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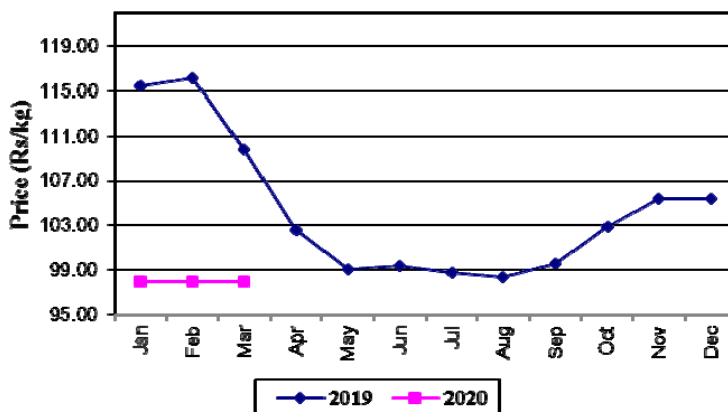
RICE:

Retail prices of Samba and Nadu remained unchanged at Government regulated maximum retail price level (Rs.98.00/kg) during the first two weeks of the month.

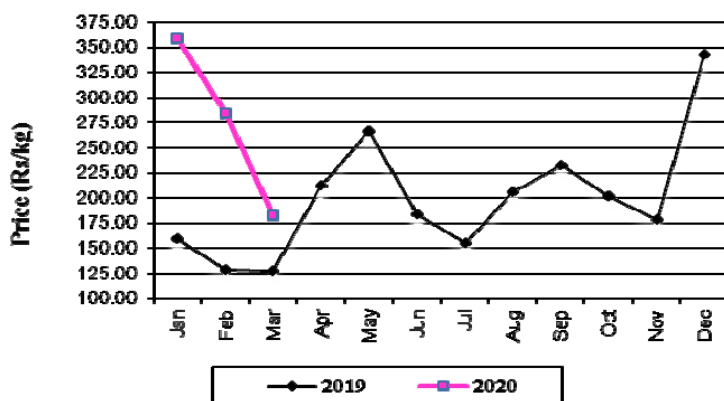
VEGETABLES:

Supplies of vegetable have further increased during the first half of the month. Therefore, prices of all the vegetable varieties have further decreased. The retail prices of all the up-country vegetable varieties decreased by 20%-43% followed by low-country vegetables as 9%-52%. Most of the vegetable markets did not function properly during the second half of the month due to the impact of COVID-19 pandemic. However, sufficient stocks were distributed through alternative channels initiated by the government ensuring the availability throughout the country.

Average Retail Prices of Rice (Samba I)



Average Retail Price of Beans (Green)



Marketing , Food Policy and Agribusiness Division

Hector Kobbekaduwa Agrarian Research and Training Institute

No 114, Wijerama Mawatha , Colombo 07.

Ministry of Agriculture

Phone: 011-2696981

Fax: 011-2682283

E-mail: mfpaharti@yahoo.com

Web: www.harti.gov.lk

EXPLANTATORY NOTE

The Food Information Bulletin is a monthly publication containing information relating to producer, wholesale and retail prices of selected food commodities in selected markets in and around Colombo and main markets in the major producing areas. Data on extent, production and imports are also available in the bulletin.

The information is analyzed and presented as, prevailing prices, price ranges, averages and comparison of monthly prices. The changes in prices reported are always in relation to price, which prevailed during the previous month unless otherwise stated. **Price data collection process for this issue was interrupted by COVID-19 pandemic. Therefore this issue contains price data only for 1st and 2nd week of the March-2020.**

Co-ordinator / Senior Research Officer

Dr. E.A.C.Priyankara

Research Team

W.A.N.Wijesooriya	- Paddy
Dr. N.P.G.Samantha	- Rice
R.N.K. Rambukwella	- Dried Chilli & Onion,
Ruvini Vidanapathirana	- Potato
I.P.P.M.Wijesinghe	- Pulses
Dr. E.A.C.Priyankara	- Vegetables
I.K.Edirisinghe	- Fruits
Dr. E.A.C.Priyankara	- Fish , Dried fish , Eggs & Meat
I. Virajith Kuruppu	- Wheat flour & Sugar

Compilation of Data and Information

P.G.A. Rathnasiri

W.G.N Malkanthi

Data Processing

K.A.R. Pathmasiri

Word Processing

B.A.Rashmi Nimasha

Data Collection Areas:

Colombo and suburb Markets

- | | | |
|----------------|---------------|-----------------|
| 1. Pettah | 4. Thotalanga | 7. Kiribathgoda |
| 2. Narahenpita | 5. Peliyagoda | 8. Maharagama |
| 3. Dematagoda | 6. Kadawatha | 9. Nugegoda |

Outstation Markets

- | | | |
|------------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Nuwara Eliya | 12. Puttalam | 23. Batticaloa |
| 2. Dambulla | 13. Hambantota | 24. Jaffna |
| 3. Matara | 14. Divulapitiya | 25. Mullaitivu |
| 4. Kurunegala | 15. Dehiattakandiya | 26. Kilinochchi |
| 5. Embilipitiya | 16. Keppetipola | 27. Vavuniya |
| 6. Kandy | 17. Thambutthegama | 28. Kegalle |
| 7. Meegoda | 18. Anuradhapura | 29. Ampara |
| 8. Kalutara | 19. Badulla | 30. Moneragala |
| 9. Tissamaharama | 20. Galle | 31. Ratnapura |
| 10. Nikaweratiya | 21. Mannar | |
| 11. Polonnaruwa | 22. Trincomalee | |

1. Paddy

Crop Situation

The late prospects of the paddy crop remained satisfactory due to the favorable weather conditions and better water availability in irrigation tanks throughout the season. The harvesting of paddy crop in 2019/20 *Maha* season was in progress in all major producing areas and the peak harvesting was recorded in producing areas in the North Central province. According to the latest assessment issued by the Department of Agriculture, the targeted paddy extent of 2019/20 *Maha* season was 819,821 ha. The cultivation progress up to end of February was 781,057 ha and it is 95% of the target. The cultivation progress is 64% higher than that of the average sown extent of last three *Maha* seasons. Total crop damages reported due to flood and pest diseases was 37,996ha, mainly from the Eastern and Northern provinces. The expected production based on the reported sown extent up to end of February is 3.05 million mt, (1.93 million mt, of rice subject to 68% milling ratio), after the adjustment was made for the crop damages. It is expected to that the harvesting will be ending on mid-April.

Table 1.1 Progress of Paddy Cultivation in *maha* 2019/20 Season as at end of February 2020

District/Area	Targeted Extent (ha)	Achievement (ha)	Achievement as a % of the Targeted Extent	Production Forecast based on Achievement (mt)	Total Affected Extent (ha)	Expected Production Loss for Affected Area (mt)	Revised Production Forecast (mt)
Anuradhapura	97,803	92,552	95	366,152	1,018	2,374	363,777
Polonnaruwa	34,598	34,589	100	155,130	5,033	7,963	147,168
Ampara	74,977	74,026	99	336,648	2,776	8,341	328,307
Kurunegala	87,161	87,580	100	430,893			430,893
Hambantota	28,641	27,267	95	137,221	428	693	136,528
Colombo	3,908	3,104	79	9,102			9,102
Gampaha	12,743	10,495	82	32,561			32,561
Kalutara	12,940	8,942	69	29,025			29,025
Galle	11,526	7,560	66	19,228			19,228
Matara	15,689	12,111	77	40,827	215	245	40,583
Ratnapura	12,722	10,489	82	36,466			36,466
Kegalle	8,080	5,847	72	23,117			23,117
Puttalam	22,926	20,601	90	71,271	1,052	3,289	67,982
Kandy	13,528	12,572	93	40,737			40,737
Matale	19,923	21,262	107	90,825			90,825
N ^o Eliya	5,762	5,220	91	12,413			12,413
Badulla	21,913	19,118	87	72,638			72,638
Moneragala	36,941	35,429	96	146,522			146,522
Jaffna	11,500	10,372	90	26,416	451	412	26,004
Kilinochchi	24,921	24,921	100	85,392	125	154	85,238
Vavuniya	19,901	19,333	97	86,827	93	319	86,508
Mullaitivu	17,537	17,378	99	62,797	626	1,407	61,390
Mannar	20,775	20,675	100	94,360	3,243	14,801	79,559
Trincomalee	42,371	40,387	95	164,710			164,710
Batticaloa	71,071	64,447	91	165,523	22,937	35,572	129,951
Udawalawa	10,113	10,943	108	53,577			53,577
System H	22,000	22,382	102	88,096			88,096
System H1	7,775	8,269	106	32,547			32,547
System B	17,808	20,585	11	83,493			83,493
System C	22,550	22,598	100	91,657			91,657
System G	4,629	4,537	98	18,402			18,402
System D	780	1,059	136	4,033			4,033
Rambakanoya	2,783	2,885	104	10,132			10,132
System L	1,523	1,520	100	6,165			6,165
Sri Lanka	819,821	781,057	95	3,124,901	37,996	75,570	3,049,330

Source: Crop Forecast, Maha 2019/20, Vol. 04, Socio Economics & Planning Centre, Department of Agriculture

Producer Prices

During this *Maha* season, bumper harvests of paddy arrive to the markets. However, the decreasing trend of paddy prices, for the long grain and short grain paddy varieties, started during the first part of February, ended and began to increase during the March. This was mainly due to the government intervene through the Paddy Marketing Board to purchase paddy at newly introduced guaranteed prices and the competitive buying of the new harvest from 2019/20 *Maha* season by the large scale millers. The prices of long grain white paddy varieties increased in the range of 2%-6%, in all considered major producing areas. The prices of short grain have increased in the range of 2%-8%. The unit price of long grain white and short grain paddy ranged as Rs.39.00-50.00/kg, Rs.42.00-53.00/kg respectively in most of the major producing areas while that of long grain red paddy ranged nearly between Rs.47.00-48.00/kg in Matara and Embilipitiya. It is expected to that the increasing trend will continue during next month due to the end of the harvesting season.

Compared to the same period of last year, all the paddy varieties have shown an increasing trend in all considered producing areas. The prices of short grain have increased by 23%-36% with the highest increase from Kurunegala. Prices of long grain white have increased by 22%-38% in all considered major producing areas. Meanwhile, the prices of long grain red have increased more than 50% in Embilipitiya.

Table 1.2: Producer Prices of Paddy – March 2020

Commodity	Price Range		Average Price			Change Compared to			
	Mar 2020	Feb 2020	Mar 2020	Feb 2020	Mar 2019	Feb 2020		Mar 2019	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Short Grain									
Anuradhapura	42.00-50.00	36.00-50.00	45.98	44.02	35.56	1.96	4.46	10.42	29.29
Polonnaruwa	42.96-53.13	40.62-53.10	47.33	44.29	36.60	3.04	6.87	10.73	29.33
Kalawewa	42.00-47.00	37.00-48.00	44.25	42.75	32.71	1.50	3.51	11.54	35.29
Kurunegala	44.00-50.00	37.00-50.00	46.83	44.50	34.46	2.33	5.24	12.37	35.91
Dehiattakandiya	44.00-50.78	40.00-51.60	47.01	45.98	38.33	1.03	2.23	8.67	22.63
Nikaweratiya	44.00-50.00	38.00-50.00	45.37	43.53	-	1.84	4.22	-	-
Ampara	49.00-50.00	40.00-48.00	49.40	45.92	37.63	3.48	7.59	11.78	31.30
Long Grain White									
Anuradhapura	39.00-48.00	36.00-45.00	44.15	42.19	35.25	1.95	4.63	8.90	25.24
Polonnaruwa	41.40-49.60	39.06-48.50	45.05	43.30	35.62	1.74	4.03	9.43	26.47
Kalawewa	39.50-45.00	36.00-46.00	41.67	40.71	31.92	0.96	2.35	9.75	30.55
Kurunegala	44.00-50.00	37.00-48.00	46.83	44.25	34.04	2.58	5.84	12.79	37.58
Dehiattakandiya	40.00-50.00	39.00-50.00	44.87	44.00	36.92	0.87	1.98	7.95	21.54
Embilipitiya	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nikaweratiya	42.00-50.00	37.00-46.00	44.36	43.00	-	1.36	3.17	-	-
Matara	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hambantota	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ampara	48.00-48.00	35.00-49.00	48.00	45.29	-	2.71	5.98	-	-
Long Grain Red									
Anuradhapura	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Matara	47.00-48.00	43.00-50.00	47.60	46.83	34.50	0.77	1.64	-	-
Hambantota	-	41.00-50.00	-	47.17	29.45	-	-	-	-
Embilipitiya	47.00-48.00	47.00-51.00	47.40	48.25	30.71	-0.85	-1.76	16.69	54.33

Source: Marketing Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

Rice Prices Demand/Supply Situation

Wholesale Prices

In line with the increase of paddy prices, wholesale prices of Samba and Nadu rice varieties had increased slightly by less than 2% during the first two weeks of March compared to the previous month. The highest price increase of Rs.1.33/kg was recorded for Samba II. Supply of raw rice varieties had increased from Ampara, Batticaloa and Hambantota areas during the first two weeks of the month. Hence, the wholesale prices of raw red and raw white had decreased by 4.27% and 1.95% respectively.

Compared to the same period of last year, wholesale prices of all the rice varieties except samba I had increased with the highest price increase of 30% for raw red.

According to the department of custom and quantity of 1979mt of rice had seen imported during the month. The total expenditure rice was Rs.191 million in March 2020.

Retail Prices

Retail prices of samba and nadu remained at the Government regulated maximum retail price level during the first two week of the month. In line with the wholesale prices, retail prices of raw red and raw white had decreased by 6% compared to the previous month.

Compared to the same period of last year, retail prices of all the rice varieties except for samba I had increased with the highest increase of 24% for raw red.

Table 1.3: Wholesale and Retail Prices of Rice – March 2020

Item	Price Range	Average Price			Change Compared to			
	Mar 2020	Mar 2020	Feb 2020	Mar 2019	Feb 2020		Mar 2019	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Wholesale Prices								
Samba 1	96.00-98.00	96.90	96.07	104.90	0.83	0.87	-8.00	-7.63
Samba 2	93.00-96.00	94.50	93.18	80.98	1.33	1.42	13.53	16.70
Samba 3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nadu 1	96.00-97.00	96.88	96.07	90.00	0.81	0.84	6.88	7.64
Nadu 2	90.00-93.00	91.15	90.98	73.80	0.18	0.19	17.35	23.51
Raw red	82.00-88.00	85.20	89.00	65.68	-3.80	-4.27	19.53	29.73
Raw white	85.00-90.00	86.90	88.63	67.83	-1.72	-1.95	19.08	28.12
Retail Prices								
Samba 1	98.00-98.00	98.00	98.00	109.87	0.00	0.00	-11.87	-10.80
Samba 2	-	-	-	95.23	-	-	-	-
Samba 3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nadu 1	98.00-98.00	98.00	98.00	94.63	0.00	0.00	3.37	3.56
Nadu 2	-	-	-	88.10	-	-	-	-
Raw red	90.00-105.00	97.55	104.20	78.87	-6.64	-6.37	18.68	23.69
Raw white	90.00-110.00	97.98	104.75	83.14	-6.76	-6.46	14.84	17.85

Source: Marketing Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

2. Other Field Crops

2.1 Chilli

Crop Situation

The target extent of chilli cultivation for *Maha* 2019/20 season was 10,048 ha and 7,178ha had been cultivated by the end of previous month (February) achieving 68% of the target extent. The highest targeted extent (2,986 ha) and the highest cultivated extent (1,508ha) was reported from Anuradhapura district.

The expected production of green chilli is 35,003mt and of which 54% will be contributed by Anuradhapura (22%), Puttalam (15%), Monaragala (11%) and Jaffna (6%) districts. Harvesting of chilli for this *Maha* season was carried out in major producing areas.

Table 2.1.1: Target and Cultivation Progress of Green Chilli for *Maha* 2019/20 Season.

Areas	Targeted Extent (ha)	Cultivation Progress by the end of January 2020		Expected Production (mt)
		Cultivated Extent (ha)	% of the Targeted Extent	
Anuradhapura	2,986	1,508	50	7,750
Puttalam	835	604	72	5,334
Monaragala	790	625	79	4,180
Jaffna	568	349	61	2,177
Badulla	429	407	94	1,314
Ampara	499	326	65	1,043
Batticaloa	374	418	111	1,775
Kurunegala	254	213	83	1,149
Kilinochchi	531	348	65	1,249
Other Areas	3,218	2,380	73	9,032
Total	10,484	7,178	68	35,003

Source: Crop Forecast, Maha 2019/20, Vol. 04, Socio Economics & Planning Centre, Department of Agriculture

Prices and Supply/Demand Situation

During the month of March 2020, supply of green chili from main producing areas has increased because of commencement of harvesting season. Hence, both wholesale and retail prices of green chilli have decreased by about Rs.48.00/kg and Rs.68.00/kg respectively. Average wholesale price of green chilli was Rs.114.50/kg while average retail prices was reported as Rs.272.99/kg. Compared to the same period of last year, both wholesale and retail prices of green chili have decreased by about 32% and 16% respectively.

A quantity of 4,854mt of dried chilli had been imported during this month and capered to the previous month it has decreased by about 277 mt. Average CIF price was Rs.345.56/kg for imported dried chilli and it has decreased by Rs.41.77/kg compared to the previous month. Both wholesale and retail prices of imported dried chilli have decreased by about Rs.126.00/kg and Rs.24.00/kg respectively. Average wholesale and retail prices of imported dried chilli were Rs.394.57/kg and Rs.592.69/kg respectively and both prices have increased by about 54% and 80% respectively compared to the previous year.

Table 2.1.2: Wholesale and Retail Prices Of Dried Chilli and Green Chilli - March 2020

Item	Price Range	Average Price			Change Compared to			
	Mar 2020	Mar 2020	Feb 2020	Mar 2019	Feb 2020		Mar 2019	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Wholesale Price								
Green Chilli	80.00-150.00	114.50	162.25	169.58	-47.75	-29.43	-55.08	-32.48
Dried Chilli	390.00-400.00	394.57	520.10	256.13	-125.53	-24.14	138.44	54.05
Retail Price								
Green Chilli	160.00-400.00	272.99	341.46	326.05	-68.47	-20.05	-53.06	-16.27
Dried Chilli	480.00-700.00	592.69	616.91	329.23	-24.23	-3.93	263.45	80.02

Source: Marketing, Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

Table 2.1.3: Quantity, Value and CIF Prices of Imported Dried Chilli - Oct 2019 to Mar 2020

Month	Quantity (mt)	Value (Rs.mn.)	CIF Price (Rs/kg)	Retail Price (Rs/kg)	Gross Margin (Rs/kg)
Mar 2020	4,854	1,677.4	345.56	592.69	247.12
Feb 2020	5,131	1,987.4	387.33	616.91	229.58
Jan 2020	3,080	1,192.4	387.11	568.88	181.77
Dec 2019	5,178	1,906.7	368.21	518.89	150.68
Nov 2019	4,700	1,700.5	361.82	502.09	140.27
Oct 2019	4,053	1,456.9	359.50	484.80	125.30

Source: Department of Customs; Marketing, Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

Table 2.1.4: Producer Prices of Green Chilli (Rs/kg) March 2020

Location	1 st week	2 nd week
Dambulla	99.00	108.00
Hambantota	-	-
Embilipitiya	159.17	163.33
Puttalam	99.00	99.00
A'Pura	136.67	123.33

Source: Marketing, Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

* Data not available

2.2 Red Onion and Big Onion

Crop Situation

The target extant of red onion for *Maha* 2019/20 season was 3,935 ha and about 2,586ha had been cultivated by the end of February 2020 achieving 65% of the targeted extant. In Jaffna district the targeted extant was 1,900 ha and of which about 1,615ha of red onion have been cultivated by the end of previous month achieving 85% of the target. The expected production of red onion for this *Maha* season is 38,666mt and 89% of the production will be supplied for from Jaffna (57%), Puttalam (28%) and Trincomalee (4%) districts.

Table 2.2.1: Target and cultivation Progress of Red Onion for Maha 2019/20 season

Areas	Targeted Extent (ha)	Cultivation Progress by the end of February 2020		Expected Production (mt)
		Cultivated Extent (ha)	% of the Targeted Extent	
Jaffna	1,900	1,615	85	22,423
Puttalam	710	534	75	11,147
Trincomalee	753	163	21	1,873
Other areas	572	274	47	3,223
Total	3,935	2,586	65	38,666

Source: Crop Forecast, Maha 2019/20, Vol. 04, Socio Economics & Planning Centre, Department of Agriculture

Prices and Supply/Demand Situation

Only imported big onion was available at the market during the month. A quantity of 33,496 mt of big onion had been imported from India (79%), Pakistan (15%), Thailand (2%), Netherlands (2%) and Egypt (2%) recording an increase of 17,075mt compared to that of the previous month. Average CIF price was Rs.79.14/kg and it had decreased by Rs.12.67/kg compared to that of last month. Both wholesale and retail prices of imported big onion have decreased by about Rs.3.00/kg and Rs.6.00/kg respectively due to increased imported stocks. Compared to the same period of last year, both wholesale and retail prices of big onion have increased by about 160% and 133% respectively.

Supply of Sinnan red onion variety from main producing areas has increased during this month. Hence, wholesale price of Sinnan has decreased by about Rs.121.00/kg. Stocks of Vedalan red onion variety were not available at both wholesale and retail markets.

A quantity of 496mt of red onion had been imported from India (56%), Thailand (39%) and China (6%) during this month and it was a decrease of 638mt compared to that previous month. Average CIF price was Rs.175.19/kg and it has also decreased by Rs.52.25/kg compared to that previous month. Hence, both wholesale and retail prices of imported red onion have decreased by about Rs.111.00/kg and Rs.119.00/kg respectively. Compared to the same period of last year, both wholesale and retail prices of imported red onion have increased by about 155% and 142% respectively.

Table 2.2.2: Wholesale Prices and Retail Prices of Red Onion and Big Onion - March 2020

Item	Price Range	Average Price			Change Compared to			
	Mar 2020	Mar 2020	Feb 2020	Mar 2019	Feb 2020		Mar 2019	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Wholesale Prices								
Red Onion (Sinnan)	150.00-260.00	200.78	321.72	76.50	-120.94	-37.59	124.28	162.45
Red Onion (Vedalan)	-	-	376.67	81.67	-	-	-	-
Red Onion (Imported)	150.00-270.00	215.25	326.54	84.38	-111.29	-34.08	130.88	155.11
Big Onion (imported)	120.00-160.00	137.75	140.63	52.95	-2.88	-2.04	84.80	160.15
Big Onion (Local)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Retail Prices								
Red Onion (Sinnan)	300.00-360.00	325.00	-	-	-	-	-	-
Red Onion (Vedalan)	-	-	589.00	168.97	-	-	-	-
Red Onion (Imported)	260.00-480.00	371.19	489.95	153.10	-118.76	-24.24	218.09	142.44
Big Onion (imported)	160.00-190.00	182.10	187.64	78.17	-5.55	-2.96	103.93	132.95
Big Onion (Local)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Source: Marketing, Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

Table 2.2.3: Monthly Average CIF, and Gross Margin of Wholesale and Retail Prices for Imported Onion

Item	Month	CIF Price	Wholesale Price	Retail Price	Gross Margin (Rs/kg)	
		(Rs/kg)	(Rs/kg)	(Rs/kg)	WP-CIF	RP-WP
Big onion	Mar ,2020	79.14	137.75	182.10	58.61	44.35
	Feb ,2020	91.81	140.63	187.64	48.81	47.02
	Mar , 2019	37.00	52.95	78.17	15.95	25.22
Red onion	Mar ,2020	175.19	215.25	371.19	40.06	155.94
	Feb ,2020	227.44	326.54	489.95	99.10	163.41
	Mar , 2019	65.44	84.38	153.10	18.94	68.73

Source: Department of Customs; Marketing, Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

Table 2.2.4: Quantity, value and CIF Prices of Imported Big Onion and Red Onion

Item	Quantity (mt.)		Value (Rs. mn)		CIF Price (Rs/kg)	
	Mar, 2020	Feb, 2020	Mar, 2020	Feb, 2020	Mar, 2020	Feb, 2020
Red Onion	496	1,134	87.0	257.9	175.19	227.44
Big Onion	33,496	16,421	2,651.1	1,507.7	79.14	91.81

Source: Department of Customs; Marketing, Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

Table 2.2.5: Quantity Imported, CIF Price, Wholesale and Retail Price of Big Onion Oct 2019 to Mar 2020

Month	Quantity Imported (mt)	CIF Price (Rs/kg)	Wholesale Price (Rs/kg)	Retail Price (Rs/kg)	Gross Margin (RP-CIF) (Rs/kg)
Mar 2020	33,496	79.14	137.75	182.10	102.95
Feb 2020	16,421	91.81	140.63	187.64	95.83
Jan 2020	22,634	96.13	100.21	158.34	62.22
Dec 2019	29,000	101.53	126.44	178.67	77.15
Nov 2019	25,961	83.78	125.63	192.69	108.91
Oct 2019	20,928	91.48	179.63	248.02	156.54

Source: Department of Customs; Marketing, Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

2.3 Potato

Crop Situation and Progress

The targeted extent of potato for *Maha* 2019/20 season is 2,686 ha and about 1,807 ha had been cultivated by the end of February achieving 67% of the target. In February, about 477 ha of potato was cultivated in the country which was higher than the total extent cultivated in January (371 ha) of this *Maha* season. However, compared to the same period of last *Maha* season, the cultivated extent by the end of February of this *Maha* season was lower. According to the cultivated extent up to end of February, the expected production of potato is 30,035 mt for this *Maha* season (Table 2.3.1).

In the Nuwara Eliya district, the targeted extent is 1,132 ha and about 725 ha of potato have been cultivated by the end of February (64% progress). Compared to the same period of last *Maha* season, the cultivated extent is at low level during this *Maha* season in the district with prevailed bad weather condition for new cultivation. During the month about 376 ha of potatoes were cultivated in Nuwara Eliya district which is higher than the extents cultivated in January (101 ha) of this *Maha* season (Table 2.3.1).

The targeted extent for this *Maha* season is 1,432 ha in the Badulla district and 957 ha have been cultivated by the end of February achieving 67% of the targeted extent. The cultivated extent during this season is at a low level compared to the same period of last *Maha* season in the district. In February, about 101 ha of potatoes were cultivated in Badulla district. According to field information, more than 50% of the harvesting had been completed in hilly areas of Keppetipola, Bogahakumbura, Boralanda, Ambagasdova and Uvaparaganagama areas of the Welimada DS division during this *Maha* season and the supply will be taken place till May for Welimada potato.

Table 2.3.1: Cultivation Progress and Expected Production of Potato up to end of February (Maha 2019/20)

District	Targeted Extent (ha)		Achievement (ha)		Progress (%)	Expected Production (mt)
	<i>Maha</i> 2018/19*	<i>Maha</i> 2019/20	<i>Maha</i> 2018/19*	<i>Maha</i> 2019/20		
N'Eliya	1,323	1,132	847	725	64	13,705
Badulla	1,502	1,432	1,102	957	67	14,419
Sri Lanka	2,964	2,686	2,046	1,807	67	30,035

Source: MFPAD/HARTI

Crop Forecast, Maha 2019/20, vol.04 Socio-Economics & Planning Centre/DOA

**Crop Forecast, Maha 2018/19, vol.04 Socio-Economics & Planning Centre/DOA*

Prices and Supply/Demand Situation

A quantity of 11,527 mt of potato had been imported with a value of Rs. 624 million in March. The imported quantity was 5,472 mt lower than that was imported during the previous month. Special commodity levy on imported potatoes has been reduced from Rs.50.00/kg to Rs.25.00/kg with effect from 25/12/2019. Imported stocks were received from Pakistan (78%), India (14%) and Bangladesh (6%). Compared to March 2019 (9,475 mt), the imports were high during this month. Average CIF price was Rs.54.00/kg in March 2020.

With regard to local potato, stocks of both Welimada and Nuwara Eliya potatoes were available in the Colombo Wholesale market. With the commencement of harvesting season for Welimada potato during this month, more stocks of Welimada potatoes were available than stocks of

Nuwara Eliya potato. On average, the producer prices of Nuwara Eliya and Welimada potatoes were Rs.100.00/kg and Rs.97.50/kg in March. During this month wholesale prices of Welimada and Nuwara Eliya potatoes have decreased by 12% and 17% respectively. Retail price of Nuwara Eliya potato has decreased by 13%. Meanwhile, the wholesale and retail prices of imported potato have decreased by 12% and 6% respectively due to availability of sufficient stocks imported during the previous month. During the month of March, the wholesale prices of Welimada, Nuwara Eliya and imported potatoes ranged between Rs.100.00-115.00/kg, Rs.120.00-135.00/kg and Rs.75.00-100.00/kg respectively. Stocks from India fetched high price compared to stocks from Pakistan and Bangladesh. Compared to the same period of last year, the current retail prices of Nuwara Eliya (16%) and imported (20%) potatoes have increased. Prices of local potatoes are expected to be decreased further in April until the supply of *Maha* harvest from Welimada.

Table 2.3.2: Quantity, value and CIF Prices of Imported Potatoes - Oct 2019 to Mar 2020

Month	Quantity (mt.)	Value (Rs.mn)	CIF price (Rs/kg)	Retail Price (Rs/kg)	Gross Margin (Rs/kg)
Mar 2020	11,527	624.42	54.17	129.89	75.72
Feb 2020	16,999	887.45	52.21	138.17	85.97
Jan 2020	14,651	815.84	55.69	137.70	82.01
Dec 2019	14,946	927.49	62.06	159.39	97.34
Nov 2019	9,697	517.68	53.39	139.86	86.47
Oct 2019	7,550	391.41	51.84	133.94	82.10

Source: Department of Customs; Marketing Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

Table: 2.3.3: Producer, Wholesale and Retail Prices of Potato – March 2020

Item	Price Range	Average			Change Compared to			
	Mar 2020	Mar 2020	Feb 2020	Mar 2019	Feb 2020		Mar 2019	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Producer Prices (PP)								
Welimada	95.00-100.00	97.50	104.38	85.66	-6.88	-7.05	11.84	12.14
Nuwara Eliya	95.00-105.00	99.90	116.30	94.90	-16.40	-16.42	5.00	5.01
Imported – CIF	52.10-67.40	54.17	52.21	31.52	1.96	3.62	22.65	41.82
Wholesale Prices (WP)								
Welimada	100.00-115.00	105.50	118.13	90.00	-12.63	-11.97	15.50	14.69
Nuwara Eliya	120.00-135.00	125.63	147.50	115.15	-21.88	-17.41	10.48	8.34
Imported	75.00-100.00	85.25	95.70	82.45	-10.45	-12.26	2.80	3.28
Retail Prices (RP)								
Welimada	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nuwara Eliya	160.00-240.00	196.08	221.45	164.00	-25.37	-12.94	32.08	16.36
Imported	120.00-140.00	129.89	138.17	103.66	-8.28	-6.38	26.23	20.19
Gross Margin (RP-PP)								
Welimada	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nuwara Eliya	-	96.18	105.15	69.10	-8.97	-9.33	27.08	28.16
Imported (RP-CIF)	-	75.72	85.97	72.15	-10.24	-13.53	3.58	4.72
Gross Margin (RP -WP)								
Welimada	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nuwara Eliya	-	70.45	73.95	48.85	-3.50	-4.96	21.61	30.67
Imported	-	44.64	42.47	21.21	2.17	4.86	23.43	52.48

Source: Marketing Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

2.4 Green gram and Cowpea Crop Situation and Progress

Green gram cultivation has been achieved around 89% of its targeted extent in *Maha* 2019/20 season as at end of February. According to the table 2.4.1, the extent of the green gram cultivation has increased by 4,559 ha in Sri Lanka compared with last year (*Maha* 2018/19). Considering the crop damages, the expected production from the island-wide green gram cultivation is 4,848 mt which is a decrease around 25% of the production compared to the previous year. However, crop damage in the Hambantota district was reported as 4,458 ha due to heavy rainfall conditions for third season cultivation in Ambalantota, Thissamarama and Bandagiriya areas and received yield only from 1,381 ha in Hambantota.

Table 2.4.1: Cultivation Progress and Expected Production of a Green gram and Cowpea

Crop	District	Targeted Ext. (ha)		Achievement (ha)		Progress (%) <i>Maha</i> 2020	Expected Production (mt)
		<i>Maha</i> 2018/19	<i>Maha</i> 2019/20	<i>Maha</i> 2018/19	<i>Maha</i> 2019/20		
Green gram	Hambantota	2,078	4,432	1,073	5,839	132	2,058
	Moneragala	1,327	658	573	431	66	444
	Kurunegala	779	467	319	327	70	322
	Other districts	4,146	3,851	1,886	1,813	47	2,024
	Sri Lanka	8,330	9,408	3,851	8,410	89	4,848
Cowpea	Ampara	4,284	4,400	886	540	12	710
	Moneragala	965	1,234	740	916	74	916
	Anuradhapura	722	618	426	357	58	661
	Other districts	3,664	3,473	2,355	2,164	62	2,232
	Sri Lanka	9,635	9,725	4,407	3,977	41	4,519

Source: MFPAD/HARTI

Crop Forecast *Maha* 2019/20 & 2018/19, Volume 04, Socio Economic and Planning Centre/DOA

It has been able to achieve 41% of the targeted extent from cowpea cultivation and the expected production is around 4,519 mt in Sri Lanka. Ampara, Moneragala and Anuradhapura districts are the major producing districts for cowpea in 2019/20 *Maha* season and those districts will contribute for 51% of the total production. Moneragala and Anuradhapura districts highlighted a better performance while progress of Ampara district was 12% of its target.

Prices, Supply and Demand Situation

The wholesale price of green gram ranged between Rs.245.00/kg and Rs.270.00/kg with an average of Rs.260.00/kg in March 2020. The average price has decreased around 5% compared to the previous month. Similarly, compared to the same period of last year, the wholesale price has been increased by 8%. In the meantime, the retail price of green gram ranged between Rs.280.00/kg and Rs.320.00/kg with an average of Rs.301.00/kg. Compared to the previous month, the retail price has not significantly changed. However, compared to the same period of last year, the retail price for this month has been increased to around 15% (Table 2.4.2).

Table 2.4.2: Wholesale and Retail Prices of Green Gram and Cowpea – March 2020

Item	Price Range	Average			Change Compared to			
	Mar 2020	Mar 2020	Feb 2020	Mar 2019	Feb 2020		Mar 2019	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Wholesale Prices								
Green gram	245.00-270.00	259.50	272.38	240.27	-12.88	-4.73	19.23	8.00
Cowpea (White)	260.00-270.00	264.25	257.38	221.13	6.88	2.67	43.13	19.50
Cowpea (Red)	270.00-280.00	276.50	271.68	217.88	4.82	1.77	58.63	26.91
Retail Prices								
Green gram	280.00-320.00	300.75	300.45	261.90	0.31	0.10	38.86	14.84
Cowpea (White)	280.00-320.00	304.89	303.00	278.43	1.89	0.62	26.46	9.50
Cowpea (Red)	280.00-320.00	308.19	305.51	283.13	2.68	0.88	25.06	8.85

Source: Marketing Food Policy & Agribusiness Division/HARTI

Average wholesale prices of white and red cowpea were recorded as Rs.264.00/kg and Rs.276.00/kg respectively in March 2020. The wholesale price of white cowpea ranged between Rs.260.00/kg and Rs.270.00/kg, while that of red cowpea ranged between Rs.270.00/kg and Rs.280.00/kg. Compared to the previous month, the wholesale price of white cowpea has increased by around 3% and red cowpea has increased by around 2%. Compared to the same period of last year, the wholesale price of white cowpea has been increased by 20% and the wholesale price of the red cowpea has increased by around 27% (Table 2.4.2).

The average retail prices of white and red cowpea were recorded as Rs.305.00/kg and Rs.308.00/kg respectively. The retail price of both white cowpea and red cowpea ranged between Rs.280.00/kg and Rs.320.00/kg. Compared to the previous month, both white and red cowpea has been increased by around Rs.2.00/kg and Rs.3.00/kg respectively however it is not a significant change. Compared to the same period of last year, the retail prices of white and red cowpea have been increased by around 10% and 9% respectively (Table 2.4.2).

A total of 1,536 mt of green gram has been imported during this month, and it has decreased around 43% compared to the green gram quantity imported in the February 2020. The average CIF price of green gram was Rs.182.45/kg which was decreased by about 4% compared with the previous month. The total expenditure of the importation of green gram was recorded as Rs.280.27 million which has decreased by 46% compared to February 2020. Green gram has been imported from several countries, which are Myanmar (65%), Kenya (19%), Uzbekistan (5%), South Africa (3%), Australia (3%), Ethiopia (3%) and Niger (2%).

Table 2.4.3: Quantity, Value and CIF Prices of Imported Green Gram- Oct 2019 to Mar 2020

Month	Quantity (mt)	Value (Rs.mn)	CIF price (Rs/kg)	Retail Price (Rs/kg)	Gross Margin (Rs/kg)
Mar 2020	1,536	280.27	182.45	300.75	118.30
Feb 2020	2,716	518.28	190.83	300.45	109.62
Jan 2020	1,229	225.41	183.35	302.03	118.67
Dec 2019	723	123.29	170.53	282.54	112.01
Nov 2019	752	123.76	164.56	287.93	123.37
Oct 2019	1,163	194.53	167.34	282.16	114.82

Source: Department of Customs; Marketing Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

According to table 2.4.4, a total of 780 mt of cowpea have been imported during this month. The imported quantity of cowpea has been increased by 58% compared to the imported quantity of February 2020. The average CIF price of cowpea was recorded as Rs.151.00/kg. The total

expenditure on cowpea imports has been increased by 53% compared to the previous month. The total value of the cowpea imports was noted as approximately Rs.118.00/kg million. The highest quantity of cowpea was imported from Myanmar (69%), Madagascar (15%), India (12%) and Turkey (4%).

Table 2.4.4: Quantity, Value and CIF Prices of Imported White Cowpea- Oct 2019 to Mar 2020

Month	Quantity (mt)	Value (Rs.mm)	CIF price (Rs/kg)	Retail Price (Rs/kg)	Gross Margin (Rs/kg)
Mar 2020	780.11	117.76	150.95	304.89	153.94
Feb 2020	495	76.79	155.17	303.00	147.83
Jan 2020	413	58.56	141.81	297.64	155.82
Dec 2019	510	69.28	135.91	285.97	150.05
Nov 2019	1,067	144.65	135.57	292.20	156.63
Oct 2019	1,371	178.03	129.81	289.84	160.02

Source: Department of Customs; Marketing Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

Table 2.4.5: Monthly average CIF, Wholesale and Retail Prices of Green gram and Cowpea

Item	Month	CIF Price (Rs/kg)	Wholesale price (Rs/kg)	Retail price (Rs/kg)	Gross Margin (Rs/Kg)	
					WP-CIF	RP-WP
Green gram	Mar ,2020	182.45	259.50	300.75	77.05	41.25
	Feb ,2020	190.83	272.38	300.45	81.55	28.07
	Mar , 2019	160.55	240.27	261.90	79.72	21.63
Cowpea (White)	Mar ,2020	150.95	264.25	304.89	113.30	40.64
	Feb ,2020	155.17	257.38	303.00	102.21	45.63
	Mar , 2019	116.15	221.13	278.43	104.97	57.31
Cowpea (Red)	Mar ,2020	-	276.50	308.19	-	31.69
	Feb ,2020	-	271.68	305.51	-	33.83
	Mar , 2019	-	217.88	283.13	-	65.25

Source: Department of Customs, Marketing Food Policy & Agribusiness Division/HARTI

2.5 Red dhal

Prices and Supply/Demand Situation

The wholesale price of red dhal ranged between Rs.122.00/kg and Rs.125.00/kg with an average of Rs.123.00/kg, and the retail price ranged between Rs.140.00/kg and Rs.150.00/kg with an average of Rs.143.00/kg. Moreover, the difference between the two prices is Rs.20.00/kg during this month. Wholesale price has decreased around 2% and the retail price has not significantly changed compared with the February 2020. Compared to the same period of last year, both wholesale and retail prices have been increased by 14% and 11% respectively.

Table 2.5.1: Wholesale and Retail Prices of Red dhal – March 2020

Red Dhal	Price Range	Average			Change Compared to			
	Mar 2020	Mar 2020	Feb 2020	Mar 2019	Feb 2020		Mar 2019	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Wholesale Price	122.00-125.00	123.35	126.08	108.63	-2.73	-2.16	14.73	13.56
Retail Price	140.00-150.00	143.27	143.07	128.77	0.20	0.14	14.50	11.26

Source: Marketing Food Policy & Agribusiness Division

During this month, 14,475mt of red dhal has been imported at an average CIF price of Rs.92.32/kg and CIF price has been increased around 9% compared to the February. Imported total quantity was increased by 29% compared to previous month. The entire quantity was of the whole type of red dhal. From the whole type of red dhal quantity, 84% received from Australia followed by Canada (16%). The total value of the whole type of red dhal imports was Rs.1, 336 million.

**Table 2.5.2: Quantity, Value and CIF Prices of Imported Red dhal
Oct 2019 to Mar 2020**

Month	Quantity (mt)	CIF Price Rs/kg	Wholesale price Rs/kg	Retail price Rs/kg	Gross Margin (Rs/kg)	
					CIF-WP	WP-RP
Mar 2020	14,475	92.32	123.35	143.27	31.03	19.92
Feb 2020	11,183	84.83	126.08	143.07	41.24	17.00
Jan 2020	13,016	80.53	128.22	140.11	47.69	11.89
Dec 2019	19,642	76.23	115.28	133.37	39.04	18.10
Nov 2019	22,041	74.42	108.08	128.54	33.66	20.47
Oct 2019	18,707	76.60	107.15	128.15	30.55	21.00

Source: Department of Customs, Marketing Food Policy & Agribusiness Division/HARTI

3. Vegetables

Crop Situation

The prospect of vegetable cultivation has reached to a satisfactory level of progress by the end of February. The overall progress of vegetable cultivation including both up-country and low-country vegetables recorded as 76% (35,878ha) from the target (47,389ha) by the end of February-2020. The target for up-country vegetables remained unchanged at 14,890ha compared to the previous month, while the progress has increased to 11,212ha achieving 75% of the target. Beans (3,438ha), capsicum (1,719ha), cabbage (1,598ha), and carrot (1,448ha) were the mostly cultivated up-country vegetables. Among up-country vegetables, highest production is expected from cabbage (42,423 mt), beans (35,768 mt), and carrot (29,565 mt). The target for low-country vegetable cultivation was 32,499 ha and 76% of the target had been achieved. Among low-country vegetables, Brinjal (4,531ha), long beans (4,104 ha), okra (3,444 ha), pumpkin (3,150ha), and tomato (2,790ha) were mostly cultivated varieties. A highest production is expected form brinjal (54,282mt), pumpkin (44,536mt), tomato (41,201 mt), long beans (37,958mt), and okra (32,831) (Crop Forecast, *Maha* 2019/20, Vol.04, Socio Economics & Planning Centre/DOA).

Prices and Supply/Demand Situation

During the first two weeks of the month, ample stocks have received to the market. Therefore, wholesale prices of all the vegetable varieties have decreased by 2%-75%. With regard to up-country vegetables, the wholesale prices of all the varieties have decreased by 29%-53% while that of low-country vegetables decreased by 2%-75%. Further, except brinjal (-2%), the wholesale prices of rest of the vegetable varieties have decreased over 20%. Among up-country vegetables, the highest price of Rs.170.00/kg was recorded for beans while the lowest price of Rs.30.00/ was noted for radish. For low-country vegetables, wholesale price of capsicum reached to the highest (Rs.160.00/kg) while the lowest price (Rs.20.00/kg) was observed for ladies fingers and cucumber. Most of the vegetable markets did not function properly during the second half of the month due to COVID-19 pandemic. Although Dedicated Economic Centers and other wholesale markets keep open, buyers and sellers were limited. However, sufficient stocks were distributed through alternative channels initiated by the government ensuring the availability throughout the country.

However, compared to the same period of last year, the wholesale prices of most of the up-country vegetables had further increased by 7%-170%, recording the highest for cabbage and the lowest for radish. The wholesale prices of low-country vegetables also have increased between 8% (snake guard) and 316% (pumpkin).

The retail prices of all the vegetable varieties have further decreased. The retail prices of all the up-country vegetable varieties have decreased by 20%-43% recording the highest for carrot and the lowest for radish. For up-country vegetables, the highest retail price of Rs.240.00/kg was reported for beans and carrot, while the lowest price of Rs.60.00/kg was observed for radish. The retail prices of all the low-country varieties have decreased by 9%-52% recording the highest for ladies fingers and the lowest for tomato. In contrast to the last month prices of pumpkin has decreased by 33% during this month. Vegetable prices will be further decreased during coming month too.

Compared to the same period of last year, the retail prices of most of the up country vegetables had increased by 2%-54%, followed by low country vegetables as 1%-103%.

Table 3.1: Wholesale Prices of Vegetables – March 2020

Item	Price Range	Average			Change Compared to			
	Mar 2020	Mar 2020	Feb 2020	Mar 2019	Feb 2020		Mar 2019	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Beans (green)	60.00-170.00	111.75	199.20	62.53	-87.45	-43.90	49.22	78.71
Carrot	100.00-150.00	126.50	251.00	65.73	-124.50	-49.60	60.77	92.46
Leeks	80.00-130.00	106.00	190.25	43.33	-84.25	-44.28	62.67	144.62
Beetroot	50.00-110.00	73.41	130.09	57.17	-56.68	-43.57	16.24	28.41
Knolkhol	40.00-70.00	51.00	107.75	51.88	-56.75	-52.67	-0.88	-1.69
Raddish	30.00-60.00	39.00	60.41	36.35	-21.41	-35.44	2.65	7.28
Cabbage	60.00-100.00	73.25	103.13	27.14	-29.88	-28.97	46.11	169.85
Tomato	70.00-130.00	98.00	257.25	42.92	-159.25	-61.90	55.08	128.35
Ladies Fingers	20.00-40.00	27.75	109.75	34.17	-82.00	-74.72	-6.42	-18.78
Brinjal	80.00-120.00	95.64	97.60	85.38	-1.96	-2.01	10.27	12.02
Capsicum	120.00-160.00	132.50	213.75	99.70	-81.25	-38.01	32.80	32.90
Pumpkin	60.00-100.00	78.50	149.00	18.85	-70.50	-47.32	59.65	316.35
Cucumber	20.00-30.00	23.14	35.31	26.67	-12.17	-34.47	-3.53	-13.24
Bittergourd	80.00-120.00	93.25	139.49	95.17	-46.24	-33.15	-1.92	-2.01
Snake gourd	60.00-90.00	71.83	106.00	66.26	-34.17	-32.23	5.57	8.41
Drumstick	-	-	-	171.18	-	-	-	-
Luffa	50.00-100.00	68.50	115.00	62.92	-46.50	-40.43	5.58	8.87
Long Beans	60.00-120.00	81.50	127.75	43.28	-46.25	-36.20	38.22	88.32
Ash Plantain	60.00-80.00	72.82	92.50	64.57	-19.68	-21.28	8.25	12.78
Green Chilli	80.00-150.00	114.50	162.25	169.58	-47.75	-29.43	-55.08	-32.48
Lime	40.00-70.00	53.00	37.00	63.72	16.00	43.24	-10.72	-16.82

Source: Marketing, Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

Table 3.2: Retail Prices of Vegetables – March 2020

Items	Price Range	Average			Change Compared to			
	Mar 2020	Mar 2020	Feb 2020	Mar 2019	Feb 2020		Mar 2019	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Beans (green)	120.00-240.00	182.33	284.59	127.60	-102.25	-35.93	54.74	42.90
Carrot	150.00-240.00	200.56	350.12	135.46	-149.57	-42.72	65.10	48.06
Leeks	120.00-200.00	180.03	289.32	119.68	-109.29	-37.78	60.35	50.43
Beetroot	90.00-180.00	138.92	216.46	119.61	-77.54	-35.82	19.31	16.15
Knolkhol	80.00-160.00	135.80	215.47	145.45	-79.67	-36.97	-9.65	-6.64
Radish	60.00-160.00	113.55	142.11	111.39	-28.56	-20.10	2.16	1.94
Cabbage	120.00-200.00	150.70	198.16	97.91	-47.47	-23.95	52.78	53.91
Tomato	120.00-240.00	184.49	380.51	93.36	-196.02	-51.51	91.13	97.60
Ladies Fingers	70.00-160.00	120.38	205.86	114.38	-85.48	-41.52	6.00	5.24
Brinjal	120.00-200.00	157.10	173.22	136.91	-16.11	-9.30	20.19	14.75
Capsicum	160.00-300.00	225.33	328.00	188.72	-102.66	-31.30	36.61	19.40
Pumpkin	100.00-200.00	159.24	239.53	78.56	-80.29	-33.52	80.68	102.70
Cucumber	50.00-120.00	92.57	117.37	92.39	-24.80	-21.13	0.18	0.19
Bittergourd	140.00-240.00	187.66	249.89	168.48	-62.24	-24.90	19.18	11.38
Snake gourd	100.00-180.00	146.68	190.50	132.54	-43.82	-23.00	14.14	10.66
Drumstick	320.00-400.00	387.00	-	311.62	-	-	75.38	24.19
Luffa	100.00-160.00	143.39	216.01	149.03	-72.63	-33.62	-5.64	-3.79
Long Beans	100.00-200.00	152.17	211.54	121.69	-59.37	-28.07	30.47	25.04
Ash Plantain	110.00-160.00	143.97	160.37	120.82	-16.40	-10.23	23.14	19.15
Green Chilli	160.00-400.00	272.99	341.46	326.05	-68.47	-20.05	-53.06	-16.27
Lime	70.00-200.00	151.61	147.22	205.71	4.39	2.98	-54.10	-26.30

Source: Marketing, Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HART

4. Fruits

Prices and Supply/Demand Situation

Compared to the prices in February 2020, wholesale prices of most of the fruit varieties had decreased in March 2020. Accordingly, prices of banana varieties, Ambul and Kolikuttu had decreased by 5% and 3% respectively and price ranges recorded for Ambul and Kolikuttu during the month were Rs.30.00-50.00/kg and Rs.100.00-150.00/kg respectively. Price of mango variety, Karthakolomban had decreased by 7% and the price range recorded for a fruit was Rs.130.00-200.00. Price of papaw had decreased by 20% and the monthly average wholesale price was Rs.94.29/kg and the price ranged between Rs.50.00-140.00/kg. In addition, prices of passion fruit, grapes (imported) and slime apple had decreased by 16%, 8% and 7% respectively (Table 4.1).

However, prices of banana varieties, Seeni, Anamalu and Ambun had recorded price increases in the range of 2%-7% compared to the prices in February 2020 and their price ranges recorded during the month were Rs.50.00-80.00/kg, Rs.10.00-14.00/fruit and Rs.13.00-18.00/fruit respectively. Prices of small, medium and large sized pineapple had increased by 10%, 9% and 12% respectively and the monthly average wholesale prices of small, medium and large sized fruits were Rs.134.34/fruit, Rs.178.01/fruit and Rs.228.78/fruit respectively and the price ranged between Rs.100.00-280.00/fruit. In addition, 21%, 18% and 5% price increases were noted for wood apple, avocado and orange respectively (Table 4.1).

Compared to the same period of 2019, wholesale prices of most of the fruit varieties had increased with the highest price increases recorded for mango varieties (Table 4.1).

In analyzing the prices at the retail level, it was observed that the prices of most of the fruit varieties had increased. Prices of small, medium and large sized pineapple had increased by 5%, 6% and 7% respectively and the monthly average retail prices of small, medium and large sized fruits were Rs.143.47/fruit, Rs.189.65/fruit and Rs.255.96/fruit respectively and the price ranged between Rs.120.00-300.00/fruit. Price of papaw had increased by 2% and the price ranged between Rs.120.00-250.00/kg. In addition, prices of wood apple, avocado and orange had increased by 17%, 8% and 5% respectively (Table 4.2).

On the other hand, price of banana variety, Ambul had decreased by 5% and the price range was noted as Rs.80.00-120.00/kg. Prices of banana varieties, Anamalu and Ambun had decreased by 3% and 2% respectively and their prices ranged between Rs.16.00-20.00/fruit and Rs.20.00-25.00/fruit respectively. However, prices of other banana varieties, Kolikuttu and Seeni had not changed noticeably and their prices ranged between Rs.160.00-220.00/kg and Rs.80.00-140.00/kg respectively. Further, price decreases were noted for passion fruit, slime apple and imported grapes and their prices had decreased by 16%, 3% and 2% respectively (Table 4.2).

Compared to the same period of 2019, retail prices of most of the fruit varieties had increased and the highest price increase was noted for wood apple as 30% (Table 4.2).

With reference to the producer prices, producers had received 15% and 1% price increases for papaw and banana variety, Kolikuttu respectively and 24% price decrease for banana variety, Ambul compared to the prices in February 2020. Further, producer prices for Ambul, Kolikuttu and papaw during the month were noted as Rs.26.00/kg, Rs.98.00/kg and Rs.67.00-75.00/kg respectively. At the same time, compared to March, 2019, producer prices had increased for Kolikuttu by 21% and price decreases were noted for Ambul by 1% and for papaw by 12% (Table 4.3).

Exports/Imports of Fruits

According to the Sri Lanka Customs, Sri Lanka had exported 781mt of fresh fruits in March 2020 to the value of Rs.97mn. Of the exported quantity, 94% were papaw, 3% were fresh pineapple, 2% were fresh mango and 1% was fresh avocado. In the month of February 2020, the quantity exported was 954mt. Therefore, compared to last month, the exported quantity had decreased by 18% (Table 4.4).

With reference to imports, Sri Lanka had imported 2,704mt of fresh fruits during the month and the value was Rs.555mn. Of the imported quantity, 61% were apple, 23% were oranges and 17% were grapes. The main importing countries of apple were China, South Africa, the United States and France. Egypt was the importing country of oranges. Grapes had been imported from India, South Africa and Australia. In the month of February 2020, the quantity imported was 3,161mt. Therefore, compared to last month, the imported quantity had decreased by 14% (Table 4.5).

Table 4.1: Wholesale Prices of Fruits – March 2020

Item	Price Range	Average			Change Compared to			
	Mar 2020	Mar 2020	Feb 2020	Mar 2019	Feb 2020		Mar 2019	
	(Rs)	(Rs)	(Rs)	(Rs)	(Rs)	%	(Rs)	%
Plantain								
Ambul (Kg)	30.00-50.00	43.56	46.04	40.45	-2.48	-5.40	3.10	7.67
Kolikuttu (Kg)	100.00-150.00	123.75	127.42	106.95	-3.67	-2.88	16.80	15.70
Seeni (Kg)	50.00-80.00	61.06	57.29	55.67	3.77	6.57	5.39	9.68
Anamalu (Fruit)	10.00-14.00	12.42	12.13	10.85	0.29	2.41	1.56	14.42
Ambun (Fruit)	13.00-18.00	15.25	14.92	16.28	0.33	2.23	-1.03	-6.30
Pineapple								
Large (Fruit)	200.00-280.00	228.78	204.00	202.58	24.78	12.15	26.19	12.93
Medium (Fruit)	160.00-200.00	178.01	163.45	154.00	14.56	8.91	24.01	15.59
Small (Fruit)	100.00-160.00	134.34	121.65	113.04	12.69	10.43	21.30	18.84
Mango								
Betti (Fruit)	57.00-70.00	63.00	-	31.13	-	-	31.88	102.41
Karthakolomban (Fruit)	130.00-200.00	162.50	175.00	82.86	-12.50	-7.14	79.64	96.11
Vilad (Fruit)	57.00-75.00	65.00	-	36.84	-	-	28.16	76.42
Kohu (Fruit)	-	-	-	5.00	-	-	-	-
Papaw (Kg)	50.00-140.00	94.29	117.50	124.00	-23.21	-19.76	-29.71	-23.96
Passionfruit (Fruit)	13.00-17.00	14.88	17.81	28.37	-2.94	-16.49	-13.49	-47.57
Woodapple (Fruit)	30.00-40.00	35.21	29.03	18.60	6.18	21.29	16.61	89.32
Orange (Fruit)	18.00-30.00	24.00	22.77	17.72	1.23	5.39	6.28	35.44
Avocado (Fruit)	50.00-130.00	82.32	69.62	72.57	12.71	18.25	9.75	13.44
Slime Apple (Fruit)	13.00-25.00	17.64	18.98	22.01	-1.33	-7.03	-4.37	-19.86
Grapes Imported (Kg)	563.00-763.00	637.63	692.26	646.90	-54.63	-7.89	-9.28	-1.43

Source: Marketing, Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

Table 4.2: Retail Prices of Fruits – March 2020

Item	Price Range	Average			Change Compared to			
	Mar 2020	Mar 2020	Feb 2020	Mar 2019	Feb 2020		Mar 2019	
	(Rs)	(Rs)	(Rs)	(Rs)	(Rs)	%	(Rs)	%
Plantain								
Ambul (Kg)	80.00-120.00	99.18	104.16	89.08	-4.98	-4.78	10.10	11.34
Kolikuttu (Kg)	160.00-220.00	196.48	196.35	170.56	0.13	0.07	25.92	15.19
Seeni (Kg)	80.00-140.00	114.75	115.17	108.22	-0.42	-0.36	6.53	6.04
Anamalu (Fruit)	16.00-20.00	18.15	18.67	17.23	-0.52	-2.80	0.93	5.37
Ambun (Fruit)	20.00-25.00	22.51	23.07	21.60	-0.56	-2.42	0.91	4.22
Pineapple								
Large (Fruit)	220.00-300.00	255.96	239.39	236.08	16.58	6.92	19.88	8.42
Medium (Fruit)	170.00-220.00	189.65	178.34	162.77	11.30	6.34	26.88	16.51
Small (Fruit)	120.00-170.00	143.47	136.23	113.51	7.24	5.31	29.97	26.40
Mango								
Betti (Fruit)	-	-	-	60.00	-	-	-	-
Karthakolomban (Fruit)	150.00-200.00	175.00	-	148.56	-	-	-	-
Vilad (Fruit)	-	-	-	56.92	-	-	-	-
Kohu (Fruit)	-	-	-	60.00	-	-	-	-
Papaw (Kg)	120.00-250.00	198.38	193.92	183.89	4.46	2.30	14.49	7.88
Passionfruit (Fruit)	20.00-38.00	30.30	35.92	45.27	-5.62	-15.66	-14.97	-33.07
Woodapple (Fruit)	40.00-90.00	68.09	58.12	52.18	9.96	17.14	15.91	30.49
Orange (Fruit)	30.00-60.00	48.61	46.07	45.79	2.54	5.52	2.82	6.15
Avocado (Fruit)	100.00-120.00	110.00	101.98	126.44	8.02	7.86	-16.44	-13.00
Slime Apple (Fruit)	40.00-80.00	54.67	56.21	60.46	-1.55	-2.75	-5.79	-9.58
Grapes Imported (Kg)	800.00-1200.00	960.30	984.54	897.29	-24.24	-2.46	63.01	7.02

Source: Marketing, Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

Table 4.3: Producer Prices of Selected Fruits – March 2020

Item	Price Range	Average			Change Compared to			
	Mar 2020	Mar 2020	Feb 2020	Mar 2019	Feb 2020		Mar 2019	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Ambul	26.43-26.43	26.43	34.62	26.61	-8.19	-23.66	-0.18	-0.68
Kolikuttu	98.33-98.33	98.33	97.17	81.03	1.17	1.20	17.30	21.35
Papaw	67.50-75.00	71.25	61.91	81.37	9.34	15.09	-10.12	-12.44

Source ;Marketing Food Policy Agribusiness Division, HARTI

Table 4.4: Quantity, Value and FOB Prices of Exported Fruits - January to March 2020

Type of Fruit	Mar - 2020			Feb - 2020			Jan - 2020		
	Qty (mt)	Value (Rs.mn)	FOB (Rs/kg)	Qty (mt)	Value (Rs.mn)	FOB (Rs/kg)	Qty (mt)	Value (Rs.mn)	FOB (Rs/kg)
Fresh Pineapple	26.38	12.26	464.81	51.78	25.71	496.57	37.58	14.40	383.33
Papaw	733.54	76.18	103.85	886.26	75.82	85.55	943.74	74.47	78.91
Fresh Mango	13.42	4.57	340.35	11.04	7.30	661.02	31.24	17.31	554.07
Avocado, fresh	7.75	4.34	560.17	5.00	2.67	533.55	4.77	2.41	506.17

Source: Department of Customs; Marketing, Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

Table 4.5: Quantity, Value and CIF Prices of Imported Fruits – January to March 2020

Type of Fruit	Mar - 2020			Feb - 2020			Jan - 2020		
	Qty (mt)	Value (Rs.mn)	CIF (Rs/kg)	Qty (mt)	Value (Rs.mn)	CIF (Rs/kg)	Qty (mt)	Value (Rs.mn)	CIF (Rs/kg)
Apple	1,643	300.25	182.71	1,820	275.64	151.45	2,180	352.67	161.80
Grapes	446	186.15	417.06	724	298.39	411.99	483	182.49	378.08
Oranges	614	68.37	111.32	617	72.05	116.81	508	63.75	125.40

Source: Department of Customs; Marketing, Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

5. Fish, Dried Fish, Eggs and Meat

Fish

Prices and Supply/Demand Situation

Unequal supplies for different types of fish varieties were observed during the month. The Supply of Hurulla has increased to the market from Kalpitiya and Mullaitivu, hence, the wholesale price has decreased by 12%. The wholesale prices of Balaya and Thalapath also have decreased by 7% and 1% respectively due to increase the stocks from Southern Province. Salaya stocks increased from Mannar and Kalpitaiyta, and the price has decreased by 4%. In contrast, the wholesale price of Kelawalla has increased by 18% because of limited supplies from Beruwala, Galle and Matara while the price of shrimps (small) went up further by 5% due to lower the stocks from Jaffna.

Compared to the same period of last year, wholesale prices of most of the fish varieties had increased by 8%-85%.

The retail prices of most of the fish varieties have decreased by 1%-7% recording the highest for Hurulla. The highest retail price range (Rs.1200.00-1920.00/kg) for fish during this month was further noted for Thora while the lowest price range (Rs.160.00-400.00/kg) was observed for Salaya. Compared to the same period of last year, retail prices of most of the fish varieties had increased by 2%-39%.

Table 5.1: Wholesale and Retail Prices of Fish – March 2020

Item	Price Range	Average			Change Compared to			
	Mar 2020	Mar 2020	Feb 2020	Mar 2019	Feb 2020		Mar 2019	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Wholesale Prices								
Salaya	120.00-300.00	209.00	217.50	122.03	-8.50	-3.91	86.97	71.27
Hurulla	300.00-650.00	467.50	533.00	252.28	-65.50	-12.29	215.22	85.31
Balaya	280.00-400.00	327.50	353.75	257.72	-26.25	-7.42	69.78	27.08
Kelawalla	500.00-700.00	615.00	523.00	469.06	92.00	17.59	145.94	31.11
Thora	1000.00-1400.00	1237.50	1228.75	1039.58	8.75	0.71	197.92	19.04
Paraw	450.00-750.00	598.50	587.50	470.36	11.00	1.87	128.14	27.24
Mora	450.00-700.00	604.00	606.25	543.01	-2.25	-0.37	60.99	11.23
Shrimp (small)	900.00-1100.00	975.00	927.50	777.54	47.50	5.12	197.46	25.39
Thalapath	750.00-850.00	790.00	801.25	733.89	-11.25	-1.40	56.11	7.65
Retail Prices								
Salaya	160.00-400.00	297.80	307.39	232.71	-9.59	-3.12	65.09	27.97
Hurulla	400.00-800.00	587.69	634.34	422.96	-46.65	-7.35	164.74	38.95
Balaya	500.00-800.00	626.00	659.87	649.51	-33.87	-5.13	-23.51	-3.62
Kelawalla	800.00-1200.00	951.98	983.87	933.79	-31.88	-3.24	18.19	1.95
Thora	1200.00-1920.00	1646.56	1606.34	1506.44	40.23	2.50	140.12	9.30
Paraw	900.00-1400.00	1169.27	1143.57	1025.10	25.71	2.25	144.17	14.06
Mora	760.00-800.00	782.86	786.89	887.68	-4.03	-0.51	-104.82	-11.81
Shrimp (small)	1000.00-1500.00	1215.09	1194.87	1059.76	20.22	1.69	155.33	14.66
Thalapath	1100.00-1400.00	1232.50	1242.56	1180.70	-10.06	-0.81	51.80	4.39

Source: Marketing, Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

Dried Fish

Prices and Supply/Demand Situation

The stock position of most of the local dried fish varieties have increased during the month mainly from Negambo, Chilaw, Trincomalee and Jaffna. Meanwhile, imported sprats and Maduwa has increased mainly from Dubai and Iran. Therefore, the wholesale prices of most of the dried fish varieties have decreased by 1%-5%. The highest price decrease was recorded for imported sprats and Thora. However, the wholesale prices of rest of the dried fish varieties have increased by 1%-6%. The highest wholesale price range of Rs.1100.00-1250.00/kg was noted for imported Thora while the lowest price range of Rs.300.00/kg-420.00/kg was reported Salaya (local). Compared to the same period of last year, the wholesale prices of most of the dried fish varieties had increased by 1%-36%.

The retail prices of sprats (imported), and Salaya, have decreased by 3% followed by Thora and Mora as 2% and 1% respectively. In contrast, the retail prices of rest of the dried fish varieties have increased by 1%-4%. The highest price range of Rs.1500.00-2200.00/kg was reported for Thora, while the lowest price range of Rs.500.00-800.00/kg was observed for Salaya. Compared to the same period of last year, the prices of most of the dried fish varieties had increased by 2%-12%.

Table 5.2: Wholesale and Retail Prices of Dried fish – March 2020

Item	Price Range	Average			Change Compared to			
	Mar 2020	Mar 2020	Feb 2020	Mar 2019	Feb 2020		Mar 2019	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Dried fish – Wholesale Price								
Sprats	850.00-950.00	920.50	924.50	674.50	-4.00	-0.43	246.00	36.47
Sprats (imported)	420.00-550.00	489.50	512.81	464.25	-23.31	-4.54	25.25	5.44
Kattawa	950.00-1150.00	1023.00	1000.00	970.44	23.00	2.30	52.56	5.42
Kattawa (imported)	850.00-970.00	913.00	894.41	891.22	18.59	2.08	21.78	2.44
Thora	-	-	1276.67	1216.67	-	-	-	-
Thora (imported)	1100.00-1250.00	1217.50	1277.50	1243.75	-60.00	-4.70	-26.25	-2.11
Mora	800.00-880.00	840.00	849.00	884.75	-9.00	-1.06	-44.75	-5.06
Mora (imported)	750.00-840.00	794.00	787.64	775.07	6.36	0.81	18.93	2.44
Balaya	480.00-550.00	505.50	497.75	428.75	7.75	1.56	76.75	17.90
Balaya (imported)	-	-	-	583.06	-	-	-	-
Anguluwa	900.00-1200.00	1046.29	1077.00	936.16	-30.71	-2.85	110.13	11.76
Anguluwa (imported)	850.00-1000.00	935.50	932.17	858.52	3.33	0.36	76.98	8.97
Maduwa	540.00-650.00	570.50	575.50	562.31	-5.00	-0.87	8.19	1.46
Maduwa (imported)	350.00-500.00	424.00	424.75	401.78	-0.75	-0.18	22.22	5.53
Koduwa	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Koduwa(imported)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Salaya	300.00-420.00	364.50	345.25	347.00	19.25	5.58	17.50	5.04
Salaya (imported)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dried fish – Retail Price								
Sprats(imported)	550.00-800.00	681.80	701.05	703.78	-19.25	-2.75	-21.98	-3.12
Sprats	1000.00-1500.00	1195.45	1192.15	1171.17	3.30	0.28	24.29	2.07
Kattawa	1200.00-1600.00	1408.56	1389.23	1270.17	19.34	1.39	138.39	10.90
Thora	1500.00-2200.00	1805.52	1840.98	1609.36	-35.46	-1.93	196.16	12.19
Mora	900.00-1400.00	1165.37	1173.08	1166.54	-7.71	-0.66	-1.17	-0.10
Balaya	600.00-1200.00	959.50	946.76	856.06	12.74	1.35	103.44	12.08
Anguluwa	1000.00-1400.00	1208.21	1211.35	1141.30	-3.15	-0.26	66.90	5.86
Maduwa	600.00-900.00	766.67	735.57	747.25	31.10	4.23	19.42	2.60
Koduwa	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Salaya	500.00-800.00	599.55	615.90	657.46	-16.35	-2.65	-57.92	-8.81

Source: Marketing, Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

Eggs

Supplies of both brown egg and white egg were as usual as in the previous month. Therefore, wholesale prices of both brown egg and white egg have remained unchanged. However, the retail prices have decreased by 1%. The retail price of brown egg and white egg ranged between Rs.20.00-21.00/each and Rs.19.00-20.00/each respectively during the month. Compared to the same period of last year, the wholesale prices had increased by 12%-13% followed by retail price as 9%-10%.

Table 5.3: Wholesale and Retail Prices of Eggs – March 2020

Item	Price Range	Average			Change Compared to			
	Mar 2020	Mar 2020	Feb 2020	Mar 2019	Feb 2020		Mar 2019	
	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	%	Rs	%
Wholesale Price								
Eggs – Brown (each)	19.50-19.50	19.50	19.50	17.43	0.00	0.00	2.07	11.86
White (each)	18.50-18.50	18.50	18.50	16.43	0.00	0.00	2.07	12.58
Retail Price								
Eggs- Brown (each)	20.00-21.00	20.41	20.65	18.67	-0.24	-1.15	1.74	9.33
White (each)	19.00-20.00	19.40	19.62	17.62	-0.22	-1.13	1.77	10.07

Source: Marketing, Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

Meat

The price of curry chicken has further increased by 4% followed by pork as 1%. Meanwhile, the prices of broiler chicken and mutton have decreased nearly 1%. The highest price (Rs.1800.00-2100.00/kg) was reported for mutton while the lowest price (Rs.450.00-630.00/kg) was observed for broiler chicken. Compared to the same period of last year, the prices of broiler chicken had decreased by 11% while that of curry chicken increased by 10%. The price of rest of the meat varieties had increased by 2% or less.

Table 5.4: Retail Prices of Meat – March 2020

Item	Price Range	Average			Change Compared to			
	Mar 2020	Mar 2020	Feb 2020	Mar 2019	Feb 2020		Mar 2019	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Meat								
Beef (without bones)	950.00-1100.00	1000.00	997.36	981.41	2.64	0.26	18.59	1.89
Chicken (Broiler)	450.00-630.00	522.67	530.29	584.82	-7.63	-1.44	-62.15	-10.63
Chicken (curry)	650.00-750.00	683.85	658.42	623.55	25.43	3.86	60.30	9.67
Mutton	1800.00-2100.00	1879.17	1889.70	1841.62	-10.53	-0.56	37.55	2.04
Pork	700.00-880.00	776.67	767.08	766.00	9.58	1.25	10.67	1.39

Source: Marketing, Food Policy and Agri-business Division/HARTI

6. Wheat grain, Wheat flour and Sugar

Wheat grain and Wheat flour

A total quantity of 309,091mt worth of 14,829mn wheat grain had been imported during the month of March. Compared to the previous month, quantity of this month has drastically increased and it was more than three times in terms of quantity. This is the highest wheat grain stock which imported to the country since last five months of duration. Wheat grain for the month of March had been mainly imported from Canada (39%) and the CIF price was Rs.48.00/kg. Second and third highest wheat grain quantities were imported from Russia (33%) and United States (25%) respectively. Further, wheat grain quantities were imported from Australia (3%). Few quantities were also imported from India and Ukraine as well. The CIF price of wheat grain ranged between Rs.47.00-66.00/kg and the average CIF price was recorded as Rs.48.00/kg. Compared to the previous month, average CIF price for wheat grain has increased by only Rs.1.00/kg during the month.

A total quantity of 917mt of wheat flour worth of 66mn had been imported during the month of March. Compared to the previous month, quantity of this month has drastically decreased by nearly five times in terms of quantity. Wheat flour for the month of March had been mainly imported from Turkey (51%) and the CIF price was Rs.63.00/kg. Wheat flour has also imported from India (46%) and Indonesia (3%). Few quantities were imported from United Arab Emirates, Singapore and China as well. The CIF price of wheat flour ranged between Rs.63.00-81.00/kg and the average CIF price was recorded as Rs.75.00/kg (Based on the prices of three major importing countries).

According to the World Food and Agriculture Organization, cereal price index averaged 164 points in March 2020, down by nearly 2% from February 2020. International wheat prices declined, as the effects of large global supplies and broadly favorable crop prospects.

Meanwhile, the local retail price of wheat flour ranged between Rs.85.00-100.00/kg and the average price was Rs.92.00/kg. Compared to the previous month, the average retail price of wheat flour remained unchanged during the month. However, compared to the same period of last year, retail price of wheat flour has decreased by 2%.

Table 6.1: Open Market Retail Prices of Wheat Flour and Sugar – March 2020

Item	Price Range	Average			Change Compared to			
	Mar 2020	Mar 2020	Feb 2020	Mar 2019	Feb 2020		Mar 2019	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Wheat Flour	85.00-100.00	92.24	92.55	94.33	-0.31	-0.33	-2.09	-2.22
Sugar	100.00-120.00	109.52	108.30	104.57	1.22	1.13	4.95	4.73

Source: Department of Census and Statistics

Table 6.2: Quantity, Value and CIF Prices of Wheat Flour & Grain- Oct 2019 to Mar 2020

Month	Quantity (mt.)	Value (Rs.mn)	CIF price (Rs/kg)	Retail Price (Rs/kg)	Gross Margin (Rs/kg)
Wheat Flour					
Mar 2020	917	66.17	72.18	92.24	20.06
Feb 2020	4,560	296.41	65.00	92.55	27.55
Jan 2020	2,735	184.43	67.44	92.17	24.73
Dec 2019	929	71.66	77.12	93.20	16.08
Nov 2019	1,273	96.21	75.58	95.31	19.73
Oct 2019	564	41.30	73.19	93.37	20.18
Wheat Grain					
Mar 2020	309,091	14,829	71.56	92.24	20.68
Feb 2020	90,250	4,267	47.28	92.55	45.27
Jan 2020	89,391	4,139	46.31	92.17	45.86
Dec 2019	137,220	6,423	46.81	93.20	46.39
Nov 2019	276,039	12,582	45.58	95.31	49.73
Oct 2019	188,638	8,825	46.79	93.37	46.58

Source: Department of Customs; Marketing Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

Note: Retail price of wheat grains means the retail price of wheat flour.

Sugar

A total quantity of 66,007mt worth of 4,724mn of sugar had been imported to the country during the month of March. Compared to the previous month, quantity of this month has increased and it was 9,515mt in terms of quantity. Sugar for the month of March had been mainly imported from India (82%) and its CIF price was Rs.69.00/kg. The second highest sugar quantity was imported from Thailand (10%). Further, sugar stocks have imported from United Arab Emirates (8%). In addition, few quantities were also imported from Korea and Malaysia as well. The CIF prices ranged between Rs.69.00-99.00/kg and the average CIF price was reported as Rs.72.00/kg. Compared to the previous month, average CIF price for sugar has increased by Rs.4.00/kg during the month. According to the World Food and Agriculture Organization, sugar price index averaged 170 points in March 2020, down by 19.1% from February 2020. This is mainly due to the lower demand from out-of-home consumption linked to the confinement measures imposed by many countries, and lower demand from ethanol producers due to the steep fall in crude oil prices.

Referring to the local retail price of sugar for the month of March, price ranged between Rs.100.00-120.00/kg and the average retail price was Rs.110.00/kg. Compared to the previous month the average retail price of sugar has increased by only Rs.1.00/kg during the month. Further, compared to the same period of last year average retail price of sugar has also increased by nearly 5%.

Table 6.3: Quantity, Value and CIF Prices of Sugar- Oct 2019 to March 2020

Month	Quantity (mt.)	Value (Rs.mn)	CIF price (Rs/kg)	Retail Price (Rs/kg)	Gross Margin (Rs/kg)
Mar 2020	66,007	4723.6	71.56	109.52	37.96
Feb 2020	56,492	3824.0	67.69	108.30	40.61
Jan 2020	45,565	2933.3	64.38	107.20	42.82
Dec 2019	29,602	1890.4	63.86	106.50	42.64
Nov 2019	50,187	3110.2	61.97	107.02	45.05
Oct 2019	48,249	3092.9	64.10	106.95	42.84

Source: Department of Customs; Marketing Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HART

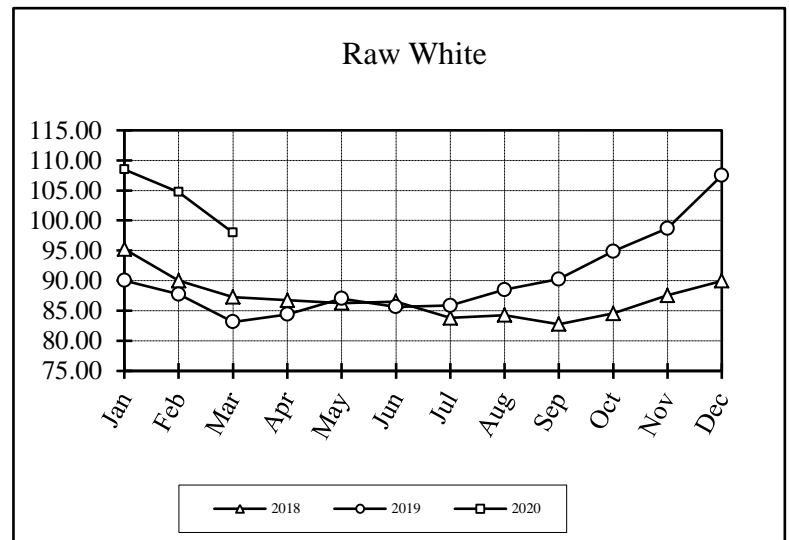
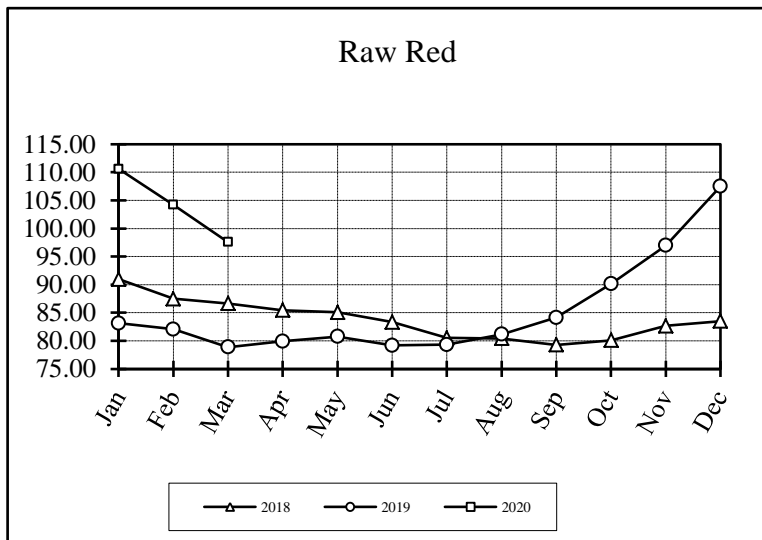
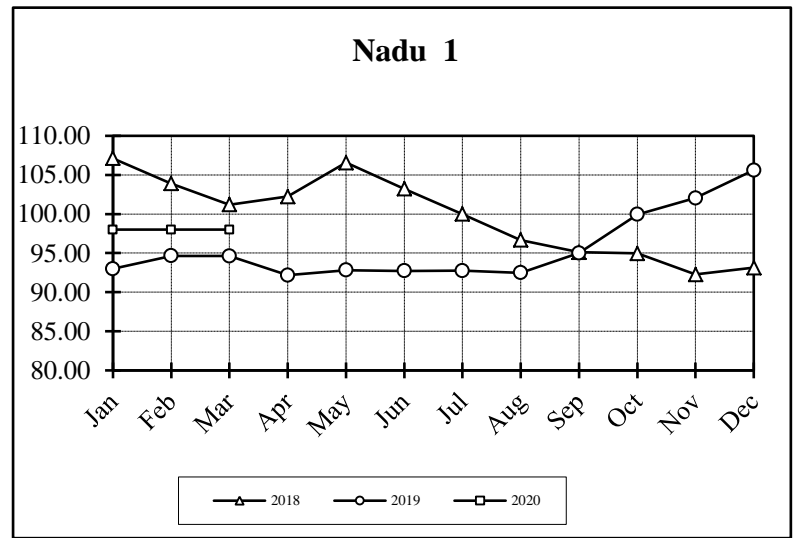
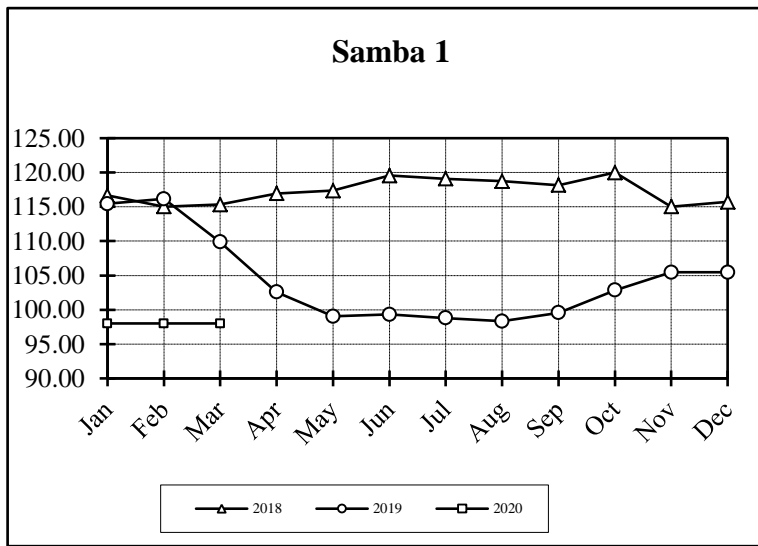
Table 7: Import of Selected Food Items – March 2020

Item	Quantity (mt)		% Change Compared to last month	Value (Rs. mn)		% Change Compared to last month	CIF (Rs/kg)		% Change Compared to last month
	Mar 2020	Feb 2020		Mar 2020	Feb 2020		Mar 2020	Feb 2020	
Rice	1,979	2,847	-30	191.0	264.3	-28	96.51	92.86	4
Red Onion	496	1,134	-56	87.0	257.9	-66	175.19	227.44	-23
Big Onion	33,496	16,421	104	2651.1	1507.7	76	79.14	91.81	-14
Potato	11,527	16,999	-32	624.4	887.4	-30	54.17	52.21	4
Dried Chillies	4,854	5,131	-5	1677.4	1987.4	-16	345.56	387.33	-11
Masoor Dhal	14,475	11,183	29	1336.3	948.7	41	92.32	84.83	9
Green Gram	1,536	2,716	-43	280.3	518.3	-46	182.45	190.83	-4
Cowpea	780	495	58	117.8	76.8	53	150.95	155.17	-3
Garlic	3,733	1,641	127	993.9	407.3	144	266.29	248.18	7
Wheat flour	917	4,560	-80	66.2	296.4	-78	72.18	65.00	11
Wheat grain	309,091	90,250	242	14828.6	4267.4	247	47.97	47.28	1
White crystalline cane sugar	66,007	56,492	17	4723.6	3824.0	24	71.56	67.69	6
Maize	26	2,308	-99	2.90	113.91	-97	111.52	49.34	126

Source: Marketing, Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

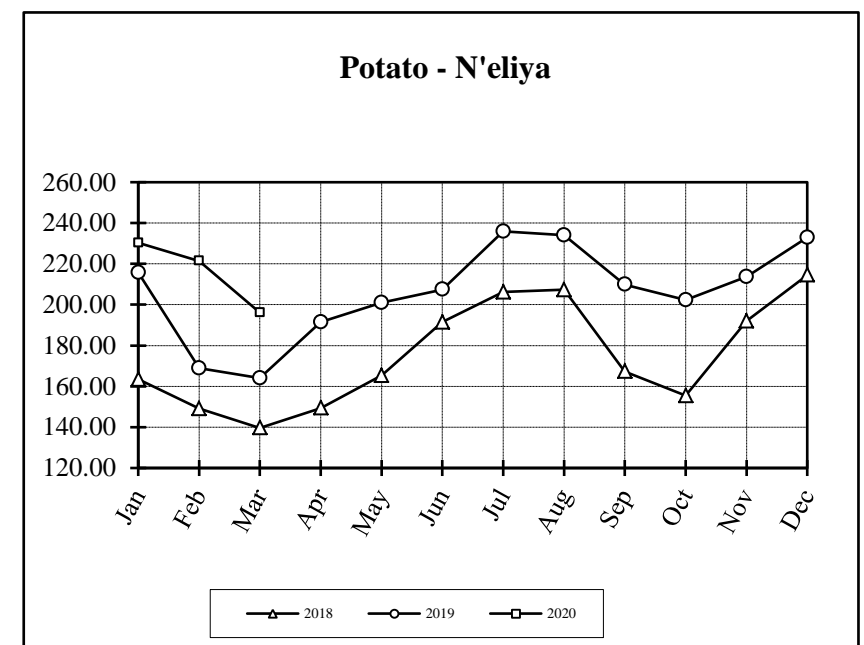
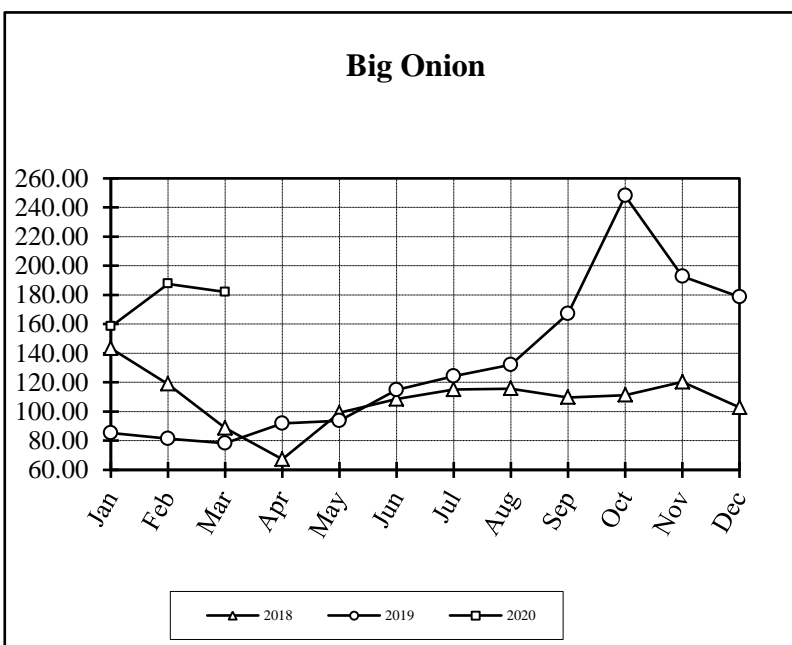
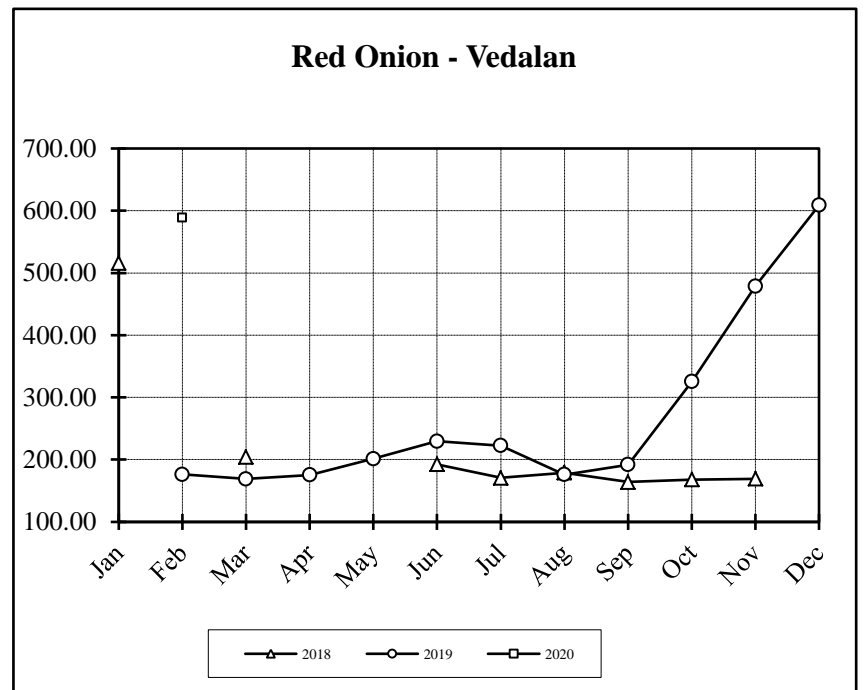
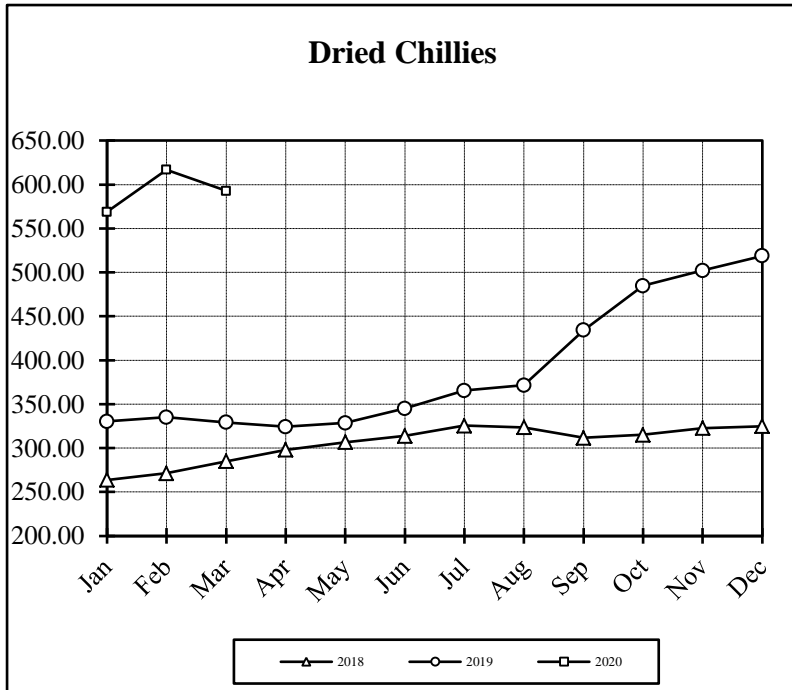
Appendix 01: Retail Price of Rice in Colombo & Suburbs (Rs/kg)

Month	Samba 1			Nadu 1			Raw Red			Raw White		
	2018	2019	2020	2018	2019	2020	2018	2019	2020	2018	2019	2020
Jan	116.65	115.44	98.00	107.10	93.00	98.00	90.96	83.12	110.60	95.24	90.02	108.50
Feb	115.03	116.14	98.00	103.88	94.64	98.00	87.49	82.07	104.20	90.00	87.74	104.75
Mar	115.34	109.87	98.00	101.20	94.63	98.00	86.63	78.87	97.55	87.25	83.14	97.98
Apr	116.93	102.58		102.24	92.17		85.43	79.92		86.74	84.39	
May	117.36	99.05		106.56	92.83		85.08	80.74		86.25	87.00	
Jun	119.56	99.33		103.22	92.73		83.32	79.19		86.52	85.64	
Jul	119.08	98.81		99.99	92.75		80.52	79.31		83.80	85.86	
Aug	118.72	98.35		96.68	92.49		80.42	81.14		84.25	88.49	
Sep	118.15	99.58		95.11	95.00		79.26	84.14		82.76	90.23	
Oct	119.98	102.86		94.97	99.95		80.08	90.11		84.54	94.88	
Nov	115.02	105.46		92.27	102.03		82.65	96.96		87.55	98.70	
Dec	115.70	105.46		93.13	105.60		83.48	107.46		89.95	107.48	



Appendix 02: Retail Prices of Chillies, Onions & Potato in Colombo & Suburbs (Rs/kg)

Month	Dried Chillies			Red Onion (Vedalan)			Big Onion			Potato - N'eliya		
	2018	2019	2020	2018	2019	2020	2018	2019	2020	2018	2019	2020
Jan	263.76	330.31	568.88	515.82			143.32	85.22	158.34	163.50	215.71	230.30
Feb	271.41	335.00	616.91		176.36	589.00	118.86	81.33	187.64	149.12	168.89	221.45
Mar	284.90	329.23	592.69	204.17	168.97		88.58	78.17	182.10	139.65	164.00	196.08
Apr	298.03	324.25			175.37		67.31	91.75		149.37	191.47	
May	306.67	328.50			201.43		99.21	93.54		165.33	200.97	
Jun	313.87	345.06		192.53	229.57		108.62	114.91		191.52	207.45	
Jul	325.59	365.35		170.61	222.51		115.02	124.20		206.17	235.89	
Aug	323.56	371.46		179.06	175.95		115.74	132.13		207.29	234.10	
Sep	311.60	434.22		164.11	191.81		109.70	167.17		167.27	209.86	
Oct	315.11	484.80		168.06	325.31		111.28	248.02		155.45	202.38	
Nov	322.74	502.09		169.23	478.63		120.24	192.69		192.07	213.71	
Dec	324.98	518.89			608.84		102.86	178.67		214.56	232.91	



**Appendix 03: Farmgate/Producer Prices of Food Commodities
in Selected Producing Areas (Rs/Kg)**

March - 2020

Commodity	1St Week	2nd Week	3rd Week	4th Week	Commodity	1St Week	2nd Week	3rd Week	4th Week	Commodity	1St Week	2nd Week	3rd Week	4th Week
Paddy					Potato					Leeks				
Short grain					N'Eliya	96.80	103.00			Welimada	75.75	97.00		
A'pura	46.13	45.83			Badulla	106.25	107.50			N'Eliya	77.00	88.00		
P'naruwa	47.78	46.87			Welimada	97.50	97.50			Beetroot				
Kalawewa	44.08	44.42			Pulses					Hanguranketha				
Kurunegala	46.83	46.83			Green Gram					N'Eliya	52.00	42.00		
Dehiattakandiya	46.71	47.30			Galgamuwa					Dambulla	51.00	40.20		
Ampara	49.40				Kalawewa					Kurunegala				
Long grain (White)					Embilipitiya	207.00	207.00			Welimada	53.75	46.50		
A'pura	44.13	44.17			Kurunegala					Knokhol				
P'naruwa	45.34	44.76			A'pura	235.00	245.00			Hanguranketha		32.50		
Kalawewa	41.42	41.92			Cowpea					N'Eliya	33.00	27.00		
Kurunegala	46.83	46.83			A'pura	182.00	178.33			Welimada	34.50	33.75		
Dehiattakandiya	45.86	43.88			Galgamuwa					Radish				
Embilipitiya					Nikaweratiya	207.50	208.75			Hanguranketha		22.50		
Ampara	48.00				Kalawewa					N'Eliya	28.00	33.00		
Matara					Embilipitiya	209.25	209.25			Welimada	19.00	19.50		
Hambantota					Kurunegala					Cabbage				
Long grain (Red)					Maize					Hanguranketha		85.00		
Matara		47.60			A'Pura	50.00	51.75			N'Eliya	58.00	72.00		
Hambantota					Kalawewa					Welimada	46.50	63.00		
Ampara	48.00				Gingelly					Hambantota				
Embilipitiya	47.40	47.40			A'Pura	682.50	550.00			Badulla	61.00	65.00		
Other Food Crops					Kalawewa					Tomato				
Dried Chillies					Black Gram					Hanguranketha				
A'Pura					Kalawewa					Welimada	125.00	63.25		
Galgamuwa					A'Pura	291.00	272.50			Hambantota				
Kalawewa					Vegetables (Up Country)					Dambulla	108.00	62.20		
Red Onion					Beans					Low Country				
Puttalam					Dambulla	113.00	56.80			Ladies Fingers				
Big Onion					Welimada	124.00	64.60			A'pura	39.33	25.00		
Dambulla					Badulla	130.00	45.00			Dambulla	42.40	26.60		
Kalawewa					Carrot					Hambantota				
A'Pura					Hanguranketha		105.00			Embilipitiya	23.00	23.33		
Kurunegala					N'Eliya	103.00	118.00			Matara				
					Welimada	96.00	106.00							

Table 8: Monthly rainfall (mm) – March 2020

Rainfall Station	Total Rainfall (mm)	30 Year Avg. Rainfall (mm)	Total Rainy Days	30 Year Average Rainy Days
Anuradhapura	13.7	68.7	1	5
Badulla	11.7	119.4	2	9
Bandarawela	9.4	112.2	4	9
Batticaloa	0.7	89.0	1	6
Colombo	41.3	128.0	7	9
Galle	17.7	111.3	4	9
Hambantota	7.0	65.4	1	5
Jaffna	0.0	25.7	n/a	2
Katugastota	56.9	71.9	3	8
Katunayaka	63.0	132.9	4	8
Kurunegala	52.7	139.1	5	8
Maha Iluppallama	16.2	84.9	2	6
Mannar	0.0	44.4	n/a	3
Nuwara Eliya	13.3	71.5	2	8
Pottuvil	22.0	n/a	2	n/a
Puttalam	12.1	67.7	2	5
Ratmalana	1.2	141.5	1	9
Ratnapura	150.1	212.2	12	14
Trincomalee	0.0	55.5	n/a	4
Vavuniya	12.9	62.9	1	4
Polonnaruwa	0.0	n/a	n/a	n/a
Monaragala	3.6	n/a	1	n/a
Mattala	9.7	n/a	1	n/a

*Source: Department of Meteorology
Colombo 07*