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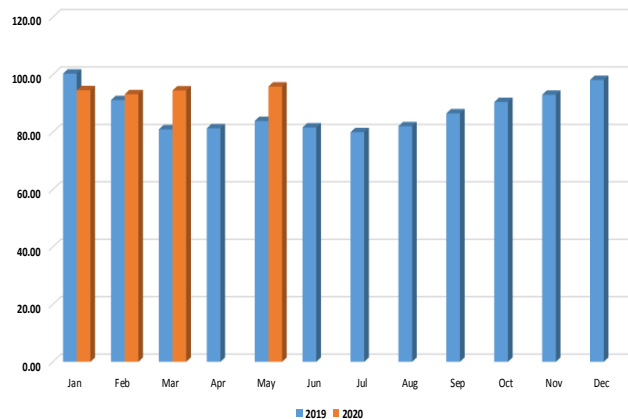
Rice

The wholesale prices of all the rice varieties have increased in the range of 1%-6% in May compared to March. The prices ranged between Rs.88.00/kg and Rs.98.00/kg. Usually, rice prices increase in the month of May due to off season. However, upsurge in demand and disruption to the supply chains triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic was an added reason for the price increase. The government declared rice milling as an essential service and amended the maximum retail price (MRP) for rice to control the over-pricing.

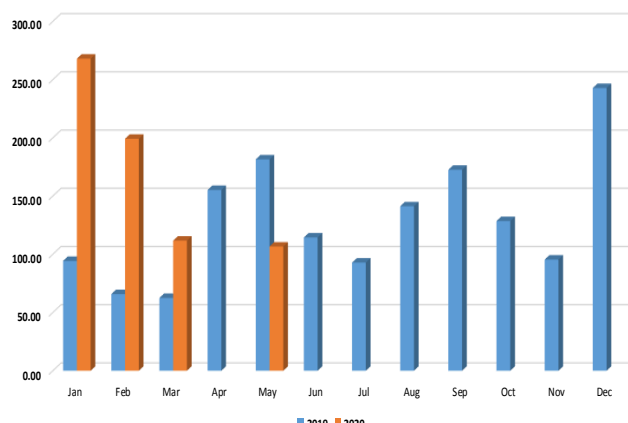
Vegetables

Adequate stocks were available with the harvesting of *Maha* season that continued through April and May. The government adopted with several policy measures to resume the supply chains which was disrupted by COVID-19 pandemic. As a result, the wholesale prices of most of the vegetable varieties have decreased by 5%-53% during the month of May compared to March. The highest price of Rs.180.00/kg was recorded for beans while the lowest of Rs.20.00/kg being noted for beetroot, knolkhol, cabbage, and cucumber.

Average Wholesale Prices of Rice (Samba II)



Average Wholesale Prices 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. **Data collection process of this issue was interrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Therefore, this issue does not contain data for the month of April, and retail prices for the month of May. For the month of May, data were collected only for last three weeks. Changes were compared with the month of March.**

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Data Collection Areas:

Colombo and suburb Markets

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

Outstation Markets

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

1. Paddy

Crop Situation

Despite of the COVID-19 pandemic situation and movement restrictions prevailed in the country, the government makes necessary arrangements to encourage the farmers for paddy cultivation activities. Therefore, the early prospects of the paddy crop were satisfactory mainly due to the favorable weather conditions and better water availability in irrigation tanks at the beginning of the season. The establishment of paddy crop in 2020 *Yala* season was completed in most of the major producing areas. However, it was recorded fertilizer related issues in some major producing areas because of difficulties in the distribution system. According to the latest assessment issued by the Department of Agriculture, the targeted paddy extent of 2020 *Yala* season was 475,254 ha. The cultivation progress up to end of May was 429,600 ha and it is 90% of the target. The cultivation progress is 29% higher than that of the average sown extent of last three *Maha* seasons. The expected production based on the reported sown extent up to end of May is 1.72 Million mt, (1.05 million mt, of rice subject to 68% milling ratio). It is expected to that the crop establishment activities will be continued until the mid of June.

Table 1.1: Progress of Paddy Cultivation in *Yala* 2020 Season as at end of May 2020

District/Area	Targeted Extent (ha)	Achievement (ha)	Achievement as a % of the Targeted Extent	Production Forecast based on Achievement (mt)	Total Affected Extent (ha)	Expected Production Loss for Affected Area (mt)	Revised Production Forecast (mt)
Anuradhapura	39,678	19,612	49	74,887	-	0	74,887
Polonnaruwa	31,911	30,057	94	136,929	-	0	136,929
Ampara	57,983	54,918	95	253,072	275	334	252,738
Kurunegala	65,106	54,372	84	217,147	-	0	217,147
Hambantota	27,284	23,056	85	116,021	122	154	115,867
Colombo	1,957	3,127	160	8,000	-	0	8,000
Gampaha	6,587	10,585	161	27,352	-	0	27,352
Kalutara	6,799	11,259	166	31,574	-	0	31,574
Galle	10,864	8,926	82	20,187	-	0	20,187
Matara	14,818	12,735	86	35,492	-	0	35,492
Ratnapura	8,403	5,825	69	20,053	-	0	20,053
Kegalle	7,380	6,928	94	19,211	-	0	19,211
Puttalam	17,864	14,492	81	53,704	-	0	53,704
Kandy	8,532	7,070	83	21,689	-	0	21,689
Matale	12,484	7,386	59	31,227	-	0	31,227
N' Eliya	2,687	237	9	463	-	0	463
Badulla	7,603	5,850	77	23,719	-	0	23,719
Moneragala	17,148	11,990	70	52,172	-	0	52,172
Jaffna	Na	Na	Na	Na	Na	Na	Na
Kilinochchi	8,781	8,688	99	35,955	-	0	35,955
Vavuniya	4,000	2,541	64	10,991	-	0	10,991
Mullaitivu	5,634	6,077	108	23,777	-	0	23,777
Mannar	2,000	1,103	55	4,609	-	0	4,609
Trincomalee	24,256	20,109	83	92,254	-	0	92,254
Batticaloa	33,233	33,233	100	109,680	-	0	109,680
Udawalawa	5,000	10,260	205	53,765	-	0	53,765
System H	1,270	10,686	841	44,672	-	0	44,672
System H1	Na	1,408	Na	5,886	-	0	5,886
System B	19,733	19,840	101	82,939	-	0	82,939
System C	20,172	21,955	109	91,781	-	0	91,781
System G	4,357	3,559	82	14,878	-	0	14,878
System D	750	750	100	3,135	-	0	3,135
Rambakanoya	238	225	95	941	-	0	941
System L	742	742	100	3,102	-	0	3,102
Sri Lanka	475254	429600	90	1721263	397	488	1720774

Source: Crop Forecast, *Yala* 2020, Vol. 01, Socio Economics & Planning Centre, Department of Agriculture

Producer Prices

An increasing trend of paddy prices continued throughout the month in all major producing areas due to the arrival of limited supplies of paddy to the markets. The monthly average prices of long grain white paddy have increased by 8-24% with compared to the march, in major producing areas and the highest increase recorded from Kalawewa. The prices of short grain have increased by 7%- 21% and the highest increase from Kalawewa. Prices of both short grain white and long grain white were ranged between Rs.44.00-55.00/Kg. The monthly average prices of long grain red paddy have increased by 7% in Matara and 10% in Embilipitiya and the prices ranged between Rs.48.00-53.00/kg. According to the field, information it is expected to that increasing trend of paddy prices can be expected during next month due to the short supply.

Compared to the same period of last year, the prices of all the paddy varieties have shown an increasing trend in all considered producing areas. The prices of short grain have increased by 17%-33% with the highest increase from Kalawewa. Meanwhile the prices of long grain white have increased by 14%- 25% in all considered major producing areas. The prices of long grain red have increased by 38% in Hambantota and 45% Embilipitiya.

Table 1.2: Producer Prices of Paddy – May 2020

Commodity	Price Range		Average Price			Change Compared to			
	May 2020	Mar 2020	May 2020	Mar 2020	May 2019	Mar 2020		May 2019	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Short Grain									
Anuradhapura		42.00-50.00		45.98	39.44	-	-	-	-
Polonnaruwa	53.90 – 55.00	42.96-53.13	54.47	47.33	41.95	7.14	15.09	12.52	29.85
Kalawewa	52.00 – 55.00	42.00-47.00	53.33	44.25	40.00	9.08	20.53	13.33	33.33
Kurunegala	44.00 - 55.00	44.00-50.00	50.34	46.83	43.08	3.51	7.50	7.26	16.85
Dehiattakandiya	50.00 - 54.68	44.00-50.78	51.36	47.01	39.75	4.36	9.26	11.61	29.21
Nikaweratiya	49.50 -54.50	44.00-50.00	51.33	45.37		5.96	13.15	-	-
Ampara		49.00-50.00		49.40	39.43	-	-	-	-
Long Grain White									
Anuradhapura		39.00-48.00		44.15	41.71	-	-	-	-
Polonnaruwa	53.13 – 55.00	41.40-49.60	54.00	45.05	43.92	8.95	19.87	10.08	22.94
Kalawewa	50.00 – 54.00	39.50-45.00	51.55	41.67	42.50	9.88	23.72	9.05	21.29
Kurunegala	44.00 -55.00	44.00-50.00	50.41	46.83	44.21	3.58	7.64	6.20	14.03
Dehiattakandiya	49.00 -54.68	40.00-50.00	51.25	44.87	41.13	6.38	14.22	10.13	24.62
Embilipitiya		-		-		-	-	-	-
Nikaweratiya	48.50 – 54.00	42.00-50.00	50.38	44.36		6.01	13.55	-	-
Matara		-		-		-	-	-	-
Hambantota		-		-		-	-	-	-
Ampara		48.00-48.00		48.00		-	-	-	-
Long Grain Red									
Anuradhapura		-		-		-	-	-	-
Matara	50.00 – 52.00	47.00-48.00	51.00	47.60		3.40	7.14	-	-
Hambantota	48.00 – 53.00	-	51.00	-	36.90	-	-	14.10	38.21
Embilipitiya	51.00 – 53.00	47.00-48.00	52.10	47.40	35.83	4.70	9.92	16.27	45.40

Source: Marketing Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

Rice Prices Demand/Supply Situation

Wholesale Prices

The function of rice wholesale market was unstable during the period of April and May 2020 due to the enforcement of curfew as a protective measure of Covid – 19 Pandemic. However, at the mid of May, the function of wholesale market turned gradually into normal condition. Due to the

decrease of supply and uncertain situation of the market, average wholesale prices of all the rice varieties had increased in the range of 1%-6% compared to March prices.

Compared to the same period of last year, wholesale prices of all the rice varieties have increased in the range of 14%-33%. The highest price increase of 33% was recorded for raw red compared to the last year.

Retail Prices

In order to control the retail prices of the rice market, the government amended the order of maximum retail price of rice with effect from 10th April 2020. According to the order issued by the Consumer Affairs Authority on December 19, 2019, the maximum retail price (MRP) of samba and nadu was Rs.98.00/kg. Concerning the instability of retail price of rice varieties, the government fixed the MRP of samba and nadu at Rs.90.00/kg, white and red raw rice at Rs.85.00/kg. Furthermore, the MRP for *keeri* samba fixed at Rs.125.00/kg.

However, due to decrease the supply of most of rice varieties, the government amended the order of MRP for rice with effect from 28th May 2020. Accordingly, the MRP of samba (red and white) increased from Rs.90.00/kg to Rs.98.00/kg. Further, the MRP of nadu and raw rice (white and red) were increased by Rs.6.00/kg and Rs.8.00/kg respectively. However, the MRP of *keeri* samba decreased by Rs.5.00/kg.

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

Item	Price Range	Average Price			Change Compared to			
	May 2020	May 2020	Mar 2020	May 2019	Mar 2020		May 2019	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Wholesale Prices								
Samba 1	-	-	96.90	96.40	-	-	-	-
Samba 2	92.00 - 98.00	95.85	94.50	83.88	1.35	1.43	11.97	14.27
Samba 3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nadu 1	-	-	96.88	85.69	-	-	-	-
Nadu 2	90.00 - 97.00	94.63	91.15	82.80	3.47	3.81	11.83	14.29
Raw red	88.00 - 92.00	90.10	85.20	67.60	4.90	5.75	22.50	33.28
Raw white	88.00 - 95.00	90.78	86.90	79.03	3.88	4.46	11.75	14.87
Retail Prices								
Samba 1	-	-	98.00	99.05	-	-	-	-
Samba 2	-	-	-	92.62	-	-	-	-
Samba 3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nadu 1	-	-	98.00	92.83	-	-	-	-
Nadu 2	-	-	-	87.48	-	-	-	-
Raw red	-	-	97.55	80.74	-	-	-	-
Raw white	-	-	97.98	87.00	-	-	-	-

Source: Marketing Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

2. Other Field Crops

2.1 Chilli

Crop Situation

The targeted extent of green chilli for *Yala* 2020 was 6,044ha, and cultivated extent of land was 4,818 ha by the end of May 2020 and it was represented around 80% of the targeted extent in Sri Lanka. The highest cultivated extent was reported from Monaragala (518 ha), followed by

Anuradhapura (487 ha). From the outset of COVID-19 pandemic, the government adopted timely measures to minimize the impact on agriculture by exempting the lockdown for farming operations and food supply chains. Hence, the progress of cultivation was in a satisfactory level at the end of May, 2020. According to the cultivated extent by the end of this month, the expected production of green chilli was 23,333mt, and 45% of this major contribution for production is expected from Monaragala (13%), Anuradhapura (11%), Puttalam (9%), Kurunegala (8%) and Batticaloa (4%) districts.

Table 2.1.1: Target and Cultivation Progress of Green Chilli for Yala 2020 Season

Areas	Targeted Extent (ha)	Cultivation Progress by the end of January 2020		Expected Production (mt)
		Cultivated Extent (ha)	% of the Targeted Extent	
Anuradhapura	663	487	73.45	2,658
Puttalam	711	258	36.29	2,181
Monaragala	465	518	111.40	3,104
Jaffna	200	125	62.50	445
Badulla	264	150	56.82	628
Ampara	158	125	79.11	495
Batticaloa	351	326	92.88	1,064
Kurunegala	349	444	127.22	1,941
Kilinochchi	200	121	60.50	181
Other Areas	2,683	2,264	84.38	10,636
Total	6,044	4,818	79.72	23,333

Source: Crop Forecast, Yala 2020, Vol. 01, Socio Economics & Planning Centre, Department of Agriculture

Prices and Supply/Demand Situation

Wholesale price of green chilli has increased by about Rs.12.00/kg due to limited supply and wholesale prices were ranged between Rs.70.00- 160.00/kg. Compared to the same period of last year, wholesale price of green chilli has decreased by 14%. A quantity of 3,388 mt of dried chilli was imported during this month. The CIF price was Rs.364.18/kg. Wholesale price of imported dried chilli has decreased by about Rs.5.00/kg and wholesale prices were ranged between Rs.350.00 – Rs.450.00/kg. Compared to the same period of last year, wholesale price of imported dried chilli has increased by 47%.

Table 2.1.2: Wholesale and Retail Prices of Dried Chilli and Green Chilli - May 2020

Item	Price Range	Average Price			Change Compared to			
	May 2020	May 2020	Mar 2020	May 2019	Mar 2020		May 2019	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Wholesale Price								
Green Chilli	70.00-160.00	126.33	114.50	147.00	11.83	10.33	-20.67	-14.06
Dried Chilli	350.00-450.00	389.79	394.57	264.59	-4.78	-1.21	125.20	47.32
Retail Price								
Green Chilli	-	-	272.99	323.20	-	-	-	-
Dried Chilli	-	-	592.69	328.50	-	-	-	-

Source: Marketing, Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

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

Month	Quantity (mt)	Value (Rs.mn.)	CIF Price (Rs/kg)	Retail Price (Rs/kg)	Gross Margin (Rs/kg)
May 2020	3,388	1,234.13	364.18	-	-
April 2020	6,175	2,325.40	376.60	-	-
Mar 2020	4,854	1,677.4	345.56	592.69	247.12
Feb 2020	5,131	1,987.4	387.33	616.91	229.58
Jan 2020	3,080	1,192.4	387.11	568.88	181.77
Dec 2019	5,178	1,906.7	368.21	518.89	150.68

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

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

Location	1st week	2nd week	3rd week	4th week
Dambulla	-	75.60	69.20	67.20
Hambantota	-	-	-	-
Embilipitiya	-	182.00	186.00	195.00
Puttalam	-	-	90.00	125.00
A'Pura	-	-	-	-

Source: Marketing, Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

2.2 Red Onion and Big Onion

Crop Situation

The targeted extent of big onion cultivation was about 3,312 ha for this *yala* season and around 879 ha have been cultivated by the end of May 2020, which represent 26% of the targeted extent. Cultivation will be taken place until end of the July 2020. In Matale district, targeted extent was 981 ha and 59 ha have been cultivated at the end of May, which represent only 6% of the targeted extent. Cultivation progress in Anuradhapura district was in a satisfactory level and around 246 ha have been cultivated by the end of this month.

Table 2.2.1: Target and Cultivation Progress of Big Onion for Yala 2020 Season

Areas	Targeted Extent (ha)	Cultivation Progress by the end of May 2020		Expected Production (mt)
		Cultivated Extent (ha)	% of the Targeted Extent	
Matale	981	59	6	1,528
Anuradhapura	352	246	69	3,787
System - H	250	126	50	1,890
System -H1	1,287	219	17	3,285
Other areas	442	229	51	3,752
Total	3,312	879	26	14,242

Source: Crop Forecast, Yala 2020, Vol. 01, Socio Economics & Planning Centre, Department of Agriculture

The targeted extents of red onion cultivation was 4,807 ha for this *Yala* season and around 1,345 ha have been cultivated by the end of May 2020, which represent 28% of the targeted extent. The highest targeted extent (2000 ha) and cultivated extent (695 ha) were recorded from Jaffna district. The estimated production for this *Yala* season was 1,5307 mt and out of that 72% was supplied from Jaffna (44%) and Puttalam (28%) districts. From the outset of COVID-19 pandemic, the government adopted timely measures to minimize the impact on agriculture by exempting the lockdown for farming operations and food supply chains. Hence, the progress of cultivation was in a satisfactory level at the end of May 2020.

Table 2.2.2: Target and cultivation Progress of Red Onion for Yala 2020 season

Areas	Targeted Extent (ha)	Cultivation Progress by the end of May 2020		Expected Production (mt)
		Cultivated Extent (ha)	% of the Targeted Extent	
Jaffna	2,000	695	34.8	6,859
Puttalam	740	235	31.8	4,318
Trincomalee	656	79	12.0	621
Other areas	1,411	336	23.8	3,509
Total	4,807	1,345	28.0	15,307

Source: Crop Forecast, Yala 2020, Vol. 01, Socio Economics & Planning Centre, Department of Agriculture

Table 2.2.3: Wholesale Prices and Retail Prices of Red Onion and Big Onion - May 2020

Item	Price Range	Average Price			Change Compared to			
	May 2020	May 2020	Mar 2020	May 2019	Mar 2020		May 2019	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Wholesale Prices								
Red Onion (Sinnan)	250.00-280.00	262.83	200.78	78.10	62.06	30.91	184.74	236.55
Red Onion (Vedalan)	-	-	-	135.92	-	-	-	-
Red Onion (Imported)	250.00-280.00	265.00	215.25	146.71	49.75	23.11	118.29	80.62
Big Onion (imported)	50.00-75.00	57.53	137.75	64.05	-80.22	-58.23	-6.51	-10.17
Big Onion (Local)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Retail Prices								
Red Onion (Sinnan)	-	-	325.00	163.86	-	-	-	-
Red Onion (Vedalan)	-	-	-	201.43	-	-	-	-
Red Onion (Imported)	-	-	371.19	-	-	-	-	-
Big Onion (imported)	-	-	182.10	93.54	-	-	-	-
Big Onion (Local)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Source: Marketing, Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

The imported quantity of big onion during the month was about 17,954 mt. Average CIF price was Rs.42.61/kg. Special commodity levy of Rs.15.00/kg, has imposed on big onions for two months' effect from May 01, 2020. Wholesale price of imported big onion has decreased by about Rs.80.00/kg and wholesale prices ranged between Rs.50.00 – 75.00/kg. Compared to the same period of last year, wholesale price of imported big onion has decreased by about 10%.

Wholesale price of Sinnan red onion has increased by about Rs.62.00/kg due to limited supply from main producing areas and average wholesale prices were ranged between Rs.250.00 – 280.00/kg. About 1,275 mt of red onion was imported during this month and average CIF price was Rs.168.21/kg. Wholesale price of imported red onion has increased by about Rs.50.00/kg and wholesale prices were ranged between Rs.250.00 – 280. Compared to the same period of last year, wholesale prices of sinnan and imported red onion have increased by about 237% and 81% respectively.

Table 2.2.4: Monthly Average CIF, and Gross Margin of Wholesale and Retail Prices for Imported Onion

Item	Month	CIF Price	Wholesale Price	Retail Price	Gross Margin (Rs/kg)	
		(Rs/kg)	(Rs/kg)	(Rs/kg)	WP-CIF	RP-WP
Big onion	May,2020	42.61	57.53	-	14.92	-
	April,2020	72.04	-	-	-	-
	Mar,2020	79.14	137.75	182.1	58.61	44.35
	May,2019	48.08	64.05	93.54	15.97	29.5
Red onion	May,2020	168.21	265	-	96.79	-
	April,2020	178.41	-	-	-	-
	Mar,2020	175.19	215.25	371.19	40.06	155.94
	May,2019	115.33	146.71	-	31.38	-

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

Table 2.2.5: Quantity, value and CIF Prices of Imported Big Onion and Red Onion

Item	Quantity (mt.)			Value (Rs. mn)			CIF Price (Rs/kg)		
	May	Apr	Mar	May	Apr	Mar	May	Apr	Mar
	2020	2020	2020	2020	2020	2020	2020	2020	2020
Red Onion	1,275	104	496	214.4	18.5	87	168.21	178.41	175.19
Big Onion	17,954	30,475	33,496	765	2,195.43	2,651.10	42.61	72.04	79.14

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

**Table 2.2.6: Quantity Imported, CIF Price, Wholesale and Retail Price of Big Onion
Dec 2019 to May 2020**

Month	Quantity Imported (mt)	CIF Price (Rs/kg)	Wholesale Price (Rs/kg)	Retail Price (Rs/kg)	Gross Margin (RP-CIF) (Rs/kg)
May 2020	17,954	42.61	57.53	-	-
April 2020	30,475	72.04	-	-	-
Mar 2020	33,496	79.14	137.75	182.10	102.95
Feb 2020	16,421	91.81	140.63	187.64	95.83
Jan 2020	22,634	96.13	100.21	158.34	62.22
Dec 2019	29,000	101.53	126.44	178.67	77.15

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

2.3 Potato

Crop Situation and Progress

Yala cultivation of potato was commenced in both Nuwara Eliya and Badulla districts. For *Yala* 2020, the targeted extent of potato for *Yala* 2020 is 2,917 ha and about 370 ha were cultivated in the country by the end of May achieving 13% of the targeted extent. According to the cultivated extent up to end of May, the expected production of potato is 7,162 mt for this *Yala* season.

In the Nuwara Eliya district, the targeted extent is 854 ha for this *Yala* season and in the Badulla district, it was reported as 2,063 ha. In the Nuwara Eliya and Badulla districts, about 228 ha and 142 ha were cultivated by the end of May achieving 27% and 7% of the targeted extent respectively. In Badulla district, most of the new cultivation for the *Yala* season will be taken place in paddy fields after obtaining paddy harvest in those fields. According to field information, majority of the harvesting had been completed in hilly areas of Keppetipola, Bogahakumbura, Boralanda, Ambagasova, Uvaparagama areas of the Welimada DS division during the *Maha* season and the supply was over from the month of June for Welimada potato. Compared to the same period of last *Yala* season, the cultivated extents during this *Yala* season were at high level in Nuwara Eliya district, while it was at low level in Badulla district.

Table 2.3.1: Cultivation Progress and Expected Production of Potato up to end of May (Yala 2020)

District	Targeted Extent (ha)		Achievement (ha)		Progress (%) Yala 2020	Expected Production (mt)
	Yala 2019	Yala 2020	Yala 2019	Yala 2020		
N'Eliya	884	854	112	228	26.7	4,634
Badulla	2,157	2,063	359	142	6.9	2,528
Sri Lanka	3,049	2,917	471	370	12.7	7,162

Source: MFPAD/HARTI

*Crop Forecast, Yala 2020, vol.01 Socio-Economics & Planning Centre/DOA

*Crop Forecast, Yala 2019, vol.01 Socio-Economics & Planning Centre/DOA

Prices and Supply/Demand Situation

Despite the lockdown with COVID-19 pandemic situation in the country, food supply was adequate in the local market throughout the pandemic. The Government introduced guaranteed price for 14 priority crops identified (potato – Rs.100.00/kg), agricultural insurance, subsidized inputs, allowing farmers to continue the cultivation, irrespective of the island wide curfew. To make food available, several efforts were made by the GOSL, focusing on the consumers, by fixing the maximum retail price for essential food items.

In May, a quantity of 3,948 mt of potato had been imported. Compared to May 2019 (12,591 mt), the imports were low during this month. Average CIF price was Rs.58.00/kg in May. Special Commodity Levy of imported potato has been increased to Rs.50.00/kg on 21th May 2020.

Both local and imported stocks were available in the market. With regard to local potato, the supply of Welimada potato was limited due to end of the peak harvesting period. On average, the producer price of Nuwara Eliya potato was Rs.131.00/kg in May. Supply of Nuwara Eliya potato was also at a low level. Hence, the wholesale prices of Welimada and Nuwara Eliya potatoes have increased by 9% and 6% in the Colombo wholesale market compared to March. Meanwhile, the wholesale prices of imported potato have increased by 19% compared to March with increased tax for imported potato. During the month of May, the wholesale prices of Welimada, Nuwara Eliya and imported potatoes ranged between Rs.110.00-120.00/kg, Rs.120.00-140.00/kg and Rs.85.00-140.00/kg respectively.

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

Month	Quantity (mt.)	Value (Rs.mn)	CIF price (Rs/kg)	Retail Price (Rs/kg)	Gross Margin (Rs/kg)
May 2020	3,948	230.37	58.36	-	-
April 2020	13,269	837.34	63.11	-	-
Mar 2020	11,527	624.42	54.17	129.89	75.72
Feb 2020	16,999	887.45	52.21	138.17	85.97
Jan 2020	14,651	815.84	55.69	137.70	82.01
Dec 2019	14,946	927.49	62.06	159.39	97.34

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

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

Item	Price Range	Average			Change Compared to			
	May 2020	May 2020	Mar 2020	May 2019	Mar 2020		May 2019	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Producer Prices (PP)								
Welimada	120.00-150.00	132.00	106.88	-	25.13	23.51	-	-
Nuwara Eliya	125.00-140.00	131.00	99.90	124.05	31.10	31.13	6.95	5.60
Imported – CIF	56.33-78.57	58.36	54.17	37.23	4.19	7.73	21.13	56.75
Wholesale Prices (WP)								
Welimada	110.00-120.00	115.50	105.50	-	10.00	9.48	-	-
Nuwara Eliya	120.00-140.00	133.00	125.63	145.92	7.38	5.87	-12.92	-8.86
Imported	85.00-140.00	101.17	85.25	94.85	15.92	18.67	6.32	6.66
Retail Prices (RP)								
Welimada	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nuwara Eliya	-	-	196.08	200.97	-	-	-	-
Imported	-	-	129.89	125.23	-	-	-	-
Gross Margin (RP-PP)								
Welimada	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nuwara Eliya	-	-	96.18	76.92	-	-	-	-
Imported (RP-CIF)	-	-	75.72	88.00	-	-	-	-
Gross Margin (RP -WP)								
Welimada	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nuwara Eliya	-	-	70.45	55.04	-	-	-	-
Imported	-	-	44.64	30.38	-	-	-	-

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 56% of its targeted extent as at end of May in Yala 2020 season. According to the table 2.4.1, the extent of the green gram cultivation has increased by 5,379 ha in Sri Lanka compared with last year (Yala 2019). Considering the crop damages, the expected production from the island-wide green gram cultivation is 9,557 mt, which was increased around 78% of the production compared to the previous year green gram production.

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

Crop	District	Targeted Ext. (ha)		Achievement (ha)		Progress (%) Yala 2020	Expected Production (mt)
		Yala 2019	Yala 2020	Yala 2019	Yala 2020		
Green gram	Hambantota	652	406	72	579	142.6	832
	Moneragala	632	615	161	1,023	166.3	978
	Kurunegala	923	689	92	1,012	146.9	1,238
	Other districts	3,757	10,668	1182	4,272	40.0	6,509
	Sri Lanka	5,964	12,378	1507	6,886	55.6	9,557
Cowpea	Ampara	3388	3,271	806	1724	52.7	2044
	Moneragala	566	599	474	2046	341.6	2368
	Anuradhapura	213	601	65	540	89.9	732
	Other districts	2509	2,466	763	3,313	134.3	4,667
	Sri Lanka	6,676	6,937	2,108	7,623	109.9	9,811

Source: MFPAD/HARTI

Crop Forecast Yala 2020 & 2019, Volume 01, Socio Economic and Planning Centre/DOA

It has been able to achieve 110% of the targeted extent from cowpea cultivation and the expected production is around 9,811 mt in Sri Lanka. Ampara, Monaragala and Anuradhapura districts are the major producing districts for cowpea in 2020 *Yala* season and about those districts will contribute for 52% of the total production. Monaragala, Anuradhapura and Ampara districts highlighted a better performance (Table 2.4.1).

Prices, Supply and Demand Situation

The wholesale price of green gram ranged between Rs.270.00/kg and Rs.310.00/kg with an average of Rs.282.00/kg in May 2020. The average price has decreased by 8% compared to March 2020. Similarly, compared to the same period of last year, the wholesale price has been increased by 12%.

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

Item	Price Range	Average			Change Compared to			
	May 2020	May 2020	Mar 2020	May 2019	Mar 2020		May 2019	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Wholesale Prices								
Green gram	270.00-310.00	281.67	259.5	251.97	22.17	8.54	29.69	11.78
Cowpea (White)	265.00-310.00	288.53	264.25	217.71	24.28	9.19	70.82	32.53
Cowpea (Red)	265.00-310.00	288.47	276.5	248.36	11.97	4.33	40.12	16.15
Retail Prices								
Green gram	-	-	300.75	277.49	-	-	-	-
Cowpea (White)	-	-	304.89	276.49	-	-	-	-
Cowpea (Red)	-	-	308.19	300.82	-	-	-	-

Source: Marketing Food Policy & Agribusiness Division/HARTI

Average wholesale prices of white and red cowpea were recorded as 288.00/kg in May 2020. The wholesale prices of both white and cowpea ranged between Rs.265.00/kg and Rs.310.00/kg. Compared to March 2020, the wholesale price of white cowpea has increased by around 9% and red cowpea has increased by around 4%. Compared to the same period of last year, the wholesale price of white cowpea has been increased by 32% and the wholesale price of the red cowpea has increased by around 16% (Table 2.4.2).

A total of 990 mt of green gram has been imported during this month, and it has decreased around 36% compared to the green gram quantity imported in March 2020. The average green gram was Rs.192.65/kg, which was increased by about 6% compared with March 2020. The total expenditure of the importation of green gram was recorded as Rs.190.66 million which has decreased by 32% compared to the total value spent on green gram importation in March 2020. Green gram has been imported from several countries, which are Myanmar (46%), Venezuela (25%), Argentina (12%), Australia (7%), Thailand (5%) and South Africa (5%).

Table 2.4.3: Quantity, Value and CIF Prices of Imported Green Gram- Dec 2019 to May2020

Month	Quantity (mt)	Value (Rs.mn)	CIF price (Rs/kg)	Retail Price (Rs/kg)	Gross Margin (Rs/kg)
May 2020	990	190.66	192.65	-	-
April 2020	926	187.29	202.34	-	-
Mar 2020	1,536	280.27	182.45	300.75	118.30
Feb 2020	2,716	518.28	190.83	300.45	109.62
Jan 2020	1,229	225.41	183.35	302.03	118.67
Dec 2019	723	123.29	170.53	282.54	112.01

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

According to table 2.4.4, a total of 344 mt of cowpea have been imported during this month. The imported quantity of cowpea has been decreased by 56% compared to the imported quantity of March 2020. The average CIF price of cowpea was recorded as Rs.164.00/kg. The total expenditure on cowpea imports has been decreased by 52% compared to March 2020. The total value of the cowpea imports was noted as approximately Rs.56 million. The highest quantities of cowpea were imported from India (52%), Myanmar (42%) and Madagascar (6%).

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

Month	Quantity (mt)	Value (Rs.mn)	CIF price (Rs/kg)	Retail Price (Rs/kg)	Gross Margin (Rs/kg)
May 2020	344	56.38	163.93	-	-
April 2020	884	150.91	170.72	-	-
Mar 2020	780.11	117.76	150.95	304.89	153.94
Feb 2020	495	76.79	155.17	303.00	147.83
Jan 2020	413	58.56	141.81	297.64	155.82
Dec 2019	510	69.28	135.91	285.97	150.05

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	May ,2020	192.65	281.67	-	77.05	41.25
	April ,2020	202.34	-	-	-	-
	Mar ,2020	182.45	259.5	300.75	81.55	28.07
	May , 2019	177.22	251.97	277.49	79.72	21.63
Cowpea (White)	May ,2020	163.93	288.53	-	113.3	40.64
	April ,2020	170.72	-	-	-	-
	Mar ,2020	155.17	264.25	304.89	102.21	45.63
	May , 2019	123.47	217.71	276.49	104.97	57.31
Cowpea (Red)	May ,2020	-	288.47	-	-	31.69
	April ,2020	-	-	-	-	-
	Mar ,2020	-	276.5	308.19	-	33.83
	May , 2019	-	248.36	300.82	-	65.25

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

2.5 Red dhal

Prices and Supply/Demand Situation

The wholesale price of red dhal ranged between Rs.148.00/kg and Rs.160.00/kg with an average of Rs.152.00/kg. The maximum retail price which was Rs.130.00/kg has been imposed by the government to control the increasing trend of the red dhal in the country. Even though the usual distribution systems in the country had been collapsed in the country due to COVID-19 pandemic, essential food commodities were distributed via a mobile distribution system, super market, government networks, Lanka Sathosa, Coop City and cooperatives. In this background, the wholesale price has been increased by 24% relative to March and by 40% compared to the same period of last year.

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

Red Dhal	Price Range	Average			Change Compared to			
	May 2020	May 2020	Mar 2020	May 2019	Mar 2020		May 2019	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Wholesale Price	148.00-160.00	152.43	123.35	109.13	29.08	23.58	43.31	39.69
Retail Price	-	-	143.27	129.30	-	-	-	-

Source: Marketing Food Policy & Agribusiness Division

During the month of May, a total of 18,566 mt of red dhal has been imported at an average CIF price of Rs.99.64/kg and it has been increased by 8% compared to March 2020. Imported total quantity was increased by 28% compared to March. Of the total red dhal quantity, the largest quantity (i.e., 18,306 mt) was of the whole type while the rest (i.e., 260 mt) was of the split type. From the whole type of red dhal quantity, 63% had been imported from Australia followed by Canada (37). The total value of the whole type of red dhal imports was Rs.1818 million, with an average CIF price of Rs.99.29/kg. The entire quantity of split type red dhal, has been imported from Canada. The average CIF price of split type was noted as Rs.124.57/kg and the total value of the imports of split type was Rs.32.39 million.

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

Month	Quantity (mt)	CIF Price Rs/kg	Wholesale price Rs/kg	Retail price Rs/kg	Gross Margin (Rs/kg)	
					CIF-WP	WP-RP
May 2020	18,566	99.64	152.43	-	52.79	-
April 2020	22,976	99.44	-	-	-	-
Mar 2020	14,475	92.32	123.35	143.27	31.03	19.92
Feb 2020	11,183	84.83	126.08	143.07	41.24	17.00
Jan 2020	13,016	80.53	128.22	140.11	47.69	11.89
Dec 2019	19,642	76.23	115.28	133.37	39.04	18.10

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

3. Vegetables

Crop Situation

Vegetable cultivation of *Yala* 2020 season was commenced and continued under the COVID-19 pandemic situation that the country faced from the mid of March 2020. Although the government of Sri Lanka declared partial as well as nationwide lock down, for health reason to save the people's lives from the pandemic, agricultural activities were exempted from restrictions. The overall target for the vegetable cultivation for *Yala* season 2020 reported as 38,634 ha and 68% of the target had been achieved by the end of May. The expected vegetable production is 333,636 mt. The target for the up-country vegetable was 14,273ha and 42% of the target had been achieved. Beans (1,395ha) and capsicum (1,235ha) were the mostly cultivated up-country vegetables. The target for the low country vegetable was 24,360ha and 84% of the target had been achieved. Long bean (3,699ha), brinjal(3,549ha), pumpkin(3,114ha), and okra(2,723ha) were the mostly cultivated low-country vegetables (Crop Forecast *Yala* 2020, Vol.01, Socio Economic and Planning Center/DOA).

Prices and Supply/Demand Situation

Although, the country faced with COVID-19 pandemic, adequate stocks of vegetables were available throughout the country as the harvesting of *Maha* season continued through April and May. However, regular vegetable distribution channels were interrupted at the beginning of shut down due to COVID-19 pandemic. Nevertheless, alternative distribution channels such as home delivery and online purchasing platforms emerged to deliver vegetables as well as other essential food commodities. Particularly, a Presidential Task Force was established during late March, and

the monitoring the distribution of agricultural produces was one of the main tasks of the Task Force. The government introduced a mechanism to purchase vegetables directly from farmers and distributed to traders who deliver to the consumers. Home delivery and online purchasing platforms emerged to deliver vegetables as well as other essential food commodities. Local government authorities and co-operatives launched home delivery services of essential commodity packs at affordable prices. Individual traders also played a significant role in delivering essential foodstuffs to the doorstep during the pandemic. Such strong monitoring system ensured the availability of vegetables throughout the country. Compared to the March, the wholesale prices of most of the vegetable varieties have decreased by 5%-53% during the month of May. The highest price of Rs.180.00/kg was recorded for beans while the lowest price of Rs.20.00/kg was noted for beetroot, knolkhol, cabbage, and cucumber.

Compared to the same period of last year, wholesale prices of most of the vegetable varieties had decreased by 7%-51%.

Table 3.1: Wholesale Prices of Vegetables – May 2020

Item	Price Range	Average			Change Compared to			
	May 2020	May 2020	Mar 2020	May 2019	Mar 2020		May 2019	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Beans (green)	50.00-180.00	106.67	111.75	181.50	-5.08	-4.55	-74.83	-41.23
Carrot	50.00-70.00	62.67	126.50	118.25	-63.83	-50.46	-55.58	-47.00
Leeks	70.00-120.00	94.00	106.00	56.25	-12.00	-11.32	37.75	67.11
Beetroot	20.00-55.00	36.61	73.41	92.21	-36.80	-50.13	-55.60	-60.30
Knolkhol	20.00-60.00	40.00	51.00	82.25	-11.00	-21.57	-42.25	-51.37
Raddish	30.00-50.00	37.33	39.00	70.13	-1.67	-4.27	-32.79	-46.76
Cabbage	20.00-50.00	34.00	73.25	53.11	-39.25	-53.58	-19.11	-35.98
Tomato	30.00-100.00	58.78	98.00	78.00	-39.22	-40.02	-19.22	-24.64
Ladies Fingers	50.00-80.00	63.00	27.75	54.38	35.25	127.03	8.63	15.86
Brinjal	80.00-140.00	96.67	95.64	95.97	1.03	1.07	0.69	0.72
Capsicum	80.00-100.00	89.33	132.50	140.75	-43.17	-32.58	-51.42	-36.53
Pumpkin	25.00-60.00	44.56	78.50	51.25	-33.94	-43.24	-6.69	-13.06
Cucumber	20.00-50.00	37.33	23.14	46.38	14.20	61.36	-9.04	-19.50
Bittergourd	80.00-150.00	105.44	93.25	156.15	12.19	13.08	-50.71	-32.47
Snake gourd	80.00-120.00	101.33	71.83	125.00	29.50	41.07	-23.67	-18.93
Drumstick	-	-	-	139.52	-	-	-	-
Luffa	60.00-140.00	95.67	68.50	103.25	27.17	39.66	-7.58	-7.34
Long Beans	40.00-100.00	70.74	81.50	96.14	-10.76	-13.20	-25.40	-26.42
Ash Plantain	40.00-70.00	53.67	72.82	51.74	-19.15	-26.30	1.93	3.73
Green Chilli	70.00-1-60.00	126.33	114.50	147.00	11.83	10.33	-20.67	-14.06
Lime	400.00-600.00	520.00	53.00	335.00	467.00	881.13	185.00	55.22

Source: Marketing, Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

4. Fruits

Prices and Supply/Demand Situation

As stated earlier, the wholesale and retail prices of fruits for the months of April and May 2020 were not available as the data collection process was interrupted at that time due to the Covid-19 pandemic. However, the producer prices are available for the month of May as the data collection process resumed from May. Accordingly, average prices of Rs.19.62/kg, Rs.91.33/kg and Rs.54.40/kg had received by the producers for the banana varieties Ambul and Kolikuttu and for papaw respectively in May 2020. Compared to the prices in March 2020, the producer prices had decreased for all three varieties in May and the prices had decreased by 26%, 24% and 7% for Ambul, papaw and Kolikuttu respectively. At the same time, compared to May 2019, producer prices had increased for papaw and Kolikuttu by 27% and 8% respectively and a price decrease of 21% was noted for Ambul (Table 4.3).

Exports/Imports of Fruits

According to the Sri Lanka Customs, Sri Lanka had exported 1,016mt of fresh fruits in May, 2020 to the value of Rs.109mn. Of the exported quantity, 93% were papaw, 3% were fresh pineapple and another 3% were fresh mangoes. In addition, a quantity of 4mt of fresh avocado had also been exported. However, its contribution to the total exported fruit quantity was less than 1% (Table 4.4).

With reference to imports, Sri Lanka had imported 3,377mt and 1,057mt of fresh fruits during the months of April and May 2020 respectively and the value was Rs.666mn in April and Rs.213mn in May. Of the imported quantity, 82% were apple, 10% were grapes and 9% were oranges in April. With respect to the month of May, 79% were apple, 13% were grapes and 9% were oranges. The main importing country of apple in April was China and, they were South Africa and China in May. Grapes had been imported mainly from South Africa and Australia and Egypt was the importing country of oranges in both April and May 2020. In the month of March 2020, the quantity imported was 2,703mt. Therefore, the imported quantity had increased by 25% in April compared to March and it was a decrease of 69% in May compared to April 2020 (Table 4.5).

Table 4.1: Producer Prices of Selected Fruits – May 2020

Item	Price Range	Average			Change Compared to			
	May 2020	May 2020	Mar 2020	May 2019	Mar 2020		May 2019	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Ambul	18.86 - 21.43	19.62	26.43	24.96	-6.81	-25.77	-5.34	-21.39
Kolikuttu	71.00 - 116.00	91.33	98.33	84.86	-7.00	-7.12	6.47	7.62
Papaw	48.00 -67.50	54.40	71.25	42.81	-16.85	-23.65	11.59	27.07

Source: Marketing Food Policy Agribusiness Division, HARTI

Table 4.2: Quantity, Value and FOB Prices of Exported Fruits - February to May 2020

Type of Fruit	May - 2020			March - 2020			Feb - 2020		
	Qty (mt)	Value (Rs.mn)	FOB (Rs/kg)	Qty (mt)	Value (Rs.mn)	FOB (Rs/kg)	Qty (mt)	Value (Rs.mn)	FOB (Rs/kg)
Fresh Pineapple	33.13	14.83	447.57	26.38	12.26	464.81	51.78	25.71	496.57
Papaw	947.25	70.57	74.50	733.54	76.18	103.85	886.26	75.82	85.55
Fresh Mango	31.40	20.72	660.26	13.42	4.57	340.35	11.04	7.30	661.02
Avocado, fresh	4.04	2.70	667.97	7.75	4.34	560.17	5.00	2.67	533.55

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

Table 4.3: Quantity, Value and CIF Prices of Imported Fruits – February to May 2020

Type of Fruit	May - 2020			April - 2020			Mar - 2020		
	Qty (mt)	Value (Rs.mn)	CIF (Rs/kg)	Qty (mt)	Value (Rs.mn)	CIF (Rs/kg)	Qty (mt)	Value (Rs.mn)	CIF (Rs/kg)
Apple	831	142.37	171.36	2,763	500.28	181.07	1,643	300.25	182.71
Grapes	136	58.04	428.27	321	132.97	414.49	446	186.15	417.06
Oranges	90	12.17	134.52	293	33.25	113.35	614	68.37	111.32

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

5. Wheat grain, Wheat flour and Sugar

Wheat grain and Wheat flour

In the month of May, a quantity of 194,417mt of wheat grain had been imported showing a significant increase compared to the imported quantity of the month of April (32,297mt). The average CIF price was recorded as Rs.49.52/kg and no significant change compared to the previous month (Rs.50.17/kg). Wheat grain had been mainly imported from Canada (60%), Russian Federation (30%) and the United State (6%).

A total quantity of 1,075mt of wheat flour worth of 82mn had been imported during the month of May. Compared to the previous month, quantity of this month has increased by 630mt. Wheat flour for the month of May had been mainly imported from India and the average CIF price was Rs.75.95/kg.

The local retail price of wheat flour ranged between Rs.90.00-95.00/kg and the average price was Rs.92.26/kg. Compared to the March, the average retail price of wheat flour remained unchanged during the month. However, compared to the same period of last year, retail price of wheat flour has decreased by 1%.

Table 5.1: Open Market Retail Prices of Wheat Flour and Sugar – May 2020

Item	Price Range	Average			Change Compared to			
	May- 2020	May- 2020	Mar- 2020	May - 2019	Mar- 2020		May - 2019	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Wheat Flour	90.00 - 95.00	92.26	92.24	93.64	0.02	0.02	-1.38	-1.47
Sugar	120.59 - 130.29	125.23	109.52	99.42	15.71	14.34	25.81	25.96

Source: Department of Census and Statistics

Table 5.2: Quantity, Value and CIF Prices of Wheat Flour & Grain- Dec 2019 to May 2020

Month	Quantity (mt.)	Value (Rs.mn)	CIF price (Rs/kg)	Retail Price (Rs/kg)	Gross Margin (Rs/kg)
Wheat Flour					
May 2020	1,075	81.66	75.96	92.26	16.30
Apr 2020	444	33.38	75.05	89.04	13.99
Mar 2020	917	66.17	72.18	92.24	20.06
Feb 2020	4,560	296.41	65.00	92.55	27.55
Jan 2020	2,735	184.43	67.44	92.17	24.73
Dec 2019	929	71.66	77.12	93.20	16.08
Wheat Grain					
May 2020	194,417	9,627	49.52	92.26	42.74
Apr 2020	32,297	1620	50.17	89.04	38.87
Mar 2020	309,091	14,829	71.56	92.24	20.68
Feb 2020	90,250	4,267	47.28	92.55	45.27
Jan 2020	89,391	4,139	46.31	92.17	45.86
Dec 2019	137,220	6,423	46.81	93.20	46.39

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

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

Sugar

A total quantity of 30,478mt worth of 2,301mn of sugar had been imported to the country during the month of May. Compared to the month of March, quantity of this month has decreased by 35,529mt. Sugar for the month of May had been mainly imported from India (95%) and its CIF price was Rs.74.85/kg, while the average CIF price for May was reported as Rs.75.51/kg. Compared to the March, average CIF price for sugar has increased nearly by Rs.4.00/kg during the month.

The local retail price of sugar for the month of May, ranged between Rs.121.00-130.00/kg and the average retail price was Rs.125.00/kg. Compared to the March, the average retail price of sugar has increased by Rs.16.00/kg during the month. Further, compared to the same period of last year, average retail price of sugar has also increased by nearly 26%.

Table 5.3: Quantity, Value and CIF Prices of Sugar- Dec 2019 to May 2020

Month	Quantity (mt.)	Value (Rs.mn)	CIF price (Rs/kg)	Retail Price (Rs/kg)	Gross Margin (Rs/kg)
May 2020	30,478	2301.3	75.51	125.23	49.72
April 2020	34,839	2547.7	73.13	119.21	46.08
Mar 2020	66,007	4723.6	71.56	109.52	37.96
Feb 2020	56,492	3824.0	67.69	108.30	40.61
Jan 2020	45,565	2933.3	64.38	107.20	42.82
Dec 2019	29,602	1890.4	63.86	106.50	42.64

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

Table 6: Import of Selected Food Items – May 2020

Item	Quantity (mt)		% Change Compared to last month	Value (Rs. mn)		% Change Compared to last month	CIF (Rs/kg)		% Change Compared to last month
	May 2020	Apr 2020		May 2020	Apr 2020		May 2020	Apr 2020	
Rice	376	891	-57.8	45.8	101.9	-55.0	121.96	114.40	6.6
Red Onion	1,275	104	1129.0	214.4	18.5	1058.8	168.21	178.41	-5.7
Big Onion	17,954	30,453	-41.0	765.0	2195.4	-65.2	42.61	72.09	-40.9
Potato	3,948	13,269	-70.2	230.4	837.3	-72.5	58.36	63.11	-7.5
Dried Chillies	3,389	6,180	-45.2	1234.1	2327.8	-47.0	364.18	376.69	-3.3
Masoor Dhal	18,566	22,976	-19.2	1850.0	2284.8	-19.0	99.64	99.44	0.2
Green Gram	990	926	6.9	190.7	187.3	1.8	192.65	202.34	-4.8
Cowpea	344	884	-61.1	56.4	150.9	-62.6	163.93	170.72	-4.0
Garlic	3,911	3,896	0.4	852.8	957.4	-10.9	218.07	245.74	-11.3
Wheat flour	1,075	445	141.7	81.6	33.4	144.7	75.95	75.04	1.2
Wheat grain	194,417	109,679	77.3	9627.2	5462.6	76.2	49.52	49.81	-0.6
White crystalline cane sugar	30,477	34,964	-12.8	2301.3	2557.9	-10.0	75.51	73.16	3.2
Maize	26	204	-87.3	3.0	23.5	-87.4	114.09	115.20	-1.0

Source: Marketing, Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

Table 7: Monthly Rainfall (mm) – May 2020

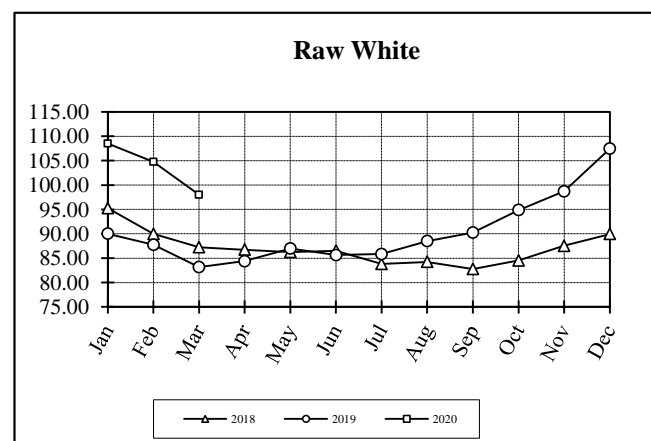
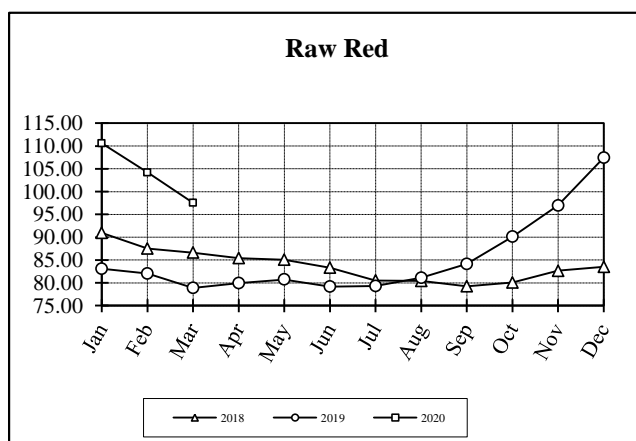
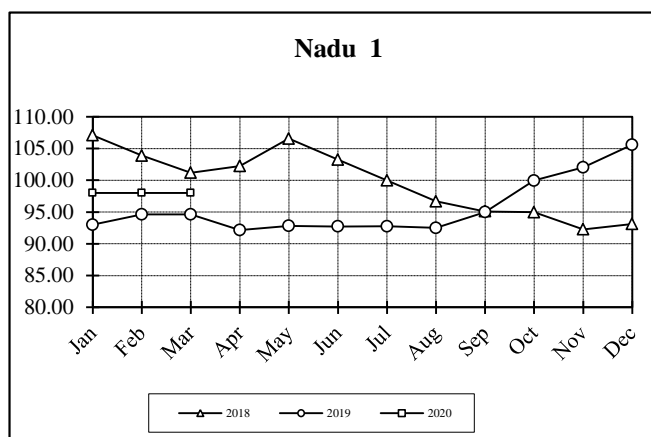
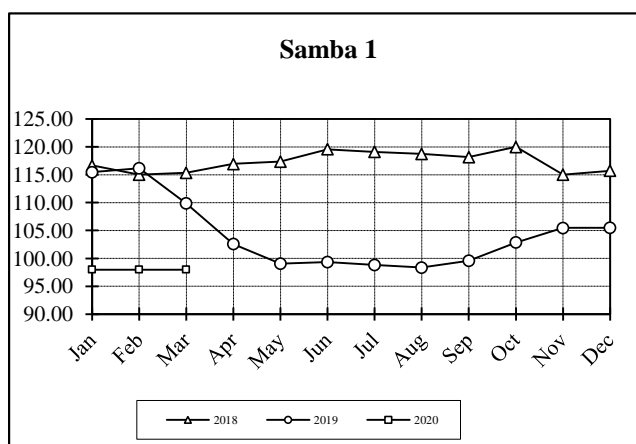
Rainfall Station	Total Rainfall (mm)	30 Year Avg. Rainfall (mm)	Total Rainy Days	30 Year Average Rainy Days
Anuradhapura	n/a	68.7	n/a	5
Badulla	n/a	119.4	n/a	9
Bandarawela	n/a	112.2	n/a	9
Batticaloa	n/a	89.0	n/a	6
Colombo	200.2	128.0	18	9
Galle	314.4	111.3	20	9
Hambantota	n/a	65.4	n/a	5
Jaffna	39.9	25.7	07	2
Katugastota	n/a	71.9	n/a	8
Katunayaka	n/a	132.9	n/a	8
Kurunegala	316.9	139.1	18	8
Maha Iluppallama	n/a	84.9	n/a	6
Mannar	n/a	44.4	n/a	3
Nuwara Eliya	n/a	71.5	n/a	8
Pottuvil	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Puttalam	n/a	67.7	n/a	5
Ratmalana	n/a	141.5	n/a	9
Ratnapura	n/a	212.2	n/a	14
Trincomalee	n/a	55.5	n/a	4
Vavuniya	n/a	62.9	n/a	4
Polonnaruwa	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Monaragala	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Mattala	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

Source: Department of Meteorology

Note: n/a refers to not available

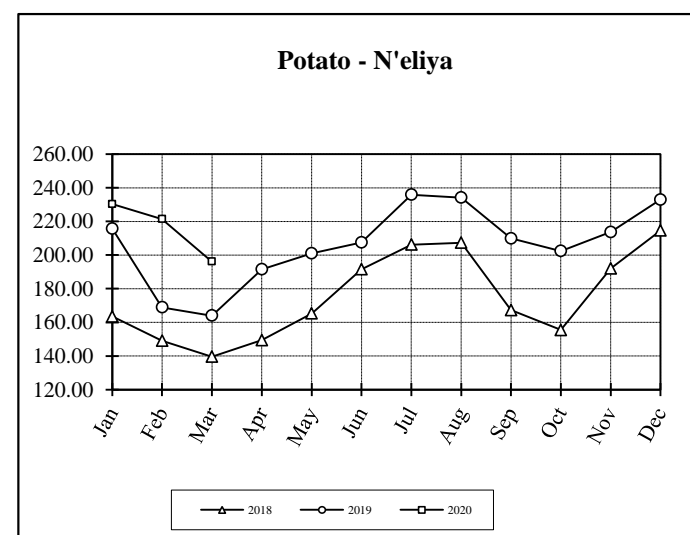
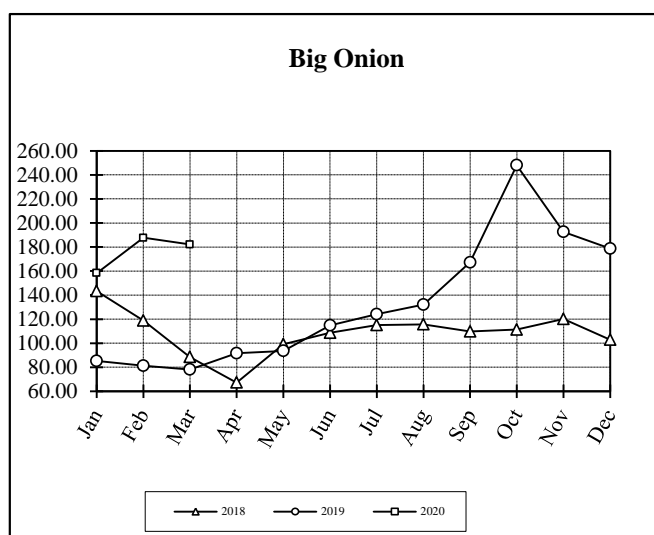
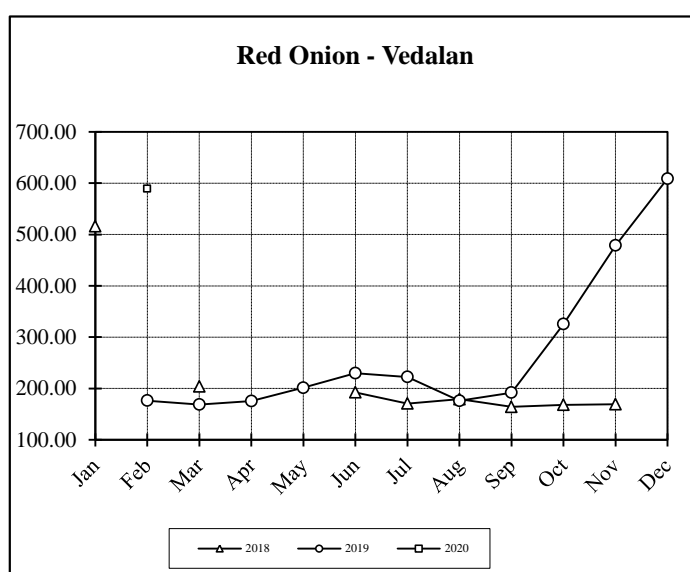
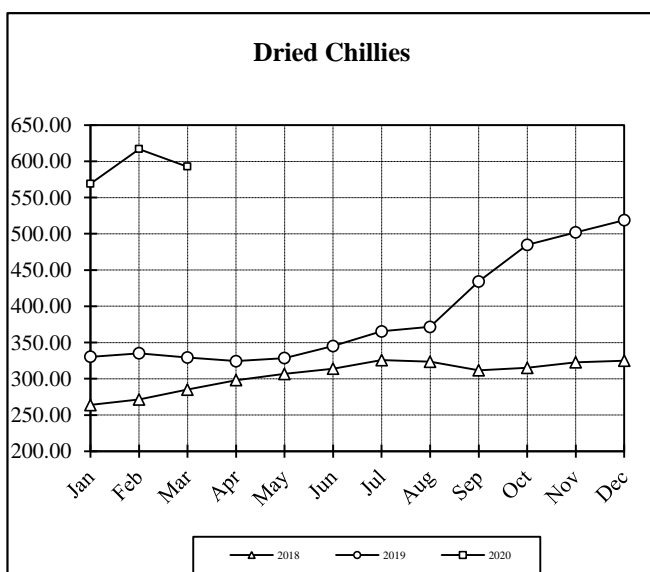
Appendix 01: Retail Price of Rice in Colombo & Suburbs (Rs/kg)

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



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

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



Appendix 03: Farm gate \Producer Prices of Food Commodities in Selected Producing Areas (Rs/Kg)- May - 2020

Commodity	1St Week	2nd Week	3rd Week	4th Week	Commodity	1St Week	2nd Week	3rd Week	4th Week	Commodity	1St Week	2nd Week	3rd Week	4th Week	
<u>Paddy</u>					<u>Potato</u>					<u>Leeks</u>					
<u>Short grain</u>					- N'eliya		138.00	127.00	128.00	- Welimada					
- A'pura					- Badulla		123.00	128.00	145.00	- N'eliya		88.00	72.00	78.00	
- P'naruwa		53.90	54.84	54.68	- Welimada										
- Kalawewa		53.00	54.00	53.00	<u>Pulses</u>					<u>Beetroot</u>					
- Kurunegala		46.83	50.80	53.40	<u>Green Gram</u>					- Hanguranketha		45.00	40.00		
- Dehiattakandiya		50.33	52.42	51.33	- Galgamuwa					- N'eliya		28.00	32.00	37.00	
- Ampara					- Kalawewa					- Dambulla		35.40	36.00	42.40	
<u>Long grain (White)</u>					- Embilipitiya					- Kurunegala					
- A'pura					- Kurunegala					- Welimada					
- P'naruwa		53.90	54.84	53.25	- A'pura					<u>Knokhol</u>					
- Kalawewa		51.00	52.25	51.40	<u>Cowpea</u>					- Hanguranketha		22.50	22.50	42.50	
- Kurunegala		46.83	50.90	53.50	- A'pura					- N'eliya		27.00	27.00	38.00	
- Dehiattakandiya		50.00	52.42	51.33	- Galgamuwa					- Welimada					
- Embilipitiya					- Nikaweratiya					<u>Radish</u>					
- Ampara					- Kalawewa					- Hanguranketha		22.50	20.00		
- Matara		51.20	51.20	50.60	- Embilipitiya					- N'eliya		23.00	23.00	38.00	
- Hambantota					- Kurunegala					- Welimada					
<u>Long grain (Red)</u>					- A'Pura					<u>Cabbage</u>					
- Matara		51.20	51.20	50.60	- Kalawewa					- Hanguranketha		25.00	20.00	37.50	
- Hambantota		49.50	51.75	51.75	<u>Gingelly</u>					- N'eliya		37.00	33.00	43.00	
- Ampara					- A'Pura					- Welimada					
- Embilipitiya		51.50	52.40	52.40	- Kalawewa					- Hambantota					
<u>Other Food Crops</u>					<u>Vegetables (Up Country)</u>					- Badulla		28.00	29.00	45.00	
<u>Dried Chillies</u>					<u>Beans</u>					<u>Tomato</u>					
- A'Pura					- Dambulla		70.00	78.60	168.00	- Hanguranketha		35.00	27.50	35.00	
- Galgamuwa					- Welimada					- Welimada					
- Kalawewa					- Badulla		48.00	79.00	150.00	- Hambantota			32.00	32.00	47.00
<u>Red Onion</u>					<u>Carrot</u>					- Dambulla			40.60	38.40	63.20
- Puttalam					- Hanguranketha		66.67	62.50	75.00	<u>Low Country</u>					
-					- N'eliya		63.00	53.00	63.00	<u>Ladies Fingers</u>					
<u>Big Onion</u>					- Welimada					- A'pura					
- Dambulla										- Dambulla		49.60	46.00	49.60	
- Kalawewa										- Hambantota					
- A'Pura										- Embilipitiya			46.00	56.00	74.00
- Kurunegala										- Matara			55.00	90.00	90.00

Appendix 03: contd.....

Commodity	1 st Week	2 nd Week	3 rd Week	4 th Week	Commodity	1 st Week	2 nd Week	3 rd Week	4 th Week	Commodity	1 st Week	2 nd Week	3 rd Week	4 th Week
<u>Brinjals</u>					<u>Pumpkin</u>					<u>Lime</u>				
- A'pura					- Dambulla		28.80	21.20	32.40	- Hambantota		275.00	275.00	275.00
- Dambulla		46.60	49.60	89.80	- Hambantota		36.00	36.00	34.00	- Embilipitiya		415.00	400.00	412.50
- Hambantota		40.00	40.00		- Embilipitiya		40.00	42.00	44.00	- Moneragala				
- Embilipitiya		56.00	77.00	84.00	- Matara		65.00	70.00	60.00	<u>Fruits(Rs/Kg)</u>				
- Matara		75.00	87.50	120.00	- A'pura					<u>Banana</u>				
- Welimada					- Moneragala					<u>Ambul</u>				
-					<u>Cucumber</u>					- Moneragala				
<u>Capsicum</u>					- A'pura					- Embilipitiya		18.86	18.57	21.43
- Welimada					- Dambulla		18.20	17.80	33.00	- Hambantota				
<u>Bitter Gourd</u>					- Hambantota		35.00	35.00	23.75	<u>Kolikuttu</u>				
- A'pura					- Matara		35.00	40.00	55.00	- Moneragala				
- Dambulla		56.20	62.60	95.00	<u>Long Beans</u>					- Embilipitiya		71.00	71.00	116.00
- Hambantota		48.00	48.00	72.00	- Dambulla		47.20	42.40	60.40	- Hambantota		97.50	97.50	95.00
- Embilipitiya		96.00	123.00	119.00	- Hambantota		26.25	26.25	33.75	<u>Papaw</u>				
-					- Embilipitiya		66.00	70.00	72.50	- Moneragala				
<u>Snake Gourd</u>					- Matara			82.50	102.50	- Embilipitiya		48.00	48.00	50.40
- Dambulla		47.80	46.40	90.20	- A'Pura					- Hambantota		67.50	67.50	45.00
- Hambantota		46.25	46.25	50.00	<u>Ash Plantain</u>					<u>Pineapple</u>				
- Embilipitiya		59.00	59.00	100.00	- Hambantota		33.75	33.75	31.67	- Divulapitiya				
- Matara		95.00	105.00	120.00	- Embilipitiya		34.00	34.00	40.00					
- A'pura					- Matara		80.50							
<u>Luffa</u>					<u>Green Chillies</u>									
- Dambulla		72.20	71.20	91.20	- Dambulla		75.60	69.20	67.20					
- Hambantota		30.00	30.00	48.00	- Hambantota									
- Embilipitiya		93.75	96.25	110.00	- Embilipitiya		182.00	186.00	195.00					
- Matara		82.50	82.50	117.50	- Puttalam			90.00	125.00					
- A'pura					- A'Pura									