

# El Niño's Economic Fury: Southeast Asia Faces Crop Collapse, Soaring Prices

Environmental Economics · Practice Test · 14 Questions

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**1. What is a primary economic consequence for Southeast Asian nations highly dependent on agriculture, such as Indonesia and the Philippines, during an El Niño event characterized by reduced rainfall?**

- A) Increased yields in rice and palm oil crops due to higher temperatures.
- B) A significant slowdown in export revenues from agricultural commodities like palm oil and rice.
- C) Reduced demand for fertilizers leading to lower production costs.
- D) A surge in local food production due to less competition from international markets.

**2. In the context of El Niño's impact on Southeast Asia, how do rising sea temperatures exacerbate existing economic vulnerabilities?**

- A) They lead to increased fish catch, boosting the coastal economy.
- B) They alter fish migratory patterns, potentially reducing catch and impacting the livelihoods of fishermen.
- C) They promote coral reef growth, enhancing tourism revenue.
- D) They decrease the salinity of coastal waters, benefiting certain aquaculture industries.

**3. Vietnam's renewable energy sector is experiencing rapid growth, but what key challenge has arisen from the rapid, subsidy-driven expansion, impacting investor confidence?**

- A) The phasing out of all fossil fuels ahead of schedule.
- B) Retroactive revision of purchase prices for solar and wind projects, reducing revenues.
- C) A significant decrease in global demand for renewable energy technologies.
- D) The imposition of heavy import tariffs on solar panels and wind turbines.

**4. Which major commodity, pivotal for Indonesia's foreign exchange earnings, has seen significant export value growth and is a key trade partner for countries like India, Pakistan, and China?**

- A) Natural Rubber
- B) Palm Oil
- C) Copra
- D) Timber

**5. The Philippines' Blue Economy Act of 2024 aims to revitalize its ocean economy. What is a primary threat to this sector, impacting both ecological and economic resilience?**

- A) Increased international fishing quotas
- B) Overfishing, marine pollution, and the effects of extreme weather changes
- C) A decline in global demand for seafood products
- D) The reduction of government subsidies for marine research

**6. Malaysia is developing a carbon pricing strategy. Which sectors are initially targeted for a potential carbon tax implementation by 2026, as announced in Budget 2025?**

- A) Agriculture and palm oil
- B) Iron, steel, and energy
- C) Tourism and hospitality
- D) Textiles and manufacturing

**7. What is a significant consequence of climate change, particularly extreme weather events like floods and landslides, on Southeast Asia's economies, according to reports from 2025?**

- A) Increased agricultural productivity due to more rainfall.
- B) Destabilization of economies, erosion of government legitimacy, and disruption of supply chains.
- C) A decrease in infrastructure damage, as natural buffers have been restored.
- D) Enhanced food security due to more predictable weather patterns.

**8. The Mekong River basin is crucial for millions in Southeast Asia. What are the primary human-induced threats exacerbating environmental damage to the river's ecosystem and livelihoods?**

- A) Strictly regulated fishing practices and sustainable tourism.
- B) Large-scale hydropower development and sand mining.
- C) The widespread adoption of renewable energy sources.
- D) International agreements promoting fish stock conservation.

**9. Singapore is increasing its carbon tax. What is the projected trajectory for its carbon tax rate per tonne of CO2 equivalent (tCO2e) by 2026?**

- A) Remaining at S\$5/tCO2e
- B) Increasing to S\$45/tCO2e
- C) Decreasing to S\$2/tCO2e
- D) Stabilizing at S\$25/tCO2e

**10. In Southeast Asia, a 1% increase in average temperature is estimated to raise food producer prices by 1-2% across several ASEAN countries. Which country is identified as the most vulnerable to temperature changes due to its geographical vulnerability and weaker food production system response?**

- A) Malaysia
- B) Thailand
- C) The Philippines
- D) Indonesia

**11. What significant environmental and economic challenge does Malaysia face due to its reliance on oil palm and forestry, particularly in the context of global climate commitments?**

- A) A surplus of timber exports leading to unsustainable logging.
- B) A lack of potential for generating carbon credits due to deforestation.
- C) Balancing economic interests with nature and biodiversity conservation, with palm oil as a driver for deforestation.
- D) A global boycott of palm oil due to its environmental impact.

**12. The shift towards sustainable tourism in Thailand is gaining momentum. What percentage of Thailand's tourism revenue did eco-tourism account for in 2024, and what is its projected growth rate?**

- A) 5% of revenue, with a 10% annual growth rate.
- B) 10% of revenue, with a 15.8% annual growth rate.
- C) 15% of revenue, with a 5.8% annual growth rate.
- D) 20% of revenue, with a 12.5% annual growth rate.

**13. What is a major concern regarding Vietnam's commitment to renewable energy integration and a coal phase-out, despite ambitious targets for solar and wind power?**

- A) An over-reliance on nuclear power and LNG, and the persistence of coal generation beyond 2030.
- B) A complete cessation of all fossil fuel investments by 2025.
- C) A decrease in foreign investment in renewable energy projects.
- D) The privatization of all state-owned energy companies.

**14. Southeast Asia contributes a significant portion of global greenhouse gas emissions. What percentage is estimated, and what is the projected rise in energy-related emissions between 2017 and 2040?**

- A) 20% of global emissions, projected to rise by 10-30%.
- B) 40% of global emissions, projected to rise by 34-147%.
- C) 60% of global emissions, projected to rise by 50-200%.
- D) 80% of global emissions, projected to rise by 70-300%.