



EAST ASIA EMERGENCY RICE RESERVE (EAERR) PILOT PROJECT

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Rice is a staple food for Asian people. Food security is therefore a top priority of every Asian country. To ensure food security in the region, ASEAN has established various cooperation programmes and the East Asia Emergency Rice Reserve (EAERR) is one such programme.

About the EAERR Pilot Project

EAERR is a regional cooperation programme among the ten ASEAN Member States, China, Japan and the Republic of Korea. Specifically, it is an initiative of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry and the Ministers of Agriculture of the People's Republic of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea (AMAF+3) to provide food assistance and strengthen food security in emergencies caused by disasters, and for poverty alleviation purposes. The EAERR is therefore a mutual assistance system to share rice stocks among the 13 countries. It also aims to contribute to price stability of rice in the region.

The EAERR Pilot Project started as a three-year undertaking (2004–2007). It was later granted a yearly extension in order to provide ample time to make preparations for possible conversion of the EAERR pilot project into a permanent scheme.

Since its initiation in March 2004, EAERR has been conducting programmes and activities focusing on the establishment of stock release guidelines to provide a mechanism for utilising emergency rice reserves, stock release under poverty alleviation programmes and food aid for disaster areas.

The latest implementation of the EAERR pilot project include the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding and Purchase Agreement between Viet Nam and Philippines; Food Relief Programme to help disaster victims in Cambodia, Indonesia, and Myanmar; as well as Poverty Alleviation and Malnourishment Eradication Programmes in Cambodia and Indonesia.

What's Next

Considering the success of the pilot project which ended in March 2007, the EAERR plans to develop a proposal to upgrade the pilot project to become a full-fledged scheme among the ASEAN Plus Three countries. A Draft ASEAN Plus Three Agreement on Emergency Rice Reserve for this purpose is in the process of development. However, the realisation of a permanent scheme is subject to internal consultation, further assessment and evaluation of the outcomes of the pilot project. For a mechanism such as the EAERR to work, political support from the ASEAN Plus Three countries is necessary.

The EAERR Pilot Project is closely related to the ASEAN Food Security Information System (AFSIS) Project¹ and the work of ASEAN Food Security Reserve Board (AFSRB)² in establishing food security in the region. -

For more information on EAERR, contact the Natural Resources Unit (fafunit@asean.org) of the Bureau for Economic Integration and Finance at the ASEAN Secretariat.

Please visit <http://www.eaerr.com> for more information on EAERR.

¹ *The AFSIS Project is an initiative of AMAF+3 to expand the ASEAN food security cooperation activities with China, Japan and Korea. Its objective is to strengthen food security cooperation in the region by establishing an information network on food security among the countries and conducting training in data collection and management. For more information about the AFSIS Project, please visit <http://afsis.oae.go.th>*

² *The AFSRB is an ASEAN mechanism for sharing of rice stocks in times of shortage, particularly through the trigger of a collective operation of the committed "ASEAN Emergency Rice Reserve (AERR)". Currently, the total quantity of the AERR is 87,000 metric tonnes for "emergency" purposes.*

FACT SHEET

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