Getting ready for trade liberalisation under the new AEC

Ministry of Commerce Rice Import Measures

- Imports must be tested to show no GM rice
- Imports only for industrial food processing (no milling)
- Imports only allowed between May-July and August-October
- Imports only allowed to enter via 6 border crossings

But in practice these won’t work, because:

1. The price of rice in neighbouring countries is very low compared with rice produced in Thailand
   - production costs are higher in Thailand, while yields are some of the lowest in ASEAN
   - The high fixed price under the rice pledging scheme encourages smuggling
2. There is collusion to evade the law by rice traders and millers together with government officials
3. Our borders are thousands of kilometres long, making control very difficult