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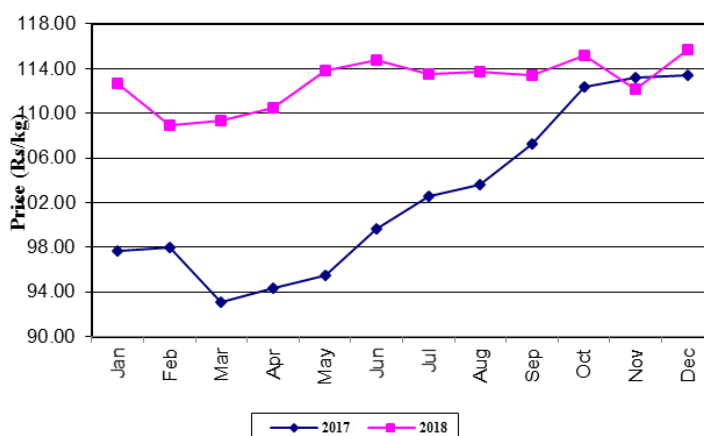
RICE:

Prices of all the rice varieties have increased slightly in December compared to the previous month. Retail price of samba grade I ranged between Rs.110.00-125.00/kg.

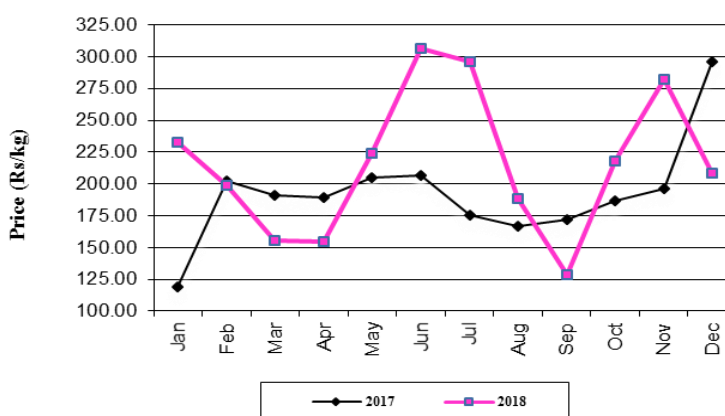
VEGETABLES:

Harvesting vegetables in *Maha* season started slightly in advance and the stocks started to reach the market by the mid of December. It was due to the prevailed favorable weather condition and early cultivation in Badulla and Kandy districts. Hence, stocks of vegetables in major markets have increased leading to a price drop. The highest price decrease of Rs.86.00/kg was reported for carrot followed by beans (Rs.74.00/kg). Prices are expected to further decrease during next month too.

Average Retail Prices of Rice (Samba)



Average Retail Price of Beans (Green)



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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.

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Data Collection Areas:

Colombo and suburb Markets

- | | | |
|----------------|-----------------|---------------|
| 1. Pettah | 5. Peliyagoda | 9. Kirulapone |
| 2. Narahenpita | 6. Kadawatha | 10. Nugegoda |
| 3. Dematagoda | 7. Kiribathgoda | |
| 4. Thotalanga | 8. Wellawatta | |

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

Despite the flood situation at the beginning of this month, paddy production outlook of 2018/19 *Maha* season remains satisfactory due to the favorable weather conditions and availability of irrigation water combined with the fertilizer subsidy. Flood incidents damaged around 42,000 ha of cultivated land in Northern and Eastern province during early December. According to the latest assessment made by the Department of Agriculture, the targeted extent of paddy lands in 2018/19 *Maha* season was 828,455 ha of which 743,314 ha (or 89% of the target) was cultivated by the end of December. The extent of land cultivated with paddy is 10% higher than that of the average extent of land cultivated with paddy over last three *Maha* seasons. The expected production based on the extent of land cultivated with paddy by the end of December is 2.85 Million Mt (1.8 million tons, milled basis) considering the crop damages. The major surplus of paddy is expected from Eastern and North Central provinces. The first harvest is expected to reach the market from the latter part of the January from Batticaloa.

Table 1.1 Progress of Paddy Cultivation: *maha* 2018/19 As at end of December 2018

District/Area	Targeted Extent (ha)	Achievement (ha)	Achievement as a % of the Targeted Extent	Production forecast based on progress (mt)	Total Effectuated Extent (ha)	Expected Production loss for Effectuated Area (mt)	Reversed Production forecast (mt)
Anuradhapura	98,031	85,789	88	325,600	-	-	325,600
Polonnaruwa	34,600	34,162	99	155,633	-	-	155,633
Ampara	76,019	75,473	99	320,394	-	-	320,394
Kurunegala	92,598	83,712	90	395,122	-	-	395,122
Hambantota	28,448	26,213	92	128,291	-	-	128,291
Colombo	3,800	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gampaha	12,356	-	-	-	-	-	-
Kalutara	13,325	-	-	-	-	-	-
Galle	12,300	8,336	68	22,280	-	-	22,280
Matara	16,414	13,451	82	45,682	-	-	45,682
Ratnapura	12,672	9,467	75	30,843	-	-	30,843
Kegalle	9,391	6,374	68	23,459	-	-	23,459
Puttalam	22,516	20,653	92	67,237	-	-	67,237
Kandy	13,610	9,896	73	31,866	-	-	31,866
Matale	20,325	16,194	80	65,948	-	-	65,948
N' Eliya	6,129	1,012	17	2,165	-	-	2,165
Badulla	22,083	16,443	74	62,730	-	-	62,730
Monaragala	36,367	34,527	95	128,580	16	15	128,565
Jaffna	12,390	11,649	94	25,735	253	553	25,182
Kilinochchi	24,690	24,786	100	85,525	11,671	33,856	51,669
Vavuniya	19,901	19,840	100	84,236	1,201	2,358	81,878
Mullaitivu	17,537	17,455	100	54,396	7,391	15,856	38,540
Mannar	21,425	20,200	94	94,699	658	1,315	93,384
Trincomalee	42,348	41,537	98	172,348	1,666	2,743	169,605
Batticaloa	70,912	72,509	102	175,436	19,597	29,219	146,217
Udawalawa	10,516	10,596	101	52,328	-	-	52,328
System H	22,000	21,808	99	104,678	-	-	104,678
System H1	8,190	8,670	106	41,616	-	-	41,616
System B	19,870	19,977	101	91,095	-	-	91,095
System C	22,931	22,888	100	104,369	-	-	104,369
System G	5,140	5,179	101	23,616	-	-	23,616
System D	1,301	1,804	139	8,226	-	-	8,226
Rambakanoya	917	831	91	3,789	-	-	3,789
System L	1,562	1,882	120	8,582	-	-	8,582
Sri Lanka	832,611	743,314	89	2,936,505	42,452	85,914	2,850,591

Source: Crop Forecast, *maha* 2018/19, Department of Agriculture

Producer Prices

The prices of long grain white and long grain red paddy have shown an increasing trend in all considered major producing areas due to gradual reduction of market supply of paddy. Meanwhile, the prices of short grain paddy varieties have increased all considered major producing areas except Dehiattakandiya and Ampara. Prices of long grain white paddy have increased by less than 13% in all considered major producing areas with the highest increase from Kurunegala. Meanwhile, the prices of long grain red paddy have increased by less than 6% in Embilipitiya and 4% in Hambantota. The prices of long grain white and short grain in most of the major producing areas were in the range of Rs.40.00-48.00/kg and Rs.50.00-55.00/kg respectively. Prices of long grain red paddy were in the range of Rs.37.00-41.00/kg in producing areas in the Southern Province. It is expected that the increasing trend of paddy prices will be continuing during the next month due to short supply of paddy. When the new harvest reaches the markets and price drop can be expected by the end of next month.

Compared to the same period of last year, all the paddy varieties have shown a declining trend in all considered producing areas. The prices of short grain have decreased by less than 11% with the highest decline from Anuradhapura. Prices of long grain white have decreased in the range of 15%-19% with the highest decline also from Anuradhapura. Meanwhile, the prices of long grain red have decreased by 16% in Hambantota and 20% in Embilipitiya.

Table1.2: Producer Prices of Paddy – December 2018

Commodity	Price Range		Average Price			Change Compared to			
	Dec 2018	Nov 2018	Dec 2018	Nov 2018	Dec 2017	Nov 2018		Dec 2017	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Short Grain									
Anuradhapura	50.00-53.00	50.00-52.00	50.92	50.56	57.00	0.36	0.71	-6.08	-10.67
Polonnaruwa	-	51.00-55.00	-	53.20	55.59	-	-	-	-
Kalawewa	51.00-55.00	48.00-53.00	52.80	51.00	58.41	1.80	3.53	-5.61	-9.60
Kurunegala	52.00-54.00	50.00-52.00	52.80	51.13	54.71	1.67	3.26	-1.91	-3.49
Dehiattakandiya	53.00-54.00	52.00-55.00	53.73	54.50	-	-0.77	-1.41	-	-
Nikaweratiya	-	-	-	-	54.00	-	-	-	-
Ampara	52.00-55.00	53.00-55.00	52.98	53.10	56.63	-0.12	-0.23	-3.65	-6.44
Long Grain White									
Anuradhapura	40.00-46.00	40.00-46.50	43.84	43.51	54.00	0.33	0.76	-10.16	-18.81
Polonnaruwa	-	43.00-46.00	-	44.27	54.66	-	-	-	-
Kalawewa	43.00-48.00	42.00-47.00	45.00	43.87	54.41	1.13	2.58	-9.41	-17.29
Kurunegala	46.00-48.00	40.00-44.00	46.67	41.17	54.92	5.50	13.36	-8.25	-15.02
Dehiattakandiya	45.00-46.00	40.00-47.00	45.27	43.44	-	1.82	4.19	-	-
Embilipitiya	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nikaweratiya	-	-	-	-	54.00	-	-	-	-
Matara	-	43.00-46.00	-	35.19	44.42	-	-	-	-
Hambantota	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ampara	46.00-47.00	46.00-47.00	46.40	45.60	-	0.80	1.75	-	-
Long Grain Red									
Anuradhapura	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Matara	-	33.00-38.00	-	41.33	44.42	-	-	-	-
Hambantota	38.00-41.00	34.00-41.00	39.92	38.25	47.33	1.67	4.36	-7.41	-15.65
Embilipitiya	37.00-40.00	35.00-39.00	38.65	36.36	48.17	2.29	6.30	-9.52	-19.76

Source: Marketing Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

Rice Demand and Supply Situation

Wholesale Prices

Supplies of all the rice varieties had decreased during this month due to offseason. Further, the demand of rice also had increased slightly at the end of the month due to the festive season. Hence, wholesale prices of all the local rice varieties had increased with the highest price increase of 5% for *Nadu* grade II. The average wholesale prices of *Samba* grade I and II were Rs.107.60/kg and Rs.99.58/kg respectively in December. Wholesale prices of *Samba* grade I and II had increased slightly less than 1%. Further, the wholesale prices of *Nadu* grade I and II ranged between Rs.88.00-90.00/kg and Rs.82.00-87.00/kg respectively. Average wholesale prices of *Nadu* I and II had increased by 3% and 5% compared to the previous month.

Meanwhile, the wholesale price of imported *Samba* ranged between Rs.140.00-145.00/kg and it had increased by 4% compared to the previous month.

Raw white rice had been imported from Viet Nam, Pakistan, India and China during this month. The average CIF price of imported raw white rice was Rs.70.07/kg. A quantity of 4,295mt of all the varieties of rice had been imported during December 2018. The total expenditure on importing rice in December was Rs.513.5 million. Sri Lanka had imported a quantity of 752,177 mt of rice during the year 2017. It had dropped remarkably to 249,536mt in the year 2018.

Compared to the same period of last year, wholesale prices of all the local rice varieties have decreased with the highest price decrease of 13% for raw red. Meanwhile, the wholesale price of imported *Samba* had increased by 87% compared to the same period of last year.

Retail Prices

In line with the wholesale prices, retail prices of all the local rice varieties have increased in the range of 0.45-2.74%. Retail price of *Samba* grade I ranged between Rs.110.00-125.00/kg. The highest price increase of 2.74% was recorded for raw white. Further, retail prices of *Nadu* grade I and II have increased slightly by less than 1%. Imported *Samba* rice was available at retail level and price ranged between Rs.145.00 and Rs.170.00/kg.

Compared to the same period of last year, retail prices of all the local rice varieties have decreased with the highest price decrease of 13% for *Nadu* grade II. Meanwhile, retail price of imported *Samba* has increased by 78% compared to the same period of last year.

Table 1.3: Wholesale and Retail Prices of Rice – December 2018

Item	Price Range	Average Price			Change Compared to			
	Dec 2018	Dec 2018	Nov 2018	Dec 2017	Nov 2018		Dec 2017	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Wholesale Prices								
Samba 1	106.00-110.00	107.99	107.60	110.13	0.39	0.36	-2.14	-1.94
Samba 2	98.00-103.00	100.42	99.58	105.24	0.84	0.85	-4.82	-4.58
Samba 3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nadu 1	88.00-90.00	89.20	86.63	-	2.58	2.97	-	-
Nadu 2	82.00-87.00	85.10	81.30	93.39	3.80	4.67	-8.29	-8.88
Raw red	70.00-72.00	70.84	70.33	81.80	0.52	0.73	-10.96	-13.40
Raw white	80.00-82.00	80.90	79.04	90.62	1.86	2.35	-9.72	-10.72
Imported Samba	140.00-145.00	141.73	136.77	75.96	4.96	3.63	65.77	86.58
Imported Raw White	-	-	-	67.17	-	-	-	-
Imported Nadu	-	-	-	71.93	-	-	-	-
Retail Prices								
Samba 1	110.00-125.00	115.70	115.02	116.97	0.69	0.60	-1.26	-1.08
Samba 2	-	-	109.30	109.95	-	-	-	-
Samba 3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nadu 1	90.00-95.00	93.13	92.27	107.39	0.86	0.93	-14.26	-
Nadu 2	85.00-88.00	86.67	86.28	99.83	0.39	0.45	-13.16	-13.18
Raw red	80.00-90.00	83.48	82.65	93.12	0.84	1.01	-9.64	-10.35
Raw white	85.00-95.00	89.95	87.55	97.20	2.40	2.74	-7.25	-7.46
Imported <i>Ponni</i> Samba	145.00-170.00	154.75	145.85	87.16	8.91	6.11	67.59	77.55
Imported Raw White	-	-	-	77.75	-	-	-	-
Imported Nadu	-	-	-	82.41	-	-	-	-

Source: Marketing Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

2. Other Field Crops

2.1 Chilli

Crop Situation

The targeted extent of chilli in *Maha* 2018/19 was about 10,765 ha of which 5,780 ha has been achieved by the end of December 2018. That was 54% of the target in Sri Lanka. Both the highest targeted extent of land (3,114 ha) and cultivated extent of land (1,242 ha) were reported from Anuradhapura district by the end of December 2018. Green chilli cultivation progress in Monaragala district was also in a satisfactory level. Out of the total expected production of green chilli (28,015 mt) was 60% which comprises 22% from Anuradhapura, 20% from Monaragala and 18% from Puttalam districts.

Table 2.1.1: Cultivation Progress of Green Chilli for *maha* 2018/19

Areas	Targeted Extent (ha)	Cultivation Progress at the end of December 2018		Expected Production (mt)
		Cultivated Extent (ha)	% of the Targeted Extent	
Anuradhapura	3,114	1,242	40	6,233
Puttalam	740	541	73	5,142
Moneragala	875	727	83	5,723
Ampara	490	286	58	293
Badulla	448	341	76	1,005
Kurunegala	330	230	70	1,098
Hambanthota	314	265	84	1,048
Jaffna	569	348	61	1,517
Mannar	310	212	68	840
Other areas	3,575	1,588	44	5,116
Total	10,765	5780	54	28,015

Source: Crop Forecasting Unit, Department of Agriculture

Prices and Supply/Demand Situation

The highest producer price for green chilli was reported from Embilipitiya and it ranged between Rs.408.00 and Rs. 503.00/kg. Supply of green chilli from Anuradhapura, Puttalam, Moneragala had decreased during this month. Hence, both wholesale and retail prices of green chilli were Rs.400.00/kg and Rs.608.87/kg respectively and those prices are higher than that of the wholesale and retail prices of imported dried chillies. Compared to the same period of last year, wholesale price of green chilli has increased by about 13% while the retail price has decreased by about 6%.

A quantity of 5,149 mt of dried chilli was imported from India during this month and it was an increase of 1,129 mt compared to that of the previous month. The average CIF price was Rs.236.59/kg and it was an increase of Rs.11.30/kg compared to last month. However, both wholesale and retail prices of imported dried chilli have increased by about Rs.12.00/kg and Rs.2.00/kg respectively. Compared to the same period of last year, both wholesale and retail prices of imported dried chillies have increased by about 31% and 23% respectively.

Table 2.1.2: Wholesale and Retail Prices of Dried Chilli and Green Chilli December 2018

Item	Price Range	Average Price			Change Compared to				
	Dec 2018	Dec 2018	Nov 2018	Dec 2017	Nov 2018		Dec 2017		
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%	
Wholesale Price									
Green Chilli	300.00-600.00	400.00	220.08	352.50	179.92	81.76	47.50	13.48	
Dried Chilli	265.00-285.00	273.01	261.25	209.07	11.76	4.50	63.94	30.58	
Retail Price									
Green Chilli	350.00-800.00	608.87	418.23	644.85	190.64	45.58	-35.98	-5.58	
Dried Chilli	300.00-360.00	324.98	322.74	264.58	2.24	0.69	60.40	22.83	

Source: Marketing, Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

Table 2.1.3: Quantity, Value and CIF Prices of Imported Dried Chilli July to Dec 2018

Month	Quantity (mt)	Value (Rs.mn.)	CIF Price (Rs/kg)	Retail Price (Rs/kg)	Gross Margin (Rs/kg)
Dec	5,149	1,218.31	236.59	324.98	88.39
Nov	4,020	905.77	225.29	322.74	97.45
Oct	5,034	1,052.59	209.08	315.11	106.03
Sep	3,516	737.02	209.60	311.60	102.00
Aug	5,448	1,129.65	207.37	323.56	116.20
July	5,292	1,161.19	219.40	325.59	106.18

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

Table 2.1.4: Producer Prices of Green Chilli (Rs/kg) – December 2018

Location	1 st week	2 nd week	3 rd week	4 th week	5 th week
Dambulla	324.00	320.00	404.00	386.00	280.00
Hambantota	375.00	425.00	425.00	425.00	425.00
Embilipitiya	426.00	417.50	486.67	503.33	408.33
Puttalam	279.00	316.00	340.00	396.00	268.00
A'Pura	317.50	366.67	423.33	425.00	330.00

Source: Marketing, Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

2.2 Big Onion and Red Onion

Crop situation

The targeted extent of land of red onion for *Maha* 2018/19 was 3,904 ha of which 1,652ha has been cultivated by the end of December 2018, which was 42% of the targeted extent of land in Sri Lanka. The targeted extent of land cultivated with big onion was about 1,900 ha in Jaffna and 1,020 ha of the target (about 54% of the target) was grown at the end of December 2018. The extent of land cultivated with red onion was around 51% of the target in Jaffna district during this month. The total expected production of red onion is 23,725 Mt and 93% of that production is expected from Jaffna (52%) and Puttalam (41%) districts.

Table 2.2.1: Cultivation Progress of Red Onion for Yala 2018/19

Areas	Targeted Extent (ha)	Cultivation Progress at the end of December 2018		Expected Production (mt)
		Cultivated Extent (ha)	% of the Targeted Extent	
Jaffna	1,900	1,020	54	12,230
Puttalam	640	462	72	9,786
Trincomalee	753	8	1	87
Monaragala	40	14	35	137
Mullaitivu	83	22	26	210
Batticaloa	54	38	70	448
Other areas	434	88	20	827
Total	3,904	1,652	42	23,725

Prices and Supply/Demand Situation

Only imported big onion stocks were available at the market during this month. A quantity of 23,169 Mt of big onion was imported from India (92%) and Pakistan (8%) during this month and it was an increase of 4,510 mt compared to the previous month. Average CIF price was Rs.44.91/kg for imported big onion and it had decreased by Rs.2.73/kg compared to that of last month. With the high imports from India, both wholesale and retail prices of imported big onion have decreased by about Rs.22.00/kg and Rs.17.00/kg respectively. Compared to the same period of last year, current wholesale and retail prices of imported big onion have decreased by about 41% and 35% respectively.

Supply of sinnan red onion from major producing areas has increased slightly during this month. Hence, wholesale price of sinnan red onion has decreased by about Rs.31.00/kg. However, stocks of local red onion still were not available at most of the wholesale and retail markets, during this month.

A quantity of 2,166 mt of red onion was imported from India during this month and it was an increase of 822 mt compared to last month. Average CIF price was Rs.100.17/kg for imported red onion and it has decreased by Rs.13.29/kg compared to previous month. Both wholesale and retail prices of imported red onion have decreased by about Rs.20.00/kg. Compared to the same period of last year, current wholesale and retail prices of imported red onion have decreased by about 66% and 59% respectively.

Table 2.2.2: Wholesale Prices and Retail Prices of Red Onion and Big Onion December 2018

Crop	Price Range	Average			Change Compared to			
	Dec 2018	Dec 2018	Nov 2018	Dec 2017	Nov 2018		Dec 2017	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Wholesale Prices								
Red Onion (Sinnan)	70.00-120.00	96.08	127.12	-	-31.04	-24.42	-	-
Red Onion (Vedalan)	-	-	136.67	425.71	-	-	-	-
Red Onion (Imported)	115.00-116.00	135.53	156.06	401.02	-20.53	-13.16	-265.49	-66.20
Big Onion (imported)	50.00-95.00	68.88	90.69	117.60	-21.81	-24.05	-48.72	-41.43
Big Onion (Local)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Retail Prices								
Red Onion (Sinnan)	-	-	174.00	-	-	-	-	-
Red Onion (Vedalan)	-	-	169.23	575.43	-	-	-	-
Red Onion (Imported)	160.00-240.00	207.27	226.92	502.00	-19.65	-8.66	-294.74	-58.71
Big Onion (imported)	80.00-140.00	102.86	120.24	157.18	-17.38	-14.45	-54.32	-34.56
Big Onion (Local)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Source: Marketing, Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

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

Crop	Month	CIF Price (Rs/kg)	Wholesale Price	Retail Price	Margin (Rs/kg)	
			(Rs/kg)	(Rs/kg)	WP-CIF	RP-WP
Big onion	Dec,2018	44.91	68.88	102.86	23.97	33.98
	Nov,2018	47.64	90.69	120.24	43.05	29.56
	Dec,2017	122.56	117.60	157.18	-4.96	39.59
Red onion	Dec,2018	100.17	135.53	207.27	35.36	71.74
	Nov,2018	113.46	156.06	226.92	42.59	70.86
	Dec,2017	181.75	401.02	502.00	219.27	100.99

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

Crop	Quantity (mt.)		Value (Rs. mn)		CIF Price (Rs/kg)	
	Dec 2018	Nov 2018	Dec 2018	Nov 2018	Dec 2018	Nov 2018
Red Onion	2,166	1,344	217.0	152.5	100.17	113.46
Big Onion	23,169	18,659	1,040.5	888.9	44.91	47.64

Source: Department of Custom

Table 2.2.5: Quantity Imported, CIF Price, Wholesale and Retail Price of Big Onion July to Dec 2018

Month	Quantity Imported (mt)	CIF Price (Rs/kg)	Wholesale Price (Rs/kg)	Retail Price (Rs/kg)	Gross Margin (RP-CIF) (Rs/kg)
Dec	23,169	44.91	68.88	102.86	57.95
Nov	18,659	47.64	90.69	120.24	72.60
Oct	14,592	45.94	84.86	111.28	65.33
Sep	11,648	46.80	79.43	109.70	62.90
Aug	21,741	49.21	86.70	115.74	66.52
July	18,938	49.05	86.44	115.02	65.96

Source: Department of Customs

2.3 Potato

Crop Situation and Progress

The targeted extent of potato for *Maha* 2018/19 was 2,964 ha of which about 1,265 ha had been cultivated by the end of this month achieving 43% of the target. During this month about 754 ha of potato was cultivated in the country. According to the cultivated extent of land up to end of this month, the expected production of potato was 20,767 mt for this *Maha* season.

In the Nuwara Eliya district, the targeted extent of land was 1,323 ha of which about 383 ha of potato have been cultivated by the end of this month achieving 29% progress. Compared to the same period of last *Maha* season, the cultivated extent was at high level during this *Maha* season in the district due to availability of sufficient stocks of imported seeds. During this month, about 162 ha of potatoes were cultivated in Nuwara Eliya.

The targeted extent for this *Maha* season is 1,502 ha in the Badulla district and 838 ha have been cultivated by the end of December achieving 56% of the targeted extent of land. The cultivated extent of land during this season was slightly at a low level compared to the same period of last *Maha* season in the district. In December, about 552 ha of extent of lands were cultivated with potatoes in Badulla. As the *Yala* harvesting of potato was over by November, the supply of Welimada potato was lower in December.

Table 2.3.1: Cultivation Progress of Potato (Yala 2018)

District	Targeted Extent (ha)		Achievement (ha)		Progress (%) <i>Maha</i> 2018/19	Expected Production (mt)
	<i>Maha</i> 2017/18*	<i>Maha</i> 2018/19	<i>Maha</i> 2017/18*	<i>Maha</i> 2018/19		
N'Eliya	1,296	1,323	339	383	29	7,745
Badulla	1,846	1,502	853	838	56	13,022
Sri Lanka	3,343	2,964	1,257	1,265	43	20,767

Source: MFPAD/HARTI

Crop Forecast No.3, Yala 2018, Socio-economic & Planning Centre/DOA

*Crop Forecast No.3, Yala 2017, Socio-economic & Planning Centre/DOA

Prices and Supply/Demand Situation

A quantity of 17,372 mt of potato had been imported in December which was 6,691mt higher than that was imported during the previous month as the Special Commodity Levy for imported potato has been reduced up to Rs.20.00/kg with effect from 03/12/2018. Imported stocks were mainly received from Pakistan (67%) and India (29%). Compared to December, 2017 (17,902 mt), the imports were low during this month. Average CIF price was Rs.45.00/kg in December.

With regard to local potato, the supply has dropped due to end of the peak harvesting season in major producing areas. Stocks of Welimada potato were not available in the market. Hence, the wholesale and retail prices of Nuwara Eliya potatoes have increased further by 3% and 10% respectively in December. On average, the producer price of Nuwara Eliya potato was Rs.133.00/kg. Wholesale and retail prices of imported potato have decreased by 6% and 1% respectively due to decreased tax for imported potato. During December, the wholesale prices of Nuwara Eliya and imported potatoes ranged between Rs.140.00 and Rs. 155.00/kg, and Rs.50.00 and Rs.115.00/kg respectively. Compared to the same period of last year, the current retail prices of Nuwara Eliya (24%) and imported (21%) potatoes have increased. Prices of potatoes were

expected to be increased further till February as the new harvesting will be commenced in February from Badulla district.

Table 2.3.2: Quantity, Value and CIF prices of Imported Potatoes July to Dec 2018

Month	Quantity (mt.)	Value (Rs.mn)	CIF price (Rs/kg)	Retail Price (Rs/kg)	Gross Margin (Rs/kg)
Dec	17,372	784.21	45.14	120.25	75.11
Nov	10,681	440.08	41.20	121.79	80.59
Oct	6,329	200.26	31.64	107.24	75.60
Sep	5,643	173.85	30.81	106.06	75.25
Aug	15,771	583.58	37.00	112.16	75.16
July	17,703	614.68	34.72	119.70	84.97

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

Table: 2.3.3: Producer, Wholesale and Retail prices of Potato – December 2018

Items	Price Range	Average			Change Compared to			
	Dec 2018	Dec 2018	Nov 2018	Dec 2017	Nov 2018		Dec 2017	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Producer Prices (PP)								
Welimada	-	-	-	93.94	-	-	-	-
Nuwara Eliya	120.00-145.00	133.40	125.44	99.15	7.96	5.97	34.25	25.67
Imported – CIF	37.28-62.77	45.14	41.20	39.11	3.94	8.73	6.03	13.36
Wholesale Prices (WP)								
Welimada	-	-	-	91.43	-	-	-	-
Nuwara Eliya	140.00-155.00	146.88	142.48	113.92	4.39	2.99	32.95	22.44
Imported	50.00-115.00	88.60	93.76	63.10	-5.16	-5.82	25.50	28.78
Retail Prices (RP)								
Welimada	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nuwara Eliya	160.00-260.00	214.56	192.07	163.52	22.49	10.48	51.04	23.79
Imported	80.00-160.00	120.25	121.79	95.56	-1.54	-1.28	24.69	20.53
Gross Margin (RP-PP)								
Welimada		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nuwara Eliya		81.16	66.63	64.37	14.53	17.91	16.79	20.69
Imported (CIF-RP)		75.11	80.59	56.45	-5.48	-7.30	18.66	24.84
Gross Margin (RP -WP)								
Welimada		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nuwara Eliya		67.69	49.58	49.60	18.10	26.75	18.09	26.73
Imported		31.65	28.03	32.46	3.61	11.42	-0.81	-2.55

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 40% of its targeted extent of land in *Maha* 2018/2019 season. According to the table 2.4.1, the extent of land cultivated with green gram has declined by 2,793 ha (46% compared with *Maha* 2017/2018) in Sri Lanka compared with the extent of land cultivated with green gram in last year. The extents of lands cultivated with green gram in this month have declined by more than 52% in Hambantota, by 15% in Monaragala and by 5% in Kurunegala compared to those of the previous year. According to the crop damages, the production from the island-wide green gram cultivation is expected as 4,353 mt which is around half of the green gram production of the previous year.

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

crop	District	Targeted Ext. (ha)		Achievement (ha)		Progress (%) Maha 2018/2019	Expected Production (mt)
		Maha 2017/2018	Maha 2018/2019	Maha 2017/2018	Maha 2018/2019		
Green gram	Hambantota	4041	2078	2517	1073	52	1566
	Monaragala	2061	1327	950	527	40	675
	Kurunegala	615	779	405	276	35	333
	Other districts	4733	4146	2243	1446	35	1779
	Sri Lanka	11450	8330	6115	3322	40	4,353
Cowpea	Ampara	4306	4284	218	208	5	218
	Monaragala	1248	965	805	631	65	650
	Anuradhapura	716	722	268	419	58	971
	Other districts	4010	3664	2070	2110	58	2312
	Sri Lanka	10280	9635	3361	3368	35	4,151

Source: MFPAD/HARTI

Crop Forecast Maha 2018/19 & Maha 2017/18, Volume 02, Socio-economic and Planning Centre/DOA

It was able to achieve 35% of the targeted extent of land cultivated with cowpea, which would be expected around 4,151 mt. When the extent of cowpea production in 2018/19 Maha season was considered, Ampara, Monaragala and Anuradhapura districts were the major cowpea producing districts which contributed to 44% of the total production in the country. Monaragala and Anuradhapura districts were highlighted better performance while Ampara district progress was 5% of its targets.

Prices and Supply Demand Situation

The wholesale price of green gram ranged between Rs.225/kg and Rs.235/kg with an average of Rs.229.90/kg in December 2018. The average price has increased by 10% compared to the previous month. Similarly, compared to the same period of last year, the wholesale price has increased by 16%. In the meantime, the retail price of green gram ranged between Rs.240/kg and Rs.280/kg with an average of Rs.255.55/kg. Compared to the previous month, the retail price has increased by Rs. 5.89/kg. However, compared to the same period of last year, the retail price for this month has increased to around 5%.

Table 2.4.2: Quantity, Value and CIF prices of Imported Green gram July to Dec 2018

Month	Quantity (mt)	Value (Rs.mn)	CIF price (Rs/kg)	Retail Price (Rs/kg)	Gross Margin (Rs/kg)
Dec	1,034	155.43	150.30	255.55	105.25
Nov	808	120.29	148.80	249.66	100.85
Oct	1,044	147.26	141.05	244.45	103.41
Sep	701	92.51	131.93	244.26	112.33
Aug	2,418	329.79	136.41	246.54	110.13
July	1,576	213.54	135.52	246.15	110.63

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

Average wholesale prices of white and red cowpea were recorded as Rs.225.27/kg and Rs.217.48/kg respectively in December 2018. The wholesale price of white cowpea ranged between Rs.215/kg and Rs.235/kg, and that of red cowpea ranged between Rs.175/kg and Rs.225/kg. Compared to the previous month, the wholesale price of white cowpea has increased by 5% while the price of red cowpea has increased by 7%. Compared to the same period of last year, the wholesale price of white has increased by 2% while red cowpea has decreased by 10 percent. Meanwhile, average retail prices of white and red cowpea were recorded as Rs.278.22/kg

and Rs.285.30/kg respectively. The retail price of white cowpea ranged between Rs.240/kg and Rs.320/kg, and that of red cowpea also ranged between Rs.230/kg and Rs.320/kg. Compared to the previous month, the prices of both white cowpea and red cowpea have not changed significantly. Compared to the same period of last year, retail prices of white and red cowpea have decreased by 4% and 6% respectively.

A total quantity of 1,034 mt of green gram has been imported during this month and it is an increase of 28% compared to the green gram quantity imported in the previous month. The average CIF price of a kilogram of a green gram was Rs.150.30/kg while the retail price has increased by 2% compared with the previous month. The total expenditure of the importation of green gram was recorded as Rs.155.43 million which has increased by 29% of the total value spent on green gram importation in the previous month. Green gram has been imported from several countries where were Argentina (26%), Kenya (25%), Myanmar (23%), South Africa (17%), Uzbekistan (9%) and Australia (0.1%).

Table 2.4.3: Quantity, Value and CIF prices of Imported Cowpea July to Dec 2018

Month	Quantity (mt)	Value (Rs.mn)	CIF price (Rs/kg)	Retail Price (Rs/kg)	Gross Margin (Rs/kg)
Dec	614	70.72	115.14	278.22	163.07
Nov	740	83.30	112.56	279.38	166.82
Oct	1,095	122.99	112.27	275.27	163.00
Sep	399	45.03	112.80	277.82	165.02
Aug	307	36.37	118.53	280.45	161.92
July	628	82.07	130.71	283.08	152.37

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

According to table 2.4.4, a total quantity of 614 MT of white cowpea has been imported during this month. The imported quantity of cowpea has decreased by 17% compared to the previous month. The average CIF price of kilograms of white cowpea was recorded as Rs.115.14/kg. The total expenditure on cowpea imports has decreased by 15% compared to the previous month expenditure. The total value of the cowpea imports was noted as approximately Rs.70 million. The highest quantity of cowpea was imported from Madagascar (33%), India (31%) and the rest was imported from Myanmar (15%), Portugal (12%), Brazil (8%) and Australia (1%).

Table 2.4.4: Wholesale and Retail Prices of Green gram and Cowpea – December 2018

Item	Price Range	Average			Change Compared to			
	Dec 2018	Dec 2018	Nov 2018	Dec 2017	Nov 2018		Dec 2017	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Wholesale Prices								
Green gram	225.00-235.00	229.90	209.75	198.73	20.14	9.60	31.17	15.68
Cowpea (White)	215.00-235.00	225.27	214.98	220.96	10.29	4.79	4.31	1.95
Cowpea (Red)	175.00-225.00	217.48	203.64	241.36	13.83	6.79	-23.88	-9.89
Retail Prices								
Green gram	240.00-280.00	255.55	249.66	243.19	5.89	2.36	12.36	5.08
Cowpea (White)	240.00-320.00	278.22	279.38	290.26	-1.16	-0.42	-12.05	-4.15
Cowpea (Red)	230.00-320.00	285.30	284.52	303.48	0.78	0.27	-18.19	-5.99

Source: Marketing Food Policy & Agribusiness Division/HARTI

Monthly distribution of imported quantities of the green gram and cowpea are shown in figure 4.1. Accordingly, the highest quantity of green gram was imported in August and that of cowpea was imported in October. However, 16,425 mt of green gram, worth Rs. 2,238 million, has been imported and 8,100 mt of cowpea, worth Rs. 994.75 million was imported in 2018.

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

Crop	Month	CIF Price (Rs/kg)	Wholesale price (Rs/kg)	Retail price (Rs/kg)	Gross Margin (Rs/Kg)	
					WP-CIF	RP-WP
Green gram	Dec,2018	150.30	229.90	255.55	79.60	25.65
	Nov,2018	148.80	209.75	249.66	60.95	39.91
	Dec,2017	132.01	198.30	243.19	66.29	44.89
Cowpea (White)	Dec,2018	115.14	225.27	278.22	110.13	52.95
	Nov,2018	112.56	214.98	279.38	102.42	64.40
	Dec,2017	143.33	220.96	290.26	77.63	69.30
Cowpea (Red)	Dec,2018	-	217.48	285.30	-	67.82
	Nov,2018	-	203.64	284.52	-	80.88
	Dec,2017	-	241.36	303.48	-	62.12

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.108/kg and Rs.115/kg with an average of Rs.110.25/kg, and the retail price ranged between Rs.120/kg and Rs.140.00/kg with an average of Rs.127.19/kg. Moreover, the difference between the two prices is Rs.17/kg during this month. Compared to wholesale and retail prices of the same period of last year, wholesale and retail prices have decreased by 2.5% and 6.8% respectively.

Table 2.5.1: Wholesale and Retail Prices of Red dhal – December 2018

Red Dhal	Price Range	Average			Change Compared to			
	Dec 2018	Dec 2018	Nov 2018	Dec 2017	Nov 2018		Dec 2017	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Wholesale Price	108.00-115.00	110.25	103.16	113.05	7.09	6.87	-2.80	-2.47
Retail Price	120.00-140.00	127.19	124.13	136.54	3.06	2.47	-9.35	-6.85

Source: Marketing Food Policy & Agribusiness Division

During this month, a total quantity of 16,510 mt of red dhal has been imported at an average CIF price of Rs.81.21/kg and CIF price has increased by 7 percent compared to this CIF price of the previous month. Of the total red dhal quantity, the largest quantity (i.e., 14,861 mt) was of the whole type while the rest (i.e., 1,648 mt) was of the split type. Whole type red dhal was imported as 57% from Australia, 41% from Canada and 2% from India. The total value of the whole type of red dhal imported was Rs. 1,158 million and average CIF price was Rs.77.91 per kilo. Split type red dhal has been imported mainly from Canada (94%) and India (6%). The average CIF price of split type was Rs.111 per kilo and the total value of split type imported was Rs.183 million.

**Table 2.5.2: Quantity, Value and CIF prices of Imported Red dhal
July to Dec 2018**

Month	Quantity (mt)	CIF Price Rs/kg	Wholesale price Rs/kg	Retail price Rs/kg	Gross Margin (Rs/kg)	
					CIF-WP	WP-RP
Dec	16,510	81.21	110.25	127.19	29.04	16.93
Nov	14,866	76.60	103.16	124.13	26.57	20.96
Oct	12,403	76.33	102.88	125.61	26.55	22.73
Sep	8,311	81.97	97.40	124.08	15.43	26.68
Aug	10,097	76.24	97.58	125.77	21.33	28.19
July	9,720	78.20	102.41	127.97	24.21	25.56

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

3. Vegetables

Crop Situation

In most of vegetable producing areas, a favorable weather condition prevailed. Hence, the cultivation of 2018/19 *Maha* season continued as usual in major producing areas. Although rainy weather condition prevailed in Badulla district, it has not affected the cultivation. However, unfavorable rainy weather condition that prevailed in Dambulla has caused the vegetable cultivation delayed. Therefore, only 40% of the targeted extent of land has been cultivated with vegetables by the end of December. The extent of land cultivated with vegetables in this December was 24% lower than that in the previous year December.

Of the targeted extent of lands for upcountry vegetable cultivation, about 57% had been cultivated by the end of December. Extents of lands cultivated with beans, cabbage, capsicum, and carrot were 2,528 ha, 1,320 ha, 1,154 ha, 1,072 ha respectively. Therefore, the expected production of upcountry vegetables was 131,917 mt by the end of December. Further, expected productions of beans, cabbage, capsicum and carrot were 26,514 mt, 34,945 mt, 9,259 mt and 14,158 mt respectively. Low country vegetables have been cultivated in about 55% of the targeted extent of lands by the end of December. Among the low country vegetables, pumpkin, brinjal, okra and tomato were mainly cultivated in 2,825 ha, 2,930 ha, 2,402 ha and 1,653 ha respectively. The expected total production of low country vegetables was about 174,131 mt. The expected productions of pumpkin, tomato, okra and brinjal were 37,740 mt, 24,483 mt, 22,858 mt and 35,116 mt respectively. The production of 2018/19 *Maha* season will reach to the market until March and April (HARTI field information network/ Crop Forecast Department of Agriculture).

Prices and Supply/Demand Situation

Prices of most of vegetable varieties have come down during this month as the harvest of 2018/19 *Maha* season have started to reach to the main markets by the mid of December. With regard to upcountry vegetables, wholesale prices have dropped by a percentage of 11% to 40%. The highest price decrease was reported as 40% for carrot. However, the price of beetroot has further increased by 5% because of limited stocks available in the market. The wholesale prices of low country vegetables have also decreased by 4% to 59%. The highest price decrease was noted as 59% for long beans. Compared to vegetable prices of December last year, the price of upcountry vegetables had decreased by 1% to 43% while that of low country vegetables had decreased by 7% to 68%. Meanwhile tomato prices had increased by 125%.

Retail prices of vegetable also have declined during this month. Among upcountry vegetables, the highest price decrease was reported as Rs.86.00/kg for carrot while the lowest price decrease was reported as Rs.7.00/kg for leeks. Meanwhile, the price of beans has decreased by Rs.74.00/kg. Of low country vegetable prices, the highest price drop was reported as Rs.59.00/kg for long beans while the lowest price decrease was reported as Rs.6.00/kg for ash plantain. Further, the price of lime had decreased by Rs.189.00/kg. However, the price of green chilli has further increased by Rs.191.00/kg. According to the seasonal price index, generally, the prices are expected to increase from November to December. However, the reverse was observed in this year due to following reasons. One was the favourable weather condition for vegetable cultivation in major vegetable producing areas which resulted in supply of vegetables after the mid of December. Other reason was that the cultivation of this *Maha* season in Kandy (Marassana) and Badulla was in advance of about one month and the production of those crops arrived to the market after the mid of December. The price drop is further expected during next month too. Compared to prices of the same period of last year, the prices of most vegetables have decreased by a range between 1% to

31%. Nevertheless, the prices of tomato, carrot, and knolkhol have increased by 101%, 18% and 6% respectively while that of lime increased by 243%.

Table 3.1: Wholesale Prices of Vegetables – December 2018

Item	Price Range	Average			Change Compared to			
	Dec 2018	Dec 2018	Nov 2018	Dec 2017	Nov 2018		Dec 2017	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Beans (green)	70.00-200.00	126.67	201.02	223.95	-74.36	-36.99	-97.29	-43.44
Carrot	80.00-220.00	139.67	232.92	111.71	-93.25	-40.04	27.95	25.02
Leeks	90.00-180.00	131.04	148.13	190.11	-17.09	-11.54	-59.08	-31.07
Beetroot	110.00-180.00	147.65	140.71	149.43	6.95	4.94	-1.78	-1.19
Knolkhol	60.00-150.00	97.37	109.43	97.22	-12.06	-11.02	0.16	0.16
Radish	30.00-80.00	56.83	94.58	61.88	-37.75	-39.91	-5.04	-8.15
Cabbage	60.00-120.00	81.97	110.60	83.27	-28.63	-25.89	-1.30	-1.56
Tomato	80.00-300.00	182.67	224.58	81.04	-41.92	-18.66	101.62	125.40
Ladies Fingers	50.00-80.00	65.00	101.04	87.29	-36.04	-35.67	-22.29	-25.54
Brinjal	80.00-140.00	102.09	116.04	145.38	-13.95	-12.02	-43.29	-29.78
Capsicum	220.00-310.00	261.00	270.63	248.54	-9.63	-3.56	12.46	5.01
Pumpkin	20.00-50.00	31.58	49.69	49.27	-18.10	-36.44	-17.69	-35.90
Cucumber	10.00-60.00	32.75	51.98	55.80	-19.23	-36.99	-23.05	-41.31
Bittergourd	90.00-220.00	166.37	212.84	178.19	-46.47	-21.83	-11.82	-6.63
Snakegourd	50.00-110.00	68.39	114.97	131.25	-46.58	-40.51	-62.86	-47.89
Drumstick	-	-	184.17	231.83	-	-	-	-
Luffa	60.00-110.00	86.83	99.38	148.33	-12.54	-12.62	-61.50	-41.46
Long Beans	20.00-80.00	50.17	122.52	155.21	-72.35	-59.05	-105.04	-67.68
Ash Plantain	60.00-80.00	67.50	72.47	82.92	-4.97	-6.86	-15.42	-18.59
Green Chilli	300.00-600.00	400.00	220.08	352.50	179.92	81.76	47.50	13.48
Lime	150.00-500.00	299.83	522.29	39.96	-222.46	-42.59	259.88	650.42

Source: Marketing, Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

Table 3.2: Retail Prices of Vegetables – December 2018

Item	Price Range	Average			Change Compared to			
	Dec 2018	Dec 2018	Nov 2018	Dec 2017	Nov 2018		Dec 2017	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Beans (green)	120.00-320.00	208.04	282.16	295.58	-74.12	-26.27	-87.54	-29.62
Carrot	140.00-320.00	237.56	323.85	201.46	-86.30	-26.65	36.09	17.92
Leeks	140.00-320.00	224.66	231.47	284.39	-6.82	-2.94	-59.73	-21.00
Beetroot	140.00-280.00	212.98	212.77	232.03	0.21	0.10	-19.05	-8.21
Knolkhol	120.00-320.00	206.78	227.36	194.61	-20.58	-9.05	12.17	6.25
Radish	80.00-240.00	146.84	190.21	152.91	-43.36	-22.80	-6.07	-3.97
Cabbage	120.00-240.00	179.74	201.82	181.45	-22.08	-10.94	-1.71	-0.94
Tomato	130.00-400.00	290.77	335.91	144.78	-45.14	-13.44	145.99	100.84
Ladies Fingers	100.00-240.00	155.54	197.07	165.89	-41.53	-21.07	-10.35	-6.24
Brinjal	120.00-240.00	176.14	202.79	221.06	-26.65	-13.14	-44.92	-20.32
Capsicum	250.00-480.00	357.79	368.05	394.43	-10.26	-2.79	-36.63	-9.29
Pumpkin	50.00-160.00	106.66	119.90	124.84	-13.24	-11.04	-18.19	-14.57
Cucumber	40.00-160.00	110.88	135.49	127.52	-24.61	-18.16	-16.64	-13.05
Bittergourd	140.00-320.00	245.39	286.56	276.74	-41.17	-14.37	-31.35	-11.33
Snakegourd	100.00-280.00	159.64	191.11	204.21	-31.47	-16.47	-44.56	-21.82
Drumstick	-	-	432.69	493.15	-	-	-	-
Luffa	120.00-280.00	188.07	201.88	239.68	-13.82	-6.84	-51.61	-21.53
Long Beans	80.00-240.00	154.36	213.52	222.61	-59.16	-27.71	-68.25	-30.66
Ash Plantain	100.00-200.00	141.74	147.68	156.04	-5.93	-4.02	-14.29	-9.16
Green Chilli	350.00-800.00	608.87	418.23	644.85	190.64	45.58	-35.98	-5.58
Lime	300.00-800.00	635.18	824.61	185.05	-189.43	-22.97	450.13	243.25

Source: Marketing, Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

4. Fruits

Prices and Supply/Demand Situation

Compared to the prices in November, wholesale prices of most of the fruit varieties had increased in December with the high consumer demand during the festive season. Prices of all the banana varieties except Anamalu had increased in the range of 3%-6% and prices of Seeni Ambul and Kolikuttu had increased by 6%, 5% and 3% respectively and price ranges recorded during the month were Rs.50.00-80.00/kg, Rs.30.00-80.00/kg and Rs.100.00-160.00/kg respectively. In addition, price of Ambun had increased by 4% and price was Rs.15.00-22.00/fruit. However, a price decrease of 1% was noted for banana variety, Anamalu and the price range recorded was Rs.10.00-18.00/fruit. Prices of small, medium and large sized pineapple had increased by 4% and the monthly average wholesale prices of small, medium and large sized fruits were Rs.79.87/fruit, Rs.114.33/fruit and Rs.149.20/fruit respectively and the price ranged between Rs.50.00 and 180.00/fruit. Further, price of mango variety, Betti had increased by 22% and price range recorded for a fruit was Rs.18.00 - 22.00. Price of papaw had increased significantly by 97% and the monthly average wholesale price was Rs.142.80/kg, and the price ranged between Rs.120.00-170.00/kg. In addition, 76% and 28% price increases were noted for avocado and orange respectively. Further, prices of wood apple and imported grapes had increased by 20% and 14% respectively.

However, prices of mango varieties, Vilad, Karthakolomban and Kohu had decreased by 28%, 27% and 14% respectively. Price range recorded for a Karthakolomban fruit was Rs.25.00-40.00. In addition, prices of passion fruit and slime apple had decreased by 26% and 12% respectively.

According to the data in the previous years, prices of fruit varieties, papaw, passion fruit, wood apple, avocado, orange and all the banana varieties except Kolikuttu are expected to be increased in the coming month while, prices of pineapple, mango and slime apple are expected to be decreased.

Compared to the same period of 2017, wholesale prices of most of the fruit varieties had increased with the highest price increase of 72% for both papaw and passion fruit.

In line with the increased wholesale prices, prices of most of the fruit varieties had increased at the retail level too. Prices of all the banana varieties had increased in the range of 2%-6%. Price ranges of banana varieties, Ambul, Kolikuttu and Seeni were noted as Rs.60.00-150.00/kg, Rs.160.00-250.00/kg and Rs.80.00-140.00/kg respectively. Further, prices of banana varieties, Anamalu and Ambun ranged between Rs.15.00-23.00/fruit and Rs.18.00-25.00/fruit respectively. Price of mango variety, Vilad had increased by 12% and price of a fruit was noted as Rs.30.00-60.00. Price of papaw had increased significantly by 64% compared to the previous month and the price ranged between Rs.150.00-260.00/kg. Similarly, price of avocado had also increased significantly by 120% and price of a fruit was noted as Rs.70.00-250.00. In addition, prices of orange and imported grapes had increased by 24% and 5% respectively.

However, prices of small and large sized pineapple had decreased by 8% while, price of medium sized pineapple had decreased by 6%. Further, price range recorded for pineapple was Rs.60.00-260.00/fruit. Price of mango variety, Karthakolomban had decreased by 26% and price of a fruit was noted as Rs.35.00-100.00. In addition, prices of passion fruit and slime apple had decreased by 18% and 11% respectively.

Compared to the same period of 2017, retail prices of most of the fruit varieties too, had increased and the highest price increase was noted for avocado as 95%.

With reference to the producer prices, producers had received decreased prices for banana varieties, Ambul and Kolikuttu and an increased price for papaw compared to the prices in November, 2018. Further, the prices had decreased by 17% and 13% for Kolikuttu and Ambul respectively and it was a 51% of price increase for papaw. Producer prices for Ambul, Kolikuttu and papaw ranged between Rs.22.50-45.00/kg, Rs.45.00-145.00/kg and Rs.37.50 - 100.60/kg respectively. At the same time, compared to producer price in December, 2017, producer prices had increased for papaw significantly by 53% and for Kolikuttu by 9% and it was a price decrease for Ambul by 20% (Table 4.3).

Exports/Imports of Fruits

According to the Sri Lanka Customs, Sri Lanka had exported 714 mt of fresh fruits in December, 2018 to the value of Rs.98 mn. Of the exported quantity, 85% were papaw, 9% were fresh mangoes and 6% were fresh pineapple. Further, one metric ton of fresh avocados also had been exported and it was less than 1% of the total exported quantity of fruits in this month. In the month of November, 2018, the quantity exported was 895 mt. Therefore, compared to last month, the exported quantity had decreased by 20%.

With reference to imports, Sri Lanka had imported 3,047 mt of fresh fruits, worth Rs.568 mn, during this month. Of the imported quantity, apple, grapes and oranges were 76%, 16% and 8%. The main apple importing countries included China, France, the United States and Italy. Grapes had been imported from China, India and the United States. South Africa, Australia and Egypt were the main oranges importing countries. In the month of November, 2018, the quantity imported was 4,001 mt. Therefore, compared to the fruit imports of last month, the imported quantity had decreased by 24%.

Table 4.1: Wholesale Prices of Fruits – December 2018

Item	Price Range	Average			Change Compared to			
	Dec 2018	Dec 2018	Nov 2018	Dec 2017	Nov 2018		Dec 2017	
	(Rs)	(Rs)	(Rs)	(Rs)	(Rs)	%	(Rs)	%
Plantain								
Ambul (Kg)	30.00-80.00	47.90	45.63	70.00	2.27	4.98	-22.10	-31.57
Kolikuttu (Kg)	100.00-160.00	129.33	125.87	123.13	3.46	2.75	6.20	5.03
Seeni (Kg)	50.00-80.00	64.37	60.74	81.48	3.63	5.97	-17.11	-21.00
Anamalu (Fruit)	10.00-18.00	12.53	12.61	14.01	-0.08	-0.61	-1.48	-10.54
Ambun (Fruit)	15.00-22.00	17.39	16.68	18.21	0.70	4.20	-0.83	-4.54
Pineapple								
Large (Fruit)	100.00-180.00	149.20	143.25	132.63	5.95	4.16	16.58	12.50
Medium (Fruit)	70.00-140.00	114.33	110.31	101.94	4.03	3.65	12.39	12.15
Small (Fruit)	50.00-100.00	79.87	76.88	66.58	2.99	3.89	13.29	19.97
Mango								
Betti (Fruit)	18.00-22.00	19.57	16.00	23.46	3.57	22.32	-3.89	-16.58
Karthakolomban (Fruit)	25.00-40.00	31.70	43.35	53.97	-11.65	-26.87	-22.27	-41.26
Vilad (Fruit)	20.00-28.00	22.75	31.58	30.64	-8.83	-27.95	-7.89	-25.74
Kohu (Fruit)	6.00-8.00	6.93	8.10	13.00	-1.17	-14.44	-6.07	-46.69
Papaw (Kg)	120.00-170.00	142.80	72.50	82.80	70.30	96.97	60.00	72.46
Passionfruit (Fruit)	8.00-17.00	12.38	16.65	7.18	-4.27	-25.65	5.21	72.54
Woodapple (Fruit)	8.00-15.00	11.14	9.25	9.28	1.89	20.43	1.86	20.09
Orange (Fruit)	25.00-50.00	37.00	28.84	36.38	8.16	28.28	0.62	1.71
Avocado (Fruit)	60.00-140.00	104.13	59.00	72.93	45.13	76.50	31.20	42.78
Slime Apple (Fruit)	25.00-40.00	32.73	37.17	44.10	-4.43	-11.92	-11.37	-25.78
Grapes Imported (Kg)	442.00-733.00	613.28	536.20	567.78	77.08	14.37	45.50	8.01

Source: Marketing, Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

Table 4.2: Retail Prices of Fruits - December 2018

Item	Price Range	Average			Change Compared to			
	Dec 2018	Dec 2018	Nov 2018	Dec 2017	Nov 2018		Dec 2017	
	(Rs)	(Rs)	(Rs)	(Rs)	(Rs)	%	(Rs)	%
Plantain								
Ambul (Kg)	60.00-150.00	99.44	96.82	114.78	2.62	2.70	-15.34	-13.37
Kolikuttu (Kg)	160.00-250.00	194.02	189.19	188.00	4.83	2.55	6.02	3.20
Seeni (Kg)	80.00-140.00	114.50	108.05	124.61	6.45	5.97	-10.11	-8.12
Anamalu (Fruit)	15.00-23.00	17.88	17.55	23.44	0.33	1.90	-5.56	-23.71
Ambun (Fruit)	18.00-25.00	22.64	21.87	24.66	0.77	3.51	-2.02	-8.20
Pineapple								
Large (Fruit)	150.00-260.00	207.59	225.75	217.59	-18.16	-8.05	-10.00	-4.60
Medium (Fruit)	120.00-180.00	150.56	160.93	160.52	-10.37	-6.44	-9.95	-6.20
Small (Fruit)	60.00-130.00	98.33	107.00	98.70	-8.67	-8.10	-0.37	-0.37
Mango								
Betti (Fruit)	-	-	-	29.17	-	-	-	-
Karthakolomban (Fruit)	35.00-100.00	55.70	74.96	81.94	-19.26	-25.70	-26.24	-32.02
Vilad (Fruit)	30.00-60.00	45.75	40.73	44.01	5.02	12.33	1.74	3.96
Kohu (Fruit)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Papaw (Kg)	150.00-260.00	202.43	123.69	134.98	78.74	63.66	67.45	49.97
Passionfruit (Fruit)	14.00-33.00	24.62	29.97	19.32	-5.35	-17.85	5.30	27.43
Woodapple (Fruit)	20.00-80.00	38.90	38.72	40.82	0.18	0.46	-1.92	-4.71
Orange (Fruit)	30.00-80.00	67.21	54.22	58.35	12.99	23.95	8.86	15.18
Avocado (Fruit)	70.00-250.00	186.63	84.75	95.84	101.88	120.21	90.78	94.72
Slime Apple (Fruit)	40.00-120.00	81.50	92.14	77.49	-10.63	-11.54	4.02	5.18
Grapes Imported (Kg)	600.00-1000.00	812.00	772.80	813.75	39.20	5.07	-1.75	-0.21

Source: Marketing, Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

Table 4.3: Producer Prices of Selected Fruits – December 2018

Item	Price Range	Average			Change Compared to			
	Dec 2018	Dec 2018	Nov 2018	Dec 2017	Nov 2018		Dec 2017	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Ambul	22.50-45.00	34.34	39.31	43.19	-4.96	-12.63	-8.85	-20.49
Kolikuttu	45.00-145.00	105.70	127.21	97.15	-21.51	-16.91	8.55	8.80
Papaw	37.50-100.60	80.88	53.56	52.79	27.32	51.00	28.09	53.21

Source Marketing Food Policy Agribusiness Division, HARTI

Table 4.4: Quantity, Value and FOB Prices of Exported Fruits Oct to Dec 2018

Type of Fruit	Dec			Nov			Oct		
	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	41.17	12.62	306.51	39.52	12.25	309.90	42.88	24.31	566.95
Papaw	608.52	58.20	95.64	813.27	64.99	79.91	725.08	81.42	112.29
Fresh Mango	62.85	26.46	421.03	39.64	18.48	466.34	23.32	8.39	359.63
Avocado, fresh	1.11	0.55	493.01	2.12	1.00	469.43	10.72	4.45	415.38

Source: Sri Lanka Customs (FOB=Free On Board)

**Table 4.5: Quantity, Value and CIF Prices of Imported Fruits
Oct to Dec 2018**

Type of Fruit	Dec			Nov			Oct		
	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	2,314	369.09	159.50	2,902	451.37	155.52	2,967	487.57	164.34
Grapes	482	165.61	343.90	513	192.18	374.52	954	293.59	307.64
Oranges	251	33.76	134.74	586	70.98	121.19	1,314	163.84	124.69

Source: Sri Lanka Customs
(CIF=Cost Insurance and Freight)

5. Fish, Dried Fish, Eggs and Meat

Fish

Prices and Supply/Demand Situation

Average wholesale prices of selected fresh fish ranged between Rs.100.00/kg and Rs.1200.00/kg during December. The supply of fresh fish decreased during this month and the market prices increased. Therefore, when we compare the prices with last month wholesale market prices, all the fresh fish prices have increased except for Thora. The highest price increase was observed with regard to Salaya and it was 17%. Increase of other fish prices were 15% for Paraw, 10% for Balaya, 9% for Mora, 9% for Hurulla, 8% for Small Shrimp and 2% for Thalapath. The only price decrease reported was 3% for Thora. However, compared to the same period of last year, wholesale prices of most fresh fish types have decreased by 17% - 0.5%. Thus, Price for Balaya has increased compared to last year prices.

Table 5.1: Wholesale and Retail Prices of Fish December 2018

Item	Price Range	Average			Change Compared to			
	Dec 2018	Dec 2018	Nov 2018	Dec 2017	Nov 2018		Dec 2017	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Wholesale Prices								
Salaya	100.00-180.00	138.17	117.78	145.00	20.40	17.32	-6.83	-4.71
Hurulla	180.00-280.00	228.95	212.23	274.41	16.72	7.88	-45.46	-16.57
Balaya	250.00-400.00	318.69	289.13	298.50	29.56	10.22	20.19	6.76
Kelawalla	400.00-650.00	498.47	461.67	540.08	36.80	7.97	-41.62	-7.71
Thora	1000.00-1200.00	1119.56	1153.79	1283.33	-34.24	-2.97	-163.78	-12.76
Paraw	500.00-700.00	560.42	487.72	589.86	72.69	14.90	-29.44	-4.99
Mora	500.00-650.00	560.50	514.48	563.17	46.02	8.94	-2.67	-0.47
Shrimp (small)	750.00-880.00	803.49	746.39	918.75	57.10	7.65	-115.26	-12.55
Thalapath	650.00-800.00	738.34	724.67	759.71	13.67	1.89	-21.37	-2.81
Retail Prices								
Salaya	160.00-300.00	230.09	200.69	196.37	29.41	14.65	33.72	17.17
Hurulla	280.00-600.00	387.44	326.29	366.68	61.14	18.74	20.76	5.66
Balaya	480.00-800.00	612.64	510.58	483.29	102.06	19.99	129.35	26.76
Kelawalla	800.00-1200.00	910.66	841.80	811.92	68.86	8.18	98.73	12.16
Thora	1200.00-2000.00	1495.31	1506.50	1432.60	-11.19	-0.74	62.72	4.38
Paraw	800.00-1200.00	1008.65	903.25	882.94	105.40	11.67	125.71	14.24
Mora	800.00-1100.00	934.76	844.26	799.64	90.49	10.72	135.11	16.90
Shrimp (small)	800.00-1600.00	1035.47	998.75	1128.95	36.72	3.68	-93.48	-8.28
Thalapath	1100.00-1400.00	1170.19	1104.41	1076.88	65.78	5.96	93.31	8.67

Source: Marketing, Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

Average retail prices of selected fresh fish types ranged between Rs.160.00/kg and Rs.2000.00/kg during this month. Consumers had to pay between Rs.230.00 and Rs.1495.00 to purchase a kilo of any type of fresh fish. Retail prices of most fresh fish types showed an increase (except for Thora) compared to last month fish prices. The highest price increase was observed in Balaya (20%) and the lowest increment was observed in small Shrimps (4%). However, price for Thora declined by 0.74% in this month.

Dried Fish

Prices and Supply/Demand Situation

Average wholesale prices of selected dried fish types ranged between Rs.200.00 /kg and Rs.1250.00 /kg during December. Compared to previous month, prices of most dried fish types had fluctuated. The highest price increase was observed for imported Balaya as 51%, and the lowest price increase was observed for imported Anguluwa as 0.31%. At the same time prices of Salaya, local Balaya, Local Thora, Sprats, imported Sprats, local Anguluwa, Maduwa and, local and imported Mora increased by 24%, 13%, 10%, 7%, 6%, 3%, 3% and 1% respectively. In the meantime, price of imported Thora, imported Kattawa imported Maduwa and local Kattawa have decreased by 4%, 4%, 2% and 1% respectively during December.

Table 5.2: Wholesale and Retail Prices of Dried Fish – December 2018

Item	Price Range	Average			Change Compared to			
	Dec 2018	Dec 2018	Nov 2018	Dec 2017	Nov 2018		Dec 2017	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Dried fish – Wholesale								
Sprats	900.00-1050.00	963.85	898.50	855.42	65.35	7.27	108.44	12.68
Sprats (imported)	450.00-650.00	538.98	509.25	482.25	29.73	5.84	56.73	11.76
Kattawa	800.00-920.00	877.20	884.02	824.22	-6.82	-0.77	52.98	6.43
Kattawa (imported)	700.00-800.00	750.93	783.50	754.33	-32.57	-4.16	-3.40	-0.45
Thora	1300.00-1300.00	1300.00	1187.50	1096.39	112.50	9.47	203.61	18.57
Thora (imported)	1150.00-1250.00	1195.83	1250.00	1062.14	-54.17	-4.33	133.69	12.59
Mora	800.00-900.00	843.20	831.75	821.38	11.45	1.38	21.83	2.66
Mora (imported)	700.00-850.00	764.33	756.44	750.69	7.89	1.04	13.63	1.82
Balaya	450.00-500.00	479.40	424.00	346.92	55.40	13.07	132.48	38.19
Balaya (imported)	400.00-650.00	566.67	375.00	370.95	191.67	51.11	195.71	52.76
Anguluwa	750.00-900.00	819.54	793.73	797.31	25.81	3.25	22.23	2.79
Anguluwa (imported)	700.00-800.00	768.58	766.22	739.69	2.36	0.31	28.89	3.91
Maduwa	500.00-650.00	550.69	535.42	550.06	15.27	2.85	0.63	0.12
Maduwa (imported)	350.00-450.00	382.04	391.25	423.25	-9.21	-2.36	-41.21	-9.74
Koduwa	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Koduwa(imported)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Salaya	200.00-300.00	248.22	200.63	300.10	47.60	23.72	-51.88	-17.29
Salaya (imported)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dried fish – Retail								
Sprats(imported)	500.00-900.00	718.33	697.18	710.60	21.15	3.03	7.73	1.09
Sprats	1000.00-1600.00	1218.95	1205.88	1198.82	13.08	1.08	20.13	1.68
Kattawa	900.00-1600.00	1239.67	1244.70	1166.06	-5.03	-0.40	73.61	6.31
Thora	1300.00-2000.00	1640.79	1619.48	1529.14	21.32	1.32	111.66	7.30
Mora	900.00-1600.00	1144.49	1141.96	1090.41	2.53	0.22	54.07	4.96
Balaya	600.00-1000.00	877.80	857.12	825.79	20.68	2.41	52.01	6.30
Anguluwa	850.00-1300.00	1091.96	1088.68	1043.98	3.28	0.30	47.98	4.60
Maduwa	600.00-900.00	790.60	730.67	759.74	59.92	8.20	30.86	4.06
Koduwa	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Salaya	400.00-800.00	606.74	566.69	621.45	40.04	7.07	-14.71	-2.37

Source: Marketing, Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

Average retail prices of selected dried fish types ranged between 500.00/kg and Rs.2000.00 /kg during this month. However, compared to previous month, retail prices of most dried fish types have increased by 0.22% to 8%. The highest price increase was observed for local Maduwa as 8%, and the lowest price increase was observed for local Mora by 0.22%. The only retail price decline was reported with regard to local Kattawa by 0.4%. Compared to the same period last year, prices of all dried fish types (except Salaya) have increased by 1% - 7%.

Eggs

Wholesale prices of brown and white eggs have increased by 20% to 21%, respectively. Christmas and the festive season of the end of year could be one of the reasons for this price increase during this month. However, Price of a brown egg ranged between Rs.17.50 and Rs.20.00, whilst that of a white egg ranged between Rs.16.50 and Rs.19.00. Compared to the same period of last year, prices of brown and white eggs have increased by 38% and 41% respectively.

Retail prices of a brown egg ranged between Rs.18.00 and Rs. 22.00, and that of a white egg ranged between Rs.17.00 and Rs. 21.00 during this month. Average prices of brown and white eggs were recorded as Rs. 20.57 and Rs. 19.54, respectively. Compared to the previous month, prices of brown and white eggs have increased by 19% and 20%, respectively. Similarly, compared to the same period of last year, prices of brown and white eggs have increased by 34% and 36%, respectively.

Table 5.3: Wholesale and Retail Prices of Eggs – December 2018

Item	Price Range	Average			Change Compared to				
	Dec 2018	Dec 2018	Nov 2018	Dec 2017	Nov 2018		Dec 2017		
	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	%	Rs	%	
Wholesale Price									
Eggs – Brown (each)	17.50-20.00	19.15	15.99	13.88	3.16	19.79	5.28	38.02	
White (each)	16.50-19.00	18.15	14.99	12.88	3.16	21.11	5.28	40.97	
Retail Price									
Eggs- Brown (each)	18.00-22.00	20.57	17.29	15.40	3.28	19.00	5.17	33.54	
White (each)	17.00-21.00	19.54	16.25	14.36	3.29	20.24	5.19	36.13	

Source: Marketing, Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

Meat

Prices of all types of meat have increased during this month. The highest meat price observed in Mutton and it was Rs.1855.00, and the lowest price observed in Broiler chicken and it was Rs.549.00 per kilo. Furthermore, compared to all meat prices of previous month, this month prices have increased as broiler price by 8% (reported highest meat price increment during this month), pork price by 1%, mutton price by 0.4%, beef price by 0.3% and curry chicken price by 0.1%. However, compared to previous year prices of all types of meat had increased significantly. The highest price increase was noted for pork and it was recorded as 38%.

Table 5.4: Retail Prices of Meat – December 2018

Item	Price Range	Average			Change Compared to			
	Dec 2018	Dec 2018	Nov 2018	Dec 2017	Nov 2018		Dec 2017	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Meat								
Beef (without bones)	900.00-1000.00	966.26	963.67	953.67	2.60	0.27	12.59	1.32
Chicken (Broiler)	450.00-670.00	548.46	507.86	510.00	40.60	7.99	38.46	7.54
Chicken (curry)	500.00-750.00	621.57	620.72	496.89	0.85	0.14	124.67	25.09
Mutton	1800.00-2000.00	1855.00	1846.97	1796.24	8.03	0.43	58.76	3.27
Pork	650.00-760.00	714.40	710.50	516.67	3.90	0.55	197.73	38.27

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

6. Wheat grain, Wheat flour and Sugar

Wheat grain, Wheat flour

A total quantity of 139,382 mt of wheat grain, worth of 6,653 mn had been imported during December 2018. Compared to quantity imported in the previous month, quantity imported in this month has increased and the latter was nearly one and half times of the former. Wheat grain for December had been mainly imported from Canada (76%) and the CIF price was Rs.49.00/kg. Second and third highest wheat grain quantities were imported from Pakistan (17,123 mt.) and United States (12,000 mt) respectively. In addition, wheat grain had been imported from Australia (2%). Few quantities were also imported from India and Russia as well. The CIF price of wheat grain ranged between Rs.40.00 and 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 only by Rs.1.00/kg. The highest CIF price was reported for the Indian wheat grain stock whilst, the lowest recorded for Russian stocks.

A total quantity of 1,385 mt of wheat flour, worth of 103 mn, had been imported during December 2018. Compared to quantity imported in the previous month, quantity imported in this month has drastically increased and the latter was nearly two and half times of the former. The highest quantity of wheat flour for this month had been imported from India (43%) and the CIF price was Rs.80.00/kg. Further, wheat flour had been imported from Pakistan (7%) and Germany (1%) as well. In addition, few quantities were also imported from China, Singapore and Italy. The CIF price for wheat flour for December ranged between Rs.45.00 and Rs. 101.00/kg and the average CIF was Rs.74.00/kg. Compared to CIF price of the previous month, average CIF price for wheat flour has increased by Rs.3.00/kg. The highest CIF price was reported for the German wheat flour stock whilst, the lowest recorded for the China stocks.

Meanwhile, the local retail price of wheat flour ranged between Rs.87.00 and Rs. 100.00/kg and the average price was Rs.94.00/kg. The average retail price of wheat flour remained unchanged during this month. Further, compared to retail price of the same period of last year, retail price of wheat flour has increased by 5%.

Table 6.1: Open Market Retail Prices of Wheat Flour and Sugar – December 2018

Item	Price Range	Average			Change Compared to			
	Dec 2018	Dec 2018	Nov 2018	Dec 2017	Nov 2018		Dec 2017	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Wheat Flour	87.00-100.00	93.63	93.68	89.50	-0.05	-0.05	4.13	4.61
Sugar	98.00-120.00	107.88	107.84	111.86	0.04	0.04	-3.98	-3.56

Source: Department of Census and Statistics

Table 6.2: Quantity, Value and CIF prices of Wheat Flour & Grain July to Dec 2018

Month	Quantity (mt.)	Value (Rs.mn)	CIF price (Rs/kg)	Retail Price (Rs/kg)	Gross Margin (Rs/kg)
Wheat Flour					
Dec	1,385	102.51	74.04	93.63	19.59
Nov	537	38.33	71.44	93.68	22.24
Oct	1,083	74.54	68.84	95.42	26.58
Sep	395	25.78	65.21	95.51	30.30
Aug	218	15.75	72.16	90.32	18.16
July	252	16.40	64.98	89.58	24.60
Wheat Grain					
Dec	139,382	6,653	47.73	93.63	45.90
Nov	94,907	4,414	46.51	93.68	47.17
Oct	234,819	10,667	45.43	95.42	49.99
Sep	216,611	8,846	40.84	95.51	54.67
Aug	155,322	6,280	40.43	90.32	49.89
July	115,494	4,953	42.88	89.58	46.70

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

Sugar

A total quantity of 59,943 mt of sugar, worth of 3,626 mn, had been imported to the country during this month. Compared to the previous month, quantity of this month has increased by more than one and half times in terms of quantity. Sugar for this month had been mainly imported from India (91%) and CIF price was Rs.60.00/kg. The second highest quantity of sugar was imported from Thailand (8%). In addition, few quantities were also imported from United Arab Emirates and Korea. The CIF prices ranged between Rs.60.00 and Rs. 95.00/kg and the average CIF price was reported as Rs.60.00/kg. The average CIF price has increased only by Rs.1.00/kg during this month. The highest CIF price was paid for sugar imported from Korea, while the lowest for that from India.

With regard to local retail price of sugar for December, price ranged between Rs.98.00 and Rs. 120.00/kg and the average retail price was Rs.108.00/kg. Average retail price for sugar remained unchanged during this month. Further, compared to the same period of last year average retail price of sugar has decreased by 4%.

Table 6.3: Quantity, Value and CIF prices of Sugar- July to Dec 2018

Month	Quantity (mt.)	Value (Rs.mn)	CIF price (Rs/kg)	Retail Price (Rs/kg)	Gross Margin (Rs/kg)
Dec	59,943	3626.2	60.49	107.88	47.39
Nov	35,396	2094.5	59.17	107.84	48.67
Oct	32,335	1860.0	57.52	110.63	53.11
Sep	42,366	2393.0	56.48	107.97	51.49
Aug	23,482	1391.7	59.27	104.36	45.09
July	42,781	2514.6	58.78	105.01	46.23

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

Table 7: Import of Selected Food Items – December 2018

Item	Quantity (mt)		% Change Compared to last month	Value (Rs. mn)		% Change Compared to last month	CIF (Rs/kg)		% Change Compared to last month
	Dec 2018	Nov 2018		Dec 2018	Nov 2018		Dec 2018	Nov 2018	
Rice	4,295	1,741	146.6	513.5	244.1	110.4	119.54	140.14	-14.7
Red Onion	2,166	1,344	61.1	217.0	152.5	42.3	100.17	113.46	-11.7
Big Onion	23,169	18,659	24.2	1040.5	888.9	17.1	44.91	47.64	-5.7
Potato	17,372	10,681	62.6	784.2	440.1	78.2	45.14	41.20	9.6
Dried Chillies	5,149	4,020	28.1	1218.3	905.8	34.5	236.59	225.29	5.0
Masoor Dhal	16,510	14,866	11.1	1340.8	1138.7	17.8	81.21	76.60	6.0
Green Gram	1,034	808	27.9	155.4	120.3	29.2	150.30	148.80	1.0
Cowpea	614	740	-17.0	70.7	83.3	-15.1	115.14	112.56	2.3
Garlic	2,700	2,284	18.2	274.5	243.7	12.6	101.66	106.72	-4.7
Wheat flour	1,385	537	158.0	102.5	38.3	167.4	74.04	71.44	3.6
Wheat grain	139,382	94,907	46.9	6652.7	4414.0	50.7	47.73	46.51	2.6
White crystalline cane sugar	59,943	35,396	69.3	3626.2	2094.5	73.1	60.49	59.17	2.2
Maize	15,138	55,966	-79.7	671.0	2322.6	-76.1	44.33	41.50	17.8

Source: Automated data Processing Division, Department of Customs

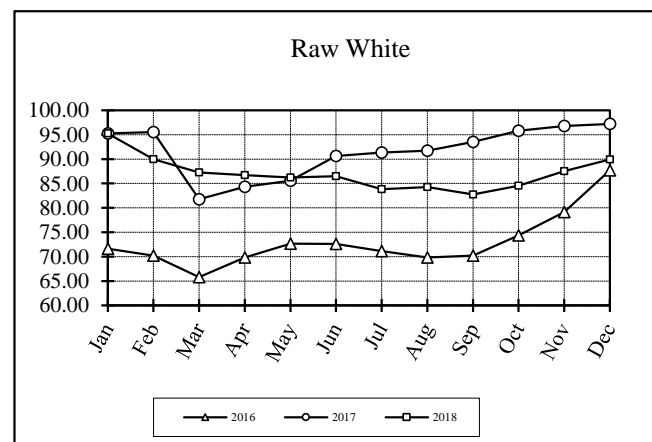
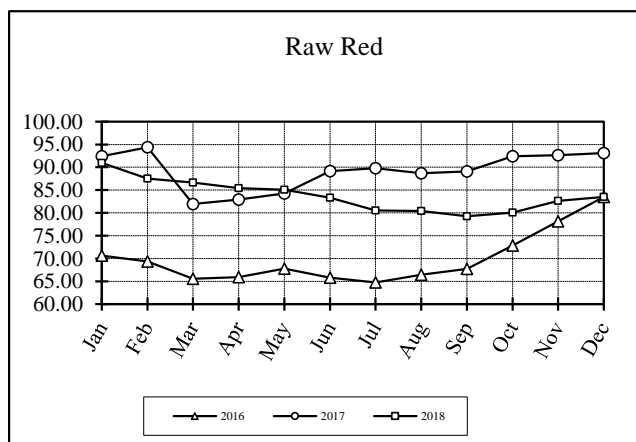
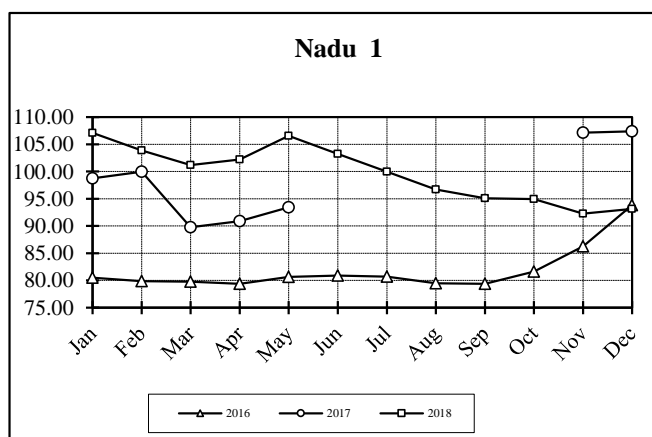
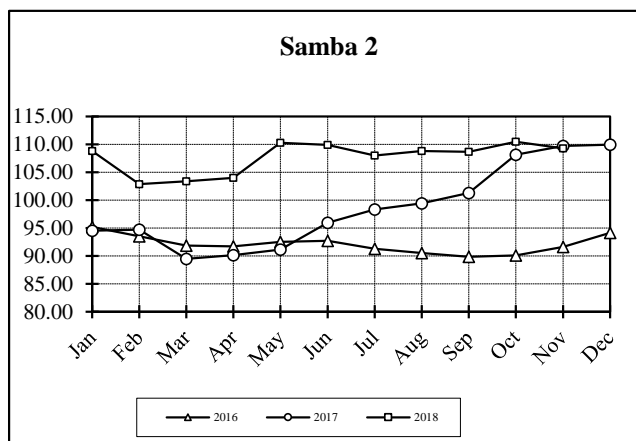
Table 8: Monthly Rainfall (mm) – December 2018

Rainfall Station	Total Rainfall (mm)	30 Year Avg. Rainfall (mm)	Total Rainy Days	30 Year Average Rainy Days
Anuradhapura	121.4	210.9	12	14
Badulla	99.0	281.5	13	19
Bandarawela	51.1	186.2	10	16
Batticaloa	267.6	418.5	19	17
Colombo	139.5	175.3	6	10
Galle	52.3	176.9	5	12
Hambantota	98.8	121.1	5	9
Jaffna	132.6	278.2	13	13
Katugastota	99.1	195.7	10	14
Katunayaka	77.3	129.7	8	9
Kurunegala	99.4	149.0	5	11
Mahailuppallama	194.3	230.0	11	14
Mannar	129.5	212.2	9	12
Nuwara Eliya	61.1	196.0	13	15
Pottuvil	298.3	237.1	11	na
Puttalam	74.4	142.7	7	12
Ratmalana	161.1	177.8	7	11
Ratnapura	169.3	235.3	9	14
Trincomalee	349.5	364.5	16	16
Vavuniya	178.1	289.6	12	14
Polonnaruwa	115.8	na	13	na
Moneragala	52.7	na	10	na
Mattala	52.1	na	8	na

Source: Department of Meteorology

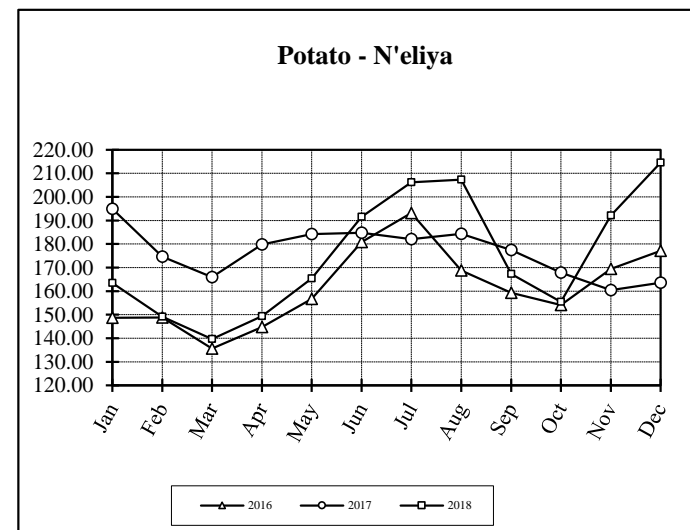
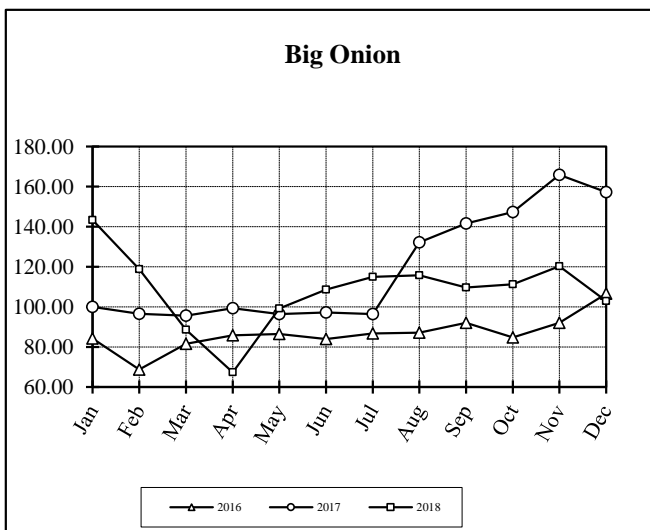
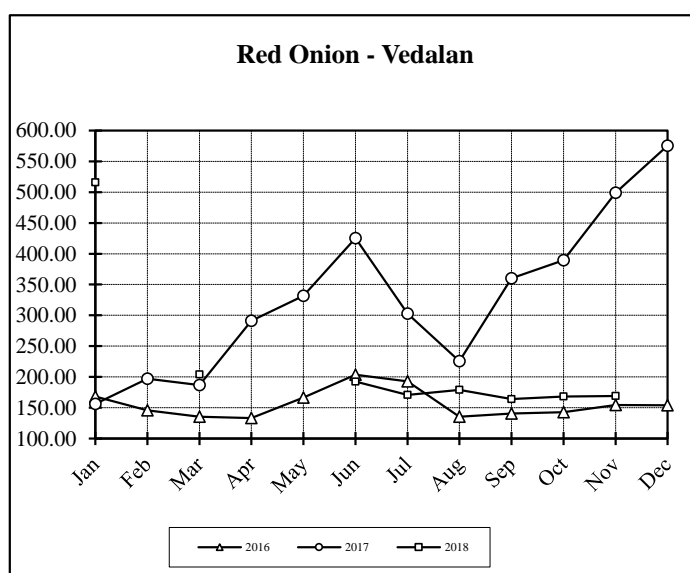
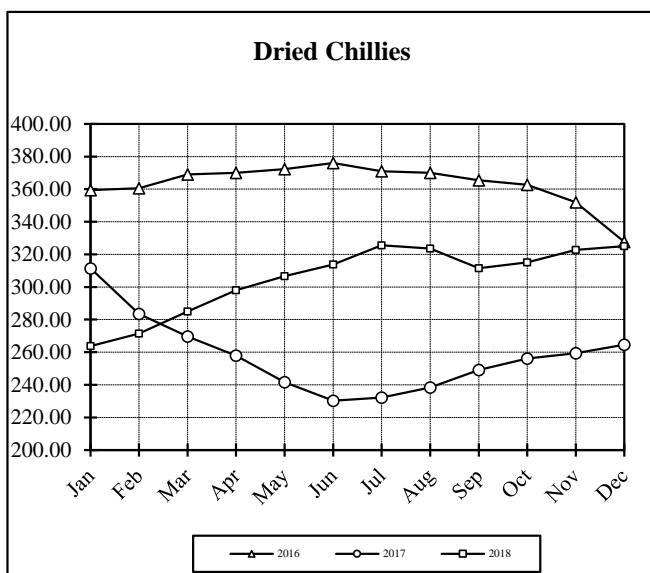
Appendix 01: Retail Price of Rice in Colombo & Suburbs (Rs/kg)

Month	Samba 2			Nadu 1			Raw Red			Raw White		
	2016	2017	2018	2016	2017	2018	2016	2017	2018	2016	2017	2018
Jan	95.20	94.54	108.80	80.51	98.73	107.10	70.64	92.41	90.96	71.61	95.27	95.24
Feb	93.55	94.74	102.88	79.87	99.95	103.88	69.32	94.37	87.49	70.19	95.56	90.00
Mar	91.87	89.48	103.40	79.76	89.77	101.20	65.58	81.95	86.63	65.80	81.77	87.25
Apr	91.70	90.14	104.00	79.38	90.88	102.24	65.88	82.89	85.43	69.83	84.30	86.74
May	92.51	91.16	110.30	80.65	93.46	106.56	67.75	84.24	85.08	72.67	85.58	86.25
Jun	92.71	95.95	109.91	80.90		103.22	65.82	89.17	83.32	72.63	90.65	86.52
Jul	91.28	98.34	108.00	80.69		99.99	64.74	89.80	80.52	71.13	91.36	83.80
Aug	90.51	99.45	108.80	79.49		96.68	66.41	88.70	80.42	69.85	91.71	84.25
Sep	89.85	101.30	108.67	79.40		95.11	67.70	89.11	79.26	70.19	93.51	82.76
Oct	90.08	108.14	110.47	81.62		94.97	72.86	92.38	80.08	74.34	95.80	84.54
Nov	91.60	109.73	109.30	86.28	107.14	92.27	78.12	92.67	82.65	79.14	96.81	87.55
Dec	94.16	109.95		93.83	107.39	93.13	83.50	93.12	83.48	87.71	97.20	89.95



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

Month	Dried Chillies			Red Onion			Big Onion			Potato - N'Eliya		
	2016	2017	2018	2016	2017	2018	2016	2017	2018	2016	2017	2018
Jan	359.36	311.44	263.76	168.42	156.25	515.82	84.20	100.02	143.32	148.73	194.94	163.50
Feb	360.56	283.58	271.41	145.71	197.00		68.73	96.57	118.86	148.75	174.64	149.12
Mar	369.06	269.67	284.90	135.49	186.80	204.17	81.58	95.60	88.58	135.62	165.97	139.65
Apr	370.07	257.93	298.03	133.19	291.30		85.83	99.33	67.31	144.75	179.77	149.37
May	372.34	241.70	306.67	166.64	331.70		86.42	96.33	99.21	156.73	184.26	165.33
Jun	376.04	230.28	313.87	203.59	425.19	192.53	83.87	97.25	108.62	180.84	184.74	191.52
Jul	370.97	232.12	325.59	192.81	302.86	170.61	86.66	96.33	115.02	193.18	182.06	206.17
Aug	369.99	238.44	323.56	135.32	225.63	179.06	87.07	132.19	115.74	168.81	184.34	207.29
Sep	365.44	249.10	311.60	140.64	359.93	164.11	92.01	141.57	109.70	159.34	177.47	167.27
Oct	362.69	256.20	315.11	142.94	389.38	168.06	84.79	147.37	111.28	154.06	167.88	155.45
Nov	351.86	259.31	322.74	154.23	498.85	169.23	91.96	165.87	120.24	169.46	160.43	192.07
Dec	327.65	264.58	324.98	153.77	575.43		106.54	157.18	102.86	177.13	163.52	214.56



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

December - 2018

Commodity	1 st Week	2 nd Week	3 rd Week	4 th Week	5 th Week	Commodity	1 st Week	2 nd Week	3 rd Week	4 th Week	5 th Week	Commodity	1 st Week	2 nd Week	3 rd Week	4 th Week	5 th Week
Paddy						Potato						Leeks					
Short grain						N'Eliya		123.00	130.00	128.00	143.00	Welimada					
A'pura	51.40	51.00	50.80	50.60	50.80	Badulla						N'Eliya	0+S9:V	143.00	128.00	106.00	105.00
P'naruwa						Welimada						Beetroot					
Kalawewa	53.00	51.67	52.33	53.33	53.67	Pulses						Hanguranketha	110.00	110.00	85.00	91.67	80.00
Kurunegala	52.67	52.67	52.67	53.33	52.67	Green Gram						N'Eliya	142.00	128.00	125.00	127.00	118.00
Dehiattakandiya	53.67	53.67	54.00	53.67	53.67	Galgamuwa						Dambulla	128.00	145.00	136.25	126.25	90.00
Ampara	54.50	52.60	52.60	52.60	52.60	Kalawewa	155.00	155.00	150.00	150.00	150.00	Kurunegala					
Long grain (White)						Embilipitiya	158.86	158.86	175.00	175.00	175.00	Welimada					
A'pura	44.40	43.60	43.00	44.20	44.00	Kurunegala	145.00	145.00	220.00	220.00	215.00	Knokhol					
P'naruwa						A'pura	167.50	170.00	170.00	170.00	170.00	Hanguranketha			75.00	80.00	77.50
Kalawewa	46.00	43.67	43.67	44.67	47.00	Cowpea						N'Eliya	86.00	86.00	96.00	67.00	78.00
Kurunegala	46.67	46.67	46.67	46.67	46.67	A'pura	167.50	173.33	163.75	180.00	172.50	Welimada					
Dehiattakandiya	45.33	45.33	45.00	45.33	45.33	Galgamuwa					155.00	Radish					
Embilipitiya						Nikaweratiya						Hanguranketha		45.00	25.00	32.50	25.00
Ampara	46.40	46.40	46.40	46.40	46.40	Kalawewa	175.00	175.00	175.00	175.00	175.00	N'Eliya	63.00	63.00	68.00	32.00	46.00
Matara						Embilipitiya	167.50	167.50	220.00	220.00	215.00	Welimada					
Hambantota						Kurunegala	156.25	156.25	170.00	170.00	170.00	Cabbage					
Long grain (Red)						Maize						Hanguranketha	55.00	65.00	65.00	55.00	51.67
Matara						A'Pura	50.00	52.60	53.00	56.25	52.00	N'Eliya	63.00	63.00	72.00	77.00	91.00
Hambantota	41.00	41.00	39.20	39.20	39.20	Kalawewa						Welimada					
Ampara	43.40	42.40	42.40	42.40	42.40	Gingelly						Hambantota					
Embilipitiya	38.92	39.17	39.17	38.50	37.50	A'Pura	200.00	225.00	228.33	227.50	246.25	Badulla	70.00	79.00	78.00	80.00	83.00
Other Food Crops						Kalawewa	195.00	200.00	155.00	170.00	163.00	Tomato					
Dried Chillies						Black Gram						Hanguranketha	150.00	178.33	185.00	95.00	71.67
A'Pura						Kalawewa	175.00	175.00	170.00	170.00	170.00	Welimada					
Galgamuwa						A'Pura	167.50	180.00	155.00	170.00	163.00	Hambantota	125.00	190.00	210.00	115.00	67.50
Kalawewa						Vegetables (Up Country)						Dambulla	142.00	196.00	220.00	118.00	69.80
Red Onion						Beans						Low Country					
Puttalam	112.00	112.00	104.00	104.00	88.00	Dambulla	74.20	142.00	163.00	100.00	95.00	Ladies Fingers					
Big Onion						Welimada						A'pura	70.00	76.00	76.67	73.75	70.00
Dambulla						Badulla	91.25	141.00	150.00	98.00	98.00	Dambulla	70.40	77.40	87.00	60.00	72.00
Kalawewa						Carrot						Hambantota	55.00	45.00	45.00	47.50	52.50
A'Pura						Hanguranketha	165.00	133.33	125.00	95.00	68.33	Embilipitiya	45.29	46.43	54.57	62.86	55.71
Kurunegala						N'Eliya	168.00	147.00	127.00	88.00	97.00	Matara		56.67	63.33	56.67	56.67
						Welimada											

Appendix 03: contd.....

Commodity	1 st Week	2 nd Week	3 rd Week	4 th Week	5 th Week	Commodity	1 st Week	2 nd Week	3 rd Week	4 th Week	5 th Week	Commodity	1 st Week	2 nd Week	3 rd Week	4 th Week	5 th Week
Brinjals						Pumpkin						Lime					
A'pura	90.00	95.00	96.67	71.25	95.00	Dambulla	36.80	17.75	18.00	18.00	16.20	Hambantota	425.00	425.00	300.00	165.00	190.00
Dambulla	91.20	88.00	86.00	88.40	81.60	Hambantota	37.50	50.00	41.67	31.67	32.50	Embilipitiya	470.00	338.00	251.67	251.67	161.67
Hambantota	75.00	72.50	85.00	65.00	65.00	Embilipitiya	40.33	33.75	30.00	31.40	29.00	Moneragala	341.67	341.67	241.67	143.67	182.50
Embilipitiya	70.00	75.00	65.83	65.83	75.00	Matara						Fruits (Rs/Kg)					
Matara		53.33	66.67	66.67	66.67	A'pura	35.00	45.00	15.00	15.67	14.75	Banana					
Welimada						Moneragala	31.67	31.67	21.67	21.67	21.67	Ambul					
Capsicum						Cucumber						Moneragala					
Welimada						A'pura	14.67	12.50	27.50	28.25	32.33	33.33 35.00 28.33 28.33 43.33					
Bitter Gourd						Long beans						Embilipitiya					
A'pura	200.00	135.00	148.33	83.75	95.00	Dambulla	52.20	41.60	62.40	34.20	38.20	26.43 27.86 35.71 42.14 37.14					
Dambulla	190.00	145.00	156.00	119.00	107.00	Hambantota	45.00	32.50	75.00	32.50	45.00	22.50 27.50 37.50 45.00 45.00					
Hambantota	160.00	155.00	155.00	160.00	155.00	Embilipitiya	43.00	37.44	52.75	50.50	50.88	Kolikuttu					
Embilipitiya	144.00	152.00				Matara		46.67	53.33	36.67	36.67	Moneragala 90.00 85.00 85.00 110.00 123.33					
Snake Gourd						Ash Plantain						Embilipitiya					
Dambulla	71.40	46.60	69.40	52.00	43.00	Hambantota	45.00	32.50	75.00	32.50	45.00	92.86 104.29 130.00 130.00 110.00					
Hambantota	47.50	50.00	67.50	57.50	62.50	Embilipitiya	43.00	37.44	52.75	50.50	50.88	65.00 45.00 125.00 145.00 145.00					
Embilipitiya	64.50	60.83	70.33	53.67	54.50	Matara		46.67	53.33	36.67	36.67	Papaw					
Matara		53.33	53.33	56.67	56.67	A'Pura	53.33	33.33	50.00	25.00	31.25	Moneragala 90.00 90.00 97.60 100.60 100.60					
A'pura	75.00	53.33	66.67	50.00	41.67	Green Chillies						Embilipitiya					
Luffa						Ash Plantain						Hambantota					
Dambulla	67.00	82.60	99.00	93.00	70.80	Hambantota	45.00	52.50	52.50	52.50	52.50	37.50 67.50 75.00 75.00 75.00					
Hambantota	65.00	65.00	85.00	75.00	75.00	Embilipitiya	42.00	42.00	54.40	49.40	49.40	Pineapple					
Embilipitiya	76.67	84.17	116.25	105.00	102.00	Matara		46.67		46.67	43.33	Divulapitiya					
Matara		70.00	70.00	70.00	70.00	Green Chillies						Embilipitiya					
A'pura	73.75	82.50	90.00	81.25	81.25	Dambulla	324.00	320.00	404.00	386.00	280.00	90.00 90.00 97.60 100.60 100.60					
						Hambantota	375.00	425.00	425.00	425.00	425.00	90.00 90.00 97.60 100.60 100.60					
						Embilipitiya	426.00	417.50	486.67	503.33	408.33	90.00 90.00 97.60 100.60 100.60					
						Puttalam	279.00	316.00	340.00	396.00	268.00	90.00 90.00 97.60 100.60 100.60					
						A'Pura	317.50	366.67	423.33	425.00	330.00	90.00 90.00 97.60 100.60 100.60					