

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

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Report Name: Philippines to Impose 60-Day Rice Import Suspension
Starting 01 September 2025

Country: Philippines

Post: Manila

Report Category: Grain and Feed, Policy and Program Announcements

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Report Highlights:

On August 6, 2025, Philippine President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. announced a 60-day suspension of rice imports, starting September 1, 2025. While domestic rice production in the first half of 2025 increased by over 6 percent compared to last year, this growth may not fully offset the anticipated demand during the import ban. From 2023 to 2024, rice imports from mid-September to mid-November have averaged over 750,000 metric tons (MT). U.S. rice exporters with shipments enroute to the Philippines that may arrive after September 15, 2025, should contact agmanila@usda.gov.

Declaration of the Rice Import Ban

On August 6, 2025, Philippine President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. announced a [60-day suspension of rice imports](#) starting September 1, 2025. The Presidential Communications Office stated that the directive aims to protect local farmers facing low palay (unmilled rice) prices during the current harvest season. The Philippine Department of Agriculture (DA) [attributed the price drop](#) to global bumper rice harvests, India's lifting of its rice export ban, and the Philippines' record-high palay production of 9.08 million MT from January to June 2025 – a 6.4 percent increase compared to the same period last year.

As cited in a news article, the Philippine Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI) issued [guidelines for importing milled rice](#) on August 14, 2025, ahead of the import ban. According to the guidelines, “all imported milled rice covered by a valid Sanitary and Phytosanitary Import Clearance (SPSIC) shipped via bulk load carrier must be shipped out from the country of origin on or before August 30, 2025, and shall arrive on or before September 15, 2025, in authorized ports of entry.” These designated ports are located in Manila, Davao, Cagayan de Oro and Cebu.

U.S. rice exports shipped via containers may be at risk arriving in the Philippines after the BPI's September 15, 2025, deadline due to shipping proximity between the Philippines and the United States. U.S. rice exporters with shipments enroute to the Philippines or questions concerning this temporary ban should contact agmanila@usda.gov.

Legal Basis of the Declaration

In accordance with [Section 3](#) of the [amended Rice Tariffication Law](#) signed by President Marcos Jr. on December 2024, in the event of excessive supply of imported or locally produced rice that results in an extraordinary decrease in local rice prices, the President may suspend or prohibit further importation, for a limited period and/or a specified volume, until both rice supply and prices stabilize.

Rice Prices

The DA stated that low-priced imported rice is flooding the local market, leading some private traders to decrease their [buying price for newly harvested palay](#) for as low as [Php 8 to 10 per kilo](#) (kg) (USD 0.14 to 0.18), well below the reported production cost of Php 12 to 14 (USD 0.21 to 0.25). Nationwide farmgate prices for dried palay have also steadily declined, averaging a 25.5 percent drop for fancy varieties and 25.9 percent for other varieties, from January to July 2025 compared to the same period last year. Month-on-month, farmgate prices for both fancy and other varieties of dried palay steadily declined throughout the first semester of 2025, except for a brief uptick in January and July 2025 for the fancy variety. Despite these reductions in farmgate prices for locally produced palay, most rice types in Metro Manila continue to retail above Php 40 per kg (USD 0.70).

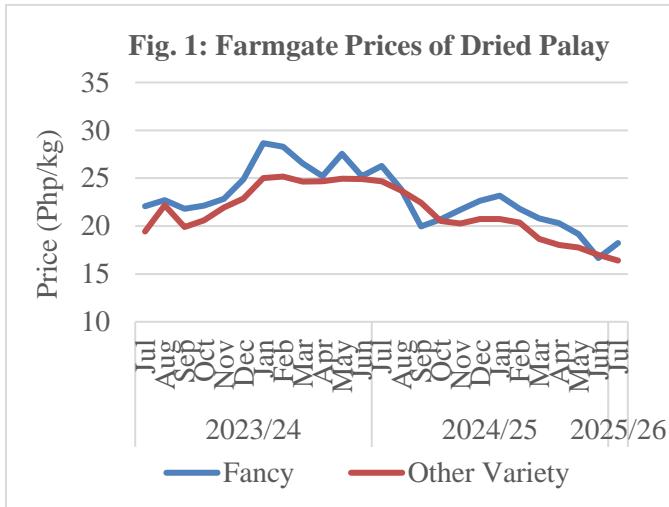


Fig. 1: Farmgate Prices of Dried Palay
 Note: (a) – palay converted to 14 percent moisture content
 Source of basic data: [Philippine Statistics Authority](https://psa.gov.ph)

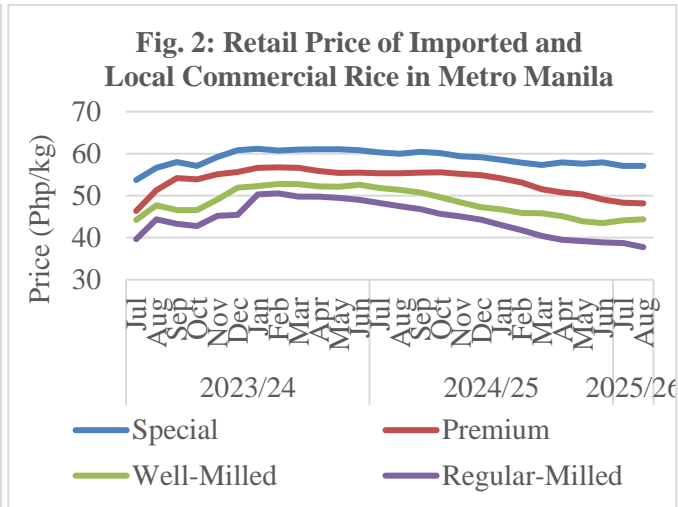


Fig. 2: Retail Price of Imported and Local Commercial Rice in Metro Manila
 Note: computed by averaging the lower- and upper-bound daily prices of imported and local commercial rice, as of August 19, 2025
 Source of basic data: [Philippine Department of Agriculture](https://dava.gov.ph)

Upcoming Harvest

The country's wet cropping season harvest is expected to [commence by mid-August, with peak harvesting projected between September and October](#). According to the Philippine Statistics Authority's [Palay and Corn Estimates based on Standing Crops as of June 01, 2025](#), there are 522,530 hectares (ha) of standing crops. Of this total, 77 percent are irrigated rice areas, 20 percent are rainfed, and 3 percent are upland. Central Luzon and Cagayan Valley predominantly feature irrigated areas, while Ilocos and Western Visayas have a mix of irrigated and rainfed fields.

Given the status of standing crops and the average national yield for palay in Marketing Year (MY) 2024/25 at approximately 4.2 MT per ha, the 522,530 hectares of rice area with standing crops as of June 1, 2025, are projected to produce approximately 2.18 million MT of palay.

Table 1: Palay: Area of Standing Crop by Stage of Development, as of June 01, 2025

Type	All Stages (ha)	Average Yield in MY 2024/25 (MT/ha)	Vegetative		Reproductive		Maturing	
			Area (ha)	In percent	Area (ha)	In percent	Area (1000 ha)	Area (ha)
Total	522,530	4.1765	266,367	51.0	153,873	29.4	102,289	19.6
Irrigated	400,020	4.5013	197,917	49.5	115,712	28.9	86,390	21.6
Rainfed	106,325	3.3777	61,822	58.1	30,585	28.8	13,918	13.1
Upland	16,185	–	6,628	41.0	7,576	46.8	1,981	12.2

Source: [Philippine Statistics Authority](https://psa.gov.ph)

The upcoming wet season harvest represents the available supply for purchase by the National Food Authority (NFA), traders, and millers, contingent on storage capacity and market dynamics. With the rice import ban in effect, this harvest becomes even more critical in addressing domestic supply needs, as reduced import availability may intensify pressure on local production to meet demand and stabilize prices.

Government Initiatives

The NFA continues to implement its [Price Range Scheme \(PRICERS\)](#), a program designed to support local farmers by purchasing their palay at prices above market rates. The program's success, however, is closely tied to the NFA's storage capacities. In March 2025, [the NFA announced a modernization program](#) that includes repairs to existing warehouses, the addition of 800,000 metric tons of storage capacity by 2026, the construction of new rice mills, and upgrades to drying facilities. With the current NFA storage capacity at 1 million metric tons and warehouse spaces described as nearly full, these efforts aim to enhance the NFA's ability to manage rice and palay stocks more effectively.

The NFA's modernization efforts complement broader measures by the DA to further support local farmers. According to the DA, the temporary suspension of rice importation, coupled with their proposed gradual increase in rice tariffs, aims to [clear the warehouses of traders, millers, and the NFA](#), ensuring adequate space for newly harvested, locally produced rice.

Forecast Impact of the Rice Import Ban on Supply

The Philippines relies on rice imports from Vietnam and Thailand to meet overall rice demand, with Vietnam accounting for 80 percent of total export volume in marketing year (MY) 2024/25, while Thailand contributed 10 percent. Although incoming vessels already enroute or booked after the announcement and arriving before September may mitigate supply issues, in the last two marketing years the Philippines imported over 750,000 MT during mid-September to mid-November. Based on estimated consumption and 2025 2nd semester production, FAS Manila estimates import demand during the period of the temporary ban at similar levels to the last two marketing years.

U.S. rice exporters with shipments enroute to the Philippines or questions concerning the temporary ban should contact agmanila@usda.gov.

Attachments:

No Attachments.