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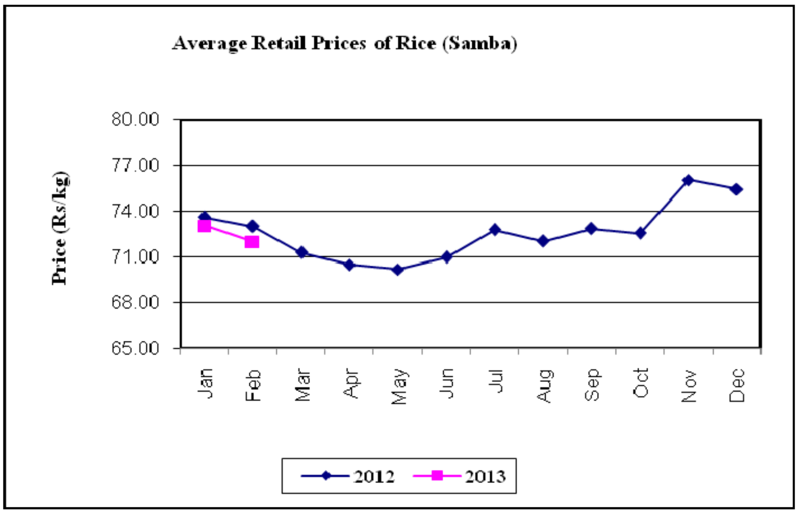
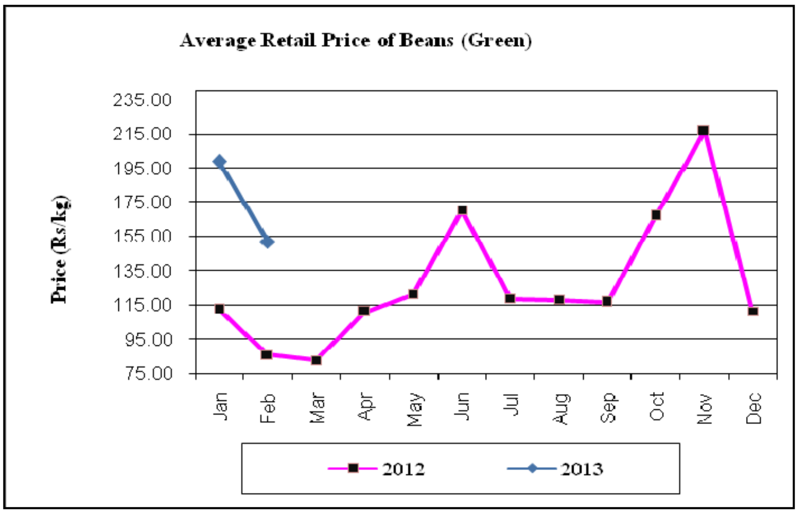
RICE:

New rice stocks were supplied continuously to the market. Hence, prices of all the varieties have declined recording the highest for samba grade I nearly by 5%.

VEGETABLES:

By the end of February 2012/13 *maha* season 83% of the targeted extents have been achieved for both up country and low country vegetables. Compared to the same period of 2011/2012 *maha* season, the cultivated extent of all the vegetables were slightly low by the end of February of this *maha* season. Prices of all the up country vegetables except of tomato have decreased further in February with the highest price decrease recorded for beans (green).





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EXPLANTATORY NOTE

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

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

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1. Paddy

Crop Situation

The pattern of the monsoon rains has been irregular in this season, and the rainfall received during the season in most of the major paddy producing areas was much higher than in mean values. According to the official estimates with around 79,000 Ha under paddy, damaged by flooding during the period of November and December. The districts most affected by the floods include Batticaloa, Anuradhapura, Trincomalee, Mullative, Vavuniya, Mannar, Polonnaruwa and Puttalam. Harvesting of paddy crop in 2012/13 *Maha* season had commenced in all major producing areas during the month. According to the latest crop forecast report of the Department of Agriculture, the sown extent of paddy reported for *Maha,* 2012/2013 season is 774,622 ha, and is 10% higher than the sown extent in the previous Maha season.. The expected Paddy Production after the removal of crop damage and average yield reduction will be in the range of 2.58 to 2.83 million Mt. It is expected that peak harvesting will be in mid of the March. At the beginning of the season government provided seed paddy free of charge to the drought affected (2012 *Yala* season drought) farmers.

Table 1.1: Achievement of Paddy Cultivation 2012/*13 maha* season
(Up to end of Feb - 2013)

District	Targeted Extent (ha)	Achievement (ha)	Achievement as a % of the targeted extent	Revised Production forecast (tones)
Anuradhapura	81,050	92,874	115	306,831
Polonnaruwa	34,739	33,600	97	138,723
Ampara	76,899	76,410	99	332,864
Hambantota	83,497	71,310	85	248,910
Kurunagala	28,651	28,538	100	111,582
Colombo	5,362	4,290	80	12,807
Gampaha	14,335	10,455	73	30,384
Kalutara	16,251	15,113	93	40,366
Galle	16,300	14,167	87	32,108
Matara	17,000	15,865	93	40,439
Ratnapura	15,715	12,303	78	35,371
Kegalle	9,670	5,517	57	19,193
Puttalam	22,899	20,375	89	55,495
Kandy	15,387	12,993	84	38,663
Matale	22,065	20,864	95	67,646
Nuwara Eliya	7,316	5,427	74	12,519
Badulla	25,368	22,613	89	76,615
Moneragala	37,564	35,654	95	136,745
Jaffna	11,778	11,096	94	21,410
Kilinochchi	22,742	22,653	100	17,033
Vavuniya	19,810	18,083	91	57,367
Mullaitivu	14,665	14,312	98	29,972
Mannar	20,815	20,100	97	69,372
Trincomalee	42,623	40,237	94	127,017
Batticaloa	61,000	61,000	100	132,028
Udawalawa	12,129	12,450	103	59,906
System H	22,585	23,728	105	105,678
System H1	6,200	6,529	105	32,500
System B	18,834	15,309	81	62,030
System C	23,591	23,266	99	98,716
System G	5,254	5,319	101	23,346
System L	1,965	2,175	111	9,546
Sri Lanka	**814,058**	**774,622**	**95**	**2,583,183**

Source: Department of Agriculture

Table 1.2: Producer Prices of Paddy – February 2013

Commodity	Price Range (Rs/kg)		Average (Rs/kg)			Change Compared to			
	Feb 2013	Jan 2013	Feb 2013	Jan 2013	Feb 2012	Jan 2013		Feb 2012	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Short Grain									
Anuradhapura	28.00-37.00	36.00-38.00	31.42	36.67	28.75	*-5.25*	*-14.31*	*2.67*	*9.28*
Polonnaruwa	-	-	-	-	27.97	-	-	-	-
Kalawewa	28.00-36.00	36.50-38.50	30.60	37.45	29.78	*-6.85*	*-18.29*	*0.82*	*2.75*
Kurunegala	28.00-38.00	37.50-39.00	34.31	38.54	27.87	*-4.23*	*-10.98*	*6.44*	*23.11*
Dehiattakandiya	32.00-36.00	28.50-38.00	34.17	35.50	27.90	*-1.33*	*-3.75*	*6.27*	*22.47*
Nikaweratiya	29.00-33.00	-	30.35	-	28.15	-	-	*2.20*	*7.82*
Ampara	28.00-32.00	32.00-36.00	29.63	34.00	30.90	*-4.37*	*-12.85*	*-1.27*	*-4.11*
Long Grain White									
Anuradhapura	25.00-34.00	32.00-35.00	28.40	33.25	23.59	*-4.85*	*-14.59*	*4.81*	*20.39*
Polonnaruwa	-	-	-	-	22.90	-	-	-	-
Kalawewa	24.50-30.00	33.00-34.00	26.18	33.60	24.14	*-7.42*	*-22.08*	*2.04*	*8.45*
Kurunegala	25.00-34.00	33.50-35.00	30.39	34.50	24.39	*-4.11*	*-11.92*	*6.00*	*24.60*
Dehiattakandiya	24.00-32.00	26.50-34.50	28.67	31.38	24.43	-	-	*4.24*	*17.36*
Embilipitiya	30.00-32.00	31.50-32.50	31.38	32.12	24.98	*-0.74*	*-2.29*	*6.40*	*25.62*
Nikaweratiya	25.00-27.00	-	25.73	-	24.30	-	-	-	-
Matara	28.00-32.00	30.00-34.00	29.00	31.69	25.33	*-2.69*	*-8.48*	*3.67*	*14.49*
Hambantota	26.00-29.00		28.17		-	-	-	-	-
Ampara	25.00-28.00	26.00-33.00	26.00	30.17	24.90	*-4.17*	*-13.81*	*1.10*	*4.42*
Long Grain Red									
Anuradhapura	-	29.00-30.00	-	29.75	22.88	-	-	-	-
Matara	27.00-29.00	28.00-30.00	27.75	28.92	26.75	*-1.17*	*-4.03*	*1.00*	*3.74*
Hambantota	25.00-28.00	-	26.75	-	28.40	-	-	*-1.65*	*-5.81*
Embilipitiya	28.00-29.00	28.00-30.00	28.30	29.03	28.70	*-0.73*	*-2.50*	*-0.40*	*-1.39*

Source: Marketing Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

Producer Prices

The Paddy Marketing Board started purchasing of paddy under the new increased guarantied prices. Government increased paddy prices by 14 percent to 32.00 Rs/Kg for long grain white (Nadu) and by 17% to Rs 35.00/Kg for short grain (Samba). The special price also introduced a guaranteed price of 40.00 Rs/Kg of paddy grown using organic fertilizers.

At the beginning of the month prices of all the paddy varieties had increased considerably due to the unfavorable weather prevailed in most of the major producing areas. Farmers releasing their limited paddy stocks in small quantities due to uncertainty and competitive buying of paddy by the millers had caused the price increase. However from mid month, prices had shown a decreasing trend due to the commencement of *Maha* harvesting in the producing areas in the Eastern province like Ampara, Akkeripattu, Samanturei, Kalmunei and Batticaloa. Rainy weather obstructed the harvesting activities. It is recorded that high moisture low quality paddy arrived at the markets from those areas. The government paddy purchasing programme commenced in the producing areas in the Eastern province in order to stabilize the paddy market. The prices of old paddy stocks were higher than those of the newly harvested paddy. It is expected that the decreasing trend of paddy prices will continue during March.

Compared to the last month, the prices of short grain and long grain white varieties had decreased in the range of 4%-18% and 3%-22% respectively in most of the producing areas. Meanwhile, the price of long grain red had decreased by 2% and 4% in Embilipitiya and Mathara respectively. The highest price of Rs.38.00/kg was reported for short grain in Kurunegala, while the lowest price of Rs.24.00/kg was reported for long grain white in Dehiattakandiya. Compared to the same period of the last year, the prices of short grain and long grain have increased in the range of 3%-23%, and 4%-25%. Meanwhile the prices of long grain red paddy had decreased by 1% and 6% in Embilipitiya and Hambanthota respectively.

Rice Demand and Supply Situation

Wholesale prices

Supplies of new rice stocks have continuously increased from major rice supplying areas during the month. Hence the prices of all the varieties have decreased in the range of 2%-8%. The highest price decrease was observed for raw white. However, heavy rains during the 3rd week of the month have caused a slowdown in the rice production process as well as contribute to the decrease of the quality of rice. Prices of rice will continue to decrease further as the peak harvesting is to be expected to occur during the next month. The highest price of Rs.72.68/kg was reported for samba grade I, while the lowest price of Rs.50.78/kg was observed for raw red.

Compared to the same period of the last year, except for raw red, prices of all other varieties have increased in the range of 6%-13% recording the highest for nadu grade II.

Retail

The price behaviour of wholesale market was depicted in retail market too. Prices of all the rice varieties have decreased in the range of Rs.1.00-4.00/kg recording the highest for samba grade I. Although new rice stocks were available in the wholesale market, a slow arrival could be observed to the retail markets until the third week of the month as the majority of retail markets had old rice stocks. Prices will further decrease during next month. The highest price of Rs.76.90/kg was noted for samba grade I while the lowest price of Rs.59.44/kg was observed for raw red.

Compared to the same period of the last year, price of samba varieties have declined by less than 3% while the price of nadu and raw varieties have increased in the range of 2%-10%.

Table 1.3: Wholesale and Retail Prices of Rice – February 2013

Item	Average Price			Change Compared to			
	Feb 2013	Jan 2013	Feb 2012	Jan 2013		Feb 2012	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Wholesale Prices							
Samba 1	72.68	74.26	68.69	*-1.58*	*-2.13*	*3.99*	*5.81*
Samba 2	68.89	71.16	64.96	*-2.27*	*-3.19*	*3.93*	*6.05*
Samba 3	65.25	68.00	61.43	*-2.75*	*-4.04*	*3.82*	*6.22*
Nadu 1	60.20	63.72	55.72	*-3.52*	*-5.52*	*4.48*	*8.04*
Nadu 2	56.64	59.67	50.20	*-3.03*	*-5.07*	*6.44*	*12.83*
Raw red	50.78	53.93	51.93	*-3.15*	*-5.85*	*-1.15*	*-2.21*
Raw white	52.82	57.23	47.75	*-4.41*	*-7.70*	*5.07*	*10.62*
Imported Parboiled							
Imported Raw White							
Retail Prices							
Samba 1	76.90	80.68	79.25	*-3.78*	*-4.69*	*-2.35*	*-2.97*
Samba 2	70.28	71.03	70.42	*-0.75*	*-1.06*	*-0.14*	*-0.20*
Samba 3	68.75	69.33	68.80	*-0.58*	*-0.84*	*-0.05*	*-0.07*
Nadu 1	66.29	66.88	60.12	*-0.59*	*-0.88*	*6.17*	*10.26*
Nadu 2	60.00	60.73	58.93	*-0.73*	*-1.20*	*1.07*	*1.82*
Raw red	59.44	60.24	57.61	*-0.80*	*-1.33*	*1.83*	*3.18*
Raw white	59.64	61.18	56.55	*-1.54*	*-2.52*	*3.09*	*5.46*
Imported Raw White							

Source: Marketing Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

2. Other Field Crops

2.1 Chillies

Crop situation

The targeted extent of chillies of *maha* 2012/13 was 14107 ha and out of which 10807 ha has been achieved by the end of February 2013 representing 77% of the target. The highest cultivated extent of 2898 ha was recorded from the Anuradhapura District and it represents 59% of the targeted extent. The production forecast of chillies for the season is 39571 t and out of that 55% will be expected from Anuradhapura (14051 t), Moneragala (4861 t) and Ampara (2758 t) districts. The following table shows the cultivated extent of chillies in main producing areas.

Table 2.1.1: Targeted and progress of chillie cultivation by the end of February 2013 (2012/13 Maha)

Areas	Targeted Extent (ha)	Achievement at the end of February 2013		Expected Production (t)
		Extent (ha)	% of the target	
Anuradhapura	4895	2898	59	14051
Monaragala	1105	945	86	4861
Ampara	1014	1032	102	2758
Matale	825	447	54	1879
Jaffna	705	594	84	1254
Other Areas	5563	4891	88	14768
Total	14107	10807	77	39571

Source: Marketing, Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

Prices and Supply/Demand Situation

Producer prices of green chillies ranged between Rs.166.00-328.00/kg during this month in all the major producing areas and the highest price was recorded in Embilipitiya.

Supply of green chillies from main producing areas has decreased during this month as it was the tail end of the harvesting season. Hence, both wholesale and retail prices of green chillies have increased by about Rs.41.00/kg and Rs.99.00/kg respectively. Average wholesale and retail prices of green chillies were Rs.217.50/kg and Rs.414.19/kg respectively and both prices were higher than the wholesale and retail prices of imported dried chillies.

Compared to the same period of the last year wholesale and retail prices of green chillies have increased by about 361% and 189% respectively.

The market consisted of only imported dried chillies. a quantity of 4061 t of dried chillies was imported during this month and the CIF price was Rs.161.85/kg. Both wholesale and retail prices of imported dried chillies have increased by about Rs.23.00/kg and Rs.16.00/kg. Average wholesale and retail prices of imported dried chillies were Rs.202.55/kg and Rs.244.26/kg and both prices hve increased by 17% and 1% respectively compared the same period of the last year.

Table 2.1.2: Wholesale and Retail Prices of Dried Chillies and Green Chillies February 2013

Items	Average Price			Change Compared to			
	Feb 2013	Jan 2013	Feb 2012	Jan 2013		Feb 2012	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Wholesale Price							
Green chillies	217.50	176.56	47.23	*40.94*	*23.19*	*170.27*	*360.51*
Dried chillies	202.55	179.28	173.09	*23.27*	*12.98*	*29.46*	*17.02*
Retail Price							
Green chillies	414.19	315.56	143.47	*98.63*	*31.26*	*270.72*	*188.69*
Dried chillies	244.26	228.04	240.92	*16.22*	*7.11*	*3.34*	*1.39*

Source: Marketing, Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

Table 2.1.3: Quantity, Value and CIF Prices of Imported Dried Chillies Sep 2012 to Feb 2013

Month	Quantity (t)	Value (Rs.mn.)	CIF Price (Rs/kg)	Retail Price (Rs/kg)	Gross Margin (Rs/kg)
Feb, 2013	4,060.96	657.26	161.85	244.26	82.41
Jan, 2013	-	-	-	228.04	-
Dec, 2012	-	-	-	231.02	-
Nov,2012	523.00	72.82	139.24	230.79	91.55
Oct, 2012	3,355.11	480.85	143.32	225.97	82.65
Sep,2012	2,900.77	420.71	145.03	225.50	80.47

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

Table 2.1.4: Producer Prices of Green Chillies (Rs/kg) – February 2013

Location	1st week	2nd week	3rd week	4th week
Dambulla	265.00	216.00	166.00	211.00
Hambantota	-	-	200.00	200.00
Embilipitiya	328.00	272.00	286.00	-
Puttalam		230.00	225.00	-
Anuradapura	180.00	180.00	180.00	180.00

Source: Marketing, Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

2.2 Big Onion and Red Onion

Crop situation

The cultivated extent of red onion for *maha* 2012/13 season as at the end of February 2013 was 4201 ha in the country and it represents 86] of the target. Compared to the previous *maha* season the cultivated extent of red onion at the end of February has increased by 15] in the country due to the increase of cultivated extend of red onion in Jaffna district. In the Jaffna district cultivated extent of red onion has increased by about 12] compared to the previous *maha* season. The production forecast of red onion for the season is 48866 t and out of which 72] will be expected from Jaffna (45%) and Puttalam (27%). The following table shows the progress of the red onion cultivation in 2012/13 *maha* season.

Table 2.2.1: Targeted and progress of red onion cultivation at the end of February 2013 (2012/13 *Maha*)

Areas	Targeted Extent (ha)	Achievement at the end of February 2013		Expected Production (t)
		Extent (ha)	% of the target	
Jaffna	705	594	84	1254
Puttalam	915	817	89	13318
Trincomalee	705	686	97	7044
Other Areas	1339	697	52	6284
Total	4895	4201	86	48866

Source: Marketing, Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

Prices and supply/ Demand situation

The market supplies of big onion consisted of only imports and 16184t of big onion were imported in February 2013 and it was a decrease of 3750t compared to the previous month. Average CIF price was Rs.50.79/kg and it has increased by Rs.9.77/kg compared to the previous month. Both wholesale and retail prices of imported big onion have increased by about Rs.7.00/kg and Rs.10.00/kg respectively due to limited imports from India and increased imported price. Compared to the same period last year, wholesale and retail prices of imported big onion have increased by about 27% and 39% respectively.

The market supplies of red onion consisted of both imports and local stocks. About 1459t of red onion were imported during the month, which was about 1265t lower than that had been imported during the previous month. Average CIF price of imported red onion was Rs.76.57/kg and it has decreased by Rs.8.12/kg compared to the last month. In addition to the market supply of red onion from Puttalam and Trincomalee areas, another considerable harvest reached the market from Jaffna producing areas during this month.

Wholesale prices of sinnan and vedalan red onions had decreased by about Rs.27.00/kg and Rs.35.00/kg respectively due to high supplies from Jaffna area. Wholesale price of imported red onion had also decreased by about Rs.22.00/kg due to availability of sufficient stock of local red onion and decreased imported prices.

Retail prices of vedalan has increased by Rs.21.00/kg due to availability of good quality red onion with most of the retailers and limited stocks of sinnan red onion were available at some of the retail markets and fetched Rs.110.00/kg. In line with the wholesale price, retail price of imported red onion has decreased by about Rs.23.00/kg. Compared to the same period of the last year, retail prices of sinnan, vedalan and imported red onion have increased by about 35%, 12% and 51% respectively.

Table 2.2.2: Wholesale Prices and Retail Prices of Red Onion and Big Onion (Rs/kg)

Crop	Average Price (Rs/kg)			Change Compared to			
	Feb 2013	Jan 2013	Feb 2012	Jan 2013		Feb 2012	
Wholesale Price	**Rs/kg**	**Rs/kg**	**Rs/kg**	**Rs/kg**	**%**	**Rs/kg**	**%**
Red Onion (Sinnan)	73.16	100.00	49.58	*-26.84*	*-26.84*	*23.58*	*47.56*
Red Onion (Vedalan)	97.50	132.50	78.22	*-35.00*	*-26.42*	*19.28*	*24.65*
Red Onion (Imported)	102.39	124.27	64.95	*-21.88*	*-17.61*	*37.44*	*57.64*
Big Onion (imported)	68.78	61.71	54.16	*7.07*	*11.46*	*14.62*	*26.99*
Big Onion (Local)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Retail Prices							
Red Onion (Sinnan)	110.00	-	81.25	-	-	*28.75*	*35.38*
Red Onion (Vedalan)	145.67	125.00	129.99	*20.67*	*16.54*	*15.68*	*12.06*
Red Onion (Imported)	153.04	176.19	101.39	*-23.15*	*-13.14*	*51.65*	*50.94*
Big Onion (imported)	100.56	90.65	72.28	*9.91*	*10.93*	*28.28*	*39.13*
Big Onion (Local)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Source: Marketing, Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

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

Crop	Month	CIF Price (Rs/kg)	Wholesale Price (Rs/kg)	Retail Price (Rs/kg)	Margin (Rs/kg)	
					WP-CIF	RP-WP
Big onion	Feb, 2013	50.79	68.78	100.56	*17.99*	*31.78*
	Jan, 2013	41.02	61.71	90.65	*20.69*	*28.94*
	Feb, 2012	20.95	52.24	71.33	*31.29*	*19.09*
Red onion	Feb, 2013	76.75	102.39	153.04	*25.64*	*50.65*
	Jan, 2013	84.69	124.27	176.19	*39.58*	*51.92*
	Feb, 2012	33.14	66.48	101.77	*33.34*	*35.29*

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 (t.)		Value (Rs. Mn)		CIF Price (Rs/kg)	
	Feb 2013	Jan 2013	Feb 2013	Jan 2013	Feb 2013	Jan 2013
Red Onion	1,459.08	111.73	542.35	230.68	76.75	84.69
Big Onion	16183.52	19933.95	821.93	817.77	50.79	41.02

Source: Department of Custom

Table 2.2.5: Quantity Imported, CIF Price, Wholesale and Retail Price of Big Onion Sep 2012 to Feb 2013

Month	Quantity Imported (t)	CIF Price (Rs/kg)	Wholesale Price (Rs/kg)	Retail Price (Rs/kg)
Feb, 2013	16183.52	50.79	68.78	100.56
Jan, 2013	19933.95	41.02	61.71	90.65
Dec, 2012	15745.82	40.28	85.33	119.87
Nov,2012	29.01	20.01	72.50	-
Oct, 2012	-	-	-	-
Sep,2012	-	-	-	-

Source: Department of Customs

2.3 Potato

Crop situation

Crop Situation and Progress

The targeted extent was 3,570 ha and about 3,221 ha were cultivated by the end of February of *maha* 2012/13 which was about 90% of the targeted extent. Compared to the same period of *maha* 2011/12, the cultivated extent up to end of February was at a low level during this *maha* season. The expected production is 48,312 mt for this *maha* season. In the Nuwara Eliya district the targeted extent was 1,650 ha and out of that about 1,428 ha were cultivated by the end of February representing 87% of the targeted extent. Compared to the same period of last *maha* season, the cultivated extent up to now of this *maha* season had increased by 23%. During the month, about 433 ha of potato were cultivated in Nuwara Eliya district. About 1,919 ha were targeted for potato cultivation in the Badulla district for *maha* 2012/13 and 1,728 ha were cultivated by the end of February which was about 90% of the targeted extent. Compared to the previous months of *maha* 2012/13, the cultivation was significantly low in February in Badulla district.

Table 2.3.1: Cultivated Extent and Expected Production of Potato (*Maha* 2012/13)

District	Targeted Extent (ha)		Achievement (ha)		Progress (%)	Estimated Production (mt)
	***Maha* 2011/12**	***Maha* 2012/13**	***Maha* 2011/12**	***Maha* 2012/13**	***Maha* 2012/13**	
N'Eliya	1,377	1,650	1,157	1,428	87	24,464
Badulla	2,800	1,919	2,181	1,728	90	23,283
Sri Lanka	**4,204**	**3,570**	**3,363**	**3,221**	**90**	**48,312**

Source: Field Information Network, MFPAD/HARTI
Crop Forecast No.5, Maha 2012/13, Socio-economic & Planning Centre/DOA

Prices and Supply/Demand Situation

A quantity of 12,893 mt of potato was imported during the month of February which was 4,135 mt lower than that was imported during the previous month. Compared to February, 2012 (10,791 mt) imports were at a high level in February, 2013. Average CIF price was Rs.26.35/kg in February.

With respect to local varieties, only few stocks of Welimada potatoes were available in February as it was the end of the major harvesting period. Both wholesale and retail prices of Nuwara Eliya potato had decreased by 11% and 3% respectively due to availability of stocks supplied from Jaffna. The monthly average producer price was Rs.75.80/kg for Nuwara Eliya potato. Meanwhile, the wholesale price of imported potato had increased by 4% due to availability of good quality Indian potato. Retail price of imported potato had decreased by 11% due to availability of high stocks. Imported potatoes arrived from Pakistan and India. Stocks of Pakistan potato fetched low prices. During the month of February, the wholesale prices of Nuwara Eliya and imported potatoes ranged between Rs.70.00-105.00/kg and Rs.42.00-80.00/kg respectively. Compared to the same period of last year, the current retail prices of Nuwara Eliya and imported potato had increased by 18% and 11% respectively.

Table 2.3.2: Quantity, Value and CIF prices of Imported Potatoes
Sep 2012 to Feb 2013

Month	Quantity (t.)	Value (Rs.mn)	CIF price (Rs/kg)	Retail Price (Rs/kg)	Gross Margin (Rs/kg)
Feb, 2013	12,892.79	339.78	26.35	82.97	*56.62*
Jan, 2013	17,026.65	518.66	30.46	93.09	*62.63*
Dec, 2012	13,487.34	531.85	39.43	115.45	*76.02*
Nov,2012	2,091.58	56.13	26.84	102.26	*75.42*
Oct, 2012	78.38	2.54	32.41	79.57	*47.16*
Sep,2012	4,172.33	108.55	26.02	76.03	*50.01*

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

Table: 2.3.3: Producer, Wholesale and Retail prices of Potato – February 2013

Item	Average			Change Compared to			
	Feb 2013	Jan 2013	Feb 2012	Jan 2013		Feb 2012	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Producer Prices (PP)							
Welimada	-	-	66.54	-	-	-	-
Nuwara Eliya	75.80	82.35	67.80	*-6.55*	*-7.95*	*8.00*	*11.80*
Imported – CIF	26.35	30.67	20.97	*-4.32*	*-14.09*	*5.38*	*25.66*
Wholesale Prices (WP)							
Welimada	-	-	67.42	-	-	-	-
Nuwara Eliya	91.82	102.63	80.26	*-10.81*	*-10.53*	*11.56*	*14.40*
Imported	56.67	54.25	49.44	*2.42*	*4.47*	*7.23*	*14.62*
Retail Prices (RP)							
Welimada	-	-	80.00	-	-	-	-
Nuwara Eliya	133.91	137.65	113.14	*-3.74*	*-2.72*	*20.77*	*18.36*
Imported	82.97	93.09	74.50	*-10.12*	*-10.87*	*8.47*	*11.37*
Gross Margin (RP-PP)							
Welimada	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nuwara Eliya	58.11	55.30	45.34	*2.81*	*5.08*	*12.77*	*28.16*
Imported (CIF-RP)	56.62	62.42	53.53	*-5.80*	*-9.29*	*3.09*	*5.77*
Gross Margin (RP -WP)							
Welimada	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nuwara Eliya	42.09	35.03	32.88	*7.07*	*20.17*	*9.21*	*28.01*
Imported	26.30	38.84	25.06	*-12.54*	*-32.29*	*1.24*	*4.95*

Source: Marketing Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

2.4 Green gram and Cowpea

Crop Situation

The targeted extent of green gram was 20,982 ha for *maha* 2012/13 out of which about 8,925 ha were cultivated by the end of February representing 43% of the total targeted extent. Compared to *maha* 2011/12, the cultivated extent was at a slightly higher level during this *maha* season. The expected production is 10,783 mt for this *maha* season. In the Hambantota district, though the target was high extent for this *maha* season, about 2,250 ha of green gram was cultivated by the end of February and compared to the same period of the last *maha* season it had increased by 123 ha. In the Moneragala district, about 1,635 ha were cultivated which was recorded as 87% of the targeted extent.

For cowpea the targeted extent was 13,443 ha for *maha* 2012/13 and about 9,200 ha were cultivated by the end of February representing 68% of the total targeted extent. The expected production is 10,695 mt for this *maha* season. Compared to the same period of the last *maha* season, the cultivated extent was at a high level during this *maha* season. In Ampara and Moneragala districts about 2,887 ha and 1,318 ha were cultivated by the end of February. In the

Ampara district, compared to the same period of last *maha* season, the cultivated extent was higher during this *maha* season.

Table 2.4.1: Cultivated Extent and Expected Production of Green gram and Cowpea (*Maha* 2012/13)

Crop	District	Targeted Extent (ha)		Achievement (ha)		Progress (%)	Estimated Production (mt)
		***Maha* 2011/12**	***Maha* 2012/13**	***Maha* 2011/12**	***Maha* 2012/13**	***Maha* 2012/13**	
Green gram	Hambantota	1,762	12,715	2,127	2,250	18	3,132
	Moneragala	1,804	1,880	1,520	1,635	87	1,847
	Sri Lanka	**9,289**	**20,982**	**8,783**	**8,925**	**43**	**10,783**
Cowpea	Ampara	3,968	3,973	2,371	2,887	73	4,354
	Moneragala	1,784	2,281	1,207	1,318	58	1,554
	Anuradhapura	750	2,130	1,082	842	40	992
	Sri Lanka	**12,643**	**13,443**	**8,813**	**9,200**	**68**	**10,695**

Source: Field Information Network, MFPAD/HARTI
Crop Forecast No. 5, Maha 2012/13, Socio-economic & Planning Centre/DOA

Prices and Supply/Demand Situation

A quantity of 649 mt of green gram was imported in February and it had decreased by about 2,687 mt compared to January. Most of the stocks arrived from Australia and Thailand. Availability of stocks imported from Australia was at a high level compared to the stocks supplied from Thailand. The average CIF price was Rs.130.04/kg. Availability of local stocks of green gram was higher than that of imported stocks due to commencement of harvesting season for local green gram. The wholesale and retail prices of green gram had decreased by 7% and 1% respectively. During the month, the wholesale price of green gram ranged between Rs.210.00-260.00/kg. Compared to the same period of last year, the wholesale and retail prices of green gram had increased by 41% and 43% respectively.

Wholesale and retail prices of cowpea had decreased by 16% and 2% respectively due to availability of both local and imported stocks. In February, wholesale price of cowpea ranged between Rs.200.00-260.00/kg. Compared to the same period of last year, the wholesale price of cowpea had decreased by 3%, while the retail price had increased by 6%.

Table 2.4.2: Quantity, Value and CIF prices of Imported Green gram Sep 2012 to Feb 2013

Month	Quantity (t.)	Value (Rs.mn)	CIF price (Rs/kg)	Retail Price (Rs/kg)	Gross Margin (Rs/kg)
Feb, 2013	648.75	84.36	130.04	276.75	146.71
Jan, 2013	3,336.09	421.54	126.36	280.93	154.57
Dec, 2012	1,013.08	128.01	126.36	277.60	151.24
Nov,2012	313.81	42.05	134.01	271.52	137.51
Oct, 2012	538.28	61.22	113.73	270.40	156.67
Sep,2012	475.00	55.46	116.76	261.25	144.49

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 2013

Item	Average Price			Change Compared to			
	Feb 2013	Jan 2013	Feb 2012	Jan 2013		Feb 2012	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Wholesale Prices							
Green gram	240.33	259.59	170.70	-19.26	-7.42	69.63	40.79
Cowpea	216.76	257.01	223.48	-40.24	-15.66	-6.72	-3.00
Retail Prices							
Green gram	276.75	280.93	193.55	-4.18	-1.49	83.20	42.99
Cowpea	278.19	284.82	262.06	-6.63	-2.33	16.13	6.16

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, 2013	130.04	240.33	276.75	110.29	36.42
	Jan, 2013	126.36	259.59	280.93	133.23	21.34
	Feb, 2012	117.35	170.70	193.55	53.35	22.85
Cowpea	Feb, 2013	-	216.76	278.19	-	61.43
	Jan, 2013	-	257.01	284.82	-	27.81
	Feb, 2012	117.62	223.48	262.06	105.86	38.58

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

2.5 Red dhal

Prices and Supply/Demand Situation

A quantity of 6,006 mt of red dhal was imported in February which was 16,511 mt lower than the quantity imported in January. Most of the stocks were received from Australia and Canada. Compared to February, 2012 (2,806 mt), the imports of red dhal were high in February, 2013. The CIF price was Rs.77.84/kg.

Wholesale price of red dhal had decreased by 2% and the retail price had increased by 1%. The average wholesale price was Rs.127.00/kg in February. Compared to the same period of the last year, the current retail price of red dhal had increased by 8%.

Table 2.5.1: Wholesale and Retail Prices of Red dhal – February 2013

Red Dhal	Average Price			Change Compared to			
	Feb 2013	Jan 2013	Feb 2012	Jan 2013		Feb 2012	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Wholesale Price	126.87	129.31	108.84	-2.44	-1.89	18.03	16.56
Retail Price	149.38	148.16	137.71	1.22	0.82	11.67	8.47

Source: Marketing Food Policy & Agribusiness Division

Table 2.5.2: The CIF, Wholesale and Retail Prices of Red dhal
Sep 2012 to Feb 2013

Month	Quantity (t)	CIF Price Rs/kg	Wholesale price Rs/kg	Retail price Rs/kg	Gross Margin (Rs/kg)	
					CIF-WP	WP-RP
Feb, 2013	6005.81	77.84	126.87	149.38	49.03	22.51
Jan, 2013	22516.90	74.54	129.31	148.16	54.77	18.85
Dec, 2012	3312.86	76.39	122.23	148.20	45.84	25.97
Nov,2012	8942.07	80.32	120.16	146.98	39.84	26.82
Oct, 2012	13852.69	79.98	123.83	150.30	43.85	26.47
Sep,2012	8833.98	81.39	122.26	143.39	40.87	21.13

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

3. Vegetables

By the end of February 2013, the total cultivation extent of vegetables was 53,579 ha which consisted 18,232 ha of up country vegetables (accounted for 34% of the total cultivation extent) and 35, 347 ha of low country vegetables (accounted for 66% of the total cultivation extent). Up country and low country vegetable cultivation targets were 34% and 66% of the total extent at the beginning of the February, thus 83% of the respective targeted extents have been achieved by the end of February 2013. (Crop Forecast *Maha* 2013, DOA).

Table 3.1 : Total cultivation Extents

	Targeted Extent (ha) Vs. Cultivated Extent by the end of February (ha) 2011/12		Targeted Extent (ha) Vs. Cultivated Extent by the end of February (ha) 2012/13		Share, out of total extent (ha) by the end of February 2012/13 (%)		Achieve-ment from the target (%) in 2012/13	Change in cultivation progress in 2012/13 (ha) compared to 2011/12 (%)
	Target (ha)	Achievement (ha)	Target (ha)	Achievement (ha)	Target	Achievement		
Up country	23,665	18,305	21,901	18,232	34%	34%	83%	-0.4%
Low Country	42,590	36,244	42,531	35,347	66%	66%	83%	-2%
Total	**66,255**	**54,549**	**64,432**	**53,579**	**100%**	**100%**	**-**	**-**

Source: Crop Forecast Maha 2012/13- Socio Economic and Planning Center, Department of Agriculture

Mostly cultivated up country vegetable type was beans (4452.77 ha) while the highest cultivation progress was recorded for both beans and raddish. (99% from the cultivation target). Tomato had been the second mostly cultivated vegetable (3382 ha) followed by cabbages as 2325 ha. Compared to the same period of the last year, this year's *Maha* season total up country vegetable cultivation progress was showing a very slight decrease of -0.4 %.

However when observing the cultivation progress of vegetables one by one, the values were higher in 2013 for carrot, cabbage, beetroot, raddish and knolkhol. Because of the relatively higher market prices received for up country vegetables in the last year, potato farmers in the Badulla district have shifted towards vegetables, whereas 460 ha of new land had been cultivated in this year. Considering tomato, a reduction in cultivation extent was observed in both major producing districts, Badulla by 16% and Nuwara Eliya by 4%, due to abnormally low prices received in same period of the last year. However, 180 ha of new land of tomato had been cultivated in Rathnapura district in this year.

Regarding low country vegetables, a 2% reduction in cultivation progress was observed because of crop damages occurred due to flood, at the beginning of the *maha* season. The mostly cultivated vegetable variety was pumpkin (6418 ha) followed by brinjal (5681 ha) and long beans (5131) ha. However the cultivation progress had been -22%, -7% for pumpkin and brinjal respectively. Regarding pumpkin, due to the high rainfall received at the flowering stage of the crop, flowers were washed away and a reduction in cultivation progress was observed in Monaragala (-57%) and Hambantota (-27%) districts.

Box 1: Crop situation in Nuwara Eliya and Badulla Districts related to up country vegetables-2012/2013 *maha* season

Nuwara Eliya and Badulla districts accounted for 50% of the total up country vegetable cultivation extent by the end of February 2013.

Nuwara Eliya;

Out of the total upcountry vegetable cultivation extent, 27% (4876 ha) was done in the Nuwara Eliya district with a cultivation progress of 6% , by the end of February 2013, compared to the same period of the last year. At the beginning of the season, targeted area was 6222 ha, thus cultivated extent was 79% of the target at the end of February 2013. Mostly cultivated vegetables had been beans (1118 ha) followed by carrot (863ha) and cabbage (641ha). In the same period of the last two consecutive years, the cultivation extent of beans was less than 700 ha, as a result of bean yellow mosaic virus prevailed in Nuwara Eliya district. After adopting the crop rotation, more farmers had cultivated beans in this season, hence the reduced seed prices also positively affected for achievement of high cultivation progress (162 %) for beans. At the beginning of the 2012/2013 Maha season, throughout four consecutive months, starting from October to January, Nuwara Eliya district received above average rainfall (Table 3.2), which resulted crop damage at the beginning of the season.

Table 3.2: Rainfall data for Nuwara Eliya district at the beginning of the *maha* season

Month	Total Rainfall (mm)	30 Year Avg. Rainfall (mm)	Total Rainy Days	30 Year Average Rainy Days
October 2012	512.6	226.8	25	18
November 2012	269.2	221.7	17	17
December 2012	365.0	196.0	19	15
January 2013	203.2	97.4	12	8

Source: Department of Meteorology

Hence, farmers had re-cultivated most of the crops in the second week of the January and the harvest is expected to be received to the market from end of the March.

Badulla;

Out of the total upcountry vegetable cultivation extent, 23% (4161 ha) was done in Badulla district with a cultivation progress of 5%, at the end of February 2013, compared to the same period of the last year. At the beginning of the season, targeted area was 4728 ha, thus cultivated extent was 88% of the target at the end of February, 2013. This comparatively high target achievement resulted from two main reasons, first, because of the relatively higher market prices received for up country vegetables in the last year, potato farmers in Badulla district have shifted towards vegetables, whereas the 460 ha of new land had been cultivated in this year. Second reason was favorable weather condition prevailed throughout the Maha season of 2012/2013.The Mostly cultivated vegetables had been beans (1637 ha) followed by cabbage (609 ha) and tomato (580 ha), by the end of February 2013.

Table 3.3 Cultivated extents of Up Country vegetables in Major Producing areas

Crop	District	*Maha* Targeted Extent (ha) Vs. Cultivated Extent by the end of February (ha) 2011/12			*Maha* Targeted Extent (ha) Vs. Cultivated Extent by the end of February (ha) 2012/13			Change in cultivation progress in 2012/13 (ha) compared to 2011/12 (%)
		Target 2011/12	Cultivated Extent 2011/12	Achievement as a % of the target	Target 2012/13	Cultivated Extent 2012/13	Achievement as a % of the target	
Beans	Badulla	1,805	1,541	85	1,992	1,637	82	6
	N'Eliya	1,182	706	60	682	1,119	164	58
	Kandy	638	595	93	650	646	99	9
	Ratnapura	375	392	105	400	329	82	-16
	Matale	863	938	109	260	139	54	-85
	Sri Lanka	**5,220**	**4,788**	**92**	**4,503**	**4,453**	**99**	**-7**
Carrot	N'Eliya	1,162	840	72	1,148	863	75	3
	Badulla	383	303	79	170	384	226	27
	Sri Lanka	**1,796**	**1,358**	**76**	**1,611**	**1,507**	**94**	**11**
Leeks	N'Eliya	939	669	71	892	574	64	-14
	Sri Lanka	**1,130**	**972**	**86**	**1,039**	**780**	**75**	**-20**
Tomato	Badulla	751	606	81	763	580	76	-4
	N'Eliya	647	480	74	684	401	59	-16
	Kandy	512	419	82	521	430	83	3
	Ratnapura	190	0	0	180	90	50	N.A
	Sri Lanka	**4,575**	**3,435**	**75**	**4,292**	**3,382**	**79**	**-2**
Cabbage	N'Eliya	881	617	70	1,012	641	63	4
	Badulla	670	619	92	642	609	95	-2
	Matale	238	51	21	180	89	50	75
	Kandy	536	324	60	451	434	96	34
	Sri Lanka	**3,080**	**2,022**	**66**	**2,914**	**2,325**	**80**	**15**
Beet root	N'Eliya	597	383	64	642	411	64	7
	Badulla	123	89	72	118	108	92	21
	Matale	173	81	47	416	68	16	-17
	Kurunegala	185	120	65	234	73	31	-39
	Puttalam	194	232	120	200	340	170	46
	Sri Lanka	**1,852**	**1,206**	**65**	**1,989**	**1,311**	**66**	**9**
Capsicum	N'Eliya	423	216	51	425	169	40	-22
	Badulla	302	213	71	329	234	71	10
	Puttalam	217	204	94	280	179	64	-12
	Matale	219	90	41	226	57	25	-37
	Kurunegala	158	173	109	222	155	70	-10
	Sri Lanka	**2,721**	**2,113**	**78**	**2,624**	**1,890**	**72**	**-11**
Raddish	N'Eliya	445	494	111	453	480	106	-3
	Matale	90	40	44	87	72	83	80
	Badulla	345	210	61	334	299	90	42
	Kurunegala	155	170	110	215	196	91	15
	Sri Lanka	**2,148**	**1,896**	**88**	**1,999**	**1,978**	**99**	**4**
Knolkhol	N'Eliya	269	209	78	284	222	78	6
	Badulla	77	122	158	279	168	60	38
	Matale	118	52	44	120	70	58	34
	Sri Lanka	**767**	**515**	**67**	**930**	**606**	**65**	**18**

Source: Crop Forecast Maha 2012/13- Socio Economic and Planning Center, Department of Agriculture

Table 3.4 Cultivated extents of Low- Country vegetables in Major Producing areas

Crop	District	*Maha* Targeted Extent (ha) Vs. Cultivated Extent by the end of February (ha) 2011/12			*Maha* Targeted Extent (ha) Vs. Cultivated Extent by the end of February (ha) 2012/13			Change in cultivation progress in 2012/13 (ha) compared to 2011/12 (%)
		Target 2011/12	Cultivated Extent 2011/12	Achievement as a % of the target	Target 2012/13	Cultivated Extent 2012/13	Achievement as a % of the target	
Brinjal	Anuradhapura	2,000	1,011	51	2,780	750	27	-26
	Moneragala	710	649	91%	675	473	70	-27
	Hambanthota	351	409	117	482	353	73	-14
	Badulla	612	372	61	363	489	135	31
	Ratnapura	275	219	80	280	198	71	-10
	Matale	313	167	53	501	210	42	26
	Sri Lanka	**8,350**	**6,107**	**73**	**8,640**	**5,681**	**66**	**-7**
Bitter gourd	Hambanthota	313	308	98	290	250	86	-19
	Anuradhapura	400	354	89	400	371	93	5
	Monaragala	199	146	73	175	180	103	23
	Kurunegala	187	168	90	172	138	80	-18
	Sri Lanka	**3,089**	**2,654**	**86**	**2,925**	**2,462**	**84**	**-7**
Okra	Anuradhapura	650	544	84	650	500	77	-8
	Kurunegala	276	366	133	287	342	119	-7
	Monaragala	438	416	95	434	345	80	-17
	Matale	348	112	32	228	124	54	11
	Ratnapura	260	189	73	290	196	68	4
	Hambanthota	625	363	58	318	318	100	-12
	Sri Lanka	**5,279**	**4,455**	**84**	**5,002**	**4,269**	**85**	**-4**
Pumpkin	Anuradhapura	2,800	2,008	72	3,150	2,657	84	32
	Monaragala	2,734	3,936	144	2,914	1,687	58	-57
	Hambanthota	457	473	104	353	345	98	-27
	Sri Lanka	**8,342**	**8,209**	**98**	**8,333**	**6,418**	**77**	**-22**
Snake gourd	Hambanthota	274	279	102	235	216	92	-23
	Kurunegala	178	168	94	174	150	86	-11
	Matale	179	85	47	236	100	42	17
	Monaragala	147	127	86	154	163	106	28
	Sri Lanka	**2,735**	**2,194**	**80**	**2,658**	**2,279**	**86**	**4**
Cucumber	Hambanthota	292	285	98	312	235	75	-18
	Monaragala	257	225	88	259	248	96	10
	Matale	257	90	35	227	133	58	47
	Anuradhapura	300	381	127	300	245	82	-36
	Sri Lanka	**2,385**	**1,901**	**80**	**2,022**	**1,680**	**83**	**-12**
Long beans	Hambanthota	505	444	88	471	390	83	-12
	Kurunegala	425	609	143	518	581	112	-5
	Monaragala	387	280	72	389	316	81	13
	Matale	207	120	58	303	430	142	259
	Sri Lanka	**4,834**	**4,344**	**90**	**5,286**	**5,131**	**97**	**18**

Source: Crop Forecast Maha 2012/13- Socio Economic and Planning Center, Department of Agriculture

Prices and supply/Demand situation

In line with the annual price behavior, generally, the prices of vegetables start to show a declining trend from February, with the commencement of the major harvesting period.

With regard to the average wholesale prices of the up country vegetables, a considerable price decrease (price decrease of more than 5%) was observed for almost all the types, except for tomato in February, compared to January 2013. The highest price decrease of 38% was observed for beans (green) due to increased stock supply from Badulla and Nuwara Eliya districts was the main reason for the observed price reduction in beans. Further, the average price of beetroot, leeks and carrot had decreased by 29%, 20% and 10% respectively. This price reduction was observed due to the increased supply of Maha Season harvest from major producing areas. Favorable weather conditions in major producing area of up country vegetables had positively affected for the increase in stock supply at the end of February, 2013. With compared to the same period of 2012, a 468 % price increase was recorded for tomato in this year, as a consequence of abnormal price reduction of tomato observed in last year. Compared to the wholesale prices of tomato recorded during the same period of last five years, the lowest average price was recorded in February, 2012 (Rs.17.00/kg), thus a reduction in cultivation extent was observed in both major producing districts such as Badulla and Nuwara Eliya in 2013. Therefore, by the end of February 2013, average wholesale price was recorded as Rs 100.00/kg tomato.

Table 3.5: Wholesale Prices of Vegetables – February 2013

Items	Average Price			Change Compared to			
	Feb 2013	Jan 2013	Feb 2012	Jan 2013		Feb 2012	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Beans (green)	106.25	144.33	49.52	*-38.08*	*-26.38*	*56.73*	*114.56*
Carrot	115.63	129.69	43.95	*-14.06*	*-10.84*	*71.68*	*163.09*
Leeks	67.00	84.30	48.49	*-17.30*	*-20.52*	*18.51*	*38.17*
Beetroot	72.01	101.45	46.04	*-29.44*	*-29.02*	*25.97*	*56.41*
Knolkhol	81.06	87.44	42.71	*-6.38*	*-7.30*	*38.35*	*89.79*
Radish	30.10	36.88	9.65	*-6.78*	*-18.38*	*20.45*	*211.92*
Cabbage	45.94	56.41	17.19	*-10.47*	*-18.56*	*28.75*	*167.25*
Tomato	100.00	62.35	17.59	*37.65*	*60.38*	*82.41*	*468.50*
Ladies Fingers	78.00	85.00	35.38	*-7.00*	*-8.24*	*42.62*	*120.46*
Brinjal	46.88	133.94	12.86	*-87.06*	*-65.00*	*34.02*	*264.54*
Capsicum	159.38	195.31	74.31	*-35.93*	*-18.40*	*85.07*	*114.48*
Pumpkin	25.78	25.63	26.86	*0.15*	*0.59*	*-1.08*	*-4.02*
Cucumber	32.88	45.06	31.58	*-12.18*	*-27.03*	*1.30*	*4.12*
Bitter Gourd	84.69	113.88	57.79	*-29.19*	*-25.63*	*26.90*	*46.55*
Snake Gourd	54.69	77.81	19.50	*-23.12*	*-29.71*	*35.19*	*180.46*
Drumstick	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Luffa	88.75	95.94	45.05	*-7.19*	*-7.49*	*43.70*	*97.00*
Long Beans	53.60	98.11	22.18	*-44.51*	*-45.37*	*31.42*	*141.66*
Ash Plantain	52.19	56.88	33.34	*-4.69*	*-8.25*	*18.85*	*56.54*
Green Chillies	217.50	176.56	47.23	*40.94*	*23.19*	*170.27*	*360.51*
Lime	37.32	53.13	30.88	*-15.81*	*-29.76*	*6.44*	*20.85*

Source: Marketing, Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

Because of the end of the high rain fall in major producing areas such as Anuradhapura, Moneragala Embilipitiya and Tissamaharama, supply of low country vegetables had shown a continuous progress in February. With regard to low country vegetables, the prices of all the vegetables except Pumpkin had decreased in February. The highest price decrease of 60% at wholesale level was recorded for brinjal as a result of the arrival of increased stocks from Anuradhapura, Monaragala, and Dambulla. Further, the wholesale price of snake gourd, cucumber and bitter gourd had decreased by 30%, 27% and 26% due to the increased stock supply from Monaragala. Hambantota, Matale and Kurunegala. Meanwhile, the price of Pumpkin was stabilized at Rs 27.00/kg during the two month period of January to February 2013, due to the continuous *Maha* season harvest form Anuradhapura and Hambantota. Considering the prices of green chilies, an increase of 23% was observed mainly due to reduction in harvest because of wet weather condition prevailed in major producing areas.

In line with the price behavior of the wholesale market, the retail prices of almost all the types of vegetables had decreased, except those of tomato and pumpkin, in February compared to the January 2013. With regard to upcountry vegetables, the highest price increase of 24% was recorded for tomato. Further, the retail prices of beetroot, beans and leeks had decreased in the range of 30%-15%. Among the low country vegetables, the highest price decrease of 50% was observed for brinjal, followed by long beans (30%). Compared to the same period of the last year, the current retail prices of all the vegetables had increased with the highest price increase of 192% for tomato.

Table 3.6: Retail Prices of Vegetables – February 2013

Item	Average Price			Change Compared to			
	Feb 2013	Jan 2013	Feb 2012	Jan 2013		Feb 2012	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Beans (green)	152.02	198.88	84.29	*-46.86*	*-23.56*	*67.73*	*80.35*
Carrot	172.14	190.75	87.02	*-18.61*	*-9.76*	*85.12*	*97.82*
Leeks	129.95	153.30	88.19	*-23.35*	*-15.23*	*41.76*	*47.35*
Beetroot	123.69	178.28	89.09	*-54.59*	*-30.62*	*34.60*	*38.84*
Knolkhol	140.61	162.17	106.21	*-21.56*	*-13.29*	*34.40*	*32.39*
Radish	85.46	99.07	55.19	*-13.61*	*-13.74*	*30.27*	*54.85*
Cabbage	106.35	122.08	66.34	*-15.73*	*-12.88*	*40.01*	*60.31*
Tomato	160.56	127.01	54.98	*33.55*	*26.42*	*105.58*	*192.03*
Ladies Fingers	148.85	160.04	79.01	*-11.19*	*-6.99*	*69.84*	*88.39*
Brinjal	97.60	195.53	57.04	*-97.93*	*-50.08*	*40.56*	*71.11*
Capsicum	244.48	289.47	131.13	*-44.99*	*-15.54*	*113.35*	*86.44*
Pumpkin	74.74	74.35	67.36	*0.39*	*0.52*	*7.38*	*10.96*
Cucumber	80.71	97.90	70.31	*-17.19*	*-17.56*	*10.40*	*14.79*
Bitter Gourd	150.56	169.66	103.20	*-19.10*	*-11.26*	*47.36*	*45.89*
Snake Gourd	110.34	124.66	65.46	*-14.32*	*-11.49*	*44.88*	*68.56*
Drumstick	-	-	522.50	-	-	-	-
Luffa	146.33	154.94	96.80	*-8.61*	*-5.56*	*49.53*	*51.17*
Long Beans	106.02	150.81	68.08	*-44.79*	*-29.70*	*37.94*	*55.73*
Ash Plantain	117.36	127.31	77.60	*-9.95*	*-7.82*	*39.76*	*51.24*
Green Chillies	414.19	315.56	143.47	*98.63*	*31.26*	*270.72*	*188.69*
Lime	133.49	190.89	114.47	*-57.40*	*-30.07*	*19.02*	*16.62*

Source: Marketing, Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HART

4. Fruits

Prices and Supply/Demand Situation

Demand for some of the fruits had decreased compared to the previous month. Hence the wholesale prices of most of the fruits had decreased with the highest price decrease of 22% for banana (ambul). Further the prices of all the varieties of banana had decreased in the range of 4%-22% due to low demand compared to the previous month. Supplies of pineapple were recorded from Gampaha, Giriulla and Kuliyapitiya areas as usual and wholesale prices of all the sizes of pineapple had decreased in the range of 3%-6%. Meanwhile limited supplies of mango, wood apple, papaw and slime apple were recorded during the month due to off season and wholesale prices had increased with the highest price increase of 233% for betti (mango). Price increase for these fruits could be expected during the next month too. Compared to the same period of last year current wholesale prices of most of the fruit had increased with the highest price increase of 82% for mango (betti).

According to the table 4.2, retail prices of all the varieties of banana had decreased in the range of 1%-6% compared to the previous month due to low demand. Further the retail prices of all the size of pineapple had decreased in the range of 1%-9%. Meanwhile the retail prices of all the other fruits had increased with the highest price increase of 157% for mango (karthakolomban). Retail price of papaw had increased by 47% compared to the previous month and further price increase could be expected during the next month too. Compared to the same period of the last year, current retail prices of most of the fruits had increased with highest price increase of 31% for passion fruits.

Producer prices of banana and pineapple had decreased with the highest price decrease of 19% for ambul (banana). Meanwhile the producer price of papaw had increased by 59% due to decreased supplies compared to the previous month. Compared to the same period of last year, current producer price of banana and papaw had increased with the highest price increase of 8% for kolikuttu (banana) while the producer price of pineapple had decreased by 12%.

Exports/Imports of Fruits

Papaw was the widely exported type of fruit in February and quantity of 79 mt was exported during the month. The total export earnings of pineapple, papaw, mango and oranges were Rs.11.74 mn in February, 2013.

Apple was the widely imported type of fruit and a quantity of 1459 mt was imported during the month. The total import expenditure of apple, grapes, oranges and mandarin was Rs.364.31 mn in February.

Table 4.1: Wholesale Prices of Fruits – February 2013

Items	Average Price			Change Compared to			
	Feb 2013	Jan 2013	Feb 2012	Jan 2013		Feb 2012	
	Rs./Fruit	Rs./Fruit	Rs./Fruit	Rs./Fruit	%	Rs./Fruit	%
Plantain							
Ambul (Rs/kg)	43.89	56.06	34.68	*-12.17*	*-21.71*	*9.21*	*26.56*
Kolikuttu (Rs/kg)	84.64	105.54	71.66	*-20.90*	*-19.80*	*12.98*	*18.11*
Seeni (Rs/kg)	43.48	47.20	36.25	*-3.72*	*-7.88*	*7.23*	*19.94*
Anamalu	7.17	8.00	6.25	*-0.83*	*-10.38*	*0.92*	*14.72*
Ambun	10.83	11.24	8.45	*-0.41*	*-3.65*	*2.38*	*28.17*
Pineapple							
Large	95.96	101.98	108.87	*-6.02*	*-5.90*	*-12.91*	*-11.86*
Medium	77.21	79.44	85.80	*-2.23*	*-2.81*	*-8.59*	*-10.01*
Small	53.78	57.38	64.67	*-3.60*	*-6.27*	*-10.89*	*-16.84*
Mango							
Betti	35.00	10.50	19.21	*24.50*	*233.33*	*15.79*	*82.20*
Karthakolomban	93.33	36.08	73.60	*57.25*	*158.68*	*19.73*	*26.81*
Vilad	-	11.00	27.50	-	-	-	-
Kohu	19.58	-	12.26	-	-	*7.32*	*59.71*
Papaw (Rs/kg)	101.44	66.16	73.94	*35.28*	*53.33*	*27.50*	*37.19*
Passion Fruit	17.41	7.43	9.59	*9.98*	*134.32*	*7.82*	*81.54*
Wood Apple	26.51	12.58	17.65	*13.93*	*110.73*	*8.86*	*50.20*
Orange	23.19	24.07	15.67	*-0.88*	*-3.66*	*7.52*	*47.99*
Avocado	35.90	37.76	49.30	*-1.86*	*-4.93*	*-13.40*	*-27.18*
Slime Apple	26.68	22.22	16.02	*4.46*	*20.07*	*10.66*	*66.54*
Grapes Imported (Rs/kg)	518.14	545.85	449.47	*-27.71*	*-5.08*	*68.67*	*15.28*

Source: Marketing, Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

Table 4.2: Retail Prices of Fruits – February 2013

Items	Average Price			Change Compared to			
	Feb 2013	Jan 2013	Feb 2012	Jan 2013		Feb 2012	
	Rs./Fruit	Rs./Fruit	Rs./Fruit	Rs./Fruit	%	Rs./Fruit	%
Plantain							
Ambul (Rs/kg)	74.52	79.49	67.25	*-4.97*	*-6.25*	*7.27*	*10.81*
Kolikuttu (Rs/kg)	140.50	145.90	129.90	*-5.40*	*-3.70*	*10.60*	*8.16*
Seeni (Rs/kg)	73.41	74.40	66.93	*-0.99*	*-1.33*	*6.48*	*9.68*
Anamalu	12.72	13.15	11.63	*-0.43*	*-3.27*	*1.09*	*9.37*
Ambun	14.15	15.04	12.85	*-0.89*	*-5.92*	*1.30*	*10.12*
Pineapple							
Large	130.22	143.84	153.20	*-13.62*	*-9.47*	*-22.98*	*-15.00*
Medium	101.49	105.90	125.91	*-4.41*	*-4.16*	*-24.42*	*-19.39*
Small	75.63	76.13	103.32	*-0.50*	*-0.66*	*-27.69*	*-26.80*
Mango							
Betti	-	-	37.50	-	-	-	-
Karthakolomban	155.02	60.50	134.20	*94.52*	*156.23*	*20.82*	*15.51*
Vilad	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Kohu	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Papaw (Rs/kg)	131.82	89.86	113.33	*41.96*	*46.69*	*18.49*	*16.32*
Passion Fruit	22.80	13.15	17.41	*9.65*	*73.38*	*5.39*	*30.96*
Wood Apple	41.66	34.25	39.05	*7.41*	*21.64*	*2.61*	*6.68*
Orange	42.13	40.32	38.73	*1.81*	*4.49*	*3.40*	*8.78*
Avocado	75.07	68.07	85.97	*7.00*	*10.28*	*-10.90*	*-12.68*
Slime Apple	46.08	42.53	42.80	*3.55*	*8.35*	*3.28*	*7.66*
Grapes Imported (Rs/kg)	735.73	725.75	682.21	*9.98*	*1.38*	*53.52*	*7.85*

Source: Marketing, Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

Table 4.3: Producer Prices of Selected Fruits- February 2013

Item	Average Price			Change Compared to			
	Feb 2013	Jan 2013	Feb 2012	Jan 2013		Feb 2012	
	Rs./kg	Rs./kg	Rs./kg	Rs./kg	%	Rs./kg	%
Ambul	27.05	33.35	25.39	-6.30	-18.89	1.66	6.54
Kolikuttu	57.50	61.00	53.00	-3.50	-5.74	4.50	8.49
Papaw	53.55	33.65	50.64	19.90	59.14	2.91	5.75
Pineapple	46.00	47.63	52.81	-1.63	-3.41	-6.81	-12.90

Source: Marketing Food Policy Agribusiness Division, HARTI

Table 4.4: Quantity, Value and FOB Prices of Exported Fruits Dec 2012 to Feb 2013

Type of Fruit	February 2013			January 2013			December 2012		
	Qty (t)	Value (Rs.mn)	FOB (Rs/kg)	Qty (t)	Value (Rs.mn)	FOB (Rs/kg)	Qty (t)	Value (Rs.mn)	FOB (Rs/kg)
Fresh Pineapple	42.51	5.38	126.47	-	-	-	58.95	11.62	197.09
Papaw	78.63	6.04	76.82	-	-	-	132.94	9.77	73.50
Fresh Mango	1.56	0.25	159.24	-	-	-	13.29	9.27	697.13
Fresh Oranges	0.82	0.07	85.21	-	-	-	-	-	-

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

Table 4.5: Quantity, Value and CIF Prices of Imported Fruits
Dec 2012 to Feb 2013

Types of Fruit	February 2013			January 2013			December 2012		
	Qty (t)	Value (Rs.mn)	CIF (Rs/kg)	Qty (t)	Value (Rs.mn)	CIF (Rs/kg)	Qty (t)	Value (Rs.mn)	CIF (Rs/kg)
Apple	1,458.63	160.96	110.35	6,100.26	748.86	122.76	2,466.51	215.86	87.51
Grapes	495.20	122.20	246.76	1,044.66	265.94	254.57	413.68	138.73	335.35
Oranges	200.80	15.85	78.92	1,504.78	133.15	88.48	177.95	17.69	99.39
Mandarin	2,020.79	65.30	32.31	8,053.91	283.97	35.26	1,962.93	75.19	38.31

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

5. Fish, Dried Fish, Eggs and Meat

Fish

Prices and Supply/Demand Situation

Wholesale prices of all the fresh fish varieties had decreased. Supply of stocks had been improved and it had contributed to these price decreases. However, there were limited stocks of salaya and hurulla specially during the second and third weeks of the month. The highest price decrease of 16% was reported for thora and the monthly average wholesale price of thora was Rs.907.06/kg. The second highest price decrease was reported for thalapath and it was a 15% decrease. The monthly average wholesale price of thalapath was Rs.488.00/kg. Price of salaya had decreased by 12% while, prices of paraw and kelawalla had decreased by 9%. Prices of balaya and mora had decreased by 6% and 2% respectively. Even though the prices of hurulla and shrimps had decreased, the level of decrease was not significant. During the month of February, monthly average wholesale prices of fresh fish varieties ranged between Rs. 131.00 – 907.06/kg. Compared to the same period of last year, wholesale prices of all the fresh fish varieties except kelawalla, paraw and thalapath had increased with the highest price increase of 58% for salaya.

Even though the monthly average wholesale prices of all the fresh fish varieties had decreased, retail prices had decreased only for salaya, kelawalla, thora, paraw, shrimps and thalapath. The highest price decrease of 13% was reported for salaya. The second highest price decrease was noted for thora and thalapath (11%). Price of shrimps had decreased by 5% while, prices of paraw and kelawalla had decreased by 3%. Meanwhile, prices of balaya, hurulla and mora had increased with the highest price increase of 15% for balaya. Prices of hurulla and mora had increased by 6% and 3% respectively. During the month February, monthly average retail prices of fresh fish varieties ranged between Rs. 206.43 – 1,223.28/kg. Compared to the same period of the last year, retail prices of all the fresh fish varieties had increased with the highest price increase of 43% for salaya.

Table 5.1: Wholesale and Retail Prices of Fish – February 2013

Items	Average			Change Compared to			
	Feb 2013	Jan 2013	Feb 2012	Jan 2013		Feb 2012	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Wholesale Prices							
Salaya	131.00	148.50	83.11	*-17.50*	*-11.78*	*47.89*	*57.62*
Hurulla	242.25	243.08	224.75	*-0.83*	*-0.34*	*17.50*	*7.79*
Balaya	263.25	279.00	202.00	*-15.75*	*-5.65*	*61.25*	*30.32*
Kelawalla	362.50	398.25	365.63	*-35.75*	*-8.98*	*-3.13*	*-0.86*
Thora	907.06	1076.25	794.00	*-169.19*	*-15.72*	*113.06*	*14.24*
Paraw	413.25	456.50	423.00	*-43.25*	*-9.47*	*-9.75*	*-2.30*
Mora	367.25	374.08	330.82	*-6.83*	*-1.83*	*36.43*	*11.01*
Shrimps (small)	662.00	663.75	595.33	*-1.75*	*-0.26*	*66.67*	*11.20*
Thalapath	488.00	574.75	511.20	*-86.75*	*-15.09*	*-23.20*	*-4.54*
Retail Prices							
Salaya	206.43	236.09	144.32	*-29.66*	*-12.56*	*62.11*	*43.04*
Hurulla	348.04	329.54	316.45	*18.50*	*5.61*	*31.59*	*9.98*
Balaya	569.25	494.98	441.80	*74.27*	*15.00*	*127.45*	*28.85*
Kelawalla	711.41	733.78	646.16	*-22.37*	*-3.05*	*65.25*	*10.10*
Thora	1223.28	1380.60	1034.18	*-157.32*	*-11.40*	*189.10*	*18.29*
Paraw	729.28	748.50	703.60	*-19.22*	*-2.57*	*25.68*	*3.65*
Mora	626.70	609.76	540.25	*16.94*	*2.78*	*86.45*	*16.00*
Shrimps (small)	857.00	902.90	721.59	*-45.90*	*-5.08*	*135.41*	*18.77*
Thalapath	770.26	868.99	740.28	*-98.73*	*-11.36*	*29.98*	*4.05*

Source: Marketing, Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

Prices and Supply/Demand Situation

Dried Fish

Supplies of most of the varieties both local and imported have decreased due to bad weather conditions in the off season. Hence the prices of all the varieties except imported thora have increased with the highest price increased of imported sprats by 28% followed by local sprats (18%). Imported stocks of sprats have been significantly low compared to the last month with low supply especially from Thailand. The price of imported thora had decreased by 4% with low demand with higher prices. The imported stocks of maduwa, koduwa, balaya, and local thora, kattawa, anguluwa and sprats were not available in the market in the privies month. With regard to the local varieties, prices were high further compared to the imported varieties with high quality. Compared to the same period of the last year the current prices of all the varieties have increased except imported kattawa with the highest price increase observed for imported sprats (134%).

The retail prices of all varieties except mora and koduwa had increased in the ranged between 1%-29% with the highest price decrease noted for sprats (29%) due to insufficient stocks for market demand. However, the market demand of most of the varieties have further low with high prices. Prices of mora and koduwa have decreased by less than 3%, with availability of previous stocks. Compared the same period of last year the current prices of all the varieties had increased by ranged of 12% to 118% with the highest price increase noted for sprats by 118%.

Table 5.2: Wholesale and Retail Prices of Dried Fish– February 2013

Items	Average			Change Compared to			
	Feb 2013	Jan 2013	Feb 2012	Jan 2013		Feb 2012	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Dried fish – Wholesale							
Sprats	638.89	-	458.72	-	-	*180.17*	*39.28*
Sprats (imported)	636.82	496.67	269.13	*140.15*	*28.22*	*367.69*	*136.63*
Kattawa	693.33	-	680.38	-	-	*12.96*	*1.90*
Kattawa (imported)	637.73	606.16	642.88	*31.57*	*5.21*	*-5.15*	*-0.80*
Thora	950.00	-	-	-	-	-	-
Thora (imported)	892.72	934.16	762.67	*-41.44*	*-4.44*	*130.06*	*17.05*
Mora	714.44	673.33	580.79	*41.11*	*6.11*	*133.65*	*23.01*
Mora (imported)	619.77	598.94	528.78	*20.83*	*3.48*	*90.99*	*17.21*
Balaya	415.51	412.42	395.00	*3.09*	*0.75*	*20.51*	*5.19*
Balaya (imported)	-	386.14	-	-	-	-	-
Anguluwa	-	-	500.00	-	-	-	-
Anguluwa (imported)	550.84	487.65	476.25	*63.19*	*12.96*	*74.59*	*15.66*
Maduwa	426.11	400.00	370.88	*26.11*	*6.53*	*55.24*	*14.89*
Maduwa (imported)	-	329.44	283.76	-	-	-	-
Koduwa	498.33	442.22	-	*56.11*	*12.69*	-	-
Koduwa(imported)	-	456.67	-	-	-		-
Salaya	331.27	280.00	199.25	*51.27*	*18.31*	*132.02*	*66.26*
Salaya (imported)	-	270.56	204.18	-	-	-	-
Dried fish – Retail							
Sprats	805.51	624.05	369.44	*181.46*	*29.08*	*436.07*	*118.04*
Kattawa	978.68	963.45	867.80	*15.23*	*1.58*	*110.88*	*12.78*
Thora	1224.57	1207.71	973.98	*16.86*	*1.40*	*250.59*	*25.73*
Mora	841.27	864.14	723.53	*-22.87*	*-2.65*	*117.74*	*16.27*
Balaya	734.09	688.21	638.48	*45.88*	*6.67*	*95.61*	*14.97*
Anguluwa	758.25	736.81	678.47	*21.44*	*2.91*	*79.78*	*11.76*
Maduwa	581.19	475.73	-	*105.46*	*22.17*	-	-
Koduwa	797.04	807.86	-	*-10.82*	*-1.34*	-	-
Salaya	566.05	522.41	372.00	*43.64*	*8.35*	*194.05*	*52.16*

Source: Marketing, Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

Eggs

Wholesale prices of both brown and white eggs had increased by 38% and 42% respectively. Limited supply of stocks was noted during the first week of the month. However, the supply of stocks from areas such as Kuliyapitiya had improved during the latter part of the month and it is expected that the supply would be further improved during the next month. Therefore, prices would decrease in the next month. The monthly average wholesale prices of brown and white eggs were Rs. 15.25/egg and Rs. 14.56/egg respectively. Compared to the same period of the last year, wholesale prices of both brown and white eggs had increased significantly by 91% and 87% respectively.

In line with the increased wholesale prices, retail prices of both brown and white eggs had increased by 24% and 23% respectively. The monthly average retail price of a brown egg was Rs. 16.30 and it was Rs. 15.39 for a white egg. Compared to the same period of last year, retail prices of both brown and white eggs had increased by 68% and 67% respectively.

Meat

Prices of all varieties have increased in the range of 1% - 13% due to low supply with the higher price increased of curry chicken. Compared to the same period of the last year, retail prices all varieties except pork have increased with the highest price increased of 14% for curry chicken. However price of pork have decreased by 14%.

Table 5.3: Wholesale and Retail Prices of Eggs – February 2013

Items	Average			Change Compared to			
	Feb 2013	Jan 2013	Feb 2012	Jan 2013		Feb 2012	
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	%	Rs.	%
Eggs – Wholesale							
Eggs – Brown (each)	15.25	11.02	8.00	*4.23*	*38.38*	*7.25*	*90.63*
White (each)	14.56	10.26	7.80	*4.30*	*41.91*	*6.76*	*86.67*
Eggs – Retail							
Eggs- Brown (each)	16.30	13.14	9.68	*3.16*	*24.05*	*6.62*	*68.39*
White (each)	15.39	12.51	9.19	*2.88*	*23.02*	*6.20*	*67.46*

Source: Marketing, Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

Table 5.4: Retail Prices of Meat – February 2013

Items	Average			Change Compared to			
	Feb 2013	Jan 2013	Feb 2012	Jan 2013		Feb 2012	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Meat							
Beef (without bones)	519.29	509.29	466.82	*10.00*	*1.96*	*52.47*	*11.24*
Chicken (Broiler)	468.96	452.32	432.29	*16.64*	*3.68*	*36.67*	*8.48*
Chicken (curry)	439.14	389.97	386.65	*49.17*	*12.61*	*52.49*	*13.58*
Mutton	1159.58	1152.50	987.94	*7.08*	*0.61*	*171.64*	*17.37*
Pork	394.19	386.00	461.50	*8.19*	*2.12*	*-67.31*	*-14.59*

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

6. Wheat grain, Wheat flour and Sugar

Wheat grain, Wheat flour

The imports of wheat flour were very high in the last month. Hence the imported quantity has considerably come done and only 79 mt was imported. Total value of the imported quantity was rs.mn 4.79 and the average CIF price was Rs.60.38/kg recording a decline of Rs.1.03/kg against the previous month. Though the CIF price has decreased, the retail price of wheat flour had increased by cents 72./kg.

Compared with the last month and it was Rs.99.06/kg in February. When compared to the same period of the last year, the retail price of wheat flour has increased by 17%.

Table 6.1: Open Market Retail Prices of Wheat Flour and Sugar – February 2013

Items	Average			Change Compared to			
	Feb 2013	Jan 2013	Feb 2012	Jan 2013		Feb 2012	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Wheat Flour	99.06	98.34	84.75	*0.72*	*0.73*	*14.31*	*16.88*
Sugar	100.97	102.06	*93.16*	*-1.09*	*-1.07*	*7.81*	*8.38*

Source: Department of Census and Statistics

Table 6.2: Quantity, Value and CIF prices of Wheat Flour & Grain Sep 2012 to Feb 2013

Month	Quantity (t.)	Value (Rs.mn)	CIF price (Rs/kg)	Retail Price (Rs/kg)	Gross Margin (Rs/kg)
Wheat Flour					
Feb, 2013	79.39	4.79	60.38	99.06	*38.68*
Jan, 2013	1,309.71	80.44	61.42	98.34	*36.92*
Dec, 2012	153.29	8.59	56.05	98.46	*42.41*
Nov,2012	310.75	18.21	58.61	97.92	*39.31*
Oct, 2012	60.72	2.99	49.24	93.01	*43.77*
Sep,2012	61.34	3.28	53.47	93.24	*39.77*
Wheat Grain					
Feb, 2013	27,082.52	1,127.19	41.62	99.06	*57.44*
Jan, 2013	-	-	-	98.34	-
Dec, 2012	-	-	-	98.46	-
Nov,2012	28,743.34	1,258.51	43.78	97.92	*54.14*
Oct, 2012	67,725.79	2,847.35	42.04	93.01	*50.97*
Sep,2012	54,711.18	2,309.12	42.21	93.24	*51.03*

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

Sugar

The report of the Department of customs revealed that the imports were very high in the previous month and it was nearly equal to the monthly average imports in this month. Total quantity of 35245 mt of sugar was imported and the value of the stock was nearly Rs. Mn. 2434. The highest CIF price of sugar in year 2012 was recorded in September as Rs.84.13/kg and after that it has decreased gradually. The average CIF price of sugar was Rs.69.05/kg in February and it was a further decrease of Rs.3.05/kg against the previous month, In line with that, the retail price also decreased by Rs.1.09/kg in local market. Mean while the price of sugar has increased by more than 8% when compared to the same period of the last year.

Table 6.3: Quantity, Value and CIF prices of Sugar- Sep 2012 to Feb 2013

Month	Quantity (t.)	Value (Rs.mn)	CIF price (Rs/kg)	Retail Price (Rs/kg)	Gross Margin (Rs/kg)
Feb, 2013	35,245.42	2,433.59	69.05	100.97	*31.92*
Jan, 2013	177,504.14	12,798.19	72.10	102.06	*29.96*
Dec, 2012	7,538.00	597.56	79.27	105.03	*25.76*
Nov,2012	5,051.00	407.30	80.64	107.57	*26.93*
Oct, 2012	40,422.50	3,242.46	80.21	108.63	*28.42*
Sep,2012	36,514.00	3,071.89	84.13	106.68	*22.55*

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

Table 7: Imports of Selected Food Items - February 2013

Items	Quantity (t)		% Change Compared to last month	Value (Rs. mn)		% Change Compared to last month	CIF (Rs/kg)		% Change Compared to last month
	Feb 2013	Jan 2013		Feb 2013	Jan 2013		Feb 2013	Jan 2013	
Rice	3287.64	5988.11	-45.10	314.64	562.95	-44.11	95.70	94.01	1.80
Red Onion	1459.08	2723.94	-46.43	111.73	230.68	-51.56	76.75	84.69	-9.38
Big Onion	16183.52	19933.95	-18.81	821.93	817.77	0.51	50.79	41.02	23.82
Potato	12892.786	17026.65	-24.28	339.78	518.66	-34.49	26.35	30.46	-13.48
Dried Chillies	4060.96	-	-	657.26	-	-	161.85	-	-
Masoor Dhal	6005.81	22516.90	-73.33	467.51	1678.42	-72.15	77.84	74.54	4.43
Green Gram	648.75	3336.09	-80.55	84.36	421.54	-79.99	130.04	126.36	2.91
Black gram	208.72	855.77	-75.61	23.04	89.01	-74.12	110.36	104.01	6.11
Garlic	1754.40	10805.90	-83.76	249.20	1293.62	-80.74	142.04	119.71	18.65
Wheat flour	79.39	1309.71	-93.94	4.79	80.44	-94.05	60.38	61.42	-1.69
Wheat grain	27082.52	-	-	1127.19	-	-	41.62	-	-
White crystalline cane sugar	35245.42	177505.14	-80.14	2433.59	12798.19	-80.98	69.05	72.10	-4.23
Maize (Seed)	-	480.00	-	-	36.97	-	-	77.03	-
Maize (Other)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Source: Automated data Processing Division, Department of Customs

Table 8: Monthly Rainfall (mm) – February 2013

Rainfall Station	Total Rainfall (mm)	30 Year Avg. Rainfall (mm)	Total Rainy Days	30 Year Average Rainy Days
Anuradhapura	75.9	55.4	8	4
Badulla	158.7	103.1	10	7
Bandarawela	151.3	70.2	10	6
Batticaloa	300	128.4	12	7
Colombo	164.3	72.7	6	5
Galle	37.7	70.5	9	6
Hambantota	170.3	47.6	8	4
Jaffna	151.1	39	9	2
Katugastota	91.9	74.2	9	5
Katunayaka	89.2	79.8	5	4
Kurunegala	52.9	98.8	7	4
Maha Iluppallama	81	56.8	7	4
Mannar	95.8	61.8	9	3
Nuwara Eliya	146.9	77.7	10	7
Pottuvil	210.4	163.6	11	na
Puttalam	93	43.1	10	4
Ratmalana	217.7	77.3	6	5
Ratnapura	228.3	137	11	9
Trincomalee	355.2	105.4	8	5
Vavuniya	264.4	62.5	7	4
Polonnaruwa	161.6	na	12	na
Moneragala	117	na	7	na

Source: Department of Meteorology