HARTI

FOOD INFORMATION BULLETIN

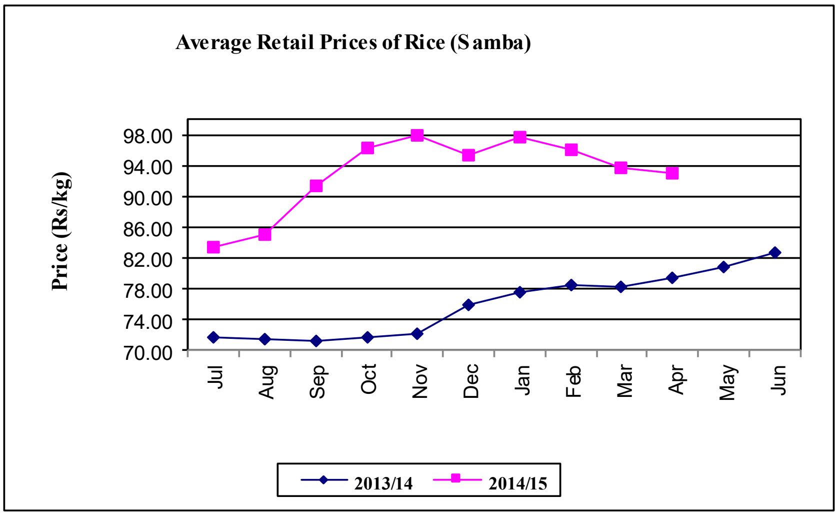
Vol 08 April - 2015 No 04

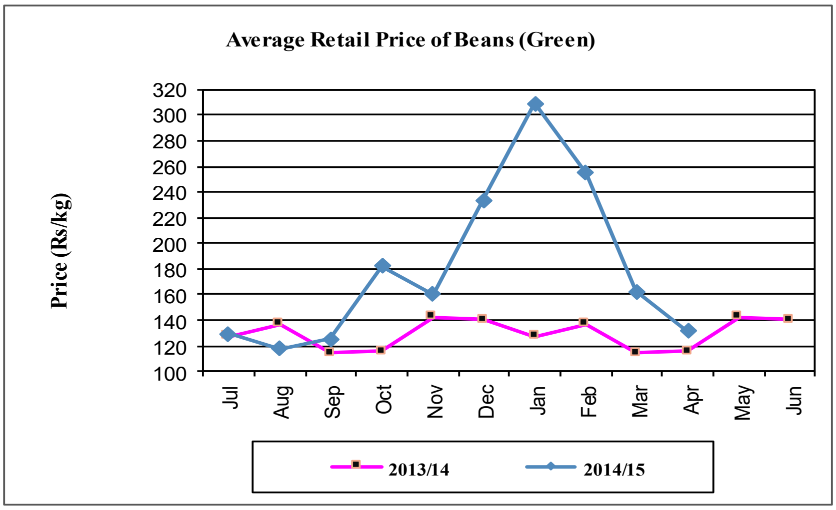
RICE:

Prices of rice further continued to decrease by Rs.1.00-4.00/kg. The price behaviour of this month aligned with the seasonal price index of rice.

VEGETABLES:

Prices of both upcountry and lowcountry vegetables continued at lower level in April, as an extended harvesting season was experienced in all the major producing areas. As land preparation for *yala* season has just begun, supply would reduce and thereby prices are expected to increase by 30% in May.





Marketing , Food Policy and Agribusiness Division
Hector Kobbekaduwa Agrarian Research and Training Institute
No 114, Wijerama Mawatha , Colombo 07.
Phone: 011-2696981 Fax: 011-2682283 E-mail: mfpa@harti.lk Web:www.harti.gov.lk

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.

Co-ordinator / Head of the Division
Mrs. C.P. Hathurusinghe

Research Team

W.A.N.Wijesooriya	- Paddy
E.A.C. Priyankara	- Rice
Roshini Rambukwella	- Dried chilies and Onion
Ruvini Widanapathirana	- Potato and Pulses
N.P.G. Samantha	- Fruits
W. H. Duminda Priyadarsana	- Dried fish and Meat
P.A.J. Champika	- Vegetables
Indika Edirisinghe	- Fish and Eggs
P.G.A.Rathnasiri	- Wheat flour and Sugar

Compilation of Data and Information
P.G.A. Rathnasiri W.G.N Malkanthi

Data Processing
Upul Arunashantha

Word Processing
I.A. Surangani

Editor
S. Perera

Colombo Field Data Collection Team

1. S.M.C.D.K. Samarakoon
2 D.W.A. Rupasinghe
3. G.A.L.S. Kumari
4. N.A. Rohan Wijesinghe
5. M.W.P. Mahesh
6. U.D.P. Jayaratne
7. D.V.E. Priyadarshana
8. R.D.C. Rathuvithana

Field Data Collection Team

1. H.M.S. Jayarathna	- Nuwara Eliya
2. J.C.K.B. Lional	- Dambulla
3. G.W. Ranatunga	- Matara
4. Sampath Wijeratne	- Kurunegala
5. A.W. Gamini	- Embilipitiya
6. Sarath Nillamulla	- Kandy
7. Jayawardana Kitulagoda	- Meegoda
8. Priyantha Liyanarachi	- Kalutara
9. Lashika Dilrukshi	- Tissamaharama
10. K.A.D. Shanika	- Nikaweratiya
11.Anushka Perera	- Polonnaruwa
12. M.G.P. Abeywickrama	- Puttalama
13. V.K. Lakmali	- Hambantota
14. H. I. Prasad	- Divulapitiya
15. M.T.H.A.I. Chandimali	- Rathnapura
16. Dihani Ekanayake	- Keppetipola
17. Niranjala Premathilaka	- Thambutthegama
18. Pradeepa Nayanakumari	- Anuradhapura
19. W.P.U. Ishara	- Ampara
20. Namal Dissanayake	- Badulla
21. N.P.G. Manohari	- Galle
22. Harshani Iroshika	- Moneragala

1. Paddy

Crop Situation

Rainy weather was experienced in most of the major paddy producing districts during the latter part of the month. Hence, the water levels of the major reservoirs were satisfactory for 2015 *yala* paddy cultivation. Harvesting of delayed *maha* paddy cultivation in Polonnaruwa has completed with the end of third week, while it was progressed until the end of the month at Lunugamvehera area in Hambantota district. Land preparation activities to paddy cultivation for the *yala* season progressed in most of the major producing districts. The Crop Forecast report of the Department of Agriculture for 2015 *yala* season revealed a targeted extent of 505,098ha for paddy. The achievement of paddy cultivation was 22% of the targeted extent and it was 154,511 ha up to the end of April. Compared to April 2014, cultivation progress has shown an increment of 9% in this season. The achieved extent was around 95% in Kilinochchi and Batticaloa, while it was 85% in Ampara and 65% in Mulaitivu districts. It is expected that the cultivation targets can be achieved satisfactorily due to the sufficient water levels in major irrigation schemes.

Table 1.1: Achievement of Paddy Cultivation 2015 *yala* season
(Up to end of April - 2015)

District	Targeted Extent (ha)	Achievement (ha)	Achievement as a % of the Targeted Extent (ha)
Anuradhapura	46,883	14,747	31
Polonnaruwa	32,166	-	-
Ampara	55,534	47,159	85
Kurunegala	70,480	30,235	43
Hambantota	28,458	3,399	12
Colombo	2,970	215	7
Gampaha	7,172	1,074	15
Kalutara	11,195	224	2
Galle	12,800	52	-
Matara	16,600	5,595	34
Ratnapura	10,389	1,731	17
Kegalle	8,254	1,981	24
Puttalam	16,285	4,969	31
Kandy	11,285	48	-
Matale	16,240	229	1
N' Eliya	3,660	1	-
Badulla	5,521	729	13
Monaragala	4,929	2,438	49
Jaffna	-	-	-
Kilinochchi	6,535	6,195	95
Vavniya	7,454	1,246	17
Mullaitivu	6,410	4,145	65
Mannar	2,762	340	12
Trincomalee	24,130	3,602	15
Batticaloa	25,598	24,157	94
Udawalawa	10,807	-	-
System H	12,216	-	-
System H1	6,200	-	-
System B	18,000	-	-
System C	19,000	-	-
System G	4,800	-	-
System L	365	-	-
Sri Lanka	**505,098**	**154,511**	**31**

Source: Department of Agriculture

Table1.2: Producer Prices of Paddy – April 2015

Commodity	Price Range		Average Price			Change Compared to			
	Apr 2015	Mar 2015	Apr 2015	Mar 2015	Apr 2014	Mar 2015		Apr 2014	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Short Grain									
Anuradhapura	38.00-42.00	38.00-44.00	39.13	40.00	38.75	*-0.88*	*-2.19*	*0.38*	*0.97*
Polonnaruwa	38.00-40.00	34.00-45.00	38.87	39.46	39.67	*-0.59*	*-1.49*	*-0.80*	*-2.02*
Kalawewa	38.00-42.00	36.00-43.00	40.23	40.07	39.97	*0.16*	*0.39*	*0.26*	*0.65*
Kurunegala	43.00-44.50	39.00-44.00	43.69	41.50	40.23	*2.19*	*5.27*	*3.46*	*8.59*
Dehiattakandiya	40.00-46.00	40.00-46.00	42.05	43.23	-	*-1.18*	*-2.73*	-	-
Nikaweratiya	44.00-46.00	40.00-46.00	45.24	44.50	40.39	*0.74*	*1.66*	*4.85*	*12.00*
Ampara	-	-	-	-	40.00	-	-	-	-
Long Grain White									
Anuradhapura	32.00-37.00	33.00-37.00	33.56	34.70	37.13	*-1.14*	*-3.28*	*-3.57*	*-9.61*
Polonnaruwa	30.00-32.00	30.00-42.25	31.15	35.95	37.27	*-4.80*	*-13.34*	*-6.12*	*-16.42*
Kalawewa	32.00-35.00	32.00-35.00	33.21	33.09	38.48	*0.12*	*0.37*	*-5.27*	*-13.70*
Kurunegala	34.00-35.50	32.00-35.00	34.56	33.32	37.45	*1.24*	*3.73*	*-2.89*	*-7.71*
Dehiattakandiya	29.00-42.00	30.00-40.00	33.50	34.92	-	*-1.42*	*-4.07*	-	-
Embilipitiya	36.00-39.00	38.00-40.00	37.68	38.94	39.32	*-1.27*	*-3.25*	*-1.65*	*-4.18*
Nikaweratiya	34.00-36.00	32.00-36.00	34.98	34.15	37.73	*0.83*	*2.42*	*-2.76*	*-7.30*
Matara	34.00-38.00	34.00-38.00	35.63	36.40	34.61	*-0.77*	*-2.12*	*1.02*	*2.93*
Hambantota	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ampara	-	-	-	-	37.74	-	-	-	-
Long Grain Red									
Anuradhapura	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Matara	34.00-37.00	35.00-40.00	35.42	37.53	32.02	*-2.12*	*-5.64*	*3.40*	*10.61*
Hambantota	33.00-35.00	34.00-40.00	34.00	37.70	32.50	*-3.70*	*-9.81*	*1.50*	*4.62*
Embilipitiya	34.00-37.00	38.00-43.00	35.61	40.98	32.80	*-5.37*	*-13.10*	*2.81*	*8.57*

Source: Marketing Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

Producer Prices

Harvesting of 2014/15 *maha* paddy crop was completed in all the other major producing districts except Polonnaruwa and Hambantota. The paddy purchasing programme of Paddy Marketing Board progressed in all major producing areas in order to stabilize the price. The government certified purchasing price of nadu (long grain) is Rs.45.00/kg and for samba it (short grain paddy) is Rs.50.00/kg. Government purchased nearly 165,000 Mt of paddy up to the end of April. Meanwhile, the open market prices remained lower than the certified prices. The prices of short grain paddy ranged between Rs.38.00-46.00/kg, while long grain paddy ranged between Rs.29.00-42.00/kg in all producing areas. The price of short grain paddy has decreased in the range of 1%-3% in Polonnaruwa, Anuradhapura and Dehiattakandiya areas against the previous month. But, it has increased by 2% and 5% respectively in Nikaweratiya and Kurunegala. Considering long grain white paddy prices have decreased in the range of 2%-4% in Matara, Embilipitiya, Anuradhapura and Dehiattakandiya with the highest price decrease of 13% in Polonnaruwa.

Meanwhile, the prices of long grain red paddy have decreased in the range of 6%-13% in Matara, Hambantota and Embilipitiya areas. Information revealed that the traders limited purchasing paddy due to high moisture content and the high percentage of broken rice.

Compared to the corresponding period of the last year, prices of short grain and long grain red paddy have increased in most of the producing areas. But with regard to long grain white paddy prices have decreased in most of the areas with the highest decrease of 16% in Polonnaruwa.

Rice Demand and Supply Situation

Wholesale prices

Rice supplies have continuously increased from all the major producing areas during the month. Available stocks position in the rice wholesale market was at a satisfactory level to meet the consumer demand in New Year festival season. Hence, the prices of all the local rice varieties had decreased significantly during the month i.e. nadu by 4%, samba and raw varieties 3%. Rice imports have slightly increased compared to last month. According to the statistics released by the Department of Customs, about 46,063mt of rice has been imported and it was an increase of 28,213mt than last month. However, price of imported *ponni* samba has increased by 5% followed by imported raw white as 1% due to prevailed import levy of Rs.39.43/kg (average).

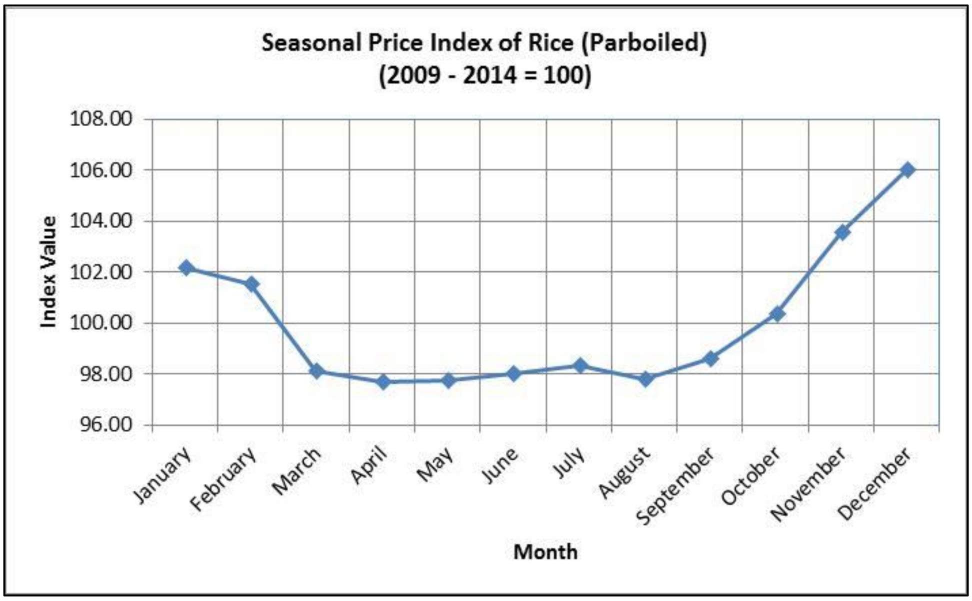
Compared to the same period of last year, prices of nadu varieties and local raw white had decreased between 3%-7%, while those of all other rice varieties had increased by 5%-14%.

Retail

The price behavior in the wholesale market was more or less reflected in the retail market too. The price decrease was observed in Colombo and suburbs as well as regional markets in the country. The highest price decrease of Rs.4.00/kg was noted for raw red followed by nadu grade I as Rs.3.00/kg. Prices of all the other local rice varieties have decreased by 1%-2%kg.

According to the Seasonal Price Index, generally rice prices come down from March to April (Figure:1). Hence, the price behavior of the reporting month aligns with the normal pattern. The highest price of Rs.110.00/kg was reported for samba grade I, while the lowest price of Rs.60.00/kg was noted for imported raw white. A slight increase of rice prices can be expected during next month.

Figure:1 Seasonal Price Index of Rice (Parboiled)



Source: Marketing Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

Compared to the same month year ago, prices of all the local rice varieties have increased by 7%-17% recording the highest for raw red.

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

Item	Price Range	Average Price			Change Compared to			
	Apr 2015	Apr 2015	Mar 2015	Apr 2014	Mar 2015		Apr 2014	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Wholesale Prices								
Samba 1	85.00-93.00	88.95	91.87	84.42	*-2.92*	*-3.18*	*4.53*	*5.37*
Samba 2	78.00-85.00	80.90	83.49	76.53	*-2.59*	*-3.10*	*4.37*	*5.71*
Samba 3	-	-	78.00	73.80	-	-	-	-
Nadu 1	66.00-75.00	70.19	74.20	74.33	*-4.01*	*-5.40*	*-4.14*	*-5.57*
Nadu 2	62.00-69.00	66.31	70.10	68.41	*-3.79*	*-5.40*	*-2.10*	*-3.07*
Raw red	62.00-72.00	68.95	71.83	60.35	*-2.87*	*-4.00*	*8.60*	*14.25*
Raw white	60.00-66.00	62.40	65.04	66.75	*-2.64*	*-4.06*	*-4.36*	*-6.53*
Ponni Samba (Imported)	80.00-87.00	82.55	77.94	-	*4.61*	*5.91*	-	-
Raw white (imported)	55.00-65.00	57.67	57.04	46.59	*0.63*	*1.10*	*11.08*	*23.77*
Retail Prices								
Samba 1	88.00-110.00	98.12	98.24	85.59	*-0.12*	*-0.12*	*12.53*	*14.64*
Samba 2	80.00-95.00	88.17	89.30	77.22	*-1.13*	*-1.27*	*10.95*	*14.18*
Samba 3	85.00-85.00	85.00	-	75.50	-	-	*9.50*	*12.58*
Nadu 1	77.00-90.00	82.22	85.09	76.26	*-2.87*	*-3.37*	*5.96*	*7.82*
Nadu 2	70.00-82.00	76.02	77.59	69.72	*-1.57*	*-2.02*	*6.30*	*9.04*
Raw red	70.00-90.00	78.56	82.21	67.23	*-3.65*	*-4.44*	*11.33*	*16.85*
Raw white	68.00-85.00	74.51	76.40	69.84	*-1.89*	*-2.47*	*4.67*	*6.69*
Ponni Samba (Imported)	80.00-95.00	87.36	84.12	75.50	*3.24*	*3.85*	*11.86*	*15.71*
Raw white (imported)	60.00-75.00	65.60	68.38	85.00	*-2.78*	*-4.07*	*-19.40*	*-22.82*

Source: Marketing Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

2. Other Field Crops

2.1 Chillies

Crop situation

Cultivation of chillies for *yala* 2015 has commenced at the beginning of the month in some of the major producing areas in small quantities. The targeted extent of chillies of *yala* 2015 was 7,158 ha, of which 1,252 ha have been achieved by the end of April representing 17% of the targeted extent in Sri Lanka. The highest cultivated extent of 249 ha was recorded from Anuradhapura.

Table1 2.1.1: Cultivation Progress of green chilies for *yala* 2015

Areas	Targeted Extent (ha)	Cultivation Progress at the end of April 2015	
		Cultivated Extent (ha)	% of the Targeted Extent
Anuradhapura	791	249	31
Puttalam	850	82	10
Hambantota	493	148	30
Kurunegala	432	154	36
Monaragala	406	139	34
Other areas	4,186	480	11
Total	**7,158**	**1,252**	**17**

Source: Crop forecasting Unit, Department of Agriculture

Prices and Supply/Demand Situation

With the high supply from Anuradhapura, Puttalam and other producing areas, both wholesale and retail prices of green chillies have decreased by about Rs.17.00/kg and Rs.6.00/kg respectively. Average wholesale and retail prices of green chillies were Rs.37.39/kg and Rs.157.02/kg respectively.

Supply of dried chillies only comprised of imports. A quantity of 3,216 mt of dried chillies has been imported during April and it was a decline of 3,263mt compared to that of the previous month. The average CIF price was Rs.181.88/kg and it has not changed significantly compared to the price prevailed last month. However, both wholesale and retail pieces of imported dried chillies have decreased by about Rs.5.00/kg and Rs.8.00/kg respectively due to availability of sufficient stocks at the market. Compared to the same period of last year, current wholesale and retail prices of imported dried chillies have increased by about 21% and 14% respectively.

Table 2.1.2: Wholesale and Retail Prices of Dried Chillies and Green Chillies – April 2015

Items	Price Range	Average Price			Change Compared to			
	Apr 2015	Apr 2015	Mar 2015	Apr 2014	Mar 2015		Apr 2014	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Wholesale Price								
Green chillies	20.00-60.00	37.39	54.43	92.19	*-17.04*	*-31.31*	*-54.80*	*-59.44*
Dried chillies	205.00-215.00	209.48	214.44	172.58	*-4.97*	*-2.32*	*36.90*	*21.38*
Retail Price								
Green chillies	50.00-220.00	157.02	162.86	221.86	*-5.84*	*-3.59*	*-64.84*	*-29.23*
Dried chillies	230.00-280.00	258.81	266.95	227.14	*-8.14*	*-3.05*	*31.67*	*13.94*

Source: Marketing, Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

Table 2.1.3: Quantity, Value and CIF Prices of Imported Dried Chillies Nov 2014 to Apr 2015

Month	Quantity (mt)	Value (Rs.mn.)	CIF Price (Rs/kg)	Retail Price (Rs/kg)	Gross Margin (Rs/kg)
Apr - 2015	3,215.57	584.85	181.88	258.81	76.93
Mar - 2015	6,478.41	1,179.43	182.06	266.95	84.89
Feb - 2015	4,520.79	863.63	191.04	269.09	78.05
Jan - 2015	3,621.49	670.46	185.13	271.85	86.72
Dec - 2014	4,593.57	875.17	190.52	271.53	81.01
Nov - 2014	4,272.54	787.54	184.32	261.19	76.87

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

Table 2.1.4: Producer Prices of Green Chillies (Rs/kg) - April 2015

Location	1st week	2nd week	3rd week	4th week
Dambulla	54.60	47.30	40.00	32.80
Hambantota	55.00	55.00	55.00	55.00
Embilipitiya	-	100.00	100.00	70.40
Puttalam	20.00	19.30	18.60	-
A'Pura	65.00	65.00	65.00	37.50

Source: Marketing, Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

2.2 Big Onion and Red Onion

Crop situation

Land preparation and nursery preparation for cultivation of big onion for 2015 *yala* season have started at the end of April in Matale district in small quantities. Around 30% of big onion nurseries have been damaged in Matale district due to the prevailed rainy weather condition. Imported big onion seeds were used mainly for the nurseries during this month in Matale district and a cultivation delay could be expected as rainy weather prevailed. The targeted extent of big onion in Anuradhapura district is 2,395ha and 25ha have been achieved by the end of April 2015 representing 1% of the targeted extent.

Table 2.2.1: Cultivation Progress of big onion for *yala* 2015

Areas	Targeted Extent (ha)	Cultivation Progress at the end of April 2015	
		Cultivated Extent (ha)	% of the Targeted Extent
Matale	3,500	0	0
Anuradhapura	2,395	25	1
System H_1	1,500	0	0
Hambantota	174	73	42
Other areas	1,567	19	1
Total	**9,136**	**117**	**1**

Cultivation of red onion for *yala* 2015 has commenced in small extent in April in major producing areas. The targeted extent of red onion for this *yala* season was 5,475 ha in Sri Lanka and at the end of April about 500ha has been achieved representing 9% of the targeted extent. The following table depicts the cultivation progress of red onion for this *yala* season.

Table 2.2.2: Cultivation Progress of red onion for *yala* 2015

Areas	Targeted Extent (ha)	Cultivation Progress at the end of April 2015	
		Cultivated Extent (ha)	% of the Targeted Extent
Jaffna	2,000	81	4
Puttalam	1,100	218	20
Monaragala	280	47	17
Vavuniya	490	33	7
Mullaitivu	430	24	6
Trincomalee	244	27	11
Other areas	931	70	7
Total	**5,475**	**500**	**9**

Prices and Supply/Demand Situation

Big onion market supplies comprised imports and this situation would continue until *yala* harvesting begins in July/August. A quantity of 17,615 mt of big onion was imported in April 2015 which was about 4,699mt less than the quantity imported in the previous month. Average CIF price was Rs.44.27/kg and it was a decline of Rs.1.06/kg compared to the previous month. Both wholesale and retail prices of imported big onion have increased by about Rs.1.00/kg and Rs.4.00/kg respectively due to limited imports from India and Pakistan. The gross margin between the CIF price and wholesale price of big onion was lower than the gross margin between the wholesale price and retail price during this month.

Supply of local red onion from Puttalam and Jaffna districts have decreased during this month. Hence, wholesale prices of sinnan and vedalan have increased by about Rs.6.00/kg and Rs.7.00/kg respectively. However, retail price of sinnan remained unchanged during this month and the price of vedalan has decreased by about Rs.6.00/kg due to availability of sufficient stocks at the market. Compared to the same period of last year, current retail price of vedalan has decreased by about 6%. About 357mt of red onion was imported during this month from India, and it was about 341mt lower than that was imported during the previous month. Average CIF price of imported red onion was Rs.50.74/kg and it was a decrease of Rs.2.68/kg compared to last month. Wholesale price of imported red onion has increased by about Rs.1.00/kg, while the retail price has decreased by about Rs.4.00/kg. Compared to the same period of last year, both wholesale and retail prices of imported red onion have decreased by about 3% and 9% respectively.

Table 2.2.3: Wholesale Prices and Retail Prices of Red Onion and Big Onion – April 2015

Crop	Price Range	Average			Change Compared to			
	Apr 2015	Apr 2015	Mar 2015	Apr 2014	Mar 2015		Apr 2014	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Wholesale Prices								
Red Onion (Sinnan)	50.00-70.00	56.56	50.50	43.85	*6.07*	*12.01*	*12.71*	*28.98*
Red Onion (Vedalan)	60.00-100.00	83.30	76.57	72.89	*6.73*	*8.79*	*10.41*	*14.28*
Red Onion (Imported)	60.00-85.00	68.43	67.80	70.91	*0.63*	*0.93*	*-2.48*	*-3.49*
Big Onion (imported)	50.00-85.00	62.85	61.69	63.63	*1.16*	*1.88*	*-0.77*	*-1.22*
Big Onion (Local)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Retail Prices								
Red Onion (Sinnan)	100.00-100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	*0.00*	*0.00*	*0.00*	*0.00*
Red Onion (Vedalan)	100.00-130.00	115.14	120.69	122.15	*-5.55*	*-4.60*	*-7.01*	*-5.74*
Red Onion (Imported)	80.00-100.00	95.65	100.10	105.27	*-4.45*	*-4.45*	*-9.62*	*-9.14*
Big Onion (imported)	70.00-120.00	89.56	85.73	81.18	*3.83*	*4.47*	*8.38*	*10.32*
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	Apr,2015	44.27	62.85	89.56	*18.58*	*26.71*
	Mar,2015	45.33	61.69	85.73	*16.36*	*24.04*
	Apr,2014	33.95	63.63	81.18	*29.68*	*17.56*
Red onion	Apr,2015	50.74	68.43	95.65	*17.69*	*27.22*
	Mar,2015	53.42	67.80	100.10	*14.38*	*32.30*
	Apr,2014	52.19	70.91	105.27	*18.72*	*34.36*

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)	
	Apr 2015	Mar 2015	Apr 2015	Mar 2015	Apr 2015	Mar 2015
Red Onion	357.28	698.14	18.13	37.30	50.74	53.42
Big Onion	17614.60	22313.71	779.88	1011.47	44.27	45.33

Source: Department of Custom

Table 2.2.6: Quantity Imported, CIF Price, Wholesale and Retail Price of Big Onion Nov 2014 to Apr 2015

Month	Quantity Imported (mt)	CIF Price (Rs/kg)	Wholesale Price (Rs/kg)	Retail Price (Rs/kg)	Gross Margin (RP-CIF) (Rs/kg)
Apr - 2015	17614.60	44.27	62.85	89.56	45.29
Mar - 2015	22313.71	45.33	61.69	85.73	40.40
Feb - 2015	20840.51	42.40	58.45	83.99	41.59
Jan - 2015	24573.36	41.67	65.48	106.11	64.44
Dec - 2014	5575.96	27.95	91.96	122.46	94.51
Nov - 2014	4131.18	32.36	77.27	110.11	77.75

Source: Department of Customs

2.3 Potato

Crop Situation and Progress

Yala cultivation of potato commenced in both Nuwara Eliya and Badulla districts in April. The targeted extent of potato for *yala* 2015 is 3,076ha and about 103ha was cultivated during the month. Compared to *yala* 2014, the targeted extent is slightly lower in *yala* 2015. Further, compared to April 2014, the cultivated extents were high in April 2015. The targeted extents for this *yala* season are 860 ha and 2,214 ha in Nuwara Eliya and Badulla districts respectively. During this month about 83ha and 20 ha were cultivated in the respective districts and it was at a high level compared to the same period of last *yala*, 2014.

Table 2.3.1: Cultivation Progress of Potato (*Yala* 2015)

District	Targeted Extent (ha)		Achievement (ha)		Progress (%)
	Yala 2014*	*Yala* 2015	*Yala* 2014*	*Yala* 2015	*Yala* 2015
N'Eliya	900	860	16	83	10
Badulla	2,198	2,214	7	20	1
Sri Lanka	**3,098**	**3,076**	**23**	**103**	**3**

Source: MFPAD/HARTI
Crop Forecast No.1, Yala 2015, Socio-economic & Planning Centre/DOA
****Crop Forecast No.1, Yala 2014, Socio-economic & Planning Centre/DOA***

Prices and Supply/Demand Situation

A quantity of 12,471 mt of potato had been imported in April which was 4,353mt higher than that was imported during the previous month due to increased demand during the New Year festival period. The special commodity levy for imported potato has been increased up to Rs.55.00/kg with effect from 26/04/2015. High stocks were imported from Pakistan (9,842mt) compared to stocks imported from India and Bangladesh during this month. Compared to April, 2014 (8,886mt), the imports were high during this month. Average CIF price was Rs.24.00/kg in April.

With regard to local potato, ample stocks have arrived in the market with the increased demand during the New Year festival period. Hence, the wholesale prices of both Welimada and Nuwara Eliya potatoes have decreased by 6% and 8% respectively. Further, the wholesale price of imported potato has decreased by 2% due to sufficient stocks available in the market with high imports during the month. On average, the producer price of Nuwara Eliya potato was Rs.79.00/kg in April. During the month, the wholesale prices of Welimada, Nuwara Eliya and imported potatoes ranged between Rs.70.00-90.00/kg, Rs.80.00-105.00/kg and Rs.55.00-85.00/kg respectively. With regard to imported potatoes, the stocks of Pakistan potato fetched a high price. Compared to the same period of last year, the current retail prices of Welimada (10%), Nuwara Eliya (10%) and imported (16%) potatoes have decreased.

Table 2.3.2: Quantity, Value and CIF prices of Imported Potatoes
Nov 2014 to Apr 2015

Month	Quantity (mt.)	Value (Rs.mn)	CIF price (Rs/kg)	Retail Price (Rs/kg)	Gross Margin (Rs/kg)
Apr - 2015	12471.59	302.80	24.28	90.97	*66.69*
Mar - 2015	8118.18	231.96	28.57	92.29	*63.72*
Feb - 2015	15462.91	483.51	31.27	79.99	*48.72*
Jan - 2015	21156.60	889.58	42.05	96.24	*54.19*
Dec - 2014	17566.11	886.64	50.47	116.80	*66.33*
Nov - 2014	1084.68	50.23	46.31	110.99	*64.68*

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

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

Items	Price Range	Average			Change Compared to			
	Apr 2015	Apr 2015	Mar 2015	Apr 2014	Mar 2015		Apr 2014	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Producer Prices (PP)								
Welimada	72.00-87.00	78.75	72.26	89.94	*6.49*	*8.98*	*-11.19*	*-12.44*
Nuwara Eliya	70.00-88.00	*78.73*	*87.28*	105.00	*-8.56*	*-9.80*	*-26.28*	*-25.02*
Imported – CIF	23.41-28.73	24.28	28.57	38.24	*-4.29*	*-15.02*	*-13.96*	*-36.51*
Wholesale Prices (WP)								
Welimada	70.00-90.00	82.75	87.74	100.46	*-4.99*	*-5.69*	*-17.71*	*-17.63*
Nuwara Eliya	80.00-105.00	92.15	100.53	112.12	*-8.37*	*-8.33*	*-19.97*	*-17.81*
Imported	55.00-85.00	68.17	69.86	82.88	*-1.70*	*-2.43*	*-14.71*	*-17.75*
Retail Prices (RP)								
Welimada	100.00-120.00	117.22	133.91	130.00	*-16.69*	*-12.46*	*-12.78*	*-9.83*
Nuwara Eliya	100.00-180.00	131.19	133.91	146.34	*-2.72*	*-2.03*	*-15.15*	*-10.35*
Imported	70.00-120.00	90.97	92.29	108.13	*-1.32*	*-1.43*	*-17.16*	*-15.87*
Gross Margin (RP-PP)								
Welimada		38.47	61.65	40.06	*-23.18*	*-37.60*	*-1.59*	*-3.97*
Nuwara Eliya		52.47	46.63	41.34	*5.84*	*12.51*	*11.13*	*26.91*
Imported (CIF-RP)		66.69	63.72	69.89	*2.97*	*4.66*	*-3.20*	*-4.58*
Gross Margin (RP -WP)								
Welimada		34.47	46.17	29.54	*-11.70*	*-25.34*	*4.93*	*16.70*
Nuwara Eliya		39.04	33.38	34.22	*5.65*	*16.94*	*4.82*	*14.09*
Imported		22.80	22.43	25.25	*0.38*	*1.67*	*-2.45*	*-9.70*

Source: Marketing Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

2.4 Green gram and Cowpea

Crop Situation and Progress

The targeted extent of green gram for *yala* 2015 is 10,729 ha, of which about 1,255 ha were cultivated during the month representing 12% of the total targeted extent. Compared to *yala* 2014, the targeted extent is low in *yala* 2015. In the Hambantota district, the targeted extent is 3,537 ha for this *yala* season which is lower than the targeted extent of *yala* 2014. During the month only 111 ha were cultivated, lower than the extent cultivated in April 2014. In Kurunegala and

Moneragala districts, the targeted extents were 1,276 ha and 880 ha respectively, higher than the targeted extents for *yala* 2014. In those two districts, about 393 ha and 165 ha were cultivated during the month.

The targeted extent of cowpea was 8,414 ha for *yala* 2015 and about 1,136 ha were cultivated during the month achieving 13% of the targeted extent. The highest targeted extent of 3,584ha was recorded in the Ampara district and about 263 ha were cultivated during this month. In Kurunegala and Moneragala districts, the targeted extents were 1,255 ha and 584 ha respectively and about 244 ha and 253 ha were cultivated during the month achieving 19% and 43% of the targeted extents. Compared to *yala* 2014, the targeted extents in Ampara and Moneragala districts were lower, while it was higher in Kurunegala district in *yala* 2015.

Table 2.4.1: Cultivation Progress of Green gram and Cowpea (*Yala* 2015)

Crop	District	Targeted Ext. (ha)		Achievement (ha)		Progress
		Yala* 2014	***Yala* 2015**	***Yala* 2014***	***Yala* 2015**	***Yala* 2015**
Green	Hambantota	4,690	3,537	2,730	111	3
	Kurunegala	720	1,276	255	393	31
	Moneragala	618	880	154	165	19
	Sri Lanka	**12,556**	**10,729**	**3,591**	**1,255**	**12**
Cowpea	Ampara	4,222	3,584	207	263	7
	Kurunegala	814	1,255	519	244	19
	Moneragala	709	584	272	253	43
	Sri Lanka	**8,542**	**8,414**	**1,362**	**1,136**	**13**

Source:* *MFPAD/HARTI
Crop Forecast No.1, Yala 2015, Socio-economic & Planning Centre/DOA
****Crop Forecast No.1, Yala 2014, Socio-economic & Planning Centre/DOA***

Prices and Supply Demand Situation

Wholesale and retail prices of green gram have decreased by 3% and 2% respectively due to availability of high stocks imported from Australia, China and Thailand. Imports were at a high level as the Special Commodity Levy on imported green gram has been reduced to Rs.10.00/kg with effect from 29/01/2015. During the month, the wholesale price of green gram ranged between Rs.190.00-225.00/kg. Compared to the same period of last year, the current retail price of green gram had decreased by 28%.

Supply of local stocks of cowpea was at a low level. The wholesale price of white cowpea has decreased by 3% due to availability of sufficient stocks of imported varieties. Wholesale and retail prices of red cowpea have increased by 5% and 4% respectively due to limited availability of local stocks. During the month, the wholesale prices of white and red cowpea ranged between Rs.180.00-210.00/kg and Rs.200.00-225.00/kg respectively. Imported stocks fetched a high price. Compared to the same period of last year, the current retail prices of white and red cowpea had increased by 8% and 12% respectively.

Table 2.4.2: Quantity, Value and CIF prices of Imported Green gram Jan to Apr 2015

Month	Quantity (mt)	Value (Rs.mn)	CIF price (Rs/kg)	Retail Price (Rs/kg)	Gross Margin (Rs/kg)
Apr - 2015	1,497.00	268.00	179.02	268.51	89.49
Mar - 2015	1,817.00	316.00	173.91	272.89	98.98
Feb - 2015	1,104.00	200.00	181.16	284.50	103.34
Jan - 2015	133.00	25.00	187.97	297.13	109.16

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

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

Items	Price Range	Average			Change Compared to			
	Apr 2015	Apr 2015	Mar 2015	Apr 2014	Mar 2015		Apr 2014	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Wholesale Prices								
Green gram	190.00-225.00	213.13	219.25	296.27	-6.12	-2.79	-83.13	-28.06
Cowpea (White)	180.00-210.00	195.25	202.02	175.07	-6.77	-3.35	20.18	11.53
Cowpea (Red)	200.00-225.00	230.73	219.40	144.66	11.33	5.16	86.06	59.49
Retail Prices								
Green gram	230.00-300.00	268.51	272.89	321.61	-4.38	-1.61	-53.10	-16.51
Cowpea (White)	220.00-280.00	255.26	261.16	237.27	-5.90	-2.26	17.99	7.58
Cowpea (Red)	220.00-300.00	265.95	256.88	236.66	9.07	3.53	29.29	12.38

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	Apr,2015	179.02	213.13	268.51	34.11	55.38
	Mar,2015	173.91	219.25	272.89	45.34	53.64
	Apr,2014	162.23	296.27	321.61	134.04	25.34
Cowpea (White)	Apr,2015	-	195.25	255.26	-	60.01
	Mar,2015	-	202.02	261.16	-	59.14
	Apr,2014	-	175.07	237.27	-	62.20
Cowpea (Red)	Apr,2015	-	230.73	265.95	-	35.23
	Mar,2015	-	219.40	256.88	-	37.48
	Apr,2014	-	144.66	236.66	-	92.00

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

2.5 Red dhal

Prices and Supply/Demand Situation

A quantity of 13,848 mt of red dhal was imported in April and it was 3,671 mt lower than the quantity imported in March. Most of the stocks had been received from Australia and Canada. Compared to April, 2014 (11,346 mt), the imports of red dhal were high during this month. The average CIF price was Rs.123.00/kg during the month.

Wholesale price of red dhal has increased by 4%, while the retail price has not changed significantly. The average wholesale price was Rs.165.00/kg in April. Compared to the same period of last year, the current retail price of red dhal has increased by 12%.

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

Red Dhal	Price Range	Average			Change Compared to			
	Apr 2015	Apr 2015	Mar 2015	Apr 2014	Mar 2015		Apr 2014	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Wholesale Price	150.00-185.00	165.69	159.87	141.82	5.82	3.64	23.87	16.83
Retail Price	160.00-200.00	176.96	177.11	157.49	-0.15	-0.08	19.47	12.36

Source: Marketing Food Policy & Agribusiness Division

Table 2.5.2: The CIF, Wholesale and Retail Prices of Red dhal Nov 2014 to Apr 2015

Month	Quantity (mt)	CIF Price Rs/kg	Wholesale price Rs/kg	Retail price Rs/kg	Gross Margin (Rs/kg)	
					CIF-WP	WP-RP
Apr - 2015	13848.16	122.90	165.69	176.96	42.79	11.27
Mar - 2015	17518.79	119.23	159.87	177.11	40.64	17.24
Feb - 2015	16159.64	119.79	161.68	171.71	41.89	10.03
Jan - 2015	17734.62	117.45	158.34	169.64	40.88	11.31
Dec - 2014	14679.07	116.37	155.78	171.27	39.41	15.49
Nov - 2014	10103.17	102.94	154.86	172.16	51.92	17.30

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

3. Vegetables

Crop Situation

Due to weather related setbacks, *maha* cultivation was delayed by 1.5-2 months, hence the end phase of the *maha* harvesting period was observed throughout the month of April. On the other hand, land preparation for establishing the *yala* vegetable cultivation has progressed well in all the up country major producing areas. In Matale district, the set target for *yala* season is 4,363 ha of which 179 ha was completed by the end of April. The cultivation progress in the district was 25% higher than the same period of last year. Regarding Badulla district, *maha* cultivation was completed with over 100% progress for beans, tomato and cabbage by the first week of April and the harvesting has been practiced throughout the month. Further, Keppetipola, one of the major producing areas of Badulla district reported 180 ha of cultivation progress for up country varieties by the end of April. In Nuwara Eliya district by the end of April, the total cultivated extent was 676 ha with the highest achievement reported for carrot. Further, land preparation and crop establishment for *yala* season has progressed well in Kandy districts with the rainy weather experienced through the month. The crop progress was 7% at the end of April, for up country varieties.

Land preparation for *yala* cultivation began in all the major producing areas of low country districts with the intermitted rainfall received throughout the month of April. On the other hand, the end phase of the delayed *maha* seasons' harvesting continued throughout the month. In Puttalam district, reported cultivation progress for both up and low country varieties were 500 ha by the end of April, reporting over 90% progress compared to the same period of the last year. In both Anuradhapura and Hambantota districts, land preparation for *yala* cultivation has commenced with the received rain and the reported cultivation progress was around 10% of the seasonal target.

Prices and supply/Demand situation

With the reaching of the end phase of the *maha* harvesting season, high supplies continued to reach the market from all the major producing areas of up country vegetables such as Nuwara

Eliya, Welimada, Badulla, Kandy, Ratnapura, Matale, Jaffna and Puttalam in the first two weeks of April. The total supply of vegetables the Matale district was around 5,252 mt in April. The daily supply of vegetables at the Dambulla Dedicated Economic Centre was around 2,000 mt in April which recorded an 11% increase compared to last month. Meanwhile, supply from Jaffna continued in April with a daily supply of 179 mt, which recorded a 75% decrease compared to last month. However, the quality of up country vegetables supplied from Jaffna was a low level compared to other districts.

Considering up country vegetables, prices of most of the varieties have decreased, compared to last month. The highest price decrease was reported for knokhol as 40% followed by beans as 24% and cabbage as 23%. Prices of all the other up country varieties have decreased in the range of 6%-19%, except for carrot. High stocks of knokhol, beet root have reached the market from Badulla, Nuwara Eliya and Kandy in April, which caused considerable price decreases. Due to overlapping of extended *maha* cultivation season in up country areas and end phase of the *maha* harvesting time of low country areas such as Jaffna, Puttalam and Melsiripura which grow a substantial amount of up country vegetables high stocks of cabbage and beetroot, have reached the market from both up and low country areas at the same time. Therefore, prices of most of the up country varieties were declining since February and the trend has continued in April. Next, prices of beans have continued to show a decreasing trend due to high supplies received from both up country areas and low county areas such as Balangoda. As land preparation for *yala* season has just begun, supply would reduce and thereby prices are expected to increase in May.

Regarding tomato, high stocks of low country variety of tomato have reached the market from Suriyawewa, Wellawaya and Anuradhapura caused significant decreases recording a wholesale price of Rs.57.00/kg in March. This price has more or less stabilized throughout April with the continued supply of low country variety. However, prices of capsicum have reduced significantly by 33% compared to last month due to availability of ample of stocks of lowcountry variety.

The supply of most of the domestic vegetables also remained high during the latter part of the *maha* harvesting period. As stocks of lowcountry vegetables received mainly from Anuradhapura, Hambantota, Ratnapaura, Monaragala and Kurunegala, prices of most of the varieties have decreased at the wholesale level, except drumsticks and cucumber.

The highest price decrease of 62% was recorded for both pumpkin, followed by snakegourd as 38% and long beans as 35%. Prices of all the other varieties, except cucumber and drumsticks have decreased in the range of 13% - 23%. High stocks of pumpkin have supplied to the market from Anuradhapura in the latter part of the *maha* cultivation season, hence average wholesale prices have dropped to Rs.26.00/kg in April. The Recorded high cultivation progress in Anuradhapura district has resulted in continuous high supply thereby prices have dropped significantly compared to last month. Apart from that, high stocks of snakegourd, bittergourd and long beans have been supplied to the market from Wadigala and Monaragala and thereby prices have dropped considerably. As cucumber is regarded as a short duration crop, majority of farmers have planted cucumber in lowcountry areas in re-establishing *maha* season cultivation and the peak harvesting period reached in the previous month, recording a considerably low price as Rs.16.00/kg. In April, prices have increased up to Rs.22.00/kg, recording a 43% increase in prices. However, recorded average price in April is still a low price compared to annual average price for cucumber. As land preparation for *yala* season has just begun, the supply would reduce and thereby prices are expected to increase in May.

Regarding lime, a price increase of 73% was experienced in April compared to March, with the ending of harvesting season in Monaragala.

In line with the wholesale prices, retail prices of most of the vegetables had decreased in February. The highest price decrease was reported for pumpkin as 39% followed by 29% for capsicum.

Table 3.1: Wholesale Prices of Vegetables – April 2015

Items	Price Range	Average			Change Compared to			
	Apr 2015	Apr 2015	Mar 2015	Apr 2014	Mar 2015		Apr 2014	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Beans (green)	30.00-120.00	79.43	104.74	90.10	*-25.31*	*-24.16*	*-10.67*	*-11.84*
Carrot	70.00-130.00	95.88	83.67	58.75	*12.21*	*14.59*	*37.13*	*63.20*
Leeks	80.00-100.00	90.75	111.62	30.00	*-20.87*	*-18.70*	*60.75*	*202.50*
Beetroot	25.00-70.00	44.02	54.21	36.81	*-10.19*	*-18.80*	*7.21*	*19.59*
Knokhol	20.00-40.00	30.00	49.97	32.48	*-19.97*	*-39.96*	*-2.48*	*-7.64*
Radish	15.00-30.00	23.10	24.63	26.41	*-1.53*	*-6.21*	*-3.31*	*-12.53*
Cabbage	20.00-40.00	28.13	36.87	16.98	*-8.74*	*-23.70*	*11.15*	*65.67*
Tomato	30.00-100.00	58.63	57.53	37.61	*1.10*	*1.91*	*21.02*	*55.89*
Ladies Fingers	20.00-60.00	32.18	33.40	36.25	*-1.22*	*-3.65*	*-4.07*	*-11.23*
Brinjal	10.00-40.00	26.48	34.98	34.44	*-8.50*	*-24.30*	*-7.96*	*-23.11*
Capsicum	80.00-150.00	105.67	157.58	83.66	*-51.91*	*-32.94*	*22.01*	*26.31*
Pumpkin	20.00-35.00	26.32	68.76	29.60	*-42.44*	*-61.72*	*-3.28*	*-11.08*
Cucumber	10.00-40.00	22.48	15.70	24.94	*6.78*	*43.18*	*-2.46*	*-9.86*
Bittergourd	50.00-80.00	65.75	85.25	89.75	*-19.50*	*-22.87*	*-24.00*	*-26.74*
Snakegourd	15.00-60.00	26.71	43.39	44.46	*-16.68*	*-38.44*	*-17.75*	*-39.92*
Drumstick	150.00-300.00	254.58	177.20	62.81	*77.38*	*43.67*	*191.77*	*305.32*
Luffa	30.00-50.00	38.17	44.25	66.14	*-6.08*	*-13.74*	*-27.97*	*-42.29*
Long Beans	30.00-60.00	42.96	65.80	36.83	*-22.84*	*-34.71*	*6.13*	*16.64*
Ash Plantain	40.00-60.00	54.15	81.98	46.00	*-27.83*	*-33.95*	*8.15*	*17.72*
Green Chillies	20.00-60.00	37.39	54.43	92.19	*-17.04*	*-31.31*	*-54.80*	*-59.44*
Lime	70.00-180.00	114.42	41.09	47.36	*73.33*	*178.46*	*67.06*	*141.60*

Source: Marketing, Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

Table 3.2: Retail Prices of Vegetables – April 2015

Items	Price Range	Average			Change Compared to			
	Apr 2015	Apr 2015	Mar 2015	Apr 2014	Mar 2015		Apr 2014	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Beans (green)	60.00-200.00	131.40	162.10	137.02	*-30.70*	*-18.94*	*-5.62*	*-4.10*
Carrot	100.00-200.00	162.33	151.08	108.92	*11.25*	*7.45*	*53.41*	*49.04*
Leeks	120.00-200.00	155.48	174.33	84.85	*-18.85*	*-10.81*	*70.63*	*83.24*
Beetroot	20.00-200.00	104.55	116.08	100.62	*-11.53*	*-9.93*	*3.93*	*3.91*
Knokhol	50.00-160.00	99.75	130.94	102.27	*-31.19*	*-23.82*	*-2.52*	*-2.46*
Radish	30.00-120.00	80.28	82.62	81.06	*-2.34*	*-2.83*	*-0.78*	*-0.96*
Cabbage	40.00-160.00	84.54	99.91	72.61	*-15.37*	*-15.38*	*11.93*	*16.43*
Tomato	60.00-160.00	111.06	120.94	79.81	*-9.88*	*-8.17*	*31.25*	*39.16*
Ladies Fingers	40.00-160.00	88.43	95.67	102.04	*-7.24*	*-7.57*	*-13.61*	*-13.34*
Brinjal	40.00-200.00	88.57	90.01	95.39	*-1.44*	*-1.60*	*-6.82*	*-7.15*
Capsicum	120.00-300.00	172.58	246.47	149.18	*-73.89*	*-29.98*	*23.40*	*15.69*
Pumpkin	40.00-140.00	83.27	137.05	71.26	*-53.78*	*-39.24*	*12.01*	*16.85*
Cucumber	30.00-120.00	75.13	68.85	72.38	*6.28*	*9.12*	*2.75*	*3.80*
Bittergourd	50.00-260.00	131.79	148.46	138.88	*-16.67*	*-11.23*	*-7.09*	*-5.11*
Snakegourd	40.00-160.00	91.76	108.05	103.38	*-16.29*	*-15.08*	*-11.62*	*-11.24*
Drumstick	240.00-800.00	462.92	329.71	145.48	*133.21*	*40.40*	*317.44*	*218.20*
Luffa	60.00-160.00	103.98	116.53	134.65	*-12.55*	*-10.77*	*-30.67*	*-22.78*
Long Beans	50.00-200.00	97.63	126.72	106.66	*-29.09*	*-22.96*	*-9.03*	*-8.47*
Ash Plantain	80.00-200.00	119.55	141.33	92.08	*-21.78*	*-15.41*	*27.47*	*29.83*
Green Chillies	50.00-220.00	157.02	162.86	221.86	*-5.84*	*-3.59*	*-64.84*	*-29.23*
Lime	80.00-450.00	255.55	145.29	170.84	*110.26*	*75.89*	*84.71*	*49.58*

Source: Marketing, Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HART

4. Fruits

Prices and Supply/Demand Situation

Supplies of most of the fruits had increased during the month due to the major harvesting season. Hence, the wholesale prices of most of the fruits had decreased with the highest price decrease of 54% for papaw. High supplies of papaw were recorded from Embilipitiya and Hambantota compared to the previous month. Wholesale prices of all the varieties of mango had decreased in the range of 12%-53% due to increased supplies with ongoing harvesting season.

Meanwhile, the highest price increase of 35% was recorded for banana (kolikuttu) due to increased demand during Sinhala and Tamil New Year festive season. Further, the prices of orange, slimeapple and woodapple had increased by 25%, 17% and 14% respectively due to limited supplies in off season. Compared to the same period of last year, wholesale prices of most of the fruits had increased with the highest price increase of 129% for woodapple.

In line with the wholesale prices, retail prices of most of the fruits had decreased with the highest price decrease of 54% for mango (karthakolomban). Supplies of all the varieties of mango had increased from all the producing areas due to the ongoing harvesting season. Further, the retail prices of papaw, passionfruit and avocado had decreased significantly due to increased supplies compared to previous month.

Meanwhile, the retail prices of all the varieties of banana had increased in the range of 2%-20% with the highest price increase recorded for kolikuttu due to increased demand during the Sinhala and Tamil New Year festive season. Compared to the same period of last year, retail prices of most of the fruits had increased with the highest price increase of 62% for papaw.

According to the table 4.3 producer prices of selected varieties of banana had increased significantly compared to the previous month due to the increased demand. Meanwhile, the producer prices of papaw and pineapple had decreased by 31% and 21% respectively due to increased supplies. Compared to the same period of last year, producer prices of ambul, kolikuttu (banana) and papaw had increased significantly by 94%, 114% and 179% respectively.

Exports/Imports of Fruits

Papaw was the mostly exported type of fruit in April with the quantity of 334 mt. The total income of exporting pineapple, papaw, mango and avocado was Rs.55.87mn in April.

Apple was the mostly imported type of fruit in April with the quantity of 1,171 mt. The total expenditure on importing apple, grapes, oranges and mandarin was Rs.210.46mn.

Table 4.1: Wholesale Prices of Fruits – April 2015

Items	Price Range	Average			Change Compared to			
	Apr 2015	Apr 2015	Mar 2015	Apr 2014	Mar 2015		Apr 2014	
	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	%	Rs	%
Plantain								
Ambul (Rs/kg)	20.00-70.00	52.90	42.80	32.00	*10.10*	*23.60*	*20.90*	*65.31*
Kolikuttu (Rs/kg)	100.00-170.00	145.01	107.64	94.35	*37.37*	*34.72*	*50.66*	*53.69*
Seeni (Rs/kg)	25.00-65.00	49.73	45.83	33.19	*3.90*	*8.51*	*16.54*	*49.83*
Anamalu	5.00-15.00	10.34	9.55	7.60	*0.79*	*8.27*	*2.74*	*36.05*
Ambun	8.00-18.00	14.29	12.62	10.22	*1.67*	*13.23*	*4.07*	*39.82*
Pineapple								
Large	90.00-130.00	108.83	126.16	111.45	*-17.33*	*-13.74*	*-2.62*	*-2.35*
Medium	70.00-100.00	84.31	100.86	90.78	*-16.55*	*-16.41*	*-6.47*	*-7.13*
Small	40.00-70.00	57.71	75.66	69.64	*-17.95*	*-23.72*	*-11.93*	*-17.13*
Mango								
Betti	10.00-30.00	16.64	35.38	8.12	*-18.74*	*-52.97*	*8.52*	*104.93*
Karthakolomban	22.85-66.00	39.83	81.68	35.69	*-41.85*	*-51.24*	*4.14*	*11.60*
Vilad	11.00-38.00	22.50	25.46	10.56	*-2.96*	*-11.63*	*11.94*	*113.07*
Kohu	7.00-11.00	8.17	14.29	6.61	*-6.12*	*-42.83*	*1.56*	*23.60*
Papaw (Rs/kg)	30.00-120.00	66.43	145.83	40.31	*-79.40*	*-54.45*	*26.12*	*64.80*
Passionfruit	5.00-10.00	7.36	11.09	7.61	*-3.73*	*-33.63*	*-0.25*	*-3.29*
Woodapple	30.00-70.00	47.88	41.99	20.87	*5.89*	*14.03*	*27.01*	*129.42*
Orange	15.00-30.00	22.81	18.20	12.83	*4.61*	*25.33*	*9.98*	*77.79*
Avocado	16.00-50.00	32.26	53.63	28.96	*-21.37*	*-39.85*	*3.30*	*11.40*
Slimeapple	20.00-50.00	34.52	29.62	26.81	*4.90*	*16.54*	*7.71*	*28.76*
Grapes Imported (Rs/kg)	444.00-632.00	514.35	487.22	531.31	*27.13*	*5.57*	*-16.96*	*-3.19*

Source: Marketing, Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

Table 4.2: Retail Prices of Fruits – April 2015

Items	Price Range	Average			Change Compared to			
	Apr 2015	Apr 2015	Mar 2015	Apr 2014	Mar 2015		Apr 2014	
	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	%	Rs	%
Plantain								
Ambul (Rs/kg)	60.00-120.00	86.23	79.77	71.88	*6.46*	*8.10*	*14.35*	*19.96*
Kolikuttu (Rs/kg)	140.00-280.00	183.90	152.10	147.30	*31.80*	*20.91*	*36.60*	*24.85*
Seeni (Rs/kg)	60.00-100.00	83.57	79.28	72.86	*4.29*	*5.41*	*10.71*	*14.70*
Anamalu	12.00-30.00	16.49	15.79	12.83	*0.70*	*4.43*	*3.66*	*28.53*
Ambun	12.00-30.00	17.53	17.22	14.70	*0.31*	*1.80*	*2.83*	*19.25*
Pineapple								
Large	120.00-180.00	149.26	164.12	153.43	*-14.86*	*-9.05*	*-4.17*	*-2.72*
Medium	60.00-140.00	108.34	123.81	112.78	*-15.47*	*-12.49*	*-4.44*	*-3.94*
Small	40.00-90.00	73.76	84.26	79.55	*-10.50*	*-12.46*	*-5.79*	*-7.28*
Mango								
Betti	15.00-50.00	30.97	56.71	24.34	*-25.74*	*-45.39*	*6.63*	*27.24*
Karthakolomban	30.00-150.00	68.22	148.06	55.63	*-79.84*	*-53.92*	*12.59*	*22.63*
Vilad	20.00-80.00	44.04	48.61	30.65	*-4.57*	*-9.40*	*13.39*	*43.69*
Kohu	10.00-40.00	22.83	-	22.05	-	-	*0.78*	*3.54*
Papaw (Rs/kg)	60.00-240.00	130.22	201.91	80.23	*-71.69*	*-35.51*	*49.99*	*62.31*
Passionfruit	6.25-33.00	17.16	23.91	18.38	*-6.75*	*-28.23*	*-1.22*	*-6.64*
Woodapple	30.00-80.00	59.01	59.60	41.33	*-0.59*	*-0.99*	*17.68*	*42.78*
Orange	25.00-60.00	39.94	33.40	29.98	*6.54*	*19.58*	*9.96*	*33.22*
Avocado	25.00-120.00	56.64	74.77	55.61	*-18.13*	*-24.25*	*1.03*	*1.85*
Slime Apple	30.00-100.00	55.51	55.15	48.25	*0.36*	*0.65*	*7.26*	*15.05*
Grapes Imported (Rs/kg)	700.00-900.00	772.91	752.05	746.45	*20.86*	*2.77*	*26.46*	*3.54*

Source: Marketing, Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

Table 4.3: Producer Prices of Selected Fruits - April 2015

Items	Price Range	Average			Change Compared to			
	Apr 2015	Apr 2015	Mar 2015	Apr 2014	Mar 2015		Apr 2014	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Ambul	27.50-45.60	35.50	29.40	18.31	6.10	20.75	17.19	93.88
Kolikuttu	90.00-125.00	111.30	75.88	46.15	35.42	46.67	65.15	141.16
Papaw	21.60-115.00	61.46	88.62	22.03	-27.16	-30.64	39.43	178.99
Pineapple	41.25-45.00	43.13	54.55	55.75	-11.43	-20.94	-12.63	-22.65

Source Marketing Food Policy Agribusiness Division, HARTI

Table 4.4: Quantity, Value and FOB Prices of Exported Fruits February – April 2015

Type of Fruit	April			March			February		
	Qty (mt)	Value (Rs.mn)	FOB (Rs/kg)	Qty (mt)	Value (Rs.mn)	FOB (Rs/kg)	Qty (mt)	Value (Rs.mn)	FOB (Rs/kg)
Fresh Pineapple	170.82	28.17	164.88	192.56	37.69	195.76	167.69	32.00	190.80
Papaw	333.92	23.96	71.76	176.77	9.49	53.66	126.15	11.04	87.53
Fresh Mango	2.19	3.43	1570.53	1.40	0.91	648.69	2.61	2.19	836.93
Fresh Oranges	-	-	-	0.11	0.01	87.54	-	-	-
Fresh Avocado	5.60	0.31	55.33	-	-	-	-	-	-

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

Table 4.5: Quantity, Value and CIF Prices of Imported Fruits February – April 2015

Type of Fruit	April			March			February		
	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	1,171.05	171.80	146.71	987.92	141.18	142.90	1,512.98	212.70	140.58
Grapes	275.23	77.57	281.84	356.85	98.95	277.30	388.58	119.21	306.78
Oranges	715.94	46.80	65.37	398.16	25.51	64.06	443.90	30.65	69.05
Mandarin	450.20	14.29	31.75	1,264.21	46.82	37.03	1,629.96	58.77	36.06

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

5. Fish, Dried Fish, Eggs and Meat

Fish

Prices and Supply/Demand Situation

As predicted in the previous month, prices of all the fresh fish varieties had increased in the range of 3%-37% at the wholesale level. The highest price increase was reported for salaya (37%) and the lowest price increase was noted for shrimp (3%). Prices of hurulla, kelawalla and thora had increased in the range of 21%-24%. In addition, a price increase of 15% was noted for mora while, an 11% price increase for paraw. Further, prices of both thalapath and balaya had increased by 4%. Mid season for coastal fisheries prevailed in both Eastern and Southern coastal belts had resulted limited supplies to the market and it had contributed to these price increases. Further, most of the fishermen were not engaged in fishing activities due to the festive season and it also had contributed to limited stocks. At the same time, demand for fish had increased due to Sinhala and Tamil New Year and it also had created a price increase. In the month of April, the monthly average wholesale prices of selected fresh fish varieties ranged between Rs.93.00– 902.50/kg.

According to the data in previous years, it can be expected that fish prices could further increase in the coming month due to the mid season for coastal fisheries. Compared to April 2014, wholesale prices of most of the fresh fish varieties had increased in the range of 13%-57% with the highest price increase noted for salaya.

In line with the increased wholesale prices, prices of all the fresh fish varieties had increased at the retail level too. The highest price increase of 14% was reported for salaya, hurulla and kelawalla. In addition, prices of balaya, thora, paraw, mora and thalapath had increased in the range of 5%-11%. Further, a price increase of 2% was noted for shrimp. In the month of April, the monthly average retail prices of selected fresh fish varieties ranged between Rs.140.89-1,133.98/kg. Compared to the same period of the last year, retail prices of all the fresh fish varieties except balaya and thora had increased in the range of 1%-22%with the highest price increase noted for kelawalla.

Table 5.1: Wholesale and Retail Prices of Fish – April 2015

Items	Price Range	Average			Change Compared to			
	Apr 2015	Apr 2015	Mar 2015	Apr 2014	Mar 2015		Apr 2014	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Wholesale Prices								
Salaya	80.00-100.00	93.00	68.06	59.08	*24.94*	*36.64*	*33.92*	*57.41*
Hurulla	220.00-280.00	249.25	205.13	220.84	*44.12*	*21.51*	*28.41*	*12.86*
Balaya	260.00-400.00	326.77	313.80	335.50	*12.97*	*4.13*	*-8.73*	*-2.60*
Kelawalla	480.00-650.00	556.46	451.35	445.46	*105.11*	*23.29*	*111.00*	*24.92*
Thora	750.00-1000.00	902.50	727.89	1018.06	*174.61*	*23.99*	*-115.56*	*-11.35*
Paraw	350.00-600.00	453.59	408.36	489.50	*45.23*	*11.08*	*-35.91*	*-7.34*
Mora	400.00-600.00	501.13	434.33	416.34	*66.80*	*15.38*	*84.79*	*20.37*
Shrimp (small)	750.00-1100.00	891.67	868.42	717.34	*23.25*	*2.68*	*174.33*	*24.30*
Thalapath	500.00-620.00	572.41	550.43	620.61	*21.98*	*3.99*	*-48.20*	*-7.77*
Retail Prices								
Salaya	100.00-180.00	140.89	123.06	130.13	*17.83*	*14.49*	*10.76*	*8.27*
Hurulla	240.00-400.00	330.96	289.92	287.90	*41.04*	*14.16*	*43.06*	*14.96*
Balaya	320.00-680.00	456.05	419.40	489.76	*36.65*	*8.74*	*-33.71*	*-6.88*
Kelawalla	600.00-960.00	791.91	696.78	648.65	*95.13*	*13.65*	*143.26*	*22.09*
Thora	900.00-1350.00	1133.98	1025.02	1136.32	*108.96*	*10.63*	*-2.34*	*-0.21*
Paraw	430.00-880.00	683.87	644.43	675.34	*39.44*	*6.12*	*8.53*	*1.26*
Mora	480.00-950.00	630.96	587.58	566.45	*43.38*	*7.38*	*64.51*	*11.39*
Shrimp (small)	840.00-1300.00	1018.35	1001.92	844.30	*16.43*	*1.64*	*174.05*	*20.61*
Thalapath	600.00-960.00	810.17	770.08	798.91	*40.09*	*5.21*	*11.26*	*1.41*

Source: Marketing, Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

Dried Fish

Prices and Supply/Demand Situation

As predicted in the month of March, prices of most of the dried fish varieties had increased in the range of 1%-18% at the wholesale level because of high demand with festival season. The highest price increase of 18% was observed for imported balaya followed by local sprats (14%) and kattawa (12%). In addition, price increased in the range of 2-10% for the other varieties and prices of local balaya have not changed significantly. However prices of imported dried fish have increased slightly (2%) with controlled prices. In the month of April, a quantity of 2,058mt of sprats had been imported to the country spending nearly 509 million rupees. Compared to March, the imported quantity of sprats had decreased by 147 mt. The CIF price of imported sprats was Rs.247.49/kg and it has decreased by Rs.6.72/kg. Compared to April in 2014; wholesale prices of most of the dried fish varieties of both imported and local varieties had increased with the highest price increase noted for maduwa(20%).

Prices of most of the dried fish varieties had increased slightly in the range of 1%-5% with high wholesale prices. The highest price increase was observed for thora and price ranged was between Rs.1100.00-1700.00/kg in the Colombo and suburb. A price increase of 4% was noted for kattawa and the price range was between Rs.800.00-1400.00/kg. Compared to March in 2014, retail prices of most of the dried fish varieties had increased in the range of 1%-10%with the highest price increase noted for thora.

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

Items	Price Range	Average			Change Compared to			
	Apr 2015	Apr 2015	Mar 2015	Apr 2014	Mar 2015		Apr 2014	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Dried fish – Wholesale								
Sprats	450.00-600.00	529.07	462.62	496.97	*66.45*	*14.36*	*32.10*	*6.46*
Sprats (imported)	300.00-360.00	322.75	315.44	347.93	*7.31*	*2.32*	*-25.18*	*-7.24*
Kattawa	700.00-850.00	798.00	713.80	748.47	*84.20*	*11.80*	*49.53*	*6.62*
Kattawa (imported)	720.00-800.00	758.75	692.40	709.60	*66.35*	*9.58*	*49.15*	*6.93*
Thora	980.00-1000.00	987.33	940.00	-	*47.33*	*5.04*	-	-
Thora (imported)	950.00-1000.00	972.00	947.27	951.50	*24.73*	*2.61*	*20.50*	*2.15*
Mora	800.00-850.00	833.00	774.80	827.90	*58.20*	*7.51*	*5.10*	*0.62*
Mora (imported)	700.00-820.00	779.23	710.27	706.89	*68.96*	*9.71*	*72.34*	*10.23*
Balaya	400.00-580.00	463.75	464.45	511.25	*-0.70*	*-0.15*	*-47.50*	*-9.29*
Balaya (imported)	400.00-600.00	521.00	443.00	515.00	*78.00*	*17.61*	*6.00*	*1.17*
Anguluwa	420.00-750.00	601.00	539.48	575.06	*61.52*	*11.40*	*25.94*	*4.51*
Anguluwa (imported)	500.00-600.00	567.44	533.12	576.54	*34.32*	*6.44*	*-9.10*	*-1.58*
Maduwa	420.00-620.00	542.17	510.02	449.91	*32.14*	*6.30*	*92.25*	*20.50*
Maduwa (imported)	350.00-550.00	421.04	442.53	-	*-21.49*	*-4.86*	-	-
Koduwa	-	-	-	550.00	-	-	-	-
Koduwa (imported)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Salaya	150.00-270.00	214.28	189.31	248.79	*24.97*	*13.19*	*-34.51*	*-13.87*
Salaya (imported)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dried fish – Retail								
Sprats	300.00-1100.00	625.94	615.27	644.57	*10.67*	*1.73*	*-18.63*	*-2.89*
Kattawa	800.00-1400.00	1077.55	1032.50	1012.79	*45.05*	*4.36*	*64.76*	*6.39*
Thora	1100.00-1700.00	1376.53	1309.95	1247.83	*66.58*	*5.08*	*128.70*	*10.31*
Mora	800.00-1100.00	938.84	929.99	911.03	*8.85*	*0.95*	*27.81*	*3.05*
Balaya	470.00-1000.00	783.34	770.34	772.23	*13.00*	*1.69*	*11.11*	*1.44*
Anguluwa	550.00-960.00	824.80	804.32	810.18	*20.48*	*2.55*	*14.62*	*1.80*
Maduwa	400.00-820.00	654.77	645.00	618.62	*9.77*	*1.51*	*36.15*	*5.84*
Koduwa	-	-	800.00	757.50	-	-	-	-
Salaya	300.00-800.00	500.01	488.71	502.20	*11.30*	*2.31*	*-2.19*	*-0.44*

Source: Marketing, Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

Table 5.3: Quantity, Value and CIF prices of Sprats - Nov 2014 to Apr 2015

Month	Quantity (mt.)	Value (Rs.mn)	CIF price (Rs/kg)	Retail Price (Rs/kg)	Gross Margin (Rs/kg)
Apr - 2015	2058.17	509.38	247.49	625.94	*378.45*
Mar - 2015	2205.57	560.67	254.21	615.27	*361.06*
Feb - 2015	2535.40	629.79	248.40	681.80	*433.40*
Jan - 2015	2290.23	555.53	242.57	705.50	*462.93*
Dec - 2014	2308.97	556.52	241.03	698.54	*457.51*
Nov - 2014	2079.77	481.88	231.70	705.68	*473.98*

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

Eggs

Prices of both brown and white eggs had further decreased by 4% and 1% respectively with the increased egg supply. At the same time, the price decrease was observed only in the first week of the month and thereafter, prices remained unchanged. The monthly average wholesale price of a brown egg was Rs.13.00 and it was Rs.12.50 for a white egg. According to the data in previous years, it can be expected that egg prices could further decrease in the coming month. Compared to the same period of the last year, wholesale prices of both brown and white eggs had increased by 11%.

Prices of both brown and white eggs had increased slightly at the retail level with the increased consumer demand. A price increase of 1% was noted for brown eggs. However, the price increase was not significant for white eggs. The monthly average retail price of a brown egg was Rs.14.90 and it was Rs.13.93 for a white egg. Compared to the same period of last year, retail prices of both brown and white eggs had increased by 11% and 12% respectively.

Table 5.4: Wholesale and Retail Prices of Eggs – April 2015

Items	Price Range	Average			Change Compared to			
	Apr 2015	Apr 2015	Mar 2015	Apr 2014	Mar 2015		Apr 2014	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Wholesale Price								
Eggs – Brown (each)	13.00-13.00	13.00	13.49	11.73	*-0.49*	*-3.63*	*1.27*	*10.83*
White (each)	12.50-12.50	12.50	12.59	11.23	*-0.09*	*-0.71*	*1.27*	*11.31*
Retail Price								
Eggs- Brown (each)	14.00-16.00	*14.90*	*14.78*	*13.40*	*0.12*	*0.81*	*1.50*	*11.19*
White (each)	13.00-15.00	*13.93*	*13.90*	*12.40*	*0.03*	*0.22*	*1.53*	*12.34*

Source: Marketing, Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

Meat

Prices of all the meat varieties had increased at the retail market due to high demand with festival season. The highest price increase of 9% was noted for both curry and broiler chicken and prices ranged between Rs.460.00-570.00/kg. Compared to April in 2014, retail prices of all the meat varieties had increased in the range of 2%-13% with the highest price increase noted for curry chicken.

Table 5.5: Retail Prices of Meat – April 2015

Items	Price Range	Average			Change Compared to			
	Apr 2015	Apr 2015	Mar 2015	Apr 2014	Mar 2015		Apr 2014	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Meat								
Beef (without bones)	600.00-650.00	619.75	607.17	583.69	*12.58*	*2.07*	*36.06*	*6.18*
Chicken (Broiler)	460.00-570.00	523.05	479.38	479.37	*43.67*	*9.11*	*43.68*	*9.11*
Chicken (curry)	420.00-560.00	498.16	463.19	440.67	*34.97*	*7.55*	*57.49*	*13.05*
Mutton	1250.00-1500.00	1316.61	1308.33	1287.52	*8.28*	*0.63*	*29.09*	*2.26*
Pork	500.00-680.00	575.50	572.00	543.39	*3.50*	*0.61*	*32.11*	*5.91*

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

6. Wheat grain, Wheat flour and Sugar

Wheat grain, Wheat flour

The imported quantity of wheat grain has shown a considerable decrease since it was very high in the previous month. The total quantity of 115,470mt of wheat grain was valued at Rs.4,619mn. The average CIF price was Rs.40.00/kg and compared to the previous month no significant change in the price.

Considering wheat flour, the imported quantity was very low in the previous month. Hence, the imported quantity has shown an increase. The quantity of 657mt of wheat flour was imported and the value of that was Rs.44mn. Since February 2015, the CIF price of wheat flour has not shown any significant change.

Meanwhile, the retail price of wheat flour remained in the range of Rs.75.00-90.00/kg and the average price was Rs.86.56/kg. There is no significant change in the price against the previous month, but compared to the same period of last year the retail price has decreased by 11%.

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

Items	Price Range	Average			Change Compared to			
	Apr 2015	Apr 2015	Mar 2015	Apr 2014	Mar 2015		Apr 2014	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Wheat Flour	75.00-90.00	86.56	86.45	97.32	*0.11*	*0.12*	*-10.77*	*-11.06*
Sugar	80.00-90.00	85.65	86.12	*103.63*	*-0.48*	*-0.55*	*-17.99*	*-17.36*

Source: Department of Census and Statistics

Table 6.2: Quantity, Value and CIF prices of Wheat Flour & Grain - Nov 2014 to Apr 2015

Month	Quantity (mt.)	Value (Rs.mn)	CIF price (Rs/kg)	Retail Price (Rs/kg)	Gross Margin (Rs/kg)
Wheat Flour					
Apr - 2015	656.70	44.47	67.72	86.56	*18.84*
Mar - 2015	138.41	9.41	67.99	86.45	*18.46*
Feb - 2015	1,188.52	79.56	66.94	87.32	*20.38*
Jan - 2015	90.93	8.09	89.01	97.92	*-1.69*
Dec - 2014	679.44	47.42	69.80	97.45	*27.65*
Nov - 2014	67.11	6.27	93.41	98.10	*4.69*
Wheat Grain					
Apr - 2015	115,469.80	4,619.23	40.00	86.56	*46.56*
Mar - 2015	241,131.11	9,615.19	39.88	86.45	*46.57*
Feb - 2015	64,196.17	2,544.84	39.64	87.32	*47.68*
Jan - 2015	98,645.83	4,073.95	41.30	97.92	*46.02*
Dec - 2014	246,451.04	9,854.93	39.99	97.45	*57.46*
Nov - 2014	97,621.10	4,033.59	41.32	98.10	*56.78*

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

Sugar

High imports were reported in the previous month. Hence, the imported quantity of sugar has shown a decrease. A total quantity of 59,400mt valued at Rs.3,316mn of sugar was imported. The recently reported highest CIF price of sugar was reported in June 2014 as Rs.66.91/kg and after that it has decreased gradually. The trend continued in April too by recording a further decrease of Rs.2.59/kg against the previous month. The average CIF price was Rs.55.82/kg. Compared to June 2014, the CIF price of sugar has decreased considerably by Rs.11.09/kg. The retail price of sugar was stable in most of the periods. It remained in the range of Rs.80.00-90.00/kg and the average price was Rs.85.65/kg. It is observed that the customers were continuously gaining the benefit of reduction of import taxes in February 2015. Compared to the same period of last year, retail price of sugar has shown a considerable decrease of 17%.

Table 6.3: Quantity, Value and CIF prices of Sugar- Nov 2014 to Apr 2015

Month	Quantity (mt.)	Value (Rs.mn)	CIF price (Rs/kg)	Retail Price (Rs/kg)	Gross Margin (Rs/kg)
Apr - 2015	59,400.18	3,315.79	55.82	85.65	*29.83*
Mar - 2015	67,842.78	3,962.55	58.41	86.12	*27.71*
Feb - 2015	54,947.03	3,282.14	59.73	87.90	*28.17*
Jan - 2015	40,107.28	2,390.57	59.60	99.97	*28.30*
Dec - 2014	42,943.33	2,634.05	61.34	100.37	*39.03*
Nov - 2014	21,268.04	1,313.09	61.74	100.94	*39.20*

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

Table 7: Imports of Selected Food Items - April 2015

Items	Quantity (mt)		% Change Compared to last month	Value (Rs. mn)		% Change Compared to last month	CIF (Rs/kg)		% Change Compared to last month
	Apr 2015	Mar 2015		Apr 2015	Mar 2015		Apr 2015	Mar 2015	
Rice	46063.08	17849.76	158.06	2987.16	987.99	202.35	64.85	55.35	17.16
Red Onion	357.28	698.14	-48.82	18.13	37.30	-51.39	50.74	53.42	-5.01
Big Onion	17614.60	22313.71	-21.06	779.88	1011.47	-22.90	44.27	45.33	-2.33
Potato	12471.59	8118.18	53.63	302.80	231.96	30.53	24.28	28.57	-15.03
Dried Chillies	3215.57	6478.41	-50.36	584.85	1179.43	-50.41	181.88	182.06	-0.10
Masoor Dhal	13848.16	17518.79	-20.95	1701.93	2088.71	-18.52	122.90	119.23	3.08
Green Gram	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Black gram	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Garlic	2513.00	2235.60	12.41	274.89	241.52	13.81	109.39	108.04	1.25
Wheat flour	656.70	138.41	374.45	44.47	9.41	372.57	67.72	67.99	-0.40
Wheat grain	115469.80	241131.11	-52.11	4619.23	9615.19	-51.96	40.00	39.88	0.32
White crystalline cane sugar	59400.18	67842.78	-12.44	3315.79	3962.55	-16.32	55.82	58.41	-4.43
Maize (Seed)		23.71	-		10.49	-		442.53	-
Maize (Other)	50.24	-	-	4.32	-	-	85.97	-	-

Source: Automated data Processing Division, Department of Customs

Table 8: Monthly Rainfall (mm) – April 2015

Rainfall Station	Total Rainfall (mm)	30 Year Avg. Rainfall (mm)	Total Rainy Days	30 Year Average Rainy Days
Anuradhapura	282.2	151.6	20	12
Badulla	406.4	203.5	23	14
Bandarawela	270.1	158.3	25	12
Batticaloa	43.7	55.0	6	5
Colombo	267.7	245.6	16	14
Galle	171.3	206.8	11	12
Hambantota	137.7	99.6	12	8
Jaffna	52.4	52.3	10	4
Katugastota	157.3	187.7	21	14
Katunayaka	160.6	241.4	14	13
Kurunegala	367.5	264.3	19	16
MahaIluppallama	264.4	179.5	17	12
Mannar	281.4	81.4	9	6
Nuwara Eliya	123.9	158.4	21	13
Pottuvil	31.5	81.9	6	na
Puttalam	238.7	181.5	9	10
Ratmalana	307.7	246.5	9	14
Ratnapura	434.4	338.9	23	20
Trincomalee	48.0	49.2	3	5
Vavuniya	187.3	128.5	13	10
Polonnaruwa	55.4	na	10	na
Moneragala	363.2	na	18	na
Mattala	110.4	na	12	na

Source: Department of Meteorology