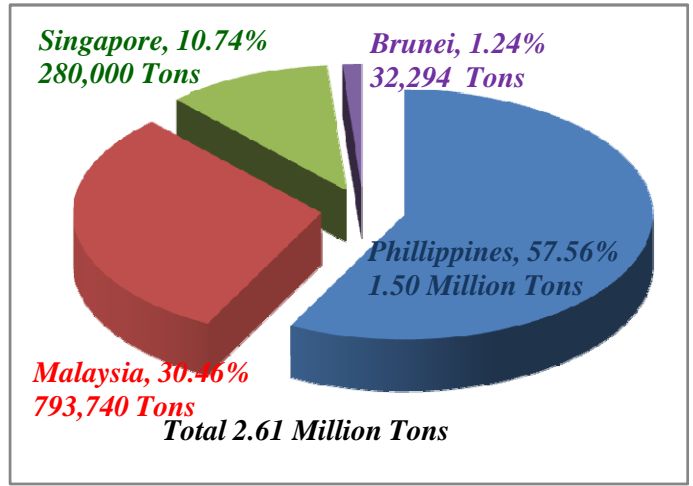


Figure 9: Share of rice import among ASEAN countries, 2009

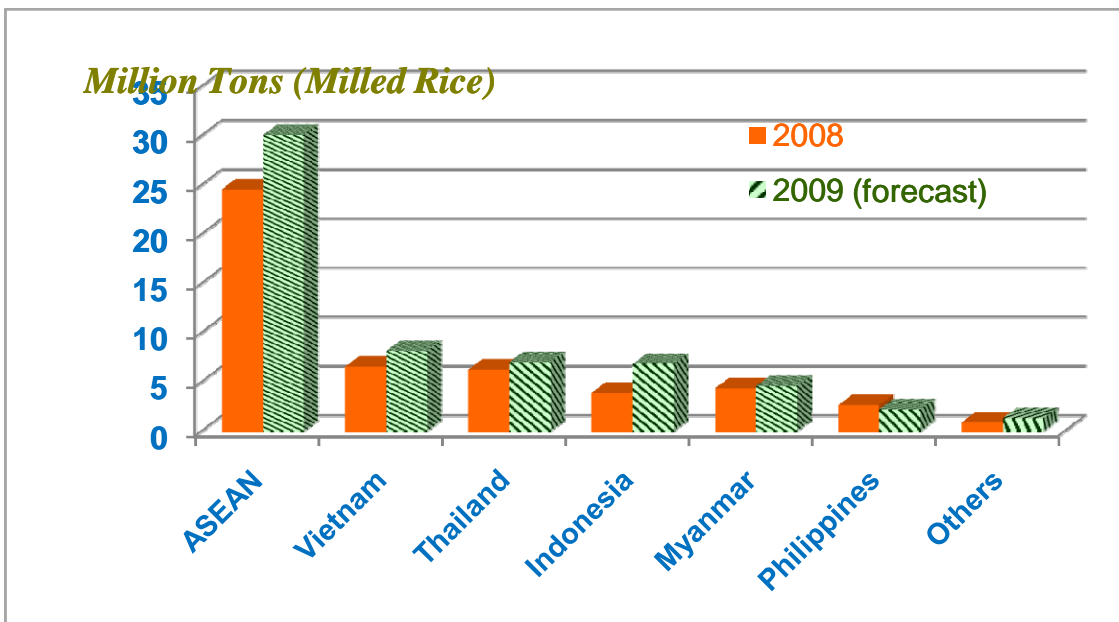


Figure 10: Amount of ending stock of rice in ASEAN countries

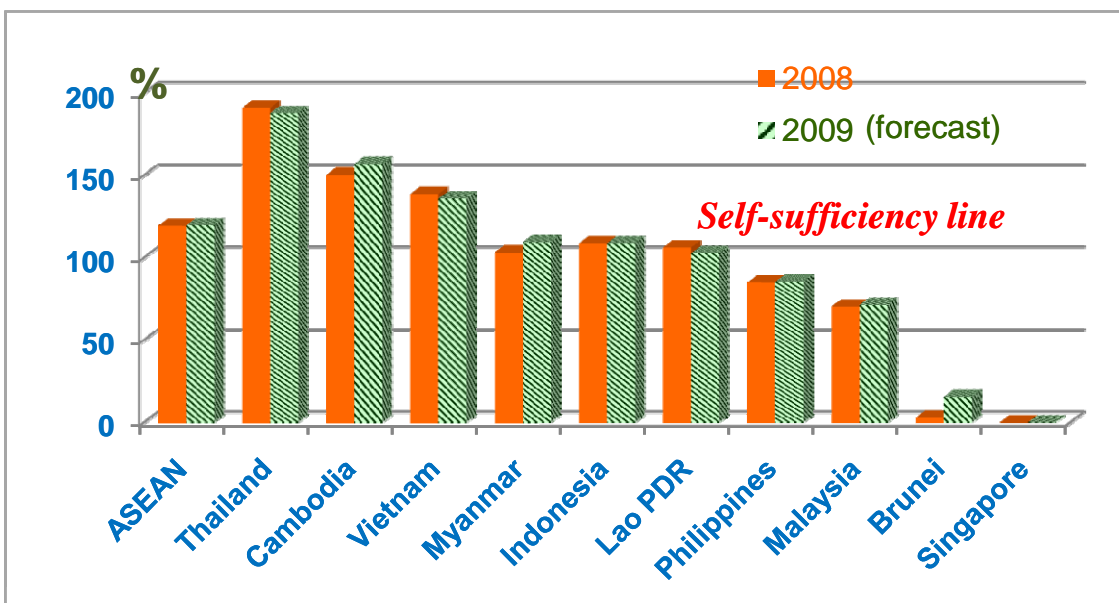


Figure 11: Ratio of rice production to domestic utilization in ASEAN countries (Self-sufficiency ratio)

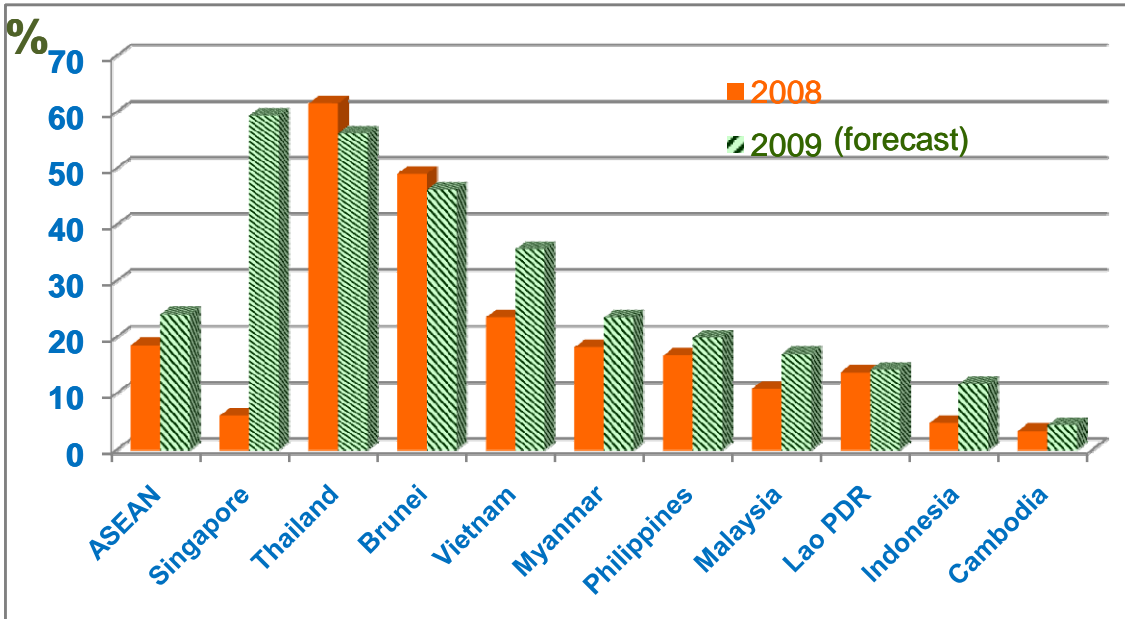


Figure 12: Ratio of rice stock to domestic utilization in ASEAN countries (Food security ratio)

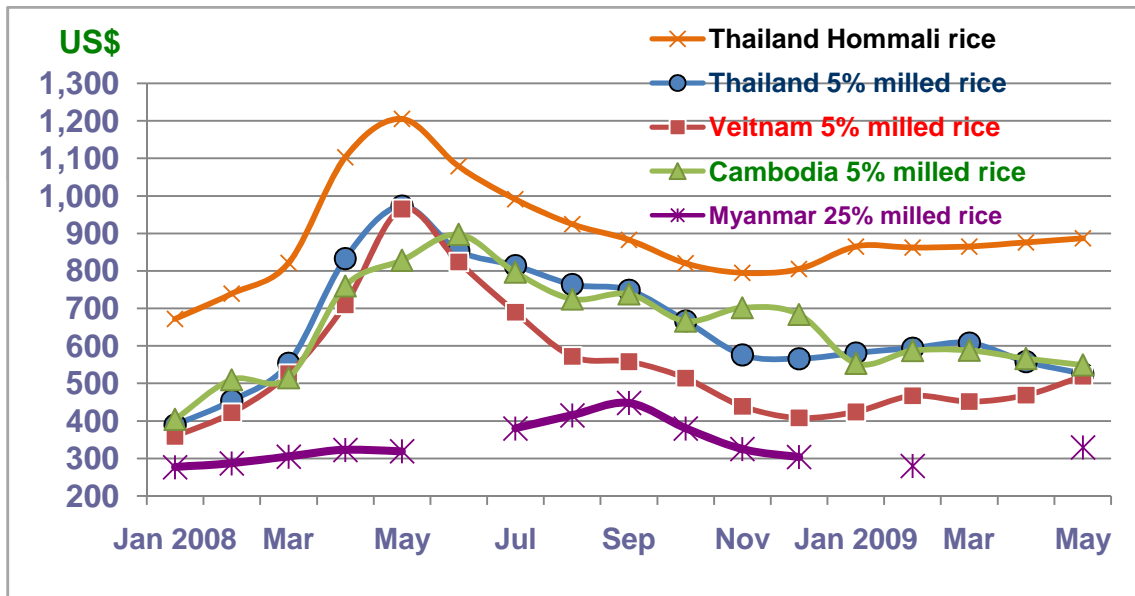


Figure 13: FOB price (US\$) of milled rice of selected countries in ASEAN in 2008-2009

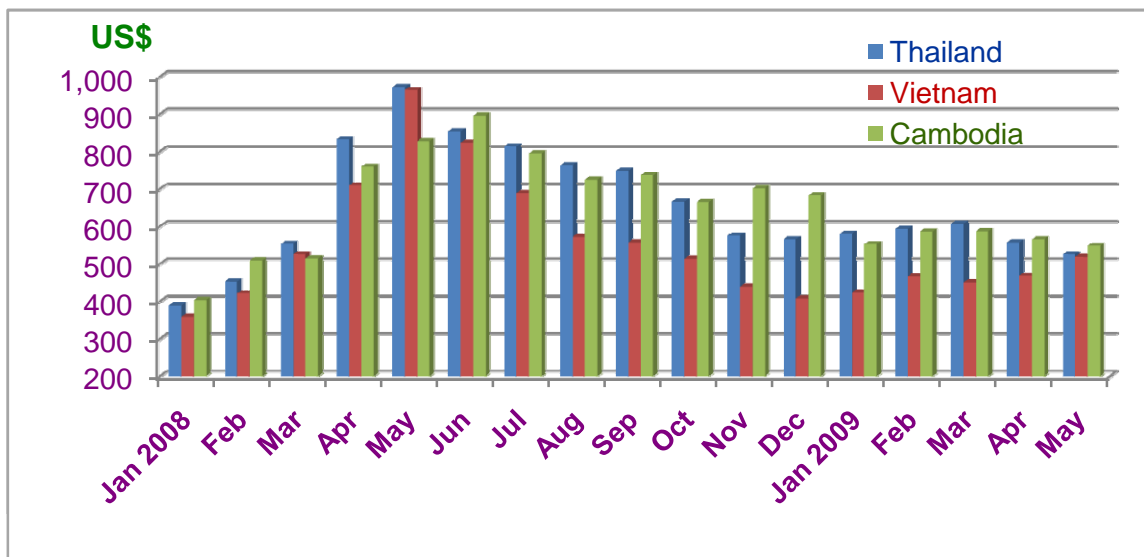


Figure 14: FOB price (US\$) of milled rice of selected countries in ASEAN in 2008-2009

Annex 2. Rice calendar (harvested months) for crop year 2008/09 (2009) in ACO-2 report

