



# HARTI

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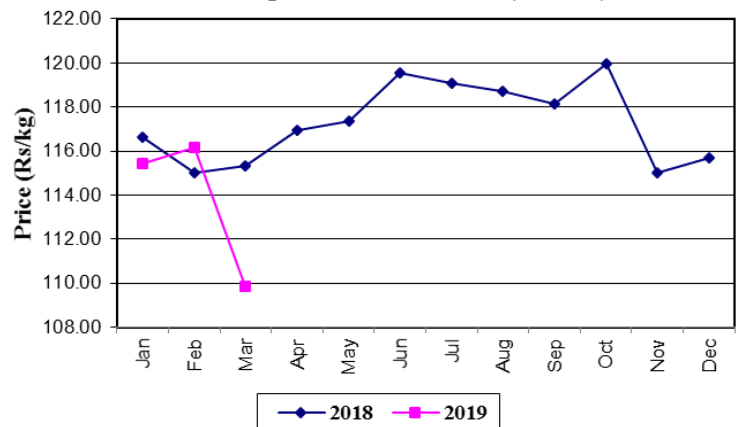
### RICE:

Due to the peak harvesting period of *Maha* paddy production, the supplies of rice had increased during the month. Hence, the retail prices of most of the rice varieties had decreased with the highest price decrease of 12% for samba grade II.

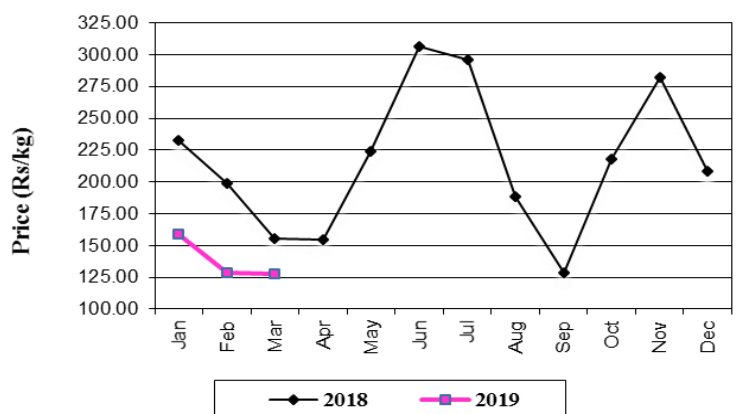
### VEGETABLES:

Supplies of both upcountry and lowcountry vegetables were further increased. Therefore the prices of most of vegetable varieties have decreased during this month too. The harvesting of *Maha* season has reached to its end phase. Hence, the vegetable prices are expected to increase during next month.

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.

### Co-ordinator / Senior Research Officer

Dr. E.A.C.Priyankara

### Research Team

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

### Compilation of Data and Information

P.G.A. Rathnasiri

W.G.N Malkanthi

### Data Processing

K.A.R. Pathmasiri

### Word Processing

E.G.S.N.P. Rathnapala

### 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

The harvesting of paddy crop in 2018/19 *Maha* season was almost completed in most of the major producing areas while the peak harvesting was occurred in producing areas in the North Central province during the latter part of the month. According to the field information, dry weather condition prevailed in major producing areas. The production outlook was satisfactory in most of the producing areas mainly due to favorable weather conditions and better water availability in irrigation tanks combined with the continued state fertilizer assistance. According to the latest assessment issued by the Department of Agriculture, the targeted paddy extent of the 2018/19 *Maha* season was 832,785 ha. The cultivation progress up to end of March was 759,571 ha and it is 91% achievement of the target. The cultivation progress is 16% higher than that of the average sown extent of last three *Maha* seasons. Total crop damages reported due to flood and pest diseases was 45,067ha, mainly from the Eastern and Northern provinces. The expected total paddy production based on the reported sown extent up to end of March is 2.9 million mt, (1.83 million mt, of rice subject to 68% milling ratio), after the adjustment was made for the crop damages (Table 1.1). It is expected to that the harvesting will be ended in early April.

**Table 1.1: Progress of paddy cultivation in *Maha* 2018/19 season as at end of March 2019**

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	98,031	85,789	88	325,600			325,600
Polonnaruwa	34,600	34,162	99	155,633	496	572	155,062
Ampara	76,019	75,317	99	319,731	2,118	3,196	316,536
Kurunegala	92,598	83,712	90	395,122			395,122
Hambantota	28,448	26,654	94	130,447			130,447
Colombo	3,800						
Gampaha	12,356						
Kalutara	13,325						
Galle	12,300	8,336	68	22,280			22,280
Matara	16,414	13,521	82	45,919			45,919
Ratnapura	12,672	10,778	85	35,113			35,113
Kegalle	9,334	6,150	66	22,634			22,634
Puttalam	22,516	20,808	92	67,741			67,741
Kandy	13,610	12,413	91	39,972			39,972
Matale	20,325	17,592	87	71,642			71,642
N' Eliya	6,129	3,978	65	8,514			8,514
Badulla	22,314	19,575	88	74,681			74,681
Monaragala	36,367	39,470	109	146,988	16	15	146,973
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	17,456	100	54,400	7,391	15,856	36,543
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	19,982	101	91,118			91,118
System C	22,931	22,888	100	104,369			104,369
System G	5,140	5,179	101	23,616			23,616
System D	917	831	91	3,789			3,789
Rambakanoya	1,562	1,961	126	8,942			8,942
System L	1,301	1,423	109	6,489			6,489
<b>Sri Lanka</b>	<b>832,785</b>	<b>759,571</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>2,991,342</b>	<b>45,067</b>	<b>89,683</b>	<b>2,901,659</b>

Source: Crop Forecast, maha 2018/19, Vol 05, Department of Agriculture

## Producer Prices

The decreasing trend for prices, for the long grain and short grain paddy varieties, which was started from the latter part of January ended and began to increase from the mid of this month. It was mainly due to increased competition in the paddy market as a result of government intervention through Paddy Marketing Board for purchasing new harvest (paddy) and competitive buying behavior by large scale millers. During this season a bumper harvest of paddy arrives to the markets. It was noticed that the prices of long grain white paddy have increased gradually in all considered major producing areas in the range of 4% - 20%. The prices of short grain paddy have increased in Polonnaruwa, Dehiattakandiya and Ampara areas while it has declined in Anuradhapura, Kalawewa and Kurunegala. However, a considerable price drop was noted for long grain red in producing areas in the Southern province, due to the increased supply. Meanwhile, a 16% and 13% price drop for long grain red paddy was observed in Hambantota and Embilipitiya due to the increased supply. The unit price of long grain white and short grain paddy ranged as Rs.29.00-40.00/kg, Rs.31.00-41.00/kg respectively in most of the major producing areas while that of long grain red paddy ranged between Rs.27.00-32.00/kg in Hambantota and Embilipitiya (Table 1.2). It is expected to that the increasing trend will continue during next month due to the limited supplies.

Compared to the same period of last year, the prices of all the paddy varieties have declined in all considered producing areas. The prices of short grain have decreased by 24%-35% with the highest decline from Kalawewa. Prices of long grain white have decreased by less than 20% in all considered major producing areas. Meanwhile the prices of long grain red have decreased by 18% in Hambantota and 21% Embilipitiya (Table 1.2).

**Table1.2: Producer prices of paddy – March 2019**

Commodity	Price Range		Average Price			Change Compared to			
	Mar 2019	Feb 2019	Mar 2019	Feb 2019	Mar 2018	Feb 2019		Mar 2018	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
<b>Short Grain</b>									
Anuradhapura	33.00-38.00	30.00-45.00	35.56	36.52	50.65	-0.96	-2.62	-15.09	-29.79
Polonnaruwa	32.00-41.00	32.00-34.00	36.60	33.17	54.84	3.43	10.34	-18.25	-33.27
Kalawewa	31.00-36.00	30.00-35.00	32.71	32.92	50.36	-0.21	-0.63	-17.65	-35.05
Kurunegala	33.00-37.00	30.00-40.00	34.46	35.87	48.00	-1.42	-3.95	-13.54	-28.21
Dehiattakandiya	35.00-40.00	31.00-40.00	38.33	36.33	50.26	2.00	5.50	-11.93	-23.73
Nikaweratiya	-	-	-	-	36.75	-	-	-	-
Ampara	35.00-40.00	29.00-40.00	37.63	31.99	52.13	5.63	17.61	-14.50	-27.82
<b>Long Grain White</b>									
Anuradhapura	33.00-40.00	29.00-37.00	35.25	32.86	40.31	2.39	7.28	-5.06	-12.56
Polonnaruwa	31.30-39.84	28.00-33.20	35.62	30.94	42.56	4.68	15.13	-6.94	-16.31
Kalawewa	29.00-38.00	28.00-33.00	31.92	30.54	38.69	1.38	4.50	-6.77	-17.50
Kurunegala	32.00-38.00	28.00-33.00	34.04	30.71	42.38	3.33	10.85	-8.33	-19.67
Dehiattakandiya	31.00-39.00	31.00-38.00	36.92	33.21	38.16	3.71	11.17	-1.25	-3.27
Embilipitiya	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nikaweratiya	-	-	-	-	36.75	-	-	-	-
Matara	-	-	29.83	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hambantota	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ampara	35.00-38.00	26.00-38.00	35.98	29.87	-	6.11	20.45	-	-
<b>Long Grain Red</b>									
Anuradhapura	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Matara	28.00-32.00	-	34.50	-	37.42	-	-	-2.92	-7.80
Hambantota	27.00-32.00	29.00-40.00	29.45	34.90	36.13	-5.45	-15.61	-6.68	-18.48
Embilipitiya	30.00-32.00	32.00-38.00	30.71	35.27	39.00	-4.56	-12.93	-8.29	-21.25

Source: Marketing Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

## Rice Prices Demand/Supply Situation

### Wholesale Prices

Supplies of all the varieties of rice had increased due to the peak harvesting period of paddy in all the producing areas. Hence, wholesale prices of all the varieties of rice had decreased with the highest price decrease of 11% for samba grade II. Wholesale prices of samba grade I and II ranged between Rs.100.00-106.00/kg and Rs.78.00-86.00/kg respectively during the month. Further, wholesale price of nadu grade II had decreased by 3% while the wholesale price of nadu grade I remained same as in the last week. Furthermore, the wholesale prices of raw red and raw white had decreased by 3% and 9% respectively due to increased supplies (Table 1.3).

Compared to the same period of last year, wholesale prices of all the rice varieties, except nadu grade I have decreased with the highest price decrease of 20% for samba grade II (Table 1.3).

According to the Department of customs of Sri Lanka, a quantity of 1930mt of rice had been imported in March. The total expenditure on rice imports in March was Rs.169.5 million.

### Retail Prices

In line with the wholesale prices, retail prices of most of the rice varieties had decreased with the highest price decrease of 12% for samba grade II. Retail price of samba grade I and II ranged between Rs.100.00-120.00/kg and Rs.88.00-100.00/kg respectively. Retail prices of raw red and raw white rice ranged between Rs.70.00-90.00/kg and Rs.75.00-90.00/kg respectively. The average prices of raw red and raw white had dropped by 4% and 5% respectively compared to the last month. Meanwhile, the average retail prices of nadu I and II remained same as in the previous month (Table 1.3).

**Table 1.3: Wholesale and retail prices of rice –March 2019**

Item	Price Range	Average Price			Change Compared to			
	Mar 2019	Mar 2019	Feb 2019	Mar 2018	Feb 2019		Mar 2018	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
<b>Wholesale Prices</b>								
Samba 1	100.00-106.00	104.90	106.66	107.70	-1.76	-1.65	-2.80	-2.60
Samba 2	78.00-86.00	80.98	91.14	100.78	-10.17	-11.15	-19.80	-19.65
Samba 3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nadu 1	90.00-90.00	90.00	90.00	83.90	0.00	0.00	6.10	7.27
Nadu 2	72.00-76.00	73.80	76.26	78.35	-2.46	-3.22	-4.55	-5.81
Raw red	63.00-68.00	65.68	67.83	73.70	-2.15	-3.17	-8.03	-10.89
Raw white	65.00-72.00	67.83	74.30	76.18	-6.47	-8.71	-8.35	-10.96
Imported Samba	-	-	-	73.74	-	-	-	-
Imported Raw White	-	-	-	68.49	-	-	-	-
Imported Nadu	-	-	-	71.49	-	-	-	-
<b>Retail Prices</b>								
Samba 1	100.00-120.00	109.87	116.14	115.34	-6.27	-5.40	-5.47	-4.74
Samba 2	88.00-100.00	95.23	107.65	103.40	-12.42	-11.54	-8.17	-7.90
Samba 3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nadu 1	92.00-95.00	94.63	94.64	101.20	-0.01	-0.01	-6.57	-6.49
Nadu 2	80.00-90.00	88.10	88.03	87.79	0.07	0.08	0.31	0.35
Raw red	70.00-90.00	78.87	82.07	86.63	-3.20	-3.90	-7.75	-8.95
Raw white	75.00-90.00	83.14	87.74	87.25	-4.60	-5.24	-4.11	-4.71
Imported <i>Ponni</i> Samba	-	-	160.91	87.82	-	-	-	-
Imported Raw White	-	-	-	78.54	-	-	-	-
Imported Nadu	-	-	-	81.34	-	-	-	-

Source: Marketing Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

With reference to the outstation markets, retail price of samba grade I ranged between Rs.106.00-119.00/kg. The highest price for samba grade I was recorded from Hambantota while the lowest price was recorded from Vavuniya. Retail price of samba grade II ranged between Rs.86.00-110.00/kg in outstation markets and the highest price was recorded from Kilinochchi. Retail price of nadu grade I ranged between Rs.81.00-96.00/kg in outstation markets while the retail price of nadu grade II ranged between Rs.66.00-86.00/kg. Retail price of raw white ranged between Rs.68.00-90.00/kg and the lowest price was recorded from Monaragala and Keppetipola while the highest price was recorded from Jaffna. Further, the retail price of raw red ranged between Rs.60.00-87.00/kg and the lowest price was recorded from Embilipitiya while the highest price was recorded from Anuradhapura.

## 2. Other Field Crops

### 2.1 Chilli

#### Crop Situation

The targeted extent of chilli for *Maha* 2018/19 season was 10,768ha and about 7,806ha had been cultivated by the end of this month achieving 72% of the targeted extent. The highest targeted extent (3,114ha) and the highest cultivated extent (1,356ha) was reported from Anuradhapura district (Table 2.1.1).

The production forecast of green chillies is 36,228mt and of which 58% will be contributed by Anuradhapura (19%), Monaragala (19%) and Puttalam (20%) districts. Harvesting of chillie for this *Maha* season was carried out in major producing areas and around 50% of the harvesting has been completed by the end of March 2019.

**Table 2.1.1: Target and cultivation progress of green chilli for *Maha* 2018/19**

Area	Targeted Extent (ha)	Cultivation Progress by the end of March 2019		Expected Production (mt)
		Cultivated Extent (ha)	% of the Targeted Extent	
Anuradhapura	3,114	1,356	44	6,810
Monaragala	876	882	101	6,939
Puttalam	740	745	101	7,076
Jaffna	569	495	87	2,112
Kurunegala	330	281	85	1,342
Hambantota	314	304	97	1,202
Badulla	448	490	109	1,445
Nuwara Eliya	194	170	88	1,097
Other areas	4,183	3,083	74	8,205
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,768</b>	<b>7,806</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>36,228</b>

Source: Crop Forecast, Maha 2018/19, Vol.05, Crop Forecasting Unit, Department of Agriculture

#### Prices and Supply/Demand Situation

During the month of March 2019, producer prices of chillie ranged between Rs.52.00-282.00/kg in major cultivation areas, and the highest producer price was reported from Embilipitiya, while the lowest price was reported from Dambulla (Table 2.1.4).

Supply of green chillies from main producing areas was in a satisfactory level. There was no any price changed recorded in wholesale level while the retail price has increased by about Rs.5.00/kg. Compared to the same period of last year, both wholesale and retail prices of green chillie have increased by about 211% and 96% respectively (Table 2.1.2).

A quantity of 5,830mt of dried chillie had been imported from India during this month and compared to the previous month it has decreased by 975mt. Average CIF price was Rs.218.21/kg for imported dried chillie and it has decreased by Rs.15.41/kg compared to the previous month (Table 2.1.3). As a result, both wholesale and retail prices of imported dried chillie have decreased by about Rs.19.00/kg and Rs.6.00/kg respectively. Compared to the same period of last year, both wholesale and retail prices of imported dried chillies have increased by about 5% and 16% respectively (Table 2.1.2).

**Table 2.1.2: Wholesale and retail prices of dried chilli and green chilli- March 2019**

Item	Price Range	Average Price			Change Compared to			
	Mar 2019	Mar 2019	Feb 2019	Mar 2018	Feb 2019		Mar 2018	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
<b>Wholesale Price</b>								
Green Chilli	100.00-250.00	169.58	169.58	54.48	0.00	0.00	115.10	211.28
Dried Chilli	250.00-260.00	256.13	275.46	242.90	-19.33	-7.02	13.23	5.44
<b>Retail Price</b>								
Green Chilli	100.00-400.00	326.05	320.81	165.99	5.24	1.63	160.06	96.43
Dried Chilli	290.00-400.00	329.23	335.00	284.90	-5.77	-1.72	44.33	15.56

Source: Marketing, Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

**Table 2.1.3: Quantity, value and CIF prices of imported dried chilli- Oct 2018 to March 2019**

Month	Quantity (mt)	Value (Rs.mn.)	CIF Price (Rs/kg)	Retail Price (Rs/kg)	Gross Margin (Rs/kg)
Mar	5,830	1,272.18	218.21	329.23	111.02
Feb	4,855	1,134.21	233.62	335.00	101.39
Jan	3,748	876.20	233.81	330.31	96.50
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

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

**Table 2.1.4: Producer prices of green chilli (Rs/kg) –March 2019**

Location	1 <sup>st</sup> week	2 <sup>nd</sup> week	3 <sup>rd</sup> week	4 <sup>th</sup> week
Dambulla	184.00	185.00	103.00	52.20
Hambantota	250.00	300.00	-	-
Embilipitiya	282.00	282.00	194.00	166.67
Puttalam	170.00	176.00	152.00	84.00
A'Pura	212.50	282.50	200.00	180.00

Source: Marketing, Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

## 2.2 Red Onion and Big Onion

### Crop Situation

The targeted extent of red onion for *Maha* 2018/19 season was 3,906ha and about 2,790ha had been cultivated by the end of this month achieving 71% of the targeted extent. In Jaffna district the targeted extent was 1,900ha and of which, about 1,612ha of red onion have been cultivated by the end of March achieving 85% of the target. The production forecast of red onion for this *Maha* season is 38,798mt and 91% of the production will be supplied from Jaffna (50%), Puttalam (37%) and Trincomalee (4%) districts.

**Table 2.2.1: Target and cultivation progress of red onion (Maha 2018/19)**

Area	Targeted Extent (ha)	Cultivation Progress as at the end of March 2019		Expected Production (mt)
		Cultivated Extent (ha)	% of the targeted extent	
Jaffna	1,900	1,612	85	19,328
Puttalam	640	681	106	14,431
Trincomalee	753	152	20	1,611
Other Areas	613	345	56	3,428
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,906</b>	<b>2,790</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>38,798</b>

Source: Field Data Marketing, Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

### Prices and Supply/Demand Situation

Only imported big onion was available at the market during the month. A quantity of 22,323mt of big onion had been imported from India in March 2019 reporting an increase of 2,614mt compared to that of the previous month. Average CIF price was Rs.37.00/kg and it had increased by Rs.3.42/kg compared to that of last month (Table 2.2.4). Wholesale price of imported big onion has increased slightly by about Rs.1.00/kg while the retail price has decreased by about Rs.3.00/kg. Compared to the same period of last year, wholesale price of imported big onion has increased by about 2% while the retail price has decreased by about 12% (Table 2.2.2).

Supply of local red onions from main producing areas has increased during this month also. Hence, wholesale price of both sinnan and vedalan have decreased by about Rs.32.00/kg and Rs.21.00/kg respectively. Sinnan variety of red onion was not available in most of the retail markets while vedalan variety was available with the price ranged of Rs.120.00-200.00/kg (Table 2.2.2).

A quantity of 107mt of red onion had been imported from India during this month and it was a decrease of 394mt compared to that of previous month. Average CIF price was Rs.65.44/kg and it has also decreased by Rs.19.42/kg compared to that of preceding month (Table 2.2.4). Both wholesale and retail prices of imported red onion have decreased by about Rs.32.00/kg and Rs.37.00/kg respectively due to availability of sufficient stock of local red onion at the market. Compared to the same period of last year, both wholesale and retail prices of imported red onion have decreased by about 24% and 19% respectively (Table 2.2.2).

**Table 2.2.2: Wholesale prices and retail prices of red onion and big onion - March 2019**

Item	Price Range	Average			Change Compared to			
	Mar 2019	Mar 2019	Feb 2019	Mar 2018	Feb 2019		Mar 2018	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
<b>Wholesale Prices</b>								
Red Onion (Sinnan)	50.00-100.00	76.50	108.63	122.86	-32.13	-29.58	-46.36	-37.73
Red Onion (Vedalan)	50.00-105.00	81.67	102.86	132.92	-21.18	-20.59	-51.24	-38.55
Red Onion (Imported)	70.00-100.00	84.38	116.79	110.75	-32.41	-27.75	-26.38	-23.81
Big Onion (imported)	48.00-60.00	52.95	52.07	52.13	0.88	1.69	0.82	1.58
Big Onion (Local)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Retail Prices</b>								
Red Onion (Sinnan)	-	-	176.36	-	-	-	-	-
Red Onion (Vedalan)	120.00-200.00	168.97	-	204.17	-	-	-35.20	-17.24
Red Onion (Imported)	100.00-200.00	153.10	190.21	189.17	-37.11	-19.51	-36.07	-19.07
Big Onion (imported)	60.00-100.00	78.17	81.33	88.58	-3.16	-3.89	-10.41	-11.75
Big Onion (Local)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Source: Marketing, Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI



**Table 2.2.3: Monthly average CIF prices, and gross margin of imported onion**

Item	Month	CIF Price (Rs/kg)	Wholesale Price	Retail Price	Gross Margin (Rs/kg)	
			(Rs/kg)	(Rs/kg)	WP-CIF	RP-WP
Big onion	Mar,2019	37.00	52.95	78.17	15.95	25.22
	Feb,2019	33.58	52.07	81.33	18.49	29.26
	Mar,2018	41.97	52.13	88.58	10.16	36.45
Red onion	Mar,2019	65.44	84.38	153.10	18.94	68.73
	Feb,2019	84.86	116.79	190.21	31.93	73.42
	Mar,2018	83.94	110.75	189.17	26.81	78.42

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,2019	Feb,2018	Mar,2019	Feb,2018	Mar,2019	Feb,2018
Red Onion	107	501	7.0	42.5	65.44	84.86
Big Onion	22,323	19,709	826.0	661.8	37.00	33.58

Source: Department of Custom

**Table 2.2.5: Quantity imported, CIF price, wholesale and retail price of big onion  
Oct 2018 March 2019**

Month	Quantity Imported (mt)	CIF Price (Rs/kg)	Wholesale Price (Rs/kg)	Retail Price (Rs/kg)	Gross Margin (RP-CIF) (Rs/kg)
Mar-2019	22,323	37.00	52.95	78.17	41.17
Feb-2019	19,709	33.58	52.07	81.33	47.75
Jan -2019	23,697	40.01	56.95	85.22	45.21
Dec-2018	23,169	44.91	68.88	102.86	57.95
Nov-2018	18,659	47.64	90.69	120.24	72.60
Oct-2018	14,592	45.94	84.86	111.28	65.33

Source: Department of Customs

## 2.3 Potato

### Crop Situation and Progress

The targeted extent of potato for *Maha* 2018/19 season was 2,969 ha and about 2,169 ha had been cultivated by the end of this *Maha* season achieving 73% of the target. During this month about 123 ha of potato had been cultivated in the country which was lower than the total cultivated extent during the previous months of this *Maha* season. Further, compared to last *Maha* season, the cultivated extent by the end of this *Maha* season was lower. According to the cultivated extent, the expected production of potato for this *Maha* season is 36,586 mt (Table 2.3.1).

In the Nuwara Eliya district, the targeted extent was 1,323 ha and about 938 ha of potato have been cultivated by the end of *Maha* 2018/19 season (71% progress). Compared to last *Maha* season, the cultivated extent is lower during this *Maha* season in the district (Table 2.3.1). During the month, only 91 ha of potatoes were cultivated in Nuwara Eliya district which is lower than the cultivated extents during the previous months of this *Maha* season. According to field information, 'Granola' type seed was mostly cultivated in the district. The cost for 50kg of seed was recorded as Rs.16,750.00 for imported seeds and Rs.10,500.00-13,000.00 for local seeds during this *Maha* season in the district.

The targeted extent for this *Maha* season was 1,502 ha in the Badulla district and 1,134 ha have been cultivated by the end of the season achieving 75% of the targeted extent (Table 2.3.1). According to field information, more than 50% of the harvesting had been completed in hilly areas of Keppetipola, Bogahakumbura, Boralanda, Ambagasdova, Uvaparanagama areas of the Welimada DS division during this *Maha* season and the supply will be reached to its end phase from the month of May for Welimada potato.

**Table 2.3.1: Cultivation progress and expected production of potato (*Maha* 2018/19)**

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	1,215	938	71	18,963
Badulla	1,846	1,502	1,180	1,134	75	17,623
<b>Sri Lanka</b>	<b>3,343</b>	<b>2,969</b>	<b>2,512</b>	<b>2,169</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>36,586</b>

Source: Marketing, Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

Crop Forecast, *Maha* 2018/19, Socio-economic & Planning Centre/DOA

\*Crop Forecast, *Maha* 2017/18, Socio-economic & Planning Centre/DOA

### Prices and Supply/Demand Situation

A quantity of 9,475 mt of potato had been imported in March which was 327 mt lower than that was imported during the previous month, as the Special Commodity Levy for imported potato has been increased up to Rs.50.00/kg from the 1<sup>st</sup> week of February. Imported stocks were received from Pakistan (93%), India (4%) and Bangladesh (3%). Compared to March, 2018 (7,427 mt), the imports were high during this month. Average CIF price was Rs.32.00/kg in March.

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. Wholesale prices of Welimada and Nuwara Eliya potatoes were ranged between Rs.80.00-100.00/kg and Rs.110.00-120.00/kg respectively in March. Retail price of Nuwara Eliya potato has decreased by 3%. On average, the producer prices of Nuwara Eliya and Welimada potatoes were Rs.95.00/kg and Rs.86.00/kg respectively in March.

Meanwhile, the wholesale and retail prices of imported potato have increased by 9% and 8% respectively due to low stock position with the increased tax for imported potato. During the month of March, the wholesale price of imported potato ranged between Rs.72.00-93.00/kg. Stocks from India fetched a high price compared to stocks from Pakistan and Bangladesh. Compared to the same period of last year, the current retail prices of Nuwara Eliya (15%) and imported (15%) potatoes have increased. Prices of local potatoes are expected to decrease further in April until the supply of *Maha* harvest continues from Welimada.

**Table 2.3.2: Quantity, value and CIF prices of imported potatoes- Sep 2018 to February 2019**

Month	Quantity (mt.)	Value (Rs.mn)	CIF price (Rs/kg)	Retail Price (Rs/kg)	Gross Margin (Rs/kg)
Mar-2019	22,323	37.00	52.95	78.17	41.17
Feb-2019	19,709	33.58	52.07	81.33	47.75
Jan -2019	23,697	40.01	56.95	85.22	45.21
Dec-2018	23,169	44.91	68.88	102.86	57.95
Nov-2018	18,659	47.64	90.69	120.24	72.60
Oct-2018	14,592	45.94	84.86	111.28	65.33

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

**Table: 2.3.3: Producer, wholesale and retail prices of potato – March 2019**

Item	Price Range	Average			Change Compared to			
	Mar 2019	Mar 2019	Feb 2019	Mar 2018	Feb 2019		Mar 2018	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
<b>Producer Prices (PP)</b>								
Welimada	75.00-100.00	85.66	90.20	64.25	-4.54	-5.30	21.41	25.00
Nuwara Eliya	90.00-125.00	94.90	99.75	69.15	-4.85	-5.11	25.75	27.13
Imported – CIF	30.92-45.82	31.52	30.38	27.78	1.14	3.61	3.74	11.85
<b>Wholesale Prices (WP)</b>								
Welimada	90.00-90.00	90.00	-	78.42	-	-	11.58	12.87
Nuwara Eliya	110.00-120.00	115.15	90.00	93.77	25.15	21.84	21.38	18.57
Imported	72.00-93.00	82.45	74.98	58.35	7.47	9.06	24.10	29.23
<b>Retail Prices (RP)</b>								
Welimada	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nuwara Eliya	140.00-240.00	164.00	168.89	139.65	-4.89	-2.98	24.35	14.85
Imported	80.00-120.00	103.66	95.19	88.49	8.48	8.18	15.17	14.64
<b>Gross Margin (RP-PP)</b>								
Welimada		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nuwara Eliya		69.10	69.14	70.50	-0.04	-0.06	-1.40	-2.03
Imported (CIF-RP)		72.15	64.81	60.71	7.34	10.17	11.44	15.85
<b>Gross Margin (RP -WP)</b>								
Welimada		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nuwara Eliya		48.85	-	45.88	-	-	2.97	6.08
Imported		21.21	20.21	30.14	1.00	4.73	-8.93	-42.07

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 46% of its target as at end of March in *Maha* 2018/2019 season. According to the table 2.4.1, the cultivated extent of the green gram cultivation has declined by 3,454 ha (47%) compared with last year (*Maha* 2017/2018). It was due to the decline of cultivated extent from Hambantota (48%), Monaragala (14%) and Kurunegala (4%) Accounting the crop damages, the expected production from the island-wide green gram cultivation is 4,762 mt which is around 53% of the production compared to the previous year green gram production.

**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> 2018/2019)	Expected Production (mt)
		<i>Maha</i> 2017/2018	<i>Maha</i> 2018/2019	<i>Maha</i> 2017/2018	<i>Maha</i> 2018/2019		
Green gram	Hambantota	4041	2078	2718	1073	52	1566
	Monaragala	2061	1327	1058	573	43	733
	Kurunegala	615	779	471	319	41	386
	Other districts	4733	4146	3058	1886	45	2077
	<b>Sri Lanka</b>	<b>11450</b>	<b>8330</b>	<b>7305</b>	<b>3851</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>4762</b>
Cowpea	Ampara	4306	4284	3356	886	21	1800
	Monaragala	1248	965	1075	740	77	762
	Anuradhapura	716	722	303	426	59	987
	Other districts	4010	3664	2389	2355	64	2515
	<b>Sri Lanka</b>	<b>10280</b>	<b>9635</b>	<b>7123</b>	<b>4407</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>6064</b>

Source: Marketing Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

Crop Forecast *Maha* 2018/19 & *Maha* 2017/18, Volume 05, Socio-economic and Planning Centre/DOA

It has been able to achieve 46% of the targeted extent from cowpea cultivation and the expected production is around 6,064 mt production. Ampara, Monaragala and Anuradhapura districts are the major producing districts for cowpea in 2018/2019 *Maha* and those districts will contribute for 58% of the total production. The performance in Monaragala and Anuradhapura districts were comparatively higher while the progress of Ampara district was as 21% of its target.

### Prices and Supply/ Demand Situation

The wholesale price of green gram ranged between Rs.230.00/kg and Rs.250.00/kg with an average of Rs.240.00/kg in March 2019. The average price has been increased by 2% compared to the previous month. Similarly, compared to the same period of last year, the wholesale price has been increased by 23%. In the meantime, the retail price of green gram ranged between Rs.240.00/kg and Rs.280.00/kg with an average of Rs.262.00/kg. Compared to the previous month, the retail price has been increased by around Rs.4.00/kg. However, compared to the same period of last year, the retail price for this month has been increased to around 9% (Table 2.4.2).

**Table 2.4.2: Wholesale and retail prices of green gram and cowpea – March 2019**

Item	Price Range	Average			Change Compared to			
	Mar 2019	March 2019	Feb 2019	Mar 2018	Feb 2019		Mar 2018	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
<b>Wholesale Prices</b>								
Green gram	230.00-250.00	240.27	234.57	196.03	5.70	2.43	44.25	22.57
Cowpea (White)	210.00-230.00	221.13	220.38	230.00	0.75	0.34	-8.88	-3.86
Cowpea (Red)	210.00-225.00	217.88	214.70	245.61	3.18	1.48	-27.74	-11.29
<b>Retail Prices</b>								
Green gram	240.00-280.00	261.90	258.21	240.96	3.69	1.43	20.94	8.69
Cowpea (White)	240.00-320.00	278.43	275.49	294.02	2.94	1.07	-15.58	-5.30
Cowpea (Red)	260.00-320.00	283.13	277.79	297.40	5.33	1.92	-14.27	-4.80

Source: Marketing Food Policy & Agribusiness Division/HARTI

Average wholesale prices of white and red cowpea were recorded as Rs.221.00/kg and Rs.218.00/kg, respectively in March 2019. The wholesale price of white cowpea ranged between Rs.210.00/kg and Rs.230.00/kg, while that of red cowpea ranged between Rs.210.00/kg and Rs.225.00/kg. Compared to the previous month, the wholesale price of white cowpea has not significantly changed while red cowpea has been increased by around 1%. Compared to the same period of last year, the wholesale price of white cowpea has been decreased by 4% while that of red cowpea declined by 11% (Table 2.4.2).

The average retail prices of white and red cowpea were recorded as Rs.278.00/kg and Rs.283.00/kg respectively. The retail price of white cowpea ranged between Rs.240.00/kg and Rs.320.00/kg, and that of red cowpea also ranged between Rs.260.00/kg and Rs.320.00/kg. Compared to the previous month, white cowpea and red cowpea have been increased by 1% and 2% respectively. Compared to the same period of last year, the retail price of both white and red cowpea has been decreased by 5% (Table 2.4.2).

A total quantity of 934 mt of green gram has been imported during this month, and it is an increase of 7% compared to the previous month. The average CIF price of green gram was Rs.161.00/kg, a 3% decrease compared to the previous month. The total expenditure on green gram imports was recorded as Rs.149.88 million which has increased by 4% compared to the previous month. Green gram has been imported from several countries. They are Myanmar (56%), Argentina (15%), Uzbekistan (13%), Australia (10%), Brazil (5%) and India (1%).

**Table 2.4.3: Quantity, value and CIF prices of imported green gram- Oct 2018 to March 2019**

Month	Quantity (mt)	Value (Rs.mn)	CIF price (Rs/kg)	Retail Price (Rs/kg)	Gross Margin (Rs/kg)
March	934	149.88	160.55	261.90	101.35
February	876	144.85	165.29	258.21	92.92
January	1,329	210.79	158.59	256.53	97.94
December	1,034	155.43	150.30	255.55	105.25
November	808	120.29	148.80	249.66	100.85
October	1,044	147.26	141.05	244.45	103.41

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

According to table 2.4.4, a quantity of 547 mt of white cowpea had been imported during this month. The imported quantity of cowpea has been decreased by 26% compared to February 2019. The average CIF price of white cowpea was recorded as Rs.116.00/kg. The total expenditure on cowpea imports has been decreased by 24% compared to the previous month. The total value of the cowpea imports was noted as approximately Rs.64 million. The imported cowpea stocks were mainly received from India (45%), Myanmar (24%), Brazil (22%) and Madagascar (9%).

**Table 2.4.4: Quantity, value and CIF prices of imported white cowpea- Oct 2018 to March 2019**

Month	Quantity (mt)	Value (Rs.mn)	CIF price (Rs/kg)	Retail Price (Rs/kg)	Gross Margin (Rs/kg)
March	547	63.57	116.15	278.43	162.28
February	737	83.96	113.93	275.49	161.56
January	900	104.65	116.28	273.31	157.03
December	614	70.72	115.14	278.22	163.07
November	740	83.30	112.56	279.38	166.82
October	1,095	122.99	112.27	275.27	163.00

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 - 2019	160.55	240.27	261.90	79.72	21.63
	Feb - 2019	165.29	234.57	258.21	69.28	23.64
	Mar - 2018	137.25	196.03	240.96	58.78	44.93
Cowpea (White)	Mar - 2019	116.15	221.13	278.43	104.97	57.31
	Feb - 2019	113.93	220.38	275.49	106.44	55.12
	Mar - 2018	125.15	230.00	294.02	104.85	64.02
Cowpea (Red)	Mar - 2019	-	217.88	283.13	-	65.25
	Feb - 2019	-	214.70	277.79	-	63.09
	Mar - 2018	-	245.61	297.40	-	51.78

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.107.00/kg and Rs.112.00/kg with an average of Rs.109.00/kg, and the retail price ranged between Rs.120.00/kg and Rs.140.00/kg with an average of Rs.131.00/kg. Moreover, the difference between the two prices is Rs.20/kg during this month. The wholesale price has been decreased by 6% while the retail price has declined by 2% compared with the previous month. Compared to the same period of last year, wholesale price has been increased by 3% while that of the retail price has increased by 1%.

**Table 2.5.1: Wholesale and retail prices of red dhal – March 2019**

Red Dhal	Price Range	Average			Change Compared to			
	Mar 2019	Mar 2019	Feb 2019	Mar 2018	Feb 2019		Mar 2018	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Wholesale Price	107.00-112.00	108.63	115.54	105.95	-6.91	-5.98	2.68	2.52
Retail Price	120.00-140.00	128.77	131.22	128.08	-2.45	-1.87	0.69	0.54

Source: Marketing Food Policy & Agribusiness Division

A quantity of 20,901 mt of red dhal has been imported during this month. The average CIF price was recorded as Rs.84.00/kg, an increase by 2% compared to the previous month. Of the total red dhal imports, the largest quantity (20,467 mt) was of the whole type while the rest (433 mt) was of the split type. The whole type of red dhal stocks were mainly received from Canada (64%), from Australia (29%), India (4%), Turkey (2%) and the rest from Ukraine and United Arab Emirates. The total value of the whole type of red dhal imports was Rs.1,715 million, with an average CIF price of Rs.84.00/kg. The split type red dhal, has been imported from Canada (94%) and Ukraine (6%). The average CIF price of split type was noted as Rs.102.00/kg and the total value of the imports of split type was Rs.44 million.

**Table 2.5.2: Quantity, value and CIF prices of imported red dhal  
Oct 2018 to March 2019**

Month	Quantity (mt)	CIF Price Rs/kg	Wholesale price Rs/kg	Retail price Rs/kg	Gross Margin (Rs/kg)	
					CIF-WP	WP-RP
Mar-2019	20,901	84.18	108.63	128.77	24.44	20.15
Feb-2019	14,757	85.72	115.54	131.22	29.82	15.69
Jan-2019	14,543	83.23	113.50	128.88	30.28	15.38
Dec-2018	16,510	81.21	110.25	127.19	29.04	16.93
Nov-2018	14,866	76.60	103.16	124.13	26.57	20.96
Oct-2018	12,403	76.33	102.88	125.61	26.55	22.73

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

### 3. Vegetables

#### Crop Situation

Dry weather condition prevailed, in most of vegetable producing areas during the month. According to the HARTI field information, Nuwara Eliya district experienced a 59% reduction of rain fall compared to the March in last year. High temperature prevailed during the day time in Nuwara Eliya district resulted to increase the cost of watering during the month. Meanwhile, vegetable farmers in Puttalam district have applied solar power to supply water for their vegetable crops thereby reduced the cost. Overall, this month was reported as a harvesting month rather than cultivation. However, new crop establishment for beans, leeks, carrot and cabbage was reported in Nuwara Eliya and Keppetipola areas.

The cultivation progress was at satisfactory level in most of the major vegetable producing areas during this *Maha* season. During this *Maha* season, the total target, including both up country and low country vegetables was 48,865ha and 82% of the target had been achieved by the end of the month. With regards to up country vegetable cultivation, the target was 14,926 ha and, 94% of the target had been achieved. The cultivation progress for beans, cabbage, carrot, and leeks had been achieved more or less 100% of the target. The mostly cultivated up country vegetables were beans (4,154ha), and cabbage (2,227ha). According to the progress achieved by the end of March, the total expected up country vegetable production is 219,832mt and the highest production is expected from cabbage (58,088mt) and beans (44,703mt). (Crop Forecast, *Maha* 2018/19, Vol.5, Department of Agriculture). (Note: In Volume 12, No.2 issue of Food Information Bulletin, expected production

from tomato (34,454mt) has been included under up country vegetable, but it should come under low country vegetable).

With regards to low country vegetable cultivation, the target was about 33,939 ha and 76% of the target had been achieved. With regard to crop wise cultivation progress, the highest progress (89%) was recorded for long beans while the lowest progress (62%) was observed for red pumpkin. The mostly cultivated low country vegetables were brinjal (4,242 ha), long beans (4003ha), Okra (3,341ha) and red pumpkin (3,855 ha). According to the progress achieved by the end of March, the total expected low country vegetable production is 245,306mt and the highest production is expected from brinjal (51,548mt) and pumpkin (50,772mt). (Crop Forecast, *Maha* 2018/19, Vol.5, Department of Agriculture)

### Prices and supply/Demand situation

Vegetable harvesting was further continued in most of the vegetable producing areas during this month too. Daily supplies to the Dambulla Dedicated Economic Center was ranged between 2000mt and 2200mt and it is an increase of 33% compared to the previous month. According to the HARTI field information, about 80% vegetable harvesting had been already completed in Jaffna and Puttlam. Therefore, supplies will be reduced from those areas during next month.

The price behavior was varied among the vegetable varieties during the month. With regard to wholesale prices of up country vegetables, the prices of beans, carrot and leeks have decreased by less than 7% while rest of the up country vegetables increased by 28%-102% recording the highest increase for radish and the lowest for knolkhol. With regard to low country vegetable, the prices of most of the vegetables have decreased by 1%-23%. The highest and the lowest price decrease was observed for ladies figures and ash plantain respectively.

Compared to the same period of last year, prices of up country vegetable varieties except for beans and leeks had increased in the range of 10%-92% recording the highest for beetroot and the lowest for carrot. In contrast, the prices of beans and leeks have decreased by 28% and 54% respectively compared to the March in last year.

**Table 3.1: Wholesale prices of vegetables – March 2019**

Item	Price Range	Average			Change Compared to			
	Mar 2019	Mar 2019	Feb 2019	Mar 2018	Feb 2019		Mar 2018	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Beans (green)	40.00-80.00	62.53	65.83	86.46	-3.30	-5.01	-23.93	-27.67
Carrot	50.00-90.00	65.73	70.83	59.79	-5.10	-7.21	5.94	9.93
Leeks	20.00-60.00	43.33	43.44	94.17	-0.10	-0.24	-50.83	-53.98
Beetroot	30.00-90.00	57.17	40.66	29.71	16.51	40.60	27.46	92.42
Knolkhol	40.00-70.00	51.88	40.63	28.54	11.25	27.69	23.33	81.75
Radish	20.00-60.00	36.35	17.98	21.99	18.37	102.18	14.37	65.34
Cabbage	10.00-40.00	27.14	20.47	22.77	6.68	32.61	4.38	19.22
Tomato	30.00-60.00	42.92	39.27	33.07	3.65	9.28	9.85	29.79
Ladies Fingers	25.00-50.00	34.17	44.48	44.27	-10.31	-23.19	-10.10	-22.82
Brinjal	40.00-120.00	85.38	44.75	56.60	40.63	90.78	28.78	50.84
Capsicum	80.00-130.00	99.70	110.42	75.00	-10.72	-9.71	24.70	32.93
Pumpkin	15.00-30.00	18.85	15.88	37.40	2.98	18.77	-18.54	-49.58
Cucumber	20.00-35.00	26.67	32.05	43.65	-5.38	-16.80	-16.98	-38.90
Bittergourd	80.00-120.00	95.17	105.38	76.35	-10.21	-9.69	18.82	24.64
Snakegourd	50.00-100.00	66.26	44.68	55.42	21.58	48.31	10.85	19.57
Drumstick	150.00-200.00	171.18	186.92	-	-15.74	-8.42	-	-
Luffa	40.00-100.00	62.92	71.46	74.38	-8.54	-11.95	-11.46	-15.41
Long Beans	30.00-60.00	43.28	36.67	56.67	6.61	18.03	-13.39	-23.63
Ash Plantain	60.00-80.00	64.57	64.74	63.33	-0.18	-0.27	1.24	1.95
Green Chilli	100.00-250.00	169.58	169.58	54.48	0.00	0.00	115.10	211.28
Lime	50.00-80.00	63.72	65.83	50.10	-2.12	-3.21	13.61	27.17

Source: Marketing, Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

With regard to the retail prices among up country vegetables, the prices of most of the vegetable varieties have decreased by less than Rs.2.00/kg while that of beetroot, knolkhol, and radish increased in the range of Rs.10.00-22.00/kg. Considering the retail price behavior of low country vegetables, the prices of ladies figures, capsicum, bitter guard, drumstick, and ash plantain have decreased in the range of Rs.1.00-37.00/kg recording the highest for drumsticks. Meanwhile, the retail prices of rest of the low country vegetable varieties have increased by Rs.1.00-23.00/kg. Because of the vegetable harvesting has reached to its end phase, supplies will be reduced, resulting for a price increase during next month.

Compared to the same period of last year, the prices of up country vegetables had decreased by 1%-31% while that of low country vegetables had decreased by 5%-22%.

**Table 3.2: Retail prices of vegetables – March 2019**

Items	Price Range	Average			Change Compared to			
	Mar 2019	Mar 2019	Feb 2019	Mar 2018	Feb 2019		Mar 2018	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Beans (green)	80.00-200.00	127.60	128.84	155.08	-1.25	-0.97	-27.48	-17.72
Carrot	80.00-200.00	135.46	137.66	136.92	-2.20	-1.60	-1.46	-1.07
Leeks	70.00-160.00	119.68	120.31	174.72	-0.63	-0.52	-55.04	-31.50
Beetroot	60.00-200.00	119.61	109.65	101.39	9.96	9.09	18.22	17.97
Knolkhol	80.00-200.00	145.45	123.70	132.83	21.76	17.59	12.62	9.50
Radish	60.00-160.00	111.39	94.20	99.11	17.19	18.25	12.29	12.40
Cabbage	60.00-140.00	97.91	99.03	102.73	-1.12	-1.13	-4.82	-4.69
Tomato	50.00-120.00	93.36	95.55	87.12	-2.18	-2.28	6.24	7.16
Ladies Fingers	70.00-160.00	114.38	116.77	123.34	-2.39	-2.05	-8.96	-7.26
Brinjal	100.00-200.00	136.91	114.26	125.85	22.65	19.83	11.06	8.79
Capsicum	120.00-300.00	188.72	196.75	171.82	-8.03	-4.08	16.90	9.84
Pumpkin	50.00-120.00	78.56	74.40	100.57	4.16	5.59	-22.01	-21.88
Cucumber	50.00-120.00	92.39	91.22	107.55	1.17	1.28	-15.16	-14.10
Bittergourd	100.00-260.00	168.48	175.10	160.11	-6.62	-3.78	8.37	5.23
Snakegourd	80.00-200.00	132.54	115.84	124.88	16.71	14.42	7.67	6.14
Drumstick	200.00-600.00	311.62	348.42	-	-36.80	-10.56	-	-
Luffa	100.00-240.00	149.03	148.91	158.07	0.12	0.08	-9.04	-5.72
Long Beans	70.00-200.00	121.69	116.96	134.29	4.73	4.05	-12.60	-9.38
Ash Plantain	80.00-160.00	120.82	120.87	126.79	-0.04	-0.04	-5.96	-4.70
Green Chilli	100.00-400.00	326.05	320.81	165.99	5.24	1.63	160.06	96.43
Lime	80.00-300.00	205.71	221.93	164.26	-16.23	-7.31	41.45	25.23

Source: Marketing, Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HART

## 4. Fruits

### Prices and Supply/Demand Situation

The wholesale prices of most of the fruit varieties had decreased compared to the previous month. With regard to banana varieties, the wholesale prices of Ambul and Seeni had decreased by 2% and 1% respectively and the prices were ranged as Rs.30.00-50.00/kg and Rs.40.00-70.00/kg respectively. Considering the prices of mango varieties, Karthakolomban and Betti had decreased by 40% and 14% and their price ranges for a fruit recorded as Rs.60.00-130.00 and Rs.20.00-37.00 respectively. Similarly, price of papaw had decreased by 41% and the monthly average wholesale price was Rs.124.00/kg while the price ranged between Rs.50.00-200.00/kg. In addition, prices of orange and avocado had decreased by 39% and 25% respectively, while that of slime apple and passion fruit had decreased 6% (Table 4.1).



In contrast, prices of banana varieties, Kolikuttu, Anamalu and Ambun had recorded 16%, 3% and 1% price increases respectively compared to the previous month and their prices ranged as Rs.80.00-120.00/kg, Rs.8.00-15.00/fruit and Rs.15.00-20.00/fruit respectively. Prices of small, medium and large sized pineapple also had increased by 10%, 8% and 13% respectively and their monthly average wholesale prices were reported as Rs.113.04/fruit, Rs.154.00/fruit and Rs.202.58/fruit respectively. In addition, the prices of wood apple and imported grapes have increased by 21% and 2% respectively (Table 4.1).

Compared to the same period of 2018, wholesale prices of most of the fruit varieties had increased with the highest price increase of 96% recorded for papaw (Table 4.1).

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

In analyzing the price behavior at the retail level, it was observed that the prices of most of the fruit varieties had decreased in line with the prices at the wholesale level. Prices of banana varieties, Ambul, Kolikuttu and Seeni had decreased by 6%, 4% and 3% respectively and their price ranges were noted as Rs.60.00-120.00/kg, Rs.140.00-200.00/kg and Rs.80.00-140.00/kg respectively. Further, prices of banana varieties, Anamalu and Ambun had decreased by less than 1% and their prices ranged between Rs.15.00-20.00/fruit and Rs.18.00-25.00/fruit respectively. Price of mango variety, Karthakolomban had decreased by 9% and price of a fruit was noted as Rs.80.00-260.00. Price of papaw had decreased by 34% and the price ranged between Rs.100.00-280.00/kg. In addition, price of avocado and orange had decreased by 25% and 21% respectively, while prices of passion fruit and wood apple had decreased by 6% and 2% respectively (Table 4.2).

On the other hand, price increases were noted for pineapple, mango variety, Vilad, slime apple and imported grapes. However, all the price increases were less than 4%. Price of large sized pineapple had increased by 2% while, prices of small and medium sized pineapple had increased by less than 1%. Further, price range recorded for pineapple was Rs.100.00-300.00/fruit. Price of mango variety, Vilad had also increased by 2%. Further, prices of slime apple and imported grapes had increased by 4% and 2% respectively (Table 4.2).

Compared to the same period of 2018, retail prices of most of the fruit varieties had increased and the highest price increase was noted for mango variety, Kohu as 140% (Table 4.2).

With reference to the producer prices, producers had received a 10% price increase for banana variety, Kolikuttu and 47% and 5% price decreases for papaw and banana variety, Ambul respectively compared to the prices in February, 2019. Further, producer prices for Ambul, Kolikuttu and papaw during the month ranged between Rs.21.00-35.00/kg, Rs.65.00-96.00/kg and Rs.27.00-116.00/kg respectively. At the same time, compared to March, 2018, producer prices for papaw and Kolikuttu had increased by 72% and 1% respectively while that of Ambul decreased by 24% (Table 4.3).

### **Exports/Imports of Fruits**

According to the Sri Lanka Customs, Sri Lanka had exported 832mt of fresh fruits in March, 2019 valued to Rs.119mn. The exported quantity was contributed by papaw (85%), fresh pineapple (10%), fresh mangoes (4%), fresh avocados (1%). In addition, 0.86mt of fresh oranges were also exported. In the month of February, 2019, the quantity exported was 485mt. Therefore, compared to last month, the exported quantity had increased by 71% (Table 4.4).

**Table 4.1: Wholesale prices of fruits – March 2019**

Item	Price Range	Average			Change Compared to			
	Mar 2019	Mar 2019	Feb 2019	Mar 2018	Feb 2019		Mar 2018	
	(Rs)	(Rs)	(Rs)	(Rs)	(Rs)	%	(Rs)	%
<b>Plantain</b>								
Ambul (Kg)	30.00-50.00	40.45	41.31	56.70	-0.86	-2.08	-16.24	-28.65
Kolikuttu (Kg)	80.00-120.00	106.95	92.44	107.59	14.51	15.70	-0.63	-0.59
Seeni (Kg)	40.00-70.00	55.67	56.53	68.75	-0.87	-1.53	-13.08	-19.03
Anamalu (Fruit)	8.00-15.00	10.85	10.48	14.49	0.37	3.54	-3.64	-25.12
Ambun (Fruit)	15.00-20.00	16.28	16.08	18.56	0.20	1.24	-2.29	-12.32
<b>Pineapple</b>								
Large (Fruit)	170.00-240.00	202.58	179.40	165.93	23.18	12.92	36.66	22.09
Medium (Fruit)	130.00-180.00	154.00	142.83	127.10	11.17	7.82	26.90	21.16
Small (Fruit)	80.00-140.00	113.04	102.66	91.82	10.38	10.11	21.22	23.11
<b>Mango</b>								
Betti (Fruit)	20.00-37.00	31.13	36.31	23.20	-5.19	-14.29	7.92	34.15
Karthakolomban (Fruit)	60.00-130.00	82.86	139.17	78.02	-56.31	-40.46	4.84	6.20
Vilad (Fruit)	28.00-43.00	36.84	36.67	26.88	0.18	0.48	9.96	37.07
Kohu (Fruit)	-	-	-	19.00	-	-	-	-
Papaw (Kg)	50.00-200.00	124.00	208.68	63.25	-84.68	-40.58	60.75	96.05
Passionfruit (Fruit)	17.00-40.00	28.37	30.21	17.20	-1.84	-6.09	11.17	64.91
Woodapple (Fruit)	15.00-24.00	18.60	15.41	14.32	3.19	20.73	4.28	29.91
Orange (Fruit)	15.00-25.00	17.72	29.14	18.89	-11.42	-39.18	-1.17	-6.17
Avocado (Fruit)	60.00-100.00	72.57	96.83	81.02	-24.26	-25.06	-8.45	-10.43
Slime Apple (Fruit)	17.00-30.00	22.01	23.39	23.58	-1.38	-5.89	-1.57	-6.66
Grapes Imported (Kg)	457.00-789.00	646.90	631.08	543.79	15.82	2.51	103.11	18.96

Source: Marketing, Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

**Table 4.2: Retail prices of fruits – March 2019**

Item	Price Range	Average			Change Compared to			
	Mar 2019	Mar 2019	Feb 2019	Mar 2018	Feb 2019		Mar 2018	
	(Rs)	(Rs)	(Rs)	(Rs)	(Rs)	%	(Rs)	%
<b>Plantain</b>								
Ambul (Kg)	60.00-120.00	89.08	95.03	100.43	-5.95	-6.26	-11.35	-11.30
Kolikuttu (Kg)	140.00-200.00	170.56	177.68	176.21	-7.12	-4.01	-5.65	-3.20
Seeni (Kg)	80.00-140.00	108.22	111.27	119.72	-3.05	-2.75	-11.50	-9.61
Anamalu (Fruit)	15.00-20.00	17.23	17.34	17.95	-0.12	-0.68	-0.73	-4.04
Ambun (Fruit)	18.00-25.00	21.60	21.70	22.53	-0.10	-0.46	-0.93	-4.15
<b>Pineapple</b>								
Large (Fruit)	200.00-300.00	236.08	230.59	239.28	5.49	2.38	-3.20	-1.34
Medium (Fruit)	140.00-180.00	162.77	162.08	168.39	0.69	0.42	-5.63	-3.34
Small (Fruit)	100.00-140.00	113.51	112.98	116.57	0.53	0.47	-3.06	-2.62
<b>Mango</b>								
Betti (Fruit)	-	-	-	37.17	-	-	-	-
Karthakolomban (Fruit)	80.00-260.00	148.56	163.10	118.41	-14.54	-8.91	30.15	25.46
Vilad (Fruit)	35.00-80.00	56.92	56.00	51.35	0.92	1.64	5.57	10.85
Kohu (Fruit)	60.00-60.00	60.00	-	25.00	-	-	35.00	140.00
Papaw (Kg)	100.00-280.00	183.89	277.42	105.53	-93.53	-33.72	78.35	74.25
Passionfruit (Fruit)	30.00-58.00	45.27	48.35	31.26	-3.08	-6.36	14.01	44.81
Woodapple (Fruit)	30.00-80.00	52.18	53.32	45.71	-1.14	-2.14	6.47	14.15
Orange (Fruit)	30.00-80.00	45.79	57.83	37.10	-12.04	-20.83	8.69	23.43
Avocado (Fruit)	70.00-200.00	126.44	167.87	124.75	-41.43	-24.68	1.69	1.36
Slime Apple (Fruit)	30.00-120.00	60.46	58.24	61.06	2.22	3.81	-0.60	-0.98
Grapes Imported (Kg)	600.00-1200.00	897.29	882.58	813.56	14.71	1.67	83.72	10.29

Source: Marketing, Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

With reference to imports, Sri Lanka had imported 4,370mt of fresh fruits during the month and which valued to Rs.872mn. The imported quantity comprised of apple (56%), oranges (25%) and grapes (19%). The main importing countries of apple were China, France, Italy, South Africa and the United States. Egypt and China were the importing countries of oranges. Grapes had been imported from South Africa, India, Australia and China. In the month of February, 2019, the quantity imported was 2,800mt. Therefore, compared to last month, the imported quantity had increased by 56% (Table 4.5).

**Table 4.3: Producer prices of selected fruits – March 2019**

Item	Price Range	Average			Change Compared to			
	Mar 2019	Mar 2019	Feb 2019	Mar 2018	Feb 2019		Mar 2018	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Ambul	21.25-35.00	26.61	28.07	35.09	-1.46	-5.19	-8.48	-24.17
Kolikuttu	65.00-96.43	81.03	73.61	79.93	7.42	10.08	1.10	1.38
Papaw	27.50-116.00	81.37	152.31	47.42	-70.94	-46.58	33.95	71.59

Source Marketing Food Policy Agribusiness Division, HARTI

**Table 4.4: Quantity, value and FOB prices of exported fruits -January 2019 to March 2019**

Type of Fruit	Mar - 2019			Feb - 2019			Jan - 2019		
	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	81.76	43.40	530.83	23.78	8.99	377.94	19.81	6.80	343.43
Papaw	707.03	64.01	90.53	407.11	41.60	102.19	833.74	73.37	88.00
Fresh Mango	37.32	8.22	220.34	49.40	21.11	427.35	44.22	21.18	478.88
Avocado, fresh	5.18	2.69	519.45	4.33	2.29	529.19	1.83	0.96	521.66
Oranges, fresh	0.86	0.34	390.09	-	-	-	-	-	-

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

**Table 4.5: Quantity, value and CIF prices of imported fruits January 2019 to March 2019**

Type of Fruit	Mar - 2019			Feb - 2019			Jan - 2019		
	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	2,462	455.76	185.09	1,629	273.19	167.73	1,578	271.13	171.83
Grapes	822	312.98	380.67	399	149.41	374.74	685	255.72	373.29
Oranges	1,086	102.85	94.71	772	77.05	99.86	470	50.94	108.34

Source: Sri Lanka Customs

(CIF=Cost Insurance and Freight)

## 5. Fish, Dried Fish, Eggs and Meat

### Fish

#### Prices and Supply/Demand Situation

Table 5.1 presents wholesale and retail prices of fish for March, 2019. Wholesale prices of all the given fish varieties except for Balaya have decreased by 2%-14%, recording the highest for Salaya and the lowest for Thalpath. In contrast, the price of Balaya has increased by 2%. The highest wholesale price of Rs.1200.00/kg was recorded for Thora while the lowest price of Rs.100.00/kg was noted for Salaya. Compared to the same period of last year, the prices of most of the fish varieties had decreased by 1%-9%. However, the prices of Mora, Kelawalla and Balaya had increased by 3%,10% and 11% respectively.

The price behavior of the wholesale market was almost depicted in the retail market too. The retail prices of most of the fish varieties have decreased by 4% or less during the month. The highest price decrease (4%) was recorded for Salaya. The highest price of Rs.2000.00/kg and the lowest price of Rs.160.00/kg was reported for Thora and Salaya respectively. Compared to the same period of last year, the prices of all the fish varieties had increased by 4%-34%, and the highest price increase was recorded for Salaya (34%) followed by Balaya (27%) (Table 5.1).

**Table 5.1: Wholesale and retail prices of fish –March -2019**

Item	Price Range	Average Price			Change Compared to			
	Mar- 2019	Mar-2019	Feb-2019	Mar -2018	Feb- 2019		Mar - 2018	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
<b>Wholesale Prices</b>								
Salaya	100.00-150.00	122.03	142.53	133.75	-20.50	-14.38	-11.72	-8.76
Hurulla	200.00-300.00	252.28	278.61	278.52	-26.32	-9.45	-26.24	-9.42
Balaya	200.00-350.00	257.72	252.43	232.02	5.29	2.10	25.70	11.08
Kelawalla	400.00-500.00	469.06	529.06	425.45	-60.00	-11.34	43.61	10.25
Thora	900.00-1200.00	1039.58	1096.03	1068.30	-56.45	-5.15	-28.71	-2.69
Paraw	400.00-550.00	470.36	533.71	473.67	-63.35	-11.87	-3.31	-0.70
Mora	450.00-600.00	543.01	558.33	528.50	-15.33	-2.75	14.51	2.74
Shrimps (small)	700.00-850.00	777.54	801.25	836.02	-23.71	-2.96	-58.48	-6.99
Thalapath	650.00-800.00	733.89	751.39	743.75	-17.50	-2.33	-9.86	-1.33
<b>Retail Prices</b>								
Salaya	160.00-400.00	232.71	241.84	174.09	-9.13	-3.78	58.62	33.67
Hurulla	300.00-600.00	422.96	437.85	375.93	-14.89	-3.40	47.03	12.51
Balaya	500.00-800.00	649.51	616.06	513.15	33.45	5.43	136.36	26.57
Kelawalla	800.00-1300.00	933.79	954.77	794.72	-20.97	-2.20	139.07	17.50
Thora	1300.00-2000.00	1506.44	1503.95	1449.90	2.49	0.17	56.54	3.90
Paraw	800.00-1400.00	1025.10	1044.23	873.73	-19.13	-1.83	151.37	17.33
Mora	700.00-1200.00	887.68	880.94	849.41	6.74	0.77	38.27	4.51
Shrimps (small)	900.00-1400.00	1059.76	1062.67	1020.11	-2.91	-0.27	39.65	3.89
Thalapath	1000.00-400.00	1180.70	1187.83	1057.23	-7.13	-0.60	123.47	11.68

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

## Dried Fish

### Prices and Supply/Demand Situation

Both the wholesale and retail prices of dried fish varieties are integrated in to the table 5.2 below. The wholesale prices of most of the dried fish varieties have increased in the range of 1%-9%. The highest price increase (9%) was recorded for Balaya(imported). Nevertheless, the prices of Sprats, Sprats(imported) and Maduwa (imported) have decreased by 29%,15%, and 2% respectively. The highest price of Rs.1300.00/kg was recorded for Thora while the lowest price of Rs.350.00/kg was reported for both Maduwa(imported) and Balaya. Compared to the same period of last year, the wholesale prices of most of dried fish varieties had increased by 3%- 93%. The highest price increase (93%) was recorded for Balaya (imported) followed by Balaya (21%), Thora(imported) (15%), Anguluwa(imported) (13%) and Anguluwa (10%).

With regard to the retail prices of dried fish, the most of dried fish varieties have shown only marginal changes (1% or less). However, the prices of Sprats varieties have increased by 4%. The highest price of Rs.1800.00/kg was reported for Thora while the lowest price of Rs.400.00/kg was noted for Salaya. Compared to the same period of last year, the retail prices of most of the dried fish varieties had increased by 3%-7% (Table 5.2).

**Table 5.2: Wholesale and retail prices of dried fish –March 2019**

Item	Price Range	Average			Change Compared to				
	Mar 2019	Mar 2019	Feb 2019	Mar 2018	Feb 2019		Mar 2018		
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%	
<b>Dried fish – Wholesale Price</b>									
Sprats	550.00-800.00	674.50	945.10	843.39	-270.60	-28.63	-168.89	-20.02	
Sprats (imported)	380.00-550.00	464.25	547.19	547.50	-82.94	-15.16	-83.25	-15.21	
Kattawa	900.00-1050.00	970.44	924.71	921.19	45.74	4.95	49.26	5.35	
Kattawa (imported)	800.00-980.00	891.22	832.72	831.75	58.50	7.02	59.47	7.15	
Thora	1150.00-1300.00	1216.67	1180.00	1125.00	36.67	3.11	91.67	8.15	
Thora (imported)	1200.00-1300.00	1243.75	1230.56	1083.57	13.19	1.07	160.18	14.78	
Mora	840.00-950.00	884.75	867.30	852.02	17.45	2.01	32.73	3.84	
Mora (imported)	700.00-850.00	775.07	770.75	797.00	4.32	0.56	-21.93	-2.75	
Balaya	350.00-500.00	428.75	426.85	353.00	1.90	0.45	75.75	21.46	
Balaya (imported)	550.00-650.00	583.06	533.33	302.86	49.72	9.32	280.20	92.52	
Anguluwa	850.00-1000.00	936.16	870.80	850.41	65.36	7.51	85.75	10.08	
Anguluwa (imported)	800.00-940.00	858.52	811.16	762.75	47.36	5.84	95.77	12.56	
Maduwa	500.00-650.00	562.31	559.56	546.25	2.74	0.49	16.06	2.94	
Maduwa(imported)	350.00-450.00	401.78	407.96	432.75	-6.18	-1.51	-30.97	-7.16	
Koduwa	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Koduwa(imported)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Salaya	300.00-420.00	347.00	342.43	323.99	4.57	1.34	23.01	7.10	
Salaya (imported)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
<b>Dried fish – Retail Price</b>									
Sprats(imported)	500.00-900.00	703.78	731.65	718.00	-27.87	-3.81	-14.22	-1.98	
Sprats	950.00-1700.00	1171.17	1214.20	1140.78	-43.03	-3.54	30.39	2.66	
Kattawa	1000.00-1600.00	1270.17	1252.12	1192.33	18.05	1.44	77.84	6.53	
Thora	1400.00-1800.00	1609.36	1607.78	1502.70	1.58	0.10	106.66	7.10	
Mora	900.00-1500.00	1166.54	1157.27	1122.97	9.26	0.80	43.57	3.88	
Balaya	600.00-1000.00	856.06	865.20	804.52	-9.14	-1.06	51.54	6.41	
Anguluwa	900.00-1300.00	1141.30	1128.03	1092.75	13.27	1.18	48.55	4.44	
Maduwa	600.00-1000.00	747.25	737.98	755.95	9.27	1.26	-8.70	-1.15	
Koduwa	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Salaya	400.00-800.00	657.46	660.83	660.49	-3.36	-0.51	-3.03	-0.46	

Source: Marketing, Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

## Eggs

As given in table 5.3, wholesale prices of brown and white eggs ranged from Rs.17.00 to Rs.17.50 and from Rs.16.00 to Rs.16.50 respectively. Average wholesale prices of brown and white eggs were Rs.17.43 and Rs.16.43 respectively. Compared the previous month, the wholesale prices of both brown and white eggs have decreased by about 8%. Compared to same period of last year, the prices of brown and white eggs have increased by 26% and 33% respectively.

The retail price of both brown and white egg have decreased by 9% during the month. The price of a brown egg ranged between Rs.17.50 and Rs.20.00 while that of a white egg ranged between Rs.16.50 and Rs.19.00 in this month. Average retail prices of brown and white eggs were recorded as Rs.18.67 and Rs.17.62 respectively. Compared to average retail prices of brown and white eggs in the same period of last year, the price of brown egg has increased by about 24% while that of white eggs has increased by about 28% (table 5.3).

**Table 5.3: Wholesale and retail prices of eggs – March 2019**

Item	Price Range	Average			Change Compared to			
	Mar 2019	Mar 2019	Feb 2019	Mar 2018	Feb 2019		Mar 2018	
	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	%	Rs	%
<b>Wholesale Price</b>								
Eggs – Brown (each)	17.00-17.50	17.43	18.90	13.84	-1.47	-7.76	3.59	25.97
White (each)	16.00-16.50	16.43	17.93	12.38	-1.50	-8.37	4.06	32.79
<b>Retail Price</b>								
Eggs- Brown (each)	17.50-20.00	18.67	20.42	15.07	-1.75	-8.55	3.60	23.92
White (each)	16.50-19.00	17.62	19.39	13.77	-1.77	-9.12	3.86	28.00

Source: Marketing, Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

## Meat

Table 5.4 integrates the retail prices of meat. The prices of Pork and Broiler chicken have increased by 1% and 3% respectively while that of Mutton have decreased by 1%. The retail prices of meat ranged between Rs.500.00/kg to Rs.2000.00/kg recording the highest for mutton and the lowest for Curry chicken and Broiler chicken. Compared to the same period of the previous year, the prices of Beef, Broiler chicken, Curry chicken, Mutton and Pork have increased by about 3%, 11%, 14%, 2% and 44% respectively.

**Table 5.4: Retail prices of meat – March 2019**

Item	Price Range	Average			Change Compared to			
	Mar 2019	Mar 2019	Feb 2019	Mar 2018	Feb 2019		Mar 2018	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
<b>Meat</b>								
Beef (without bones)	950.00-1000.00	981.41	978.86	950.00	2.55	0.26	31.41	3.31
Chicken (Broiler)	500.00-710.00	584.82	566.65	528.18	18.17	3.21	56.64	10.72
Chicken (curry)	500.00-750.00	623.55	625.96	546.97	-2.41	-0.39	76.57	14.00
Mutton	1800.00-2000.00	1841.62	1860.31	1809.58	-18.69	-1.00	32.04	1.77
Pork	700.00-840.00	766.00	755.00	532.00	11.00	1.46	234.00	43.98

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 112,815 mt worthy of Rs.5421 mn. wheat grain had been imported during the month. Compared to the previous month, the imported quantity of this month has decreased by 29,663mt. Wheat grain had been mainly imported from Canada (33%) and the CIF price was Rs.49.00/kg. Second and third highest wheat grain quantities were imported from Russia (35,213mt.) and Pakistan (24,805mt.) respectively. In addition, wheat grain had been imported from United States (8%) and Australia (6%). Few quantities were also imported from and India as well. The CIF price of wheat grain ranged between Rs.45.00-65.00/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 decreased by Rs.3.00/kg.

A total quantity of 1,102mt. of wheat flour (worth of Rs.78mn.) had been imported during the month of March. Compared to the previous month, wheat flour imports had increased by 348mt. Since last

January, imports of wheat flour has been continuously increased. About 30% of the wheat flour imports had been received India and the CIF price was Rs.79.00/kg. Few stocks also were received from Germany and Singapore. The CIF price for wheat flour for the month of March ranged between Rs.67.00-84.00/kg and the average CIF was Rs.70.00/kg. Compared to the previous month, average CIF price for wheat flour has decreased by Rs.3.00/kg.

Meanwhile, the local retail price of wheat flour ranged between Rs.86.00-100.00/kg and the average price was Rs.94.00/kg. The average retail price of wheat flour remained unchanged during the month. Further, compared to 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 – March 2019**

Item	Price Range	Average			Change Compared to			
	Mar 2019	Mar 2019	Feb 2019	Mar 2018	Feb 2019		Mar 2018	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Wheat Flour	86.00-100.00	94.33	94.41	89.77	-0.08	-0.08	4.56	5.08
Sugar	95.00-110.00	104.57	105.34	108.81	-0.77	-0.73	-4.24	-3.90

Source: Department of Census and Statistics

**Table 6.2: Quantity, value and CIF prices of wheat flour & grain-Oct 2018 to March 2019**

Month	Quantity (mt.)	Value (Rs.mn)	CIF price (Rs/kg)	Retail Price (Rs/kg)	Gross Margin (Rs/kg)
<b>Wheat Flour</b>					
Mar-2019	1,102	77.64	70.48	94.33	23.85
Feb-2019	754	55.23	73.20	94.41	21.21
Jan-2019	581	43.93	75.66	94.43	18.77
Dec- 2018	1,385	102.51	74.04	93.63	19.59
Nov-2018	537	38.33	71.44	93.68	22.24
Oct-2018	1,083	74.54	68.84	95.42	26.58
<b>Wheat Grain</b>					
Mar-2019	112,815	5,421	48.05	94.33	46.28
Feb-2019	142,478	7,199	50.53	94.41	43.88
Jan-2019	100,466	5,070	50.47	94.43	43.96
Dec- 2018	139,382	6,653	47.73	93.63	45.90
Nov-2018	94,907	4,414	46.51	93.68	47.17
Oct-2018	234,819	10,667	45.43	95.42	49.99

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

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

## Sugar

A total quantity of 45,872mt. of sugar had been imported to the country during the month of March. The expenditure on sugar imports was Rs.2,775mn. Compared to the previous month, quantity of this month has increased by 11,979mt. Sugar for the month of March had been mainly imported from India (89%) and CIF price was Rs.59.00/kg. The second highest sugar quantity was imported from Thailand (10%). Furthermore, sugar has also been imported from Egypt (1%). In addition, few quantities were also imported from Korea and Malaysia as well. The CIF prices ranged between Rs.59.00-100.00/kg and the average CIF price was reported as Rs.61.00/kg. The average CIF price remained unchanged during the month. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization, sugar price index averaged 180 points in March 2019, down by 2.1% from February 2019. This is due to a relatively bigger harvest expected from the main producing countries than previously anticipated.

Referring to the local retail price of sugar for the month of March, price ranged between Rs.95.00-110.00/kg and the average retail price was Rs.105.00/kg. Average retail price for sugar has decreased by Rs.1.00/kg during the 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- Oct 2018 to March 2019**

Month	Quantity (mt.)	Value (Rs.mn)	CIF price (Rs/kg)	Retail Price (Rs/kg)	Gross Margin (Rs/kg)
Mar-2019	45,872	2775.3	60.50	104.57	44.07
Feb-2019	33,893	2052.6	60.56	105.34	44.78
Jan-2019	35,030	2227.6	63.59	105.92	42.33
Dec- 2018	59,943	3626.2	60.49	107.88	47.39
Nov-2018	35,396	2094.5	59.17	107.84	48.67
Oct-2018	32,335	1860.0	57.52	110.63	53.11

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

**Table 7: Import of selected food items – March 2019**

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-2019	Feb-2019		Mar-2019	Feb-2019		Mar-2019	Feb-2019	
Rice	1,930	1,923	0.4	169.5	180.7	-6.2	87.85	94.00	-6.5
Red Onion	107	501	-78.6	7.0	42.5	-83.5	65.44	84.86	-22.9
Big Onion	22,323	19,709	13.3	826.0	661.8	24.8	37.00	33.58	10.2
Potato	9,475	9,802	-3.3	298.6	297.8	0.3	31.52	30.38	3.7
Dried Chillies	5,830	4,856	20.1	1272.2	1134.5	12.1	218.21	233.64	-6.6
Masoor Dhal	20,901	14,757	41.6	1759.5	1265.0	39.1	84.18	85.72	-1.8
Green Gram	934	876	6.5	149.9	144.8	3.5	160.55	165.29	-2.9
Cowpea	547	737	-25.7	63.6	84.0	-24.3	116.15	113.93	2.0
Garlic	4,569	1,779	156.9	638.8	209.3	205.2	139.81	117.69	18.8
Wheat flour	1,102	754	46.0	77.6	55.2	40.6	70.48	73.20	-3.7
Wheat grain	112,815	142,478	-20.8	5420.8	7199.3	-24.7	48.05	50.53	-4.9
White crystalline cane sugar	45,872	33,893	35.3	2775.3	2052.6	35.2	60.50	60.56	-0.1
Maize	616	125	-79.7	33.5	13.4	-76.1	54.36	107.13	17.8

Source: Automated data Processing Division, Department of Customs



**Table 8: Monthly rainfall (mm) – March 2019**

<b>Rainfall Station</b>	<b>Total Rainfall (mm)</b>	<b>30 Year Avg. Rainfall (mm)</b>	<b>Total Rainy Days</b>	<b>30 Year Average Rainy Days</b>
Anuradhapura	0.0	68.7	0	5
Badulla	10.1	119.4	4	9
Bandarawela	17.8	98.5	3	7
Batticaloa	23.2	89.0	2	6
Colombo	41.4	128.0	4	9
Galle	148.2	111.3	5	9
Hambantota	4.2	65.4	1	5
Jaffna	3.2	25.7	1	2
Katugastota	20.0	71.9	3	8
Katunayaka	29.3	132.9	4	8
Kurunegala	32.7	139.1	3	8
Mahailuppallama	1.5	84.9	2	6
Mannar	0.0	44.4	0	3
Nuwara Eliya	9.4	71.5	2	8
Pottuvil	44.7	75.7	4	na
Puttalam	33.3	67.7	4	5
Ratmalana	80.9	141.5	5	9
Ratnapura	123.8	212.2	8	14
Trincomalee	0.0	55.5	0	4
Vavuniya	0.0	62.9	0	4
Polonnaruwa	0.0	na	0	na
Moneragala	6.5	na	5	na
Mattala	39.5	na	5	na

*Source: Department of Meteorology*

**Note: na refers to not available**





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

**March - 2019**

Commodity	1 <sup>st</sup> Week	2 <sup>nd</sup> Week	3 <sup>rd</sup> Week	4 <sup>th</sup> Week	Commodity	1 <sup>st</sup> Week	2 <sup>nd</sup> Week	3 <sup>rd</sup> Week	4 <sup>th</sup> Week	Commodity	1 <sup>st</sup> Week	2 <sup>nd</sup> Week	3 <sup>rd</sup> Week	4 <sup>th</sup> Week
<b>Paddy</b>					<b>Potato</b>					<b>Leeks</b>				
<b>Short grain</b>					N'Eliya	92.00	92.40	93.20	102.00	Welimada	35.20	32.20	40.25	57.80
A'pura	34.67	35.67	35.67	36.25	Badulla				92.00	N'Eliya	28.00	28.00	28.00	37.00
P'naruwa	36.61	34.94	36.95	37.89	Welimada	89.00	88.00	82.25	83.40	<b>Beetroot</b>				
Kalawewa	32.08	31.42	32.33	35.00	<b>Pulses</b>					Hanguranketha	35.00			
Kurunegala	33.33	33.33	34.67	36.50	<b>Green Gram</b>					N'Eliya	22.20	28.00	28.00	37.60
Dehiattakandiya	36.33	38.67	39.33	39.00	Galgamuwa					Dambulla	40.00	40.00	48.60	50.20
Ampara	40.00	37.60	37.40	35.50	Kalawewa	150.00	150.00	150.00	150.00	Kurunegala				
<b>Long grain (White)</b>					Embilipitiya	175.83	175.83	170.00	150.00	Welimada	32.75	36.33	39.67	37.75
A'pura	34.33	34.67	35.00	37.00	Kurunegala			220.00	220.00	<b>Knokhol</b>				
P'naruwa	35.02	34.65	34.91	37.91	A'pura		155.00	150.00	145.00	Hanguranketha	35.00			
Kalawewa	29.67	30.00	32.67	35.33	<b>Cowpea</b>					N'Eliya	23.00	19.20	19.20	32.00
Kurunegala	32.67	32.67	33.33	37.50	A'pura		125.00	115.00	115.00	Welimada	32.20	28.50	41.50	37.75
Dehiattakandiya	31.67	38.67	38.67	38.67	Galgamuwa	32.75	36.33	39.67	37.75	<b>Radish</b>				
Embilipitiya					Nikaweratiya					Hanguranketha	10.00			
Ampara	37.60	35.40	35.40	35.50	Kalawewa	140.00	170.00	170.00	150.00	N'Eliya	22.40	16.20	16.20	27.00
Matara		30.75	29.50	29.25	Embilipitiya	167.50	167.50	220.00	220.00	Welimada	9.00	12.75	15.75	27.00
Hambantota					Kurunegala			150.00	145.00	<b>Cabbage</b>				
<b>Long grain (Red)</b>					<b>Maize</b>					Hanguranketha	15.00			
Matara		35.00	34.75	33.75	A'Pura					N'Eliya	22.80	19.60	19.60	38.00
Hambantota	29.67	29.00	28.33	30.80	Kalawewa					Welimada	11.20	17.25	18.00	19.67
Ampara	34.60	32.40	32.40	32.50	<b>Gingelly</b>					Hambantota				
Embilipitiya	31.00	31.00	30.43	30.43	A'Pura				280.00	Badulla	14.40	14.40	19.00	19.40
<b>Other Food Crops</b>					Kalawewa	210.00	220.00		180.00	<b>Tomato</b>				
<b>Dried Chillies</b>					<b>Black Gram</b>					Hanguranketha	22.50			
A'Pura					Kalawewa	150.00	140.00	150.00	145.00	Welimada	24.20	25.67	21.50	19.00
Galgamuwa					A'Pura		145.00		180.00	Hambantota	27.50	32.50	32.50	27.50
Kalawewa					<b>Vegetables (Up Country)</b>					Dambulla	30.60	29.00	23.40	23.40
<b>Red Onion</b>					<b>Beans</b>					<b>Low Country</b>				
Puttalam	42.00	51.00	57.00	57.00	Dambulla	57.60	50.50	60.80	71.40	<b>Ladies Fingers</b>				
<b>Big Onion</b>					Welimada	54.60	57.75	56.75	66.50	A'pura	33.33	35.00	32.50	35.00
Dambulla					Badulla	49.00	39.00	61.00	39.00	Dambulla	26.60	32.25	27.60	38.40
Kalawewa					<b>Carrot</b>					Hambantota	47.50	37.50	37.50	37.50
A'Pura					Hanguranketha	45.00				Embilipitiya	23.14	32.00	28.86	33.86
Kurunegala					N'Eliya	67.00	58.20	58.20	57.80	Matara				
					Welimada	53.20	51.40	60.00	57.25					

**Appendix 03: contd.....**

Commodity	1 <sup>st</sup> Week	2 <sup>nd</sup> Week	3 <sup>rd</sup> Week	4 <sup>th</sup> Week	Commodity	1 <sup>st</sup> Week	2 <sup>nd</sup> Week	3 <sup>rd</sup> Week	4 <sup>th</sup> Week	Commodity	1 <sup>st</sup> Week	2 <sup>nd</sup> Week	3 <sup>rd</sup> Week	4 <sup>th</sup> Week
<b>Brinjals</b>					<b>Pumpkin</b>					<b>Lime</b>				
A'pura	73.75	75.00	62.50	53.33	Dambulla	10.20	11.13	9.30	9.30	Hambantota	57.50	65.00	65.00	65.00
Dambulla	82.80	87.50	63.20	40.20	Hambantota	16.67	22.50	19.00	19.00	Embilipitiya	47.14	37.14	37.14	44.29
Hambantota	60.00	75.00	75.00	75.00	Embilipitiya	24.25	25.50	24.25	24.25	Moneragala	43.33	43.33	51.67	51.67
Embilipitiya	52.50	73.00	55.83	51.43	Matara					<b>Fruits (Rs/Kg)</b>				
Matara					A'pura	25.67	29.00	26.67	16.67	<b>Banana</b>				
Welimada	70.00	81.33	77.75	64.67	Moneragala	31.67	17.33	21.67	20.67	<b>Ambul</b>				
										Moneragala	31.67	31.67	33.33	35.00
<b>Capsicum</b>					<b>Cucumber</b>					Embilipitiya	22.43	25.00	29.00	21.25
Welimada	111.67	113.33	112.50	110.00	A'pura	20.00	18.00	20.00	21.67	Hambantota	22.50	22.50	22.50	22.50
<b>Bitter Gourd</b>					Dambulla	19.40	21.00	21.20	17.80	<b>Kolikuttu</b>				
A'pura	75.00	76.25	71.25	53.33	Hambantota	22.50	22.50	22.50	17.50	Moneragala	83.33	73.33	65.00	66.67
Dambulla	69.20	73.25	59.40	59.40	Matara					Embilipitiya	75.83	82.50	89.29	96.43
Hambantota	130.00	105.00	110.00	110.00	<b>Long beans</b>					Hambantota	65.00	95.00	95.00	85.00
Embilipitiya	135.00	118.57	103.00	111.25	Dambulla	40.00	36.00	42.80	42.20	<b>Papaw</b>				
					Hambantota	55.00	55.00	45.00	52.50	Moneragala				
<b>Snake Gourd</b>					Embilipitiya	58.75	58.33	51.67	50.00	Embilipitiya	116.00	85.83	75.83	75.83
Dambulla	30.80	34.50	35.60	35.60	Matara					Hambantota	115.00	100.00	55.00	27.50
Hambantota	47.50	47.50	47.50	55.00	A'Pura	35.00	37.50	37.50	46.67	<b>Pineapple</b>				
Embilipitiya	46.17	46.17	46.17	46.17	Hambantota	47.50	47.50	52.50	47.50	Divulapitiya				
Matara		110.00	30.00	45.00	Embilipitiya	42.00	42.00	38.33	36.67					
A'pura	56.67	48.33	45.00	46.67	Matara									
<b>Luffa</b>					<b>Green Chillies</b>									
Dambulla	30.60	35.50	43.80	41.60	Dambulla	184.00	185.00	103.00	52.20					
Hambantota	75.00	57.50	57.50	62.50	Hambantota	250.00	300.00							
Embilipitiya	64.17	64.17	53.86	62.14	Embilipitiya	282.00	282.00	194.00	166.67					
Matara					Puttalam	170.00	176.00	152.00	84.00					
A'pura	55.00	55.00	52.50	53.33	A'Pura	212.50	282.50	200.00	180.00					