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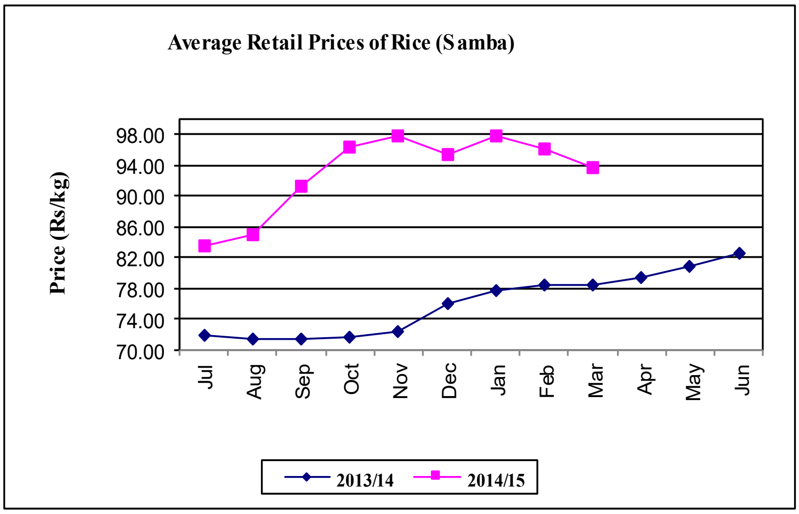
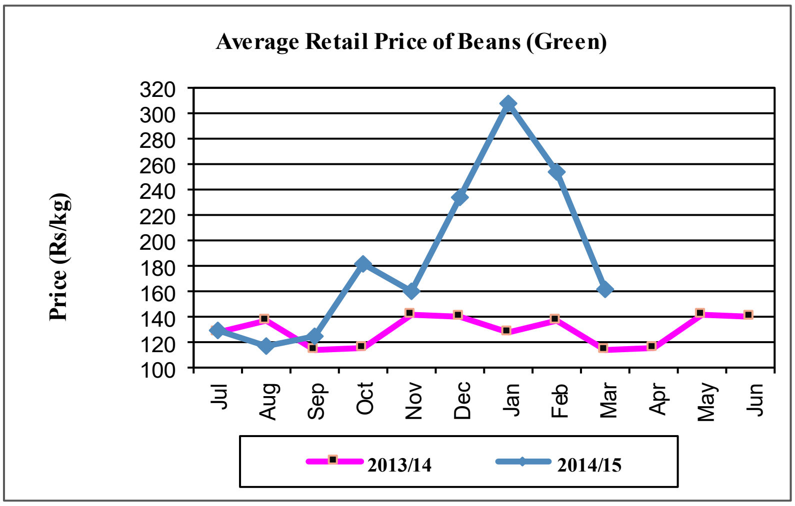
RICE:

Prices of all the local rice varieties have further decreased owing to increase in the production of 2014/15 *maha* season. The highest price drop of Rs.5.00/kg was reported for raw red. The prices are expected to decrease further.

VEGETABLES:

Due to weather related setbacks, *maha* cultivation was delayed by 1.5 -2 months hence peak harvesting period was observed throughout the month of March. Therefore, prices of most of the up country and low country vegetables have decreased by more than 35% compared to last month.





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EXPLANTATORY NOTE

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

The information is analyzed and presented as, prevailing prices, price ranges, averages and comparison of monthly prices. The changes in prices reported are always in relation to price, which prevailed during the previous month unless otherwise stated.

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1. Paddy

Crop Situation

Despite of the heavy crop damage due to the flood situation at the beginning of the 2014/15 *maha* cropping season, the production outlook remained satisfactory as a result of the recorded cultivated extent during the season. Harvesting of 2014/15 *maha* season paddy crops was completed in most of the major producing areas. It is expected that harvesting would continue until mid April in the North Central and Southern provinces. According to the latest crop forecast report of the Department of Agriculture, the sown extent of paddy reported for *maha*, 2014/15 season is 802,213ha, it is 13% higher than the average extent of the last three *maha* seasons. Paddy production of 2014/15 *maha* season was estimated at 2.65 million mt, (equivalent to 1.62 million mt of milled rice), and is 2 percent higher than the average production of last three *maha* seasons. According to the field information the average yield of paddy was satisfactory in the North Central and Southern provinces. Tank water levels were satisfactory in most of the major irrigation schemes for 2015 *yala* season.

Table 1.1: Achievement of Paddy Cultivation 2014/15 *maha* season (Up to end of March - 2015)

District	Targeted Extent (ha)	Achievement (ha)	Achievement as a % of the Targeted Extent (ha)	Production forecast Based on the Progress (mt)	Revised Production forecast (tones)
Anuradhapura	94,494	97,576	103	348,086	295,476
Polonnaruwa	34,664	33,993	98	148,284	111,142
Ampara	77,471	76,416	99	340,741	299,917
Hambantota	79,104	81,570	103	348,086	305,598
Kurunagala	29,271	27,827	95	140,388	135,035
Colombo	5,051	3,962	78	11,927	11,774
Gampaha	13,902	11,342	82	33,392	30,785
Kalutara	16,033	13,864	86	40,018	39,460
Galle	16,300	14,123	87	39,186	38,719
Matara	16,837	15,889	94	48,066	47,620
Ratnapura	13,694	11,690	85	37,050	37,029
Kegalle	8,803	6,462	73	21,973	21,924
Puttalam	22,930	20,295	89	73,363	61,532
Kandy	15,138	12,866	85	41,514	39,507
Matale	22,309	22,099	99	84,424	83,978
Nuwara Eliya	6,724	6,287	94	16,164	15,677
Badulla	25,850	24,887	96	100,516	100,037
Moneragala	37,654	37,439	99	152,839	152,639
Jaffna	11,800	10,900	92	21,328	21,151
Kilinochchi	22,742	23,174	102	79,048	72,478
Vavuniya	19,810	14,399	73	50,274	44,226
Mullaitivu	16,273	15,587	96	40,403	37,103
Mannar	20,815	18,100	87	89,641	67,033
Trincomalee	42,204	41,814	99	164,937	98,915
Batticaloa	61,820	61,761	100	160,714	62,664
Udawalawa	11,394	12,378	109	65,337	65,337
System H	21,759	23,197	107	109,490	103,128
System H1	10,283	9,973	97	47,073	46,276
System B	19,952	20,066	101	94,712	75,415
System C	23,056	23,948	104	113,035	101,733
System G	5,611	6,764	121	31,926	31,529
System L	1,965	1,564	80	7,382	7,382
Sri Lanka	**825,713**	**802,212**	**97**	**3,101,317**	**2,662,219**

Source: Department of Agriculture

Table1.2: Producer Prices of Paddy – March 2015

Commodity	Price Range		Average Price			Change Compared to			
	Mar 2015	Feb 2015	Mar 2015	Feb 2015	Mar 2014	Feb 2015		Mar 2014	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Short Grain									
Anuradhapura	38.00-44.00	34.00-44.00	40.00	36.75	36.00	*3.25*	*8.84*	*4.00*	*11.11*
Polonnaruwa	34.00-45.00	35.93-43.00	39.46	38.71	36.77	*0.75*	*1.93*	*2.69*	*7.31*
Kalawewa	36.00-43.00	36.00-42.50	40.07	38.71	36.15	*1.36*	*3.52*	*3.92*	*10.85*
Kurunegala	39.00-44.00	34.00-40.50	41.50	36.05	35.02	*5.45*	*15.12*	*6.48*	*18.50*
Dehiattakandiya	40.00-46.00	33.00-44.00	43.23	41.34	-	*1.89*	*4.57*	-	-
Nikaweratiya	40.00-46.00	35.00-50.00	44.50	41.70	35.68	*2.80*	*6.71*	*8.82*	*24.72*
Ampara	-	-	-	-	33.77	-	-	-	-
Long Grain White									
Anuradhapura	33.00-37.00	30.00-37.00	34.70	32.88	33.63	*1.83*	*5.55*	*1.07*	*3.18*
Polonnaruwa	30.00-42.25	31.25-38.00	35.95	35.17	33.99	*0.78*	*2.21*	*1.96*	*5.75*
Kalawewa	32.00-35.00	30.00-36.00	33.09	33.04	34.42	*0.04*	*0.13*	*-1.33*	*-3.88*
Kurunegala	32.00-35.00	31.00-35.00	33.32	32.03	31.85	*1.30*	*4.04*	*1.47*	*4.62*
Dehiattakandiya	30.00-40.00	32.00-43.00	34.92	40.27	-	*-5.35*	*-13.29*	-	-
Embilipitiya	38.00-40.00	39.00-41.00	38.94	40.15	36.38	*-1.21*	*-3.01*	*2.56*	*7.04*
Nikaweratiya	32.00-36.00	30.00-45.00	34.15	35.83	32.78	*-1.68*	*-4.68*	*1.37*	*4.18*
Matara	34.00-38.00	38.00-44.00	36.40	40.48	33.42	*-4.08*	*-10.08*	*2.98*	*8.91*
Hambantota	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ampara	-	-	-	-	30.00	-	-	-	-
Long Grain Red									
Anuradhapura	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Matara	35.00-40.00	38.00-50.00	37.53	42.33	33.17	*-4.80*	*-11.34*	*4.36*	*13.16*
Hambantota	34.00-40.00	40.00-55.00	37.70	47.13	34.75	*-9.43*	*-20.00*	*2.95*	*8.49*
Embilipitiya	38.00-43.00	42.00-49.00	40.98	44.48	34.96	*-3.50*	*-7.86*	*6.02*	*17.22*

Source: Marketing Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

Producer Prices

During the first half of the month the market arrivals of paddy have increased due to the peak harvesting of paddy crop in 2014/15 *Maha* season in the North Central, Northern and Eastern provinces. The paddy purchasing programme of the Paddy Marketing Board (PMB) was in progress in all major producing areas throughout the month in order to stabilize the farm gate prices. The arrival of high moisture paddy to the markets led to a decline in open market prices. However, the average prices of short grain have increased by 2%-15% in all considered major producing areas. Prices of long grain white have increased by less than 5% in some of the major producing areas. Meanwhile, the prices of long grain red have decreased by 8% -20% in producing areas of the Southern province. The open market prices of long grain white and short grain ranged between Rs.30.00-42.25/kg and Rs.34.00-46.00/kg respectively. The lowest prices were recorded for high moisture newly harvested paddy. Prices of long grain red paddy ranged Rs.35.00-43.00/kg in producing areas in the Southern Province.

Compared to last month, the prices of short grain and long grain white varieties have decreased in the range of 15%-25% and 12%-17% respectively. Meanwhile, the price of long grain red has decreased in the range of 14%-25%. The highest price of Rs.43.00/kg was reported for short grain in Kalawewa, while the lowest price of Rs.23.00/kg was reported for long grain white in Polonnaruwa. Compared to the same period of last year, the prices of long grain varieties have decreased in the range of 4%-11%, while the prices of long grain red have increased by less than 7%.

Rice Demand and Supply Situation

Wholesale prices

Harvesting of 2014/15 *maha* season reached its peak level. Hence, paddy prices have come down significantly in most of the producing areas. As well as rice supplies have increased in the market. As a result, prices of most of the rice varieties have decreased during the month. The prices of raw white and nadu grade I decreased by nearly 4%, while that of nadu grade II and raw red decreased by 1%-2%. Rice imports were further limited during the month. According to the statistics released by the Department of Customs, about 17,850mt of rice have been imported during the month. Therefore, the price of imported *ponni* samba has increased by 2%. However, the prevailed low consumer preference lead to a decrease in the price of imported raw white by 3%. Overall, the stocks position in the market was satisfactory by the end of month and the market is ready to offer the demand during the forthcoming New Year festival season.

Compared to the same period of last year, prices of all the rice varieties had increased by 2% (raw white)- 19% (raw red).

Retail

Prices of all the local rice varieties and imported raw white continued to decrease during this month too. Prices of raw varieties have decreased by Rs.5.00/kg followed by nadu varieties and samba varieties as Rs.4.00/kg and Rs.2.00/kg respectively. Prices are expected to come down further during next month too.

The guaranteed price scheme for paddy i.e. short grain as Rs.50.00/kg and long grain as Rs.45.00/kg may impact on rice price behavior further specially in off season. Considering the last ten years price data the market price for rice has been marked as twice of paddy prices (Table1.3 and 1.2). Accordingly, if the government paddy stocks are sold covering all the cost, the prices of rice will be determined as Rs.90.00-100.00/kg or above. Hence, a strong monitoring system is needed in off season to maintain a responsible price level in the rice market.

Compared to the same period of last year, prices of all the rice varieties had increased by 13%-24%.

Table1.3: Monthly Ratio of Paddy and Rice Prices (Samba)

Month	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
January	2.38	2.60	2.50	2.18	1.98	2.15	2.24	2.08	1.95	1.97
February	2.97	2.94	2.59	2.59	2.01	2.35	2.36	2.47	2.19	2.15
March	2.86	2.98	2.63	2.56	2.29	2.56	2.49	2.56	2.41	2.13
April	2.75	2.86	2.66	2.74	2.37	2.52	2.41	2.58	2.30	1.95
May	2.67	2.89	2.51	2.15	2.26	2.40	2.37	2.46	2.16	1.99
June	2.77	2.78	2.38	2.15	2.24	2.49	2.41	2.31	2.18	1.96
July	2.88	2.77	2.29	2.23	2.28	2.41	2.47	2.10	2.25	1.98
August	2.66	2.75	2.34	2.09	2.12	2.56	2.58	2.12	2.37	1.98
September	2.29	2.57	2.37	2.12	2.06	2.47	2.53	2.06	2.29	2.06
October	2.33	2.54	2.36	2.10	1.99	2.39	2.26	1.93	2.09	2.11
November	2.39	2.53	2.13	2.04	1.92	2.18	2.07	1.92	1.97	2.12
December	2.43	2.41	2.13	1.97	2.07	2.20	2.03	1.94	1.99	2.04
Average	**2.61**	**2.72**	**2.41**	**2.24**	**2.13**	**2.39**	**2.35**	**2.21**	**2.18**	**2.04**

Source: Marketing Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

Table1.4: Monthly Ratio of Paddy and Rice Prices (Nadu)

Month	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
January	2.15	2.49	2.35	2.00	1.91	2.03	2.17	2.08	1.85	1.82
February	2.57	2.60	2.47	2.39	2.18	2.37	2.11	2.45	2.17	2.06
March	2.28	2.52	2.70	2.43	2.23	2.31	2.16	2.53	2.34	2.00
April	2.27	2.46	2.54	2.33	2.12	2.21	2.12	2.44	2.21	1.86
May	2.24	2.43	2.34	2.01	1.94	2.11	2.07	2.33	2.00	1.90
June	2.30	2.34	2.21	2.07	1.96	2.31	2.10	2.25	2.04	1.79
July	2.40	2.32	2.13	2.37	2.05	2.29	2.21	2.07	2.18	1.83
August	2.37	2.33	2.24	2.16	1.98	2.57	2.45	2.14	2.29	1.85
September	2.28	2.31	2.25	2.21	1.93	2.10	2.40	2.09	2.23	2.01
October	2.20	2.28	2.11	2.01	1.85	2.09	2.09	1.89	1.97	2.00
November	2.20	2.33	1.98	1.92	1.83	2.03	2.00	1.82	1.87	2.05
December	2.29	2.29	1.98	1.83	1.94	2.14	2.00	1.81	1.81	1.98
Average	**2.30**	**2.39**	**2.27**	**2.14**	**1.99**	**2.21**	**2.16**	**2.16**	**2.08**	**1.93**

Source: Marketing Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

Table1.5: Wholesale and Retail Prices of Rice – March 2015

Item	Price Range	Average Price			Change Compared to			
	Mar 2015	Mar 2015	Feb 2015	Mar 2014	Feb 2015		Mar 2014	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Wholesale Prices								
Samba 1	85.00-95.00	91.87	91.59	81.08	*0.28*	*0.31*	*10.79*	*13.31*
Samba 2	78.00-89.00	83.49	84.07	75.66	*-0.58*	*-0.69*	*7.83*	*10.35*
Samba 3	78.00-78.00	78.00	75.00	72.64	*3.00*	*4.00*	*5.36*	*7.38*
Nadu 1	70.00-78.00	74.20	77.70	67.44	*-3.50*	*-4.50*	*6.76*	*10.03*
Nadu 2	65.00-74.00	70.10	71.58	64.53	*-1.48*	*-2.07*	*5.56*	*8.62*
Raw red	65.00-76.00	71.83	73.86	60.42	*-2.04*	*-2.76*	*11.40*	*18.87*
Raw white	60.00-70.00	65.04	69.26	63.70	*-4.22*	*-6.09*	*1.34*	*2.10*
Ponni Samba (Imported)	66.00-85.00	77.94	76.29	-	*1.65*	*2.17*	-	-
Raw white (imported)	54.00-65.00	57.04	60.23	-	*-3.19*	*-5.29*	-	-
Retail Prices								
Samba 1	88.00-110.00	98.24	100.90	84.70	*-2.66*	*-2.64*	*13.54*	*15.99*
Samba 2	80.00-95.00	89.30	91.39	76.04	*-2.09*	*-2.29*	*13.26*	*17.44*
Samba 3	-	-	85.00	74.24	-	-	-	-
Nadu 1	80.00-95.00	85.09	88.75	72.77	*-3.66*	*-4.12*	*12.32*	*16.93*
Nadu 2	70.00-85.00	77.59	82.06	67.76	*-4.47*	*-5.45*	*9.83*	*14.51*
Raw red	70.00-90.00	82.21	87.23	66.29	*-5.02*	*-5.75*	*15.92*	*24.02*
Raw white	68.00-95.00	76.40	81.61	67.56	*-5.21*	*-6.38*	*8.84*	*13.08*
Ponni Samba (Imported)	80.00-90.00	84.12	82.50	74.24	*1.62*	*1.96*	*9.88*	*13.31*
Raw white (imported)	60.00-88.00	68.38	69.20	-	*-0.82*	*-1.18*	-	-

Source: Marketing Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

2. Other Field Crops

2.1 Chillies

Crop situation

Harvesting of chillies for *maha* season was carried out in major producing areas and more than 50% of the harvesting has been completed at the end of March 2015. According to the crop forecast of the Department of Agriculture, the targeted extent of chillies for *maha* was 13,545ha and 72% out of the target had been achieved at the end of March. From this cultivation about 44,128mt of production will be expected. The highest cultivated extent of 3,167ha was reported from the Anuradhapura district and that represented 81% of the total targeted extent in

Anuradhapura district. The production forecast of green chillies in Anuradhapura district is 18,858mt and it represents 43% of the total expected production in Sri Lanka.

Table 2.1.1: Cultivation progress of green chillies for *maha* 2014/15

Areas	Targeted Extent (ha)	Cultivation progress at the end of March 2015		Expected production (mt)
		Cultivated Extent (ha)	% of the targeted extent	
Anuradhapura	3,903	3,167	81	18,858
Monaragala	1,504	824	55	5,302
Puttalam	1,000	714	71	6,271
Jaffna	700	628	90	1,169
Hambantota	369	463	125	1,649
Ampara	852	433	51	1,028
Kurunegala	514	319	62	947
Other areas	4,703	3,147	67	8,904
Total	**13,545**	**9,695**	**72**	**44,128**

Source: Crop forecasting Unit, Department of Agriculture

Prices and Supply/Demand Situation

Supply of green chillies from Anuradhapura, Puttalam, Dambulla, Embilipitiya and Hambantota areas have increased during this month too. Hence, both wholesale and retail prices of green chillies have decreased by about Rs.135.00/kg and Rs.202.00/kg respectively. Average wholesale and retail prices of green chillies were Rs.54.43/kg and Rs.162.86/kg respectively and both prices have decreased by about 31% and 9% respectively compared to the same period of last year.

Supply of dried chillies only comprised imported stocks arrived from India. A quantity of 6,478mt of dried chillies was imported during this month and it was an increase of 1,958mt compared to that of the last month. The CIF price was Rs.182.06/kg and it was a decrease of Rs.8.98/kg compared to the previous month. Both wholesale and retail prices of imported dried chillies have decreased by about Rs.7.00/kg and Rs.2.00/kg respectively, due to high imports from India. The average wholesale and retail prices of imported dried chillies were Rs.214.44/kg and Rs.266.95/kg respectively and both prices have increased by about 16% and 15% compared to the same period of last year.

Table 2.1.2: Wholesale and Retail Prices of Dried Chillies and Green Chillies March 2015

Items	Price Range	Average Price			Change Compared to			
	Mar 2015	Mar 2015	Feb 2015	Mar 2014	Feb 2015		Mar 2014	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Wholesale Price								
Green chillies	20.00-140.00	54.43	189.17	78.62	*-134.74*	*-71.23*	*-24.19*	*-30.77*
Dried chillies	190.00-225.00	214.44	221.33	184.41	*-6.88*	*-3.11*	*30.03*	*16.29*
Retail Price								
Green chillies	60.00-300.00	162.86	364.37	179.75	*-201.51*	*-55.30*	*-16.89*	*-9.40*
Dried chillies	240.00-300.00	266.95	269.09	232.07	*-2.14*	*-0.80*	*34.88*	*15.03*

Source: Marketing, Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

Table 2.1.3: Quantity, Value and CIF Prices of Imported Dried Chillies October 2014 to March 2015

Month	Quantity (mt)	Value (Rs.mn.)	CIF Price (Rs/kg)	Retail Price (Rs/kg)	Gross Margin (Rs/kg)
Mar - 2015	6,478.41	1,179.43	182.06	266.95	84.89
Feb - 2015	4,520.79	863.63	191.04	269.09	78.05
Jan - 2015	3,621.49	670.46	185.13	271.85	86.72
Dec - 2014	4,593.57	875.17	190.52	271.53	81.01
Nov - 2014	4,272.54	787.54	184.32	261.19	76.87
Oct - 2014	3,546.62	605.57	170.75	244.33	73.58

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

Table 2.1.4: Producer Prices of Green Chillies (Rs/kg) – March 2015

Location	1st week	2nd week	3rd week	4th week
Dambulla	62.80	65.80	62.80	60.60
Hambantota	135.00	135.00	95.00	75.00
Embilipitiya	136.40	108.40	104.00	85.00
Puttalam	41.00	28.00	28.00	30.00
A'Pura	95.00	82.50	62.50	62.50

Source: Marketing, Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

2.2 Big Onion and Red Onion

Crop situation

The Department of Agriculture has planned to cultivate around 1,097ha of big onion for this *maha* season (2014/15). Under this programme around 152ha of big onion have been cultivated by the end of March 2015 representing 14% of the targeted extent. Though the highest targeted extent was reported in Hambantota district (702ha) the highest cultivated extent was recorded in Mannar (35ha) followed by Hambantota (34ha). Cultivation of big onion for *yala* 2015 will begin during the next month (April) in the Matale district.

The cultivated extent of red onion at the end of March for *maha* 2014/15 was reported as 3,880ha and that represents 78% of the targeted extent. A good progress has been achieved for red onion cultivation in Jaffna district and it represents 95% of the targeted extent at the end of March. There was no red onion cultivation reported during this month in Puttalam district. The production forecast of red onions for the season is 52,254mt and out of that 50% was supplies from Jaffna and 25% from Puttalam.

Table 2.2.1: Cultivation progress of red onion for *maha* 2014/15

Areas	Targeted Extent (ha)	Cultivation progress at the end of March 2015		Expected production (mt)
		Cultivated Extent (ha)	% of the target Extent	
Jaffna	2,000	1,890	95	25,867
Puttalam	1,050	667	64	12,968
Trincomalee	686	610	89	7,336
Other areas	1,218	713	59	6,083
Total	**4,954**	**3,880**	**78**	**52,254**

Prices and Supply/Demand Situation

Only imported big onion was available at the market and 22,314mt of big onion were imported in March 2015 reporting an increase of 1,473mt compared to that of the previous month. Average CIF price was Rs.45.33/kg and it was an increase of Rs.2.93/kg compared to that of the last month. However, both wholesale and retail prices of imported big onion have increased by about Rs.3.00/kg and Rs.2.00/kg due to its good quality an increased CIF prices.

Supply of sinnan from Jaffna district has increased slightly during this month and the wholesale price of sinnan has decreased by about Rs.10.00/kg. However, limited stocks of vedalan from Puttalam district had started coming to the market at the end of this month and a higher supply could be expected from April. Wholesale price of vedalan has increased by about Rs.2.00/kg due to limited supply and availability of good quality vedalan stocks supplied from Jaffna. At the retail market limited stocks of sinnan were available and the price of vedalan has decreased by about Rs.19.00/kg because traders mixed both sinnan and vedalan at the retail level to expedite the sale. However, retail prices of both sinnan and vedalan have increased by about 9% and 13% respectively compared to the same period of last year.

A quantity of 698mt of red onion was imported from India during this month and it was a decrease of 1,730mt compared to that of previous month. Average CIF price was Rs.53.42/kg and it has decreased by Rs.11.90/kg compared to that of last month. Both wholesale and retail prices of imported red onion have decreased by about Rs.8.00/kg and Rs.32.00/kg respectively due to its low quality and availability of higher stocks of local red onions at the market. Compared to the same period of last year, wholesale price of imported red onion has increased by about 10%, while the retail price has decreased by about 4%.

Table 2.2.2: Wholesale Prices and Retail Prices of Red Onion and Big Onion March 2015

Crop	Price Range	Average			Change Compared to			
	Mar 2015	Mar 2015	Feb 2015	Mar 2014	Feb 2015		Mar 2014	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Wholesale Prices								
Red Onion (Sinnan)	40.00-65.00	50.50	60.21	48.85	*-9.71*	*-16.13*	*1.64*	*3.36*
Red Onion (Vedalan)	60.00-100.00	76.57	75.00	68.98	*1.57*	*2.09*	*7.58*	*10.99*
Red Onion (Imported)	50.00-95.00	67.80	76.24	61.66	*-8.44*	*-11.07*	*6.14*	*9.95*
Big Onion (imported)	40.00-90.00	61.69	58.45	46.35	*3.24*	*5.54*	*15.34*	*33.10*
Big Onion (Local)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Retail Prices								
Red Onion (Sinnan)	100.00-100.00	100.00	-	91.33	-	-	*8.67*	*9.49*
Red Onion (Vedalan)	100.00-160.00	120.69	140.00	107.02	*-19.31*	*-13.79*	*13.67*	*12.77*
Red Onion (Imported)	80.00-120.00	100.10	132.59	104.75	*-32.49*	*-24.50*	*-4.65*	*-4.44*
Big Onion (imported)	60.00-120.00	85.73	83.99	66.39	*1.74*	*2.07*	*19.34*	*29.13*
Big Onion (Local)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Source: Marketing, Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

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

Crop	Month	CIF Price	Wholesale Price	Retail Price	Margin (Rs/kg)	
		(Rs/kg)	(Rs/kg)	(Rs/kg)	WP-CIF	RP-WP
Big onion	Mar,2015	45.33	61.69	85.73	*16.36*	*24.04*
	Feb,2015	42.40	58.45	83.99	*16.06*	*25.54*
	Mar,2014	29.45	46.35	66.39	*16.90*	*20.04*
Red onion	Mar,2015	53.42	67.80	100.10	*14.38*	*32.30*
	Feb,2015	65.32	76.24	132.59	*10.91*	*56.35*
	Mar,2014	47.97	61.66	104.75	*13.69*	*43.09*

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

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

Crop	Quantity (mt.)		Value (Rs. mn)		CIF Price (Rs/kg)	
	Mar 2015	Feb 2015	Mar 2015	Feb 2015	Mar 2015	Feb 2015
Red Onion	698.14	2428.09	37.30	158.61	53.42	65.32
Big Onion	22313.71	20840.51	1011.47	883.54	45.33	42.40

Source: Department of Customs

Table 2.2.5: Quantity Imported, CIF Price, Wholesale and Retail Price of Big Onion October 2014 to March 2015

Month	Quantity Imported (mt)	CIF Price (Rs/kg)	Wholesale Price (Rs/kg)	Retail Price (Rs/kg)	Gross Margin (RP-CIF) (Rs/kg)
Mar - 2015	22313.71	45.33	61.69	85.73	40.40
Feb - 2015	20840.51	42.40	58.45	83.99	41.59
Jan - 2015	24573.36	41.67	65.48	106.11	64.44
Dec - 2014	5575.96	27.95	91.96	122.46	94.51
Nov - 2014	4131.18	32.36	77.27	110.11	77.75
Oct - 2014	37.50	45.64	-	-	-

Source: Department of Customs

2.3 Potato

Crop Situation and Progress

The targeted extent of potato for *maha* 2014/15 was 3,153ha and about 3,062ha had been cultivated by the end of the season achieving 97% of the targeted extent. During the month, about 294ha of potatoes were cultivated in the country and it was lower than the extent cultivated in December, January and February of this *maha* season. Compared to the same period of *maha* 2013/14, the cultivated extent of *maha* 2014/15 was slightly at a low level. According to the cultivated extent by the end of this *maha* season, the expected production of potato is 42,937mt.

In the Nuwara Eliya district, the targeted extent was 1,095ha and out of which about 927ha of potato have been cultivated by the end of 2014/15 *maha* season achieving 85% of the targeted extent. The targeted extent for this *maha* season was 1,945ha in the Badulla district and about 2,017ha have been cultivated achieving 102% of the target by the end of the season. In the Badulla district, about 210ha of potatoes were cultivated during this month. Compared to the same period of *maha* 2013/14, the cultivated extent was slightly at a high level in *maha* 2014/15.

Table 2.3.1: Cultivation Progress and Expected Production of Potato (*Maha* 2014/15)

District	Targeted Extent (ha)		Achievement (ha)		Progress (%)	Expected Production** (mt)
	Maha 2013/14*	*Maha* 2014/15	*Maha* 2013/14*	*Maha* 2014/15	*Maha* 2014/15	
N'Eliya	1,720	1,095	1,040	927	85	16,163
Badulla	1,943	1,945	1,918	2,017	102	26,016
Sri Lanka	**3,783**	**3,153**	**3,565**	**3,062**	**97**	**42,937**

Source: MFPAD/HARTI
Crop Forecast No.6, Maha 2014/15, Socio-economic & Planning Centre/DOA
****Crop Forecast No.6, Maha 2013/14, Socio-economic & Planning Centre/DOA***
*****Excluding crop damages***

Prices and Supply/Demand Situation

A quantity of 8,118mt of potato had been imported in March which was 7,345mt lower than that was imported during the previous month as the special commodity levy for imported potato has been increased up to Rs.40.00/kg with effect from 15/02/2015. High stocks were imported from Pakistan (5,659mt) compared to stocks imported from India and Bangladesh. Compared to March, 2014 (8,839mt), the imports were slightly low during this month. Average CIF price was Rs.27.00/kg in March.

With regard to local potato, limited stocks had arrived at the market as the farmers tend to retain stocks for seed production and for the upcoming festival season. Hence, the wholesale prices of both Welimada and Nuwara Eliya potatoes have increased by 17% and 10% respectively. Further, the wholesale price of imported potato has increased by 40% due to low stock position with the increased tax level. On average, the producer price of Nuwara Eliya potato was Rs.72.00/kg in March. During the month, the wholesale prices of Welimada, Nuwara Eliya and imported potatoes ranged between Rs.62.00-90.00/kg, Rs.80.00-95.00/kg and Rs.27.00-35.00/kg respectively. With regard to imported potatoes, the stocks of Pakistan potato fetched a high price. Compared to the same period of last year, the current retail price of Nuwara Eliya (12%) potato has increased.

Table 2.3.2: Quantity, Value and CIF prices of Imported Potatoes
October 2014 to March 2015

Month	Quantity (mt.)	Value (Rs.mn)	CIF price (Rs/kg)	Retail Price (Rs/kg)	Gross Margin (Rs/kg)
Mar - 2015	8118.18	231.96	28.57	92.29	*63.72*
Feb - 2015	15462.91	483.51	31.27	79.99	*48.72*
Jan - 2015	21156.60	889.58	42.05	96.24	*54.19*
Dec - 2014	17566.11	886.64	50.47	116.80	*66.33*
Nov - 2014	1084.68	50.23	46.31	110.99	*64.68*
Oct - 2014	59.00	1.00	17.00	87.77	*70.77*

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

Table: 2.3.3: Producer, Wholesale and Retail prices of Potato – March 2015

Items	Price Range	Average			Change Compared to			
	Mar 2015	Mar 2015	Feb 2015	Mar 2014	Feb 2015		Mar 2014	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Producer Prices (PP)								
Welimada	62.00-90.00	72.26	75.00	72.07	*60.58*	*80.77*	*0.19*	*0.26*
Nuwara Eliya	80.00-95.00	*87.28*	*77.45*	78.64	*9.83*	*12.69*	*8.64*	*10.99*
Imported – CIF	27.22-34.91	28.57	31.27	34.60	*-2.70*	*-8.63*	*-6.03*	*-17.43*
Wholesale Prices (WP)								
Welimada	80.00-95.00	87.74	75.20	83.33	*12.54*	*16.68*	*4.41*	*5.29*
Nuwara Eliya	90.00-110.00	100.53	91.51	90.49	*9.02*	*9.85*	*10.04*	*11.09*
Imported	60.00-90.00	69.86	49.85	74.22	*20.02*	*40.15*	*-4.36*	*-5.87*
Retail Prices (RP)								
Welimada	-	-	103.28	96.83	-	-	-	-
Nuwara Eliya	100.00-160.00	133.91	131.58	119.57	*2.33*	*1.77*	*14.34*	*11.99*
Imported	70.00-120.00	92.29	79.99	93.43	*12.30*	*15.38*	*-1.14*	*-1.22*
Gross Margin (RP-PP)								
Welimada		-	28.28	24.76	-	-	-	-
Nuwara Eliya		46.63	54.13	40.93	*-7.50*	*-13.86*	*5.70*	*13.93*
Imported (CIF-RP)		63.72	48.72	58.83	*15.00*	*30.79*	*4.89*	*8.31*
Gross Margin (RP -WP)								
Welimada		-	28.08	13.50	-	-	-	-
Nuwara Eliya		33.38	40.07	29.08	*-6.69*	*-16.68*	*4.30*	*14.80*
Imported		22.43	30.14	19.21	*-7.72*	*-25.60*	*3.22*	*16.75*

Source: Marketing Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

2.4 Green gram and Cowpea

Crop Situation

The targeted extent of green gram for *maha* 2014/15 was 12,458ha and out of which about 11,943ha were cultivated by the end of the season representing 96% of the total targeted extent. In March, about 357ha of green gram was cultivated in the country which was lower than the extents cultivated during the previous months of this *maha* season. Large extents of green gram were cultivated in October and November of this *maha* season. Due to bad weather condition, a total of 917ha of green gram cultivated lands of this *maha* season were affected with flood (Crop Forecast, DOA). Hence, the available production for this *maha* season is estimated as 14,558mt. Compared to *maha* 2013/14, the cultivated extent in this *maha* season is at a high level due to high extent cultivated in the Hambantota district. In the Hambantota district, the targeted extent was 3,585ha for *maha* 2014/15 and about 5,170ha was cultivated by the end of the season achieving a higher progress. In the Moneragala district, the targeted extent was 1,983ha for this *maha* season and about 1,745ha was cultivated achieving 88% of the targeted extent. In both Hambantota and Moneragala districts, the cultivated extents for this *maha* season were higher than that of last *maha* season.

For cowpea, the targeted extent was 12,318ha for *maha* 2014/15 and about 9,283ha has been cultivated by the end of the season achieving 75% of the total targeted extent. Out of the total cultivated extent of this *maha* season, a total of 988ha of lands were affected with floods (Crop Forecast, DOA) and hence, the available production for this *maha* season is estimated as 11,779mt. The highest cultivated extent for cowpea was recorded in the Ampara district as 3,671ha for this *maha* season with a progress of 93%. In the Moneregala district, the targeted extent was 1,726ha and about 1,613ha was cultivated by the end of the season achieving 93% of the target.

Table 2.4.1: Cultivation Progress and Expected Production of Green gram and Cowpea (*Maha* 2014/15)

Crop	District	Targeted Ext. (ha)		Achievement (ha)		Progress	Expected Production** (mt)
		Maha* 2013/14	***Maha* 2014/15**	***Maha* 2013/14***	***Maha* 2014/15**	***Maha* 2014/15**	
Green	Hambantota	2,515	3,585	2,250	5,107	142	7,760
	Moneragala	1,796	1,983	1,635	1,745	88	1,775
	Sri Lanka	**11,589**	**12,458**	**8,960**	**11,943**	**96**	**14,558**
Cowpea	Ampara	3,189	3,959	3,139	3,671	93	6,756
	Moneragala	1,697	1,726	1,318	1,613	93	1,718
	Sri Lanka	**12,542**	**12,318**	**9,514**	**9,283**	**75**	**11,779**

Source: MFPAD/HARTI
Crop Forecast No.6, Maha 2014/15, Socio-economic & Planning Centre/DOA
****Crop Forecast No.6, Maha 2013/14, Socio-economic & Planning Centre/DOA***
*****Excluding crop damages***

Prices and Supply Demand Situation

Wholesale and retail prices of green gram have decreased by 9% and 4% respectively due to availability of high stocks imported from Australia, China and Thailand. Imports were at a high level as the Special Commodity Levy on imported green gram has been reduced to Rs.10.00/kg with effect from 29/01/2015. During the month, the wholesale price of green gram ranged between Rs.200.00-250.00/kg. Compared to the same period of last year, the current retail price of green gram had decreased by 14%.

Supply of local stocks of cowpea was at a low level. Wholesale price of white cowpea has decreased by 3% due to availability of sufficient stocks of imported varieties. Wholesale and retail prices of red cowpea have increased by 1% and 4% respectively due to limited availability of local stocks. During the month, the wholesale prices of white and red cowpea ranged between Rs.184.00-220.00/kg and Rs.200.00-225.00/kg respectively. Imported stocks fetched a high price. Compared to the same period of last year, the current retail prices of white and red cowpea had increased by 1% and 3% respectively.

Table 2.4.2: Quantity, Value and CIF prices of Imported Green gram October 2014 to March 2015

Month	Quantity (mt)	Value (Rs.mn)	CIF price (Rs/kg)	Retail Price (Rs/kg)	Gross Margin (Rs/kg)
Mar - 2015	-	-	-	272.89	-
Feb - 2015	-	-	-	284.50	-
Jan - 2015	-	-	-	297.13	-
Dec - 2014	-	-	-	292.75	-
Nov - 2014	-	-	-	307.21	-
Oct - 2014	110.60	18.33	165.71	319.49	153.78

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

Table 2.4.3: Wholesale and Retail Prices of Green gram and Cowpea- March 2015

Items	Price Range	Average			Change Compared to			
	Mar 2015	Mar 2015	Feb 2015	Mar 2014	Feb 2015		Mar 2014	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Wholesale Prices								
Green gram	200.00-250.00	219.25	239.76	294.20	-20.51	-8.55	-74.95	-25.47
Cowpea (White)	184.00-220.00	202.02	208.96	197.01	-6.94	-3.32	5.01	2.54
Cowpea (Red)	200.00-225.00	219.40	217.74	165.99	1.65	0.76	53.41	32.18
Retail Prices								
Green gram	240.00-320.00	272.89	284.50	316.05	-11.61	-4.08	-43.16	-13.66
Cowpea (White)	230.00-320.00	261.16	255.01	257.67	6.15	2.41	3.49	1.35
Cowpea (Red)	220.00-300.00	256.88	247.59	248.68	9.29	3.75	8.20	3.30

Source: Marketing Food Policy & Agribusiness Division/HARTI

Table 2.4.4: Monthly Average CIF, Wholesale and Retail Prices of Green gram And Cowpea

Crop	Month	CIF Price (Rs/kg)	Wholesale price (Rs/kg)	Retail price (Rs/kg)	Gross Margin (Rs/Kg)	
					WP-CIF	RP-WP
Green gram	Mar,2015	-	219.25	272.89	-	53.64
	Feb,2015	-	239.76	284.50	-	44.74
	Mar,2014	163.21	294.20	316.05	130.99	21.85
Cowpea (White)	Mar,2015	-	202.02	261.16	-	59.14
	Feb,2015	-	208.96	255.01	-	46.05
	Mar,2014	-	197.01	257.67	-	60.66
Cowpea (Red)	Mar,2015	-	219.40	256.88	-	37.48
	Feb,2015	-	217.74	247.59	-	29.85
	Mar,2014	-	166.99	248.68	-	81.69

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

2.5 Red dhal

Prices and Supply/Demand Situation

A quantity of 17,519mt of red dhal was imported in March and it was 1,359mt higher than the quantity imported in February. Most of the stocks had been received from Australia and Canada. Compared to March, 2014 (18,502mt), the imports of red dhal were low during this month. The average CIF price was Rs.119.00/kg during the month.

Wholesale price of red dhal has decreased by 1%, while the retail price has increased by 3%. The average wholesale price was Rs.160.00/kg in March. Compared to the same period of last year, the current retail price of red dhal has increased by 9%.

Table 2.5.1: Wholesale and Retail Prices of Red dhal – March 2015

Red Dhal	Price Range	Average			Change Compared to			
	Mar 2015	Mar 2015	Feb 2015	Mar 2014	Feb 2015		Mar 2014	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Wholesale Price	150.00-176.00	159.87	161.68	141.84	-1.82	-1.12	18.03	12.71
Retail Price	160.00-200.00	177.11	171.71	162.03	5.40	3.14	15.08	9.31

Source: Marketing Food Policy & Agribusiness Division

Table 2.5.2: The CIF, Wholesale and Retail Prices of Red dhal October 2014 to March 2015

Month	Quantity (mt)	CIF Price Rs/kg	Wholesale price Rs/kg	Retail price Rs/kg	Gross Margin (Rs/kg)	
					CIF-WP	WP-RP
Mar - 2015	17518.79	119.23	159.87	177.11	40.64	17.24
Feb - 2015	16159.64	119.79	161.68	171.71	41.89	10.03
Jan - 2015	17734.62	117.45	158.34	169.64	40.88	11.31
Dec - 2014	14679.07	116.37	155.78	171.27	39.41	15.49
Nov - 2014	10103.17	102.94	154.86	172.16	51.92	17.30
Oct - 2014	12913.34	110.39	158.63	174.33	48.23	15.70

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

3. Vegetables

Crop Situation

Due to weather related setbacks, *Maha* cultivation was delayed by 1.5 - 2 months hence peak harvesting period was observed throughout the month of March. In Matale district, after re-establishing the cultivation in mid-January, the reported cultivated extent by the end of Maha season was 1,900 ha. The cultivation progress was 35% less than the same period of the last year due to crop damages caused by the extreme weather. Regarding Badulla district, the cultivation target for beans, tomato and cabbage was 2,221ha, 861ha and 581ha respectively and the achievement was over 100% compared to the set target for all three vegetables. The favorable weather prevailed in January and February encouraged increased extent of re-establishment. Further, *maha* cultivation has progressed well in Nuwara Eliya and Kandy districts with the rainy weather experienced through the month. In the Nuwara Eliya district, the cultivation progress was in the range of 80% - 90% with the highest cultivation progress reported for carrot. However, approximately 250ha of an extent reported over 50% crop damage at the end of February in the Nuwara Eliya district. In Kandy district, the highest cultivation progress was reported for beans as 99% and the lowest cultivation progress was reported for cabbage as 84%. In both districts, cabbage recorded the lowest cultivation progress for being the most vulnerable crop for extreme weather.

Even though the first phase of the *maha* cultivation was affected by heavy rain, cultivation has progressed well with the favorable weather experienced in the latter stage of *Maha* season in all the major producing areas of low country vegetables. In Anuradhapura, the reported cultivation extent of vegetables by the end of January was 5,756ha with 99% progress of the seasonal target of 5800 ha. The highest extent recorded for pumpkin was 2,085ha with almost 100% of seasonal target. In Hambantota district, the total extent of vegetable cultivation was 3,873ha at the end of March, which recorded a 67% increase compared to the same period of last year due to high water availability.

Prices and supply / Demand situation

With the reaching of *maha* peak harvesting season, high supplies have reached the market from all the major producing areas of up country vegetables such as Nuwara Eliya, Welimada, Badulla, Kandy, Ratnapura, Matale, Jaffna and Puttlam in March. The total supply of vegetables of the Matale district was around 6,133mt in March, of which the highest production was recorded for tomato as 1,309mt. The daily supply of vegetables at the Dambulla Dedicated Economic Centre was around 1,500-1,800mt in March which recorded a 200% increase compared to last month. Meanwhile, high supply from Jaffna continued in March with a daily supply of 289mt. This was around a 146% increase compared to last month. However, the quality of up country vegetables supplied from Jaffna was at low level compared to other districts.

Considering up country vegetables, prices of almost all the varieties have decreased considerably, compared to last month. The highest price decrease was reported for tomato as 73% followed by cabbage as 57% beans as 43% and beetroot as 42%. High stocks of cabbage, beetroot and beans have reached the market from up country areas such as Badulla, Nuwala Eliya and Kandy in March, which cased considerable price decreases. Due to overlapping of extended *maha* cultivation season in up country areas and peak harvesting time of low country areas which grow a substantial amount of up country vegetables such as Jaffna, Puttlam and Melsiripura, high stocks of beetroot, cabbage and carrot have reached the market from both up and low country areas at the same time. However, the quality of stocks received form Jaffna and Puttalam was low; hence average prices have decreased for these varieties due to availability of low quality stocks at the market. Next, prices of beans have continued to show a decreasing trend due to high supplies received from both up country areas and Balangoda. Regarding tomato, high stocks of low country variety of tomato reaching the market from Suriyawewa, Wellawaya and Anuradhapura caused significant decreases in wholesale prices. Prices of all the other exotic varieties decreased in the range of 33% - 19%, compared to last month. As the latter phase of *maha* harvesting season is to continue in April, prices are expected to remain in low range.

The supply of most of the domestic vegetables also remained high during the peak harvesting period of the *Maha* season. As stokcs of lowcountry vegetables received mainly from Anuradhapura, Hambantota, Ratnapaura, Monaragala and Kurunegala, prices of almost all the varieties have decreased at the wholesale level. The highest price decrease of 68% was recorded for both cucumber and ladies fingers followed by luffa as 64%. Prices of all the other varieties, except brinjal, have decreased in the range of 45% - 21%. As cucumber is regarded as a short duration crop, majority of farmers have planted cucumber in lowcountry areas in re – establishing *maha* season cultivation after the weather related setbacks. Further, high supply of luffa, snake gourd and cucumber, have reached the market from Wadigala, Wellawaya and Monaragala hence prices have decreased significantly. With the increase of average prices up to Rs 213.00/kg in

February, prices have moved down significantly, recording an average price of Rs 58.00/kg in March. High cultivation progress (99%) was recorded in Anuradhapura district after re - establishment of the crop in mid January. Hence, supply has increased considerably and thereby prices have dropped significantly compared to last month. Prices of low country vegetables would continue to be at a lower level in April, as an extended harvesting season is expected in major producing areas.

Regarding green chilies, a price drop of 71% was experienced in March compared to February, with the receiving of high stocks from Jaffna and Puttlam.

In line with the wholesale prices, retail prices of most of the vegetables had decreased in February. The highest price decrease was reported for tomato as 62% followed by 51% for drumsticks.

Table 3.1: Wholesale Prices of Vegetables – March 2015

Items	Price Range	Average			Change Compared to			
	Mar 2015	Mar 2015	Feb 2015	Mar 2014	Feb 2015		Mar 2014	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Beans (green)	30.00-180.00	104.74	184.99	58.38	*-80.25*	*-43.38*	*46.36*	*79.41*
Carrot	60.00-120.00	83.67	124.76	51.34	*-41.09*	*-32.94*	*32.33*	*62.97*
Leeks	80.00-150.00	111.62	153.21	32.80	*-41.59*	*-27.15*	*78.82*	*240.30*
Beetroot	30.00-100.00	54.21	93.25	29.23	*-39.04*	*-41.87*	*24.98*	*85.46*
Knolkhol	30.00-80.00	49.97	73.47	35.57	*-23.50*	*-31.99*	*14.40*	*40.48*
Radish	20.00-30.00	24.63	30.59	20.89	*-5.96*	*-19.48*	*3.74*	*17.90*
Cabbage	20.00-70.00	36.87	85.67	17.90	*-48.80*	*-56.96*	*18.97*	*105.98*
Tomato	40.00-80.00	57.53	213.18	34.89	*-155.65*	*-73.01*	*22.64*	*64.89*
Ladies Fingers	20.00-60.00	33.40	104.00	31.73	*-70.60*	*-67.88*	*1.67*	*5.26*
Brinjal	10.00-50.00	34.98	37.04	31.89	*-2.06*	*-5.56*	*3.09*	*9.69*
Capsicum	100.00-200.00	157.58	198.86	82.64	*-41.28*	*-20.76*	*74.94*	*90.68*
Pumpkin	30.00-120.00	68.76	119.02	24.54	*-50.26*	*-42.23*	*44.22*	*180.20*
Cucumber	5.00-120.00	15.70	49.14	24.52	*-33.44*	*-68.05*	*-8.82*	*-35.97*
Bittergourd	60.00-130.00	85.25	118.92	80.11	*-33.67*	*-28.31*	*5.14*	*6.42*
Snakegourd	20.00-70.00	43.39	69.35	32.26	*-25.96*	*-37.43*	*11.13*	*34.50*
Drumstick	150.00-250.00	177.20	320.84	112.15	*-143.64*	*-44.77*	*65.05*	*58.00*
Luffa	30.00-70.00	44.25	124.16	48.16	*-79.91*	*-64.36*	*-3.91*	*-8.12*
Long Beans	30.00-100.00	65.80	96.59	27.78	*-30.79*	*-31.88*	*38.02*	*136.86*
Ash Plantain	60.00-120.00	81.98	101.79	44.45	*-19.81*	*-19.46*	*37.53*	*84.43*
Green Chillies	20.00-140.00	54.43	189.17	78.62	*-134.74*	*-71.23*	*-24.19*	*-30.77*
Lime	30.00-60.00	41.09	33.14	30.45	*7.95*	*23.99*	*10.64*	*34.94*

Source: Marketing, Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

Table 3.2: Retail Prices of Vegetables – March 2015

Items	Price Range	Average			Change Compared to			
	Mar 2015	Mar 2015	Feb 2015	Mar 2014	Feb 2015		Mar 2014	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Beans (green)	60.00-320.00	162.10	255.00	105.21	*-92.90*	*-36.43*	*56.89*	*54.07*
Carrot	100.00-240.00	151.08	206.58	108.54	*-55.50*	*-26.87*	*42.54*	*39.19*
Leeks	120.00-260.00	174.33	236.00	87.42	*-61.67*	*-26.13*	*86.91*	*99.42*
Beetroot	60.00-240.00	116.08	172.63	94.04	*-56.55*	*-32.76*	*22.04*	*23.44*
Knolkhol	60.00-240.00	130.94	192.40	100.51	*-61.46*	*-31.94*	*30.43*	*30.28*
Radish	40.00-160.00	82.62	106.73	75.10	*-24.11*	*-22.59*	*7.52*	*10.01*
Cabbage	50.00-200.00	99.91	156.99	70.69	*-57.08*	*-36.36*	*29.22*	*41.34*
Tomato	60.00-200.00	120.94	314.65	77.18	*-193.71*	*-61.56*	*43.76*	*56.70*
Ladies Fingers	40.00-200.00	95.67	192.08	88.97	*-96.41*	*-50.19*	*6.70*	*7.53*
Brinjal	40.00-200.00	90.01	98.64	81.28	*-8.63*	*-8.75*	*8.73*	*10.74*
Capsicum	120.00-400.00	246.47	317.83	143.92	*-71.36*	*-22.45*	*102.55*	*71.25*
Pumpkin	50.00-240.00	137.05	177.38	69.63	*-40.33*	*-22.74*	*67.42*	*96.83*
Cucumber	30.00-160.00	68.85	112.64	67.62	*-43.79*	*-38.88*	*1.23*	*1.82*
Bittergourd	80.00-240.00	148.46	218.33	123.36	*-69.87*	*-32.00*	*25.10*	*20.35*
Snakegourd	40.00-200.00	108.05	146.39	86.41	*-38.34*	*-26.19*	*21.64*	*25.04*
Drumstick	200.00-500.00	329.71	673.10	207.27	*-343.39*	*-51.02*	*122.44*	*59.07*
Luffa	60.00-240.00	116.53	226.82	123.71	*-110.29*	*-48.62*	*-7.18*	*-5.80*
Long Beans	50.00-240.00	126.72	177.82	90.78	*-51.10*	*-28.74*	*35.94*	*39.59*
Ash Plantain	80.00-200.00	141.33	170.65	89.92	*-29.32*	*-17.18*	*51.41*	*57.17*
Green Chillies	60.00-300.00	162.86	364.37	179.75	*-201.51*	*-55.30*	*-16.89*	*-9.40*
Lime	60.00-200.00	145.29	154.11	144.83	*-8.82*	*-5.72*	*0.46*	*0.32*

Source: Marketing, Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HART

4. Fruits

Prices and Supply/Demand Situation

Supplies of most of the fruits had decreased at the beginning of the month and increased after the second week of month. Hence, the average wholesale prices of most of the fruits had increased with the highest price increase of 59% for woodapple. Further the wholesale prices of all the sizes of pineapple had increased in the range of 14%-25% due to decreased supplies from Gampaha, Giriulla and Kuliyapitiya areas. Limited supplies of slimeapple were recorded from Anuradhapura, Hambantota and Monaragala areas and wholesale price had increased by 32% compared to the previous month. Meanwhile, the wholesale prices of mango (karthakolomban) had decreased by 54% due to increased supplies with the commencement of harvesting season. Further, the prices of papaw and passionfruit had decreased by 9% and 17% respectively due to increased supplies with the commencement of major harvesting season. According to the market information wholesale prices reduction for mango and papaw could be expected next month. Compared to the same period of last year, wholesale prices of all the fruits except passionfruit had increased with the highest price increase of 172% for mango (betti).

According to the table 4.2, retail prices of most of the fruits have increased with the highest price increase of 38% for woodapple. Further, the retail prices of all the sizes of pineapple had increased in the range of 13%-20% due to decreased supplies at retail level. Meanwhile, the retail prices of mango (karthakolomban), orange and passionfruit had decreased by 33%, 9% and 15% respectively due to increased supplies with the commencement of harvesting season. Compared to the same period of last year, retail prices of all the fruits had increased with the highest price increase of 120% for papaw. Producer prices of papaw and pineapple had increased by 6% and 9% respectively due to low supplies especially at the beginning of the month. Compared to the same period of last month, producer prices of all the selected fruits had increased with the highest price increase of 194% for papaw.

Exports/Imports of Fruits

Pineapple was the mostly imported type of fruit in March with the quantity of 193mt. The total export earnings of pineapple, papaw mango and oranges were Rs.48.10mn in March. Mandarin was recorded as the mostly imported fruit in March with the quantity of 1,264mt. The total import expenditure of apple, grapes, oranges and mandarin were Rs.312.46mn in March.

Table 4.1: Wholesale Prices of Fruits – March 2015

Items	Price Range	Average			Change Compared to			
	Mar 2015	Mar 2015	Feb 2015	Mar 2014	Feb 2015		Mar 2014	
	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	%	Rs	%
Plantain								
Ambul (Rs/kg)	30.00-60.00	42.80	46.11	24.98	*-3.31*	*-7.18*	*17.82*	*71.34*
Kolikuttu (Rs/kg)	90.00-130.00	107.64	104.63	54.70	*3.01*	*2.88*	*52.94*	*96.78*
Seeni (Rs/kg)	35.00-60.00	45.83	44.66	30.03	*1.17*	*2.62*	*15.80*	*52.61*
Anamalu	7.00-13.00	9.55	9.49	6.37	*0.06*	*0.63*	*3.18*	*49.92*
Ambun	10.00-17.00	12.62	11.53	9.44	*1.09*	*9.45*	*3.18*	*33.69*
Pineapple								
Large	90.00-150.00	126.16	110.39	111.44	*15.77*	*14.29*	*14.72*	*13.21*
Medium	70.00-130.00	100.86	86.22	88.76	*14.64*	*16.98*	*12.10*	*13.63*
Small	50.00-100.00	75.66	60.53	67.10	*15.13*	*25.00*	*8.56*	*12.76*
Mango								
Betti	23.00-43.75	35.38	-	13.01	-	-	*22.37*	*171.94*
Karthakolomban	58.00-150.00	81.68	178.33	58.71	*-96.65*	*-54.20*	*22.97*	*39.12*
Vilad	22.22-33.00	25.46	-	15.08	-	-	*10.38*	*68.83*
Kohu	12.500-17.14	14.29	-	8.51	-	-	*5.78*	*67.92*
Papaw (Rs/kg)	70.00-220.00	145.83	161.05	63.38	*-15.22*	*-9.45*	*82.45*	*130.09*
Passionfruit	9.00-16.66	11.09	13.42	11.13	*-2.33*	*-17.36*	*-0.04*	*-0.36*
Woodapple	20.00-60.00	41.99	26.48	21.79	*15.51*	*58.57*	*20.20*	*92.70*
Orange	12.00-25.00	18.20	17.35	13.99	*0.85*	*4.90*	*4.21*	*30.09*
Avocado	30.00-90.00	53.63	54.31	25.19	*-0.68*	*-1.25*	*28.44*	*112.90*
Slime Apple	20.00-50.00	29.62	22.45	25.57	*7.17*	*31.94*	*4.05*	*15.84*
Grapes Imported (Rs/kg)	400.00-577.00	487.22	486.23	476.26	*0.99*	*0.20*	*10.96*	*2.30*

Source: Marketing, Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

Table 4.2: Retail Prices of Fruits – March 2015

Items	Price Range	Average			Change Compared to			
	Mar 2015	Mar 2015	Feb 2015	Mar 2014	Feb 2015		Mar 2014	
	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	%	Rs	%
Plantain								
Ambul (Rs/kg)	70.00-90.00	79.77	80.12	62.98	*-0.35*	*-0.44*	*16.79*	*26.66*
Kolikuttu (Rs/kg)	100.00-180.00	152.10	151.80	111.30	*0.30*	*0.20*	*40.80*	*36.66*
Seeni (Rs/kg)	70.00-90.00	79.28	78.21	66.19	*1.07*	*1.37*	*13.09*	*19.78*
Anamalu	10.00-25.00	15.79	16.91	12.60	*-1.12*	*-6.62*	*3.19*	*25.32*
Ambun	10.00-25.00	17.22	17.11	13.89	*0.11*	*0.64*	*3.33*	*23.97*
Pineapple								
Large	120.00-240.00	164.12	145.61	145.23	*18.51*	*12.71*	*18.89*	*13.01*
Medium	90.00-180.00	123.81	103.51	109.82	*20.30*	*19.61*	*13.99*	*12.74*
Small	60.00-120.00	84.26	70.93	77.62	*13.33*	*18.79*	*6.64*	*8.55*
Mango								
Betti	30.00-100.00	56.71	-	33.81	-	-	*22.90*	*67.73*
Karthakolomban	80.00-250.00	148.06	221.67	91.14	*-73.61*	*-33.21*	*56.92*	*62.45*
Vilad	35.00-70.00	48.61	-	35.38	-	-	*13.23*	*37.39*
Kohu	-	-	-	23.87	-	-	-	-
Papaw (Rs/kg)	90.00-280.00	201.91	202.71	91.58	*-0.80*	*-0.39*	*110.33*	*120.47*
Passionfruit	12.50-33.00	23.91	26.21	22.38	*-2.30*	*-8.78*	*1.53*	*6.84*
Woodapple	30.00-100.00	59.60	43.21	43.08	*16.39*	*37.93*	*16.52*	*38.35*
Orange	20.00-50.00	33.40	39.15	32.40	*-5.75*	*-14.69*	*1.00*	*3.09*
Avocado	40.00-120.00	74.77	73.34	57.16	*1.43*	*1.95*	*17.61*	*30.81*
Slime Apple	30.00-80.00	55.15	45.08	48.47	*10.07*	*22.34*	*6.68*	*13.78*
Grapes Imported (Rs/kg)	600.00-900.00	752.05	762.71	721.40	*-10.66*	*-1.40*	*30.65*	*4.25*

Source: Marketing, Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

Table 4.3: Producer Prices of Selected Fruits - March 2015

Items	Price Range	Average			Change Compared to			
	Mar 2015	Mar 2015	Feb 2015	Mar 2014	Feb 2015		Mar 2014	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Ambul	17.50-39.00	29.40	31.89	15.15	-2.49	-7.80	14.25	94.06
Kolikuttu	32.50-100.00	75.88	76.61	41.78	-0.73	-0.95	34.10	81.62
Papaw	52.80-115.00	88.62	83.98	30.19	4.65	5.53	58.43	193.54
Pineapple	50.50-59.00	54.55	50.13	51.80	4.43	8.83	2.75	5.31

Source Marketing Food Policy Agribusiness Division, HARTI

Table 4.4: Quantity, Value and FOB Prices of Exported Fruits Jan - Mar 2015

Type of Fruit	Mar - 2015			Feb - 2015			Jan - 2015		
	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	192.56	37.69	195.76	167.69	32.00	190.80	145.69	25.42	174.49
Papaw	176.77	9.49	53.66	126.15	11.04	87.53	151.47	9.93	65.57
Fresh Mango	1.40	0.91	648.69	2.61	2.19	836.93	8.04	6.02	749.67
Fresh Oranges	0.11	0.01	87.54	-	-	-	0.16	0.02	131.05
Fresh Avocado	192.56	37.69	195.76	167.69	32.00	190.80	145.69	25.42	174.49

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

Table 4.5: Quantity, Value and CIF Prices of Imported Fruits
Jan - Mar 2015

Type of Fruit	Mar - 2015			Feb - 2015			Jan - 2015		
	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	987.92	141.18	142.90	1,512.98	212.70	140.58	1,575.83	216.69	137.51
Grapes	356.85	98.95	277.30	388.58	119.21	306.78	332.35	115.50	347.54
Oranges	398.16	25.51	64.06	443.90	30.65	69.05	477.64	44.09	92.31
Mandarin	1,264.21	46.82	37.03	1,629.96	58.77	36.06	1,519.82	57.56	37.87

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

5. Fish, Dried Fish, Eggs and Meat

Fish

Prices and Supply/Demand Situation

As predicted in the month of February, prices of most of the fresh fish varieties had decreased in the range of 1%-15% at the wholesale level. Compared to the previous month, the highest price decrease was reported for thora (15%) and the lowest price decrease was reported for mora (1%). Prices of paraw, salaya and hurulla had decreased by 14%, 11% and 9% respectively. Sufficient stocks of these varieties were available in the market and stocks have been supplied mainly from the Southern coastal belt and from other areas such as Negombo, Chilaw, Kalpitiya and Mannar. However, prices of other varieties had increased at the wholesale level. The highest price increase of 11% was noted for balaya, while prices of kelawalla, shrimp and thalapath had increased in the range of 1% -5%. Off season for coastal fisheries in the Eastern coastal belt had resulted limited stocks reaching the market from that area. In the month of March, the monthly average wholesale prices of selected fresh fish varieties ranged between Rs.68.06– 868.42/kg. According to the data in previous years, it can be expected that fish prices could increase in the coming month. Compared to the same period of the previous year, wholesale prices of all the fresh fish varieties except thora, paraw and thalapath had increased with the highest price increase of 34% noted for both salaya and shrimp.

In line with the decreased prices for most of the fresh fish varieties at the wholesale market, prices of all the fresh fish varieties except kelawalla had decreased in the range of 3%-12% at the retail level. The highest price decrease was reported for salaya (12%) and the lowest price decrease (3%) was noted for both thalapath and balaya. A price decrease of 9% was observed for both thora and paraw. In addition, prices of hurulla, shrimp and mora had decreased by 7%, 5% and 4% respectively. However, price of kelawalla had increased by 1%. In the month of March, the monthly average retail prices of selected fresh fish varieties ranged between Rs.123.06 – 1,025.02/kg. Compared to the same month of the last year, retail prices of most of the fresh fish varieties had increased in the range of 1%-22%with the highest price increase noted for shrimp.

Table 5.1: Wholesale and Retail Prices of Fish – March 2015

Items	Price Range	Average			Change Compared to			
	Mar 2015	Mar 2015	Feb 2015	Mar 2014	Feb 2015		Mar 2014	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Wholesale Prices								
Salaya	50.00-100.00	68.06	76.35	50.63	*-8.29*	*-10.86*	*17.43*	*34.43*
Hurulla	150.00-320.00	205.13	224.39	193.60	*-19.26*	*-8.58*	*11.53*	*5.96*
Balaya	250.00-420.00	313.80	282.69	278.82	*31.11*	*11.00*	*34.98*	*12.55*
Kelawalla	350.00-550.00	451.35	429.58	382.42	*21.77*	*5.07*	*68.93*	*18.02*
Thora	450.00-950.00	727.89	860.06	903.15	*-132.17*	*-15.37*	*-175.26*	*-19.41*
Paraw	300.00-500.00	408.36	475.24	459.94	*-66.88*	*-14.07*	*-51.58*	*-11.21*
Mora	300.00-550.00	434.33	438.04	432.81	*-3.71*	*-0.85*	*1.52*	*0.35*
Shrimps (small)	700.00-1100.00	868.42	838.20	648.88	*30.22*	*3.61*	*219.54*	*33.83*
Thalapath	450.00-650.00	550.43	543.50	603.48	*6.93*	*1.28*	*-53.05*	*-8.79*
Retail Prices								
Salaya	80.00-200.00	123.06	140.35	122.07	*-17.29*	*-12.32*	*0.99*	*0.81*
Hurulla	180.00-400.00	289.92	310.33	264.09	*-20.41*	*-6.58*	*25.83*	*9.78*
Balaya	300.00-640.00	419.40	433.55	439.15	*-14.15*	*-3.26*	*-19.75*	*-4.50*
Kelawalla	500.00-580.00	696.78	691.34	617.78	*5.44*	*0.79*	*79.00*	*12.79*
Thora	700.00-1250.00	1025.02	1121.14	1137.98	*-96.12*	*-8.57*	*-112.96*	*-9.93*
Paraw	400.00-920.00	644.43	705.37	677.41	*-60.94*	*-8.64*	*-32.98*	*-4.87*
Mora	450.00-920.00	587.58	615.60	564.95	*-28.02*	*-4.55*	*22.63*	*4.01*
Shrimps (small)	800.00-1260.00	1001.92	1056.82	818.40	*-54.90*	*-5.19*	*183.52*	*22.42*
Thalapath	550.00-96.00	770.08	790.83	786.58	*-20.75*	*-2.62*	*-16.50*	*-2.10*

Source: Marketing, Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

Dried Fish

Prices and Supply/Demand Situation

Prices of most of the dried fish varieties had increased. The highest price increase of 34% was observed for imported maduwa followed by imported balaya (9%) and imported kattawa (5%). In addition, price increases of 4% and 2% were noted for local mora and kattawa respectively. Meanwhile, price of local sprats had decreased by 32% with controlled price of imported varieties, while a price decrease of 10% was observed for both local salaya. Price of local anguluwa had also increased. However, it was not a significant price change. In the month of March, a quantity of 2,206mt of sprats had been imported to the country spending nearly 561 million rupees. Compared to February, the imported quantity of sprats had decreased by 230mt. Compared to March in 2014; wholesale prices of most of the dried fish varieties of both imported and local varieties had decreased with the highest price decrease noted for balaya.

Prices of most of the dried fish varieties had increased in the range of 2%-14%. The highest price increase was observed for maduwa (14%). A price increase of 6% was noted for koduwa while, prices of kattawa,sparts, mora and balaya had increased by less than 4%. Meanwhile, prices of salaya and sprats had decreased by 5% and 10% respectively with low wholesale prices. Compared to March in 2014, retail prices of most of the dried fish varieties had increased in the with the highest price increase noted for Thora (5%).

Table 5.2: Wholesale and Retail Prices of Dried Fish – March 2015

Items	Price Range	Average			Change Compared to			
	Mar 2015	Mar 2015	Feb 2015	Mar 2014	Feb 2015		Mar 2014	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Dried fish – Wholesale								
Sprats	300.00-700.00	462.62	681.81	524.16	*-219.19*	*-32.15*	*-61.54*	*-11.74*
Sprats (imported)	280.00-350.00	315.44	311.75	324.66	*3.68*	*1.18*	*-9.22*	*-2.84*
Kattawa	600.00-800.00	713.80	699.75	727.40	*14.05*	*2.01*	*-13.60*	*-1.87*
Kattawa (imported)	600.00-750.00	692.40	657.36	688.96	*35.04*	*5.33*	*3.44*	*0.50*
Thora	900.00-980.00	940.00	928.25	-	*11.75*	*1.27*	-	-
Thora (imported)	900.00-1000.00	947.27	927.53	960.96	*19.74*	*2.13*	*-13.69*	*-1.42*
Mora	440.00-890.00	774.80	744.75	775.83	*30.05*	*4.03*	*-1.03*	*-0.13*
Mora (imported)	550.00-800.00	710.27	699.25	684.05	*11.02*	*1.58*	*26.22*	*3.83*
Balaya	400.00-680.00	464.45	473.55	486.44	*-9.10*	*-1.92*	*-21.99*	*-4.52*
Balaya (imported)	320.00-600.00	443.00	405.25	448.75	*37.75*	*9.32*	*-5.75*	*-1.28*
Anguluwa	420.00-650.00	539.48	586.81	621.00	*-47.33*	*-8.06*	*-81.52*	*-13.13*
Anguluwa (imported)	450.00-600.00	533.12	549.00	551.11	*-15.88*	*-2.89*	*-17.99*	*-3.26*
Maduwa	400.00-650.00	510.02	487.94	456.34	*22.08*	*4.53*	*53.69*	*11.76*
Maduwa (imported)	350.00-520.00	442.53	330.00	300.00	*112.53*	*34.10*	*142.53*	*47.51*
Koduwa	-	-	450.00	547.50	-	-	-	-
Koduwa(imported)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Salaya	100.00-250.00	189.31	209.99	230.85	*-20.68*	*-9.85*	*-41.55*	*-18.00*
Salaya (imported)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dried fish – Retail								
Sprats	380.00-1100.00	615.27	681.80	643.02	*-66.53*	*-9.76*	*-27.75*	*-4.32*
Kattawa	700.00-1200.00	1032.50	992.70	993.83	*39.80*	*4.01*	*38.67*	*3.89*
Thora	1000.00-1600.00	1309.95	1284.05	1251.49	*25.90*	*2.02*	*58.46*	*4.67*
Mora	750.00-1100.00	929.99	909.48	893.68	*20.51*	*2.26*	*36.31*	*4.06*
Balaya	500.00-1100.00	770.34	752.28	747.38	*18.06*	*2.40*	*22.96*	*3.07*
Anguluwa	600.00-1100.00	804.32	764.12	806.66	*40.20*	*5.26*	*-2.34*	*-0.29*
Maduwa	400.00-800.00	645.00	566.06	640.00	*78.94*	*13.95*	*5.00*	*0.78*
Koduwa	800.00-800.00	800.00	756.16	848.53	*43.84*	*5.80*	*-48.53*	*-5.72*
Salaya	200.00-800.00	488.71	515.73	497.92	*-27.02*	*-5.24*	*-9.21*	*-1.85*

Source: Marketing, Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

Table 5.3: Quantity, Value and CIF prices of Sprats - October 2014 to March 2015

Month	Quantity (mt.)	Value (Rs.mn)	CIF price (Rs/kg)	Retail Price (Rs/kg)	Gross Margin (Rs/kg)
Mar - 2015	2205.57	560.67	254.21	615.27	*361.06*
Feb - 2015	2535.40	629.79	248.40	681.80	*433.40*
Jan - 2015	2290.23	555.53	242.57	705.50	*462.93*
Dec - 2014	2308.97	556.52	241.03	698.54	*457.51*
Nov - 2014	2079.77	481.88	231.70	705.68	*473.98*
Oct - 2014	2149.18	521.29	242.55	694.92	*452.37*

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

Eggs

As predicted in the previous month, prices of both brown and white eggs had decreased by 4%. Egg supply had improved and the stocks had been supplied mainly from Hettipola, Kuliyapitiya and Wariyapola areas. A decreasing trend in egg prices was observed in the first two weeks of the month and the prices were stable during the fourth week of the month. The monthly average wholesale prices of brown and white eggs were Rs.13.49/egg and Rs.12.59/egg respectively. According to the data in previous years, it can be expected that egg prices could increase in the coming month due to the high demand during the festive season. Compared to the same period of last year, wholesale prices of both brown and white eggs had decreased by 6% and 9% respectively.

In line with the decreased wholesale prices, prices of both brown and white eggs had decreased by 1% at the retail level. The monthly average retail prices of a brown and a white egg were Rs.14.78 and Rs.13.90 respectively. Compared to the same period of the last year, retail prices of both brown and white eggs had decreased by 3% and 4% respectively.

Table 5.4: Wholesale and Retail Prices of Eggs – March 2015

Items	Price Range	Average			Change Compared to			
	Mar 2015	Mar 2015	Feb 2015	Mar 2014	Feb 2015		Mar 2014	
	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	%	Rs	%
Wholesale Price								
Eggs – Brown (each)	13.00-14.50	13.49	14.05	14.40	*-0.56*	*-3.99*	*-0.91*	*-6.32*
White (each)	12.00-13.50	12.59	13.09	13.78	*-0.50*	*-3.82*	*-1.19*	*-8.64*
Retail Price								
Eggs- Brown (each)	14.00-17.00	*14.78*	*14.98*	*15.30*	*-0.20*	*-1.34*	*-0.52*	*-3.40*
White (each)	13.00-16.00	*13.90*	*14.03*	*14.53*	*-0.13*	*-0.93*	*-0.63*	*-4.34*

Source: Marketing, Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

Meat

Prices of all the meat varieties except mutton had increased by less than 6% at the retail market. A price increase of 6% was noted for curry chicken, while a price increase of 2% was noted for both broiler chicken and pork. Price of mutton also had decreased. However, it was not a significant price change. Compared to March in 2014, retail prices of all the meat varieties except for broiler chicken had increased with the highest price increase noted for pork.

Table 5.5: Retail Prices of Meat – March 2015

Items	Price Range	Average			Change Compared to			
	Mar 2015	Mar 2015	Feb 2015	Mar 2014	Feb 2015		Mar 2014	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Meat								
Beef (without bones)	600.00-650.00	607.17	600.00	577.02	*7.17*	*1.19*	*30.15*	*5.23*
Chicken (Broiler)	430.00-550.00	479.38	469.91	484.38	*9.47*	*2.02*	*-5.00*	*-1.03*
Chicken (curry)	400.00-550.00	463.19	436.63	446.14	*26.56*	*6.08*	*17.05*	*3.82*
Mutton	1250.00-1400.00	1308.33	1308.33	1283.64	*0.00*	*0.00*	*24.69*	*1.92*
Pork	520.00-600.00	572.00	570.00	541.71	*2.00*	*0.35*	*30.29*	*5.59*

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

6. Wheat grain, Wheat flour and Sugar

Wheat grain, Wheat flour

The imports of wheat grain slightly decreased during the previous two months. But, it has increased considerably in March. Total quantity of 241,131mt of wheat grain was imported recording an increase of 176,935mt against the previous month. The total value of the imports was

Rs.9,615mn. The average CIF price was Rs.39.88/kg and it has increased by only cents 24/kg when compared to the previous month.

Considering wheat flour imports, the quantity has shown a decrease because it was very high in the previous month. Total imports were limited to 138mt, costing only Rs.9.41mn in March. Meanwhile, the world prices of wheat flour have gone up by Rs.1.05/kg against the previous month and in line with that the average CIF price has increased up to Rs.67.99/kg.

Consumers were benefitted by the reduction of import duties of wheat flour during last month. It continued in March too and the retail price has decreased further by cents 87/kg. Prices ranged between Rs.75.00-90.00/kg and the average price was Rs.86.45/kg. Compared to the same period of last year, retail price has decreased by more than 11%.

Table 6.1: Open Market Retail Prices of Wheat Flour and Sugar– March 2015

Items	Price Range	Average			Change Compared to			
	Mar 2015	Mar 2015	Feb 2015	Mar 2014	Feb 2015		Mar 2014	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Wheat Flour	75.00-90.00	86.45	87.32	97.37	-0.87	-1.00	-10.92	-11.22
Sugar	80.00-90.00	86.12	87.9	101.96	-1.78	-2.02	-15.84	-15.53

Source: Department of Census and Statistics

Table 6.2: Quantity, Value and CIF prices of Wheat Flour & Grain - October 2014 to March 2015

Month	Quantity (mt.)	Value (Rs.mn)	CIF price (Rs/kg)	Retail Price (Rs/kg)	Gross Margin (Rs/kg)
Wheat Flour					
Mar - 2015	138.41	9.41	67.99	86.45	*18.46*
Feb - 2015	1,188.52	79.56	66.94	87.32	*20.38*
Jan - 2015	90.93	8.09	89.01	97.92	*-1.69*
Dec - 2014	679.44	47.42	69.80	97.45	*27.65*
Nov - 2014	67.11	6.27	93.41	98.10	*4.69*
Oct - 2014	823.35	56.44	68.55	97.59	*29.04*
Wheat Grain					
Mar - 2015	241,131.11	9,615.19	39.88	86.45	*46.57*
Feb - 2015	64,196.17	2,544.84	39.64	87.32	*47.68*
Jan - 2015	98,645.83	4,073.95	41.30	97.92	*46.02*
Dec - 2014	246,451.04	9,854.93	39.99	97.45	*57.46*
Nov - 2014	97,621.10	4,033.59	41.32	98.10	*56.78*
Oct - 2014	159,248.39	6,681.31	41.96	97.59	*55.63*

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

Sugar

Total quantity of 67,843mt of sugar was imported recording an increase of 23% against the previous month. The value of the imports was Rs.3,963mn and the average CIF price was Rs.58.41/kg. The CIF price of sugar has decreased by Rs.1.32/kg against the previous month.

World prices of sugar have continuously decreased since June 2014 from Rs.66.91/kg to Rs.58.41/kg in March 2015 recording a decrease of Rs.8.50/kg. In line with the tax reduction, retail price has decreased by 12% in February and it has further decreased by Rs.1.78/kg in March 2015. Retail price of sugar remained in the range of Rs.80.00-90.00/kg and the average price was Rs.86.12/kg. Compared to the same period of last year, retail price has decreased by 16%.

Table 6.3: Quantity, Value and CIF prices of Sugar- October 2014 to March 2015

Month	Quantity (mt.)	Value (Rs.mn)	CIF price (Rs/kg)	Retail Price (Rs/kg)	Gross Margin (Rs/kg)
Mar - 2015	67,842.78	3,962.55	58.41	86.12	*27.71*
Feb - 2015	54,947.03	3,282.14	59.73	87.90	*28.17*
Jan - 2015	40,107.28	2,390.57	59.60	99.97	*28.30*
Dec - 2014	42,943.33	2,634.05	61.34	100.37	*39.03*
Nov - 2014	21,268.04	1,313.09	61.74	100.94	*39.20*
Oct - 2014	39,139.21	2,442.50	62.41	99.61	*37.20*

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

Table 7: Imports of Selected Food Items - March 2015

Items	Quantity (mt)		% Change Compared to last month	Value (Rs. mn)		% Change Compared to last month	CIF (Rs/kg)		% Change Compared to last month
	Mar 2015	Feb 2015		Mar 2015	Feb 2015		Mar 2015	Feb 2015	
Rice	17849.76	38307.71	-53.40	987.99	2410.21	-59.01	55.35	62.92	-12.03
Red Onion	698.14	2428.09	-71.25	37.30	158.61	-76.49	53.42	65.32	-18.22
Big Onion	22313.71	20840.51	7.07	1011.47	883.54	14.48	45.33	42.40	6.92
Potato	8118.18	15462.91	-47.50	231.96	483.51	-52.03	28.57	31.27	-8.62
Dried Chillies	6478.41	4520.79	43.30	1179.43	863.63	36.57	182.06	191.04	-4.70
Masoor Dhal	17518.79	16159.64	8.41	2088.71	1935.79	7.90	119.23	119.79	-0.47
Green Gram	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Black gram	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Garlic	2235.60	2635.32	-15.17	241.52	276.20	-12.55	108.04	104.81	3.08
Wheat flour	138.41	1188.52	-88.35	9.41	79.56	-88.17	67.99	66.94	1.57
Wheat grain	241131.11	64196.17	275.62	9615.19	2544.84	277.83	39.88	39.64	0.59
White crystalline cane sugar	67842.78	54947.03	23.47	3962.55	3282.14	20.73	58.41	59.73	-2.22
Maize (Seed)	23.71	-	-	10.49	-	-	442.53	-	-
Maize (Other)	-	1001.29	-	-	32.30	-	-	32.26	-

Source: Automated data Processing Division, Department of Customs

Table 8: Monthly Rainfall (mm) – March 2015

Rainfall Station	Total Rainfall (mm)	30 Year Avg. Rainfall (mm)	Total Rainy Days	30 Year Average Rainy Days
Anuradhapura	26.0	68.7	4	5
Badulla	114.4	119.4	11	9
Bandarawela	150.5	98.5	10	7
Batticaloa	42.1	89.0	9	6
Colombo	220.9	128.0	16	9
Galle	138.2	111.3	10	9
Hambantota	57.2	65.4	3	5
Jaffna	15.4	25.7	4	2
Katugastota	57.6	71.9	9	8
Katunayaka	211.7	132.9	11	8
Kurunegala	207.2	139.1	6	8
MahaIluppallama	14.8	84.9	5	6
Mannar	117.5	44.4	6	3
NuwaraEliya	42.7	71.5	6	8
Pottuvil	106.2	75.7	8	na
Puttalam	55.1	67.7	6	5
Ratmalana	299.3	141.5	15	9
Ratnapura	87.6	212.2	12	14
Trincomalee	68.7	55.5	7	4
Vavuniya	82.2	62.9	6	4
Polonnaruwa	32.4	na	6	na
Moneragala	110.9	na	7	na
Mattala	49.4	na	3	na

Source: Department of Meteorology