# HARTI

# FOOD INFORMATION BULLETIN

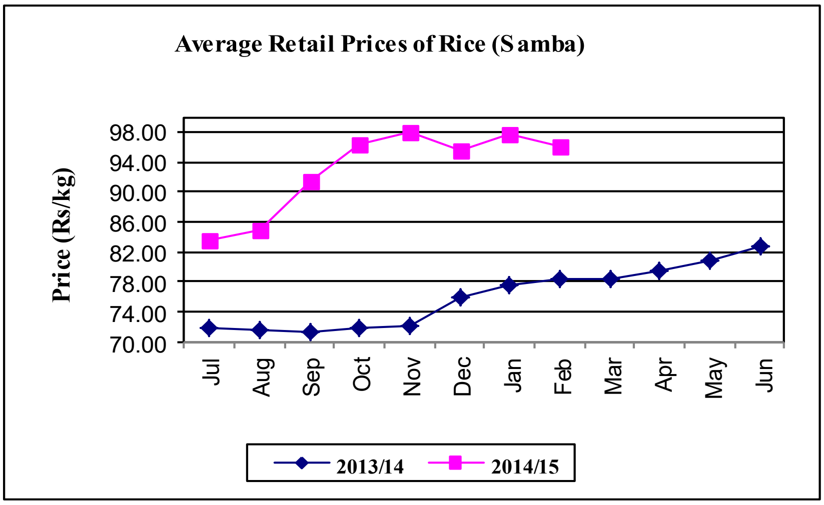
Vol 08 February - 2015 No 02

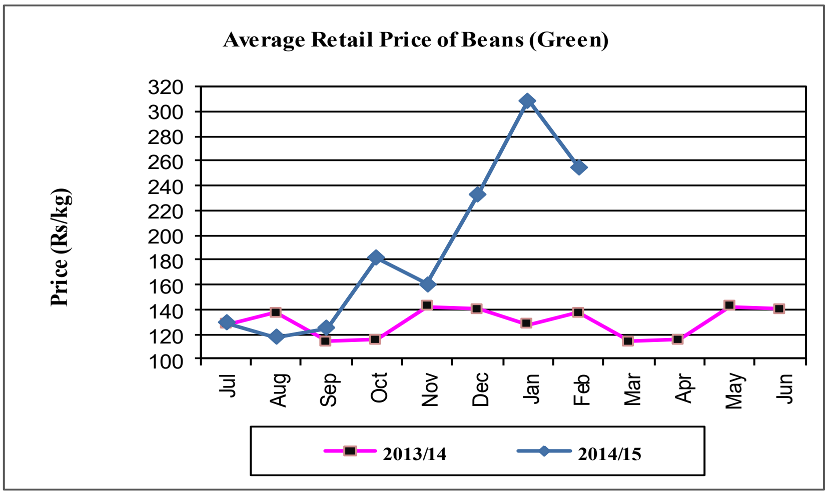
## RICE:

Prices of all the local rice varieties have come down by Rs.1.00-5.00/kg due to arrival of *maha* rice production to the market.

## VEGETABLES:

With the reaching of peak *maha* harvesting season in all the major producing areas, prices of both up country and low country vegetables have decreased by more than 20% compared to last month. Prices would continue to be at a lower level in March, as an extended harvesting season is expected in all the major producing areas.

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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 occurred during the 2014/15 *Maha* season, the production outlook is satisfactory in most of the major producing areas as a result of the high extent (800,303ha) of paddy lands cultivated during the season. Harvesting of paddy crop was in progress in Kurunegala district, Eastern province and Anuradhapura district during the month and new harvest arrives to the markets from those areas. At the end of month, rainy weather was experienced in Anuradhapura, Tabuttegama and Nikaweratiya producing areas. According to the latest crop forecast report of the Department of Agriculture the expected paddy production after the removal of crop damage was 2.654 million mt. It is 2% higher than the production average of last three *Maha* seasons and 19% higher than the production of previous *Maha* season. It is expected that the harvesting takes place at the end of March in producing areas in the Southern province.

**Table 1.1: Achievement of Paddy Cultivation 2014/15 *maha* season (Up to end of February - 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 | 348,557 | 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 | 12,856 | 85 | 41,482 | 39,475 |
| Matale | 22,309 | 22,099 | 99 | 84,424 | 83,978 |
| NuwaraEliya | 6,724 | 6,132 | 91 | 15,765 | 15,277 |
| Badulla | 25,850 | 23,657 | 92 | 95,547 | 95,068 |
| 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 | 23,227 | 107 | 109,631 | 103,270 |
| 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 | 6,220 | 111 | 29,358 | 28,961 |
| System L | 1,965 | 1,564 | 80 | 7,382 | 7,382 |
| **Sri Lanka** | **825,713** | **800,303** | **97** | **3,093,961** | **2,654,392** |

***Source: Department of Agriculture***

**Table1.2: Producer Prices of Paddy – February 2015**

| Commodity | Price Range | | Average Price | | | Change Compared to | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Feb 2015 | Jan 2015 | Feb 2015 | Jan 2015 | Feb 2014 | Jan 2015 | | Feb 2014 | |
| | Rs/kg | Rs/kg | Rs/kg | Rs/kg | Rs/kg | Rs/kg | % | Rs/kg | % |
| **Short Grain** | | | | | | | | | |
| Anuradhapura | 34.00-44.00 | 35.00-48.00 | 36.75 | 44.75 | 36.00 | *-8.00* | *-17.88* | *0.75* | *2.08* |
| Polonnaruwa | 35.93-43.00 | - | - | - | 36.77 | - | - | - | - |
| Kalawewa | 36.00-42.50 | 40.00-47.00 | 38.71 | 44.17 | 36.15 | *-5.46* | *-12.35* | *2.56* | *7.08* |
| Kurunegala | 34.00-40.50 | 42.00-45.00 | 36.05 | 44.01 | 35.02 | *-7.96* | *-18.08* | *1.03* | *2.94* |
| Dehiattakandiya | 33.00-44.00 | 43.00-44.00 | 41.34 | 43.63 | - | *-2.29* | *-5.24* | - | - |
| Nikaweratiya | 35.00-50.00 | 35.00-51.00 | 41.70 | 45.05 | 35.68 | *-3.35* | *-7.44* | *6.02* | *16.87* |
| Ampara | | - | - | - | 33.77 | - | - | - | - |
| **Long Grain White** | | | | | | | | | |
| Anuradhapura | 30.00-37.00 | 33.00-46.00 | 32.88 | 42.75 | 33.63 | *-9.88* | *-23.10* | *-0.76* | *-2.25* |
| Polonnaruwa | 31.25-38.00 | - | - | - | 33.99 | - | - | - | - |
| Kalawewa | 30.00-36.00 | 35.00-43.00 | 33.04 | 40.67 | 34.42 | *-7.62* | *-18.74* | *-1.38* | *-4.00* |
| Kurunegala | 31.00-35.00 | 42.00-43.00 | 32.03 | 42.48 | 31.85 | *-10.45* | *-24.60* | *0.18* | *0.55* |
| Dehiattakandiya | 32.00-43.00 | 42.00-43.00 | 40.27 | 42.60 | - | *-2.32* | *-5.46* | - | - |
| Embilipitiya | 39.00-41.00 | 40.00-44.00 | 40.15 | 42.60 | 36.38 | *-2.45* | *-5.75* | *3.77* | *10.36* |
| Nikaweratiya | 30.00-45.00 | 30.00-48.00 | 35.83 | 40.75 | 32.78 | *-4.93* | *-12.09* | *3.05* | *9.29* |
| Matara | 38.00-44.00 | 42.00-43.00 | 40.48 | 42.67 | 33.42 | *-2.19* | *-5.14* | *7.06* | *21.12* |
| Hambantota | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Ampara | - | - | - | - | 30.00 | - | - | - | - |
| **Long Grain Red** | | | | | | | | | |
| Anuradhapura | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Matara | 38.00-50.00 | 43.00-50.00 | 42.33 | 47.59 | 33.17 | *-5.25* | *-11.04* | *9.16* | *27.62* |
| Hambantota | 40.00-55.00 | 50.00-55.00 | 47.13 | 52.25 | 34.75 | *-5.13* | *-9.81* | *12.38* | *35.61* |
| Embilipitiya | 42.00-49.00 | 47.00-53.00 | 44.48 | 50.45 | 34.96 | *-5.98* | *-11.84* | *9.52* | *27.22* |

***Source: Marketing Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI***

## Producer Prices

Producer prices of short grain, long grain white and long grain red paddy varieties have shown a decreasing trend in all major producing areas during the month. Harvesting of paddy in *maha*, 2014/15 season was in progress in the producing areas in the Eastern province and Kurunegala and Anuradhapura districts. In order to stabilize the paddy prices the Paddy Marketing Board (PMB) commenced the purchasing programme in all major producing areas from the third week of the month. The guaranteed purchasing prices were Rs 45.00/Kg for long grain and Rs 50.00/Kg for short grain. Prices of short grain and long grain white ranged between Rs.33.00-50.00/Kg and Rs.30.00-45.00/Kg respectively. The lowest prices for long grain white were recorded in Anuradhapura, Kalawewa and Nikeweratiya. The lowest prices were recorded for high moisture paddy received from the new harvest. It was recorded that the prices of old stocks were higher than that of the new harvest of long grain white. The highest price range of Rs 38.00-50.00/Kg was recorded for the long grain red paddy 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 5%-18% and 5%-23% respectively in most of the producing areas. Meanwhile, the price of long grain red has decreased in the range of 10%-12%. Compared to the same period of last year, the prices of short grain, long grain white and long grain red have increased in the range of 2%-17%, 1%-21% and 27%-36% respectively. However, the price of long grain white declined by 2% in Anuradhapura and 4% in Kalawewa.

## Rice Demand and Supply Situation

### Wholesale prices

The tight situation of rice market prevailed during last couple of months ended due to arrival of *maha* 2014/15 production to the market. The supplies of raw and nadu varieties increased from Mannar, Kilinochchi, Eravur, Batticaloa and Kekirawa. By the end of this month about 50% of available raw and nadu rice stocks constituted the newly harvested rice. Such, the price of most of the rice varieties has shown a downward trend. The price of raw red decreased by 14%, followed by nadu, samba grade III and raw white by 6%-9%. Rice imports continued further and according to the statistics released by the Department of Customs, about 38,308mt of rice were imported during this month. The highest price of Rs.95.00/kg was reported for samba grade I, while the lowest price of Rs.55.00/kg was noted for imported raw white.

Compared to the same period of last year, prices of all the rice varieties had increased by 3%-20%.

### Retail

Prices of all the rice varieties except for imported *ponni* samba have decreased during the month. The highest price decrease of Rs.5.00/kg was reported for raw red followed by nadu grade II as Rs.4.00/kg. Prices of all the other local rice varieties have decreased by Rs.1.00-3.00/kg. The main reason for the price reduction was maintained by the availability of rice production of this maha season. However, availability of samba rice was less compared to other varieties and it was the main reason for the increase of *ponni* samba price by Rs.5.00/kg. Prices are expected to come down further during next month too.

Compared to the same period of last year, prices of all the rice varieties had increased by 11%-32%.

**Table1.3: Wholesale and Retail Prices of Rice – February 2015**

| Item | Price Range | Average Price | | | Change Compared to | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Feb 2015 | Feb 2015 | Jan 2015 | Feb 2014 | Jan 2015 | | Feb 2014 | |
| | Rs/kg | Rs/kg | Rs/kg | Rs/kg | Rs/kg | % | Rs/kg | % |
| **Wholesale Prices** | | | | | | | | |
| Samba 1 | 88.00-95.00 | 91.59 | 92.03 | 79.18 | *-0.44* | *-0.48* | *12.40* | *15.66* |
| Samba 2 | 80.00-88.00 | 84.07 | 86.85 | 75.71 | *-2.78* | *-3.20* | *8.36* | *11.04* |
| Samba 3 | 75.00-75.00 | 75.00 | 82.33 | 72.60 | *-7.33* | *-8.91* | *2.40* | *3.30* |
| Nadu 1 | 70.00-82.00 | 77.70 | 82.58 | 66.06 | *-4.88* | *-5.90* | *11.64* | *17.61* |
| Nadu 2 | 65.00-78.00 | 71.58 | 78.59 | 63.38 | *-7.01* | *-8.92* | *8.20* | *12.94* |
| Raw red | 64.00-85.00 | 73.86 | 86.34 | 61.29 | *-12.47* | *-14.45* | *12.57* | *20.51* |
| Raw white | 65.00-77.00 | 69.26 | 75.43 | 62.75 | *-6.17* | *-8.18* | *6.51* | *10.37* |
| *Ponni* Samba (Imported) | 73.00-79.00 | 76.29 | 71.50 | - | *4.79* | *6.70* | - | - |
| Raw white (imported) | 55.00-65.00 | 60.23 | 61.20 | - | *-0.97* | *-1.59* | - | - |
| **Retail Prices** | | | | | | | | |
| Samba 1 | 95.00-120.00 | 100.90 | 102.29 | 84.59 | *-1.39* | *-1.36* | *16.31* | *19.28* |
| Samba 2 | 80.00-96.00 | 91.39 | 93.38 | 76.54 | *-1.99* | *-2.13* | *14.85* | *19.40* |
| Samba 3 | 85.00-85.00 | 85.00 | - | 74.29 | - | - | *10.71* | *14.42* |
| Nadu 1 | 80.00-95.00 | 88.75 | 90.13 | 72.18 | *-1.38* | *-1.53* | *16.57* | *22.96* |
| Nadu 2 | 70.00-90.00 | 82.06 | 85.97 | 67.64 | *-3.91* | *-4.55* | *14.42* | *21.32* |
| Raw red | 75.00-95.00 | 87.23 | 92.21 | 66.32 | *-4.98* | *-5.40* | *20.91* | *31.53* |
| Raw white | 70.00-95.00 | 81.61 | 84.76 | 67.44 | *-3.15* | *-3.72* | *14.17* | *21.01* |
| *Ponni* Samba (Imported) | 75.00-90.00 | 82.50 | 77.71 | 74.29 | *4.79* | *6.16* | *8.21* | *11.05* |
| Raw white (imported) | 60.00-85.00 | 69.20 | 70.29 | - | *-1.09* | *-1.55* | - | - |

***Source: Marketing Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI***

## 2. Other Field Crops

### 2.1 Chillies

### Crop situation

The targeted extent of chillies for *maha* 2014/15 was 13,545ha in Sri Lanka and out of that 9,003ha has been achieved by the end of February 2015 representing 66% of the targeted extent. The highest cultivated extent of 2,789 ha was recorded from the Anuradhapura district and it represents 71% of the targeted extent in Anuradhapura. The production forecast of chillies for the season is 40,504mt and out of that 68% of the production will be provided from Anuradhapura (16,356mt – 40%), Monaragala (5,026mt – 12%) and Puttalam (6,271mt – 16%) districts. The following table shows the cultivation progress of the chillies in main producing areas.

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

| Areas | Targeted Extent (ha) | Cultivation progress at the end of February 2015 | | Expected production (mt) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Cultivated Extent (ha) | % of the targeted extent | |
| Anuradhapura | 3,903 | 2,789 | 71 | 16,356 |
| Monaragala | 1,504 | 781 | 52 | 5,026 |
| Puttalam | 1,000 | 714 | 71 | 6,271 |
| Jaffna | 700 | 600 | 86 | 1,109 |
| Hambantota | 369 | 463 | 125 | 1,649 |
| Ampara | 852 | 430 | 50 | 1,020 |
| Other areas | 5,217 | 3,226 | 62 | 9,073 |
| **Total** | **13,545** | **9,003** | **66** | **40,504** |

***Source: Crop forecasting Unit, Department of Agriculture***

### Prices and Supply/Demand Situation

Producer prices of green chilies ranged between Rs.84.00-375.00/kg during this month in Dambulla, Hambantota, Embilipitiya, Puttalam and Anuradhapura areas, with the highest price recorded in Hambantota.

Supply of green chillies from main producing areas has increased during this month and both wholesale and retail prices of green chillies have decreased significantly by about Rs.419.00/kg and Rs.492.00/kg respectively. Average wholesale and retail prices of green chillies were Rs.189.17/kg and Rs.364.37/kg respectively and average retail price of green chillies was higher than the average retail price of imported dried chillies.

A quantity of 4,521mt of dried chillies was imported in February 2015 and it was an increase of 900mt compared to that of the previous month. The average CIF price was Rs.191.04/kg and it was an increase of Rs.5.91/kg compared to the last month. However, the wholesale price of imported dried chillies has increased by about Rs.2.00/kg, while the retail price has decreased by about Rs.3.00/kg. Average wholesale and retail prices of imported dried chillies were Rs.221.33/kg and Rs.269.09/kg and the prices have increased by about 17% and 14% respectively.

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

| Items | Price Range | Average Price | | | Change Compared to | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Feb 2015 | Feb 2015 | Jan 2015 | Feb 2014 | Jan 2015 | | Feb 2014 | |
| | Rs/kg | Rs/kg | Rs/kg | Rs/kg | Rs/kg | % | Rs/kg | % |
| **Wholesale Price** | | | | | | | | |
| Green chillies | 100.00-350.00 | 189.17 | 607.79 | 61.88 | *-418.62* | *-68.88* | *127.29* | *205.70* |
| Dried chillies | 210.00-235.00 | 221.33 | 219.10 | 189.88 | *2.22* | *1.02* | *31.45* | *16.56* |
| **Retail Price** | | | | | | | | |
| Green chillies | 140.00-800.00 | 364.37 | 856.75 | 173.68 | *-492.38* | *-57.47* | *190.69* | *109.79* |
| Dried chillies | 240.00-350.00 | 269.09 | 271.85 | 235.25 | *-2.76* | *-1.02* | *33.84* | *14.38* |

***Source: Marketing, Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI***

**Table 2.1.3: Quantity, Value and CIF Prices of Imported Dried Chillies September to February 2015**

| Month | Quantity (mt) | Value (Rs.mn.) | CIF Price (Rs/kg) | Retail Price (Rs/kg) | Gross Margin (Rs/kg) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 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 |
| Sep - 2014 | 4,656.11 | 792.76 | 170.26 | 244.16 | 73.90 |

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

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

| Location | 1st week | 2nd week | 3rd week | 4th week |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Dambulla | 280.00 | 111.00 | 111.00 | 109.00 |
| Hambantota | 375.00 | 135.00 | 135.00 | 135.00 |
| Embilipitiya | 372.00 | 172.00 | 172.00 | 166.00 |
| Puttalam | - | 98.00 | 98.00 | 84.00 |
| A'Pura | 255.00 | 270.00 | 165.00 | 145.00 |

***Source: Marketing, Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI***

## 2.2 Big Onion and Red Onion

### Crop situation

Under the big onion promotion programme around 1,097ha was targeted in Sri Lanka for this maha season and the highest targeted extent was reported from Hambantota (702ha). However, at the end of February 2015, only 137ha were cultivated in Sri Lanka representing 12% of the targeted extent.

The cultivated extent of red onion for maha 2014/15 season as at the end of February 2015 was 4,954ha in the country and it represents 65% of the target. A good progress has been achieved for red onion cultivation in Jaffna district and it represents 90% of the targeted extent at the end of February. Cultivation of red onion largely took place during this month in Puttalam district and at the end of February 2015, about 667ha have been cultivated, which represent 64% of the total targeted extent. The production forecast of red onion for this season is 44,092mt and out of that, 85% of the production will arrive to the market from Jaffna (55%) and Puttalam (30%) districts.

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

| Areas | Targeted (ha) | Cultivation progress at the end of February 2015 | | Expected production (mt) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Extent (ha) | % of the target | |
| Jaffna | 2,000 | 1,791 | 90 | 24,428 |
| Puttalam | 1,050 | 667 | 64 | 12,968 |
| Trincomalee | 686 | 114 | 17 | 1,290 |
| Other areas | 1,218 | 658 | 54 | 5,406 |
| **Total** | **4,954** | **3,230** | **65** | **44,092** |

## Prices and Supply/Demand Situation

A quantity of 20,841mt of big onion was imported from India and Pakistan during this month. It was a decrease of 3,733mt compared to the previous month. Average CIF price was Rs.42.40/kg and it has increased by about Rs.1.00/kg compared to that of the previous month. However, both wholesale and retail prices of imported big onions have decreased by about Rs.7.00/kg and Rs.22.00/kg respectively due to availability of sufficient stocks at the market. Average wholesale and retail prices of imported big onions were Rs.58.45/kg and Rs.83.99/kg and both prices have increased by about 37% and 23% respectively when compared to the same period of previous year.

Supply of local red onions from Jaffna area has increased during this month and wholesale price of sinnan has decreased by about Rs.12.00/kg. Prices ranged between Rs.45.00-80.00/kg for sinnan and Rs.50.00-90.00/kg for vedalan. Only vedalan varieties were available at the retail markets in the price range of Rs.130.00-150.00/kg. About 2,428mt of red onion was imported from India during this month and compared to the previous month it has decreased by about 541mt. Average CIF price was Rs.65.32/kg for imported red onion and it has increased by Rs.1.28/kg compared to the previous. Both wholesale and retail prices of imported red onions have decreased by about Rs.10.00/kg and Rs.12.00/kg respectively due to availability of local red onion at the market. Compared to the same period of last year, retail prices of vedalan and imported red onions have increased by about 21% and 19% respectively.

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

| Crop | Price Range | Average | | | Change Compared to | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Feb 2015 | Feb 2015 | Jan 2015 | Feb 2014 | Jan 2015 | | Feb 2014 | |
| | Rs/kg | Rs/kg | Rs/kg | Rs/kg | Rs/kg | % | Rs/kg | % |
| **Wholesale Prices** | | | | | | | | |
| Red Onion (Sinnan) | 45.00-80.00 | 60.21 | 72.50 | 42.50 | *-12.29* | *-16.95* | *17.71* | *41.67* |
| Red Onion (Vedalan) | 50.00-90.00 | 75.00 | - | 55.10 | - | - | *19.90* | *36.13* |
| Red Onion (Imported) | 55.00-100.00 | 76.24 | 86.71 | 63.51 | *-10.47* | *-12.08* | *12.73* | *20.04* |
| Big Onion (imported) | 40.00-70.00 | 58.45 | 65.48 | 42.56 | *-7.03* | *-10.73* | *15.90* | *37.36* |
| Big Onion (Local) | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| **Retail Prices** | | | | | | | | |
| Red Onion (Sinnan) | - | - | - | | - | - | - | - |
| Red Onion (Vedalan) | 130.00-150.00 | 140.00 | - | 115.44 | - | - | *24.56* | *21.28* |
| Red Onion (Imported) | 100.00-160.00 | 132.59 | 144.64 | 111.53 | *-12.05* | *-8.33* | *21.06* | *18.88* |
| Big Onion (imported) | 70.00-100.00 | 83.99 | 106.11 | 68.30 | *-22.12* | *-20.85* | *15.69* | *22.97* |
| Big Onion (Local) | - | - | 108.34 | - | - | - | - | - |

***Source: Marketing, Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI***

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

| Crop | Month | CIF Price (Rs/kg) | Wholesale Price (Rs/kg) | Retail Price (Rs/kg) | Margin (Rs/kg) | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | WP-CIF | RP-WP |
| Big onion | Feb,2015 | 42.40 | 58.45 | 83.99 | *16.06* | *25.54* |
| | Jan,2015 | 41.67 | 65.48 | 106.11 | *23.81* | *40.63* |
| | Feb,2014 | 27.94 | 42.56 | 68.30 | *14.62* | *25.74* |
| Red onion | Feb,2015 | 65.32 | 76.24 | 132.59 | *10.91* | *56.35* |
| | Jan,2015 | 64.04 | 86.71 | 144.64 | *22.67* | *57.93* |
| | Feb,2014 | 47.07 | 63.51 | 111.53 | *16.44* | *48.02* |

***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) | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Feb 2015 | Jan 2015 | Feb 2015 | Jan 2015 | Feb 2015 | Jan 2015 |
| Red Onion | 2428.09 | 2968.58 | 158.61 | 190.10 | 65.32 | 64.04 |
| Big Onion | 20840.51 | 24573.36 | 883.54 | 1024.04 | 42.40 | 41.67 |

***Source: Department of Customs***

**Table 2.2.5: Quantity Imported, CIF Price, Wholesale and Retail Price of Big Onion September to February 2015**

| Month | Quantity Imported (mt) | CIF Price (Rs/kg) | Wholesale Price (Rs/kg) | Retail Price (Rs/kg) | Gross Margin (RP-CIF) (Rs/kg) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 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 | - | - | - |
| Sep - 2014 | 222.24 | 35.12 | 67.91 | 90.70 | 55.58 |

***Source: Department of Customs***

## 2.3 Potato

## Crop Situation and Progress

The targeted extent of potato for *maha* 2014/15 is 3,153ha and about 2,768ha had been cultivated by the end of this month achieving 88% of the targeted extent. During the month, about 455ha of potatoes were cultivated in the country and it was lower than the extent cultivated in December and January of this *maha* season. Compared to the same period of *maha* 2013/14, the cultivated extent up to end of this month of *maha* 2014/15 was slightly at a low level. According to the cultivated extent up to end of this month, the expected production of potato is 35,497mt for this *maha* season.

In the Nuwara Eliya district, the targeted extent is 1,095ha for this *maha* season and about 845ha of potato has been cultivated by the end of this month achieving 77% of the targeted extent. About 2,600mt of potatoes are expected be supplied in March from Nuwara Eliya and the supply will be lower afterwards from Nuwara Eliya. The targeted extent for this *maha* season is 1,945ha in the Badulla district and about 1,807ha has been cultivated achieving 93% of the target by the end of February. In the Badulla district, about 209ha of potatoes were cultivated during this month which is lower than the extent cultivated in the previous month. Compared to the same period of *maha* 2013/14, the cultivated extent was at a low 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 | 835 | 845 | 77 | 14,733 |
| Badulla | 1,943 | 1,945 | 1,918 | 1,807 | 93 | 20,007 |
| **Sri Lanka** | **3,783** | **3,153** | **2,838** | **2,768** | **88** | **35,497** |

***Source:* *MFPAD/HARTI***
***Crop Forecast No.5, Maha 2014/15, Socio-economic & Planning Centre/DOA***
****Crop Forecast No.5, Maha 2013/14, Socio-economic & Planning Centre/DOA***
*****Excluding crop damages***

## Prices and Supply/Demand Situation

A quantity of 15,463mt of potato had been imported in February which was 5,694mt 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. Most of the stocks were received from Pakistan, Bangladesh and India. Compared to February, 2014 (8,644mt), the imports were at a high level during this month.

With regard to local potato, the harvesting season for Welimada potato commenced during this month. Also, sufficient stocks of Nuwara Eliya potatoes were available in the market. Hence, the wholesale price of Nuwara Eliya potato has decreased by 6%. Further, the wholesale price of imported potato has decreased by 11% due to availability of ample stocks. Retail prices of Nuwara Eliya and imported potatoes have decreased by 6% and 17% respectively. On average, the producer price of Nuwara Eliya potato was Rs.77.00/kg in February. During the month, the wholesale prices of Nuwara Eliya and imported potatoes ranged between Rs.80.00-100.00/kg and Rs.38.00-75.00/kg respectively. With regard to imported potatoes, the stocks of Indian and Bangladesh varieties fetched a low price. Compared to the same period of last year, the current retail price of Nuwara Eliya (13%) potato has increased.

**Table 2.3.2: Quantity, Value and CIF prices of Imported Potatoes**
**September to February 2015**

| Month | Quantity (mt.) | Value (Rs.mn) | CIF price (Rs/kg) | Retail Price (Rs/kg) | Gross Margin (Rs/kg) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 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* |
| Sep - 2014 | 759.00 | 26.42 | 34.81 | 81.02 | *46.21* |

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

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

| Items | Price Range | Average | | | Change Compared to | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Feb 2015 | Feb 2015 | Jan 2015 | Feb 2014 | Jan 2015 | | Feb 2014 | |
| | Rs/kg | Rs/kg | Rs/kg | Rs/kg | Rs/kg | % | Rs/kg | % |
| **Producer Prices (PP)** | | | | | | | | |
| Welimada | 58.00-75.00 | 75.00 | 64.40 | 74.53 | *60.58* | *94.07* | *0.47* | *0.63* |
| Nuwara Eliya | 70.00-88.00 | *77.45* | *74.20* | 67.05 | *3.25* | *4.38* | *10.40* | *15.51* |
| Imported – CIF | 27.22-47.88 | 31.27 | 42.05 | 30.25 | *-10.78* | *-25.64* | *1.02* | *3.37* |
| **Wholesale Prices (WP)** | | | | | | | | |
| Welimada | 60.00-85.00 | 75.20 | - | 65.15 | - | - | *10.05* | *15.42* |
| Nuwara Eliya | 80.00-100.00 | 91.51 | 97.14 | 75.00 | *-5.63* | *-5.79* | *16.51* | *22.01* |
| Imported | 38.00-75.00 | 49.85 | 55.77 | 57.71 | *-5.93* | *-10.63* | *-7.86* | *-13.63* |
| **Retail Prices (RP)** | | | | | | | | |
| Welimada | 95.00-120.00 | 103.28 | - | 92.67 | - | - | - | - |
| Nuwara Eliya | 110.00-180.00 | 131.58 | 139.63 | 116.52 | *-8.05* | *-5.77* | *15.06* | *12.92* |
| Imported | 60.00-120.00 | 79.99 | 96.24 | 80.25 | *-16.25* | *-16.88* | *-0.26* | *-0.32* |
| **Gross Margin (RP-PP)** | | | | | | | | |
| Welimada | | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Nuwara Eliya | | 54.13 | 65.43 | 49.47 | *-11.30* | *-17.27* | *4.66* | *9.42* |
| Imported (CIF-RP) | | 48.72 | 54.19 | 50.00 | *-5.47* | *-10.09* | *-1.28* | *-2.56* |
| **Gross Margin (RP -WP)** | | | | | | | | |
| Welimada | | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Nuwara Eliya | | 40.07 | 42.49 | 41.52 | *-2.42* | *-5.71* | *-1.45* | *-3.49* |
| Imported | | 30.14 | 40.47 | 22.54 | *-10.32* | *-25.51* | *7.60* | *33.74* |

***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 is 12,458ha and out of which about 11,586ha were cultivated by the end of this month representing 93% of the total targeted extent. In February, about 1,012ha of green gram was cultivated in the country. Due to bad weather condition, a total of 917ha of green gram cultivated lands of this *maha* season were affected due to floods (Crop Forecast, DOA). Hence, the available production for this *maha* season is estimated as 14,158mt. Compared to the same period of *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 is 3,585ha for *maha* 2014/15 and about 5,107ha was cultivated by the end of this month achieving a higher progress. In the Moneragala district, the targeted extent is 1,983ha for this *maha* season and about 1,717ha was cultivated achieving 86% 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 9,112ha has been cultivated by the end of the month achieving 74% of the total targeted extent. During the month, about 1,910ha of cowpea was cultivated in the country. 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 11,598mt. The highest targeted extent for cowpea was recorded in the Ampara district as 3,959ha for this *maha* season. In the Moneregala district, the targeted extent was 1,726ha for this *maha* season. By the end of this month, about 3,666ha and 1,560ha were cultivated in the Ampara and Moneragala districts respectively. In Ampara district, about 1,585ha of cowpea was cultivated during this month.

**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 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | ***Maha* 2013/14*** | ***Maha* 2014/15** | ***Maha* 2013/14*** | ***Maha* 2014/15** | ***Maha* 2014/15** | **Production** (mt)** |
| Green | Hambantota | 2,515 | 3,585 | 2,476 | 5,107 | 142 | 7,760 |
| | Moneragala | 1,796 | 1,983 | 1,684 | 1,717 | 86 | 1,744 |
| | **Sri Lanka** | **11,589** | **12,458** | **8,577** | **11,586** | **93** | **14,158** |
| Cowpea | Ampara | 3,189 | 3,959 | 3,079 | 3,666 | 92 | 6,746 |
| | Moneragala | 1,697 | 1,726 | 1,654 | 1,560 | 90 | 1,658 |
| | **Sri Lanka** | **12,542** | **12,318** | **8,439** | **9,112** | **74** | **11,598** |

***Source:* MFPAD/HARTI**
***Crop Forecast No.5, Maha 2014/15, Socio-economic & Planning Centre/DOA***
****Crop Forecast No.5, Maha 2013/14, Socio-economic & Planning Centre/DOA***
*****Excluding crop damages***

## Prices and Supply Demand Situation

Special Commodity Levy on imported green gram has been reduced to Rs.10.00/kg with effect from 29/01/2015. Hence, the wholesale and retail prices of green gram had decreased by 9% and 4% respectively. During the month, the wholesale price of green gram ranged between Rs.200.00-310.00/kg. Compared to the same period of last year, the current retail price of green gram had decreased by 8%.

Supply of local stocks of cowpea was at a low level. Hence, the wholesale prices of both white and red cowpea have increased by 1% and 3% respectively. With regard to cowpea, limited stocks of local cowpea varieties were available in the market. During the month, the wholesale prices of white and red cowpea ranged between Rs.190.00-225.00/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 decreased by 8% and 9% respectively.

**Table 2.4.2: Quantity, Value and CIF prices of Imported Green gram**
**September to February 2015**

| Month | Quantity (mt) | Value (Rs.mn) | CIF price (Rs/kg) | Retail Price (Rs/kg) | Gross Margin (Rs/kg) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 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 |
| Sep - 2014 | 215.00 | 35.52 | 165.21 | 318.72 | 153.51 |

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

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

| Items | Price Range | Average | | | Change Compared to | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Feb 2015 | Feb 2015 | Jan 2015 | Feb 2014 | Jan 2015 | | Feb 2014 | |
| | Rs/kg | Rs/kg | Rs/kg | Rs/kg | Rs/kg | % | Rs/kg | % |
| **Wholesale Prices** | | | | | | | | |
| Green gram | 200.00-310.00 | 239.76 | 262.57 | 295.92 | -22.81 | -8.69 | -56.16 | -18.98 |
| Cowpea (White) | 190.00-225.00 | 208.96 | 206.70 | 195.90 | 2.26 | 1.10 | 13.07 | 6.67 |
| Cowpea (Red) | 200.00-225.00 | 217.74 | 210.64 | 180.12 | 7.10 | 3.37 | 37.62 | 20.89 |
| **Retail Prices** | | | | | | | | |
| Green gram | 240.00-340.00 | 284.50 | 297.13 | 310.47 | -12.63 | -4.25 | -25.97 | -8.36 |
| Cowpea (White) | 200.00-320.00 | 255.01 | 259.71 | 278.30 | -4.70 | -1.81 | -23.29 | -8.37 |
| Cowpea (Red) | 220.00-300.00 | 247.59 | 232.32 | 271.09 | 15.27 | 6.57 | -23.50 | -8.67 |

***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** | Feb,2015 | - | 239.76 | 284.50 | - | 44.74 |
| | Jan,2015 | - | 262.57 | 297.13 | - | 34.56 |
| | Feb,2014 | - | 295.92 | 310.47 | - | 14.55 |
| **Cowpea (White)** | Feb,2015 | - | 208.96 | 255.01 | - | 46.05 |
| | Jan,2015 | - | 206.70 | 259.71 | - | 53.01 |
| | Feb,2014 | - | 195.90 | 278.30 | - | 82.40 |
| **Cowpea (Red)** | Feb,2015 | - | 217.74 | 247.59 | - | 29.85 |
| | Jan,2015 | - | 210.64 | 232.32 | - | 21.68 |
| | Feb,2014 | - | 180.12 | 271.09 | - | 90.97 |

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

## 2.5 Red dhal

### Prices and Supply/Demand Situation

A quantity of 16,160mt of red dhal was imported in February and it was 1,575mt lower than the quantity imported in January. Most of the stocks had been received from Australia and Canada. Compared to February, 2014 (6,340mt), the imports of red dhal were high during this month. The average CIF price was Rs.120.00/kg during the month.

Wholesale and retail prices of red dhal have increased by 2% and 1% respectively. The average wholesale price was Rs.162.00/kg in February. Compared to the same period of last year, the current retail price of red dhal has increased by 1%.

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

| Red Dhal | Price Range | Average | | | Change Compared to | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Feb 2015 | Feb 2015 | Jan 2015 | Feb 2014 | Jan 2015 | | Feb 2014 | |
| | Rs/kg | Rs/kg | Rs/kg | Rs/kg | Rs/kg | % | Rs/kg | % |
| Wholesale Price | 150.00-176.00 | 161.68 | 158.34 | 147.00 | 3.35 | 2.12 | 14.68 | 9.99 |
| Retail Price | 160.00-200.00 | 171.71 | 169.64 | 165.14 | 2.07 | 1.22 | 6.57 | 3.98 |

***Source: Marketing Food Policy & Agribusiness Division***

**Table 2.5.2: The CIF, Wholesale and Retail Prices of Red dhal September to February 2015**

| Month | Quantity (mt) | CIF Price Rs/kg | Wholesale price Rs/kg | Retail price Rs/kg | Gross Margin (Rs/kg) | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | CIF-WP | WP-RP |
| 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 |
| Sep - 2014 | 15617.24 | 110.30 | 149.20 | 170.83 | 38.90 | 21.63 |

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

## 3. Vegetables

### Crop Situation

Due to weather related setbacks, re-establishment of crops has continued up to the second week of February in all the upcountry producing areas. In Matale district, of the total cultivated extent, about 90% had been damaged by the end of December. Therefore farmers have started to re-establish the crops in mid-January and the reported cultivated extent was 1,414ha at the end of February. The cultivation progress was 40% less than the same period of the last year. Meanwhile, *maha* cultivation has continued in the Badulla district after the weather related setbacks. The cultivation target for beans, tomato and cabbage within the Badulla district was 2,221ha, 861ha and 581ha for the *maha* season, while the achievement was less than 73% of the seasonal target for all the types. However *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 70% - 89% with the highest cultivation progress reported for both cabbage and beetroot. However, approximately 250ha of an extent reported over 50% crop damage at the end of February in Nuwara Eliya district. In Kandy district, the highest cultivation progress was reported for capsicum as 112% and the lowest cultivation progress was reported for cabbage as 71%. In both districts, cabbage has recorded the lowest cultivation progress due to cabbage 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 dry weather experienced in January and February in all the major producing areas of low country districts such as Anuradhapura, Puttalam, Hambantota, Moneragala and Kurunegala districts. In Anuradhapura, the reported cultivation extent of vegetables by the end of January was 5,497ha with over 94% progress of the seasonal target of 5800 ha. The highest extent recorded for pumpkin was 2,049ha with over 100% seasonal target. In Hambantota district, the total extent of vegetable cultivation was 3,016ha at the end of January, which recorded a 10% increase compared to the same period of last year due to high water availability. In Ratnapura district, total low country vegetable cultivated extent was reported as 1,309 ha at the end of February, with 82% progress of the seasonal target.

### 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 and Matale, Jaffna and Puttlam in February. The total supply of the Matale district was around 4,294 mt in February reporting a 30% reduction compared to expected production during the month. Due to weather shocks, crops which had reached the harvesting stage were damaged in Matale district and it had affected the production. The daily supply of vegetables at the Dambulla Dedicated Economic Centre was around 600-700mt in February which recorded a 200% increase compared to last month. Meanwhile, supply from Jaffna had reached its peak at the Dambulla DEC in January with a daily supply of 117 mt. This was around a 600% increase compared to last month. However, the quality of up country vegetables supplied from Jaffna was in low level compared to other districts.

Considering up country vegetables, prices of all the varieties except for tomato have decreased considerably, compared to last month. The highest price decrease was reported for radish as 54% followed by beetroot as 49% and carrot as 33%. High stocks of raddish and beet root have reached the market from Badulla, Nuwala Eliya, Jaffna and Puttlam in February. The quality of stocks received form Jaffna and Putllam 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 started to show a decreasing trend after four months, mainly due to high supplies received from Balangoda.  Prices of all the other exotic varieties decreased in the range of 13%-10, except for tomato. Prices of tomato have increased by 67% compared to last month due low availability of stocks at the market. Tomato was very susceptible to climatic hazards hence, majority of the plantations had been damaged due to high rainfall in December. With the dry weather prevailing in January, early ripening was evident hence harvesting was hastened to avoid further damage. Therefore, supply was reduced considerably in February and prices have increased compared to last month. As *maha* harvesting season is to continue in March, prices are expected to decline further in March.

The supply of most of the domestic vegetables has also reached its peak during February with high stocks received from Anuradhapura, Hambantota, Ratnapaura, Monaragala and Kurunegala. Therefore, prices of most of the varieties have decreased at the wholesale level except for pumpkin, drumsticks and luffa. The highest price decrease of 75% was recorded for brinjal followed by cucumber as 50% and capsicum as 45%. Prices of all the other varieties have decreased in the range of 21%-28%, except for pumpkin, drumsticks and luffa. With the high supply of brinjal, cucumber and capsicum, mainly from Anuradhapura and Hambantota, prices have decreased significantly. As high supply of low country variety of capsicum reached the market from Sooriyawewa and Anuradhapura during February, prices have decreased by a high margin. However, regarding pumpkin, peak harvesting reached in January, hence prices have shown an upward trend in February, recording a 144% price increase compared to last month. Crop damages took place in Matale and Bibila at the first phase of the cultivation season also affected the receiving of continuous supply from these areas. Prices would continue to be at a lower level in March, as extended harvesting season is expected in major producing areas.

In line with the wholesale prices, retail prices of most of the vegetables had decreased in February. The highest price increase was reported for brinjal as 58% followed by drumsticks 44%.

## Table 3.1: Wholesale Prices of Vegetables – February 2015

| Items | Price Range | Average | | | Change Compared to | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Feb 2015 | Feb 2015 | Jan 2015 | Feb 2014 | Jan 2015 | | Feb 2014 | |
| | Rs/kg | Rs/kg | Rs/kg | Rs/kg | Rs/kg | % | Rs/kg | % |
| Beans (green) | 130.00-260.00 | 184.99 | 211.21 | 57.38 | *-26.22* | *-12.41* | *127.61* | *222.39* |
| Carrot | 90.00-180.00 | 124.76 | 185.29 | 55.27 | *-60.53* | *-32.67* | *69.49* | *125.73* |
| Leeks | 100.00-200.00 | 153.21 | 218.30 | 44.71 | *-65.09* | *-29.82* | *108.50* | *242.68* |
| Beetroot | 40.00-170.00 | 93.25 | 181.46 | 40.28 | *-88.21* | *-48.61* | *52.97* | *131.50* |
| Knolkhol | 60.00-100.00 | 73.47 | 81.69 | 50.87 | *-8.22* | *-10.06* | *22.60* | *44.43* |
| Radish | 20.00-45.00 | 30.59 | 67.13 | 18.16 | *-36.54* | *-54.43* | *12.43* | *68.45* |
| Cabbage | 60.00-110.00 | 85.67 | 99.23 | 18.40 | *-13.56* | *-13.67* | *67.27* | *365.60* |
| Tomato | 100.00-260.00 | 213.18 | 127.47 | 37.99 | *85.71* | *67.24* | *175.19* | *461.15* |
| Ladies Fingers | 60.00-130.00 | 104.00 | 122.00 | 47.75 | *-18.00* | *-14.75* | *56.25* | *117.80* |
| Brinjal | 20.00-60.00 | 37.04 | 150.49 | 34.28 | *-113.45* | *-75.39* | *2.76* | *8.05* |
| Capsicum | 150.00-250.00 | 198.86 | 360.32 | 99.43 | *-161.46* | *-44.81* | *99.43* | *100.00* |
| Pumpkin | 90.00-150.00 | 119.02 | 48.77 | 18.00 | *70.25* | *144.04* | *101.02* | *561.22* |
| Cucumber | 15.00-80.00 | 49.14 | 99.02 | 39.16 | *-49.88* | *-50.37* | *9.98* | *25.49* |
| Bitter Gourd | 100.00-150.00 | 118.92 | 163.35 | 97.27 | *-44.43* | *-27.20* | *21.65* | *22.26* |
| Snake Gourd | 60.00-90.00 | 69.35 | 96.09 | 41.27 | *-26.74* | *-27.83* | *28.08* | *68.04* |
| Drumstick | 200.00-400.00 | 320.84 | - | 264.17 | - | - | *56.67* | *21.45* |
| Luffa | 80.00-150.00 | 124.16 | 123.88 | 66.69 | *0.28* | *0.23* | *57.47* | *86.17* |
| Long Beans | 70.00-140.00 | 96.59 | 123.26 | 30.29 | *-26.67* | *-21.64* | *66.30* | *218.88* |
| Ash Plantain | 90.00-120.00 | 101.79 | 113.37 | 50.41 | *-11.58* | *-10.21* | *51.38* | *101.92* |
| Green Chillies | 100.00-350.00 | 189.17 | 607.79 | 61.88 | *-418.62* | *-68.88* | *127.29* | *205.70* |
| Lime | 25.00-40.00 | 33.14 | 43.61 | 31.41 | *-10.47* | *-24.01* | *1.73* | *5.51* |

***Source: Marketing, Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI***

## Table 3.2: Retail Prices of Vegetables – February 2015

| Items | Price Range | Average | | | Change Compared to | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Feb 2015 | Feb 2015 | Jan 2015 | Feb 2014 | Jan 2015 | | Feb 2014 | |
| | Rs/kg | Rs/kg | Rs/kg | Rs/kg | Rs/kg | % | Rs/kg | % |
| Beans (green) | 160.00-360.00 | 255.00 | 308.84 | 100.52 | *-53.84* | *-17.43* | *154.48* | *153.68* |
| Carrot | 120.00-320.00 | 206.58 | 303.81 | 106.43 | *-97.23* | *-32.00* | *100.15* | *94.10* |
| Leeks | 140.00-320.00 | 236.00 | 342.33 | 97.53 | *-106.33* | *-31.06* | *138.47* | *141.98* |
| Beetroot | 90.00-320.00 | 172.63 | 303.34 | 97.15 | *-130.71* | *-43.09* | *75.48* | *77.69* |
| Knolkhol | 120.00-320.00 | 192.40 | 229.53 | 112.52 | *-37.13* | *-16.18* | *79.88* | *70.99* |
| Radish | 50.00-200.00 | 106.73 | 149.14 | 73.40 | *-42.41* | *-28.44* | *33.33* | *45.41* |
| Cabbage | 90.00-240.00 | 156.99 | 210.32 | 71.69 | *-53.33* | *-25.36* | *85.30* | *118.98* |
| Tomato | 160.00-400.00 | 314.65 | 208.97 | 79.72 | *105.68* | *50.57* | *234.93* | *294.69* |
| Ladies Fingers | 120.00-280.00 | 192.08 | 228.86 | 102.11 | *-36.78* | *-16.07* | *89.97* | *88.11* |
| Brinjal | 50.00-240.00 | 98.64 | 237.18 | 89.97 | *-138.54* | *-58.41* | *8.67* | *9.64* |
| Capsicum | 170.00-600.00 | 317.83 | 515.00 | 163.33 | *-197.17* | *-38.29* | *154.50* | *94.59* |
| Pumpkin | 120.00-240.00 | 177.38 | 110.20 | 68.75 | *67.18* | *60.96* | *108.63* | *158.01* |
| Cucumber | 40.00-200.00 | 112.64 | 170.31 | 80.15 | *-57.67* | *-33.86* | *32.49* | *40.54* |
| Bitter Gourd | 120.00-320.00 | 218.33 | 283.18 | 132.14 | *-64.85* | *-22.90* | *86.19* | *65.23* |
| Snake Gourd | 90.00-200.00 | 146.39 | 187.30 | 90.11 | *-40.91* | *-21.84* | *56.28* | *62.46* |
| Drumstick | 300.00-1200.00 | 673.10 | 1200.00 | 415.64 | *-526.90* | *-43.91* | *257.46* | *61.94* |
| Luffa | 120.00-320.00 | 226.82 | 271.54 | 125.55 | *-44.72* | *-16.47* | *101.27* | *80.66* |
| Long Beans | 120.00-240.00 | 177.82 | 244.37 | 95.22 | *-66.55* | *-27.23* | *82.60* | *86.75* |
| Ash Plantain | 120.00-240.00 | 170.65 | 194.77 | 97.73 | *-24.12* | *-12.38* | *72.92* | *74.61* |
| Green Chillies | 140.00-800.00 | 364.37 | 856.75 | 173.68 | *-492.38* | *-57.47* | *190.69* | *109.79* |
| Lime | 50.00-400.00 | 154.11 | 179.96 | 149.70 | *-25.85* | *-14.36* | *4.41* | *2.95* |

***Source: Marketing, Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HART***

### 4. Fruits

### Prices and Supply/Demand Situation

Supplies of most of the fruits had decreased during the month due to off season as well as dry weather. Hence, the wholesale prices of most of the fruits had increased with the highest price increase of 141% for mango (karthakolomban). Very limited supplies of mango were recorded during the month due to off season. Further, the wholesale prices of papaw, passionfruit and woodapple had increased significantly in the range of 36%-49% due to limited supplies. Further, the wholesale prices of all the sizes of pineapple had increased in the range of 10%-14% and further price increase could be expected next month too. Meanwhile, significant price decreases were recorded only for banana and oranges due to decreased demand. Compared to the same period of last year, wholesale prices of all the fruits except orange and slimeapple had increased with the highest price increase of 229% for papaw.

With reference to retail markets, retail prices of orange, avocado and slimeapple had decreased in the range of 21%-28% due to low demand with low quality of the stocks. Further, the retail prices of all the varieties of banana had decreased slightly by less than 5% due to low demand compared to the previous month. Meanwhile, the highest retail price increase of 105% was recorded for karthakolomban (mango) due to limited availability in off season. Further, the retail prices of papaw and passionfruit had increased by 18% and 37% due to limited availability in lean harvesting season.

Compared to the same period of last year, retail prices of all the fruits except slimeapple had increased with the highest price increase of 170% for mango (karthakolomban). Producer prices of papaw, pineapple and kolikuttu (banana) had increased by 48%, 14% and 6% respectively due to low supplies. Compared to the same period of last year, producer price of most of the selected fruits has increased with the highest price increase of 195% for papaw.

### Exports/Imports of Fruits

Pineapple was the mostly exported type of fruit in February with the quantity of 168mt. The total export earnings of pineapple, papaw and mango were Rs.45.23mn in February mandarin was recorded as the mostly imported type of fruit in February with the quantity of 1630mt. The total expenditure on importing of apple, grapes, orange and mandarin was Rs.421.33mn in February.

## Table 4.1: Wholesale Prices of Fruits – February 2015

| Items | Price Range | Average | | | Change Compared to | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Feb 2015 | Feb 2015 | Jan 2015 | Feb 2014 | Jan 2015 | | Feb 2014 | |
| | Rs/kg | Rs/kg | Rs/kg | Rs/kg | Rs/kg | % | Rs/kg | % |
| **Plantain** | | | | | | | | |
| Ambul (Rs/kg) | 30.00-60.00 | 46.11 | 51.90 | 24.49 | *-5.79* | *-11.16* | *21.62* | *88.28* |
| Kolikuttu (Rs/kg) | 90.00-120.00 | 104.63 | 109.90 | 51.68 | *-5.27* | *-4.80* | *52.95* | *102.46* |
| Seeni (Rs/kg) | 30.00-55.00 | 44.66 | 46.34 | 29.74 | *-1.68* | *-3.63* | *14.92* | *50.17* |
| Anamalu | 8.00-12.00 | 9.49 | 9.92 | 6.46 | *-0.43* | *-4.33* | *3.03* | *46.90* |
| Ambun | 10.00-15.00 | 11.53 | 12.72 | 9.49 | *-1.19* | *-9.36* | *2.04* | *21.50* |
| **Pineapple** | | | | | | | | |
| Large | 90.00-130.00 | 110.39 | 100.03 | 97.00 | *10.36* | *10.36* | *13.39* | *13.80* |
| Medium | 70.00-100.00 | 86.22 | 75.88 | 76.31 | *10.34* | *13.63* | *9.91* | *12.99* |
| Small | 40.00-90.00 | 60.53 | 53.50 | 53.54 | *7.03* | *13.14* | *6.99* | *13.06* |
| **Mango** | | | | | | | | |
| Betti | - | - | 18.16 | 16.12 | - | - | - | - |
| Karthakolomban | 140.00-200.00 | 178.33 | 74.12 | 62.07 | *104.21* | *140.60* | *116.26* | *187.30* |
| Vilad | - | - | 25.55 | 15.40 | - | - | - | - |
| Kohu | - | - | 16.67 | 9.76 | - | - | - | - |
| **Papaw (Rs/kg)** | 140.00-200.00 | 161.05 | 118.75 | 48.94 | *42.30* | *35.62* | *112.11* | *229.08* |
| **Passionfruit** | 10.00-20.00 | 13.42 | 9.77 | 8.70 | *3.65* | *37.36* | *4.72* | *54.25* |
| **Woodapple** | 15.00-40.00 | 26.48 | 17.73 | 24.21 | *8.75* | *49.35* | *2.27* | *9.38* |
| **Orange** | 10.00-30.00 | 17.35 | 26.63 | 22.01 | *-9.28* | *-34.85* | *-4.66* | *-21.17* |
| **Avocado** | 35.00-70.00 | 54.31 | 49.64 | 26.54 | *4.67* | *9.41* | *27.77* | *104.63* |
| **Slime Apple** | 15.00-40.00 | 22.45 | 22.34 | 22.92 | *0.11* | *0.49* | *-0.47* | *-2.05* |
| **Grapes Imported (Rs/kg)** | 266.00-666.00 | 486.23 | 530.24 | 502.80 | *-44.01* | *-8.30* | *-16.57* | *-3.30* |

***Source: Marketing, Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI***

## Table 4.2: Retail Prices of Fruits – February 2015

| Items | Price Range | Average | | | Change Compared to | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Feb 2015 | Feb 2015 | Jan 2015 | Feb 2014 | Jan 2015 | | Feb 2014 | |
| | Rs/kg | Rs/kg | Rs/kg | Rs/kg | Rs/kg | % | Rs/kg | % |
| **Plantain** | | | | | | | | |
| Ambul (Rs/kg) | 60.00-100.00 | 80.12 | 84.35 | 64.83 | *-4.23* | *-5.01* | *15.29* | *23.58* |
| Kolikuttu (Rs/kg) | 120.00-170.00 | 151.80 | 155.10 | 117.90 | *-3.30* | *-2.13* | *33.90* | *28.75* |
| Seeni (Rs/kg) | 50.00-90.00 | 78.21 | 80.58 | 67.79 | *-2.37* | *-2.94* | *10.42* | *15.37* |
| Anamalu | 10.00-20.00 | 16.91 | 17.17 | 12.68 | *-0.26* | *-1.51* | *4.23* | *33.36* |
| Ambun | 12.50-25.00 | 17.11 | 17.76 | 14.22 | *-0.65* | *-3.66* | *2.89* | *20.32* |
| **Pineapple** | | | | | | | | |
| Large | 120.00-200.00 | 145.61 | 147.10 | 135.97 | *-1.49* | *-1.01* | *9.64* | *7.09* |
| Medium | 90.00-150.00 | 103.51 | 108.63 | 100.75 | *-5.12* | *-4.71* | *2.76* | *2.74* |
| Small | 70.00-90.00 | 70.93 | 68.13 | 65.81 | *2.80* | *4.11* | *5.12* | *7.78* |
| **Mango** | | | | | | | | |
| Betti | - | - | - | 37.78 | - | - | - | - |
| Karthakolomban | 160.00-300.00 | 221.67 | 108.38 | 82.24 | *113.29* | *104.53* | *139.43* | *169.54* |
| Vilad | - | - | 30.00 | 47.92 | - | - | - | - |
| Kohu | - | - | - | 27.69 | - | - | - | - |
| **Papaw (Rs/kg)** | 170.00-260.00 | 202.71 | 171.66 | 77.41 | *31.05* | *18.09* | *125.30* | *161.87* |
| **Passionfruit** | 15.00-35.00 | 26.21 | 19.08 | 17.40 | *7.13* | *37.37* | *8.81* | *50.63* |
| **Woodapple** | 30.00-70.00 | 43.21 | 40.36 | 43.02 | *2.85* | *7.06* | *0.19* | *0.44* |
| **Orange** | 25.00-50.00 | 39.15 | 49.11 | 35.25 | *-9.96* | *-20.28* | *3.90* | *11.06* |
| **Avocado** | 40.00-120.00 | 73.34 | 102.09 | 67.98 | *-28.75* | *-28.16* | *5.36* | *7.88* |
| **Slime Apple** | 30.00-80.00 | 45.08 | 57.65 | 45.94 | *-12.57* | *-21.80* | *-0.86* | *-1.87* |
| **Grapes Imported (Rs/kg)** | 600.00-900.00 | 762.71 | 788.90 | 722.97 | *-26.19* | *-3.32* | *39.74* | *5.50* |

***Source: Marketing, Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI***

**Table 4.3: Producer Prices of Selected Fruits - February 2015**

| Items | Price Range | Average | | | Change Compared to | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Feb 2015 | Feb 2015 | Jan 2015 | Feb 2014 | Jan 2015 | | Feb 2014 | |
| | Rs/kg | Rs/kg | Rs/kg | Rs/kg | Rs/kg | % | Rs/kg | % |
| Ambul | 30.00-39.00 | 31.89 | 39.90 | 15.69 | -8.01 | -20.08 | 16.20 | 103.24 |
| Kolikuttu | 61.00-89.00 | 76.61 | 72.04 | 38.21 | 4.57 | 6.35 | 38.40 | 100.50 |
| Papaw | 55.00-118.60 | 83.98 | 56.87 | 28.44 | 27.11 | 47.66 | 55.54 | 195.27 |
| Pineapple | 42.25-57.50 | 50.13 | 44.16 | 53.00 | 5.97 | 13.51 | -2.88 | -5.42 |

***Source Marketing Food Policy Agribusiness Division, HARTI***

**Table 4.4: Quantity, Value and FOB Prices of Exported Fruits Dec 2014 – Feb 2015**

| Type of Fruit | Feb - 2015 | | | Jan - 2015 | | | Dec - 2014 | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 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 | 167.69 | 32.00 | 190.80 | 145.69 | 25.42 | 174.49 | 169.35 | 35.75 | 211.12 |
| Papaw | 126.15 | 11.04 | 87.53 | 151.47 | 9.93 | 65.57 | 157.52 | 17.98 | 114.15 |
| Fresh Mango | 2.61 | 2.19 | 836.93 | 8.04 | 6.02 | 749.67 | 8.80 | 6.17 | 701.43 |
| Fresh Oranges | - | - | - | 0.16 | 0.02 | 131.05 | 1.66 | 0.19 | 117.09 |
| Fresh Avacado | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1.60 | 0.11 | 66.58 |

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

**Table 4.5: Quantity, Value and CIF Prices of Imported Fruits Dec 2014 – Feb 2015**

| Type of Fruit | Feb - 2015 | | | Jan - 2015 | | | Dec - 2014 | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Qty (mt) | Value (Rs.mn) | CIF (Rs/kg) | Qty (mt) | Value (Rs.mn) | CIF (Rs/kg) | Qty (mt) | Value (Rs.mn) | CIF (Rs/kg) |
| Apple | 1,512.98 | 212.70 | 140.58 | 1,575.83 | 216.69 | 137.51 | 1,424.27 | 167.96 | 117.93 |
| Grapes | 388.58 | 119.21 | 306.78 | 332.35 | 115.50 | 347.54 | 349.91 | 125.79 | 359.50 |
| Oranges | 443.90 | 30.65 | 69.05 | 477.64 | 44.09 | 92.31 | 117.38 | 12.03 | 102.52 |
| Mandarin | 1,629.96 | 58.77 | 36.06 | 1,519.82 | 57.56 | 37.87 | 1,945.54 | 73.00 | 37.52 |

***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 January, wholesale prices of all the fresh fish varieties except hurulla and kelawalla had decreased in the range of 2%-32%. With the fishing season in the Southern coastal belt, more stocks had been supplied to the market. In addition, more stocks had also been supplied from areas such as Nigambo, Chillaw, Kalpitiya and Mannar. At the same time, off season for coastal fisheries in the Eastern coastal belt had resulted in limited stocks reaching the market from the Eastern belt. The highest price decrease of 32% was noted for salaya. Prices of mora and balaya had decreased by 15% and 11% respectively. A price decrease of 6% was observed for both thalapath and paraw. Further, prices of thora and shrimp had decreased by 3% and 2% respectively. However, prices of kelawalla and hurulla had increased by 3% and 1% respectively. In the month of February, the monthly average wholesale prices of selected fresh fish varieties ranged between Rs.76.35– 860.06/kg. According to the data in previous years, it can be expected that the fish prices could further decrease in the coming month. Compared to the same period of the last year, wholesale prices of all the fresh fish varieties except thalapath had increased in the range of 1%-31% with the highest price increase noted for shrimp.

In line with the decreased prices at the wholesale market, retail prices of all the fresh fish varieties except shrimp had decreased in the range of 2%-22% at the retail level. The highest price decrease was reported for salaya (22%) and the lowest price decrease was noted for hurulla (2%). A price decrease of 11% was noted for balaya. Prices of kelawalla, thora, paraw, mora and thalapath had decreased in the range of 3%-8%. However, price of shrimp had increased by 7% at the retail level. In the month of February, the monthly average retail prices of selected fresh fish varieties ranged between Rs.140.35 – 1,121.14/kg. Compared to the same period of the last year, retail prices of all the fresh fish varieties except balaya and thalapath had increased in the range of 1%-30%with the highest price increase noted for shrimp.

**Table 5.1: Wholesale and Retail Prices of Fish – February 2015**

| Items | Price Range | Average | | | Change Compared to | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Feb 2015 | Feb 2015 | Jan 2015 | Feb 2014 | Jan 2015 | | Feb 2014 | |
| | Rs/kg | Rs/kg | Rs/kg | Rs/kg | Rs/kg | % | Rs/kg | % |
| **Wholesale Prices** | | | | | | | | |
| Salaya | 50.00-120.00 | 76.35 | 112.61 | 69.25 | *-36.26* | *-32.20* | *7.10* | *10.25* |
| Hurulla | 150.00-280.00 | 224.39 | 222.75 | 213.06 | *1.64* | *0.74* | *11.33* | *5.32* |
| Balaya | 200.00-380.00 | 282.69 | 318.09 | 269.53 | *-35.40* | *-11.13* | *13.16* | *4.88* |
| Kelawalla | 350.00-500.00 | 429.58 | 417.12 | 426.17 | *12.46* | *2.99* | *3.41* | *0.80* |
| Thora | 600.00-1000.00 | 860.06 | 888.65 | 847.46 | *-28.59* | *-3.22* | *12.60* | *1.49* |
| Paraw | 400.00-550.00 | 475.24 | 504.45 | 382.08 | *-29.21* | *-5.79* | *93.16* | *24.38* |
| Mora | 300.00-550.00 | 438.04 | 517.92 | 430.62 | *-79.88* | *-15.42* | *7.42* | *1.72* |
| Shrimp (small) | 700.00-1000.00 | 838.20 | 852.42 | 641.58 | *-14.22* | *-1.67* | *196.62* | *30.65* |
| Thalapath | 500.00-600.00 | 543.50 | 579.03 | 620.44 | *-35.53* | *-6.14* | *-76.94* | *-12.40* |
| **Retail Prices** | | | | | | | | |
| Salaya | 80.00-200.00 | 140.35 | 179.70 | 139.29 | *-39.35* | *-21.90* | *1.06* | *0.76* |
| Hurulla | 200.00-480.00 | 310.33 | 318.29 | 288.43 | *-7.96* | *-2.50* | *21.90* | *7.59* |
| Balaya | 260.00-720.00 | 433.55 | 487.64 | 442.77 | *-54.09* | *-11.09* | *-9.22* | *-2.08* |
| Kelawalla | 450.00-960.00 | 691.34 | 719.90 | 661.81 | *-28.56* | *-3.97* | *29.53* | *4.46* |
| Thora | 800.00-1600.00 | 1121.14 | 1192.86 | 1099.44 | *-71.72* | *-6.01* | *21.70* | *1.97* |
| Paraw | 450.00-960.00 | 705.37 | 738.58 | 683.39 | *-33.21* | *-4.50* | *21.98* | *3.22* |
| Mora | 350.00-960.00 | 615.60 | 671.90 | 571.68 | *-56.30* | *-8.38* | *43.92* | *7.68* |
| Shrimp (small) | 800.00-1500.00 | 1056.82 | 990.29 | 813.70 | *66.53* | *6.72* | *243.12* | *29.88* |
| Thalapath | 560.00-960.00 | 790.83 | 814.84 | 804.64 | *-24.01* | *-2.95* | *-13.81* | *-1.72* |

***Source: Marketing, Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI***

## Dried Fish

## Prices and Supply/Demand Situation

Prices of all the dried fish varieties except imported mora, anguluwa and kattawa, had decreased, due to the sufficient quantity in the market for the demand. The highest price decrease of 24% was observed for local salaya followed by imported balaya (19%) local koduwa (18%), imported sprats and maduwa (8%). In addition, price decreases of 7% and 4% were noted for local thora and local sprats respectively. Meanwhile, price of balaya, imported mora, and anguluwa had increased by less than 4% with limited quantity. However, it was not a significant price change. In the month of February, a quantity of 2,535mt of sprats had been imported to the country spending nearly 630 million rupees. Compared to January, the imported quantity of sprats had increased by

245mt. The CIF price of February was Rs.248.40/kg and it was increased by Rs5.83/kg. Compared to February in 2014, wholesale prices of most the dried fish varieties had increased in the range of 2%-12% with the highest price increase noted for local sprats.

Prices of all the dried fish varieties except thora had decreased with the highest price increase observed for maduwa (16%). A price increase of 12% was noted for koduwa while, prices of anguluwa,sparts, kattawa mora and balaya had increased by less than 7%. Meanwhile, prices of thora had increased by around 1%. However, the level of decrease was not significant. Compared to February in 2014, retail prices of all the dried fish varieties except for sprats and kattawa had increased with the highest price increase noted for salaya (8%).

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

| Items | Price Range | Average | | | Change Compared to | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Feb 2015 | Feb 2015 | Jan 2015 | Feb 2014 | Jan 2015 | | Feb 2014 | |
| | Rs/kg | Rs/kg | Rs/kg | Rs/kg | Rs/kg | % | Rs/kg | % |
| **Dried fish – Wholesale** | | | | | | | | |
| Sprats | 550.00-800.00 | 681.81 | 709.00 | 611.38 | *-27.19* | *-3.83* | *70.43* | *11.52* |
| Sprats (imported) | 280.00-340.00 | 311.75 | 339.42 | 352.08 | *-27.67* | *-8.15* | *-40.33* | *-11.46* |
| Kattawa | 630.00-750.00 | 699.75 | 693.28 | 687.35 | *6.48* | *0.93* | *12.40* | *1.80* |
| Kattawa (imported) | 550.00-750.00 | 657.36 | 635.50 | 627.51 | *21.86* | *3.44* | *29.85* | *4.76* |
| Thora | 800.00-1000.00 | 928.25 | 995.42 | 0.00 | *-67.17* | *-6.75* | - | - |
| Thora (imported) | 900.00-980.00 | 927.53 | 959.94 | 905.85 | *-32.41* | *-3.38* | *21.67* | *2.39* |
| Mora | 650.00-820.00 | 744.75 | 759.75 | 709.04 | *-15.00* | *-1.97* | *35.71* | *5.04* |
| Mora (imported) | 600.00-750.00 | 699.25 | 687.03 | 672.99 | *12.22* | *1.78* | *26.26* | *3.90* |
| Balaya | 430.00-520.00 | 473.55 | 488.50 | 429.39 | *-14.95* | *-3.06* | *44.16* | *10.28* |
| Balaya (imported) | 300.00-600.00 | 405.25 | 502.58 | 437.50 | *-97.33* | *-19.37* | *-32.25* | *-7.37* |
| Anguluwa | 480.00-650.00 | 586.81 | 595.78 | 575.25 | *-8.97* | *-1.51* | *11.56* | *2.01* |
| Anguluwa (imported) | 450.00-650.00 | 549.00 | 541.25 | 535.67 | *7.75* | *1.43* | *13.33* | *2.49* |
| Maduwa | 320.00-650.00 | 487.94 | 492.66 | 438.57 | *-4.72* | *-0.96* | *49.37* | *11.26* |
| Maduwa (imported) | 300.00-360.00 | 330.00 | 357.50 | - | *-27.50* | *-7.69* | - | - |
| Koduwa | 450.00-450.00 | 450.00 | 550.00 | - | *-100.00* | *-18.18* | - | - |
| Koduwa(imported) | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Salaya | 150.00-300.00 | 209.99 | 279.75 | 234.38 | *-69.76* | *-24.94* | *-24.39* | *-10.41* |
| Salaya (imported) | | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| **Dried fish – Retail** | | | | | | | | |
| Sprats | 380.00-1000.00 | 681.80 | 705.50 | 643.69 | *-23.70* | *-3.36* | *38.11* | *5.92* |
| Kattawa | 720.00-1300.00 | 992.70 | 1013.49 | 973.70 | *-20.79* | *-2.05* | *19.00* | *1.95* |
| Thora | 1100.00-1600.00 | 1284.05 | 1266.44 | 1255.37 | *17.61* | *1.39* | *28.68* | *2.28* |
| Mora | 700.00-1100.00 | 909.48 | 930.94 | 883.18 | *-21.46* | *-2.31* | *26.30* | *2.98* |
| Balaya | 480.00-1000.00 | 752.28 | 763.45 | 732.47 | *-11.17* | *-1.46* | *19.81* | *2.70* |
| Anguluwa | 550.00-1000.00 | 764.12 | 815.41 | 813.49 | *-51.29* | *-6.29* | *-49.37* | *-6.07* |
| Maduwa | 400.00-850.00 | 566.06 | 674.55 | 623.58 | *-108.49* | *-16.08* | *-57.52* | *-9.22* |
| Koduwa | 600.00-1000.00 | 756.16 | 864.11 | 826.64 | *-107.95* | *-12.49* | *-70.48* | *-8.53* |
| Salaya | 300.00-900.00 | 515.73 | 517.43 | 479.46 | *-1.70* | *-0.33* | *36.27* | *7.56* |

***Source: Marketing, Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI***

**Table 5.3: Quantity, Value and CIF prices of Sprats - September to February 2015**

| Month | Quantity (mt.) | Value (Rs.mn) | CIF price (Rs/kg) | Retail Price (Rs/kg) | Gross Margin (Rs/kg) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 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* |
| Sep - 2014 | 2124.35 | 493.86 | 232.48 | 656.78 | *424.30* |

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

## Eggs

As predicted in the month of January, prices of both brown and white eggs had decreased by 2% at the wholesale level. Egg supply had improved in the month of February compared to the previous month. The monthly average wholesale prices of brown and white eggs were Rs.14.05/egg and Rs.13.09/egg respectively. According to the data in previous years, egg supply will further improve from areas such as Hettipola, Madampe, Marawila and Kuliyapitiya and therefore, it can be expected that egg prices could further decrease in the coming month. Compared to the same period of the last year, wholesale prices of both brown and white eggs had increased by 8% and 9% respectively.

In line with the decreased wholesale prices, prices of both brown and white eggs had decreased by 3% and 2% respectively at the retail level. The monthly average retail prices of a brown and a white egg were Rs.14.98 and Rs.14.03 respectively. Compared to the same period of the last year, retail prices of brown eggs had increased by 7% while, the prices of white eggs had increased by 8%.

**Table 5.4: Wholesale and Retail Prices of Eggs – February 2015**

| Items | Price Range | Average | | | Change Compared to | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Feb 2015 | Feb 2015 | Jan 2015 | Feb 2014 | Jan 2015 | | Feb 2014 | |
| | Rs/kg | Rs/kg | Rs/kg | Rs/kg | Rs/kg | % | Rs/kg | % |
| **Wholesale Price** | | | | | | | | |
| Eggs – Brown (each) | 12.50-15.00 | 14.05 | 14.38 | 13.02 | *-0.33* | *-2.29* | *1.03* | *7.91* |
| White (each) | 11.50-14.00 | 13.09 | 13.38 | 12.02 | *-0.29* | *-2.17* | *1.07* | *8.90* |
| **Retail Price** | | | | | | | | |
| Eggs- Brown (each) | 13.00-17.00 | *14.98* | *15.39* | *13.99* | *-0.41* | *-2.66* | *0.99* | *7.08* |
| White (each) | 12.00-16.00 | *14.03* | *14.34* | *12.98* | *-0.31* | *-2.16* | *1.05* | *8.09* |

***Source: Marketing, Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI***

## Meat

Prices of most of the meat varieties had not changed significantly at the retail market. However, prices of chicken have increased with the highest price increase of 2 % for curry chicken. Compared to January in 2014, retail prices of all the meat varieties except for broiler chicken had increased with the highest price increase noted for pork (11%).

**Table 5.5: Retail Prices of Meat – February 2015**

| Items | Price Range | Average | | | Change Compared to | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Feb 2015 | Feb 2015 | Jan 2015 | Feb 2014 | Jan 2015 | | Feb 2014 | |
| | Rs/kg | Rs/kg | Rs/kg | Rs/kg | Rs/kg | % | Rs/kg | % |
| **Meat** | | | | | | | | |
| Beef (without bones) | 600.00-600.00 | 600.00 | 600.00 | 552.55 | *0.00* | *0.00* | *47.45* | *8.59* |
| Chicken (Broiler) | 420.00-500.00 | 469.91 | 465.58 | 482.32 | *4.33* | *0.93* | *-12.41* | *-2.57* |
| Chicken (curry) | 320.00-500.00 | 436.63 | 426.94 | 435.91 | *9.69* | *2.27* | *0.72* | *0.17* |
| Mutton | 1250.00-1400.00 | 1308.33 | 1315.00 | 1271.29 | *-6.67* | *-0.51* | *37.04* | *2.91* |
| Pork | 500.00-600.00 | 570.00 | 570.00 | 513.96 | *0.00* | *0.00* | *56.04* | *10.90* |

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

## 6. Wheat grain, Wheat flour and Sugar

### Wheat grain, Wheat flour

The imported quantity of wheat grain was 64,196mt and it recorded a further decrease of 35% against the previous month. The total value of the imports was Rs.2,545mn. Meanwhile, the world price of wheat grain has decreased over 4% and in line with that the average CIF price also has decreased from Rs.41.30/kg to Rs.39.64/kg.

Considering wheat flour, the imported quantity has increased remarkably against the previous month with the reduction of import taxes. Total quantity of 1,188mt valued at Rs.79.56mn of wheat flour was imported. Further, a decrease in the world prices of wheat flour was noted and it was Rs.22.07/kg against the previous month. The average CIF price was Rs.66.94/kg. At retail level it is observed that the consumer was benefitted by the reduction of import taxes of wheat flour. The retail price of wheat flour has decreased by 11% against the previous month. The price remained in the range of Rs.77.00-99.00/kg during the month and the average price was Rs.87.32/kg. Compared to the same period of last year, retail price of wheat flour has decreased by 10%.

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

| Items | Price Range | Average | | | Change Compared to | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Feb 2015 | Feb 2015 | Jan 2015 | Feb 2014 | Jan 2015 | | Feb 2014 | |
| | Rs/kg | Rs/kg | Rs/kg | Rs/kg | Rs/kg | % | Rs/kg | % |
| Wheat Flour | 77.00-98.00 | 87.32 | 97.92 | 96.97 | *0.47* | *0.48* | *0.37* | *0.38* |
| Sugar | 80.00-95.00 | 87.90 | 99.97 | *101.7* | *-0.4* | *-0.4* | *-2.52* | *-2.46* |

***Source: Department of Census and Statistics***

**Table 6.2: Quantity, Value and CIF prices of Wheat Flour & Grain - September to February 2015**

| Month | Quantity (mt.) | Value (Rs.mn) | CIF price (Rs/kg) | Retail Price (Rs/kg) | Gross Margin (Rs/kg) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Wheat Flour** | | | | | |
| 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* |
| Sep - 2014 | 530.40 | 36.18 | 68.22 | 97.89 | *29.67* |
| **Wheat Grain** | | | | | |
| 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* |
| Sep - 2014 | 160,836.97 | 6,486.31 | 40.33 | 97.89 | *57.56* |

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

## Sugar

The imported quantity has shown a considerable increase and it was about 10,800mt against the previous month. Total imports was 54,947mt and the value of that was Rs.3,282mn. Meanwhile, the retail price of sugar has decreased by 12% against the previous month, granting the benefit of import tax reduction to consumers. The retail price remained in the range of Rs.80.00-95.00/kg during the month and the average price was Rs.87.90/kg. Compared to the same period of last year, the retail price of sugar has decreased by 13%.

**Table 6.3: Quantity, Value and CIF prices of Sugar- September to February 2015**

| Month | Quantity (mt.) | Value (Rs.mn) | CIF price (Rs/kg) | Retail Price (Rs/kg) | Gross Margin (Rs/kg) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 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* |
| Sep - 2014 | 33,936.19 | 2,182.56 | 64.31 | 99.11 | *34.80* |

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

## Table 7: Imports of Selected Food Items - February 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 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Feb 2015 | Jan 2015 | | Feb 2015 | Jan 2015 | | Feb 2015 | Jan 2015 | |
| Rice | 38307.71 | 119548.79 | -67.96 | 2410.21 | 7225.74 | -66.64 | 62.92 | 60.44 | 4.10 |
| Red Onion | 2428.09 | 2968.58 | -18.21 | 158.61 | 190.10 | -16.56 | 65.32 | 64.04 | 2.01 |
| Big Onion | 20840.51 | 24573.36 | -15.19 | 883.54 | 1024.04 | -13.72 | 42.40 | 41.67 | 1.73 |
| Potato | 15462.91 | 21156.60 | -26.91 | 483.51 | 889.58 | -45.65 | 31.27 | 42.05 | -25.63 |
| Dried Chillies | 4520.79 | 3621.49 | 24.83 | 863.63 | 670.46 | 28.81 | 191.04 | 185.13 | 3.19 |
| Masoor Dhal | 16159.64 | 17734.62 | -8.88 | 1935.79 | 2083.00 | -7.07 | 119.79 | 117.45 | 1.99 |
| Green Gram | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Black gram | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Garlic | 2635.32 | 1943.70 | 35.58 | 276.20 | 205.77 | 34.22 | 104.81 | 105.87 | -1.00 |
| Wheat flour | 1188.52 | 90.93 | 1207.01 | 79.56 | 8.09 | 882.87 | 66.94 | 89.01 | -24.80 |
| Wheat grain | 64196.17 | 98645.83 | -34.92 | 2544.84 | 4073.95 | -37.53 | 39.64 | 41.30 | -4.01 |
| White crystalline cane sugar | 54947.03 | 40107.28 | 37.00 | 3282.14 | 2390.57 | 37.30 | 59.73 | 59.60 | 0.22 |
| Maize (Seed) | - | 130.10 | - | - | 61.83 | - | - | 475.25 | - |
| Maize (Other) | 1001.29 | 7097.55 | -85.89 | 32.30 | 237.44 | -86.40 | 32.26 | 33.45 | -3.57 |

***Source: Automated data Processing Division, Department of Customs***

## Table 8: Monthly Rainfall (mm) – February 2015

| Rainfall Station | Total Rainfall (mm) | 30 Year Avg. Rainfall (mm) | Total Rainy Days | 30 Year Average Rainy Days |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Anuradhapura | 161.1 | 76.6 | 10 | 6 |
| Badulla | 248.7 | 150.2 | 18 | 12 |
| Bandarawela | 127.1 | 99.1 | 15 | 10 |
| Batticaloa | 217.7 | 203.5 | 18 | 11 |
| Colombo | 122.5 | 56.3 | 10 | 5 |
| Galle | 114.8 | 82.4 | 9 | 8 |
| Hambantota | 37.2 | 53.3 | 5 | 5 |
| Jaffna | 18.1 | 67.1 | 5 | 4 |
| Katugastota | 106.4 | 76.8 | 10 | 6 |
| Katunayaka | 52.5 | 44.3 | 7 | 4 |
| Kurunegala | 34.3 | 54.6 | 8 | 4 |
| MahaIluppallama | 82.0 | 67.5 | 10 | 6 |
| Mannar | 24.6 | 37.5 | 4 | 4 |
| NuwaraEliya | 248.1 | 97.4 | 16 | 8 |
| Pottuvil | 224.2 | 279.1 | 14 | na |
| Puttalam | 32.6 | 48.5 | 7 | 4 |
| Ratmalana | 70.3 | 67.1 | 9 | 5 |
| Ratnapura | 103.0 | 107.5 | 11 | 9 |
| Trincomalee | 184.1 | 112.0 | 11 | 7 |
| Vavuniya | 194.1 | 81.5 | 11 | 6 |
| Polonnaruwa | 207.5 | na | 11 | na |
| Moneragala | 115.4 | na | 13 | na |
| Mattala | 119.5 | na | 7 | na |

***Source: Department of Meteorology***