

15 April 2026

(26-2924)

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Committee on Safeguards

Original: English

**NOTIFICATION UNDER ARTICLE 12.1(A) OF THE AGREEMENT ON
SAFEGUARDS ON INITIATION OF AN INVESTIGATION AND
THE REASONS FOR IT**

PHILIPPINES

Rice

The following communication, dated and received on 15 April 2026, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of the Philippines.

Pursuant to Article 12.1(a) of the WTO Agreement on Safeguards, the Permanent Mission of the Philippines to the WTO hereby notifies the Committee on Safeguards of the initiation of a preliminary safeguard investigation on the importation Rice from various countries.

1 Specify the date when the investigation was initiated

Initiation date: 26 March 2026.

Additional information regarding the initiation of investigation: Notice of initiation of preliminary safeguard investigation was published on 26 March 2026 in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

2 Provide the precise description of the product involved

Provide a short name of the product: Rice.

Provide the precise description of the product involved: Rice, whether unmilled [palay), husked (brown), semi-milled, wholly milled, or broken, classified under the Harmonized System (HS) Code with Heading 1006, including tariff subheadings 1006.10, 1006.20, 1006.30, and 1006.40.

**3 Provide the reasons for the initiation of investigation, for example:
(i) Was the investigation initiated pursuant to a petition from the domestic industry?
(ii) Evidence on the basis of which the investigation was initiated.
(iii) Evidence, if any, of critical circumstances where delay would cause damage which it would be difficult to repair.**

The investigation was initiated on the basis of import data obtained from official sources and information submitted by the petitioners, Federation of Free Farmers (FFF) and Magsasaka Partylist of the Philippines, indicating that increased imports of rice are a substantial cause of serious injury and threat thereof to the domestic industry, including loss of market share, increasing import penetration, declining self-sufficiency, rising commercial inventories, increasing production costs without corresponding productivity gains, contraction in harvested area, and a widening farmgate-to-retail price gap.

The investigation has been initiated to determine whether safeguard measures are warranted.

4 Provide a point of contact for the investigation and identify the preferred means for corresponding.

The point of contact would be available to respond to enquiries relating to the procedures applicable to the investigation.

Trade Remedies Office (TRO)
Policy Research Service (PRS)
Department of Agriculture (DA)
3rd Floor, DA Building
Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City

or thru electronic submission to prs.tro@da.gov.ph

The point of contact can be reached through landline number (+632) 8241-9488.

5 Provide the deadlines and procedures for importers, exporters and other interested parties to present evidence and their views, including: (i) deadlines and procedures for Members and exporters to identify themselves as interested parties, if so required, to participate in the investigation and (ii) the date of an intended public hearing as provided for in Article 3.1. Note: At the time of the initiation, if the authority has not decided whether or not to hold such a hearing, or if the date of the hearing is undetermined, Members should indicate under this item how such information would be publicized. Members are not obliged to submit another notification simply due to the fact that the proposed date has subsequently been changed.

Five (5) days from the date of publication of the notice.
