



Asia Pacific Weekly Price Monitor  
Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific

24 August 2012



## Policy

- **China's** Ministry of Commerce allocated an additional CYN 200 million (USD 31.75 million) in subsidies to assist in pest control (armyworms/plant hoppers).
- During the kharif season, the Government of **India** allocated INR 1,500 million (USD 27.6 million) to a Special Plan that intends to increase pulse production to over 19 MMT in sixteen States.
- According to the Minister of Commerce the **Thai** Government recently approved a framework to sell rice under the Rice Mortgage Scheme to the private sector.

## Weather conditions

- Heavy rain as part of the monsoon season caused flooding in many parts of **Myanmar** starting in the beginning of August 2012. Over the past week, Ayeyawady region floods resulted in 70,310 hectares of farmland underwater (Relief Web, 21 August 2012).
- In **Sri Lanka**, crop yields are at risk due to rising temperatures, a delayed monsoon and dwindling water supplies in the rivers. So far, the government allocated US\$27 million to help drought-stricken farmers (Integrated Regional Information Network, 20 August 2012).
- In **Thailand**, an unusual drought has destroyed over 442,000 rai (70,000 hectares) of rice crops in the north-eastern province of Buri Ram (MCOT 20 August 2012).
- In **Viet Nam**, as a result of Typhoon Kai-Tak, 56,800 acres (23,000 hectares) of cropland were flooded. The Disaster Management Working Group will meet on 24 August to discuss potential response and recovery support. (BBC Asia and UN Country team in Viet Nam, 19 August 2012).

## Prices

From August 2012, AP Weekly Price Monitor team has adjusted the criteria to flag unusual price movements.

On a **weekly** basis, nominal price changes below 5 percent are considered "stable". On a **monthly** basis, nominal price changes below 10 percent are considered "stable". On an **annual** basis, nominal price changes below 25 percent are considered "stable".

These modifications are reflected in the price and policy section, as well as the monthly highlights.

Over the past week, staple food commodity prices remained relatively stable in most countries except for the following:

- In **Lao PDR**, glutinous rice, ordinary rice and pork prices increased by 6, 7 and 6 percent, respectively.
- In **Myanmar**, maize and soybean prices increased by 6 percent

For further details, please refer to the section on "Price and policy information at country level".