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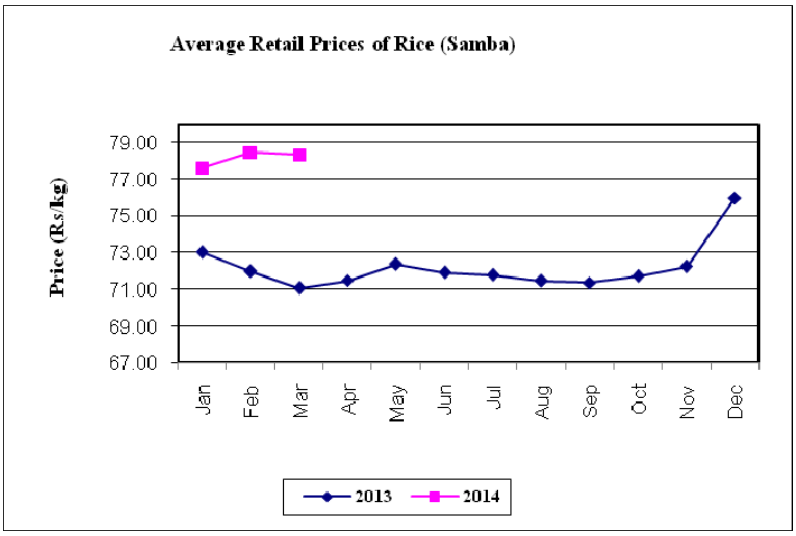
RICE:

The prices of most of the rice varieties have not changed significantly. Generally, rice prices come down in the month of March. But, the price behaviour of this March has changed from normal pattern. Crop damages and delayed arrival of *Maha* harvest were the main reasons for this change. Prices are expected to increase during next month too.

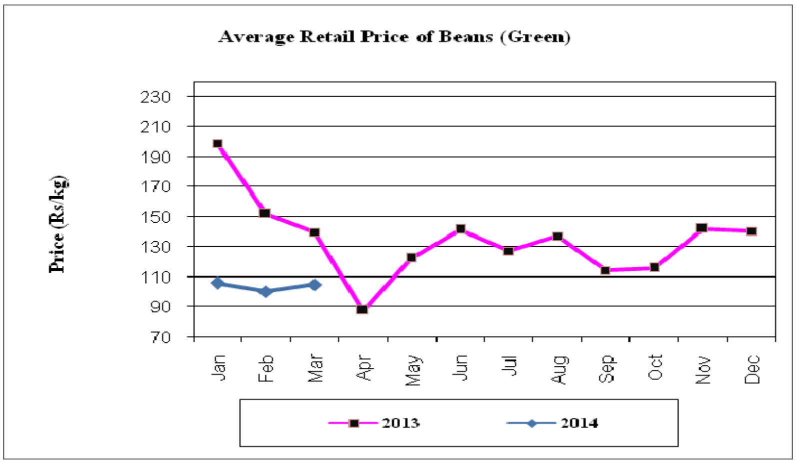


VEGETABLES:

- Compared to February, prices of most of the vegetables have come down in March as a result of,

  - Receiving of high supplies from low country areas with delayed *Maha* crop and

  - Receiving of low quality supplies due to prevailed drought.



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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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21. Namal Dissanayake	- Badulla
22. N.P.G. Manohari	- Galle
23. Harshani Iroshika	- Moneragala

1. Paddy

Crop Situation

Paddy harvesting of 2013/14 *maha* season is in progress in major producing areas such as Polonnaruwa, Anuradhapura, Ampara , Hambantota and Tissamaharama. Harvesting may be continued until mid-April in Hambantota. According to the field information the average yield of harvested paddy lands were low in some of the major producing areas like Anuradhapura, Batticaloa, and Vavunia due to prevailed drought situation in the season. The average yield was satisfactory in Ampara, Polonnaruwa and Hambantota areas due to the favorable weather for paddy crop. However 92,687ha were damaged due to the drought. According to the latest crop forecast report, the cultivated extent of paddy was 659,369ha and that is 81% out of the target. The expected production is 2.28 million Mt. The information revealed that present water levels in the tanks were not enough for paddy cultivation under major irrigation schemes in 2014 *Yala* season.

Table 1.1: Achievement of Paddy Cultivation 2013/14 *maha* season (Up to end of March 2014)

District	Targeted Extent (ha)	Achievement (ha)	Achievement as a % of the targeted extent	Production forecast (mt)	Revised Production forecast (mt)
Anuradhapura	91,500	42,810	47	166,468	143,126
Polonnaruwa	34,750	29,076	84	134,133	107,874
Ampara	75,910	75,524	99	374,227	363,089
Hambantota	83,677	57,624	69	228,710	194,893
Kurunagala	29,411	28,357	96	129,153	128,841
Colombo	4,910	4,903	100	14,638	13,928
Gampaha	13,940	10,390	75	30,195	27,372
Kalutara	16,294	14,664	90	43,694	41,306
Galle	16,887	13,126	78	33,384	31,640
Matara	17,000	15,180	89	43,643	43,438
Ratnapura	15,420	12,676	82	36,443	36,386
Kegalle	9,646	7,909	82	27,515	26,571
Puttalam	22,930	11,865	52	40,463	37,164
Kandy	14,729	13,174	89	39,202	37,777
Matale	22,331	17,014	76	63,534	63,098
Nuwara Eliya	7,138	4,784	67	11,035	9,598
Badulla	23,849	19,199	81	72,468	61,341
Moneragala	38,085	36,408	96	155,611	141,529
Jaffna	11,900	10,737	90	24,743	4,027
Kilinochchi	22,742	22,299	98	60,709	22,624
Vavuniya	19,810	12,138	61	53,551	24,914
Mullaitivu	16,273	14,870	91	58,294	25,750
Mannar	20,815	4,765	23	21,036	13,295
Trincomalee	41,868	31,693	76	130,325	88,182
Batticaloa	61,000	60,883	100	204,248	172,161
Udawalawa	12,000	11,200	93	60,899	60,899
System H	18,000	21,872	122	108,876	103,432
System H1	8,000	8,179	102	40,714	38,678
System B	19,500	19,045	98	94,803	90,063
System C	20,000	22,029	110	109,657	104,175
System G	5,254	4,949	94	24,635	23,404
System L	1,746	26	1	129	123
Sri Lanka	**817,315**	**659,369**	**81**	**2637135**	**2280699**

Source: Department of Agriculture

Table 1.2: Producer Prices of Paddy March 2014

Commodity	Price Range (Rs/kg)		Average (Rs/kg)			Change Compared to			
	Mar 2014	Feb 2014	Mar 2014	Feb 2014	Mar 2013	Feb 2014		Mar 2013	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Short Grain									
Anuradhapura	33.00-37.00	33.00-38.00	35.20	36.00	28.75	*-0.80*	*-2.22*	*6.45*	*22.43*
Polonnaruwa	32.81-40.62	31.25-43.00	36.84	36.77	-	*0.07*	*0.20*	-	-
Kalawewa	32.00-38.00	33.00-38.50	35.20	36.15	29.73	*-0.95*	*-2.62*	*5.47*	*18.39*
Kurunegala	34.00-39.00	33.00-37.00	36.14	35.02	27.15	*1.12*	*3.21*	*8.99*	*33.10*
Dehiattakandiya	-	-	-	-	28.94	-	-	-	-
Nikaweratiya	34.00-38.00	33.00-39.00	35.81	35.68	30.34	*0.13*	*0.37*	*5.47*	*18.02*
Ampara	33.00-39.00	31.50-35.00	35.25	33.77	30.75	*1.48*	*4.38*	*4.50*	*14.64*
Long Grain White									
Anuradhapura	31.00-36.00	32.00-35.00	33.60	33.63	25.50	*-0.02*	*-0.07*	*8.10*	*31.76*
Polonnaruwa	31.25-38.00	29.29-39.00	34.63	33.99	-	*0.64*	*1.87*	-	-
Kalawewa	31.00-37.00	32.00-37.00	34.07	34.42	25.47	*-0.35*	*-1.02*	*8.60*	*33.76*
Kurunegala	30.50-38.00	30.00-33.75	34.57	31.85	23.55	*2.72*	*8.54*	*11.02*	*46.78*
Dehiattakandiya	-	-	-	-	26.19	-	-	-	-
Embilipitiya	33.00-37.00	34.00-39.00	34.50	36.38	28.24	*-1.88*	*-5.17*	*6.26*	*22.15*
Nikaweratiya	30.50-38.00	30.50-35.00	34.60	32.78	24.95	*1.83*	*5.57*	*9.65*	*38.68*
Matara	30.00-35.00	32.00-35.00	32.21	33.42	28.00	*-1.21*	*-3.61*	*4.21*	*15.03*
Hambantota	-	-	-	-	26.50	-	-	-	-
Ampara	27.00-38.00	26.00-33.00	32.99	30.00	28.04	*2.99*	*9.97*	*4.95*	*17.66*
Long Grain Red									
Anuradhapura	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Matara	29.00-31.00	32.00-34.00	30.44	33.17	27.00	*-2.73*	*-8.22*	*3.44*	*12.74*
Hambantota	29.00-32.00	33.00-38.00	30.60	34.75	25.56	*-4.15*	*-11.94*	*5.04*	*19.72*
Embilipitiya	30.00-33.00	33.00-38.00	31.26	34.96	26.58	*-3.70*	*-10.59*	*4.68*	*17.61*

Source: Marketing Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

Producer Prices

Producer prices of all the paddy varieties have deviated from the normal fluctuation pattern. Prices have further increased some of the major producing areas mainly due to the declined production during this *Maha* season. However, the prices have slightly decreased in Anuradhapura, Kalawewa, Kurunegala, Matara, Hambantota and Embilipitiya due to the arrival of new harvest to the markets. The prices of old paddy stocks were higher than that of the newly harvested paddy because of the good quality. As the PMB has started to purchase paddy from new harvest the private sector actively engaged in purchasing because they had faced various problems due to lack of paddy for milling. Prices have ranged between Rs.32.00-40.62/kg for short grain and Rs.27.00-38.00/kg for long grain white. The lowest price was recorded for high moisture long grain white paddy in Ampara. Due to prevailed drought weather condition farmers kept higher stocks of paddy for household consumption because they anticipated that they cannot cultivate paddy in the forthcoming *Yala*.

Compared to the prices of short grain in last month, they have decreased by 2% in Anuradhapura and Kurunegala. Prices of long grain white have increased in most of the major producing areas in the range of 2%-10% with the highest increase recorded in Ampara. Compared to the same period of last year, the prices of long grain white paddy have increased in the range of 15%-47%, and the prices of short grain have increased in the range of 15%-33% in most of the major producing areas.

Rice Demand and Supply Situation

Wholesale prices

Prices of all the rice varieties except for raw red have increased further by 1% -2% and the highest increase was recorded for grade I samba and nadu rice. This is mainly due to shortage of paddy at the small and medium scale mills. The price of raw red has decreased by nearly 1% due to increased supplies from Batticaloa and Eravur.

Meanwhile, the prices of both samba grade II and III have not changed significantly. However, prices of all the other rice varieties have gone up further during this month too. This is an abnormal situation recorded in the rice market. According to the price data of last five years the rice prices come down steeply from February to March. In this year the situation has not align with the usual pattern of prices. The highest price of Rs.81.00/kg was reported for samba grade I while the lowest price of Rs.60.00/kg was noted for raw red. The main reason for the price increase was maintained by the prevailed increased paddy price due to crop damages as well as delayed arrival of *Maha* harvest to the market.

Compared to the same month of last year prices of all rice varieties have increased by 18 - 25% with the highest increase recorded for raw white and nadu rice.

Retail

Prices have shown very slight changes at the markets. This is an unexpected price behaviour observed in the rice market during the month of March. According to the seasonal price index of rice generally rice prices come down in the month of March. Hence, the price pattern of this month is deviated from usual pattern. The highest price of Rs.84.70/kg was reported for samba grade I while the lowest price of Rs.66.29/kg was noted for raw red. The increasing trend of rice prices can be anticipated further during next month too.

Compared to the same period of last year prices of all rice varieties have increased by 10-13% except for raw white. The price increase for raw white was above 14%.

Table 1.3: Wholesale and Retail Prices of Rice - March 2014

Item	Price Range (Rs/kg)		Average (Rs/kg)			Change Compared to			
	Mar 2014	Feb 2014	Mar 2014	Feb 2014	Mar 2013	Feb 2014		Mar 2013	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Wholesale Prices									
Samba I			81.08	79.18	68.68	*1.90*	*2.40*	*12.40*	*18.06*
Samba II			75.66	75.71	64.31	*-0.05*	*-0.06*	*11.35*	*17.66*
Samba III			72.64	72.60	61.23	*0.04*	*0.06*	*11.41*	*18.64*
Nadu I			67.44	66.06	54.68	*1.37*	*2.08*	*12.76*	*23.34*
Nadu II			64.53	63.38	52.38	*1.16*	*1.83*	*12.15*	*23.20*
Raw red			60.42	61.29	49.82	*-0.87*	*-1.42*	*10.60*	*21.28*
Raw white			63.70	62.75	51.04	*0.95*	*1.51*	*12.66*	*24.80*
Retail Prices									
Samba I			84.70	84.59	76.06	*0.11*	*0.13*	*8.64*	*11.36*
Samba II			76.04	76.54	70.16	*-0.50*	*-0.65*	*5.88*	*8.38*
Samba III			74.24	74.29	67.00	*-0.05*	*-0.07*	*7.24*	*10.81*
Nadu I			72.77	72.18	65.64	*0.59*	*0.82*	*7.13*	*10.86*
Nadu II			67.76	67.64	60.12	*0.12*	*0.18*	*7.64*	*12.71*
Raw red			66.29	66.32	58.90	*-0.03*	*-0.05*	*7.39*	*12.55*
Raw white			67.56	67.44	59.24	*0.12*	*0.18*	*8.32*	*14.04*

Source: Marketing Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

2. Other Field Crops

2.1 Chillies

Crop situation

Harvesting of chillies for *Maha* season was carried out in major producing areas and more than 50% of the harvesting has been completed at the end of March 2014. According to the crop forecast of the Department of Agriculture, the targeted extent of chillies for *Maha* was 1,458ha and 68% out of the target had been achieved at the end of March. From this cultivation about 42,320mt of production will be expected. The highest cultivated extent of 2673ha was reported from Anuradhapura district and that represented 59% of the targeted extent. The production forecast of green chillies in Anuradhapura district is 14,453mt and it represents 34% of the total expected production in Sri Lanka.

Table 2.1.1:Cultivation Progress of green chillies for Maha 2013/14

Areas	Targeted Extent (ha)	Cultivation progress at the end of March 2014		Expected production (mt)
		Cultivated Extent (ha)	Achievement as a % of the targeted extent	
Anuradhapura	4,500	2,673	59	14,453
Moneragala	1,162	881	76	5,466
Puttalam	1,000	687	69	5,806
Ampara	700	565	74	1,190
Matale	662	246	37	1,035
Kurunegala	478	353	74	1,061
Hambantota	410	509	124	1,785
Jaffna	760	565	74	1,190
Other areas	4,912	3,387	69	10,334
Total	14,584	9,866	68	42,320

Source: Crop forecasting Unit, Department of Agriculture

Prices and Supply/Demand Situation

Supply of green chillies from main producing areas had decreased slightly during this month. Hence, both wholesale and retail prices of green chillies had increased by about Rs.17.00/kg and Rs.6.00/kg respectively. Average wholesale and retail prices of green chillies were Rs.78.62/kg and Rs.179.75/kg respectively and both prices had decreased by about 65% and 50% respectively compared to the same month of last year.

Supply of dried chillies only comprised of imported stocks that was arrived from India. A quantity of 4,893mt of dried chillies was imported during this month and it was an increase of 702mt compared to that of the last month. The CIF price was Rs.153.34/kg and it was a decrease Rs.3.25/kg compared to the previous month. Wholesale and retail prices of imported dried chillies had decreased by about Rs.5.00/kg and Rs.3.00/kg respectively due to high imports from India. The average wholesale and retail prices of imported dried chillies were Rs.184.41/kg and Rs.232.07/kg and both prices have decreased by about 3% compared to the same period of the last year.

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

Items	Average Price			Change Compared to			
	Mar 2014	Feb 2014	Mar 2013	Feb 2014		Mar 2013	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Wholesale Price							
Green chillies	78.62	61.88	223.71	*16.74*	*27.05*	*-145.09*	*-64.86*
Dried chillies	184.41	189.88	189.39	*-5.47*	*-2.88*	*-4.98*	*-2.63*
Retail Price							
Green chillies	179.75	173.68	358.18	*6.07*	*3.49*	*-178.43*	*-49.82*
Dried chillies	232.07	235.25	239.65	*-3.18*	*-1.35*	*-7.58*	*-3.16*

Source: Marketing, Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

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

Month	Quantity (mt)	Value (Rs.mn.)	CIF Price (Rs/kg)	Retail Price (Rs/kg)	Gross Margin (Rs/kg)
Mar 2014	4,892.61	750.25	153.34	232.07	78.73
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

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

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

Location	1st week	2nd week	3rd week	4th week	5th week
Dambulla	73.20	72.60	94.40	81.60	98.00
Hambantota	75.00	75.00	75.00	75.00	75.00
Embilipitiya	75.00	110.00	0.00	163.00	171.00
Anuradhapura	75.00	75.00	105.00	100.00	110.00
Dambulla	73.20	72.60	94.40	81.60	98.00

Source: Marketing, Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

2.2 Big Onion and Red Onion

Crop situation

Department of Agriculture has planned to cultivate around 675ha of big onion for this *Maha* season (2013/14). Under this programme, by the end of March 2014 about 394ha of big onion has been cultivated representing 58% of the targeted extent. The highest cultivated extent was reported in Hambantota (256ha), followed by Moneragala (80ha). Cultivation of big onion for *Yala* 2014 will start during the next month (April) in the Matale district.

The cultivated extent of red onion at the end of March for *Maha* 2013/14 reported as 3,539ha and that represents 68% of the targeted extent. There was no red onion cultivation reported during this month in Jaffna district. At about 88ha of red onion has been cultivated during this month in Puttalam district. The production forecast of red onions for the season is 46,856mt and out of that 46% was supplied from Jaffna and 21% from Puttalam. More than 50% of the harvest had been completed in most of the producing areas at the end of March 2014.

Table 2.2.1: Cultivation Progress of Red Onion for *Maha* 2013/14

Areas	Targeted Extent (ha)	Cultivation progress at the end of March 2014		Expected production (mt)
		Cultivated Extent (ha)	% of the targeted Extent	
Jaffna	2,300	1,938	84	21,514
Puttalam	1,050	597	57	9,743
Trincomalee	660	266	40	2,734
Other areas	1,180	737	62	12,857
Total	**5,190**	**3,539**	**68**	**46,856**

Source: DDA/ Agriculture Department: MFPAD, HARTI

Prices and Supply/Demand Situation

Only imported big onion was available at the market and 22,477mt of big onion was imported in March 2014 reporting an increase of 4,680mt compared to that of the previous month. Average CIF price was Rs.29.45/kg and it was an increase of Rs.1.51/kg compared to that of the last month. The wholesale price of imported big onion had increased by about Rs.4.00/kg due to good quality and increased CIF price. The retail price of imported big onion had decreased by about

Rs.2.00/kg due to availability of both good and poor quality stocks at the market. The margin between CIF price and wholesale price of imported big onion was higher than that prevailed in the previous month.

Supply of sinnan and vedalan from main producing areas had decreased during this month. Hence, wholesale prices of both sinnan and vedalan had increased by about Rs.6.00/kg and Rs.14.00/kg respectively. The retail price of vedalan had decreased by about Rs.8.00/kg because traders mixed both sinnan and vedalan at the retail level to expedite the sales. Limited stocks of sinnan were available at the retail market and fetched Rs.91.33/kg. A quantity of 1,021mt of red onion was imported from India during this month and it was a decrease of 826mt compared to that of previous month. Average CIF price was Rs.47.97/kg and it had increased by cents 90/kg compared to that of last month. However, both wholesale and retail prices of imported red onion had decreased by about Rs.2.00/kg and Rs.7.00/kg due to its low quality.

Compared to the same period of last year, current retail prices of sinnan, vedalan and imported red onions have decreased by 19%, 40% and 30% respectively.

Table 2.2.2: Wholesale Prices and Retail Prices of Red Onion and Big Onion (Rs/kg) March 2014

Commodity	Price Range (Rs/kg)		Average (Rs/kg)			Change Compared to			
	Mar 2014	Feb 2014	Mar 2014	Feb 2014	Mar 2013	Feb 2014		Mar 2013	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Wholesale Price									
Red Onion Sinnan)			48.85	42.50	82.34	*6.35*	*14.95*	*-33.49*	*-40.67*
Red Onion (vedalan)			68.98	55.10	106.41	*13.89*	*25.21*	*-37.42*	*-35.17*
Red Onion (Imported)			61.66	63.51	100.53	*-1.85*	*-2.91*	*-38.87*	*-38.66*
Big Onion (imported)			46.35	42.56	59.02	*3.79*	*8.91*	*-12.67*	*-21.46*
Big Onion (Local)			-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Retail Prices									
Red Onion Sinnan)			91.33	-	112.54	-	-	*-21.21*	*-18.85*
Red Onion (Vedalan)			107.02	115.44	179.04	*-8.42*	*-7.29*	*-72.02*	*-40.23*
Red Onion (Imported)			104.75	111.53	150.29	*-6.78*	*-6.08*	*-45.54*	*-30.30*
Big Onion (imported)			66.39	68.30	88.13	*-1.91*	*-2.80*	*-21.74*	*-24.67*
Big Onion (Local)			-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Source: Marketing, Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

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

Crop	Month	CIF Price (Rs/kg)	Wholesale Price (Rs/kg)	Retail Price (Rs/kg)	Margin (Rs/kg)	
					WP-CIF	RP-WP
Big onion	Mar 2014	29.45	46.35	66.39	*16.90*	*20.04*
	Feb 2014	27.94	42.56	68.30	*14.61*	*25.74*
	Mar 2013	39.30	59.02	88.13	*19.72*	*29.11*
Red onion	Mar 2014	47.97	61.66	104.75	*13.70*	*43.09*
	Feb 2014	47.07	63.51	111.53	*16.45*	*48.02*
	Mar 2013	76.75	100.53	150.29	*23.78*	*49.76*

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

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

Crop	Quantity (mt)		Value (Rs. Mn)		CIF Price (Rs/kg)	
	Mar 2014	Feb 2014	Mar 2014	Feb 2014	Mar 2014	Feb 2014
Red Onion	1,020.81	1,847.29	48.97	86.95	47.97	47.07
Big Onion	22,477.04	17,797.40	661.98	497.30	29.45	27.94

Source: Department of Custom

Table 2.2.5: Quantity Imported, CIF Price, Wholesale and Retail Price of Big Onion Oct - 2013 to Mar - 2014

Month	Quantity Imported (t)	CIF Price (Rs/kg)	Wholesale Price (Rs/kg)	Retail Price (Rs/kg)	Gross Margin (RP-CIF) (Rs/kg)
Mar 2014	22477.04	29.45	46.35	66.39	36.94
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

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 3,042 ha was cultivated by the end of *maha* 2013/14 achieving 80% of the total targets. During the month, about 204ha of potato were cultivated in the country. Compared to *maha* 2012/13, the total cultivated extent was low during this *maha* season due to lack of rains compared to that of last year. According to the cultivated extent during this *maha* season, the expected production of potato is 44,325mt.

In the Nuwara Eliya district, the targeted extent was 1,720ha and out of which about 1,040ha was cultivated by the end of *maha* 2013/14 representing 60% of the targeted extent. The cultivation progress was low during this *maha* season compared to *maha* 2012/13. According to field information, the cultivation of potato was low during this *maha* season due to lack of rains, lack of availability of good quality seeds and high price of imported seeds. The targeted extent for this *maha* season was 1,943ha in the Badulla district and about 1,918ha were cultivated by the end of this *maha* season achieving 99% of the total target. Compared to *maha* 2012/13, the potato cultivation in the Badulla district was at a high level in *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	1,762	1,040	60	17,814
Badulla	1,919	1,943	1,737	1,918	99	25,843
Sri Lanka	**3,570**	**3,784**	**3,565**	**3,042**	**80**	**44,325**

Source: MFPAD/HARTI
Crop Forecast No.6, Maha 2013/14, Socio-economic & Planning Centre/DOA
**** Crop Forecast No.6, Maha 2012/13, Socio-economic & Planning Centre/DOA***

Prices and Supply/Demand Situation

A quantity of 8,839mt of potato had been imported in February which was 195mt higher than that was imported during the previous month. After increasing the special commodity levy for imported potato on 07/02/2014 up to Rs.25.00/kg, the imported quantity had been declined. Compared to March 2013 (13,120mt) the imported quantity was low in March 2014. Average CIF price was Rs.34.60/kg in March.

Both local and imported stocks were available in the market. The availability of local potatoes was limited due to low supply from Nuwara Eliya and Welimada. Hence, the wholesale prices of both Nuwara Eliya and Welimada potatoes had increased by 21% and 28% respectively compared to the prices of prevailed in February. Also, the retail prices of Nuwara Eliya and Welimada potatoes had increased by 3% and 4% respectively. The monthly average producer price was Rs.78.64/kg for Nuwara Eliya potato. Meanwhile, the wholesale and retail prices of imported potato had also increased by 29% and 16% respectively due to low imports from India and Pakistan with increased Specific Commodity Levy (SCL) from Rs.10.00/kg to Rs.25.00/kg for imported potato. Imported stocks were received from India ("Mettupalan" variety) and Pakistan. During the month of March, the wholesale prices of Nuwara Eliya, Welimada and imported potatoes ranged between Rs.75.00-105.00/kg, Rs.65.00-95.00/kg and Rs.60.00-85.00/kg respectively. Compared to the same period of last year, the current retail prices of imported (26%) and Nuwara Eliya (4%) potatoes had increased.

Table 2.3.2: Quantity, Value and CIF prices of Imported Potatoes October 2013 to March 2014

Month	Quantity (mt)	Value (Rs.mn)	CIF price (Rs/kg)	Retail Price (Rs/kg)	Gross Margin (Rs/kg)
Mar 2014	8,838.81	305.80	34.60	93.43	*58.83*
Feb 2014	8,644.58	261.47	30.25	80.25	*50.00*
Jan 2014	15,803.32	552.08	34.93	86.04	*51.11*
Dec 2013	14,134.62	598.23	42.32	106.19	*63.87*
Nov 2013	6,503.07	329.88	50.73	122.59	*71.86*
Oct 2013	2,931.03	108.96	37.18	105.38	*68.20*

Source: Sri Lanka Customs; Marketing Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

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

Item	Average			Change Compared to			
	Mar 2014	Feb 2014	Mar 2013	Feb 2014		Mar 2013	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Producer Prices (PP)							
Welimada	72.07	60.58	-	*11.49*	*18.96*	-	-
Nuwara Eliya	*78.64*	*67.05*	75.80	*11.59*	*17.29*	*2.84*	*3.75*
Imported – CIF	34.60	30.25	26.35	*4.35*	*14.39*	*8.25*	*31.31*
Wholesale Prices (WP)							
Welimada	83.33	65.15	62.50	*18.18*	*27.90*	*20.83*	*33.33*
Nuwara Eliya	90.49	75.00	78.12	*15.49*	*20.65*	*12.37*	*15.83*
Imported	74.22	57.71	47.38	*16.51*	*28.61*	*26.84*	*56.63*
Retail Prices (RP)							
Welimada	96.83	92.67	-	*4.16*	*4.49*	-	-
Nuwara Eliya	119.57	116.52	115.11	*3.05*	*2.62*	*4.46*	*3.87*
Imported	93.43	80.25	73.97	*13.18*	*16.42*	*19.46*	*26.31*
Gross Margin (RP-PP)							
Welimada	24.76	32.09	-	*-7.33*	*-22.84*	-	-
Nuwara Eliya	40.93	49.47	133.91	*-8.54*	*-17.26*	*-92.98*	*-69.43*
Imported (CIF-RP)	58.83	50.00	82.97	*8.83*	*17.65*	*-24.14*	*-29.09*
Gross Margin (RP -WP)							
Welimada	13.50	27.52	-	*-14.02*	*-50.94*	-	-
Nuwara Eliya	29.08	41.52	36.99	*-12.44*	*-29.96*	*-7.91*	*-21.38*
Imported	19.21	22.54	26.59	*-3.33*	*-14.77*	*-7.38*	*-27.74*

Source: Marketing Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

2.4 Green gram and Cowpea

Crop Situation

The targeted extent of green gram for *maha* 2013/14 is 11,969ha and out of that about 8,687 ha were cultivated by the end of the season representing 73% of the total targeted extent. In March, about 110 ha of green gram had been cultivated in the country and most of the cultivation had been taken place during October to December of 2013/14 *maha* season. According to the cultivated extent during *maha* 2013/14, the expected production of green gram is 10,656mt. In the Hambantota district, the targeted extent was 2,733 ha for this *maha* season and about 2,476ha had been cultivated by the end of this *maha* season representing 91% of the total target. In the Moneragala and Kurunegala districts, the targeted extents were 1,138ha and 1,796ha and about 722ha and 1,697ha had been cultivated respectively by the end of *maha* 2013/14.

For cowpea, the targeted extent was 13,115ha for *maha* 2013/14 and about 8,579ha had been cultivated by the end of the season achieving 65% of the total targeted extent. During the month of March about 140ha of cowpea had been cultivated in the country. According to the cultivated extent during *maha* 2013/14, the expected production of cowpea is 10,547mt. In the Ampara and Moneragala districts, about 3,079ha and 1,759ha had been cultivated by the end of March achieving 97% and 104% of the total target. Compared to the same period of last *maha* season, in Ampara and Anuradhapura, the cultivated extents were lower during this *maha* season and it was higher in the Moneragala 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	722	63	443
	Moneragala	1,880	1,796	1,635	1,697	94	2,030
	Sri Lanka	**20,982**	**11,969**	**8,960**	**8,687**	**73**	**10,656**
Cowpea	Ampara	3,973	3,189	3,139	3,079	97	4,642
	Moneragala	2,281	1,697	1,318	1,759	104	2,074
	Anuradhapura	2,130	1,494	842	642	43	756
	Sri Lanka	**13,443**	**13,115**	**9,514**	**8,579**	**65**	**10,547**

Source: MFPAD/HARTI
Crop Forecast No.6, Maha 2013/14, Socio-economic & Planning Centre/DOA
**** Crop Forecast No.6, Maha 2012/13, Socio-economic & Planning Centre/DOA***

Prices and Supply Demand Situation

A quantity of 1,382mt of green gram was imported in March and it was an increase of about 1,130mt compared to February. Most of the stocks had arrived from Australia and Thailand. The average CIF price was Rs.163.00/kg for green gram in March. Compared to the imported quantity of green gram in March 2013 (702mt), the imported quantity has increased by 97%. The wholesale price of green gram had not changed significantly, while the retail price had increased slightly by 2%. During the month, the wholesale price of green gram ranged between Rs.280.00-310.00/kg. Local stocks fetched low prices while the imported stocks fetched high prices. Compared to the same period of last year, the current wholesale and retail prices of green gram had increased by 17% and 10% respectively.

The wholesale price of white cowpea had not changed significantly while the retail price had decreased by 7%. Both the wholesale and retail prices of red cowpea had decreased by 8% due to availability of sufficient quantity of local supply. Compared to the same period of last year, the current retail price of white cowpea had decreased by 8%.

Table 2.4.2: Quantity, Value and CIF prices of Imported Green gram October 2013 to March 2014

Month	Quantity (mt)	Value (Rs.mn)	CIF price (Rs/kg)	Retail Price (Rs/kg)	Gross Margin (Rs/kg)
Mar 2014	1,382.11	225.57	163.21	316.05	152.84
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

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

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

Item	Average Price			Change Compared to			
	Mar 2014	Feb 2014	Mar 2013	Feb 2014		Mar 2013	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Wholesale Prices							
Green gram	294.20	295.92	251.35	-1.72	-0.58	42.85	17.05
Cowpea (White)	197.01	195.90	222.50	1.11	0.57	-25.49	-11.46
Cowpea (Red)	165.99	180.12	-	-14.13	-7.84	-	-
Retail Prices							
Green gram	316.05	310.47	287.94	5.58	1.80	28.11	9.76
Cowpea (White)	257.67	278.30	280.16	-20.63	-7.41	-22.49	-8.03
Cowpea (Red)	248.68	271.09	-	-22.41	-8.27	-	-

Source: Marketing Food Policy & Agribusiness Division/HARTI

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

Crop	Month	CIF Price (Rs/kg)	Wholesale price (Rs/kg)	Retail price (Rs/kg)	Gross Margin (Rs/Kg)	
					WP-CIF	RP-WP
Green gram	Mar 2014	163.21	294.20	316.05	130.99	21.85
	Feb 2014	158.38	295.92	310.47	137.54	14.55
	Mar 2013	135.02	251.35	287.94	116.33	36.59
Cowpea (White)	Mar 2014	-	197.01	257.67	280.16	60.66
	Feb 2014	-	195.90	278.30	-	82.40
	Mar 2013	-	222.50	280.16	-	-
Cowpea (Red)	Mar 2014	-	165.99	248.68	-	82.69
	Feb 2014	-	180.12	271.09	-	90.97
	Mar 2013	-	-	-	-	-

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

2.5 Red dhal

Prices and Supply/Demand Situation

A quantity of 18,502mt of red dhal was imported in March which was 12,162mt higher than the quantity imported in February due to meet the increasing demand during the festival season in April. Most of the stocks had been received from Australia and Canada. The Special Commodity Levy has reduced from Rs.18.00/kg (whole) and Rs.22.00/kg (split) up to Rs.5.00/kg with effect from 07.02.2014. This duty was increased up to Rs.10.00/kg with effect from 08.03.2014.

Compared to the imported quantity of red dhal in March 2013 (12,799mt), the imported quantity of red dhal was higher than 45% in March 2014. The average CIF price was Rs.90.00/kg in March.

Wholesale and retail prices of red dhal had decreased by 4% and 2% respectively. The average wholesale price was Rs.142.00/kg and it is a decline of Rs.5.00/kg in March. Compared to the same month of last year the current retail price of red dhal had decreased by Rs.3.00/kg.

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

Red Dhal	Average Price			Change Compared to			
	Mar 2014	Feb 2014	Mar 2013	Feb 2014		Mar 2013	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Wholesale Price	141.84	147.00	140.94	-5.16	-3.51	0.90	0.64
Retail Price	162.03	165.14	156.76	-3.11	-1.88	5.27	3.36

Source: Marketing Food Policy & Agribusiness Division

Table 2.5.2: The CIF, Wholesale and Retail Prices of Red dhal
October 2013 to March 2014

Month	Quantity (mt)	CIF Price Rs/kg	Wholesale price Rs/kg	Retail price Rs/kg	Gross Margin (Rs/kg)	
					CIF-WP	WP-RP
Mar 2014	18502.56	89.84	141.84	162.03	51.99	20.19
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

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

3. Vegetables

Crop Situation

As a result of low rainfall in this month vegetable cultivation was considerably delayed in Nuwara Eliya, Kandy, Badulla, Matale and Kurunegala districts. In Matale district the total cultivated extent of vegetables at the end of March was 2,364ha and it was 18% reduction compared to same period of the last year. Though the district target of vegetable cultivation was 4,802ha the achievement was around 49.2%. In the district about 900ha of low land area was used for vegetable cultivation. The mostly cultivated vegetables in the district were tomato, cauliflower, and cabbage. Compared to last *Maha* season cultivated extent of tomato was 32% higher in this season as it is one of the most drought resistant vegetable. In Kandy district 59ha of beans and 17ha of cabbage was cultivated in March. Even though Marassana was considered as one of the major producing areas of vegetables in Kandy district hardly any new cultivation was taken place due to shortage of water. In Nuwara Eliya district also cultivation was very little because the rainfall was 65% lower than that received in March last year. However, due to scarcity of potato seeds, more farmers in Walapane and Hanguranketha areas have cultivated leeks, beet root and carrot as alternative crops. In Kurunegala district radish was the mostly cultivated vegetable as it was a short duration crop. At the end of March cultivation progress of leeks, beans, carrot, tomato, cabbage, beetroot, capsicum, radish and knolkhol ranged between 77% - 94% with the highest progress recorded for leeks.

Cultivation was affected by drought in Monaragala, Embilipitiya and Kurunegala districts too. The weather was positively affected to achieve the cultivation target in Hambantota, Anuradhapura and Ratnapura districts reporting 84% achievement of the targeted cultivation in

Anuradhapura. In Hambantota district, mostly cultivated vegetables were luffa and snake gourd at the end of March.

Table 3.1: Cultivated extents of vegetables in major producing areas

Crop	District	Maha Targeted Extent (ha) and Cultivated Extent of vegetables by the end of March (ha) 2013/14		Cultivated Extent of Vegetables by the end of March (ha) 2012/13	Achievement as a % of the target 2013/14	Change in cultivation progress in 2013/14 compared to 2012/13 (%)
		Target 2013/14	Cultivated Extent 2013/14			
Beans	Badulla	1795	1702	1,758	94.82	-3.19
	N'Eliya	1020	906	1,275	88.85	-28.92
	Kandy	745	841	696	112.89	20.83
	Ratnapura	415	388	329	93.49	17.93
	Matale	844	181	142	21.45	27.46
	Sri Lanka	**5451**	**4750**	**4,798**	**87.15**	**-0.99**
Carrot	N'Eliya	1148	1006	1,016	87.67	-0.94
	Badulla	450	390	384	86.67	1.56
	Sri Lanka	**1903**	**1622**	**1,676**	**85.24**	**-3.23**
Leeks	**N'Eliya**	**824**	**819**	672	99.39	21.88
	Sri Lanka	**1128**	**1063**	**900**	**94.27**	**18.16**
Tomato	Badulla	826	738	614	89.29	20.11
	N'Eliya	696	423	516	60.76	-18.04
	Kandy	498	582	477	116.87	22.01
	Ratnapura	195	115	90	58.87	27.56
	Sri Lanka	**4465**	**3834**	**3,633**	**85.86**	**5.52**
Cabbage	N'Eliya	1020	906	752	88.85	20.52
	Badulla	1795	1702	649	94.82	162.25
	Matale	844	181	96	21.45	88.54
	Kandy	745	841	474	112.89	77.43
	Sri Lanka	**5451**	**4750**	**2,536**	**87.15**	**87.31**
Beet root	N'Eliya	618	394	501	63.72	-21.40
	Badulla	1795	1702	118	94.82	1342.37
	Matale	844	181	74	21.45	144.59
	Kurunegala	37	47	73	127.03	-35.62
	Puttalam	0	0	340	-	-99.97
	Sri Lanka	**5451**	**4750**	**1,441**	**87.15**	**229.65**
Capsicum	N'Eliya	426	335	224	78.64	49.55
	Badulla	310	286	250	92.26	14.40
	Puttalam	180	186	208	103.23	-10.66
	Matale	193	121	66	62.49	82.73
	Kurunegala	225	151	155	67.09	-2.61
	Sri Lanka	**2798**	**2412**	**2,041**	**86.19**	**18.16**
Radish	N'Eliya	456	413	557	90.66	-25.78
	Matale	78	71	73	90.51	-3.29
	Badulla	331	195	306	58.91	-36.27
	Kurunegala	202	162	196	80.20	-17.35
	Sri Lanka	**2281**	**1748**	**2,087**	**76.61**	**-16.26**
Knolkhol	N'Eliya	249	235	254	94.42	-7.44
	Badulla	175	95	170	54.00	-44.41
	Matale	109	82	75	75.23	9.33
	Sri Lanka	**825**	**636**	**645**	**77.09**	**-1.35**

Source: Crop Forecast 2014- Socio Economic and Planning Center, Department of Agriculture, Marketing, Food Policy and Agri-business Division/HART

Table 3.2: Cultivated extents of vegetables in major producing areas

Crop	District	Targeted Extent (ha) 2013/14	Cultivated Extent (ha)2013/14	Cultivated Extent by the end of March (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	689	775	49.21	-11.1
	Moneragala	593	614.6	472	103.64	30.21
	Hambantota	370.3	384.3	353	103.78	8.87
	Badulla	530	417.2	489	78.72	-14.68
	Ratnapura	240	193	198	80.42	-2.53
	Matale	143	93.2	224	65.17	-58.39
	Sri Lanka	**6,892**	**5,914**	**5,846**	**85.82**	**1.17**
Bitter gourd	Hambantota	275	267.66	250	97.33	7.06
	Anuradhapura	390	294.9	379	75.62	-22.19
	Monaragala	186.5	158.8	180	85.15	-11.78
	Kurunegala	170	128	138	75.29	-7.25
	Sri Lanka	**3,146**	**2,497**	**2,547**	**79.36**	**-1.98**
Okra	Anuradhapura	650	410.5	505	63.15	-18.71
	Kurunegala	295	318.5	342	107.97	-6.87
	Monaragala	394	391.2	345	99.29	13.39
	Matale	234	115.05	134	49.17	-14.14
	Ratnapura	240	150	196	62.5	-23.47
	Hambantota	187.6	331.47	318	176.69	4.24
	Sri Lanka	**4,953**	**4,238**	**4,372**	**85.56**	**-3.06**
Pumpkin	Anuradhapura	3,800	2,610	2,672	68.69	-2.31
	Monaragala	2,644	1952.4	1,687	73.84	15.73
	Hambantota	396.9	411.15	345	103.59	19.17
	Sri Lanka	**9,104**	**6,817**	**6,477**	**74.88**	**5.25**
Snake gourd	Hambantota	277.5	266.53	216	96.05	23.39
	Kurunegala	175	145	150	82.86	-3.33
	Matale	170	88.25	107	51.91	-17.52
	Monaragala	153.05	2137.97	163	1396.91	1211.64
	Sri Lanka	**2,750**	**2,214**	**2,329**	**80.52**	**-4.94**
Cucumber	Hambantota	279.2	272.3	235	97.53	15.87
	Monaragala	316	280.7	248	88.83	13.19
	Matale	281	87	145	30.96	-40
	Anuradhapura	665	331	248	49.77	33.47
	Sri Lanka	**3,156**	**3,249**	**1,721**	**102.96**	**88.81**
Long beans	Hambantota	367	389.68	391	106.18	-0.34
	Kurunegala	515	575	581	111.65	-1.03
	Monaragala	453	407.6	316	89.98	28.99
	Anuradhapura	540	227	442	42.04	-48.64
	Sri Lanka	**5,885**	**5,307**	**5,273**	**90.18**	**0.64**

Source: Crop Forecast 2014- Socio Economic and Planning Center, Department of Agriculture, Marketing, Food Policy and Agri-business Division/HARTI

Prices and supply/Demand situation

The market supply has increased considerably without any crop damage during January to March from all major producing areas. Quality of the produce was not good due to shortage of water. As a result prices of most of the vegetables were lower than that of the corresponding period of last year.

The main supply areas were Kandy, Jaffna, Matale, Nuwara Eliya, Badulla, Kurunegala and Puttlam. At the end of March 65% -70% of the *Maha* harvesting was completed in all up country districts. As a result of dry weather the harvesting duration was shortened and the total production from Matale district has been dropped by 42% compared to that of February. In March the total vegetable production in Matale district was 7,652mt.

Except for beans and radish, prices of all the other vegetables have decreased compared to that of February. The highest price decrease was reported for knolkhol as 31% followed by both beetroot and leeks as 27%. The cultivation of beet root in Badulla district was higher than that of previous seasons resulting price decline. Within the month of March 40mt of cut beet and 120mt of chilies were received from Jaffna to Dambulla Dedicated Economic Centre. The supply from Jaffna has decreased by 47% compared to February due to dry weather. The cultivation of leeks and beetroot in Nuwara Eliya district has increased sharply due to scarcity of seed potato. But the quality of beet root was also low due to water scarcity. The highest price increase was reported for radish as 15%.

The wholesale prices of most of the vegetables except for pumpkin have decreased in this month. The highest price decrease of 58% was reported for drumstick followed by cucumber (37%) and ladies fingers (34%). Large supplies of drumsticks have reached from Wellawaya and Anuradhapura areas. Due to delayed planting peak harvest of cucumber, ladies fingers and bitter gourd has started from Anuradhapura, Embilipitiya and Hambantota districts. Hence the prices have declined compared to that of previous month. The highest price increase of 36% was reported for pumpkin due to limited supply from *chena* cultivation in Anuradhapura and Moneragala.

The prices of green chillies had increased by 27% due to low supplies arrived from Puttalam as a result of dry weather. The price of lime had decreased further by 3% as dry weather is more favorable for lime harvest.

According to the price behavior of the wholesale market, the retail prices of vegetables have decreased. The highest price decrease of 15% was observed for cucumber followed by ladies fingers. Compared to the same month of last year, the current retail prices of most of the vegetables had decreased with the highest price decrease of 36% for tomato and capsicum followed by cabbage.

Table 3.3: Wholesale Prices of Vegetables – March 2014

Items	Average Price			Change Compared to			
	Mar 2014	Feb 2014	Mar 2013	Feb 2014		Mar 2013	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Beans (green)	58.38	57.38	97.25	*1.00*	*1.74*	*-38.87*	*-39.97*
Carrot	51.34	55.27	79.81	*-3.93*	*-7.11*	*-28.47*	*-35.67*
Leeks	32.80	44.71	60.88	*-11.91*	*-26.64*	*-28.08*	*-46.12*
Beetroot	29.23	40.28	77.66	*-11.05*	*-27.43*	*-48.43*	*-62.36*
Knolkhol	35.57	50.87	61.78	*-15.30*	*-30.08*	*-26.21*	*-42.42*
Radish	20.89	18.16	31.22	*2.73*	*15.03*	*-10.33*	*-33.09*
Cabbage	17.90	18.40	48.42	*-0.50*	*-2.72*	*-30.52*	*-63.03*
Tomato	34.89	37.99	68.06	*-3.10*	*-8.16*	*-33.17*	*-48.74*
Ladies Fingers	31.73	47.75	55.50	*-16.02*	*-33.55*	*-23.77*	*-42.83*
Brinjal	31.89	34.28	45.47	*-2.39*	*-6.97*	*-13.58*	*-29.87*
Capsicum	82.64	99.43	129.38	*-16.79*	*-16.89*	*-46.74*	*-36.13*
Pumpkin	24.54	18.00	58.85	*6.54*	*36.33*	*-34.31*	*-58.30*
Cucumber	24.52	39.16	11.29	*-14.64*	*-37.39*	*13.23*	*117.18*
Bitter Gourd	80.11	97.27	79.91	*-17.16*	*-17.64*	*0.20*	*0.25*
Snake Gourd	32.26	41.27	48.75	*-9.01*	*-21.83*	*-16.49*	*-33.83*
Drumstick	112.15	264.17	-	*-152.02*	*-57.55*	-	-
Luffa	48.16	66.69	57.56	*-18.53*	*-27.79*	*-9.40*	*-16.33*
Long Beans	27.78	30.29	49.94	*-2.51*	*-8.29*	*-22.16*	*-44.37*
Ash Plantain	44.45	50.41	51.95	*-5.96*	*-11.82*	*-7.50*	*-14.44*
Green Chillies	78.62	61.88	223.71	*16.74*	*27.05*	*-145.09*	*-64.86*
Lime	30.45	31.41	32.63	*-0.96*	*-3.06*	*-2.18*	*-6.68*

Source: Marketing, Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

Table 3.4: Retail Prices of Vegetables – March 2014

Item	Average Price			Change Compared to			
	Mar 2014	Feb 2014	Mar 2013	Feb 2014		Mar 2013	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Beans (green)	105.21	100.52	139.88	*4.69*	*4.67*	*-34.67*	*-24.79*
Carrot	108.54	106.43	142.09	*2.11*	*1.98*	*-33.55*	*-23.61*
Leeks	87.42	97.53	117.60	*-10.11*	*-10.37*	*-30.18*	*-25.66*
Beetroot	94.04	97.15	138.32	*-3.11*	*-3.20*	*-44.28*	*-32.01*
Knolkhol	100.51	112.52	131.68	*-12.01*	*-10.67*	*-31.17*	*-23.67*
Radish	75.10	73.40	86.99	*1.70*	*2.32*	*-11.89*	*-13.67*
Cabbage	70.69	71.69	104.98	*-1.00*	*-1.39*	*-34.29*	*-32.66*
Tomato	77.18	79.72	121.24	*-2.54*	*-3.19*	*-44.06*	*-36.34*
Ladies Fingers	88.97	102.11	116.42	*-13.14*	*-12.87*	*-27.45*	*-23.58*
Brinjal	81.28	89.97	101.25	*-8.69*	*-9.66*	*-19.97*	*-19.72*
Capsicum	143.92	163.33	226.39	*-19.41*	*-11.88*	*-82.47*	*-36.43*
Pumpkin	69.63	68.75	97.08	*0.88*	*1.28*	*-27.45*	*-28.28*
Cucumber	67.62	80.15	65.50	*-12.53*	*-15.63*	*2.12*	*3.24*
Bitter Gourd	123.36	132.14	143.63	*-8.78*	*-6.64*	*-20.27*	*-14.11*
Snake Gourd	86.41	90.11	106.68	*-3.70*	*-4.11*	*-20.27*	*-19.00*
Drumstick	207.27	415.64	-	*-208.37*	*-50.13*	-	-
Luffa	123.71	125.55	122.83	*-1.84*	*-1.47*	*0.88*	*0.72*
Long Beans	90.78	95.22	110.43	*-4.44*	*-4.66*	*-19.65*	*-17.79*
Ash Plantain	89.92	97.73	112.27	*-7.81*	*-7.99*	*-22.35*	*-19.91*
Green Chillies	179.75	173.68	358.18	*6.07*	*3.49*	*-178.43*	*-49.82*
Lime	144.83	149.70	111.03	*-4.87*	*-3.25*	*33.80*	*30.44*

Source: Marketing, Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HART

4. Fruits

Prices and Supply/Demand Situation

Increasing trend of supplies of fruits was recorded at the end of the month with the commencement of the harvesting season. Especially the supplies of all the varieties of mango had reached from most of the producing areas at the end of the month. Hence the wholesale prices of all the varieties of mango had decreased in the range of 2%-19% with the highest price decrease recorded for betti mango. Further, the highest wholesale price decrease of 36% was recorded for orange due to increased supply from Nikaweratiya, Bibila and Ampara areas. Meanwhile, the wholesale prices of papaw, passion fruit and all the sizes of pineapple had increased with the highest price increase of 30% for papaw. According to the field information price increase for most of the fruits could be expected by next month because the demand will be increased in view of Sinhala and Tamil New Year festival. Compared to the same month of the previous year wholesale prices of all the fruits had decreased with the highest price decrease of 69% for mango (kohu).

According to the table 4.2 retail prices of most of the fruits had decreased during the month with the highest price decrease of 26% for mango (vilad). Retail price of avocado had decreased by 16% due to increased supplies from Badulla, Bandarawela and Kandy areas during the month. Further, the retail prices of all the varieties of banana had decreased slightly in the range of 1%-6% due to low demand at the retail level. Meanwhile, the retail prices of all the sizes of pineapple, papaw, passion fruit and slime apple had increased with the highest price increase of 29% for passion fruit. According to the market information, retail price increase for most of the fruits could be expected during the next month due to increased demand in view of Sinhala and Tamil New Year festival.

Compared to the same period of last year, current retail price of all the fruits except for slime apple had decreased with the highest price decrease of 54% for karthakolomban.

Producer prices of kolikuttu (banana) and papaw had increased by 9% and 6% representing due to increased demand at the end of the month. Compared to the same period of last year, producer prices of ambul, kolikuttu and papaw had decreased significantly in the range of 30%-42%.

Exports/Imports of Fruits

Considering the selected imported fruits the highest imported quantity of 1,213mt was reported as apple. The CIF price of apple has increased by 10% compared to that of previous month. The total import expenditure on apple, grapes, orange and mandarin was Rs.345.09mn in March.

Table 4.1: Wholesale Prices of Fruits – March 2014

Items	Average Price			Change Compared to			
	Mar 2014	Feb 2014	Mar 2013	Feb 2014		Mar 2013	
	Rs./Fruit	Rs./Fruit	Rs./Fruit	Rs./Fruit	%	Rs./Fruit	%
Plantain							
Ambul (Rs/kg)	24.98	24.49	42.62	*0.49*	*2.00*	*-17.64*	*-41.39*
Kolikuttu (Rs/kg)	54.70	51.68	94.00	*3.02*	*5.84*	*-39.30*	*-41.81*
Seeni (Rs/kg)	30.03	29.74	44.56	*0.29*	*0.98*	*-14.53*	*-32.61*
Anamalu	6.37	6.46	7.21	*-0.09*	*-1.39*	*-0.84*	*-11.65*
Ambun	9.44	9.49	11.09	*-0.05*	*-0.53*	*-1.65*	*-14.88*
Pineapple							
Large	111.44	97.00	114.68	*14.44*	*14.89*	*-3.24*	*-2.83*
Medium	88.76	76.31	95.22	*12.45*	*16.32*	*-6.46*	*-6.78*
Small	67.10	53.54	76.17	*13.56*	*25.33*	*-9.07*	*-11.91*
Mango							
Betti	13.01	16.12	36.67	*-3.11*	*-19.29*	*-23.66*	*-64.52*
Karthakolomban	58.71	62.07	167.72	*-3.36*	*-5.41*	*-109.01*	*-65.00*
Vilad	15.08	15.40	-	*-0.32*	*-2.08*	-	-
Kohu	8.51	9.76	27.50	*-1.25*	*-12.81*	*-18.99*	*-69.05*
Papaw (Rs/kg)	63.38	48.94	115.06	*14.44*	*29.51*	*-51.68*	*-44.92*
Passion Fruit	11.13	8.70	17.22	*2.43*	*27.93*	*-6.09*	*-35.37*
Wood Apple	21.79	24.21	33.46	*-2.42*	*-10.00*	*-11.67*	*-34.88*
Orange	13.99	22.01	17.47	*-8.02*	*-36.44*	*-3.48*	*-19.92*
Avocado	25.19	26.54	33.73	*-1.35*	*-5.09*	*-8.54*	*-25.32*
Slime Apple	25.57	22.92	35.16	*2.65*	*11.56*	*-9.59*	*-27.28*
Grapes Imported (Rs/kg)	476.26	502.80	496.09	*-26.54*	*-5.28*	*-19.83*	*-4.00*

Source: Marketing, Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

Table 4.2: Retail Prices of Fruits – March 2014

Item	Average Price			Change Compared to			
	Mar 2014	Feb 2014	Mar 2013	Feb 2014		Mar 2013	
	Rs./Fruit	Rs./Fruit	Rs./Fruit	Rs./Fruit	%	Rs./Fruit	%
Plantain							
Ambul (Rs/kg)	62.98	64.83	70.91	-1.85	-2.85	-7.93	-11.18
Kolikuttu (Rs/kg)	111.30	117.90	138.30	-6.60	-5.60	-27.00	-19.52
Seeni (Rs/kg)	66.19	67.79	73.21	-1.60	-2.36	-7.02	-9.59
Anamalu	12.60	12.68	12.83	-0.08	-0.63	-0.23	-1.79
Ambun	13.89	14.22	13.74	-0.33	-2.32	0.15	1.09
Pineapple							
Large	145.23	135.97	148.66	9.26	6.81	-3.43	-2.31
Medium	109.82	100.75	108.35	9.07	9.00	1.47	1.36
Small	77.62	65.81	81.11	11.81	17.95	-3.49	-4.30
Mango							
Betti	33.81	37.78	70.00	-3.97	-10.51	-36.19	-51.70
Karthakolomban	91.14	82.24	198.61	8.90	10.82	-107.47	-54.11
Vilad	35.38	47.92	-	-12.54	-26.17	-	-
Kohu	23.87	27.69	27.50	-3.82	-13.80	-3.63	-13.20
Papaw (Rs/kg)	91.58	77.41	150.41	14.17	18.31	-58.83	-39.11
Passion Fruit	22.38	17.40	23.89	4.98	28.62	-1.51	-6.32
Wood Apple	43.08	43.02	47.08	0.06	0.14	-4.00	-8.50
Orange	32.40	35.25	38.44	-2.85	-8.09	-6.04	-15.71
Avocado	57.16	67.98	65.28	-10.82	-15.92	-8.12	-12.44
Slime Apple	48.47	45.94	46.19	2.53	5.51	2.28	4.94
Grapes Imported (Rs/kg)	721.40	722.97	727.19	-1.57	-0.22	-5.79	-0.80

Source: Marketing, Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

Table 4.3: Producer Prices of Selected Fruits- March 2014

Item	Average Price			Change Compared to			
	Mar 2014	Feb 2014	Mar 2013	Feb 2014		Mar 2013	
	Rs./kg	Rs./kg	Rs./kg	Rs./kg	%	Rs./kg	%
Ambul	15.15	15.69	26.00	-0.54	-3.43	-10.85	-41.73
Kolikuttu	41.78	38.21	59.38	3.58	9.36	-17.60	-29.63
Papaw	30.19	28.44	51.23	1.75	6.15	-21.05	-41.08
Pineapple	51.80	53.00	50.00	-1.20	-2.26	1.80	3.60

Source: Marketing Food Policy Agribusiness Division, HARTI

Table 4.4: Quantity, Value and FOB Prices of Exported Fruits
January to March 2014

Type of Fruit	Mar - 2014			Feb - 2014			Jan - 2014		
	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
Papaw				126.49	9.88	78.10	314.50	22.77	72.39
Fresh Mango				10.35	4.81	464.67	5.80	2.03	349.84
Fresh Oranges				0.32	0.05	147.15	1.92	0.21	108.60

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

Table 4.5: Quantity, Value and CIF Prices of Imported Fruits
January to March 2014

Types of Fruit	Mar 2014			Feb 2014			Jan 2014		
	Qty (mt)	Value (Rs.mn)	CIF (Rs/kg)	Qty (mt)	Value (Rs.mn)	CIF (Rs/kg)	Qty (mt)	Value (Rs.mn)	CIF (Rs/kg)
Apple	1,213.53	189.49	156.15	1,123.78	158.75	141.26	1,221.41	151.99	124.44
Grapes	392.69	107.87	274.70	78.39	24.76	315.91	226.38	58.66	259.12
Oranges	294.38	19.41	65.93	228.90	15.13	66.09	274.60	26.10	95.06
Mandarin	932.02	28.32	30.38	1,302.07	106.87	82.07	1,702.68	65.60	38.52

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

5. Fish, Dried Fish, Eggs and Meat

Fish

Prices and Supply/Demand Situation

Compared to the previous month the highest price decrease was reported for salaya (26.9%) and the lowest price decrease was reported for thalapath (2.8%). Prices of kelawalla and hurulla have decreased by 10% and 9% respectively. Sufficient stocks of these varieties were available in the market and stocks have supplied mainly from the Southern coastal belt and from other areas such as Negambo, Chillaw, Kalpitiya and Mannar. However, prices of other varieties have been increased due to limited supply. The highest price increase of 20% was noted for paraw, while prices of balaya, thora, mora and shrimps have increased in the range of 1% -7%. Off season for coastal fisheries in the Eastern coastal belt has resulted limited stocks reaching the market from the Eastern belt in this month also. In the month of March, the monthly average wholesale prices of selected fresh fish varieties ranged between Rs.50.63– 903.15/kg. According to the data in previous years, it can be expected that the fish prices could increase in coming weeks. Compared to the same period of the previous year, wholesale prices of all the fresh fish varieties except for salaya and hurulla had increased in the range of 6%-30% with the highest price increase noted for thalapath.

As predicted in the month of February, prices of all the fresh fish varieties except for thora and shrimps have decreased in the range of 1%-12% at the retail level. The highest price decrease was reported for salaya and the lowest price decrease was for mora, paraw and balaya. In addition, prices of hurulla, kelawalla and thalapath have decreased by 8%, 7% and 2% respectively. The price of thora has increased by 3% while the price of shrimps has increased by 1%. Compared to the same month of the last year retail prices of all the fresh fish varieties except for thalapath and thora have decreased in the range of 2%-41% with the highest price decrease noted for salaya.

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

Items	Average			Change Compared to			
	Mar 2014	Feb 2014	Mar 2013	Feb 2014		Mar 2013	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Wholesale Prices							
Salaya	50.63	69.25	123.75	*-18.62*	*-26.89*	*-73.12*	*-59.09*
Hurulla	193.60	213.06	236.75	*-19.46*	*-9.13*	*-43.15*	*-18.23*
Balaya	278.82	269.53	257.75	*9.29*	*3.45*	*21.07*	*8.17*
Kelawalla	382.42	426.17	350.75	*-43.75*	*-10.27*	*31.67*	*9.03*
Thora	903.15	847.46	820.50	*55.69*	*6.57*	*82.65*	*10.07*
Paraw	459.94	382.08	422.50	*77.86*	*20.38*	*37.44*	*8.86*
Mora	432.81	430.62	372.75	*2.19*	*0.51*	*60.06*	*16.11*
Shrimps (small)	648.88	641.58	614.00	*7.30*	*1.14*	*34.88*	*5.68*
Thalapath	603.48	620.44	465.50	*-16.96*	*-2.73*	*137.98*	*29.64*
Retail Prices							
Salaya	122.07	139.29	208.23	*-17.22*	*-12.36*	*-86.16*	*-41.38*
Hurulla	264.09	288.43	337.61	*-24.34*	*-8.44*	*-73.52*	*-21.78*
Balaya	439.15	442.77	605.90	*-3.62*	*-0.82*	*-166.75*	*-27.52*
Kelawalla	617.78	661.81	714.83	*-44.03*	*-6.65*	*-97.05*	*-13.58*
Thora	1137.98	1099.44	1137.18	*38.54*	*3.51*	*0.80*	*0.07*
Paraw	677.41	683.39	758.97	*-5.98*	*-0.88*	*-81.56*	*-10.75*
Mora	564.95	571.68	617.58	*-6.73*	*-1.18*	*-52.63*	*-8.52*
Shrimps (small)	818.40	813.70	831.81	*4.70*	*0.58*	*-13.41*	*-1.61*
Thalapath	786.58	804.64	771.86	*-18.06*	*-2.24*	*14.72*	*1.91*

Source: Marketing, Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

Prices and Supply/Demand Situation

Dried Fish

Supply of most of the local varieties was low in major producing areas with high fish prices in last few months. It resulted to increase the prices of all varieties except for sprats (both local and imported) and local salaya. The highest price increase was reported for local balaya (13%) followed by local kattawa (10%) and local mora (9%). However imported salaya, koduwa, maduwa, local thora and local maduwa were not available in the market. The prices of local varieties were higher than that of imported varieties. The quantity of imported sprats was 1707mt during the month and it is a decline of 37mt compared to that of previous month. The CIF price of sprats was Rs 235.78/kg and it is a drop of Rs 20.26/kg compared to that of previous month. The major local 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 increased with the highest price increase observed for local anguluwa (48%). According to the market information the prices of most of the varieties may be increased in April with limited supply.

The retail prices of most of the varieties have increased by less than 4% with the highest price increase noted for salaya due to low supply. The prices of sprats, anguluwa and thora were more or less stable. Compared to the same period of last year the current retail prices of most of the varieties have fluctuated slightly except for sprats and salaya. The prices of sprats and salaya have declined by 13% and 15% respectively. According to the market information the prices of most of the varieties especially large verities may be increased in April with limited supply.

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

Items	Average			Change Compared to			
	Mar 2014	Feb 2014	Mar 2013	Feb 2014		Mar 2013	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Dried fish – Wholesale							
Sprats	524.16	611.38	538.61	*-87.22*	*-14.27*	*-14.45*	*-2.68*
Sprats (imported)	324.66	352.08	469.58	*-27.42*	*-7.79*	*-144.92*	*-30.86*
Kattawa	727.40	687.35	676.73	*40.05*	*5.83*	*50.67*	*7.49*
Kattawa (imported)	688.96	627.51	632.04	*61.45*	*9.79*	*56.92*	*9.01*
Thora	-	-	945.00	-	-	-	-
Thora (imported)	960.96	905.85	905.10	*55.11*	*6.08*	*55.86*	*6.17*
Mora	775.83	709.04	681.82	*66.79*	*9.42*	*94.01*	*13.79*
Mora (imported)	684.05	672.99	649.28	*11.06*	*1.64*	*34.77*	*5.36*
Balaya	486.44	429.39	433.30	*57.05*	*13.29*	*53.14*	*12.26*
Balaya (imported)	448.75	437.50	-	*11.25*	*2.57*	-	-
Anguluwa	621.00	575.25	420.00	*45.75*	*7.95*	*201.00*	*47.86*
Anguluwa (imported)	551.11	535.67	598.67	*15.44*	*2.88*	*-47.56*	*-7.94*
Maduwa	456.34	438.57	391.14	*17.77*	*4.05*	*65.19*	*16.67*
Maduwa (imported)	300.00	-	305.56	-	-	*-5.56*	*-1.82*
Koduwa	547.50	-	497.17	-	-	*50.33*	*10.12*
Koduwa(imported)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Salaya	230.85	234.38	293.03	*-3.52*	*-1.50*	*-62.17*	*-21.22*
Salaya (imported)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dried fish – Retail							
Sprats	643.02	643.69	742.60	*-0.67*	*-0.10*	*-99.58*	*-13.41*
Kattawa	993.83	973.70	978.17	*20.13*	*2.07*	*15.66*	*1.60*
Thora	1251.49	1255.37	1211.46	*-3.88*	*-0.31*	*40.03*	*3.30*
Mora	893.68	883.18	891.27	*10.50*	*1.19*	*2.41*	*0.27*
Balaya	747.38	732.47	750.10	*14.91*	*2.04*	*-2.72*	*-0.36*
Anguluwa	806.66	813.49	781.62	*-6.83*	*-0.84*	*25.04*	*3.20*
Maduwa	640.00	623.58	662.14	*16.42*	*2.63*	*-22.14*	*-3.34*
Koduwa	848.53	826.64	852.29	*21.89*	*2.65*	*-3.76*	*-0.44*
Salaya	497.92	479.46	586.56	*18.46*	*3.85*	*-88.64*	*-15.11*

Source: Marketing, Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

Table 5.3: Quantity, Value and CIF prices of Sprats October 2013 to March 2014

Month	Quantity (mt)	Value (Rs.mn)	CIF price (Rs/kg)	Retail Price (Rs/kg)	Gross Margin (Rs/kg)
Mar 2014	1707.13	402.51	235.78	643.02	*407.24*
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*

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

Eggs

Prices of both brown and white eggs have increased by 11% and 15% respectively. Even though it was predicted in the month of February to have decreased prices in March, prices have increased due to limited supply from major supplying areas. However, there was no significant price fluctuations at the latter part of the month and the prices were at a stable level. The monthly average wholesale prices of brown and white eggs were Rs.14.40/egg and Rs.13.78/egg respectively. According to the data in previous years, it can be expected that egg prices could further increase in coming weeks due to the high demand during the festive season. Compared to the same period of the last year, wholesale prices of both brown and white eggs have increased by 1% and 2% respectively.

In line with the increased wholesale prices, prices of both brown and white eggs have increased by 9% and 12% respectively at the retail level. The monthly average retail prices of a brown and a white egg were Rs.15.30 and Rs.14.53 respectively. Compared to the same period of the last year, retail prices of both brown and white eggs have increased by 1%.

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

Items	Average			Change Compared to			
	Mar 2014	Feb 2014	Mar 2013	Feb 2014		Mar 2013	
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	%	Rs.	%
Eggs – Wholesale							
Eggs – Brown (each)	14.40	13.02	14.20	*1.38*	*10.60*	*0.20*	*1.41*
White (each)	13.78	12.02	13.50	*1.76*	*14.64*	*0.28*	*2.07*
Eggs – Retail							
Eggs- Brown (each)	*15.30*	*13.99*	*15.16*	*1.31*	*9.36*	*0.14*	*0.92*
White (each)	*14.53*	*12.98*	*14.32*	*1.55*	*11.94*	*0.21*	*1.47*

Source: Marketing, Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

Meat

Prices of all varieties have increased by less than 6% with limited supply. The highest price increase of 6% was noted for pork followed by beef (4%). Compared to the same period of last year, current retail prices of all varieties have increased with the highest price increase of 38% for pork. According to the field information, the highest price was reported for curry chicken in Killinochchi retail market (Rs.600.00kg). According to the market information the prices of all varieties may be increased in April too with festival season.

Table 5.5: Retail Prices of Meat – March 2014

Items	Average			Change Compared to			
	Mar 2014	Feb 2014	Mar 2013	Feb 2014		Mar 2013	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Meat							
Beef (without bones)	577.02	552.55	535.87	*24.47*	*4.43*	*41.15*	*7.68*
Chicken (Broiler)	484.38	482.32	456.11	*2.06*	*0.43*	*28.27*	*6.20*
Chicken (curry)	446.14	435.91	439.05	*10.23*	*2.35*	*7.09*	*1.61*
Mutton	1283.64	1271.29	1163.89	*12.35*	*0.97*	*119.75*	*10.29*
Pork	541.71	513.96	392.08	*27.75*	*5.40*	*149.63*	*38.16*

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

6. Wheat grain, Wheat flour and Sugar

Wheat grain and Wheat flour

Total quantity of 185,899mt of wheat grain was imported during the month and the value of the imported stock was Rs.mn.8,088.00. Declining trend of wheat grain prices since August 2013 has been changed now. The price of wheat grain has increased by Rs.4.10/kg against the previous month and the average CIF price was Rs.43.51/kg.

Considering wheat flour, imported quantity has increased against the previous month and it was 113mt valued at Rs.mn7.93. World price of wheat flour has increased continuously since October 2013, but it has decreased by Rs.3.61/kg in March. The average CIF price was Rs.70.00/kg. The average retail price of wheat flour was Rs.97.37/kg, and it has increased by cents.40/kg against the previous month. Compared to the same period of the last year, retail price has decreased by nearly 2%.

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

Items	Average			Change Compared to			
	Mar 2014	Feb 2014	Mar 2013	Feb 2014		Mar 2013	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Wheat Flour	97.37	96.97	99.13	*0.40*	*0.41*	*-1.76*	*-1.78*
Sugar	101.96	101.70	*104.20*	*0.26*	*0.26*	*-2.24*	*-2.15*

Source: Department of Census and Statistics

Table 6.2: Quantity, Value and CIF prices of Wheat Flour & Grain October 2013 to March 2014

Month	Quantity (mt)	Value (Rs.mn)	CIF price (Rs/kg)	Retail Price (Rs/kg)	Gross Margin (Rs/kg)
Wheat Flour					
Mar 2014	113.30	7.93	70.01	97.37	*27.36*
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*
Wheat Grain					
Mar 2014	185,899.18	8,088.35	43.51	97.37	*53.86*
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*

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

Sugar

The average imported quantity was 55,300mt per month in year 2013 and nearly the same quantity of 58,765mt was imported in this month. The value of the quantity was Rs.mn.3600.00. The average cost for sugar imports in 2013 was Rs.mn.3800.00 per month. The CIF price has decreased throughout the year in 2013 and it was continued up to February in this year. But the trend has changed in this month recording an increase of cents 62/kg. The CIF price was Rs.61.25/kg in March. Meanwhile the retail price of sugar also has increased by cents 26/kg against the previous month and it was reported as Rs.101.96/kg. But it has decreased by 2% compared to the same month of the previous year. The specific Commodity Levy for imported sugar was Rs.20.00/kg with effect from 08.06.2013.

Table 6.3: Quantity, Value and CIF prices of Sugar October 2013 to March 2014

Month	Quantity (mt)	Value (Rs.mn)	CIF price (Rs/kg)	Retail Price (Rs/kg)	Gross Margin (Rs/kg)
Mar - 2014	58,765.14	3,599.23	61.25	101.96	*40.71*
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*

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

Table 7: Imports of Selected Food Items - March 2014

Items	Quantity (mt)		% Change Compared to last month	Value (Rs. mn)		% Change Compared to last month	CIF (Rs/kg)		% Change Compared to last month
	Mar 2014	Feb 2014		Mar 2014	Feb 2014		Mar 2014	Feb 2014	
Rice	1854.04	1786.78	3.76	197.95	179.05	10.55	106.76	100.21	6.54
Red Onion	1020.81	1847.29	-44.74	48.97	86.95	-43.68	47.97	47.07	1.91
Big Onion	22477.04	17797.40	26.29	661.98	497.30	33.11	29.45	27.94	5.40
Potato	8838.81	8644.58	2.25	305.80	261.47	16.95	34.60	30.25	14.38
Dried Chillies	4892.61	4191.29	16.73	750.25	656.33	14.31	153.34	156.59	-2.08
Masoor Dhal	18502.56	6339.84	191.85	1662.35	556.76	198.58	89.84	87.82	2.31
Green Gram	1382.11	252.25	447.91	225.57	39.95	464.60	163.21	158.38	3.05
Black gram	514.34	388.41	32.42	62.25	48.92	27.26	121.04	125.94	-3.90
Garlic	2961.66	1805.90	64.00	257.04	142.40	80.51	86.79	78.85	10.07
Wheat flour	113.30	57.89	95.72	7.93	4.26	86.11	70.01	73.62	-4.91
Wheat grain	185899.18	85815.68	116.63	8088.35	3381.74	139.18	43.51	39.41	10.41
White crystalline cane sugar	58765.14	40619.14	44.67	3599.23	2462.55	46.16	61.25	60.63	1.03
Maize (Seed)	0.03	57.60	-	0.04	4.09	-	1758.92	70.95	-
Maize (Other)	-		-	-		-	-		-

Source: Automated data Processing Division, Department of Customs

Table 8: Monthly Rainfall (mm) – March 2014

Rainfall Station	Total Rainfall (mm)	30 Year Avg. Rainfall (mm)	Total Rainy Days	30 Year Average Rainy Days
Anuradhapura	3.0	68.7	2	5
Badulla	65.3	119.4	6	9
Bandarawela	17.5	98.5	4	7
Batticaloa	22.2	89.0	3	6
Colombo	144.8	128.0	8	9
Galle	68.0	111.3	7	9
Hambantota	97.6	65.4	3	5
Jaffna	0.0	25.7	0	2
Katugastota	7.6	71.9	3	8
Katunayaka		132.9		8
Kurunegala	63.3	139.1	4	8
Maha Iluppallama	0.0	84.9	0	6
Mannar	2.4	44.4	2	3
Nuwara Eliya	46.6	71.5	6	8
Pottuvil	46.6	75.7	7	na
Puttalam	35.3	67.7	3	5
Ratmalana	100.8	141.5	7	9
Ratnapura	139.4	212.2	9	14
Trincomalee	5.3	55.5	3	4
Vavuniya	1.6	62.9	1	4
Polonnaruwa	5.4	na	1	na
Moneragala	29.6	na	4	na
Mattala	40.4	na	4	na

Source: Department of Meteorology