

Servers, Storage, Switches.  
One Box. No Hassles.

THE STRAITS TIMES



**Web Radio**  
March 28, 2008  
» Midday Update

March 28, 2008 Friday

Subscribe today: [Print Edition](#) | [Online](#)

[Home](#) > [Free](#) > [Story](#)

March 27, 2008



THE PHILIPPINES

## Price of rice could jump 60 per cent

**A shortage in summer is expected to push up rice prices, forcing govt to import staple grain**

By **Alastair McIndoe**, PHILIPPINES CORRESPONDENT

MANILA - PHILIPPINE farmers yesterday warned of soaring rice prices, a result of a shortage in supply that is taking place locally and worldwide.



RICE OUT OF REACH: A Philippine housewife feeding her children shredded cassava, after rice prices shot up on fears of a shortage of the staple food. -- PHOTO: AFP

The shrinking global

stocks of the staple grain have also prompted the Philippine government to sign a deal with Vietnam to import more rice to boost the country's reserves.

The National Rice Farmers Council said a shortage in the lean July to September period could trigger a 60 per cent rise in the price of rice - the country's staple food - based on current average prices.

'The traders will definitely take advantage of the limited supply,' said Mr Jimmy Tadeo, the group's chairman.

The government has assured Filipinos that rice buffer stocks will hold out, but has acknowledged that rice prices are set to rise further.

As well as the tight global supply of rice and rising demand, upward

[Home](#)  
[Latest News](#)  
[Free Stories](#)  
[Print Edition](#)  
[Prime News](#)  
[Singapore](#)  
[Asia](#)  
[Money](#)  
[World](#)  
[Review](#)  
[Insight](#)  
[Sports](#)  
[ST Forum](#)  
[Life!](#)  
[F.Y.I](#)

[Podcast](#)  
[Video](#)  
[Columnists](#)  
[Saturday](#)  
[Special Report](#)  
[Most Read](#)  
[Stories](#)  
[Discussion](#)  
[Board](#)  
[Jobs](#)  
[Cars](#)  
[Property](#)  
[Shops](#)

[Mind Your Body](#)  
[Digital Life](#)  
[Urban](#)  
[Correspondents](#)

[News In](#)  
[Pictures](#)  
[Photo Essays](#)

[Increase font](#)

### Other Free Stories

#### SOUTH-EAST ASIA

- Price of rice could jump 60 per cent
- Seasonal fires bring haze to Thai north

#### SPORTS

- It only gets tougher for S'pore
- Game, set and splash

#### SINGAPORE

- Curtin Uni to set up campus here
- \$50 notes with 'KF' mark: Defaced bills 'command no value'
- Old Woodlands checkpoint reopened to ease lorry jams
- SIA's A380 grounded for third time in two months
- Doctors, researchers

pressure on prices is coming from higher oil and fertiliser costs.

#### **GLOBAL SHORTAGE: MANY CAUSES**



THE global rice shortage and high rice prices are caused by a variety of factors and vary from country to country.

[... more](#)

sufficiency firmly on the front burner.

President Gloria Arroyo made this one of her economic goals when she came to power in 2001. But only one president, Mr Ferdinand Marcos, has succeeded, and then only briefly, in the late 1970s.

Dr Leocadio Sebastian, executive director of the Philippine Rice Research Institute, believes that coming close to self-sufficiency is possible, even within the term of the current administration, which ends in mid-2010.

'We have to increase production yields, which are below Vietnam and Indonesia, and invest more in irrigation systems, seeds and cropmanagement technologies,' he said.

One lawmaker has urged the administration to tap two cashed-up farm funds making up to S\$760 million available this year.

Recovering post-harvest rice losses caused, among other things, by poor storage facilities could alone offset imports, according to the International Rice Research Institute.

Against the backdrop of rising prices, a steady supply of the subsidised rice sold by the National Food Authority (NFA), the state's rice-purchasing agency, will be crucial for Filipinos with low incomes.

The NFA spends millions of dollars a year buying rice at market prices and selling it more cheaply. Its rice costs 18.25 pesos (S\$0.60) a kilogramme, a third less than some local and imported grains.

Rice prices in Vietnam and Thailand, among the world's top exporters, have fetched up to US\$500 (S\$690) a metric tonne, a 25 per cent jump in the last month.

The Philippines consumes close to 12 million metric tonnes of rice a year. Most of it is grown domestically and production has been rising.

But wastage and the loss of rice lands have created a recurrent shortfall of around 10 to 15 per cent, which must be met by imports.

Vietnam yesterday agreed to supply the Philippines with 1.5 million metric tonnes of rice this year, a sizeable increase on an earlier commitment. The Philippines now plans to import up to 2.2 million metric tonnes this year, higher than earlier projections.

Not surprisingly, the scramble for imports has put rice self-

lauded for their work

- HFMD: 585 hit, childcare centres on alert
- Jetstar, Tiger cut flights to Phuket

#### **CHINA**

- Defeated Hsieh quits as DPP chief
- HK schools to reopen as flu fears abate

#### **PRIME NEWS**

- Argentine strike threatens world food supplies
- Next phase: Search to be more targeted

#### **WORLD**

- Antarctic ice shelf crumbling
- Obama is related to Pitt, Hillary to Jolie

#### **MONEY**

- Tata buys Jaguar, Land Rover

#### **LIFE NEWS**

- Letting go of their babies

#### **LIFE BUZZ**

- Golden Village ups ticket prices

President Arroyo on Tuesday announced a crackdown on hoarders and profiteers buying subsidised NFA rice and then selling it at higher prices in public markets.

[amcindoe@yahoo.com](mailto:amcindoe@yahoo.com)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS

---

### Ads by Google

#### [5 Tips to Lose Belly Fat](#)

Stop making this 1 mistake & you'll finally lose your ugly belly fat!  
[www.BellyFatIsUgly.net](http://www.BellyFatIsUgly.net)

#### [Indian production](#)

Find Indian buyer and Supplier Online Global marketplace.  
[Alibaba.com](http://Alibaba.com)

#### [Lettuce Seed Testing Svc](#)

Serving lettuce industry since 1981 We help protect your investment!  
[www.agri-analysis.com](http://www.agri-analysis.com)

#### [S'pore - Organic bedsheet](#)

100% Organic cotton bedsheet Organic & natural soap for laundry  
[www.oneecostep.com.sg](http://www.oneecostep.com.sg)

#### [Manufacturing Production](#)

Get Manufacturing Production info for free, from IndustryWeek  
[www.IndustryWeek.com](http://www.IndustryWeek.com)

---

Best viewed at 1152x864 resolution with IE 6.0 or FireFox 2.0 and above  
Copyright © 2007 Singapore Press Holdings Ltd. Co. Regn No. 198402868E | [Privacy Statement](#) | [Terms & Conditions](#)