



# HARTI

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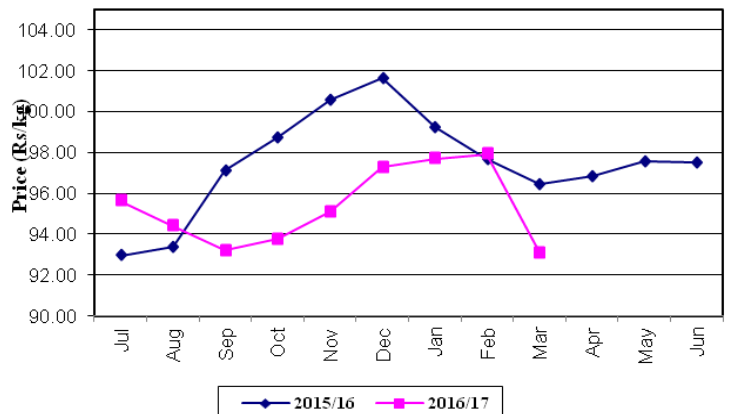
### RICE:

Prices of all the local rice varieties have decreased significantly due to higher supply of local rice stocks to the market. Accordingly, raw white, raw red, nadu and samba prices have decreased by Rs.14.00/kg, Rs.12.00/kg, Rs.10.00/kg and Rs.5.00/kg respectively. Further, the prices of imported rice varieties have also decreased considerably.

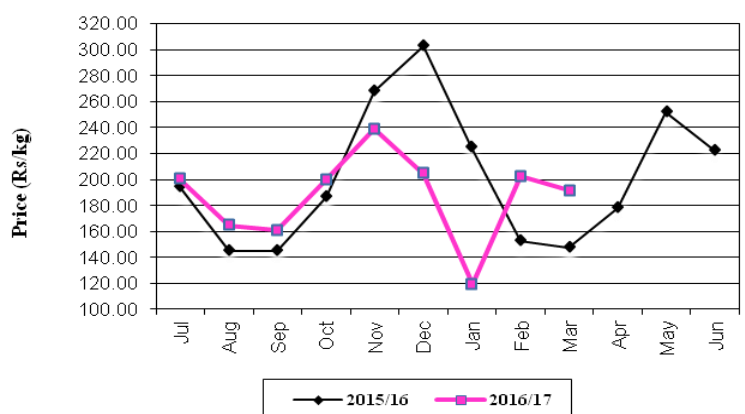
### VEGETABLES:

Supplies of both up and low country varieties of vegetables slightly dropped and thereby prices had increased in most of the types due to reaching of the end phase of *Maha* peak harvesting period. Of the price increased varieties, reported average price increases were 29% and 17% respectively, for up and lowcountry varieties.

Average Retail Prices of Rice (Samba)



Average Retail Price of Beans (Green)



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## 1. Paddy

### Crop Situation

The prospects of the paddy crop in 2016/17 *Maha* season deteriorated due to the prevailing drought situation and the low water capacities in major reservoirs throughout the month. Delaying and insufficient monsoon rains during the season mainly contributed to the above situation. However, a somewhat satisfactory progress was recorded only in producing areas especially in the Eastern Province followed by the Northern Province. Harvesting of paddy crop progressed in the Eastern Province, and some other major producing areas. The delaying and insufficient monsoon rains during the season severely affected the paddy cultivations in most of the major producing areas in the country. According to the latest crop forecast report of the Department of Agriculture, due to the drought 146,794 ha crop damage was recorded and it is 27% of the sown extent. The cultivation progress up to end December is 542,695 ha and it is 67% of the target and it is already 25% lower compared to the average of last three *Maha* seasons. Further, the report reveals that the production forecast for the *Maha* season is expected to vary from 1.42 to 1.53 million Mt, 47 percent lower compared to the average of the last three *Maha* seasons.

**Table 1.1 Progress of Paddy Cultivation: *Maha* 2016/17 As at end of March 2017**

District/Area	Targeted Extent (ha)	Achievement (ha)	Achievement as a % of the Targeted Extent	Production forecast based on progress (mt)	Total Effected Extent (ha)	Expected Production for Effected Area (mt)	Riversed Production forecast Adjusted to flood Damage Within the Season (mt)
Anuradhapura	95,748	29,429	31	103,886	6,148	28,354	75,532
Polonnaruwa	30,000	24,706	82	87,418	18	4,978	82,440
Ampara	75,168	74,836	100	285,994	18,267	75,290	210,704
Kurunegala	83,715	42,740	51	149,590	16,259	48,025	101,565
Hambantota	29,095	23,578	81	98,882	280	6,473	92,409
Colombo	3,608	2,432	67	7,172	45	456	6,716
Gampaha	11,500	8,045	70	23,250	1,505	3,146	20,104
Kalutara	13,500	8,701	64	25,686	291	1,622	24,064
Galle	15,382	8,357	54	22,563	-	1,442	21,122
Matara	16,414	13,096	80	35,154	93	2,452	32,702
Ratnapura	12,521	6,346	51	20,498	117	1,436	19,061
Kegalle	8,726	3,500	40	12,033	224	1,180	10,853
Puttalam	23,145	8,848	38	26,322	3,178	8,222	18,100
Kandy	13,728	9,880	72	29,149	71	1,960	27,188
Matale	20,710	12,381	60	48,321	27	2,711	45,610
N' Eliya	6,496	2,910	45	6,509	-	578	5,932
Badulla	23,246	10,175	44	37,707	-	2,218	35,489
Monaragala	33,606	19,567	58	67,115	3,252	13,239	53,876
Jaffna	11,550	10,419	90	20,433	10,340	16,182	4,251
Kilinochchi	23,532	23,438	100	82,605	8,470	23,353	59,253
Vavuniya	19,810	13,143	66	43,403	2,254	7,586	35,817
Mullaitivu	17,067	16,460	96	46,589	8,659	15,693	30,896
Mannar	21,000	14,220	68	66,936	5,735	23,511	43,425
Trincomalee	42,313	34,796	82	129,300	20,000	77,279	52,021
Batticaloa	63,526	64,416	101	165,444	41,446	82,123	83,321
Udawalawa	10,700	1,104	10	5,443	-	-	5,443
System H	22,300	4,754	21	22,059	-	1,379	20,680
System H1	9,350	3,481	37	16,152	-	1,009	15,142
System B	19,340	18,816	97	87,306	-	10,913	76,393
System C	23,306	22,418	96	104,020	116	13,159	90,861
System G	5,200	4,059	78	18,834	-	1,177	17,657
System D	500	40	8	186	-	12	174
Rambakanoya	1,350	344	25	1,596	-	100	1,496
System L	1,425	1,262	89	5,856	-	366	5,490
<b>Sri Lanka</b>	<b>808,579</b>	<b>542,695</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>1,903,409</b>	<b>146,794</b>	<b>477,622</b>	<b>1,425,787</b>

Source: Crop Forecast, Maha 2016/17, Department of Agriculture

## Producer Prices

Despite the peak harvesting month during the *Maha* season a considerable price decline was not recorded in most of the major producing areas due to the failure of paddy crop in *Maha* season. However, the prices of both short grain and long grain paddy have decreased during the mid of the month due to increased market arrivals of new paddy stocks from the producing areas in the Eastern and Northern Provinces. The arrival of high moisture newly harvested paddy to the markets also caused the price decline. Competitive buying of paddy by the major millers was recorded in major producing areas and prices remained at a higher level throughout the month. Compared to last month the average paddy prices have declined in many of the major producing areas. The average prices of long grain white declined in Anuradhapura, Polonnaruwa and Nikaweratiya while the prices have increased in Kalawewa and Kurunegala. The prices of long grain red paddy have decreased by 3-8%, in producing areas in the Southern Province. Prices of short grain and long grain white ranged between Rs.36.00-50.00/kg and Rs.36.00-52.00/kg in major producing areas and the lowest prices were recorded in Anuradhapura. The prices of long grain red paddy ranged between Rs.40.00-60.00/kg in producing areas in the Southern Province. Prices of *keeri* samba paddy ranged between Rs.55.00-60.00/kg in Polonnaruwa and Dehiattakandiya producing areas. According to the field information it is expected that an increasing trend of paddy prices can be expected during next month due to the short supply.

Compared to the same period of last year, a significant increase of prices was recorded for all the paddy varieties. The prices of long grain white paddy have increased by 46%-62% and prices of long grain red paddy have increased by nearly 58 % in all major producing areas. Meanwhile the prices of short grain white paddy have increased by less than 19%-42% in all producing areas.

**Table1.2: Producer Prices of Paddy – March 2017**

Commodity	Price Range		Average Price			Change Compared to			
	Mar 2017	Feb 2017	Mar 2017	Feb 2017	Mar 2016	Feb 2017		Mar 2016	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
<b>Short Grain</b>									
Anuradhapura	36.00-50.00	35.00-54.00	41.94	43.87	31.60	-1.94	-4.41	10.34	32.71
Polonnaruwa	39.00-43.50	37.50-51.00	41.28	42.58	34.81	-1.30	-3.06	6.47	18.59
Kalawewa	40.00-52.00	37.00-54.00	48.59	45.21	34.17	3.37	7.46	14.42	42.19
Kurunegala	-	-	-	-	32.20	-	-	-	-
Dehiattakandiya	39.50-44.00	37.00-50.00	41.81	42.17	35.13	-0.35	-0.84	6.68	19.02
Nikaweratiya	40.00-44.00	40.00-55.00	41.75	46.09	33.83	-4.34	-9.41	7.92	23.41
Ampara	-	39.00-51.00	-	45.20	35.20	-	-	-	-
<b>Long Grain White</b>									
Anuradhapura	36.00-48.00	35.00-56.00	41.51	43.99	26.95	-2.47	-5.62	14.56	54.04
Polonnaruwa	40.00-42.50	36.50-50.00	40.92	41.22	28.09	-0.30	-0.72	12.83	45.67
Kalawewa	40.00-52.00	36.00-54.00	46.17	43.75	29.98	2.42	5.52	16.19	53.99
Kurunegala	-	-	-	-	23.20	-	-	-	-
Dehiattakandiya	40.50-44.00	37.00-50.00	42.31	41.17	27.56	1.15	2.78	14.75	53.53
Embilipitiya	-	52.00-53.00	-	52.60	30.63	-	-	-	-
Nikaweratiya	40.00-44.00	40.00-58.00	41.83	45.93	25.84	-4.10	-8.92	15.99	61.89
Matara	-	58.00-60.00	-	59.33	28.67	-	-	-	-
Hambantota	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ampara	-	35.00-49.50	-	42.85	28.80	-	-	-	-
<b>Long Grain Red</b>									
Anuradhapura	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Matara	43.00-46.00	45.00-60.00	44.59	52.50	28.00	-7.92	-15.08	16.59	59.23
Hambantota	40.00-45.00	40.00-54.00	41.85	44.88	-	-3.03	-6.76	-	-
Embilipitiya	42.00-44.00	42.00-55.00	42.80	46.45	27.00	-3.65	-7.86	15.80	58.52

Source: Marketing Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

## **Rice Demand and Supply Situation**

### **Wholesale Prices**

Prices of all the local rice varieties have drastically reduced during the month due to the higher supply of local rice stocks to the market, specially from paddy producing areas in the Eastern and Southern provinces. Accordingly, the highest price decrement of 15% was reported for raw white and the price ranged between Rs.73.00-77.00/kg. In addition, 14% and 13% price reduction was reported for raw red and nadu grade II respectively. Further 6% price reduction was observed for local samba varieties and the price ranged between Rs.83.00-90.00/kg. Meanwhile, the prices of imported rice varieties except imported samba have also decreased. Total imports of rice in the month of March was 148,204mt (Rs.8440mn). This was a 60% increment compared to previous month. Accordingly, price of imported raw white has reduced by 6% and the price ranged between Rs.62.00-70.00/kg. Further, the price of imported nadu reduced by 4% and the price ranged between Rs.75.00-86.00/kg.

Out of total rice imports, majority (57%) was imported from India. In addition, the rest 32%, 6%, 3% and 1% was imported from Myanmar, Pakistan, Indonesia and Thailand respectively. Furthermore, few quantities were also imported from Singapore, Vietnam, Australia and China. The CIF price ranged between Rs.38.41-67.28/kg and the average CIF price was recorded as Rs.56.70/kg. The highest CIF price was reported for the Pakistan rice stocks while, the lowest recorded for the Indonesian stocks. The CIF price of Rs.60.53/kg was applied for the highest imported stocks imported from India.

Compared to the same period of last year, except imported samba, wholesale prices of all other rice varieties have increased in the range of 3%-45%.

### **Retail Prices**

Aligning with the wholesale prices, retail prices of all the local rice varieties have decreased drastically. The highest price decrement of Rs.14.00/kg was reported for raw white and the price ranged between Rs.75.00-90.00/kg. Further, the price of raw red has decreased by Rs.12.00/kg and price ranged between Rs.76.00-92.00/kg. Price of nadu has also decreased by Rs.10.00/kg and samba varieties by Rs.5.00/kg. Meanwhile, the prices of all imported rice varieties have also decreased during the month. Therefore, the price decrement of Rs.5.00/kg for imported raw white, Rs.3.00/kg for imported nadu and Rs.1.00/kg for imported *ponni* samba was observed.

Referring to retail prices of outstation markets except Colombo, the highest samba prices ranged between Rs.105.00-108.00/kg and it was reported from Embilipitiya market, while the lowest price ranged between Rs.85.00-90.00/kg from Kilinochchi market. The highest nadu price ranged between Rs.85.00-90.00/kg was reported from both Kalutara and Embilipitiya markets, while the lowest price ranged between Rs.80.00-82.00/kg was reported from Dehiattakandiya market. Likewise, the highest price of Rs.90.00/kg for raw red was noted from Puttalam market and the lowest price of Rs.72.00/kg from Mannar market. Meanwhile, for raw white the highest price of Rs.78.00/kg was reported from Kegalle market and the lowest price of Rs.70.00/kg from Mannar market.

Compared to the same period of last year, the retail prices of all local rice varieties, have increased in the range of 3%-45%. It is expected that, continuous supply of both local and imported rice stocks will stabilize the rice prices in the coming month too.

**Table 1.3: Wholesale and Retail Prices of Rice – March 2017**

Item	Price Range	Average Price			Change Compared to			
	Mar 2017	Mar 2017	Feb 2017	Mar 2016	Feb 2017		Mar 2016	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
<b>Wholesale Prices</b>								
Samba 1	87.00-90.00	89.05	94.70	86.38	-5.65	-5.97	2.66	3.08
Samba 2	83.00-88.00	85.38	90.38	78.57	-5.00	-5.54	6.81	8.66
Samba 3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nadu 1	-	-	-	66.59	-	-	-	-
Nadu 2	76.00-80.00	77.84	88.99	60.08	-11.15	-12.53	17.77	29.57
Raw red	74.00-76.00	74.77	86.86	51.50	-12.10	-13.92	23.27	45.19
Raw white	73.00-77.00	75.39	88.27	54.68	-12.88	-14.59	20.71	37.87
Imported Samba	75.00-80.00	77.06	74.72	98.85	2.34	3.13	-21.79	-22.04
Imported Raw White	62.00-70.00	66.51	71.00	-	-4.49	-6.33	-	-
Imported Nadu	75.00-86.00	68.04	70.95	-	-2.91	-4.10	-	-
<b>Retail Prices</b>								
Samba 1	95.00-100.00	96.68	101.11	101.01	-4.43	-4.38	-4.33	-4.29
Samba 2	85.00-93.00	89.48	94.74	91.87	-5.26	-5.56	-2.39	-2.61
Samba 3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nadu 1	88.00-93.00	89.77	99.95	79.76	-10.18	-10.18	10.01	12.55
Nadu 2	80.00-88.00	81.39	91.64	71.73	-10.25	-11.19	9.66	13.46
Raw red	76.00-92.00	81.95	94.37	65.58	-12.42	-13.16	16.37	24.96
Raw white	75.00-90.00	81.77	95.56	65.80	-13.79	-14.43	15.97	24.27
Imported Ponne Samba	80.00-90.00	82.53	83.83	115.69	-1.30	-1.56	-33.16	-28.67
Imported Raw White	70.00-80.00	74.24	79.72	-	-5.48	-6.87	-	-
Imported Nadu	85.00-90.00	74.76	78.00	-	-3.24	-4.15	-	-

Source: Marketing Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

## 2. Other Field Crops

### 2.1 Chillies

#### Crop Situation

In 2016/17 *Maha* season, 108% progress in cultivation extent of chillie was reported by the end of March compared to the 2015/16 *Maha* season. In fact, an extent of 8,894 ha has been cultivated so far, and the expected harvest is 34,968 mt. Out of the total production, 19% is expected from Anuradhapura, and 15% is expected from Puttalam. Other major cultivation districts were Monaragala, Jaffna, Nuwara Eliya, Hambantota and Matale, which will contribute to 28% of the total production. Compared to the same period of last year, the production is expected to reduce in each cultivated area, and it is reported as 57% for Anuradhapura district.

**Table 2.1.1: Cultivation Progress of Green Chillies for Maha 2016/17**

Areas	Targeted Extent (ha)	Cultivation Progress at the end of January 2017		Expected Production (Mt)
		Extent (ha)	% of the Targeted Extent	
Anuradhapura	3,246	2,115	65	6,337
Moneragala	828	593	72	3,891
Puttalam	880	707	80	4,949
Jaffna	725	387	53	1,494
Ampara	575	308	54	790
Other areas	4,999	4,372	87	16,494
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,253</b>	<b>8,439</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>33,955</b>

Source: Crop Forecasting Unit, Department of Agriculture

## Prices and Supply/Demand Situation

During the month of March, producer prices of chillie ranged between Rs.83.00-211.00/kg in major cultivation districts, and the highest average producer price (Rs.154.00/kg) was reported from Anuradhapura, while the lowest average producer price (Rs.126.00/kg) was reported from Puttalam. A decreasing trend of producer prices was shown in the first three weeks from all producing areas; but the prices have increased last week.

With the commencement of the harvesting season, both wholesale and retail prices of green chillie have decreased by 33% and 21%, respectively compared to last month. Average wholesale price was Rs.115.00/kg, and the average retail price was Rs.272.00/kg. Compared to the same period of last year, wholesale and retail prices have decreased by 12% and 2%, respectively.

Meanwhile, Rs.932.54 million worth dried chillie have been imported from India during March, and the imported quantity of 6,048mt was 54% higher than that of last month. The average CIF price has decreased further, and it was Rs.154.00/kg. In line with that, both wholesale and retail prices decreased by 8% and 5%, respectively, and the average prices were Rs.182.00/kg in the wholesale market and Rs.270.00/kg in the retail market. Compared to the same period of last year, the wholesale price has decreased by 41%, and the retail price has decreased by 27%.

**Table 2.1.2: Wholesale and Retail Prices of Dried Chillies and Green Chillies  
March 2017**

Items	Price Range	Average Price			Change Compared to			
	Mar 2017	Mar 2017	Feb 2017	Mar 2016	Feb 2017		Mar 2016	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
<b>Wholesale Price</b>								
Green Chillies	70.00-140.00	115.00	172.50	130.63	-57.50	-33.33	-15.63	-11.97
Dried Chillies	160.00-195.00	181.80	196.56	309.20	-14.76	-7.51	-127.40	-41.20
<b>Retail Price</b>								
Green Chillies	150.00-400.00	272.00	342.89	278.75	-70.89	-20.68	-6.75	-2.42
Dried Chillies	230.00-350.00	269.67	283.58	369.06	-13.91	-4.91	-99.39	-26.93

Source: Marketing, Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

**Table 2.1.3: Quantity, Value and CIF Prices of Imported Dried Chillies  
October 2016 to March 2017**

Month	Quantity (mt)	Value (Rs.mn.)	CIF Price (Rs/kg)	Retail Price (Rs/kg)	Gross Margin (Rs/kg)
Mar - 2017	6,048	932.54	154.18	269.67	115.49
Feb - 2017	3,921	637.03	162.48	283.58	121.10
Jan - 2017	4,817	934.31	193.95	311.44	117.49
Dec - 2016	3,928	800.10	203.68	327.65	123.97
Nov - 2016	4,364	1,038.75	238.03	351.86	113.83
Oct - 2016	4,250	1,112.64	261.80	362.69	100.89

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

**Table 2.1.4: Producer Prices of Green Chillies (Rs/kg) – March 2017**

Location	1 <sup>st</sup> week	2 <sup>nd</sup> week	3 <sup>rd</sup> week	4 <sup>th</sup> week
Dambulla	160.00	158.00	104.00	115.00
Hambantota	190.00	170.00	82.50	100.00
Embilipitiya	105.00	211.00	108.00	132.00
Puttalam	111.00	174.00	104.00	115.00
A'Pura	193.33	140.00	96.67	186.67

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 428 ha of big onion for this *maha* season (2016/17). However, only 110 ha of big onion have been cultivated by the end of March 2017 representing 26% of the target extent. Though the highest targeted extent was reported in Hambantota (67 ha) the highest cultivated extent was recorded in Mannar (37 ha). Cultivation of big onion for *yala* 2017 will begin during the end of next month (April) in the Matale district.

The cultivated extent of red onion at the end of March for *maha* 2016/17 was reported as 2,386 ha and that represents 49% of the targeted extent. Compared to last *maha* season the cultivated extent of red onion for this season has dropped by 1,369 ha (36%) due to unfavourable weather condition. In the Jaffna district, the targeted extent was 2,100 ha out of which about 794 ha of red onion have been cultivated by the end of 2016/17 *maha* season achieving only 38% of the targeted extent. The targeted extent of red onion for this *maha* season was 1,006 ha in the Puttalam district and about 677 ha have been cultivated achieving 67% by the end of the season.

The production forecast of red onions for the season is 25,769 mt and out of that 85% was supplied from Jaffna (34%), Puttalam (32%) and Trincomalee (19%) districts.

**Table 2.2.1: Cultivation Progress of Red Onion for Maha 2016/17**

Areas	Targeted Extent (ha)	Cultivation Progress at the end of March 2017		Drought affected area (above 50%) (ha)	Available production considering crop damages (Mt)
		Cultivated Extent (ha)	% of the Targeted Extent		
Jaffna	2,100	794	38	9	8,635
Puttalam	1,006	677	67	0	8,124
Trincomalee	718	469	65	0	5,001
Other areas	1,090	446	41	27	4,009
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,914</b>	<b>2,386</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>25,769</b>

Source: Crop Forecast No.4 Maha 2016/17, Socio-economic & Planning Centre/DOA MFPAD/HARTI

### Prices and Supply/Demand Situation

Only imported big onion was available at the market and 21,721 mt of big onion were imported from India in March 2017 reporting an increase of 1,703 mt compared to that of the previous month. Average CIF price was Rs.29.89/kg and it was an increase of Rs.1.62/kg compared to that of last month. Wholesale price of imported big onion has not changed significantly while the retail price has decreased slightly by about Rs.1.00/kg. Average wholesale and retail prices of imported big onion were Rs.71.38/kg and Rs.95.60/kg respectively and these prices have increased by about 24% and 17% respectively when compared to the same period of last year.

Supply of local red onions from main producing areas has decreased during this month. Stocks of sinnan red onion were not available at the market. Hence, wholesale price of vedalan has increased by about Rs.24.00/kg. But, retail price of vedalan has decreased by about Rs.10.00/kg due to availability of low quality stocks at the market. A quantity of 78 mt of red onion was imported from India during this month and it was a decrease of 1,741 mt compared to that of previous month. Average CIF price was Rs.66.03/kg and it has also decreased by Rs.6.53/kg compared to that of last month. Both wholesale and retail prices of imported red onion have



increased by about Rs.17.00/kg and Rs.3.00/kg respectively due to low stock position of imported red onion at the market.

Compared to the same period of last year, retail prices of both vedalan and imported red onion have increased by about 38% and 43% respectively.

**Table 2.2.2: Wholesale Prices and Retail Prices of Red Onion and Big Onion  
March 2017**

Crop	Price Range	Average			Change Compared to			
	Mar 2017	Mar 2017	Feb 2017	Mar 2016	Feb 2017		Mar 2016	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
<b>Wholesale Prices</b>								
Red Onion (Sinnan)	40.00-100.00	85.21	-	47.50	-	-	37.71	79.39
Red Onion (Vedalan)	110.00-150.00	131.17	106.97	70.75	24.20	22.62	60.42	85.40
Red Onion (Imported)	115.00-130.00	123.75	106.50	62.79	17.25	16.20	60.96	97.10
Big Onion (imported)	63.00-78.00	71.38	70.88	57.70	0.49	0.70	13.68	23.70
Big Onion (Local)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Retail Prices</b>								
Red Onion (Sinnan)	120.00-140.00	122.67	-	-	-	-	-	-
Red Onion (Vedalan)	160.00-240.00	186.80	197.00	135.49	-10.20	-5.18	51.31	37.87
Red Onion (Imported)	140.00-160.00	149.44	146.33	104.21	3.11	2.13	45.23	43.40
Big Onion (imported)	80.00-120.00	95.60	96.57	81.58	-0.97	-1.00	14.02	17.19
Big Onion (Local)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Source: Marketing, Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

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

Crop	Month	CIF Price (Rs/kg)	Wholesale Price	Retail Price	Margin (Rs/kg)	
			(Rs/kg)	(Rs/kg)	WP-CIF	RP-WP
Big onion	Mar 2017	29.89	71.38	95.60	41.49	24.23
	Feb 2017	28.27	70.88	96.57	42.61	25.69
	Mar 2016	28.61	57.70	81.58	29.09	23.88
Red onion	Mar 2017	66.03	123.75	149.44	57.72	25.69
	Feb 2017	72.56	106.50	146.33	33.94	34.98
	Mar 2016	44.91	62.79	104.21	17.88	41.42

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

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

Crop	Quantity (mt.)		Value (Rs. mn)		CIF Price (Rs/kg)	
	Mar 2017	Feb 2017	Mar 2017	Feb 2017	Mar 2017	Feb 2017
Red Onion	78	1819	5.16	131.99	66.03	72.56
Big Onion	21721	20018	649.24	565.98	29.89	28.27

Source: Department of Custom

**Table 2.2.5: Quantity Imported, CIF Price, Wholesale and Retail Price of Big Onion  
October 2016 to March 2017**

Month	Quantity Imported (mt)	CIF Price (Rs/kg)	Wholesale Price (Rs/kg)	Retail Price (Rs/kg)	Gross Margin (RP-CIF) (Rs/kg)
Mar - 2017	21,721	29.89	71.38	95.60	65.71
Feb - 2017	20,018	28.27	70.88	96.57	68.30
Jan - 2017	20,268	30.41	70.70	100.02	69.61
Dec - 2016	20,737	33.03	81.82	106.54	73.51
Nov - 2016	7,742	38.35	73.18	91.96	53.60
Oct - 2016	4,193	35.88	67.89	84.79	48.91

Source: Department of Customs

## 2.3 Potato

### Crop Situation and Progress

The targeted extent of potato for *maha* 2016/17 is 3,174 ha and about 3,011 ha had been cultivated by the end of this month achieving 95% of the targeted extent. Compared to the same period of last *maha* season, the cultivated extent during this *maha* season is lower. During this month about 274 ha of potato was cultivated in the country and it was lower than the extent cultivated in the previous months of this *maha* season. According to the Department of Agriculture, compared to other OFCs, crop damages were not reported for potato due to drought. According to the cultivated extent up to end of this month, the expected production of potato is 50,690 mt for this *maha* season.

In the Nuwara Eliya district, the targeted extent is 1,248 ha and about 1,140 ha of potato have been cultivated by the end of this month (91% progress). Compared to the same period of last *maha* season, the cultivated extent is at high level during this *maha* season in the district. The targeted extent for this *maha* season is 1,712 ha in the Badulla district and about 1,727 ha have been cultivated by the end of March exceeding the targeted extent by 101%. The cultivated extent during this season is at low level compared to the same period of last *maha* season due to prevailed dry weather condition specially in the Badulla district at the beginning of this *maha* season.

**Table 2.3.1: Cultivation Progress and Expected Production of Potato (Maha 2016/17)**

District	Targeted Extent (ha)		Achievement (ha)		Progress (%)	Expected Production (mt)
	<i>Maha</i> 2015/16	<i>Maha</i> 2016/17	<i>Maha</i> 2015/16	<i>Maha</i> 2016/17		
N'Eliya	1,200	1,248	847	1,140	91	22,800
Badulla	1,637	1,712	2,674	1,727	101	25,901
<b>Sri Lanka</b>	<b>2,993</b>	<b>3,174</b>	<b>3,695</b>	<b>3,011</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>50,690</b>

Source: MFPAD/HARTI

Crop Forecast, Maha 2016/17, Socio-economic & Planning Centre/DOA

\*Crop Forecast, Maha 2015/16, Socio-economic & Planning Centre/DOA

## Prices and Supply/Demand Situation

A quantity of 11,898 mt of potato had been imported in March which was 198 mt higher than that previous month. Imported stocks were received from India (47%), Pakistan (31%) and Bangladesh (22%). Compared to March, 2016 (11,872 mt), the imports were slightly high during this month. Average CIF price was Rs.30.00/kg in March.

With regard to local potato, the *maha* harvesting for Welimada potato commenced and sufficient stocks of Welimada and Nuwara Eliya potatoes were available in the market. Wholesale and retail prices of Nuwara Eliya potato have decreased by 15% and 5% respectively with the arrival of *maha* stocks. On average, the producer prices of Nuwara Eliya and Welimada potatoes were Rs.88.00/kg and Rs.83.00/kg in March. The wholesale and retail prices of imported potato have increased by 2% and 4% respectively. During the month of March, the wholesale prices of Nuwara Eliya, Welimada and imported potatoes ranged between Rs.95.00-130.00/kg, Rs.80.00-95.00/kg and Rs.68.00-88.00/kg respectively. Compared to the same period of last year, the current retail prices of Nuwara Eliya (22%) and imported (28%) potatoes have increased.

**Table 2.3.2: Quantity, Value and CIF prices of Imported Potatoes  
October 2016 to March 2017**

Month	Quantity (mt.)	Value (Rs.mn)	CIF price (Rs/kg)	Retail Price (Rs/kg)	Gross Margin (Rs/kg)
Mar - 2017	11,898	354.90	29.83	110.06	80.23
Feb - 2017	11,700	321.71	23.13	105.61	82.48
Jan - 2017	33,163	1002.50	30.23	119.66	89.43
Dec - 2016	16,080	725.50	45.12	122.79	77.67
Nov - 2016	8,423	406.77	48.29	120.83	72.54
Oct - 2016	7,631	253.58	33.23	113.77	80.54

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

**Table: 2.3.3: Producer, Wholesale and Retail prices of Potato – March 2017**

Items	Price Range	Average			Change Compared to			
	Mar 2017	Mar 2017	Feb 2017	Mar 2016	Feb 2017		Mar 2016	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
<b>Producer Prices (PP)</b>								
Welimada	77.00-95.00	82.95	92.95	75.75	91.20	98.12	7.20	9.50
Nuwara Eliya	79.00-100.00	88.20	101.05	78.00	92.20	91.24	10.20	13.08
Imported – CIF	23.52-34.22	29.83	23.13	22.25	6.70	28.98	7.58	34.06
<b>Wholesale Prices (WP)</b>								
Welimada	80.00-95.00	87.84	-	76.50	-	-	11.34	14.83
Nuwara Eliya	95.00-130.00	105.03	123.76	92.94	-18.74	-15.14	12.08	13.00
Imported	68.00-88.00	78.00	76.16	59.84	1.85	2.43	18.17	30.36
<b>Retail Prices (RP)</b>								
Welimada	120.00-140.00	134.78	-	108.61	-	-	26.17	24.09
Nuwara Eliya	140.00-200.00	165.97	174.64	135.62	-8.67	-4.96	30.35	22.38
Imported	100.00-140.00	110.06	105.61	85.70	4.45	4.21	24.36	28.43
<b>Gross Margin (RP-PP)</b>								
Welimada		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nuwara Eliya		77.77	73.59	57.62	4.18	5.68	20.15	34.98
Imported (CIF-RP)		80.23	82.48	63.45	-2.25	-2.73	16.78	26.45
<b>Gross Margin (RP -WP)</b>								
Welimada		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nuwara Eliya		60.95	50.88	42.68	10.07	19.79	18.27	42.81
Imported		32.06	29.45	25.86	2.60	8.83	6.19	23.94

Source: Marketing Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

## 2.4 Green gram and Cowpea

### Crop Situation and Progress

Total cultivated area of green gram by the end of March was 5,538 ha, and it was a 61% achievement from the targeted extent. Consequently, the expected production was revised as 3,798 mt. Compared to the 2015/16 *Maha* season, the expected production progress was reported as 48%. The highest cultivation extent was recorded from Hambantota (1,890 ha), and other major districts, which contribute to the expected production in Kurunegala, Monaragala, Kilinochchi and Ampara.

Considering cowpea, 71% production progress is estimated compared to the same period of last year. A quantity of 6,299 mt of harvest is expected from the cultivated extent of 5,842 ha. Ampara occupied 39% of the total cultivated extent, and other major cultivated extents were recorded from Monaragala, Anuradhapura, Vavuniya and Hambantota.

**Table 2.4.1: Cultivation Progress and Expected Production of Green gram and Cowpea (Maha 2016/17)**

Crop	District	Targeted Ext. (ha)		Achievement (ha)		Progress (%) <i>Maha</i> 2016/17	Expected production
		<i>Maha</i> 2015/16	<i>Maha</i> 2016/17	<i>Maha</i> 2015/16	<i>Maha</i> 2016/17		
Green gram	Hambantota	860	2,016	2,506	1,890	94	1,512
	Kurunegala	862	605	739	481	80	336
	Moneragala	1,455	1,440	1,021	463	32	220
	<b>Sri Lanka</b>	<b>7,798</b>	<b>9,006</b>	<b>7,372</b>	<b>5,538</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>3,798</b>
Cowpea	Ampara	3,440	4,721	3,308	2,270	48	3,374
	Moneragala	1,650	1,356	1,318	581	43	553
	Anuradhapura	525	659	379	564	86	447
	<b>Sri Lanka</b>	<b>10,655</b>	<b>10,549</b>	<b>8,335</b>	<b>5,842</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>6,299</b>

Source: MFPAD/HARTI

Crop Forecast, Maha 2016/17, Socio-economic & Planning Centre/DOA

\*Crop Forecast, Maha 2015/16, Socio-economic & Planning Centre/DOA

### Prices and Supply Demand Situation

By the end of March, 1,922 mt of green gram had been imported and out of the total quantity, the highest portion of 30% was received from Thailand, and the rest had been imported from Myanmar (27%), United Arab Emirates (13%), Turkey (11%), Australia (9%) and a few other countries. Average CIF price of green gram was Rs.145.00/kg, and the total imported quantity increased by 27% than last month. Compared to the same period of last year, the average CIF price has increased by 15%.

However, with increased supply to the market, the average wholesale price has decreased by 3% compared to last month, and it was Rs.205.00/kg. However, the retail price increased by 1%, and it was noted as Rs.241.00/kg. Both wholesale and retail prices have decreased by 1% and 2%, respectively compared to the same period of last year.

Approximately, 829 mt of white cowpea had been imported in March, and it has increased by 135% compared to the imported quantity of last month. However, the average CIF price was

recorded as Rs.128.00/kg, and it was Rs.4.00/kg higher than previous month. With respect to that, both wholesale and retail prices of white cowpea have increased by 1% and 8%, respectively, and the average prices were Rs.257.00/kg in the wholesale market and Rs.296.00/kg in the retail market. Compared to March, 2016, the average wholesale and retail prices have increased by 28% and 16%.

Furthermore, the average wholesale price of red cowpea has increased by 21%, and it was Rs.308.00/kg. Average retail price of red cowpea was Rs.328.00/kg, and it has increased by 17%. Compared to the same period last year, average wholesale and retail prices of red cowpea have increased by 49% and 30%, respectively.

**Table 2.4.2: Quantity, Value and CIF prices of Imported Green gram  
October 2016 to March 2017**

Month	Quantity (mt)	Value (Rs.mn)	CIF price (Rs/kg)	Retail Price (Rs/kg)	Gross Margin (Rs/kg)
Mar - 2017	1,922	278.89	145.09	240.83	95.74
Feb - 2017	1,509	216.58	143.53	237.78	94.25
Jan - 2017	411	59.10	143.93	228.54	84.61
Dec - 2016	366	56.91	155.37	216.33	60.96
Nov - 2016	699	101.91	145.88	221.28	75.40
Oct - 2016	745	106.96	143.67	220.61	76.94

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

**Table 2.4.3: Quantity, Value and CIF prices of Imported Cowpea  
October 2016 to March 2017**

Month	Quantity (mt)	Value (Rs.mn)	CIF price (Rs/kg)	Retail Price (Rs/kg)	Gross Margin (Rs/kg)
Mar - 2017	829	105.75	127.57	295.93	168.36
Feb - 2017	352	43.58	123.74	275.03	151.29
Jan - 2017	282	33.13	117.53	247.88	130.35
Dec - 2016	332	39.03	117.74	246.82	129.08
Nov - 2016	529	62.11	117.42	254.48	137.06
Oct - 2016	491	55.48	112.91	249.59	136.68

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

**Table 2.4.4: Wholesale and Retail Prices of Green gram and Cowpea – March 2017**

Items	Price Range	Average			Change Compared to			
	Mar 2017	Mar 2017	Feb 2017	Mar 2016	Feb 2017		Mar 2016	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
<b>Wholesale Prices</b>								
Green gram	195.00-225.00	204.94	210.66	207.94	-5.72	-2.72	-3.00	-1.44
Cowpea (White)	245.00-275.00	256.53	253.81	199.64	2.72	1.07	56.89	28.49
Cowpea (Red)	300.00-330.00	307.78	254.96	206.96	52.82	20.72	100.82	48.71
<b>Retail Prices</b>								
Green gram	220.00-280.00	240.83	237.78	246.73	3.05	1.28	-5.90	-2.39
Cowpea (White)	270.00-360.00	295.93	275.03	254.12	20.90	7.60	41.81	16.45
Cowpea (Red)	300.00-360.00	327.60	279.67	251.07	47.93	17.14	76.53	30.48

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

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

Crop	Month	CIF Price (Rs/kg)	Wholesale price (Rs/kg)	Retail price (Rs/kg)	Gross Margin (Rs/Kg)	
					WP-CIF	RP-WP
Green gram	Mar 2017	145.09	204.94	240.83	59.84	35.90
	Feb 2017	143.53	210.66	237.78	67.13	27.12
	Mar 2016	169.08	207.94	246.73	38.86	38.79
Cowpea (White)	Mar 2017	127.57	256.53	295.93	128.96	39.40
	Feb 2017	123.74	253.81	275.03	130.07	21.22
	Mar 2016	103.76	199.64	254.12	95.88	54.48
Cowpea (Red)	Mar 2017	-	307.78	327.60	-	19.82
	Feb 2017	-	254.96	279.67	-	24.71
	Mar 2016	-	206.96	251.07	-	44.11

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

## 2.5 Red dhal

### Prices and Supply/Demand Situation

A quantity of 19,421 mt of red dhal was imported in March, and it was 4,859 mt higher than the previous month. Whole type red dhal has been imported mainly from Australia (68%), and the quantity imported was 12,388 mt. Furthermore, out of the total imported quantity of 18,093 mt, 29% was received from Canada, and 2% from the United States. The average CIF price was Rs.102.00/kg for whole type red dhal and Rs.135.00/kg for split type red dhal. Total imported quantity of split type red dhal was 1,328 mt, and it was received from Australia (63%) and Canada (37%).

Both the average wholesale and retail prices of red dhal have decreased by 1% in March, and the average wholesale price was Rs.141.00/kg and the average retail price was Rs.163.00/kg. It was reported that both wholesale and retail prices have decreased by 19% and 10%, respectively, compared to the same period of last year.

**Table 2.5.1: Wholesale and Retail Prices of Red Dhal – March 2017**

Red Dhal	Price Range	Average			Change Compared to			
	Mar 2017	Mar 2017	Feb 2017	Mar 2016	Feb 2017		Mar 2016	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Wholesale Price	138.00-148.00	141.32	142.65	173.98	-1.33	-0.93	-32.66	-18.77
Retail Price	150.00-180.00	163.20	165.23	180.90	-2.03	-1.23	-17.70	-9.79

Source: Marketing Food Policy & Agribusiness Division

**Table 2.5.2: Quantity, Value and CIF prices of Imported Red dhal October 2016 to March 2017**

Month	Quantity (mt)	CIF Price Rs/kg	Wholesale price Rs/kg	Retail price Rs/kg	Gross Margin (Rs/kg)	
					CIF-WP	WP-RP
Mar - 2017	19421	104.45	141.32	163.20	36.87	21.88
Feb - 2017	14562	112.61	142.65	165.23	30.04	22.58
Jan - 2017	24582	114.53	150.69	174.47	36.16	23.78
Dec - 2016	22873	120.28	156.46	176.77	36.18	20.30
Nov - 2016	17597	118.91	160.71	173.53	41.80	12.82
Oct - 2016	9475	127.21	162.59	173.66	35.38	11.07

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

### **3. Vegetables**

#### **Crop Situation**

Even though the *Maha* season commenced, particularly in the upcountry areas it had been delayed due to delay in onset of the North Eastern monsoonal rain, crop establishment was accelerated with the rains received during the mid-January hence, cultivation practices were completed for the season with a high cultivation progress by the end of March.

Regarding cultivation progress of the present *Maha* season, Nuwara Eliya and Badulla districts had reported about 115% and 132% cultivation progress respectively for the upcountry varieties at the end of *Maha* season. Even though *Maha* cultivation started slowly in Kandy and Matale districts, both districts had reported just over 100% progress (102% for each districts) for upcountry varieties at the end of March. Further, 100%, 86% and 105% cultivation progress were noted for upcountry varieties in Jaffna, Kurunegala and Puttalam districts, respectively.

Except for Monaragala, Anuradhapura and Jaffna districts, all the other lowcountry areas reported a fairly high cultivation progress by the end of March. Anuradhapura, the most significant district for low country varieties, recorded only 70% cultivation progress at the end of the season, mainly due to negative impact of the drought. Meantime, Monaragala, Jaffna and Kurunegala districts had recorded a 43%, 71% and 88% cultivation progress respectively, for low country varieties. However, cultivation progress of lowcountry varieties in Hambantota and Puttalam districts noted as high as 134% and 125% respectively, due to high water availability at the onset of the season as a result of continuous convective precipitation.

#### **Prices and supply/Demand situation**

The total vegetable production of Matale district in the month of March recorded a 22% increase compared to last month, with the value of 9,922mt. Furthermore, daily supply of vegetables to the Dambulla Dedicated Economic Centre (DEC) had increased by 10% compared to previous month, with the value of 2,100 mt, due to high supply of lowcountry varieties.

As the latter stage of the *Maha* peak harvesting season is reached, supplies from upcountry areas slightly reduced hence prices of most of the upcountry vegetables had increased with the highest value recorded for radish as 68% followed by cabbage as 50% and carrot as 24%. Both radish and cabbage prices had decreased up to Rs.24.00/ kg and Rs.15.00/ kg last month due to coinciding of the harvesting periods of both upcountry (Badulla & Nuwara Eliya) and lowcountry (Puttalam and Kurunegala) areas. With the ending of the supplies from both areas, prices started to rise in March. Further, prices of all the other upcountry varieties have increased except beans, in the range of 7%-14%. Moreover, as supplies gradually decreased from Jaffna, prices of carrot had also increased by 24% in March. However, prices of beans had slightly decreased, by 1% compared to that of February, this month.

Yet, due to gradual decrease in supply of both up and lowcountry varieties, prices of tomato had started to increase by high margin, about 124% in March.

Meantime, prices of most of the lowcountry vegetables also increased but in a low margin compared to that of upcountry varieties during the end phase of the *Maha* harvesting season. The highest price increase was reported for snakegourd as 33%, followed by pumpkin as 25% and luffa as 15%, due to low supplies during the latter phase of *Maha* harvesting season. Except, cucumber, brinjal, long beans and ladies' fingers, prices of other lowcountry varieties have increased in the range of 3% -7%, during the latter phase of the *Maha* harvesting season.

However, prices of cucumber and brinjal have decreased by 70% and 34% respectively, due to high supplies from Hambantota and Monaragala districts. Further, as harvesting season for drumsticks ended in December, hardly any stocks were available at the market during March.

Meantime, price of both green chillies and lime had decreased by 33% and 38% respectively, due to high supplies from respective major producing areas.

Retail prices of most of the vegetables also increased during March with the highest price increase reported for tomato as 47%.

**Table 3.1: Wholesale Prices of Vegetables – March 2017**

Items	Price Range	Average			Change Compared to			
	Mar 2017	Mar 2017	Feb 2017	Mar 2016	Feb 2017		Mar 2016	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Beans (green)	80.00-170.00	134.31	136.25	91.25	-1.94	-1.42	43.06	47.19
Carrot	25.00-100.00	51.63	41.67	81.82	9.96	23.89	-30.19	-36.90
Leeks	10.00-50.00	26.98	23.75	58.54	3.23	13.60	-31.56	-53.91
Beetroot	30.00-100.00	50.67	47.53	64.43	3.14	6.60	-13.76	-21.36
Knolkhol	40.00-80.00	57.66	52.71	57.87	4.95	9.39	-0.21	-0.36
Radish	25.00-80.00	40.63	24.24	37.81	16.39	67.59	2.81	7.45
Cabbage	8.00-50.00	22.20	14.76	49.02	7.44	50.41	-26.82	-54.71
Tomato	40.00-140.00	87.19	38.96	33.55	48.23	123.79	53.64	159.87
Ladies Fingers	70.00-120.00	90.90	93.13	56.67	-2.23	-2.40	34.23	60.40
Brinjal	15.00-65.00	31.17	47.38	70.77	-16.21	-34.21	-39.60	-55.95
Capsicum	100.00-180.00	149.10	155.00	128.55	-5.90	-3.80	20.55	15.99
Pumpkin	40.00-80.00	59.79	47.94	31.67	11.85	24.72	28.12	88.80
Cucumber	15.00-50.00	26.15	89.37	61.88	-63.22	-70.74	-35.73	-57.75
Bittergourd	70.00-150.00	113.85	110.74	71.83	3.11	2.80	42.02	58.49
Snakegourd	80.00-100.00	94.58	70.83	60.63	23.75	33.54	33.95	56.00
Drumstick	150.00-200.00	172.00	-	152.21	-	-	19.79	13.00
Luffa	140.00-220.00	178.65	155.00	69.79	23.65	15.26	108.86	155.99
Long Beans	40.00-90.00	60.63	73.54	64.05	-12.92	-17.56	-3.43	-5.35
Ash Plantain	50.00-75.00	61.46	57.56	47.30	3.90	6.77	14.16	29.93
Green Chillies	70.00-140.00	115.00	172.50	130.63	-57.50	-33.33	-15.63	-11.97
Lime	40.00-70.00	50.02	80.42	80.21	-30.40	-37.80	-30.19	-37.64

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



**Table 3.2: Retail Prices of Vegetables – March 2017**

Items	Price Range	Average			Change Compared to			
	Mar 2017	Mar 2017	Feb 2017	Mar 2016	Feb 2017		Mar 2016	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Beans (green)	120.00-240.00	191.19	202.28	147.88	-11.09	-5.48	43.31	29.29
Carrot	50.00-200.00	113.76	107.24	154.60	6.52	6.08	-40.84	-26.42
Leeks	50.00-160.00	95.68	90.40	128.21	5.28	5.85	-32.53	-25.37
Beetroot	70.00-200.00	114.52	110.03	135.77	4.49	4.08	-21.25	-15.65
Knolkhol	80.00-200.00	137.07	148.98	138.71	-11.91	-7.99	-1.64	-1.18
Radish	60.00-160.00	107.42	93.32	107.12	14.10	15.11	0.30	0.28
Cabbage	30.00-160.00	88.13	76.60	119.74	11.53	15.05	-31.61	-26.40
Tomato	70.00-240.00	136.94	93.36	78.65	43.58	46.68	58.29	74.11
Ladies Fingers	100.00-200.00	157.09	156.44	120.74	0.65	0.42	36.35	30.11
Brinjal	50.00-200.00	95.46	106.23	127.65	-10.77	-10.14	-32.19	-25.22
Capsicum	180.00-320.00	237.89	247.73	223.30	-9.84	-3.97	14.59	6.53
Pumpkin	65.00-160.00	117.95	107.27	91.57	10.68	9.96	26.38	28.81
Cucumber	50.00-+200.00	100.67	160.07	113.17	-59.40	-37.11	-12.50	-11.04
Bittergourd	120.00-320.00	196.79	189.49	151.94	7.30	3.85	44.85	29.52
Snakegourd	120.00-200.00	152.02	132.54	123.12	19.48	14.70	28.90	23.48
Drumstick	-	-	-	321.23	-	-	-	-
Luffa	180.00-320.00	272.61	237.96	138.82	34.65	14.56	133.79	96.37
Long Beans	80.00-240.00	130.48	143.50	126.01	-13.02	-9.07	4.47	3.55
Ash Plantain	80.00-160.00	128.22	125.03	110.92	3.19	2.55	17.30	15.59
Green Chillies	150.00-400.00	272.00	342.89	278.75	-70.89	-20.68	-6.75	-2.42
Lime	80.00-300.00	175.90	235.47	196.47	-59.57	-25.30	-20.57	-10.47

Source: Marketing, Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HART

## 4. Fruits

### Prices and Supply/Demand Situation

Compared to previous month, prices of all the varieties of banana except Seeni had decreased in the range of 1%-9%. Price of Seeni had increased by 6%. The lowest price recorded for Kolikuttu during the month was Rs.120.00/kg while, the lowest prices recorded for Ambul and Seeni were Rs.60.00/kg and Rs.70.00/kg respectively. The highest price recorded for Kolikuttu was Rs.160.00/kg and it was Rs.100.00/kg for both Ambul and Seeni. The price ranges recorded for Anamalu and Ambun were Rs.8.00-13.00/fruit and Rs.12.00-18.00/fruit respectively. According to the data in previous years, prices of all the banana varieties could increase in the coming month due to increased demand with the festive season. Prices of all the sizes of pineapple had increased in the range of 17%-23% and the prices ranged between Rs.130.00-350.00/fruit. Limited supply had contributed to these price increases and according to market information, prices of pineapple could decrease in the coming month due to commencement of the harvesting season.

Further, price of papaw had further increased by 21% due to low supply and the price ranged between Rs.80.00-180.00/kg. According to the data in previous years, papaw prices could decrease in the coming month due to increased supply with the harvesting season. In addition, prices of all the mango varieties had increased in the range of 14%-46% due to low supply with the end of the harvesting season. The price range of Karthakolomban was Rs.80.00-100.00/fruit. According to market information, mango prices could decrease in the coming month due to increased supply with the harvesting season.

Further, prices of passion fruit and wood apple had increased by 20% and 6% respectively due to low supply with the end of the harvesting season and according to market information, it is

expected to have increased prices for wood apple and decreased prices for passion fruit in the coming month. However, prices of slime apple, avocado, oranges and imported grapes had decreased by 19%, 17%, 11% and 7% respectively. According to the data in previous years, decreased prices could be expected for avocado and oranges and increased prices could be expected for slime apple in the coming month.

Compared to the same period of 2016, wholesale prices of most of the fruit varieties had increased and the highest price increase was noted for banana (Ambul) as 115%.

Retail prices of banana varieties, Ambul, Kolikuttu, Anamalu and Ambun had decreased in the range of 4%-14% while, the price of Seeni had increased by 1%. The price ranges recorded for Kolikuttu, Ambul and Seeni during the month were Rs.180.00-250.00/kg, Rs.100.00-140.00/kg and Rs.100.00-150.00/kg respectively. The price ranges recorded for Anamalu and Ambun were Rs.15.00-30.00/fruit and Rs.15.00-35.00/fruit respectively. Prices of large and medium sized pineapple had increased by 12% and 7% respectively while the price of small sized pineapple had decreased by 2%. The retail price of pineapple ranged between Rs.170.00-400.00/fruit. Further, price of papaw had increased by 24% and the price ranged between Rs.100.00-240.00/kg. Prices of all the mango varieties too had increased in the range of 6%-98% and the price range of Karthakolomban was Rs.30.00-180.00/fruit. In addition, prices of wood apple, passion fruit and slime apple had increased by 23%, 22% and 2% respectively. Meanwhile, prices of orange, avocado and imported grapes had decreased by 12%, 11% and 5% respectively. Compared to the same period of 2016, retail prices of most of the fruit varieties had increased and the highest price increase was noted for medium sized pineapple as 71%.

With reference to the producer prices, producers had received a decreased price for Ambul and Kolikuttu compared to the previous month. However, they had received an increased price for papaw. At the same time, compared to the same month last year, producer prices had increased for all three varieties (Table 4.3).

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

According to the Sri Lanka Customs, Sri Lanka had exported 467mt of fresh fruits during the month and the value was Rs.76mn. Of the export quantity, 81% were papaw and 16% and 2% were fresh pineapple and fresh mangoes, respectively. In addition, a small quantity of fresh oranges (0.18mt) and avocados (0.01mt) also had been exported. In the month of February, 2017, the quantity exported was 370mt. Therefore, compared to last month, exported quantity had increased by 26%.

With reference to imports, Sri Lanka had imported 5,022mt of fresh fruits during the month and the value was Rs.591mn. Of the imported quantity, 41% were apple and 25%, 22% and 11% were mandarin, oranges and grapes respectively. The main importing countries of apple were China, France and South Africa. Mandarin and oranges had been imported from Pakistan and Egypt respectively. In addition, India and South Africa were the main importing countries of grapes. In the month of February, 2017, the quantity imported was 4,381mt. Therefore, compared to last month, the imported quantity had increased by 15%.

**Table 4.1: Wholesale Prices of Fruits – March 2017**

Items	Price Range	Average			Change Compared to			
	Mar 2017	Mar 2017	Feb 2017	Mar 2016	Feb 2017		Mar 2016	
	(Rs)	(Rs)	(Rs)	(Rs)	(Rs)	%	(Rs)	%
<b>Plantain</b>								
Ambul (Kg)	60.00-100.00	75.85	81.31	35.33	-5.46	-6.72	40.52	114.68
Kolikuttu (Kg)	120.00-160.00	136.03	147.88	117.98	-11.85	-8.01	18.05	15.30
Seeni (Kg)	70.00-100.00	86.68	81.83	42.31	4.85	5.92	44.37	104.86
Anamalu (Fruit)	8.00-13.00	11.07	11.10	8.60	-0.03	-0.28	2.47	28.71
Ambun (Fruit)	12.00-18.00	14.93	16.47	10.71	-1.55	-9.38	4.21	39.36
<b>Pineapple</b>								
Large (Fruit)	240.00-350.00	294.74	248.50	178.53	46.24	18.61	116.21	65.09
Medium (Fruit)	180.00-300.00	240.61	195.83	148.52	44.78	22.87	92.09	62.01
Small (Fruit)	130.00-200.00	168.00	143.25	117.88	24.75	17.27	50.12	42.51
<b>Mango</b>								
Betti (Fruit)	17.14-34.28	22.59	16.05	27.15	6.54	40.74	-4.56	-16.80
Karthakolomban (Fruit)	80.00-100.00	87.15	59.50	79.84	27.65	46.47	7.31	9.16
Vilad (Fruit)	20.00-34.00	27.80	-	36.29	-	-	-8.49	-23.39
Kohu (Fruit)	11.11-17.00	14.72	12.85	17.06	1.87	14.57	-2.34	-13.70
Papaw (Kg)	80.00-180.00	118.24	97.95	94.19	20.29	20.72	24.05	25.54
Passionfruit (Fruit)	16.00-33.33	19.60	16.39	14.24	3.21	19.58	5.36	37.64
Woodapple (Fruit)	30.00-60.00	41.59	39.14	33.07	2.45	6.26	8.52	25.77
Orange (Fruit)	18.00-40.00	27.85	31.28	19.29	-3.43	-10.96	8.56	44.39
Avocado (Fruit)	30.00-70.00	50.05	60.27	46.66	-10.22	-16.95	3.39	7.27
Slime Apple (Fruit)	30.00-60.00	41.42	51.43	36.32	-10.01	-19.47	5.10	14.03
Grapes Imported (Kg)	377.77-644.44	510.86	548.10	525.74	-37.24	-6.79	-14.88	-2.83

Source: Marketing, Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

**Table 4.2: Retail Prices of Fruits – March 2017**

Items	Price Range	Average			Change Compared to			
	Mar 2017	Mar 2017	Feb 2017	Mar 2016	Feb 2017		Mar 2016	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
<b>Plantain</b>								
Ambul (Rs/kg)	100.00-140.00	124.66	145.49	77.84	-20.83	-14.32	46.82	60.14
Kolikuttu (Rs/kg)	180.00-250.00	206.67	234.10	181.50	-27.43	-11.72	25.17	13.87
Seeni (Rs/kg)	100.00-150.00	126.68	125.35	78.01	1.33	1.06	48.67	62.39
Anamalu	15.00-30.00	22.52	23.95	17.53	-1.43	-5.98	4.99	28.45
Ambun	15.00-35.00	24.00	25.04	17.95	-1.04	-4.16	6.05	33.70
<b>Pineapple</b>								
Large	330.00-400.00	360.43	321.30	221.05	39.13	12.18	139.38	63.06
Medium	250.00-325.00	277.05	259.78	161.76	17.27	6.65	115.29	71.27
Small	170.00-250.00	190.09	193.13	120.60	-3.04	-1.57	69.49	57.62
<b>Mango</b>								
Betti	30.00-60.00	43.13	30.56	53.75	12.57	41.12	-10.63	-19.77
Karthakolomban	30.00-180.00	135.23	68.12	111.85	67.11	98.52	23.38	20.90
Vilad	40.00-160.00	54.80	51.50	64.88	3.30	6.41	-10.08	-15.53
Kohu	20.00-160.00	26.86	20.00	20.00	6.86	34.29	6.86	34.29
Papaw (Rs/kg)	100.00-240.00	172.49	139.16	154.47	33.33	23.95	18.02	11.66
Passionfruit	25.00-66.00	38.05	31.23	28.73	6.82	21.82	9.32	32.42
Woodapple	50.00-120.00	80.28	65.25	50.89	15.03	23.03	29.39	57.74
Orange	35.00-70.00	51.47	58.20	41.35	-6.73	-11.57	10.12	24.47
Avocado	50.00-150.00	100.41	112.41	76.85	-12.00	-10.68	23.56	30.65
Slime Apple	50.00-120.00	70.00	68.82	50.47	1.18	1.71	19.53	38.70
Grapes Imported (Rs/kg)	600.00-1000.00	780.41	821.08	776.14	-40.67	-4.95	4.27	0.55

Source: Marketing, Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

**Table 4.3: Producer Prices of Selected Fruits – March 2017**

Item	Price Range	Average			Change Compared to			
	Mar 2017	Mar 2017	Feb 2017	Mar 2016	Feb 2017		Mar 2016	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Ambul	37.50-77.50	53.74	57.81	30.20	-4.08	-7.05	23.54	77.93
Kolikuttu	75.00-145.00	122.15	142.71	95.50	-20.56	-14.40	26.65	27.91
Papaw	37.50-87.50	69.61	52.04	53.60	17.58	33.77	16.01	29.87
Pineapple	-	-	107.75	-	-	-	-	-

Source Marketing Food Policy Agribusiness Division, HARTI

**Table 4.4: Quantity, Value and FOB Prices of Exported Fruits  
January – March 2017**

Type of Fruit	March			February			January		
	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	75.75	19.31	254.87	80.83	21.21	262.43	125.17	31.99	255.54
Papaw	380.65	52.13	136.95	274.34	28.71	104.67	301.45	31.13	103.28
Fresh Mango	10.33	4.07	393.59	15.16	11.12	733.95	15.86	9.40	592.62
Oranges, fresh	0.18	0.07	407.41	-	-	-	0.04	0.02	551.03
Avocados, fresh	0.010	0.002	215.90	0.005	0.003	687.80	-	-	-

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

**Table 4.5: Quantity, Value and CIF Prices of Imported Fruits  
January – March 2017**

Type of Fruit	March			February			January		
	Qty (mt)	Value (Rs.mn)	CIF (Rs/kg)	Qty (mt)	Value (Rs.mn)	CIF (Rs/kg)	Qty (mt)	Value (Rs.mn)	CIF (Rs/kg)
Apple	2,065	292.43	141.59	2,355	291.14	123.61	1,936	259.74	134.16
Grapes	573	161.62	282.24	792	256.04	323.44	502	178.28	354.79
Oranges	1,127	87.79	77.88	368	29.40	79.86	509	45.74	89.85
Mandarin	1,257	49.60	39.47	866	36.36	42.00	1,430	64.80	45.32

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

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

### Fish

#### Prices and Supply/Demand Situation

Average wholesale prices of selected fresh fish types ranged between Rs.134.00/kg and 1046.00/kg in March 2017. Compared to the previous month, slight price upturns as well as reductions of fresh fish were observed. Price reductions noted in fresh fish types were less than 10%. The highest price reduction was observed as 8% in Balaya, and the price ranged between Rs.200.00/kg and Rs.280.00/kg. Prices of Salaya, Thora, and Paraw have decreased by 4%, 2%, and 1%, respectively. Of price increased fish types, the highest price increase was observed as 3% in Shrimp and Thalpath. Prices of Hurulla and Kelawalla have increased by 2% and 1%, respectively. Interestingly, Mora did not show any significant price variation compared to the previous month.

Weekly price variation showed that the wholesale prices of most fresh fish types have continuously decreased except in the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of the month, in which a slight upturn of most fish prices was observed due to decreased supply. Fresh fish supplies have been obtained mainly from coastal areas in the North-Western and Western provinces; supplies from the Northern and Eastern provinces of the country have still been limited due to the North-East monsoon. Fishing activities in these regions may resume in April with the ending of the North-East monsoon, and fish supply may slightly increase; however, high demand for fresh fish during the festival season may lead to price upturns.

When compared with the same period of last year, wholesale prices of Salaya, Hurulla, Thalapath, Thora, and Mora have increased by 4%-29%. In contrast, prices of Balaya, Paraw, Shrimp, and Kelawalla have decreased by 3%-25%.

Average retail prices of selected fish types ranged between 172.00/kg and Rs.1288.00/kg during March 2017. Compared to the previous month, prices of all fresh fish types except Balaya, Shrimp, and Mora have decreased by 1%-11%. The highest price decrease of 11% was noted for Salaya and Paraw. Prices of Thora, Hurulla, Kelawalla, and Thalapath have decreased by 5%, 3%, 2%, and 1%, respectively. Meanwhile, prices of Balaya and Shrimp have increased by 7% and 3%, respectively. Interestingly, price behaviour of Mora in the retail market was in accordance with that in the wholesale market; retail price of Mora did not show any significant price variation compared to the previous month. Compared to the same period of last year, retail prices of all fresh fish types have increased by 4%-18%, and the highest price increase was noted for Balaya.

**Table 5.1: Wholesale and Retail Prices of Fish – March 2017**

Item	Price Range	Average			Change Compared to			
	Mar 2017	Mar 2017	Feb 2017	Mar 2016	Feb 2017		Mar 2016	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
<b>Wholesale Prices</b>								
Salaya	100.00-160.00	134.00	139.50	103.89	-5.50	-3.94	30.11	28.98
Hurulla	260.00-450.00	351.33	343.45	313.00	7.88	2.29	38.33	12.24
Balaya	200.00-280.00	237.44	257.95	316.00	-20.51	-7.95	-78.56	-24.86
Kelawalla	400.00-600.00	474.72	468.13	486.90	6.59	1.41	-12.18	-2.50
Thora	900.00-1200.00	1046.14	1067.50	946.25	-21.36	-2.00	99.89	10.56
Paraw	400.00-600.00	531.69	538.75	556.03	-7.06	-1.31	-24.34	-4.38
Mora	450.00-600.00	512.38	510.17	492.29	2.20	0.43	20.08	4.08
Shrimp (small)	700.00-850.00	784.75	759.88	806.25	24.87	3.27	-21.50	-2.67
Thalapath	570.00-750.00	675.56	653.03	603.75	22.53	3.45	71.81	11.89
<b>Retail Prices</b>								
Salaya	120.00-300.00	172.05	194.00	152.78	-21.95	-11.32	19.27	12.61
Hurulla	280.00-700.00	430.06	441.13	377.56	-11.07	-2.51	52.50	13.90
Balaya	260.00-760.00	502.28	471.44	425.28	30.84	6.54	77.00	18.10
Kelawalla	480.00-1000.00	770.71	783.96	725.36	-13.25	-1.69	45.35	6.25
Thora	1000.00-1800.00	1288.05	1361.50	1206.36	-73.45	-5.39	81.69	6.77
Paraw	550.00--1000.00	782.70	875.00	747.93	-92.30	-10.55	34.77	4.65
Mora	480.00-920.00	670.64	670.23	628.63	0.41	0.06	42.01	6.68
Shrimp (small)	800.00-1200.00	941.56	913.34	908.83	28.22	3.09	32.73	3.60
Thalapath	600.00-1200.00	916.29	921.55	817.98	-5.26	-0.57	98.31	12.02

Source: Marketing, Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

## **Dried Fish**

### **Prices and Supply/Demand Situation**

Average wholesale prices of selected dried fish types have ranged between Rs.286.00/kg and Rs. 1,044.00/kg in March 2017. Weekly price variation shows that prices of most dried fish types have increased due to increased stocks until the 3rd week of March; thereafter, prices have started decreasing. In general, prices of most dried fish types have decreased by 1%-6%, while prices of a few dried fish types have increased by 1%-3%. Interestingly, both imported and local Kattawa did not show any significant variation of prices. Of price decreased dried fish types, the highest price decrease of 6% was noted for local Balaya, followed by local Sprats and Mora (4%). Prices of imported Maduwa, Mora, and Thora have decreased by 2%. Moreover, prices of local Thora and imported Sprats, and Anguluwa have decreased by 1%. Of price increased dried fish types, the highest price increase was observed as 3% in both local Salaya and imported Balaya, followed by local Maduwa and Anguluwa (1%). Compared to the same period of last year, prices of most dried fish types have decreased by 1%-20%, and the highest price decrease was noted in local Balaya.

Local dried fish types were mainly supplied from coastal areas in Northern (Jaffna), Eastern (Batticaloa and Walachchena) Southern (Galle and Matara), Western (Negombo), and North-Western (Mannar) provinces. The total quantity of sprats imported in March 2017 was 2,044 MT, and this was 526 MT greater than the quantity imported in the previous month. The total value of the imported Sprats was Rs.800 millions. Approximately, 80% of the imported Sprats was from Thailand (1,632 MT), followed by United Arab Emirates (18%; 361 MT), and Oman (2%; 45MT). Quantity of Sprats imported from India was negligible (6 MT). The CIF price ranged between Rs.204.00/kg and Rs.411.00/kg with an average of Rs.392.00/kg.

Average retail prices of dried fish ranged between Rs.532.00/kg and Rs.1466.00/kg in March 2017. Compared to the previous month, price behaviours of dried fish was ambiguous. Significant price reductions were obvious in only a very few dried fish types. For example, price of Thora, Balaya, and Mora have decreased by 6%, 3%, and 2%. Simultaneously, significant price upturns were observed for Salaya (6%), imported Sprats (3%), and Maduwa (1%). Meanwhile, price variations in Kattawa, local Sprats, and Anguluwa were negligible. Compared to the same period of last year, prices of most dried fish types had increased by 2%-12%, and the highest price increase was noted in local Sprats.

**Table 5.2: Wholesale and Retail Prices of Dried Fish – March 2017**

Item	Price Range	Average			Change Compared to			
	Mar 2017	Mar 2017	Feb 2017	Mar 2016	Feb 2017		Mar 2016	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
<b>Dried fish – Wholesale</b>								
Sprats	700.00-920.00	804.76	838.50	742.63	-33.74	-4.02	62.13	8.37
Sprats (imported)	400.00-500.00	452.07	457.31	507.08	-5.24	-1.15	-55.02	-10.85
Kattawa	740.00-840.00	799.10	802.25	779.07	-3.15	-0.39	20.03	2.57
Kattawa (imported)	700.00-800.00	728.08	731.64	737.32	-3.56	-0.49	-9.23	-1.25
Thora	1000.00-1100.00	1044.06	1056.98	1148.33	-12.92	-1.22	-104.27	-9.08
Thora (imported)	940.00-1100.00	1018.06	1035.38	1087.83	-17.31	-1.67	-69.77	-6.41
Mora	700.00-850.00	795.71	827.17	798.95	-31.45	-3.80	-3.24	-0.41
Mora (imported)	680.00-800.00	746.11	760.63	748.75	-14.52	-1.91	-2.64	-0.35
Balaya	350.00-550.00	457.36	488.75	572.19	-31.39	-6.42	-114.83	-20.07
Balaya (imported)	340.00-600.00	482.77	470.25	486.25	12.52	2.66	-3.48	-0.72
Anguluwa	700.00-850.00	814.71	807.25	717.68	7.46	0.92	97.03	13.52
Anguluwa (imported)	550.00-800.00	719.61	724.19	708.16	-4.58	-0.63	11.45	1.62
Maduwa	400.00-600.00	547.25	539.75	570.86	7.50	1.39	-23.61	-4.14
Maduwa (imported)	400.00-500.00	426.25	436.16	457.93	-9.91	-2.27	-31.68	-6.92
Koduwa	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Koduwa (imported)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Salaya	240.00-350.00	286.47	277.39	309.54	9.08	3.27	-23.07	-7.45
Salaya (imported)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Dried fish – Retail</b>								
Sprats(imported)	410.00-800.00	618.30	603.24	655.26	15.06	2.50	-36.96	-5.64
Sprats	800.00-1500.00	1038.50	1042.22	925.01	-3.72	-0.36	113.49	12.27
Kattawa	900.00-1700.00	1172.43	1174.59	1117.00	-2.16	-0.18	55.43	4.96
Thora	1100.00-2000.00	1465.96	1552.57	1362.74	-86.61	-5.58	103.22	7.57
Mora	800.00-1500.00	1079.08	1097.07	988.60	-17.99	-1.64	90.48	9.15
Balaya	580.00-1100.00	833.73	857.63	854.75	-23.90	-2.79	-21.02	-2.46
Anguluwa	700.00-1300.00	1018.55	1013.92	994.50	4.63	0.46	24.05	2.42
Maduwa	600.00-1000.00	800.52	793.75	737.33	6.77	0.85	63.19	8.57
Koduwa	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Salaya	400.00-800.00	532.38	505.36	576.05	27.02	5.35	-43.67	-7.58

Source: Marketing, Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

**Table 5.3: Quantity, Value and CIF prices of Sprats – October 2016 to March 2017**

Month	Quantity (mt.)	Value (Rs.mn)	CIF price (Rs/kg)	Retail Price (Rs/kg)	Gross Margin (Rs/kg)
Mar - 2017	2,044	800.30	391.62	618.30	226.67
Feb - 2017	1,418	545.27	384.42	603.24	218.82
Jan - 2017	1,752	664.86	379.49	597.79	218.30
Dec - 2016	2,131	798.09	374.57	587.29	212.72
Nov - 2016	1,575	576.71	366.13	559.02	192.89
Oct - 2016	1,835	686.09	373.91	535.18	161.27

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

## Eggs

Compared to the previous month, the average wholesale prices of brown and white eggs have not changed at all in March 2017. Average wholesale price of a brown egg was reported as Rs.13.50, and that of a white egg was reported as Rs.13.00. These prices were stagnant throughout the month. However, compared to the same period of last year, brown and white egg prices have decreased by 17% and 15%, respectively.

Meanwhile, average retail prices of a brown and a white egg were Rs.15.01 and Rs.14.09, respectively. Compared with the previous month, the retail price of a brown egg has decreased by 1%; yet, the retail price of a white egg has not changed significantly. Compared to the same period of last year, retail prices of both brown and white eggs have decreased by 15%.

**Table 5.4: Wholesale and Retail Prices of Eggs – March 2017**

Items	Price Range	Average			Change Compared to			
	Mar 2017	Mar 2017	Feb 2017	Mar 2016	Feb 2017		Mar 2016	
	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	%	Rs	%
<b>Wholesale Price</b>								
Eggs – Brown (each)	13.50-13.50	13.50	13.50	16.33	0.00	0.00	-2.83	-17.33
White (each)	13.00-13.00	13.00	13.00	15.33	0.00	0.00	-2.33	-15.20
<b>Retail Price</b>								
Eggs- Brown (each)	13.50-16.00	15.01	15.12	17.63	-0.11	-0.71	-2.62	-14.85
White (each)	13.00-15.00	14.09	14.10	16.67	-0.01	-0.05	-2.58	-15.46

Source: Marketing, Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

## Meat

Prices of all types of meat have increased except pork, in which no price variation is observed, during March 2017. The highest price upturn was observed as 4% in Broiler chicken, followed by Curry chicken (3%). Average prices of these meat types were noted as Rs.480.00/kg for Broiler chicken and Rs.488.00/kg for Curry chicken. Retail prices of both beef and mutton have increased by 1%, and their average prices were Rs.871.00/kg and Rs.1,708.00/kg.

Compared to the same period of last year, retail prices of Pork and Curry chicken have decreased by 8% and 2%, respectively. On the contrary, prices of beef and mutton have increased by 16% and 10%, respectively. No price variation was observed for Broiler chicken.

**Table 5.5: Retail Prices of Meat – March 2017**

Items	Price Range	Average			Change Compared to			
	Mar 2017	Mar 2017	Feb 2017	Mar 2016	Feb 2017		Mar 2016	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
<b>Meat</b>								
Beef (without bones)	850.00-900.00	871.13	859.20	750.81	11.93	1.39	120.32	16.03
Chicken (Broiler)	400.00-600.00	479.77	461.04	480.78	18.73	4.06	-1.01	-0.21
Chicken (curry)	550.00-600.00	488.10	473.02	496.00	15.08	3.19	-7.90	-1.59
Mutton	1600.00-1800.00	1708.13	1684.98	1547.71	23.15	1.37	160.42	10.36
Pork	550.00-650.00	570.83	572.29	620.00	-1.46	-0.25	-49.17	-7.93

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

## 6. Wheat grain, Wheat flour and Sugar

### Wheat grain, Wheat flour

Total imported quantity of wheat grain for the month of March was 232,040mt (worth Rs.8,298mn). Compared to last month it has increased drastically and quantity wise it was more than twice. Less importation of wheat grain during the previous month caused this sudden increment.



Out of total imports this month, majority (35%) which was 81,301mt imported from Russia. Accordingly, the rest, 31%, 19%, 13% and 2% was imported from the United States, Canada, Australia and Denmark respectively. In addition, few quantities were also imported from India and Ukraine. The CIF price ranged between Rs.31.88-52.27/kg and the average CIF price for wheat grain was reported as Rs.35.76/kg. Compared to last month average CIF price has decreased by Rs.1.00/kg. The highest CIF price was reported for the Indian wheat grains whilst, the lowest was recorded for the Russian stocks. The CIF price of Rs.31.88/kg was applied for the highest imported stocks which imported from Russia.

In the meantime, the total imports of wheat flour for the month of March was 312mt. worth of Rs.18.96mn. and it has also increased by 21% compared to the previous month. Monthly average CIF price for wheat flour was Rs.60.83/kg and it has decreased by Rs.6.00/kg compared to last month. Retail price of wheat flour ranged between Rs.88.86-89.63/kg and the average price was Rs.89.25/kg. Although, average price of wheat flour has increased during the month it was not a significant change.

**Table 6.1: Open Market Retail Prices of Wheat Flour and Sugar – March 2017**

Items	Price Range	Average			Change Compared to			
	Mar 2017	Mar 2017	Feb 2017	Mar 2016	Feb 2017		Mar 2016	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Wheat Flour	88.86-89.63	89.25	89.12	88.81	0.13	0.15	0.44	0.50
Sugar	103.33-106.92	105.36	101.66	99.52	3.69	3.63	5.84	5.86

Source: Department of Census and Statistics

**Table 6.2: Quantity, Value and CIF prices of Wheat Flour & Grain – October 2016 to March 2017**

Month	Quantity (mt.)	Value (Rs.mn)	CIF price (Rs/kg)	Retail Price (Rs/kg)	Gross Margin (Rs/kg)
<b>Wheat Flour</b>					
Mar - 2017	312	18.96	60.83	89.25	28.42
Feb - 2017	258	17.34	67.24	89.12	21.88
Jan - 2017	178	12.37	69.62	89.20	19.57
Dec - 2016	530	34.16	64.47	89.10	24.63
Nov - 2016	303	18.78	62.09	88.76	26.68
Oct - 2016	415	28.18	67.89	88.54	20.65
<b>Wheat Grain</b>					
Mar - 2017	232,040	8298.01	35.76	89.25	53.49
Feb - 2017	91,316	3312.29	36.27	89.12	52.85
Jan - 2017	164,269	6100.57	37.14	89.20	52.06
Dec - 2016	158,836	5798.21	36.50	89.10	52.60
Nov - 2016	53,288	1943.65	36.47	88.76	52.29
Oct - 2016	92,011	3404.27	37.00	88.54	51.54

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

## Sugar

Sugar imports were increased by 75% during the month of March, as a result of drastic reduction of 64% in the previous month. Total imported quantity of sugar for the month of March was 25,703mt (Rs.2,237mn). Out of the total imports the highest quantity of 9184mt. was imported from Thailand. The rest were imported from Ukraine (22%), Guatemala (20%), Poland (8%) and Brazil (7%) respectively. In addition, very few quantities were also imported from France, India, Egypt and Korea. The CIF prices ranged between Rs.83.87-95.04/kg. The highest CIF price was applied to the imports of India, while the lowest for the Guatemala stocks. The CIF price of Rs.87.28/kg was reported for the highest quantity of imports to the country which was from

Thailand. Compared to the previous month, price of the heights imported quantity has decreased by Rs.9.00/kg.

The retail price of sugar ranged between Rs.103.00-107.00/kg and the average price was Rs.105.00/kg. Despite of higher importation during the month of March, retail price of sugar has increased by Rs4.00/kg compared to the previous month. Further, sugar retail price has increased by Rs.3.00/kg compared to the average retail price of last two months (January & February).

**Table 6.3: Quantity, Value and CIF prices of Sugar- October 2016 to March 2017**

Month	Quantity (mt.)	Value (Rs.mn)	CIF price (Rs/kg)	Retail Price (Rs/kg)	Gross Margin (Rs/kg)
Mar - 2017	25703	2237.27	87.04	105.36	18.32
Feb - 2017	14604	1318.02	90.25	101.66	11.41
Jan - 2017	40378	3588.22	88.87	102.20	13.33
Dec - 2016	29466	2626.34	89.13	97.68	8.55
Nov - 2016	38488	3468.25	90.11	97.57	7.46
Oct - 2016	81791	7289.01	89.12	96.90	7.78

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

**Table 7: Import of Selected Food Items – March 2017**

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 2017	Feb 2017		Mar 2017	Feb 2017		Mar 2017	Feb 2017	
Rice	148,204	92,644	60	8440.9	5,445.6	55	56.95	58.78	-3
Red Onion	78	1,819	-96	5.2	132.0	-96	66.03	72.56	-9
Big Onion	21,721	20,018	9	649.2	566.0	15	29.89	28.27	6
Potato	11,898	11,700	2	354.9	321.7	10	29.83	27.50	8
Dried Chillies	6,048	3,921	54	932.5	637.0	46	154.18	162.48	-5
Masoor Dhal	19,421	14,562	33	2,028.6	1,639.8	24	104.45	112.61	-7
Green Gram	1,922	1,509	27	278.9	216.6	29	145.09	143.53	1
Cowpea	829	352	135	105.8	43.6	143	127.57	123.74	3
Garlic	3,304	1,553	113	982.1	467.7	110	297.23	301.27	-1
Wheat flour	312	258	21	19.0	17.3	9	60.83	67.24	-10
Wheat grain	232,403	91,316	155	8,298.0	3,312.3	151	35.71	36.27	-2
White crystalline cane sugar	25,703	14,604	76	2,237.3	1,318.0	70	87.04	90.25	-4
Maize (Seed)	5	20	-75	2.2	10.2	-78	446.01	500.65	-11
Maize (Other)	5,235	21,388	-76	195.8	782.2	-75	37.41	36.57	2
Sprats, dried unsalted	2,044	1,418	44	800.3	545.3	47	391.62	384.42	2

Source: Automated data Processing Division, Department of Customs

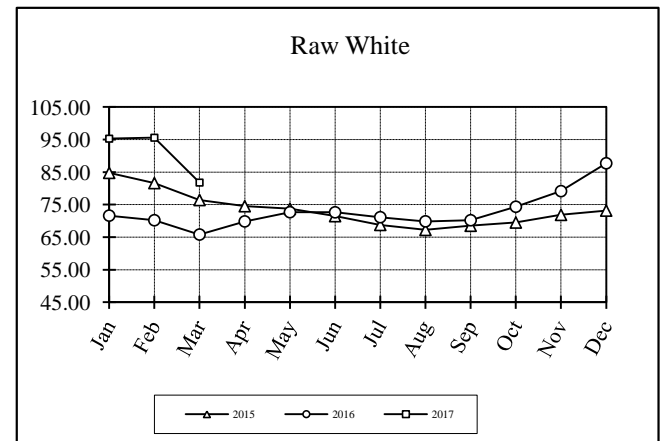
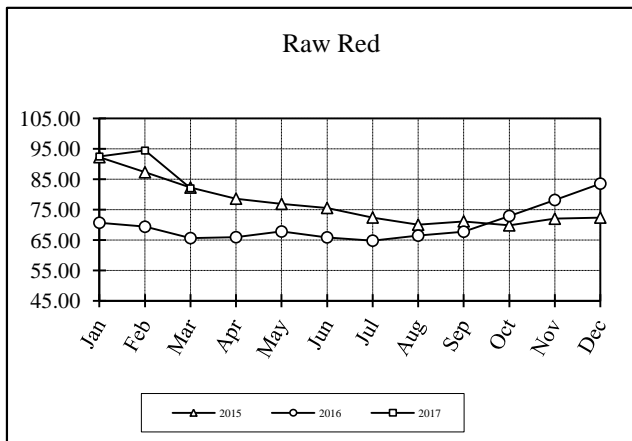
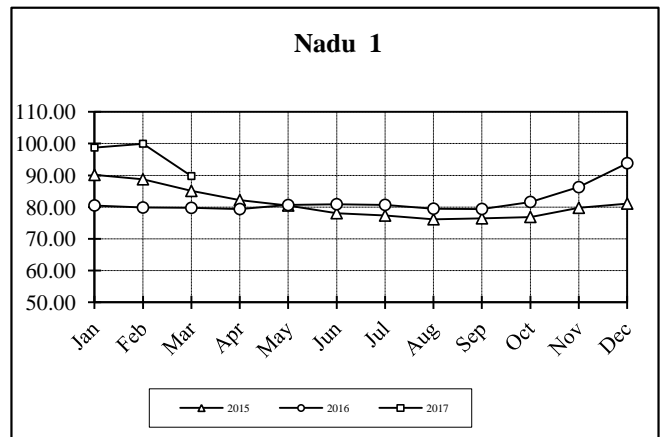
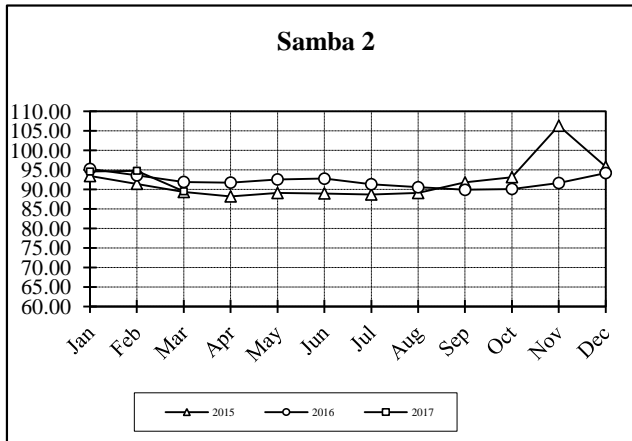
**Table 8: Monthly Rainfall (mm) – March 2017**

<b>Rainfall Station</b>	<b>Total Rainfall (mm)</b>	<b>30 Year Avg. Rainfall (mm)</b>	<b>Total Rainy Days</b>	<b>30 Year Average Rainy Days</b>
Anuradhapura	141.5	68.7	11	5
Badulla	282.9	119.4	16	9
Bandarawela	204.7	98.5	14	7
Batticaloa	131.6	89.0	7	6
Colombo	133.8	128.0	10	9
Galle	82.0	111.3	10	9
Hambantota	88.9	65.4	7	5
Jaffna	119.6	25.7	5	2
Katugastota	294.4	71.9	12	8
Katunayaka	137.4	132.9	9	8
Kurunegala	288.3	139.1	14	8
Mahailuppallama	188.7	84.9	13	6
Mannar	41.6	44.4	9	3
Nuwara Eliya	204.3	71.5	15	8
Pottuvil	95.4	75.7	7	na
Puttalam	60.5	67.7	5	5
Ratmalana	77.8	141.5	8	9
Ratnapura	263.7	212.2	19	14
Trincomalee	234.8	55.5	8	4
Vavuniya	145.6	62.9	9	4
Polonnaruwa	151.9	na	10	na
Moneragala	221.0	na	30	na
Mattala	100.0	na	9	na

*Source: Department of Meteorology*

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

Month	Samba 2			Nadu 1			Raw Red			Raw White		
	2015	2016	2017	2015	2016	2017	2015	2016	2017	2015	2016	2017
Jan	93.38	95.20	94.54	90.13	80.51	98.73	92.21	70.64	92.41	84.76	71.61	95.27
Feb	91.39	93.55	94.74	88.75	79.87	99.95	87.23	69.32	94.37	81.61	70.19	95.56
Mar	89.30	91.87	89.48	85.09	79.76	89.77	82.21	65.58	81.95	76.40	65.80	81.77
Apr	88.17	91.70		82.22	79.38		78.56	65.88		74.51	69.83	
May	89.04	92.51		80.50	80.65		76.85	67.75		73.70	72.67	
Jun	88.93	92.71		78.08	80.90		75.50	65.82		71.45	72.63	
Jul	88.66	91.28		77.33	80.69		72.36	64.74		68.75	71.13	
Aug	89.04	90.51		76.16	79.49		69.99	66.41		67.22	69.85	
Sep	91.75	89.85		76.46	79.40		71.10	67.70		68.49	70.19	
Oct	93.10	90.08		76.89	81.62		69.77	72.86		69.49	74.34	
Nov	106.27	91.60		79.77	86.28		71.96	78.12		71.84	79.14	
Dec	95.76	94.16		81.10	93.83		72.33	83.50		73.15	87.71	





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

**March 2017**

Commodity	1 <sup>st</sup> Week	2 <sup>nd</sup> Week	3 <sup>rd</sup> Week	4 <sup>th</sup> Week	Commodity	1 <sup>st</sup> Week	2 <sup>nd</sup> Week	3 <sup>rd</sup> Week	4 <sup>th</sup> Week	Commodity	1 <sup>st</sup> Week	2 <sup>nd</sup> Week	3 <sup>rd</sup> Week	4 <sup>th</sup> Week
<b><u>Paddy</u></b>					<b><u>Potato</u></b>					<b><u>Leeks</u></b>				
<b><u>Short grain</u></b>					N'Eliya	87.60	87.60	80.80	90.20	Welimada	18.00	14.00	24.00	40.00
A'pura	41.10	40.80	41.25	44.60	Badulla	84.00	72.00	64.00		N'Eliya	9.20	7.60	9.20	36.20
P'naruwa	39.60	41.19		43.05	Welimada	83.00	79.00	79.00	96.00					
Kalawewa	46.67	48.50	50.50	48.67	<b><u>Pulses</u></b>					<b><u>Beetroot</u></b>				
Kurunegala					<b><u>Green Gram</u></b>					Hanguranketha	22.50	19.00	30.00	35.00
Dehiattakandiya	39.83	41.25	43.50	42.67	Galgamuwa					N'Eliya	33.60	33.00	33.60	52.00
Ampara					Kalawewa					Dambulla	39.60	39.60	40.00	49.00
<b><u>Long grain (White)</u></b>					Embilipitiya	182.50	190.00	190.00	220.00	Kurunegala				
A'pura	40.00	40.20	41.25	44.60	Kurunegala					Welimada	40.00	50.00	50.00	50.00
P'naruwa	40.20	40.31		42.25	A'pura					<b><u>Knokhol</u></b>				
Kalawewa	43.50	46.50	47.00	47.67	<b><u>Cowpea</u></b>					Hanguranketha	20.00	25.00		17.50
Kurunegala					A'pura					N'Eliya	36.80	33.20	32.80	39.00
Dehiattakandiya	40.50	41.75	43.50	43.50	Galgamuwa					Welimada	43.00	43.00	43.00	50.00
Embilipitiya					Nikaweratiya					<b><u>Radish</u></b>				
Ampara					Kalawewa					Hanguranketha	8.67	7.00	10.00	20.00
Matara					Embilipitiya	216.25	220.00	220.00	220.00	N'Eliya	14.00	11.00	13.00	26.80
Hambantota					Kurunegala					Welimada	20.00	18.00	18.00	32.00
<b><u>Long grain (Red)</u></b>					<b><u>Maize</u></b>					<b><u>Cabbage</u></b>				
Matara	45.67	45.00	44.00	43.67	A'Pura					Hanguranketha	6.33	9.00	13.00	
Hambantota	40.80	41.60	41.67	43.33	Kalawewa			72.50	77.50	N'Eliya	6.80	6.80	8.40	42.00
Ampara					<b><u>Gingelly</u></b>					Welimada	9.00	11.00	21.00	21.00
Embilipitiya	42.80	42.80	42.60	43.00	A'Pura					Hambantota				
<b><u>Other Food Crops</u></b>					Kalawewa	165.00		160.00	155.00	Badulla	8.00	10.00	14.00	
<b><u>Dried Chillies</u></b>					<b><u>Black Gram</u></b>					<b><u>Tomato</u></b>				
A'Pura					Kalawewa	153.33		163.00	185.00	Hanguranketha	15.00	22.50		
Galgamuwa					A'Pura	142.00	185.00	182.50	180.00	Welimada	31.00	42.00	72.00	93.00
Kalawewa					<b><u>Vegetables (Up Country)</u></b>					Hambantota	35.00	35.00	45.00	115.00
<b><u>Red Onion</u></b>					<b><u>Beans</u></b>					Dambulla	33.60	42.80	78.80	88.40
Puttalam	98.00	96.00	96.00	107.00	Dambulla	79.80	84.80	137.00	129.00	<b><u>Low Country</u></b>				
<b><u>Big Onion</u></b>					Welimada	143.00	81.00	135.00	125.00	<b><u>Ladies Fingers</u></b>				
Dambulla					Badulla	119.00	89.00	119.00		A'pura	76.67	55.00	55.00	53.33
Kalawewa					<b><u>Carrot</u></b>					Dambulla	78.00	60.80	62.20	64.20
A'Pura					Hanguranketha	21.67	15.00	32.50	63.33	Hambantota	85.00	82.50	82.50	87.50
Kurunegala					N'Eliya	27.20	27.00	50.60	69.00	Embilipitiya	111.75	83.75	93.75	93.75
					Welimada	16.00	25.00	65.00	49.00	Matara	70.00	70.00	73.33	78.33

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

<b>Commodity</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Week</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Week</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Week</b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup> Week</b>	<b>Commodity</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Week</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Week</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Week</b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup> Week</b>	<b>Commodity</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Week</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Week</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Week</b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup> Week</b>
<b><u>Brinjals</u></b>					<b><u>Pumpkin</u></b>					<b><u>Lime</u></b>				
A'pura	76.67	18.33	15.00	19.00	Dambulla	42.20	38.20	62.20	51.60	Hambantota	35.00	35.00	37.50	37.50
Dambulla	21.80	7.10	12.40	26.00	Hambantota	55.00	50.00	55.00	57.50	Embilipitiya	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00
Hambantota	25.00	22.50	15.00	27.50	Embilipitiya	60.40	55.40	62.40	76.00	Moneragala	34.50	34.80	26.80	27.20
Embilipitiya	12.00	8.14	17.29	20.14	Matara					<b><u>Fruits (Rs/Kg)</u></b>				
Matara	31.67	31.67	23.33	31.67	A'pura	40.00	45.00	53.33	70.00	<b><u>Banana</u></b>				
Welimada	34.00	18.00	18.00	35.00	Moneragala	43.75	58.75	42.00	51.00	<b><u>Ambul</u></b>				
					<b><u>Cucumber</u></b>					Moneragala	53.00	49.00	51.00	51.00
<b><u>Capsicum</u></b>					A'pura	25.00	73.33	25.00	25.00	Embilipitiya	43.33	51.67	53.33	45.00
Welimada	109.00	143.00	150.00	141.00	Dambulla	24.00	70.20	16.40	10.80	Hambantota	37.50	77.50	67.50	65.00
<b><u>Bitter Gourd</u></b>					Hambantota	45.00	55.00	22.50	11.00	<b><u>Kolikuttu</u></b>				
A'pura	91.67	88.33	90.00	90.00	Matara					Moneragala	135.00	135.00	135.00	138.00
Dambulla	84.20	87.20	106.00	119.00	<b><u>Long beans</u></b>					Embilipitiya	94.00	106.00	122.00	120.83
Hambantota	120.00	140.00	125.00	120.00	Dambulla	28.20	81.80	40.60	48.60	Hambantota	75.00	125.00	135.00	145.00
Embilipitiya	164.00	137.00	137.00	130.00	Hambantota	40.00	45.00	55.00	67.50	<b><u>Papaw</u></b>				
Matara	110.00	96.67	103.33	103.33	Embilipitiya	65.00	95.00	75.00	85.00	Moneragala				
<b><u>Snake Gourd</u></b>					Matara	63.33		56.67	56.67	Embilipitiya	87.50	84.00	86.00	44.40
Dambulla	37.80	43.60	64.20	62.20	A'Pura	25.00	100.00	35.00	36.67	Hambantota	67.50	72.50	77.50	37.50
Hambantota	75.00	70.00	62.50	72.50	<b><u>Ash Plantain</u></b>					<b><u>Pineapple</u></b>				
Embilipitiya	77.50	66.00	69.00	76.00	Hambantota	45.00	42.50	45.00	47.50	Divulapitiya				
Matara			62.50	61.67	Embilipitiya	46.00	54.25	52.40	52.40					
A'pura	45.00	36.67	55.00	55.00	Matara			41.67	41.67					
<b><u>Luffa</u></b>					<b><u>Green Chillies</u></b>									
Dambulla	101.00	129.00	98.00	119.00	Dambulla	160.00	158.00	104.00	115.00					
Hambantota	110.00	97.50	110.00	127.50	Hambantota	190.00	170.00	82.50	100.00					
Embilipitiya	156.25	140.00	135.00	141.75	Embilipitiya	105.00	211.00	108.00	132.00					
Matara					Puttalam	111.00	174.00	104.00	115.00					
A'pura	91.67	126.67	113.33	130.00	A'Pura	193.33	140.00	96.67	186.67					