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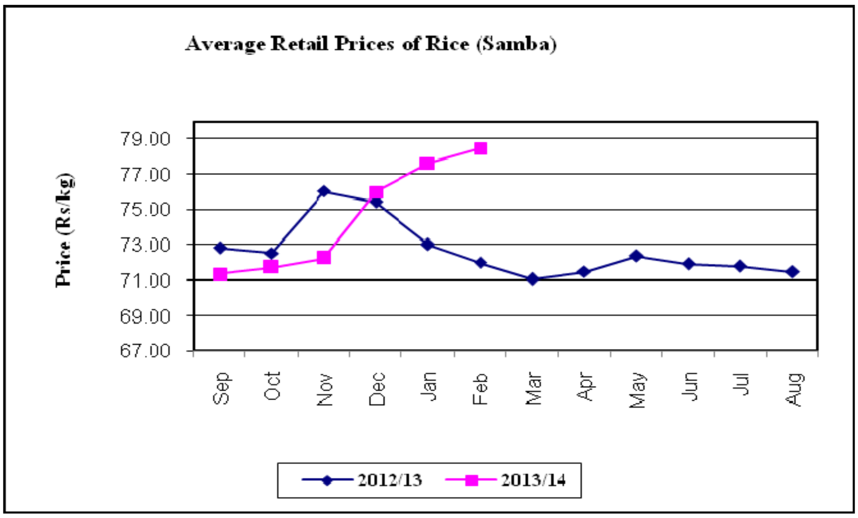
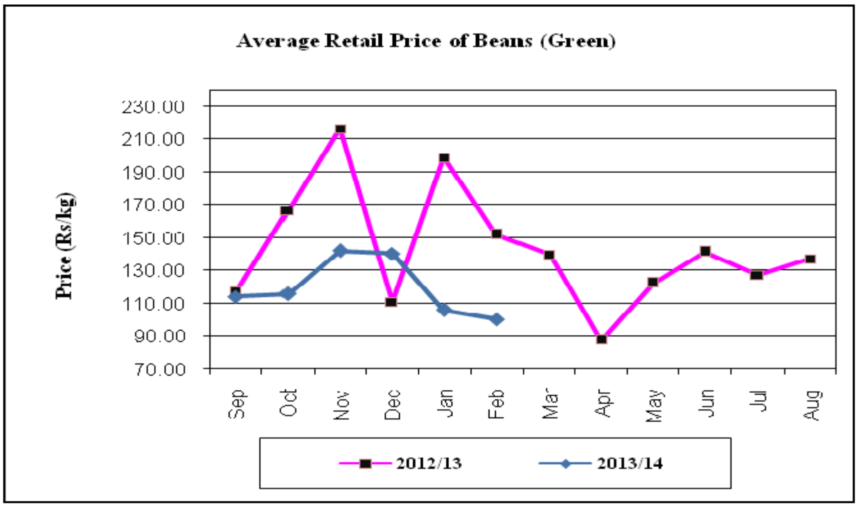
RICE:
Prices of all the rice varieties have further increased by Re.1.00-Rs.3.00/kg. Compared to the rice prices in February 2013 the current prices have shown 8%-10% increase.

VEGETABLES:
Compared to January,
Prices of most of the upcountry vegetables have decreased in the month due to,

- Supply of *Maha* peak harvest to the market poor quality supplies.

Prices of most of the low country vegetables have increased due to delayed planting, as a result of lack of rain.





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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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18. T.M.N. Premathilaka	- Anuradhapura
19. W.P.U. Ishara	- Ampara
20. Gayathri Niranjala	- Dehiattakandiya
21. Namal Dissanayake	- Badulla
22. N.P.G. Manohari	- Galle
23. Harshani Iroshika	- Moneragala

1. Paddy

Crop Situation

Harvesting of paddy in 2013/14 *Maha*is in progress in Akkareipattu, Kalmunei, Central camp, Wellaweli and Damana areas in Ampara District and Nikaweratiya in Kurunegala district. The prospects of paddy crop was satisfactory under the major irrigations in Ampara district while it was not satisfactory in Batticaloa, Anuradhapura and Mannar districts due to prevailing drought weather. According to the crop forecast report of Department of Agriculture, the sown extent of paddy reported for 2013/2014 *Maha* season is 658,553 ha and which is 15% lower compared to that of previous *Maha*. Nearly 87,281 ha of paddy lands were affected by the prevailed drought and the highest damage was reported from Northern and Eastern provinces. The expected production is in the range of 2.19 to 2.44 million mt. Harvesting can be expected in other major producing areas such as Polonnaruwa, Hambantota and Mahaweli systems from the beginning of next month.

Table 1.1: Achievement of Paddy Cultivation 2013/14 *Maha* season (Up to end of Feb - 2014)

District	Targeted Extent (ha)	Achievement (ha)	Achievement as a % of the targeted extent	Production forecast (mt)	Revised Production forecast (mt)
Anuradhapura	91,500	42810.29	47	166,468	131,164
Polonnaruwa	34,750	29076	84	134,133	133,943
Ampara	75,910	75524.6	99	374,227	363,198
Hambantota	83,677	57624	69	228,710	176,807
Kurunagala	29,411	28356.5	96	129,153	129,153
Colombo	4,910	4903.4	100	14,638	14,594
Gampaha	13,940	10390	75	30,195	30,189
Kalutara	16,294	14664	90	43,694	38,735
Galle	16,887	13126.8	78	33,384	30,524
Matara	17,000	15179.5	89	43,643	43,550
Ratnapura	15,420	12676	82	36,443	36,411
Kegalle	9,646	7909	82	27,515	26,040
Puttalam	22,930	11865.17	52	40,463	35,537
Kandy	14,729	13124	89	39,053	38,991
Matale	22,331	17002.1	76	63,489	63,447
Nuwara Eliya	7,138	4582.5	64	10,571	10,571
Badulla	23,849	18646	78	70,381	62,714
Moneragala	38,085	36407.89	96	155,611	121,032
Jaffna	11,900	10736.5	90	24,743	4,318
Kil[inochchi	22,742	22299	98	60,709	19,646
Vavuniya	19,810	12138	61	53,551	24,914
Mullaitivu	16,273	14870	91	58,294	20,708
Mannar	20,815	4765	23	21,036	11,539
Trincomalee	41,868	31693.3	76	130,325	69,336
Batticaloa	61,000	60883	100	204,248	120,513
Udawalawa	12,000	11200	93	60,899	60,899
System H	18,000	21872	122	108,876	103,432
System H1	8,000	8179	102	40,714	40,714
System B	19,500	19045	98	94,803	94,803
System C	20,000	22029	110	109,657	109,657
System G	5,254	4949	94	24,635	24,635
System L	1,746	26	1	129	129
Sri Lanka	**817,315**	**658,55 3**	**8 1**	**2,634,39 0**	**2 ,191,845**

Source: Department of Agriculture

Table1.2: Producer Prices of Paddy -February2014

Commodity	Price Range (Rs/kg)		Average (Rs/kg)			Change Compared to			
	Feb 2014	Jan 2014	Feb 2014	Jan 2014	Feb 2013	Jan 2014		Feb 2013	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Short Grain									
Anuradhapura	33.00-38.00	36.00-39.00	36.00	37.46	36.33	*-1.46*	*-3.89*	*-0.33*	*-0.91*
Polonnaruwa	31.25-43.00	36.50-40.00	36.77	38.46		*-1.69*	*-4.40*	-	-
Kalawewa	33.00-38.50	38.00-40.00	36.15	38.79	36.90	*-2.65*	*-6.82*	*-0.76*	*-2.05*
Kurunegala	33.00-37.00	36.50-42.20	35.02	40.21	38.80	*-5.20*	*-12.92*	*-3.79*	*-9.76*
Dehiattakandiya	-	-			35.33	-	-	-	-
Nikaweratiya	33.00-39.00	37.50-4200	35.68	39.41		*-3.73*	*-9.47*	-	-
Ampara	31.50-35.00	36.00-40.00	33.77	38.50	35.33	*-4.73*	*-12.28*	*-1.56*	*-4.41*
Long Grain White									
Anuradhapura	32.00-35.00	33.00-37.00	33.63	35.38	33.00	*-1.75*	*-4.95*	*0.63*	*1.89*
Polonnaruwa	29.29-39.00	34.50-38.00	33.99	36.37		*-2.38*	*-6.54*	-	-
Kalawewa	32.00-37.00	35.00-36.00	34.42	35.79	33.40	*-1.37*	*-3.83*	*1.02*	*3.05*
Kurunegala	30.00-33.75	33.50-39.20	31.85	35.43	34.75	*-3.58*	*-10.11*	*-2.91*	*-8.36*
Dehiattakandiya	-	-			32.00	-	-	-	-
Embilipitiya	34.00-39.00	34.00-39.00	36.38	35.70	32.20	*0.68*	*1.90*	*4.18*	*12.97*
Nikaweratiya	30.50-35.00	33.00-38.00	32.78	36.01		*-3.23*	*-8.98*	-	-
Matara	32.00-35.00	34.00-35.00	33.42	34.44	32.25	*-1.03*	*-2.98*	*1.17*	*3.61*
Hambantota	-	-				-	-	-	-
Ampara	26.00-33.00	33.00-36.00	30.00	35.24	31.33	*-5.24*	*-14.86*	*-1.33*	*-4.25*
Long Grain Red									
Anuradhapura	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Matara	32.00-34.00	31.00-34.50	33.17	33.31	30.00	*-0.15*	*-0.44*	*3.17*	*10.55*
Hambantota	33.00-38.00	34.00-36.00	34.75	35.00	-	*-0.25*	*-0.71*	-	-
Embilipitiya	33.00-38.00	32.00-37.00	34.96	34.10	29.70	*0.86*	*2.52*	*5.26*	*17.72*

Source: Marketing Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

Producer Prices

Producer prices of short grain and long grain white paddy have shown a decreasing trend in most of the major producing areas mainly due to the supply of *Maha* paddy harvest to the markets from Eastern province, Nikaweratiya and from rain fed areas in Kurunegala district. There is a higher demand for paddy produced in Kurunegala district due to delayed harvesting in some of the other major areas. Farmers tend to supply high moisture paddy to the market due to the prevailing high paddy prices and in turn this has caused to drop paddy prices. Compared to last month, the prices of short grain and long grain white paddy have decreased in the range of 3%-15% in most of the areas with the highest decline for long grain white in Ampara. Meanwhile the prices of long grain red have decreased slightly in Matara and Hambantota. Harvesting can be expected in Anuradhapura, Polonnaruwa, Mahaweli areas, Hambantota and Embilipitiya areas at the beginning of next month. But prices may not decline as previous *Maha* seasons due to production shortfall.

Compared to the same period of last year, the prices of short grain have decreased by less than 10% with the highest decline recorded from Kurunegala. However, the prices of long grain paddy have increased by 2%-13% with the lowest increase recorded in Anuradhapura. Prices of long grain red varieties have increased by 11% in Matara and 18% in Embilipitiya.

Rice Demand and Supply Situation

Wholesale prices

The prices of all the rice varieties have further increased in Colombo and suburbs during the reporting month. The highest price increase of 7% was reported for raw red. Meanwhile, the price increase of samba rice ranged between 2%-3% while nadu and raw white have increased by nearly 2%. The main reason for the price increase was delayed arrival of *Maha* harvest as well as losses of production due to prevailed drought weather condition. Hence prices cannot be expected to come down during the next month. The highest price of Rs.79.18/kg was reported for samba grade I while the lowest price of Rs.61.26/kg was noted for raw red.

Compared to the same period of last year, prices of all the varieties had increased by 9%-21% with the highest increase for raw red (21%) followed by raw white (19%).

Retail

The price behavior of the retail market was more or less similar to the wholesale market. The price of nadu grade II and both raw red and raw white have increased by nearly Rs.3.00/kg while those of other rice varieties have increased by nearly Re.1.00/kg. This price behaviour is different from normal pattern. According to the seasonal price index, generally lower price can be observed in the month of February. The price curve of this year has shifted upward. The highest price of Rs.84.59/kg was noted for samba grade I while the lowest price of Rs.66.32/kg was observed for raw red. Both of these prices were above the ceiling price.

Compared to the same period of last year, prices of all the rice varieties had increased by 8%-13% recording the highest price for nadu grade II and raw white.

Table1.3: Wholesale and Retail Prices of Rice –February 2014

Item	Average Price			Change Compared to			
	Feb 2014	Jan 2014	Feb 2013	Jan 2014		Feb 2013	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Wholesale Prices							
Samba 1	79.18	77.19	72.68	*2.00*	*2.59*	*6.50*	*8.95*
Samba 2	75.71	73.39	68.89	*2.32*	*3.16*	*6.82*	*9.90*
Samba 3	72.60	71.05	65.25	*1.55*	*2.18*	*7.35*	*11.26*
Nadu 1	66.06	64.98	60.20	*1.09*	*1.67*	*5.86*	*9.73*
Nadu 2	63.38	62.22	56.64	*1.16*	*1.86*	*6.74*	*11.89*
Raw red	61.29	57.36	50.78	*3.93*	*6.85*	*10.52*	*20.71*
Raw white	62.75	61.75	52.82	*1.01*	*1.63*	*9.93*	*18.81*
Retail Prices							
Samba 1	84.59	83.66	76.90	*0.93*	*1.11*	*7.69*	*10.00*
Samba 2	76.54	76.11	70.28	*0.43*	*0.56*	*6.26*	*8.91*
Samba 3	74.29	73.07	68.75	*1.22*	*1.67*	*5.54*	*8.06*
Nadu 1	72.18	71.22	66.29	*0.96*	*1.35*	*5.89*	*8.89*
Nadu 2	67.64	64.95	60.00	*2.69*	*4.14*	*7.64*	*12.73*
Raw red	66.32	63.39	59.44	*2.93*	*4.62*	*6.88*	*11.57*
Raw white	67.44	64.54	59.64	*2.90*	*4.49*	*7.80*	*13.08*

Source: Marketing Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

2. Other Field Crops

2.1 Chillies

Crop situation

The targeted extent of chillies of *Maha* 2013/14 was 14,584 ha and out of which 9,631 ha has been achieved by the end of February 2014 representing 66% of the target. The highest cultivated extent of 2,657 ha was recorded from Anuradhapura district and it represents 59% of the targeted extent. A good progress has been achieved for chillie cultivation in Moneragala, Ampara, Puttalam, Hambantota and Jaffna districts. The production forecast of chillies for the season is 35,921 mt and out of that 59% will be expected from Anuradhapura (36%), Moneragala (12%) and Puttalam (11%) districts. The following table shows the cultivated extent of chillies in main producing areas.

Table 2.1.1:Cultivation progress of green chilies for *Maha* 2013/14

Areas	Targeted extent (ha)	Cultivation progress at the end of February 2014		Expected production (Mt)
		Cultivated Extent (ha)	% of the targeted extent	
Anuradhapura	4,500	2,657	59	12,884
Moneragala	1,162	864	74	4,442
Puttalam	1,000	617	62	3,936
Ampara	700	739	106	1,975
Matale	662	239	36	1,002
Kurunegala	478	353	74	271
Hambantota	410	509	124	1,756
Jaffna	760	561	74	1,185
Other areas	4,912	3,092	63	8,470
Total	14,584	9,631	66	35,921

Source: Department of Agriculture

Prices and Supply/Demand Situation

Producer prices of green chillies ranged between Rs.25.00-153.00/kg in Dambulla, Hambantota, Embilipitiya and Anuradhapura producing areas and the highest price was recorded in Embilipitiya. Supply of green chillies from main producing areas has decreased during this month. Hence, both wholesale and retail prices of green chillies had increased by Rs.11.00/kg and Rs.12.00/kg respectively. Average wholesale and retail prices of green chillies wereRs.61.88/kg and Rs.173.68/kg respectively and both prices had decreased by about 72% and 58% respectively compared to the same period of last year.

Table 2.1.2: Wholesale and Retail Prices of Dried Chillies and Green Chillies February 2014

Items	Average Price			Change Compared to			
	Feb 2014	Jan 2014	Feb 2013	Jan 2014		Feb 2013	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Wholesale Price							
Green chillies	61.88	50.68	217.50	*11.20*	*22.10*	*-155.62*	*-71.55*
Dried chillies	189.88	183.51	202.55	*6.37*	*3.47*	*-12.68*	*-6.26*
Retail Price							
Green chillies	173.68	161.83	414.19	*11.85*	*7.32*	*-240.51*	*-58.07*
Dried chillies	235.25	232.90	244.26	*2.35*	*1.01*	*-9.01*	*-3.69*

Source: Marketing, Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

The market consisted of only imported dried chillies. A quantity of 4,191 mt of dried chillies was imported during this month and it was an increase of 321 mt compared to that of last month. The average CIF price was Rs.156.59/kg and it was also an increase of Rs.6.69/kg compared to that of the previous month. Both wholesale and retail prices of imported dried chillies had increased by about Rs.6.00/kg and Rs.2.00/kg due to increased imported prices. Average wholesale and retail prices of imported dried chillies were Rs.189.88/kg and Rs.235.25/kg respectively and both prices had decreased by 6% and 4% respectively compared to the same period of last year.

Table 2.1.3: Quantity, Value and CIF Prices of Imported Dried Chillies Sep - 2013 to Feb - 2014

Month	Quantity (t)	Value (Rs.mn.)	CIF Price (Rs/kg)	Retail Price (Rs/kg)	Gross Margin (Rs/kg)
Feb - 2014	4,191.29	656.33	156.59	235.25	78.66
Jan - 2014	3,869.86	580.09	149.90	232.90	83.00
Dec - 2013	3,736.74	550.10	147.21	231.20	83.99
Nov - 2013	3,737.27	524.04	140.22	229.60	89.38
Oct - 2013	3,671.83	500.63	136.34	224.92	88.58
Sep - 2013	4,194.36	554.64	132.23	227.54	95.31

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

Table 2.1.4: Producer Prices of Green Chillies (Rs/kg) – February 2014

Location	1st week	2nd week	3rd week	4th week
Dambulla	27.00	77.75	91.00	91.80
Hambantota	35.00	45.00	85.00	75.00
Embilipitiya	60.00	-	132.50	153.00
Anuradhapura	-	25.00	85.00	85.00

Source: Marketing, Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

2.2 Big Onion and Red Onion

Crop situation

Extent of big onion cultivation has reported more than doubled of the cultivation progress of last *Maha* season due to big onion promotion programme. Department of Agriculture has planned to cultivate around 675ha of big onion for the current *Maha* season (2013/14) under this promotion programme. According to that the cultivation progressed up to 256ha in Hambantota and 80ha in Moneragala at the end of February 2014, representing 79% and 80% out of the targeted extent respectively.

Table 2.2.1: Cultivation progress of Big Onion for Maha 2013/14

Areas	Targeted (ha)	Cultivation progress at the end of February 2014		Expected production (mt)
		Cultivated Extent (ha)	% of the target extent	
Hambantota	325	256	79	1,025
Moneragala	100	80	80	670
Other areas	250	45	18	368
Total	675	381	56	2,063

Source: Crop forecasting Unit, Department of Agriculture

The cultivated extent of red onion for 2013/14 *Maha* season as at the end of February 2014 was 3,419 ha in the whole country and it represents 66% of the target. The highest cultivated extent and the highest expected production are mainly reported from Jaffna. The production forecast of red onion for the season is 40,072mt and out of that 75% will be expected from Jaffna (54%) and Puttalam (21%) districts.

Table 2.2.2:Cultivation Progress of Red Onion for *Maha*2013/14

Areas	Targeted Extent (ha)	Cultivation progress at the end of February 2014		Expected production (mt)
		Cultivated Extent (ha)	% of the Targeted Extent	
Jaffna	2,300	1,938	84	21,514
Puttalam	1,050	509	48	8,299
Trincomalee	660	266	40	2,734
Other areas	1,180	706	60	7,525
Total	5,190	3419	66	40,072

Source: Department of Agriculture

Prices and Supply/Demand Situation

The market supplies of big onion consisted of only imports and 17,797mt of big onion were imported in February 2014 from India and Pakistan. It was a decrease of 3,832mt compared to that of previous month. Average CIF price was Rs.27.94/kg and it has also decreased by

Rs.3.24/kg compared to the prices of previous month. However, both wholesale and retail prices of imported big onion have decreased by about Rs.12.00/kg and Rs.15.00/kg due to declined prices of imported onions and availability of sufficient stocks at the market. The gross margin between the CIF price and wholesale price of imported big onion was lower than the margin between the wholesale price and retail price during this month as well as margin of the previous month.

Market supplies of vedalan from Puttalam and Jaffna have increased during this month too. Small quantity of sinnan red onion has also been supplied to the market from Jaffna area during the latter part of the month. Both wholesale and retail prices of vedalan have decreased by Rs.35.00/kg and Rs.52.00/kg respectively due to high supplies form main producing areas.

About 1,847mt of red onion was imported during this month which was about 1,297 mt lower than that imported during the previous month. Average CIF price of imported red onion was Rs.47.07/kg and it has decreased by Rs.2.65/kg, compared to the last month. Both wholesale and retail prices of imported red onion have decreased by about Rs.14.00/kg and Rs.20.00/kg respectively due to decreased prices of imported stocks and availability of higher stocks of local red onions at the market.

Compared to the same period of last year, current retail prices of vedalan and imported red onion have decreased by about 21% and 27% respectively.

Table 2.2.3: Wholesale Prices and Retail Prices of Red Onion and Big Onion (Rs/kg)February 2014

Crop	Average Price (Rs/kg)			Change Compared to			
	Feb 2014	Jan 2014	Feb 2013	Jan 2014		Feb 2013	
Wholesale Price	**Rs/kg**	**Rs/kg**	**Rs/kg**	**Rs/kg**	**%**	**Rs/kg**	**%**
Red Onion (Sinnan)	42.50	-	73.16	-	-	*-30.66*	*-41.91*
Red Onion (Vedalan)	55.10	90.50	97.50	*-35.40*	*-39.12*	*-42.40*	*-43.49*
Red Onion (Imported)	63.51	77.35	102.39	*-13.84*	*-17.89*	*-38.88*	*-37.97*
Big Onion (imported)	42.56	55.03	68.78	*-12.47*	*-22.66*	*-26.22*	*-38.12*
Big Onion (Local)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Retail Prices							
Red Onion (Sinnan)	-	-	110.00	-	-	-	-
Red Onion (Vedalan)	115.44	167.15	145.67	*-51.71*	*-30.94*	*-30.23*	*-20.75*
Red Onion (Imported)	111.53	131.55	153.04	*-20.02*	*-15.22*	*-41.51*	*-27.12*
Big Onion (imported)	68.30	83.40	100.56	*-15.10*	*-18.11*	*-32.26*	*-32.08*
Big Onion (Local)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Source: Marketing, Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

Table 2.2.4: 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	Feb2014	27.94	42.56	68.30	*14.61*	*25.74*
	Jan2014	31.18	55.03	83.40	*23.85*	*28.37*
	Feb2013	50.79	68.78	100.56	*17.99*	*31.78*
Red onion	Feb2014	47.07	63.51	111.53	*16.45*	*48.02*
	Jan2014	49.72	77.35	131.55	*27.63*	*54.20*
	Feb2013	76.75	102.39	153.04	*25.64*	*50.65*

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

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

Crop	Quantity (mt)		Value (Rs. mn)		CIF Price (Rs/kg)	
	Feb 2014	Jan 2014	Feb 2014	Jan 2014	Feb 2014	Jan 2014
Red Onion	1847.29	3126.31	86.95	155.44	47.07	49.72
Big Onion	17797.40	21629.74	497.30	674.47	27.94	31.18

Source: Department of Customs

Table 2.2.6 Imported Quantity, CIF Price, Wholesale and Retail Prices of Big Onion Sep - 2013 to Feb - 2014

Month	Quantity Imported (t)	CIF Price (Rs/kg)	Wholesale Price (Rs/kg)	Retail Price (Rs/kg)	Gross Margin (RP-CIF) (Rs/kg)
Feb - 2014	17797.40	27.94	42.56	68.30	40.36
Jan - 2014	21629.74	31.18	55.03	83.40	52.22
Dec - 2013	21617.74	103.47	77.57	111.63	8.16
Nov - 2013	10885.52	120.85	151.43	172.85	52.00
Oct - 2013	279.97	51.78	76.72	101.64	49.86
Sep - 2013	874.32	50.10	84.65	107.79	57.69

Source: Department of Customs

2.3 Potato

Crop situation

Crop Situation and Progress

The targeted extent of potato for *Maha* 2013/14 is 3,784 ha and about 2,838ha had been cultivated by the end of February achieving 75% of the total targets. During the month, about 355ha of potato were cultivated in the country. Compared to the same period of last *Maha* season, the total cultivated extent had been low during this *Maha* season due to lack of rains compared to last year. According to the cultivated extent up to end of February, the expected production of potato is 40,833mt for this *Maha* season.

In the Nuwara Eliya district, the targeted extent was 1,720ha and out of which about 835ha had been cultivated by the end of February representing 48% of the targeted extent. The cultivation progress was low during this *Maha* season compared to the same period of 2012/13 *Maha* season. According to field information, the cultivation of potato was low during this *Maha* season due to lack of availability of good quality seeds. The targeted extent for this *Maha* season is 1,943ha in the Badulla district and about 1,918ha had been cultivated by the end of February achieving 99% of the total target. Compared to the same period of *Maha* 2012/13, the potato cultivation in the Badulla district was at a high level by the end of *Maha* 2013/14.

Table 2.3.1: Cultivated Extent and Expected Production of Potato (*Maha*2013/14)

District	Targeted Extent (ha)		Achievement (ha)		Progress (%)	Expected Production (mt)
	*Maha 2012/13**	*Maha 2013/14*	*Maha 2012/13**	*Maha 2013/14*	*Maha 2013/14*	
N'Eliya	1,650	1,720	1,428	835	48	14,22
Badulla	1,919	1,943	1,728	1,918	99	25,843
Sri Lanka	**3,570**	**3,784**	**3,221**	**2,838**	**75**	**40,833**

Source: MFPAD/HARTI
Crop Forecast No.5,Maha 2013/14, Socio-economic & Planning Centre/DOA
**** Crop Forecast No.5, Maha 2012/13, Socio-economic & Planning Centre/DOA***

Prices and Supply/Demand Situation

A quantity of 8,644mt of potato had been imported in February and this was 7,159mtlower than that was imported during the previous month. As a result of increased special commodity levy up to Rs.25.00/kg for imported potato on 06.02.2014 the quantity imported was declined sharply in February. The quantity imported in this month is much lower than that was imported in February 2013 (12,893mt). Average CIF price was Rs.30.25/kg in this month and it was a 15% increase compared to the same month in previous year.

Both local and imported stocks were available in the market. With respect to local varieties, both Welimada and Nuwara Eliya potatoes were available in the market as the harvesting season for Welimada potato was commenced. Sufficient stocks of Nuwara Eliya potato were received to the market during the month. Hence, the wholesale prices of both Nuwara Eliya and Welimada potatoes had decreased by 14% and 10% respectively. Also, the retail prices of Nuwara Eliya potato and Welimada potato had decreased by 7% and 1% respectively. The monthly average producer price was Rs.67.00/kg for Nuwara Eliya potato. Meanwhile, the wholesale and retail prices of imported potato had decreased by 2% and 7% respectively. Imported stocks were received from India ("Mettupalan" variety) and Pakistan. During the month of February, the wholesale prices of Nuwara Eliya, Welimada and imported potatoes ranged between Rs.70.00-85.00/kg, Rs.58.00-75.00/kg and Rs.50.00-65.00/kg respectively. Compared to the same month of last year, the current retail prices of imported (3%) and Nuwara Eliya (13%) potatoes had decreased.

Table 2.3.2: Quantity, Value and CIF prices of Imported Potatoes Sep - 2013 to Feb - 2014

Month	Quantity (mt)	Value (Rs.mn)	CIF price (Rs/kg)	Retail Price (Rs/kg)	Gross Margin (Rs/kg)
Feb - 2014	8644.58	261.47	30.25	80.25	*50.00*
Jan - 2014	15803.32	552.08	34.93	86.04	*51.11*
Dec - 2013	14134.62	598.23	42.32	106.19	*63.87*
Nov - 2013	6503.07	329.88	50.73	122.59	*71.86*
Oct - 2013	2931.03	108.96	37.18	105.38	*68.20*
Sep - 2013	3608.91	123.60	34.25	105.21	*70.96*

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

Table: 2.3.3: Producer, Wholesale and Retail prices of Potato – February 2014

Item	Average			Change Compared to			
	Feb 2014	Jan 2014	Feb 2013	Jan 2014		Feb 2013	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Producer Prices (PP)							
Welimada	60.58	61.29	-	*-0.71*	*-1.16*	-	-
NuwaraEliya	*67.05*	*67.11*	75.80	*-0.06*	*-0.08*	*-8.75*	*-11.54*
Imported – CIF	30.25	34.93	26.35	*-4.68*	*-13.41*	*3.90*	*14.79*
Wholesale Prices (WP)							
Welimada	65.15	72.08	64.72	*-6.93*	*-9.61*	*0.43*	*0.66*
NuwaraEliya	75.00	87.45	91.82	*-12.45*	*-14.24*	*-16.82*	*-18.32*
Imported	57.71	58.94	56.67	*-1.23*	*-2.08*	*1.04*	*1.84*
Retail Prices (RP)							
Welimada	92.67	93.67	-	*-1.00*	*-1.07*	-	-
NuwaraEliya	116.52	125.68	133.91	*-9.16*	*-7.29*	*-17.39*	*-12.99*
Imported	80.25	86.04	82.97	*-5.79*	*-6.73*	*-2.72*	*-3.28*
Gross Margin (RP-PP)							
Welimada	92.67	93.67	-	*-1.00*	*-1.07*	-	-
NuwaraEliya	116.52	125.68	133.91	*-9.16*	*-7.29*	*-17.39*	*-12.99*
Imported (CIF-RP)	80.25	86.04	82.97	*-5.79*	*-6.73*	*-2.72*	*-3.28*
Gross Margin (RP -WP)							
Welimada	27.52	21.59	-	*5.93*	*27.47*	-	-
NuwaraEliya	41.52	38.23	42.09	*3.29*	*8.61*	*-0.57*	*-1.35*
Imported	22.54	27.10	26.30	*-4.56*	*-16.83*	*-3.76*	*-14.30*

Source: Marketing Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

2.4 Green gram and Cowpea

Crop Situation

The targeted extent of green gram for *Maha* 2013/14 is 11,969ha and out of that about 8,577 ha had been cultivated by the end of February representing 72% out of the total targeted extent. In February, about 430 ha of green gram had been cultivated in the country and most of the cultivation was taken place during October to December of 2013/14 *Maha* season. According to the cultivated extent up to now, the expected production of green gram is 10,535mt for *Maha* 2013/14. In the Hambantota district, the targeted extent was 2,733ha for this *Maha* season and about 2,476ha had been cultivated by the end of February representing 91% of the total target. In the Moneragala and Kurunegala districts, the targeted extents for 2013/14*maha*were 1,138ha and 1,796ha and about 721ha and 1,684ha had been cultivated respectively by the end of February.

The targeted extent of cowpea was 13,115ha for 2013/14 *Maha* and about 8,439ha had been cultivated by the end of February achieving 64% of the total targeted extent. During the month of February, about 1,662 ha of cowpea had been cultivated in the country with high extents cultivated in the Ampara district. According to the cultivated extent up to now, the expected production of cowpea is 10,402mt for present *Maha* season. In the Ampara and Moneragala districts, about 3,079 ha and 1,654ha had been cultivated by the end of February achieving 96% and 97% of the total target. Compared to the same period of last *Maha* season, in Ampara and Moneragala, the cultivated extents were higher during this *Maha* season and it was lower in the Anuradhapura district.

Table 2.4.1:Cultivated Extent and Expected Production of Green gram and Cowpea (*Maha*2013/14)

Crop	District	Targeted Extent (ha)		Achievement (ha)		Progress (%)	Expected Production (mt)
		*Maha 2012/13**	*Maha 2013/14*	*Maha 2012/13**	*Maha 2013/14*	*Maha 2013/14*	
Green gram	Hambantota	12,715	2,733	2,250	2,476	91	3,447
	Kurunegala	1,100	1,138	888	721	63	443
	Moneragala	1,880	1,796	1,635	1,684	94	2,015
	Sri Lanka	**20,982**	**11,969**	**8,925**	**8,577**	**72**	**10,535**
Cowpea	Ampara	3,973	3,189	2,887	3,079	96	4,642
	Moneragala	2,281	1,697	1,318	1,654	97	1,950
	Anuradhapura	2,130	1,494	842	638	43	752
	Sri Lanka	**13,443**	**13,115**	**9,200**	**8,439**	**64**	**10,402**

Source: MFPAD/HARTI
Crop Forecast No.5, Maha 2013/14, Socio-economic & Planning Centre/DOA
**** Crop Forecast No.5, Maha 2012/13, Socio-economic & Planning Centre/DOA***

Prices and Supply Demand Situation

A quantity of 252mt of green gram was imported in February and it was a decrease of about 180mt compared to that of January. Most of the stocks had arrived from Australia and Thailand. The average CIF price of green gram was Rs.158.00/kg in February. Compared to February 2013 (649mt) the imported quantity of green gram was higher in February 2014. The wholesale and retail prices of green gram had increased by 8% and 4% respectively due to limited stocks of imported green gram. During the month, the wholesale price of green gram ranged between Rs.280.00-310.00/kg. Prices of local supplies were lower than that of imported green gram supplied to the market. Compared to the same period of last year, the current wholesale and retail prices of green gram had increased by 23% and 12% respectively.

Wholesale prices of white and red cowpea had decreased by 17% and 25% respectively. Sufficient stocks of both local and imported cowpea were available. In February, the wholesale prices of white and red cowpea ranged between Rs.170.00-240.00/kg and Rs.170.00-210.00/kg respectively. Compared to the same period of last year, the current retail price of white cowpea had not changed significantly. Compared to the same month of last year, both the current month wholesale and retail prices of green gram have increased by 23% and 12% respectively.

Table 2.4.2: Quantity, Value and CIF prices of Imported Green gram Sep - 2013 to Feb - 2014

Month	Quantity (mt)	Value (Rs.mn)	CIF price (Rs/kg)	Retail Price (Rs/kg)	Gross Margin (Rs/kg)
Feb - 2014	252.25	39.95	158.38	310.47	152.09
Jan - 2014	72.05	11.28	156.62	298.90	142.28
Dec - 2013	320.50	50.61	157.91	294.79	136.88
Nov -2013	213.50	32.94	154.29	295.64	141.35
Oct - 2013	105.00	15.07	143.52	290.87	147.35
Sep - 2013	289.50	41.82	144.45	281.22	136.77

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

Table 2.4.3: Wholesale and Retail Prices of Green gram and Cowpea- February 2014

Item	Average Price			Change Compared to			
	Feb 2014	Jan 2014	Feb 2013	Jan 2014		Feb 2013	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Wholesale Prices							
Green gram	295.92	274.90	240.33	21.02	7.65	55.59	23.13
Cowpea (White)	195.90	237.42	216.76	-41.52	-17.49	-20.87	-9.63
Cowpea (Red)	180.12	240.51	-	-60.39	-25.11	-	-
Retail Prices							
Green gram	310.47	298.90	276.75	11.57	3.87	33.72	12.18
Cowpea (White)	278.30	289.65	278.19	-11.35	-3.92	0.11	0.04
Cowpea (Red)	271.09	286.97	-	-15.88	-5.53	-	-

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	Feb2014	158.38	295.92	310.47	137.54	14.55
	Jan2014	156.62	274.90	298.90	118.28	24.01
	Feb2013	-	240.33	276.75	240.33	36.42
Cowpea (White)	Feb 2014	-	195.90	278.30	-	82.40
	Jan 2014	-	237.42	289.65	-	52.23
	Feb2013	-	216.76	278.19	-	61.43
Cowpea Red)	Feb 2014	-	180.12	271.09	-	90.97
	Jan 2014	-	240.51	286.97	-	46.46
	Feb2013	-	-	-	-	-

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

2.5 Red dhal

Prices and Supply/Demand Situation

A quantity of 6,340mt of red dhal was imported in February and it was 51mt higher than the quantity imported in January. Most of the stocks had been received from Australia and Canada.

Compared to February 2013 (6,005mt) the imported quantity of red dhal had been higher in February 2014. The average CIF price was Rs.88.00/kg in February.

Compared to the prices of last month wholesale and retail prices of red dhal had increased by 5% and 3% respectively. The average wholesale price was Rs.147.00/kg in February. Compared to the same period of last year, the current retail price of red dhal had increased by 3%.

Table 2.5.1: Wholesale and Retail Prices of Red dhal – February 2014

Red Dhal	Average Price			Change Compared to			
	Feb 2014	Jan 2014	Feb 2013	Jan 2014		Feb 2013	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Wholesale Price	147.00	139.69	126.87	7.31	5.23	20.14	15.87
Retail Price	165.14	160.40	149.38	4.74	2.96	15.76	10.55

Source: Marketing Food Policy & Agribusiness Division

Table 2.5.2:The CIF, Wholesale and Retail Prices of Red dhal Sep - 2013 to Feb - 2014

Month	Quantity (mt)	CIF Price Rs/kg	Wholesale price Rs/kg	Retail price Rs/kg	Gross Margin (Rs/kg)	
					CIF-WP	WP-RP
Feb 2014	6339.84	87.82	147.00	165.14	59.18	18.14
Jan 2014	6289.59	85.78	139.69	160.40	53.91	20.71
Dec 2013	11327.42	89.09	134.17	159.60	45.08	25.43
Nov 2013	8777.75	89.65	136.72	160.38	47.07	23.66
Oct 2013	7401.28	95.62	140.21	159.80	44.59	19.59
Sep 2013	7214.74	99.78	136.26	158.26	36.48	22.01

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

3. Vegetables

There was a low rainfall experienced in major up country vegetable producing districts such as Nuwara Eliya, Kandy, Badulla, Matale and Kurunegala during this month compared to that in February 2013 (Table 8). Therefore new cultivation was considerably retarded in all the up country areas. On the other hand growths of the young vegetable plants were negatively affected by water scarcity and the flowering was impaired due to high temperature.

In Matale district, though the targeted extent of vegetables was 4802ha, the total cultivated extent at the end of February was 2,363ha. The achievement was around 49% at the end of February and it was 18.2% decrease compared to same period of the last year due to lack of rain. On the other hand farmers cultivate vegetables in the paddy lands (900ha) where paddy cultivation cannot be done due to insufficient water in the present season. The mostly cultivated vegetables in the district were tomato, long beans and cabbage. In Kandy district hardly any new cultivation was taken place during this month due to lack of rain throughout the month. The cultivation of vegetables in Nuwara Eliya district also has affected water scarcity. In February, total rainfall received in the district was 8.1mm and it was 70mm lower than the average rainfall recorded in the district. With the scarcity of potato seeds more farmers in Walapane and Hanguranketha areas have cultivated leeks, beetroot and carrot under irrigation. In Kurunegala district, long beans and ladies fingers were cultivated in higher extent than beetroot and cabbage because these crops are high resistant to water scarcity. Therefore at the end of February cultivation progress of up country vegetables have ranged between 54% - 85%, with the highest progress recorded for beans while the lowest was recorded for beetroot, in the *Maha* season of 2013/14.

Table 3.1: Cultivated extents of up country vegetables in major producing areas

Crop	District	*Maha* Targeted Extent (ha) 2013/14	Cultivated Extent by the end of February (ha) 2013/14	Cultivated Extent by the end of February (ha) 2012/13	Achievement as a % of the target 2013/14	Change in cultivation progress in 2013/14 compared to 2012/13 (%)
Beans	Badulla	1,795	1702.0	1,637	94.82	3.97
	N'Eliya	1,020	803.9	1,119	78.81	-28.16
	Kandy	745	841.0	646	112.89	30.19
	Ratnapura	415	388.0	329	93.49	17.93
	Matale	844	179.6	139	21.27	29.17
	Sri Lanka	**5,450**	**4639.0**	**4,453**	**85.11**	**4.17**
Carrot	N'Eliya	1,148	883.1	863	76.93	2.33
	Badulla	450	390.0	384	86.67	1.56
	Sri Lanka	**1,903**	**1492.0**	**1,507**	**78.43**	**-0.97**
Leeks	N'Eliya	824	698.8	574	84.81	21.74
	Sri Lanka	**1,128**	**934.2**	**780**	**82.82**	**19.77**
Tomato	Badulla	826	737.5	580	89.29	27.16
	N'Eliya	696	311.9	401	44.81	-22.22
	Kandy	498	582.0	430	116.87	35.35
	Ratnapura	195	114.8	90	58.87	27.56
	Sri Lanka	**4,465**	**3683.0**	**3,382**	**82.49**	**8.91**
Cabbage	N'Eliya	1,126	612.7	641	54.41	-4.41
	Badulla	562	492.5	609	87.63	-19.13
	Matale	180	126.1	89	70.03	41.63
	Kandy	451	308.0	434	68.29	-29.03
	Sri Lanka	**2,955**	**2016.0**	**2,325**	**68.2**	**-13.3**
Beet root	N'Eliya	618	337.0	411	54.53	-18
	Badulla	138	105.0	108	76.09	-2.78
	Matale	392	99.5	68	25.37	46.25
	Kurunegala	232	52.5	73	22.63	-28.08
	Puttalam	200	185.5	340	92.75	-45.44
	Sri Lanka	**2,065**	**1111.3**	**1,311**	**53.8**	**-15.23**
Capsicum	N'Eliya	426	256.4	169	60.19	51.72
	Badulla	310	286.0	234	92.26	22.22
	Puttalam	180	165.8	179	92.11	-7.37
	Matale	193	117.6	57	60.93	106.32
	Kurunegala	225	151.0	155	67.11	-2.58
	Sri Lanka	**2,798**	**2266.0**	**1,890**	**81**	**19.91**
Radish	N'Eliya	456	353.6	480	77.54	-26.33
	Matale	78	69.4	72	88.97	-3.61
	Badulla	331	195.0	299	58.91	-34.78
	Kurunegala	202	162.0	196	80.2	-17.35
	Sri Lanka	**2,281**	**1661.0**	**1,978**	**72.79**	**-16.05**
Knolkhol	N'Eliya	249	183.2	222	73.57	-17.48
	Badulla	175	94.5	168	54	-43.75
	Matale	109	80.8	70	74.13	15.43
	Sri Lanka	**825**	**583.2**	**606**	**70.65**	**-3.76**

Source: Crop Forecast Yala 2013- Socio Economic and Planning Centre, Department of Agriculture, Marketing, Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

Table 3.2: Cultivated extents of up - country vegetables in major producing areas

Crop	District	*Maha* Targeted Extent (ha) 2013/14	Cultivated Extent(ha) by the end of February 2013/14	Cultivated Extent by the end of February (ha) 2012/13	Achievement as a % of the target 2013/14	Change in cultivation progress in 2013/14 compared to 2012/13 (%)
Brinjal	Anuradhapura	1,400	609	750	43.5	-18.80
	Moneragala	593	546	473	92.07	15.43
	Hambantota	370	359	353	97.03	1.70
	Badulla	530	365	489	68.87	-25.36
	Ratnapura	240	179	198	74.58	-9.60
	Matale	143	80	210	55.94	-61.90
	Sri Lanka	**6,891**	**5,325**	**5,681**	**77.27**	**-6.27**
Bitter gourd	Hambantota	275	263	250	95.64	5.20
	Anuradhapura	390	285	371	73.08	-23.18
	Monaragala	186	148	180	79.57	-17.78
	Kurunegala	170	128	138	75.29	-7.25
	Sri Lanka	**3,146**	**2,297**	**2,462**	**73.01**	**-6.70**
Okra	Anuradhapura	650	391	500	60.15	-21.80
	Kurunegala	295	318	342	107.8	-7.02
	Monaragala	394	359	345	91.12	4.06
	Matale	234	101	124	43.16	-18.55
	Ratnapura	240	142	196	59.17	-27.55
	Hambantota	188	391	318	207.98	22.96
	Sri Lanka	**4,953**	**3,867**	**4,269**	**78.07**	**-9.42**
Pumpkin	Anuradhapura	3,800	2,570	2,657	67.63	-3.27
	Monaragala	2,644	865	1,687	32.72	-48.73
	Hambantota	397	374	345	94.21	8.41
	Sri Lanka	**9,104**	**5,382**	**6,418**	**59.12**	**-16.14**
Snake gourd	Hambantota	277	256	216	92.42	18.52
	Kurunegala	175	145	150	82.86	-3.33
	Matale	170	58	100	34.12	-42.00
	Monaragala	144	146	163	101.39	-10.43
	Sri Lanka	**2,750**	**2,010**	**2,279**	**73.09**	**-11.80**
Cucumber	Hambantota	279	272	235	97.49	15.74
	Monaragala	316	268	248	84.81	8.06
	Matale	281	72	133	25.62	-45.86
	Anuradhapura	665	331	245	49.77	35.10
	Sri Lanka	**3,156**	**3,144**	**1,680**	**99.62**	**87.14**
Long beans	Hambantota	367	374	390	101.91	-4.10
	Kurunegala	515	575	581	111.65	-1.03
	Monaragala	453	394	316	86.98	24.68
	Anuradhapura	540	227	430	42.04	-47.21
	Sri Lanka	**5,946**	**4,840**	**5,131**	**81.4**	**-5.67**

Source: Crop Forecast Yala 2013- Socio Economic and Planning Center, Department of Agriculture, Marketing, Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

Cultivation progress of low country vegetables in Hambantota, Embilipitiya and Kurunegala districts were negatively affected by drought. In Hambantota district the highest new cultivation was recorded for brinjal as 8.5ha in February. However with the received rainfall in Moneragala, Polonnaruwa, Anuradhapura and Ratnapura districts the cultivation had commenced at satisfactory level. In Anuradhapura district the total cultivated extent of vegetables at the end of

February was 7,444ha and it was 82% of the target. Farmers in Matale and Badulla districts have cultivated more low country varieties than up country varieties. Therefore, cultivation progresses of low country vegetables have shown relatively higher rates ranged between 59% - 99% compared to that of up country vegetables. Pumpkin (6,418ha) was the most commonly cultivated low country vegetable during the month followed by brinjal (5,681ha) and long beans (5,131ha).

Prices and supply/Demand situation

In line with the annual price behavior, generally the prices of vegetables start to show a declining trend from the second week of January with the supply of *Maha* harvest. However, with the continued dry weather, new planting was restricted and supply was started to decline from second week of January. More supply of *Maha* harvest was received to the market from Jaffna, Monaragala, Matale and Anuradhapura districts. As a result, prices of vegetables declined in February.

The supply of up country vegetables received mainly from *Maha* season cultivation in Kandy, Jaffna, Matale, Nuwara Eliya, Badulla, Kurunegala and Puttlam districts also. In Matale district, even though the cultivated extent was lower than last season, the total production was 13, 304mt, which marked 12% increase in *Maha* production. Regarding up county vegetables, except for tomato and cabbage, prices of all the other vegetables have decreased compared to the prices of January. The highest price decrease was reported for radish as 102%, followed by beetroot as 43% and knolkhol as18%. As radish is a short duration crop, more farmers in upcountry areas and Kurunegala district have cultivated radish in January and more supply was received to the market in February, which caused price decrease compared to January. As more stocks of beetroot and carrot was received to the market from Jaffna, prices have decreased compared to the prices of January. On the other hand, more farmers in Nuwara Eliya have cultivated beetroot as an alternative crop due to scarcity of seed potato. However, quality of produce was low due to water scarcity. Meanwhile, the highest price increase was reported for cabbage as 91% followed by tomato as 25% in February. Regarding cabbage, crop damage was recorded due to water scarcity in Kandy. On the other hand, as cabbage was highly water sensitive crop, cultivated extent was reduced drastically in up country areas.

However, if the dry weather continued, the harvesting season will be shortened and prices may go up in upcoming months.

The prices of most of the vegetables, except for brinjal and pumpkin have increased in February. The highest price increase of 59% was reported for snake gourd, followed by cucumber as 51% and bitter gourd 24% in February. Due to delayed planting, most of the snake gourd and cucumber plots in Anuradhapura, Embilipitiya and Hambantota were in young stage and supply was very limited in first three weeks of February. However, with the increased supply from *Maha* cultivation in low country areas, prices are expected to go down in March. Meanwhile, the highest price decrease of 61% was reported for brinjal due to higher supplies from Anuradhapura and Moneragala. Prices of pumpkin have declined by 53% as a result of the availability of high supplies from Anuradhapura. Further, harvest from Hambantota, Wellawaya and Moneragala reached the market from the second week of February.

The price of green chillies had increased by 44% due to low supplies arrived from Puttalam as a result of dry weather. The price of lime had decreased further by 44% as dry weather was affected favourably to produce higher supply. According to the price behavior of the wholesale market, the retail prices of most of the up country vegetables have also decreased except for knolkhol. The highest price decrease of 9% was recorded for tomato. Among the low country vegetables, the highest price decrease of 7% was observed for brinjal and the highest price increase of 6% was reported for ladies fingers. Compared to the same period of last year, the current retail prices of almost all the vegetables had decreased with the highest price decrease of 50% for tomato.

Table 3.3: Wholesale Prices of Vegetables –February 2014

Items	Average Price			Change Compared to			
	Feb 2014	Jan 2014	Feb 2013	Jan 2014		Feb 2013	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Beans (green)	57.38	59.06	106.25	*-2.84*	*-4.82*	*-48.87*	*-46.00*
Carrot	55.27	58.86	115.63	*-6.10*	*-10.36*	*-60.36*	*-52.20*
Leeks	44.71	46.49	67.00	*-3.83*	*-8.24*	*-22.29*	*-33.27*
Beetroot	40.28	51.98	72.01	*-22.51*	*-43.30*	*-31.73*	*-44.06*
Knolkhol	50.87	56.50	81.06	*-9.96*	*-17.64*	*-30.19*	*-37.24*
Radish	18.16	24.10	30.10	*-24.65*	*-102.27*	*-11.94*	*-39.67*
Cabbage	18.40	16.05	45.94	*14.64*	*91.23*	*-27.54*	*-59.95*
Tomato	37.99	34.95	100.00	*8.70*	*24.89*	*-62.01*	*-62.01*
Ladies Fingers	47.75	45.94	78.00	*3.94*	*8.58*	*-30.25*	*-38.78*
Brinjal	34.28	49.38	46.88	*-30.58*	*-61.93*	*-12.60*	*-26.88*
Capsicum	99.43	87.28	159.38	*13.92*	*15.95*	*-59.95*	*-37.61*
Pumpkin	18.00	20.16	25.78	*-10.71*	*-53.15*	*-7.78*	*-30.18*
Cucumber	39.16	33.43	32.88	*17.14*	*51.27*	*6.28*	*19.10*
Bitter Gourd	97.27	81.52	84.69	*19.32*	*23.70*	*12.58*	*14.85*
Snake Gourd	41.27	34.58	54.69	*19.35*	*55.95*	*-13.42*	*-24.54*
Drumstick	264.17	-	-	-	-	-	-
Luffa	66.69	65.30	88.75	*2.13*	*3.26*	*-22.06*	*-24.86*
Long Beans	30.29	29.99	53.60	*1.00*	*3.34*	*-23.31*	*-43.49*
Ash Plantain	50.41	50.02	52.19	*0.78*	*1.56*	*-1.78*	*-3.41*
Green Chillies	61.88	50.68	217.50	*22.10*	*43.61*	*-155.62*	*-71.55*
Lime	31.41	37.76	37.32	*-16.82*	*-44.54*	*-5.91*	*-15.84*

Source: Marketing, Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

Table 3.4: Retail Prices of Vegetables –February 2014

Item	Average Price			Change Compared to			
	Feb 2014	Jan 2014	Feb 2013	Jan 2014		Feb 2013	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Beans (green)	100.52	106.05	152.02	*-5.53*	*-5.21*	*-51.50*	*-33.88*
Carrot	106.43	113.51	172.14	*-7.08*	*-6.24*	*-65.71*	*-38.17*
Leeks	97.53	101.67	129.95	*-4.14*	*-4.07*	*-32.42*	*-24.95*
Beetroot	97.15	106.67	123.69	*-9.52*	*-8.92*	*-26.54*	*-21.46*
Knolkhol	112.52	111.86	140.61	*0.66*	*0.59*	*-28.09*	*-19.98*
Radish	73.40	77.59	85.46	*-4.19*	*-5.40*	*-12.06*	*-14.11*
Cabbage	71.69	73.98	106.35	*-2.29*	*-3.10*	*-34.66*	*-32.59*
Tomato	79.72	87.96	160.56	*-8.24*	*-9.37*	*-80.84*	*-50.35*
Ladies Fingers	102.11	96.36	148.85	*5.75*	*5.97*	*-46.74*	*-31.40*
Brinjal	89.97	96.40	97.60	*-6.43*	*-6.67*	*-7.63*	*-7.82*
Capsicum	163.33	166.97	244.48	*-3.64*	*-2.18*	*-81.15*	*-33.19*
Pumpkin	68.75	67.27	74.74	*1.48*	*2.20*	*-5.99*	*-8.01*
Cucumber	80.15	83.38	80.71	*-3.23*	*-3.87*	*-0.56*	*-0.69*
Bitter Gourd	132.14	130.52	150.56	*1.62*	*1.24*	*-18.42*	*-12.23*
Snake Gourd	90.11	83.53	110.34	*6.58*	*7.88*	*-20.23*	*-18.33*
Drumstick	415.64	-	-	-	-	-	-
Luffa	125.55	120.80	146.33	*4.75*	*3.93*	*-20.78*	*-14.20*
Long Beans	95.22	90.98	106.02	*4.24*	*4.66*	*-10.80*	*-10.19*
Ash Plantain	97.73	91.65	117.36	*6.08*	*6.63*	*-19.63*	*-16.73*
Green Chillies	173.68	161.83	414.19	*11.85*	*7.32*	*-240.51*	*-58.07*
Lime	149.70	159.85	133.49	*-10.15*	*-6.35*	*16.21*	*12.14*

Source: Marketing, Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HART

4. Fruits

Prices and Supply/Demand Situation

Supplies of most of the fruits had decreased further due to dry weather during the month. Hence, the wholesale prices of all the fruits except banana, pineapple and avocado had increased with the highest price increase of 157% for mango (betti). Supplies of all the varieties of mango had decreased due to off season and wholesale prices of all the varieties of mango had increased in the in the range of 62%-157%. According to the field information price reduction for mango could be expected during next month with the commencement of harvesting season. Supplies of papaw had decreased from Embilipitiya, Hambantota, Rajanganaya and Puttalam areas due to dry weather at the beginning of the month and wholesale price had increased by 8%. Further, the wholesale prices of passion fruit and wood apple had increased by 17% and 52% respectively due to low supplies in off season. Meanwhile, the wholesale prices of all the varieties of banana had decreased significantly in the range of 12%-23% due to low demand at wholesale level. Further, the wholesale price if avocado had decreased by 35% due to increased supplies from Bandarawela and Badulla areas.

Compared to same period of last year, wholesale prices of most of the fruits had decreased with the highest price decrease of 54% for mango (betti).

According to the table 4.2 significant price increases were recorded mango, passion fruit and wood apple at retail level due to off season. Further, the retail prices of orange, avocado and slime apple had decreased in the range of 16%-34%. Further the retail prices of most of the banana varieties had decreased by less than 5% due to low demand.

Compared to the same period of last year, retail prices of most of the fruits had decreased with the highest price decrease of 47% for karthakolomban (mango).

Producer price of papaw had decreased by 45% in Embilipitiya and Hambantota areas due to increased supplies at the end of the month. Further the producer price of banana (ambul and and kolikuttu) had decreased due to decreased wholesale prices.

Exports/Imports of Fruits

Papaw and pineapple are the widely exported type of fruit in February with the quantities of 126.49mt and 181.26mt respectively. The total export earnings of pineapple, papaw, mango, orange and avocado were Rs.45.34mn in February.

Mandarin and apple are the widely imported type of fruits in February with the quantities of 1302 mt and 1123mt respectively. The total import expenditure on apple, mandarin, grapes and orange was Rs.305.51mn in February.

Table 4.1: Wholesale Prices of Fruits – February 2014

Items	Average Price			Change Compared to			
	Feb 2014	Jan 2014	Feb 2013	Jan 2014		Feb 2013	
	Rs./Fruit	Rs./Fruit	Rs./Fruit	Rs./Fruit	%	Rs./Fruit	%
Plantain							
Ambul (Rs/kg)	24.49	31.94	43.89	*-7.45*	*-23.32*	*-19.40*	*-44.20*
Kolikuttu (Rs/kg)	51.68	65.95	84.64	*-14.27*	*-21.64*	*-32.96*	*-38.94*
Seeni (Rs/kg)	29.74	34.81	43.48	*-5.07*	*-14.56*	*-13.74*	*-31.60*
Anamalu	6.46	7.31	7.17	*-0.85*	*-11.63*	*-0.71*	*-9.90*
Ambun	9.49	10.93	10.83	*-1.44*	*-13.17*	*-1.34*	*-12.37*
Pineapple							
Large	97.00	97.75	95.96	*-0.75*	*-0.77*	*1.04*	*1.08*
Medium	76.31	74.96	77.21	*1.35*	*1.80*	*-0.90*	*-1.17*
Small	53.54	56.09	53.78	*-2.55*	*-4.55*	*-0.24*	*-0.45*
Mango							
Betti	16.12	6.27	35.00	*9.85*	*157.10*	*-18.88*	*-53.94*
Karthakolomban	62.07	28.00	93.33	*34.07*	*121.68*	*-31.26*	*-33.49*
Vilad	15.40	9.50	-	*5.90*	*62.11*	-	-
Kohu	9.76	5.33	19.58	*4.43*	*83.11*	*-9.82*	*-50.15*
Papaw (Rs/kg)	48.94	45.20	101.44	*3.74*	*8.27*	*-52.50*	*-51.75*
Passion Fruit	8.70	7.43	17.41	*1.27*	*17.09*	*-8.71*	*-50.03*
Wood Apple	24.21	15.83	26.51	*8.38*	*52.94*	*-2.30*	*-8.68*
Orange	22.01	21.92	23.19	*0.09*	*0.41*	*-1.18*	*-5.09*
Avocado	26.54	40.79	35.90	*-14.25*	*-34.94*	*-9.36*	*-26.07*
Slime Apple	22.92	22.12	26.68	*0.80*	*3.62*	*-3.76*	*-14.09*
Grapes Imported (Rs/kg)	502.80	501.86	518.14	*0.94*	*0.19*	*-15.34*	*-2.96*

Source: Marketing, Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

Table 4.2: Retail Prices of Fruits – February 2014

Items	Average Price			Change Compared to			
	Feb 2014	Jan 2014	Feb 2013	Jan 2014		Feb 2013	
	Rs./Fruit	Rs./Fruit	Rs./Fruit	Rs./Fruit	%	Rs./Fruit	%
Plantain							
Ambul (Rs/kg)	64.83	68.16	74.52	*-3.33*	*-4.89*	*-9.69*	*-13.00*
Kolikuttu (Rs/kg)	117.90	122.20	140.50	*-4.30*	*-3.52*	*-22.60*	*-16.09*
Seeni (Rs/kg)	67.79	71.03	73.41	*-3.24*	*-4.56*	*-5.62*	*-7.66*
Anamalu	12.68	12.28	12.72	*0.40*	*3.26*	*-0.04*	*-0.31*
Ambun	14.22	14.34	14.15	*-0.12*	*-0.84*	*0.07*	*0.49*
Pineapple							
Large	135.97	128.52	130.22	*7.45*	*5.80*	*5.75*	*4.42*
Medium	100.75	102.33	101.49	*-1.58*	*-1.54*	*-0.74*	*-0.73*
Small	65.81	73.16	75.63	*-7.35*	*-10.05*	*-9.82*	*-12.98*
Mango							
Betti	37.78	18.33	-	*19.45*	*106.11*	-	-
Karthakolomban	82.24	46.18	155.02	*36.06*	*78.09*	*-72.78*	*-46.95*
Vilad	47.92	-	-	-	-	-	-
Kohu	27.69	-	-	-	-	-	-
Papaw (Rs/kg)	77.41	76.79	131.82	*0.62*	*0.81*	*-54.41*	*-41.28*
Passion Fruit	17.40	15.19	22.80	*2.21*	*14.55*	*-5.40*	*-23.68*
Wood Apple	43.02	39.18	41.66	*3.84*	*9.80*	*1.36*	*3.26*
Orange	35.25	42.40	42.13	*-7.15*	*-16.86*	*-6.88*	*-16.33*
Avocado	67.98	103.59	75.07	*-35.61*	*-34.38*	*-7.09*	*-9.44*
Slime Apple	45.94	54.50	46.08	*-8.56*	*-15.71*	*-0.14*	*-0.30*
Grapes Imported (Rs/kg)	722.97	733.33	735.73	*-10.36*	*-1.41*	*-12.76*	*-1.73*

Source: Marketing, Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

Table 4.3: Producer Prices of Selected Fruits-February 2014

Item	Average Price			Change Compared to			
	Feb 2014	Jan 2014	Feb 2013	Jan 2014		Feb 2013	
	Rs./kg	Rs./kg	Rs./kg	Rs./kg	%	Rs./kg	%
Ambul	15.69	17.08	27.05	-1.39	-8.16	-11.36	-42.01
Kolikuttu	38.21	44.63	57.50	-6.42	-14.39	-19.29	-33.55
Papaw	28.44	52.04	53.55	-23.60	-45.35	-25.11	-46.90
Pineapple	53.00	42.16	46.00	10.84	25.72	7.00	15.22

Source:Marketing Food Policy Agribusiness Division, HARTI

Table 4.4: Quantity, Value and FOB Prices of Exported Fruits Dec - 2013 to Feb - 2014

Type of Fruit	Feb - 2014			Jan - 2014			Dec - 2013		
	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	181.26	29.42	162.30	189.28	37.21	196.59	159.07	29.21	183.61
Papaw	126.49	9.88	78.10	314.50	22.77	72.39	132.63	11.10	83.71
Fresh Mango	10.35	4.81	464.67	5.80	20.28	349.84	2.85	1.21	425.94
Fresh Oranges	0.32	0.05	147.15	1.92	0.21	108.60	1.45	0.13	91.15

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

**Table 4.5: Quantity, Value and CIF Prices of Imported Fruits
Dec - 2013 to Feb - 2014**

Types of Fruit	Feb - 2014			Jan - 2014			Dec - 2013		
	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	1,123.78	158.75	141.26	1,221.41	151.99	124.44	1,437.14	161.22	112.18
Grapes	78.39	24.76	315.91	226.38	58.66	259.12	216.66	72.18	333.17
Oranges	228.90	15.13	66.09	274.60	26.10	95.06	374.98	31.47	83.92
Mandarin	1,302.07	106.87	82.07	1,702.68	65.60	38.52	1,452.15	52.05	35.84

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

5. Fish, Dried Fish, Eggs and Meat

Fish

Prices and Supply/Demand Situation

With the onset of the fishing season in the Southern coastal belt, fishes had been supplied to the market mainly from the Southern coastal belt and from other areas such as Nigambo, Chillaw, Kalpitiya and Mannar. At the same time, off season for coastal fisheries in the Eastern coastal belt had resulted limited stocks reaching the market from the Eastern belt. The highest price decrease of 41% was noted for salaya. Prices of thora and paraw had decreased by 24% and 22% respectively. A price decrease of 12% was observed for kelawalla. Further, prices of mora and shrimps had decreased by 6% and 1% respectively. However, prices of balaya, thalapath and hurulla had increased by 6%, 2% and 1% respectively. In the month of February, the monthly average wholesale prices of selected fresh fish varieties ranged between Rs.69.25– 847.46/kg. According to the data in previous years, it can be expected that the fish prices could further decrease in coming weeks. Compared to the same period of the last year, wholesale prices of most of the fresh fish varieties had decreased in the range of 3%-47% with the highest price decrease noted for salaya.

Prices of all the fresh fish varieties had decreased in the range of 4%-25% at the retail level, even though the prices of balaya, thalapath and hurulla had increased at the wholesale level. The highest price decrease was reported for salaya and the lowest price decrease noted for shrimps. Prices of balaya, kelawalla, thora and paraw had decreased in the range of 11%-18%. A price decrease of 7% was observed for mora while a price decrease of 5% was noted for both hurulla and thalapath. Compared to the same period of the last year, retail prices of all the fresh fishes except for thalapath had decreased in the range of 5%-32%with the highest price decrease noted for salaya.

Table 5.1: Wholesale and Retail Prices of Fish – February 2014

Items	Average			Change Compared to			
	Feb 2014	Jan 2014	Feb 2013	Jan 2014		Feb 2013	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Wholesale Prices							
Salaya	69.25	116.61	131.00	*-47.36*	*-40.61*	*-61.75*	*-47.14*
Hurulla	213.06	211.17	242.25	*1.89*	*0.90*	*-29.19*	*-12.05*
Balaya	269.53	254.08	263.25	*15.45*	*6.08*	*6.28*	*2.39*
Kelawalla	426.17	486.25	362.50	*-60.08*	*-12.36*	*63.67*	*17.56*
Thora	847.46	1122.92	907.06	*-275.46*	*-24.53*	*-59.60*	*-6.57*
Paraw	382.08	490.67	413.25	*-108.59*	*-22.13*	*-31.17*	*-7.54*
Mora	430.62	460.25	367.25	*-29.63*	*-6.44*	*63.37*	*17.26*
Shrimps (small)	641.58	648.88	662.00	*-7.30*	*-1.13*	*-20.42*	*-3.08*
Thalapath	620.44	606.71	488.00	*13.73*	*2.26*	*132.44*	*27.14*
Retail Prices							
Salaya	139.29	186.40	206.43	*-47.11*	*-25.27*	*-67.14*	*-32.52*
Hurulla	288.43	303.63	348.04	*-15.20*	*-5.01*	*-59.61*	*-17.13*
Balaya	442.77	500.36	569.25	*-57.59*	*-11.51*	*-126.48*	*-22.22*
Kelawalla	661.81	774.34	711.41	*-112.53*	*-14.53*	*-49.60*	*-6.97*
Thora	1099.44	1335.58	1223.28	*-236.14*	*-17.68*	*-123.84*	*-10.12*
Paraw	683.39	833.43	729.28	*-150.04*	*-18.00*	*-45.89*	*-6.29*
Mora	571.68	617.97	626.70	*-46.29*	*-7.49*	*-55.02*	*-8.78*
Shrimps (small)	813.70	848.86	857.00	*-35.16*	*-4.14*	*-43.30*	*-5.05*
Thalapath	804.64	848.18	770.26	*-43.54*	*-5.13*	*34.38*	*4.46*

Source: Marketing, Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

Prices and Supply/Demand Situation

Dried Fish

Wholesale prices of all the varieties except for local salaya, balaya and mora have increased by less than 15% with the highest price increase of local salaya because of limited supply followed by local anguluwa (14%). All the other varieties have increased by less than thora (by7%).However imported salaya, koduwa, maduwa, local koduwa and mora were not available in the market. The quality of the local varieties was high compared to that of the most of the imported varieties. The major supply areas of the local varieties were Valachchenai, Kalpitiya, Mannar and Kinniya. Compared to the same period of last year the current prices of most of the varieties have decreased with the highest price decrease observed for imported sprats (45%).

The retail prices of most of the varieties have increased with the highest price increase noted for maduwa (15%) due to insufficient supplies to fulfill the market demand. However prices of sprats, kattawa, koduwa and salaya have decreased in the range of 1%-6% due to sufficient quantity. Compared the same period of last year the current prices of most of the varieties have increased by range of 12% to 40%. The highest price increase of 7% noted for anguluwa and maduwa. According to the market information the prices of all the varieties except for sprats may be increased in March with limited supply.

Table 5.2: Wholesale and Retail Prices of Dried Fish– February 2014

Items	Average			Change Compared to			
	Feb 2014	Jan 2014	Feb 2013	Jan 2014		Feb 2013	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Dried fish – Wholesale							
Sprats	611.38	532.50	638.89	*78.88*	*14.81*	*-27.51*	*-4.31*
Sprats (imported)	352.08	346.42	636.82	*5.66*	*1.63*	*-284.73*	*-44.71*
Kattawa	687.35	668.59	693.33	*18.76*	*2.81*	*-5.98*	*-0.86*
Kattawa (imported)	627.51	596.38	637.73	*31.13*	*5.22*	*-10.21*	*-1.60*
Thora	-	-	950.00	-	-	-	-
Thora (imported)	905.85	903.56	892.72	*2.30*	*0.25*	*13.13*	*1.47*
Mora	709.04	731.16	714.44	*-22.12*	*-3.03*	*-5.40*	*-0.76*
Mora (imported)	672.99	664.68	619.77	*8.31*	*1.25*	*53.23*	*8.59*
Balaya	429.39	441.17	415.51	*-11.78*	*-2.67*	*13.88*	*3.34*
Balaya (imported)	437.50	411.25	-	*26.25*	*6.38*	-	-
Anguluwa	575.25	502.29	-	*72.96*	*14.53*	-	-
Anguluwa (imported)	535.67	520.02	550.84	*15.65*	*3.01*	*-15.17*	*-2.75*
Maduwa	438.57	416.50	426.11	*22.07*	*5.30*	*12.46*	*2.92*
Maduwa (imported)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Koduwa	-	543.33	498.33	-	-	-	-
Koduwa(imported)	-	-	-	-	-		-
Salaya	234.38	237.22	331.27	*-2.84*	*-1.20*	*-96.90*	*-29.25*
Salaya (imported)		-		-	-	-	-
Dried fish – Retail							
Sprats	643.69	658.85	805.51	*-15.16*	*-2.30*	*-161.82*	*-20.09*
Kattawa	973.70	979.15	978.68	*-5.45*	*-0.56*	*-4.98*	*-0.51*
Thora	1255.37	1241.42	1224.57	*13.95*	*1.12*	*30.80*	*2.52*
Mora	883.18	883.19	841.27	*-0.01*	*0.00*	*41.91*	*4.98*
Balaya	732.47	706.83	734.09	*25.64*	*3.63*	*-1.62*	*-0.22*
Anguluwa	813.49	775.26	758.25	*38.23*	*4.93*	*55.24*	*7.29*
Maduwa	623.58	542.99	581.19	*80.59*	*14.84*	*42.39*	*7.29*
Koduwa	826.64	845.51	797.04	*-18.87*	*-2.23*	*29.60*	*3.71*
Salaya	479.46	514.70	566.05	*-35.24*	*-6.85*	*-86.59*	*-15.30*

Source: Marketing, Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

Table 5.3: Quantity, Value and CIF prices of Sprats -Sep - 2013 to Feb - 2014

Month	Quantity (mt)	Value (Rs.mn)	CIF price (Rs/kg)	Retail Price (Rs/kg)	Gross Margin (Rs/kg)
Feb 2014	1744.28	446.61	256.04	643.69	*387.65*
Jan 2014	2177.84	519.75	238.65	658.85	*420.20*
Dec 2013	2176.88	561.45	257.92	686.89	*428.97*
Nov 2013	2104.21	665.46	316.25	709.61	*393.36*
Oct 2013	1435.64	469.37	326.94	715.32	*388.38*
Sep 2013	1726.25	578.59	335.17	717.18	*382.01*

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

Eggs

Prices of both brown and white eggs had decreased by 4% at the wholesale level. Egg supply had improved in the month of February compared to the previous month. The monthly average wholesale prices of brown and white eggs were Rs.13.02/egg and Rs.12.02/egg respectively. According to the data in previous years, egg supply will be further improved from areas such as Hettipola, Madampe, Marawila and Kuliyapitiya and therefore it can be expected that egg prices could further decrease in coming weeks. Compared to the same period of the last year, wholesale prices of both brown and white eggs had decreased by 15% and 17% respectively.

In line with the decreased wholesale prices, prices of both brown and white eggs had decreased by 4% and 5% respectively at the retail level. The monthly average retail prices of a brown and a white egg were Rs.13.99 and Rs.12.98 respectively. Compared to the same period of the last year, retail prices of brown eggs had decreased by 14% while, the prices of white eggs had decreased by 16%.

Table 5.4: Wholesale and Retail Prices of Eggs –February 2014

Items	Average			Change Compared to			
	Feb 2014	Jan 2014	Feb 2013	Jan 2014		Feb 2013	
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	%	Rs.	%
Eggs – Wholesale							
Eggs – Brown (each)	13.02	13.50	15.25	*-0.48*	*-3.56*	*-2.23*	*-14.62*
White (each)	12.02	12.50	14.56	*-0.48*	*-3.84*	*-2.54*	*-17.45*
Eggs – Retail							
Eggs- Brown (each)	*13.99*	*14.62*	*16.30*	*-0.63*	*-4.31*	*-2.31*	*-14.17*
White (each)	*12.98*	*13.65*	*15.39*	*-0.67*	*-4.91*	*-2.41*	*-15.66*

Source: Marketing, Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

Meat

Prices of all varieties have increased by less than12% with limited supply. The highest price increase of 12% was noted for curry chicken followed by broiler chicken (11%). Compared to the same period of last year, current retail prices of all varieties except for curry chicken have increased with the highest price increase of 31% for pork. According to the field information, the highest price was reported for curry chicken in Mullative retail market (Rs.800.00kg). According to the market information the prices of all varieties may be increased in March too with limited supply.

Table 5.5: Retail Prices of Meat – February 2014

Items	Average			Change Compared to			
	Feb 2014	Jan 2014	Feb 2013	Jan 2014		Feb 2013	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Meat							
Beef (without bones)	552.55	550.30	519.29	*2.25*	*0.41*	*33.26*	*6.40*
Chicken (Broiler)	482.32	434.35	468.96	*47.97*	*11.04*	*13.36*	*2.85*
Chicken (curry)	435.91	389.74	439.14	*46.17*	*11.85*	*-3.23*	*-0.74*
Mutton	1271.29	1229.54	1159.58	*41.75*	*3.40*	*111.71*	*9.63*
Pork	513.96	495.52	394.19	*18.44*	*3.72*	*119.77*	*30.38*

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

6. Wheat grain, Wheat flour and Sugar

Wheat grain and Wheat flour

The imported quantity of wheat grain was very high in the previous month. Hence, the imported quantity had shown a sharp drop reporting the total quantity of imports as 85,816mt in February. The total value of wheat grain imports was Rs.mn.3,382 in February 2014. Considering the monthly average imports of 45,000mt in 2013the considerable increase could be observed in first two months of 2014. There was a new trend of wheat grain imports could be seen since last November. The world market prices of wheat grain have decreased continuously since July 2013 and it can be expected to decline further. The CIF price has decreased by 21% compared to that of July 2013 and it has decreased by 5% compared to that of previous month. The average CIF price was Rs.39.41/kg in February.

The wheat flour imports have decreased against the previous month limiting to 58mt in February. The value of the stock was Rs.mn.4.26. The CIF price of wheat flour has shown an increasing trend since October 2013. Therefore, the CIF price has increased further by Rs.1.22/kg against the previous month recording the average price of Rs.73.62/kg. But, in retail level usually wheat flour prices were remained stable and slight decrease of cents 58/kg was reported against the previous month. Compared to the same period of the last year retail price of wheat flour has decreased by 2%.

Table 6.1: Open Market Retail Prices of Wheat Flour and Sugar–February 2014

Items	Average Retail Price			Change Compared to			
	Feb 2014	Jan 2014	Feb 2013	Jan 2014		Feb 2013	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Wheat Flour	96.97	97.55	99.06	*-0.58*	*-0.59*	*-2.09*	*-2.11*
Sugar	101.70	102.49	*100.97*	*-0.79*	*-0.77*	*0.73*	*0.72*

Source: Department of Census and Statistics

Table 6.2: Quantity, Value and CIF prices of Wheat Flour & Grain -Sep 2013 to Feb 2014

Month	Quantity (mt)	Value (Rs.mn)	CIF price (Rs/kg)	Retail Price (Rs/kg)	Gross Margin (Rs/kg)
Wheat Flour					
Feb - 2014	57.89	4.26	73.62	96.97	*23.35*
Jan - 2014	1,480.93	107.21	72.40	97.55	*25.15*
Dec - 2013	52.58	3.80	72.34	97.93	*25.59*
Nov - 2013	80.79	5.38	66.60	97.38	*30.78*
Oct - 2013	136.96	8.67	63.33	97.58	*34.25*
Sep - 2013	62.97	5.42	86.12	97.60	*11.48*
Wheat Grain					
Feb - 2014	85,815.68	3,381.74	39.41	96.97	*57.56*
Jan - 2014	188,624.26	7,818.86	41.45	97.55	*56.10*
Dec - 2013	79,594.85	3,311.05	41.60	97.93	*56.33*
Nov - 2013	184,028.25	7,880.08	42.82	97.38	*54.56*
Oct - 2013	5,456.14	252.17	46.22	97.58	*51.36*
Sep - 2013	8,328.69	391.60	47.02	97.60	*50.58*

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

Sugar

The monthly average imported quantity of sugar in 2013 was 55,000mt and it has shown a decrease in the first two months of 2014. The highest price in year 2013 was reported in January as Rs.72.10/kg and up to February it has dropped by 16% recording a decrease of Rs.11.47/kg. But, in retail level price of sugar was remained more or less stable. The retail price of sugar was Rs.101.70/kg in February. Retail price has decreased by less than 1% against the previous month and it has increased by cents 73/kg compared to the prices prevailed in February last year.

Table 6.3: Quantity, Value and CIF prices of Sugar- Sep2013 to Feb 2014

Month	Quantity (t.)	Value (Rs.mn)	CIF price (Rs/kg)	Retail Price (Rs/kg)	Gross Margin (Rs/kg)
Feb - 2014	40,619.14	2,462.55	60.63	101.70	*41.07*
Jan - 2014	38,267.91	2,410.67	62.99	102.49	*39.50*
Dec - 2013	52,278.92	3,313.06	63.37	102.42	*39.04*
Nov - 2013	37,547.38	2,434.31	64.83	101.39	*36.56*
Oct - 2013	41,089.28	2,658.31	64.70	100.81	*36.11*
Sep - 2013	27,649.97	1,819.46	65.80	101.02	*35.22*

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

Table 7: Imports of Selected Food Items - February 2014

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 2014	Jan 2014		Feb 2014	Jan 2014		Feb 2014	Jan 2014	
Rice	1786.78	2094.13	-14.68	179.05	203.80	-12.15	100.21	97.32	2.97
Red Onion	1847.29	3126.31	-40.91	86.95	155.44	-44.06	47.07	49.72	-5.34
Big Onion	17797.40	21629.74	-17.72	497.30	674.47	-26.27	27.94	31.18	-10.39
Potato	8644.58	15803.32	-45.30	261.47	552.08	-52.64	30.25	34.93	-13.42
Dried Chillies	4191.29	3869.86	8.31	656.33	580.09	13.14	156.59	149.90	4.47
Masoor Dhal	6339.84	6289.59	0.80	556.76	539.52	3.20	87.82	85.78	2.38
Green Gram	252.25	72.05	250.10	39.95	11.28	254.03	158.38	156.62	1.12
Black gram	388.41	382.84	1.46	48.92	43.54	12.36	125.94	113.72	10.75
Garlic	1805.90	2317.00	-22.06	142.40	179.37	-20.62	78.85	77.42	1.85
Wheat flour	57.89	1480.93	-96.09	4.26	107.21	-96.02	73.62	72.40	1.69
Wheat grain	85815.68	188624.26	-54.50	3381.74	7818.86	-56.75	39.41	41.45	-4.93
White crystalline cane sugar	40619.14	38267.91	6.14	2462.55	2410.67	2.15	60.63	62.99	-3.76
Maize (Seed)	57.60	-	-	4.09	-	-	70.95	-	-
Maize (Other)		72.00			6.92			96.16	

Source: Automated data Processing Division, Department of Customs

Table 8: Monthly Rainfall (mm) – February 2014

Rainfall Station	Total Rainfall (mm)	30 Year Avg. Rainfall (mm)	Total Rainy Days	30 Year Average Rainy Days
Anuradhapura	45.4	55.4	4	4
Badulla	39.9	103.1	7	7
Bandarawela	21.3	70.2	6	6
Batticaloa	72.6	128.4	4	7
Colombo	19.5	72.7	2	5
Galle	42.9	70.5	3	6
Hambantota	0.0	47.6	0	4
Jaffna	22.7	39.0	3	2
Katugastota	33.4	74.2	1	5
Katunayaka	1.5	79.8	1	4
Kurunegala	5.1	98.8	1	4
MahaIluppallama	10.4	56.8	4	4
Mannar	9.7	61.8	3	3
NuwaraEliya	8.1	77.7	6	7
Pottuvil	72.3	163.6	4	n.a
Puttalam	9.2	43.1	2	4
Ratmalana	45.0	77.3	3	5
Ratnapura	76.8	137.0	6	9
Trincomalee	82.8	105.4	4	5
Vavuniya	17.7	62.5	5	4
Polonnaruwa	61.8	n.a	4	n.a
Moneragala	62.4	n.a	6	n.a
Mattala	2.3	n.a	1	n.a

Source: Department of Meteorology