HARTI

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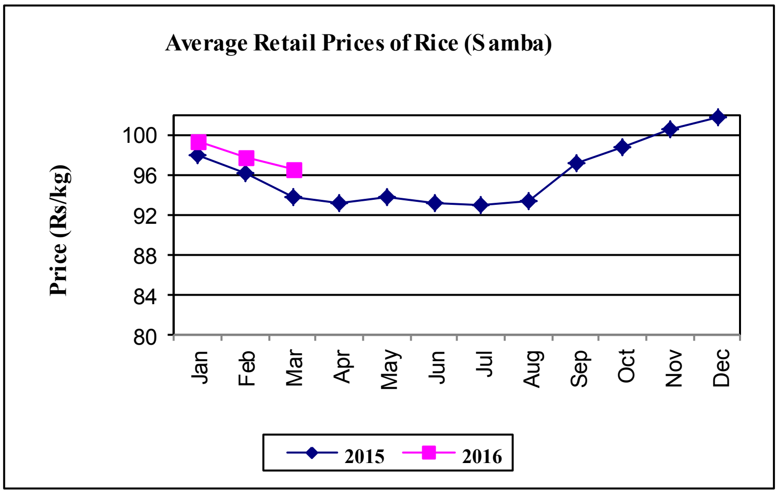
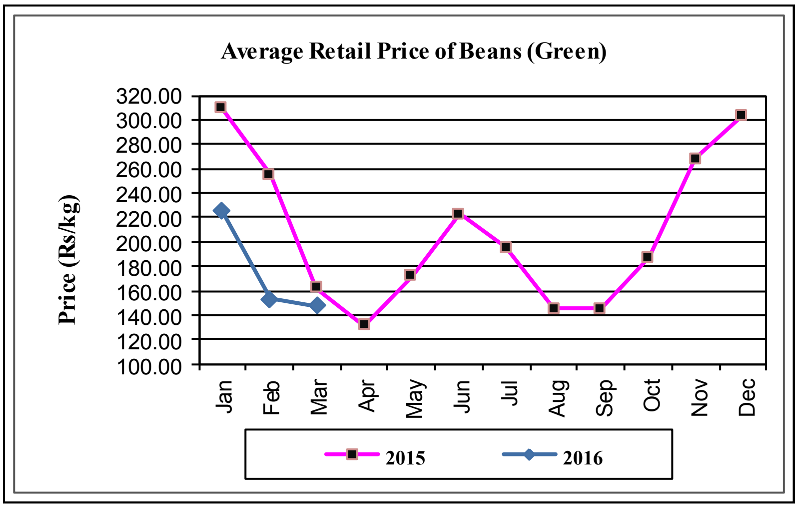
RICE:

As a result of paddy harvesting in 2015/16 *maha* season being almost ended in all the major producing areas, rice supply has increased further. Accordingly, prices of all the rice varieties have decreased and the highest price decrease of 7% was reported for samba grade I.

VEGETABLES:

Even though the latter phase of the *Maha* harvesting season prevailed, supplies have decreased by 20% - 30% from major producing areas, compared to February, due to persistent dry weather. As a result, low quality stocks have reached the market, so that prices of most of the vegetables have decreased, on average by 22%, compared to last month.





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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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Colombo and suburb Markets

1. Pettah
2. Narahenpita
3. Dematagoda
4. Thotalanga
5. Peliyagoda
6. Kadawatha
7. Kiribathgoda
8. Wellawatta
9. Kirulapone
10. Nugegoda

Outstation Markets

1. Nuwara Eliya
2. Dambulla
3. Matara
4. Kurunegala
5. Embilipitiya
6. Kandy
7. Meegoda
8. Kalutara
9. Tissamaharama
10. Nikaweratiya
11. Polonnaruwa
12. Puttalama
13. Hambantota
14. Divulapitiya
15. Dehiattakandiya
16. Keppetipola
17. Thambutthegama
18. Anuradhapura
19. Badulla
20. Galle
21. Mannar
22. Trincomalee
23. Batticaloe
24. Jaffna
25. Mullaitivu
26. Kilinochchi
27. Vavuniya
28. Kegalle
29. Ampara
30. Monaragala
31. Ratnapura

1. Paddy

Crop Situation

Harvesting of 2015/16 *Maha* season paddy crop almost completed in producing areas in the Eastern province by the end of the month. Peak harvesting was recorded in Anuradhapura, Polonnaruwa, Mahaweli Zones and Hambanthota producing areas and it is expected that harvesting continues until mid-April. Dry weather was recorded in most of the major producing areas throughout the month in favor of the harvesting activities. According to the crop forecast report of the Department of Agriculture, the progress of paddy cultivation was 800,031 ha and it was 95% of the target. The expected production is 2.97 million mt and it was an 8% increase than the average of previous three *Maha* seasons. Further, the report reveals that the *maha*, 2015/16 season has recorded the highest ever area cultivated in the recent history. The highest extents were recorded in Ampara, Kurunegala, Anuradhapura, and Mahaweli zones.

Table 1.1: Achievement of Paddy Cultivation 2015/16 *Maha* season (Up to end of March 2016)

District	Targeted Extent (ha)	Achievement (ha)	Achievement as a % of the Targeted Extent (ha)	Production forecast Based on the Progress (mt)	Total Affected Extent (ha)	Expected Production loss of affected area (mt)	Reversed Production forecast adjusted to flood damage within the season (mt)
Anuradhapura	96,379	93,436	97	329,276	85	254	329,022
Polonnaruwa	34,421	34,138	99	151,135	40	23	151,112
Ampara	75,622	76,791	102	319,212	12010	23,307	295,905
Kurunegala	83,543	85,316	102	355,069	23	49	355,020
Hambantota	29,114	29,301	101	155,790	1510	5231	150,559
Colombo	4,933	3,189	65	9,557			9,557
Gampaha	13,583	9,977	73	29,773			29,773
Kalutara	15,703	11,271	72	33,494	435	386	33,108
Galle	15,082	9,963	66	28,442	1	1	28,440
Matara	16,900	13,594	80	43,317			43,317
Ratnapura	14,689	11,571	79	38,499			38,499
Kegalle	8,715	5,845	67	20,291			20,291
Puttalam	22,951	19,399	85	69,799	321	865	68,934
Kandy	15,988	13,876	87	44,895	32	78	44,818
Matale	20,665	21,676	105	84,223			84,223
N' Eliya	6,800	4,641	68	11,683			11,683
Badulla	24,185	22,257	92	91,450			91,450
Monaragala	45,745	45,397	99	181,397			181,397
Jaffna	11,460	10,723	94	22,301			22,301
Kilinochchi	23,000	23,066	100	82,991			82,991
Vavuniya	19,810	18,576	94	69,790			69,790
Mullaitivu	17,067	16,801	98	45,325			45,325
Mannar	20,774	20,220	97	104,587			104,587
Trincomalee	42,244	41,494	98	163,534	3042	7793	155,741
Batticaloa	64,587	62,779	97	144,026	30,914	83,226	60,800
Udawalawa	11,600	12,199	105	64,430			64,430
System H	22,500	23,391	104	112,514			112,514
System H1	9,500	9,144	96	43,984			43,984
System B	19,336	19,295	100	92,812			92,812
System C	23,306	23,310	100	112,124			112,124
System G	5,318	5,269	99	25,345			25,345
System L	472	456	97	6,123			6,123
System D	700	398	57	2,193			2,193
Rambakanoya	1,450	1,273	88	1,914			1,914
Sri Lanka	**838,142**	**800,031**	**95**	**309,296**	**48,412**	**121,212**	**2,970,083**

Source: Department of Agriculture

Producer Prices

Producer prices of all the paddy varieties have decreased in most of the major producing areas during the month due to the increased supply of paddy to the markets as a result of peak harvesting in Anuradhapura, Polnnaruwa, Hambantota, and Mahaweli Zone. Increased arrival of high moisture newly harvested paddy also caused the price decrease. A declining trend was observed for short grain paddy varieties in most of the major producing areas due to the *Maha* harvesting. Short grain paddy varieties were abundantly cultivated in Anuradhapura, Polonnaruwa and Mahaweli Areas. Compared to last month, the prices of short grain varieties have decreased in the range of 02%-14%in all considered major producing areas. The prices of old paddy stocks were higher than that of the newly harvested paddy because of the good quality. At the beginning of the month nearly a Rs.5.00/kg gap between the high moisture newly harvested paddy and dried paddy for long grain white variety in Ampara was observed. Open market prices of long grain white were in the range of Rs.22.00-34.00/kg in most of the major producing areas with the lowest prices observed in Ampara. The lowest prices were recorded for newly harvested high moisture paddy. Meanwhile, the price of long grain red has decreased by 5% in Matara and 7% in Embilipitiya.

Government paddy purchasing programme progressed in most of the major paddy producing areas throughout month. During the latter part of the month stabilization of long grain white paddy prices was observed in many of the producing areas due to the intervention of government through paddy purchasing programme. It is expected that harvesting will continue until the mid of April. Compared to the same period of last year, the prices of short grain, long grain white and long grain red varieties have decreased in the range of 12%-24%, 9%-30% and 25%-34% respectively.

Table1.2: Producer Prices of Paddy – March 2016

Commodity	Price Range		Average Price			Change Compared to			
	Mar 2016	Feb 2016	Mar 2016	Feb 2016	Mar 2015	Feb 2016		Mar 2015	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Short Grain									
Anuradhapura	29.00-33.00	32.00-40.00	31.60	35.80	40.00	*-4.20*	*-11.73*	*-8.40*	*-21.00*
Polonnaruwa	31.75-38.00	32.00-47.50	34.81	40.33	39.46	*-5.52*	*-13.69*	*-4.65*	*-11.79*
Kalawewa	31.300-39.00	35.00-42.00	34.17	36.94	40.07	*-2.78*	*-7.51*	*-5.91*	*-14.74*
Kurunegala	30.00-34.00	32.00-42.00	32.20	37.24	41.50	*-5.04*	*-13.53*	*-9.30*	*-22.41*
Dehiattakandiya	30.00-41.00	34.00-43.00	35.13	-	43.23	-	-	*-8.11*	*-18.75*
Nikaweratiya	31.00-36.00	34.00-35.00	33.83	34.67	44.50	*-0.84*	*-2.42*	*-10.67*	*-23.97*
Ampara	30.00-38.00	30.00-47.00	35.20	40.32	-	*-5.12*	*-12.70*	-	-
Long Grain White									
Anuradhapura	23.00-31.00	23.00-29.00	26.95	26.25	34.70	*0.70*	*2.67*	*-7.75*	*-22.33*
Polonnaruwa	22.50-34.00	22.00-36.00	28.09	29.99	35.95	*-1.90*	*-6.34*	*-7.86*	*-21.86*
Kalawewa	27.00-33.00	23.00-33.00	29.98	27.75	33.09	*2.23*	*8.04*	*-3.11*	*-9.40*
Kurunegala	22.00-25.00	22.00-33.00	23.20	27.76	33.32	*-4.56*	*-16.43*	*-10.12*	*-30.37*
Dehiattakandiya	23.00-38.00	23.00-31.00	27.56	26.31	34.92	-	-	*-7.36*	*-21.07*
Embilipitiya	29.00-32.00	31.00-34.00	30.63	32.63	38.94	-	-	*-8.31*	*-21.35*
Nikaweratiya	24.00-28.00	24.00-27.00	25.84	25.50	34.15	*0.34*	*1.31*	*-8.32*	*-24.35*
Matara	28.00-30.00	29.00-35.00	28.67	30.87	36.40	*-2.21*	*-7.14*	*-7.74*	*-21.25*
Hambantota	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ampara	20.00-32.00	20.00-36.00	28.80	30.64	-	*-1.84*	*-6.01*	-	-
Long Grain Red									
Anuradhapura	-	-	-	-		-	-	-	-
Matara	27.00-29.00	28.00-32.00	28.00	29.60	37.54	*-1.60*	*-5.41*	*-9.54*	*-25.41*
Hambantota	-	-	-	-	37.70	-	-	-	-
Embilipitiya	26.00-28.00	27.00-31.00	27.00	29.12	40.99	*-2.12*	*-7.28*	*-13.99*	*-34.13*

Source: Marketing Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

Rice Demand and Supply Situation

Wholesale Prices

At the second half of the month, paddy harvesting in 2015/16 *maha* season has almost completed in all the major producing areas. As a result, rice supply has increased further. The government paddy purchasing programme has also begun this month and therefore, an the increase of paddy prices at the end of the month was observed. However, the prices of all the rice varieties have decreased due to the increased rice supply. Accordingly, prices have decreased by 7% for samba grade I, by 6% for samba grade II, by 5% for raw red, by 4% for nadu varieties and by 1% for raw white. According to the statistical data released by the Department of Customs, rice imports have slightly increased within the month compared to last month. The imported amount was 1,774mt. Due to the availability of sufficient stocks in the market, the price of imported *ponni* samba has decreased by 3%.

Compared to the same period of last year, the wholesale prices of all the local rice varieties have decreased by 6%-28%.

Retail Prices

In line with the wholesale prices, the retail prices of all the rice varieties have decreased. Accordingly, the price of both raw red and raw white has decreased by Rs.4.00/kg while the prices of nadu grade II, samba grade II and imported *ponni* samba have decreased by Rs.2.00/kg. Also, the prices of all the other local rice varieties have decreased by less than Rs.1.00/kg. The highest local rice price of Rs.110.00/kg was reported for samba grade I and the lowest price of Rs.57.00/kg was reported for raw red.

Referring to the retail prices of the outstation markets except Colombo, the highest samba price range of Rs.94.00-114.00/kg was reported in Kegalle market, while the lowest samba price range of Rs.77.00-87.00/kg was reported in Jaffna and Dambulla markets. The highest nadu price range of Rs.71.00-78.00/kg was noted in Vavuniya and Embilipitiya markets and the lowest nadu price range of Rs.54.00-58.00/kg was noted in Puttalam market. Furthermore, the lowest prices of raw red and raw white were observed as Rs.50.00/kg and Rs.55.00/kg respectively in Matara market. The highest price of raw red was reported as Rs.73.00/kg in Mannar market while that of raw white was reported as Rs.71.00/kg in Kurunegala market.

Compared to the same period of last year, the retail prices of local samba varieties have increased by 3% while the prices of all the other local rice varieties have decreased by 6%-20%.

Table1.3: Wholesale and Retail Prices of Rice – March 2016

Item	Price Range	Average Price			Change Compared to			
	Mar 2016	Mar 2016	Feb 2016	Mar 2015	Feb 2016		Mar 2015	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Wholesale Prices								
Samba 1	83.00-90.00	86.38	92.62	91.87	*-6.24*	*-6.73*	*-5.48*	*-5.97*
Samba 2	73.00-82.00	78.57	84.01	83.49	*-5.44*	*-6.47*	*-4.92*	*-5.89*
Samba 3	-	-	-	78.00	-	-	-	-
Nadu 1	63.00-75.00	66.59	69.30	74.20	*-2.72*	*-3.92*	*-7.61*	*-10.26*
Nadu 2	50.00-65.00	60.08	62.74	70.10	*-2.67*	*-4.25*	*-10.02*	*-14.29*
Raw red	50.00-55.00	51.50	54.36	71.83	*-2.87*	*-5.28*	*-20.33*	*-28.31*
Raw white	50.00-62.00	54.68	55.33	65.04	*-0.65*	*-1.18*	*-10.36*	*-15.93*
Ponni Samba (Imported)	95.00-105.00	98.85	102.17	77.94	*-3.32*	*-3.25*	*20.91*	*26.82*
Raw white (imported)	-	-	-	43.88	-	-	-	-
Retail Prices								
Samba 1	97.00-110.00	101.01	101.83	98.24	*-0.82*	*-0.81*	*2.77*	*2.82*
Samba 2	85.00-97.00	91.87	93.55	89.30	*-1.68*	*-1.80*	*2.57*	*2.88*
Samba 3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nadu 1	75.00-85.00	79.76	79.87	85.09	*-0.11*	*-0.14*	*-5.33*	*-6.26*
Nadu 2	64.00-75.00	71.73	73.46	77.59	*-1.73*	*-2.36*	*-5.86*	*-7.55*
Raw red	57.00-75.00	65.58	69.32	82.21	*-3.74*	*-5.40*	*-16.63*	*-20.23*
Raw white	60.00-75.00	65.80	70.19	76.40	*-4.39*	*-6.25*	*-10.60*	*-13.87*
Ponni Samba (Imported)	110.00-120.00	115.69	117.78	84.12	*-2.09*	*-1.77*	*31.57*	*37.53*
Raw white (imported)	-	-	-	68.38	-	-	-	-

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 2016. According to the crop forecast of the Department of Agriculture, the targeted extent of chillies for *maha* was 11,056 ha and 9,228 ha (83%) out of the targeted extent had been achieved at the end of March in Sri Lanka. From this cultivation about 45,646 mt of production will be expected. The highest cultivated extent of 2,484 ha was reported from the Anuradhapra district and that represented 81% of the targeted extent in Anuradhapura district. The production forecast of green chillies in Anuradhapura district is 14,843 mt and it represents 33% of the total expected production in Sri Lanka.

Table 2.1.1: Cultivation Progress of Green Chillies for *Maha* 2015/16

Areas	Targeted Extent (ha)	Cultivation Progress at the end of March 2016		Expected Production (mt)
		Cultivated Extent (ha)	% of the Targeted Extent	
Anuradhapura	3,081	2,484	81	14,843
Moneragala	1,062	788	74	5,770
Puttalam	867	663	76	6,686
Jaffna	700	663	95	2,152
Hambantota	276	417	151	1,439
Ampara	600	450	75	1,178
Badulla	422	527	125	1,566
Other areas	4,048	3,236	80	12,012
Total	**11,056**	**9,228**	**83**	**45,646**

Source: Crop forecasting Unit, Department of Agriculture

Prices and Supply/Demand Situation

Supply of green chillies from Anuradhapura, Puttlam and other major producing areas have increased during this month too. Hence, both wholesale and retail prices of green chillies have decreased by about Rs.43.00/kg and Rs.55.00/kg respectively. Average wholesale and retail prices of green chillies were Rs.130.63/kg and Rs.278.75/kg and both prices have increased by about 140% and 71% respectively compared to the same period of last year. A quantity of 5,679 mt of dried chillies was imported during this month and it was an increase of 1,915 mt compared to that of the last month. The CIF price was Rs.283.26/kg and it was an increase of Rs.9.71/kg compared to the previous month. About 95% of the dried chillies stock was imported from India and the rest of the 5% was imported from China. Both wholesale and retail prices of imported dried chillies have increased by about Rs.8.00/kg and Rs.9.00/kg due to increased imported prices. The average wholesale and retail prices of imported dried chillies were Rs.320.00/kg and Rs.369.00/kg and both prices have increased by about 6% and 38% respectively compared to the same period of last year.

Table 2.1.2: Wholesale and Retail Prices of Dried Chillies and Green Chillies - March 2016

Items	Price Range	Average Price			Change Compared to			
	Mar 2016	Mar 2016	Feb 2016	Mar 2015	Feb 2016		Mar 2015	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Wholesale Price								
Green Chillies	80.00-180.00	130.63	173.19	54.43	*-42.56*	*-24.57*	*76.20*	*140.00*
Dried Chillies	300.00-320.00	309.20	301.40	*214.44*	*7.80*	*2.59*	*94.76*	*44.19*
Retail Price								
Green Chillies	140.00-400.00	278.75	333.27	162.86	*-54.52*	*-16.36*	*115.89*	*71.16*
Dried Chillies	330.00-400.00	369.06	360.56	266.95	*8.50*	*2.36*	*102.11*	*38.25*

Source: Marketing, Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

Table 2.1.3: Quantity, Value and CIF Prices of Imported Dried Chillies October 2015 to March 2016

Month	Quantity (mt)	Value (Rs.mn.)	CIF Price (Rs/kg)	Retail Price (Rs/kg)	Gross Margin (Rs/kg)
Mar 2016	5,678.82	1,608.61	283.26	369.06	85.80
Feb 2016	3,764.25	1,029.70	273.55	360.56	87.01
Jan 2016	3,851.00	1,021.86	265.35	359.36	94.01
Dec 2015	4,793.83	1,284.23	267.89	362.08	94.19
Nov 2015	4,143.54	1,071.16	258.51	362.89	104.38
Oct 2015	3,564.26	880.04	246.91	335.70	88.79

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

Table 2.1.4: Producer Prices of Green Chillies (Rs/kg) – March 2016

Location	1st week	2nd week	3rd week	4th week
Dambulla	125.00	146.00	135.00	90.40
Embilipitiya	185.00	189.00	160.00	262.00
Puttalam	139.00	102.00	124.00	84.00
A'Pura	160.00	0.00	162.00	121.00

Source: Marketing, Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

2.2 Big Onion and Red Onion

Crop situation

The Department of Agriculture has planned to cultivated around 518 ha of big onion for this *maha* season (2015/16). Under this programme around 138 ha of big onion have been cultivated by the end of March 2016 representing 27% of the targeted extent. Though the highest targeted extent was reported in Hambantota district (125 ha) the highest cultivated extent was recorded in Anuradhapura district (33 ha) followed in Matale district (27 ha). Cultivation of big onion for *yala* 2016, will begin during next month (April) in the Matale district.

Table 2.2.1: Cultivation Progress of Red Onion for *Maha* 2015/16

Areas	Targeted Extent (ha)	Cultivation Progress at the end of March 2016		Expected Production (mt)
		Extent (ha)	% of the Target	
Jaffna	2,050	1,930	94	22,727
Puttalam	406	604	149	13,178
Trincomalee	680	665	98	6,474
Other areas	798	556	70	5,038
Total	**3,934**	**3,755**	**95**	**47,417**

The cultivated extent of red onion at the end of March for *maha* 2015/16 was reported as 3,755 ha and that represents 95% of targeted extent. A good progress has been achieved for red onion cultivation in all the major producing districts and achievement in Puttlam district exceeded even the targeted extent (149%). The production forecast of red onion for the season is 47,417 mt and out of that 76% was supplies from Jaffna (48%) and Puttlam (28%) districts.

Prices and Supply/Demand Situation

Only imported Indian big onion was available at the market and 22,592 mt of big onion were imported in March 2016 reporting an increase of 1,367 mt compared to that of the previous month. Average CIF price was Rs.28.61/kg and it was a decrease of Rs.1.82/kg compared to that of last month. However, both wholesale and retail prices of imported big onion have increased by about Rs.14.00/kg and Rs.13.00/kg respectively due to its good quality. Average wholesale and retail prices of imported big onion were Rs.57.70/kg and Rs.81.58/kg and both prices have decreased by about 6% and 5% respectively.

Though the supply of local red onion from Jaffna has increased slightly during this month, the price of sinnan has increased slightly by about Rs.1.00/kg due to its good quality. Limited stocks of vedalan from Puttlam had started coming to the market at the end of this month and a higher supply could be expected from April. However, wholesale price of vedalan has not changed significantly, while the retail price has decreased by about Rs.10.00/kg. Sinnan stocks were not available at the market.

A quantity of 1,918 mt of red onion was imported from India during this month and it was a decrease of 725 mt compared to that of previous month. Average CIF price was Rs.44.91/kg and it has decreased by Rs.10.81/kg compared to that of last month. Both wholesale and retail prices of imported red onion have decreased by about Rs.3.00/kg and Rs.18.00/kg respectively due to its low quality and availability of local red onion stocks at market. Compared to the same period of last year, retail prices of vedalan and imported red onion have increased by about 12% and 4% respectively.

Table 2.2.2: Wholesale Prices and Retail Prices of Red Onion and Big Onion - March 2016

Crop	Price Range	Average			Change Compared to			
	Mar 2016	Mar 2016	Feb 2016	Mar 2015	Feb 2016		Mar 2015	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Wholesale Prices								
Red Onion (Sinnan)	35.00-55.00	47.50	46.67	50.50	*0.83*	*1.79*	*-3.00*	*-5.93*
Red Onion (Vedalan)	50.00-90.00	70.75	71.11	76.57	*-0.36*	*-0.51*	*-5.82*	*-7.60*
Red Onion (Imported)	45.00-70.00	62.79	65.56	67.80	*-2.77*	*-4.23*	*-5.01*	*-7.40*
Big Onion (imported)	48.00-65.00	57.70	43.70	61.69	*14.00*	*32.04*	*-3.99*	*-6.47*
Big Onion (Local)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Retail Prices								
Red Onion (Sinnan)	-	-	-	100.00	-	-	-	-
Red Onion (Vedalan)	100.00-160.00	135.49	145.71	120.69	*-10.22*	*-7.01*	*14.80*	*12.26*
Red Onion (Imported)	80.00-120.00	104.21	121.89	100.10	*-17.68*	*-14.50*	*4.11*	*4.11*
Big Onion (imported)	60.00-100.00	81.58	68.73	85.73	*12.85*	*18.70*	*-4.15*	*-4.84*
Big Onion (Local)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Source: Marketing, Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

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

Crop	Month	CIF Price (Rs/kg)	Wholesale Price (Rs/kg)	Retail Price (Rs/kg)	Margin (Rs/kg)	
					WP-CIF	RP-WP
Big onion	Mar 2016	28.61	57.70	81.58	*29.09*	*23.88*
	Feb 2016	30.43	43.70	68.73	*13.27*	*25.03*
	Mar 2015	45.33	61.69	85.73	*16.36*	*24.04*
Red onion	Mar 2016	44.91	62.79	104.21	*17.88*	*41.42*
	Feb 2016	55.72	65.56	121.89	*9.84*	*56.33*
	Mar 2015	53.42	67.80	100.10	*14.38*	*32.30*

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 2016	Feb 2016	Mar 2016	Feb 2016	Mar 2016	Feb 2016
Red Onion	1918	2643	86.11	147.27	44.91	55.72
Big Onion	22592	21225	646.46	647.13	28.61	30.43

Source: Department of Custom

Table 2.2.5: Quantity Imported, CIF Price, Wholesale and Retail Price of Big Onion October 2015 to March 2016

Month	Quantity Imported (mt)	CIF Price (Rs/kg)	Wholesale Price (Rs/kg)	Retail Price (Rs/kg)	Gross Margin (RP-CIF) (Rs/kg)
Mar 2016	22592.47	28.61	57.70	81.58	52.97
Feb 2016	21268.34	30.43	43.70	68.73	38.30
Jan 2016	27930.69	35.62	52.30	84.20	48.58
Dec 2015	23618.75	81.56	58.39	95.39	13.83
Nov 2015	17983.59	95.35	107.25	145.63	50.28
Oct 2015	2780.47	84.78	89.27	117.29	32.51

Source: Department of Customs

2.3 Potato

Crop Situation and Progress

The targeted extent of potato for *maha* 2015/16 is 2,993 ha and about 3,695 ha had been cultivated by the end of the season achieving 123% of the target. During the month, about 958 ha of potatoes were cultivated in the country and it was greater than the extent cultivated in January and February of this *maha* season. Compared to last *maha* season, the cultivated extent during this *maha* season is at a high level. According to the cultivated extent, the expected production of potato is 51,118 mt for this *maha* season.

In the Nuwara Eliya district, the targeted extent is 1,200 ha and about 847 ha of potato have been cultivated by the end the season achieving 71% of the targeted extent. Compared to last *maha* season, the cultivated extent is at low level during this *maha* season. The targeted extent for this *maha* season is 1,637 ha in the Badulla district and about 2,674 ha have been cultivated by the end of the season achieving 118% of the targeted extent. The cultivated extent during this season is at a high level compared to last *maha* season in Badulla. In the district, the farmers have reserved about 20%-25% of their production for seed potato production.

According to the field information, the expected supply of potato is around 26,000 mt in March.

Table 2.3.1: Cultivation Progress and Expected Production of Potato (*Maha* 2015/16)

District	Targeted Extent (ha)		Achievement (ha)		Progress (%)	Expected Production (mt)
	Maha* 2014/15	***Maha* 2015/16**	***Maha* 2014/15***	***Maha* 2015/16**	***Maha* 2015/16**	
N'Eliya	1,095	1,200	927	847	71	13,419
Badulla	1,945	1,637	2,017	2,674	163	35,802
Sri Lanka	**3,153**	**2,993**	**3,062**	**3,695**	**123**	**51,118**

Source:* *MFPAD/HARTI
Crop Forecast No.5, Maha 2015/16, Socio-economic & Planning Centre/DOA
****Crop Forecast No.5, Maha 2014/15, Socio-economic & Planning Centre/DOA***

Prices and Supply/Demand Situation

A quantity of 11,872 mt of potato had been imported in March which was 5,356 mt lower than that was imported during the previous month with the increase of Special Commodity Levy for imported potato (Rs.35.00/kg) with effect from 01/03/2016. Majority of the imported stocks (93%) were received from Pakistan and few stocks were received from Bangladesh and India. Compared to March, 2016 (8,118 mt), the imports were high during this month. Average CIF price was Rs.22.25/kg in March.

With regard to local potato, the *maha* harvesting for Welimada potato commenced and sufficient stocks of Welimada and Nuwara Eliya potatoes were available in the market. Wholesale and retail prices of Nuwara Eliya potato have decreased by 4% and 9% respectively with arrival of *maha* stocks. On average, the producer prices of Nuwara Eliya and Welimada potatoes were Rs.78.00/kg and Rs.76.00/kg in March. The wholesale and retail prices of imported potato have increased by 29% and 15% respectively due to limited stocks with increased tax for imported potato. During the month of March, the wholesale prices of Nuwara Eliya, Welimada and imported potatoes ranged between Rs.80.00-110.00/kg, Rs.65.00-85.00/kg and Rs.50.00-70.00/kg respectively. Compared to the same period of last year, the current retail prices of Nuwara Eliya potato (1%) has increased, while the price of imported potato (7%) has decreased.

Table 2.3.2: Quantity, Value and CIF prices of Imported Potatoes
October 2015 to March 2016

Month	Quantity (mt.)	Value (Rs.mn)	CIF price (Rs/kg)	Retail Price (Rs/kg)	Gross Margin (Rs/kg)
Mar 2016	11,871.70	264.18	22.25	85.70	*63.45*
Feb 2016	17,227.96	422.10	24.50	74.14	*49.64*
Jan 2016	20,052.65	553.62	27.61	87.96	*60.35*
Dec 2015	17,712.09	625.85	35.33	94.48	*59.15*
Nov 2015	11,891.82	438.31	36.86	118.25	*81.39*
Oct 2015	3,574.86	115.10	32.20	104.57	*72.37*

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

Table: 2.3.3: Producer, Wholesale and Retail prices of Potato – March 2016

Items	Price Range	Average			Change Compared to			
	Mar 2016	Mar 2016	Feb 2016	Mar 2015	Feb 2016		Mar 2015	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Producer Prices (PP)								
Welimada	67.00-82.00	75.75	73.76	72.26	*1.99*	*2.70*	*3.49*	*4.83*
Nuwara Eliya	70.00-85.00	78.00	83.08	87.28	*-5.08*	*-6.11*	*-9.28*	*-10.63*
Imported – CIF	21.52-43.86	22.25	24.50	28.57	*-2.25*	*-9.18*	*-6.32*	*-22.12*
Wholesale Prices (WP)								
Welimada	65.00-85.00	76.50	-	87.74	-	-	*-11.24*	*-12.81*
Nuwara Eliya	80.00-110.00	92.94	96.81	100.53	*-3.86*	*-3.99*	*-7.58*	*-7.54*
Imported	50.00-70.00	59.84	46.47	69.86	*13.36*	*28.76*	*-10.03*	*-14.35*
Retail Prices (RP)								
Welimada	100.00-120.00	108.61	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nuwara Eliya	110.00-160.00	135.62	148.75	133.91	*-13.13*	*-8.83*	*1.71*	*1.28*
Imported	70.00-100.00	85.70	74.14	92.29	*11.56*	*15.59*	*-6.59*	*-7.14*
Gross Margin (RP-PP)								
Welimada		32.86	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nuwara Eliya		57.62	65.67	46.63	*-8.05*	*-12.26*	*10.99*	*23.57*
Imported (CIF-RP)		63.45	49.64	63.72	*13.81*	*27.82*	*-0.27*	*-0.42*
Gross Margin (RP -WP)								
Welimada		32.11	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nuwara Eliya		42.68	51.94	33.38	*-9.27*	*-17.84*	*9.29*	*27.83*
Imported		25.86	27.67	22.43	*-1.80*	*-6.52*	*3.44*	*15.32*

Source: Marketing Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

2.4 Green gram and Cowpea

Crop Situation

The targeted extent of green gram for *maha* 2015/16 is 7,798 ha and out of which about 7,550 ha were cultivated by the end of the season representing 97% of the total targeted extent. During the month, about few extents (178 ha) of green gram were cultivated in the country. According to the cultivated extent, the expected production of green gram is 9,864 mt for 2015/16 *maha* season. Compared to *maha* 2014/15, the cultivated extent during this *maha* season is at a low level. In the Hambantota district, the targeted extent is 860 ha for *maha* 2015/16 and about 2,506 ha was cultivated by the end of the season achieving a higher progress. In the Moneragala and Kurunegala districts, the targeted extents are 1,455 ha and 862 ha for this *maha* season and about

1,021 ha and 742 ha were cultivated by the end of the season achieving 70% and 86% of the targeted extents. In all districts, the cultivated extents during this *maha* season were at a low level compared to last *maha* season.

The targeted extent of cowpea was 10,655 ha for *maha* 2015/16 and about 8,518 ha had been cultivated by the end of the season achieving 80% of the total targeted extent. Compared to *maha* 2014/15 season, the cultivated extent during this *maha* season is low. During the month, few extents of cowpea (183 ha) were cultivated in the country. According to the cultivated extent, the expected production of cowpea for this *maha* season is 11,952 mt. The highest targeted extent for cowpea was recorded in the Ampara district as 3,440 ha for this *maha* season and about 3,411 ha was cultivated by the end of the season achieving 99% of the total targeted extent. In the Moneregala and Kurunegala districts, the targeted extents were 1,650 ha and 942 ha for this *maha* season and by the end of the season, about 1,318 ha and 379 ha were cultivated in the respective districts. In all the major producing districts, the cultivated extents during this *maha* season were at a low level compared to last *maha* season.

Table 2.4.1: Cultivation Progress and Expected Production of Green gram and Cowpea (*Maha* 2015/16)

Crop	District	Targeted Ext. (ha)		Achievement (ha)		Progress (%)	Expected Production (mt)
		Maha 2014/15*	*Maha* 2015/16	*Maha* 2014/15*	*Maha* 2015/16	*Maha* 2015/16	
Green gram	Hambantota	3,585	860	5,107	2,506	291	3,805
	Kurunegala	1,233	862	969	742	86	407
	Moneragala	1,983	1,455	1,745	1,021	70	1,066
	Sri Lanka	**12,458**	**7,798**	**11,943**	**7,550**	**97**	**9,864**
Cowpea	Ampara	3,959	3,440	3,671	3,411	99	7,237
	Kurunegala	1,216	942	481	379	40	167
	Moneragala	1,726	1,650	1,613	1,318	80	1,430
	Sri Lanka	**12,318**	**10,655**	**9,283**	**8,518**	**80**	**11,952**

Source:* *MFPAD/HARTI
Crop Forecast No.5, Maha 2015/16, Socio-economic & Planning Centre/DOA
****Crop Forecast No.5, Maha 2014/15, Socio-economic & Planning Centre/DOA***

Prices and Supply Demand Situation

A quantity of 2,497 mt of green gram was imported in March and it was 1,692 mt higher compared to that of February. The average CIF price was Rs.169.00/kg during this month. Out of the total imports, about 41% of the stocks were received from Myanmar, followed by Thailand (29%) and Australia (25%). Compared to March, 2015 (1,817 mt), the imports were high during this month. In March, the wholesale and retail prices of green gram have increased by 4% and 1% respectively. During the month, the wholesale price of green gram ranged between Rs.185.00-230.00/kg. Compared to the same period of last year, the current retail price of green gram had decreased by 10%.

A quantity of 686 mt of cowpea was imported in March, which was 304 mt higher than the quantity imported in the previous month. Out of the total imports, about 40% of the stocks were received from Madagascar, followed by Myanmar (36%) and Turkey (14%). The average CIF price was Rs.104.00/kg in March. With regard to cowpea, the wholesale and retail prices of white cowpea have increased by 4% and 1% respectively. Also, the wholesale price of red cowpea has increased by 2%, while the retail price has not changed significantly. During the month of March, the wholesale prices of white and red cowpea ranged between Rs.195.00-210.00/kg and Rs.200.00-250.00/kg respectively. Imported stocks fetched high price. Compared to the same period of last year, the current retail prices of white and red cowpea have decreased by 3% and 4% respectively.

Table 2.4.2: Quantity, Value and CIF prices of Imported Green gram October 2015 to March 2016

Month	Quantity (mt)	Value (Rs.mn)	CIF price (Rs/kg)	Retail Price (Rs/kg)	Gross Margin (Rs/kg)
Mar 2016	2,497	422.19	169.08	246.73	77.65
Feb 2016	805	140.96	175.17	243.85	68.68
Jan 2016	768	133.05	173.24	240.43	67.19
Dec 2015	146	27.95	191.45	243.05	51.60
Nov 2015	838	158.48	189.22	246.06	56.84
Oct 2015	802	143.76	179.14	244.34	65.20

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

Table 2.4.3: Quantity, Value and CIF prices of Imported Cowpea October 2015 to March 2016

Month	Quantity (mt)	Value (Rs.mn)	CIF price (Rs/kg)	Retail Price (Rs/kg)	Gross Margin (Rs/kg)
Mar 2016	685.81	71.16	103.76	254.12	150.36
Feb 2016	382.56	36.78	96.14	251.48	155.34
Jan 2016	362.52	32.51	89.68	253.69	164.01
Dec 2015	502.85	47.12	93.71	257.34	163.63
Nov 2015	666.56	64.11	96.18	262.26	166.08
Oct 2015	1,140.62	120.04	105.24	264.23	158.99

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

Table 2.4.4: Wholesale and Retail Prices of Green gram and Cowpea- March 2016

Items	Price Range	Average			Change Compared to			
	Mar 2016	Mar 2016	Feb 2016	Mar 2015	Feb 2016		Mar 2015	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Wholesale Prices								
Green gram	185.00-230.00	207.94	199.79	219.25	8.14	4.08	-11.32	-5.16
Cowpea (White)	195.00-210.00	199.64	192.16	202.02	7.48	3.89	-2.38	-1.18
Cowpea (Red)	200.00-250.00	206.96	203.25	219.40	3.71	1.83	-12.43	-5.67
Retail Prices								
Green gram	220.00-280.00	246.73	243.85	272.89	2.88	1.18	-26.16	-9.59
Cowpea (White)	230.00-280.00	254.12	251.48	261.16	2.64	1.05	-7.04	-2.70
Cowpea (Red)	230.00-280.00	251.07	248.04	256.88	3.03	1.22	-5.81	-2.26

Source: Marketing Food Policy & Agribusiness Division/HARTI

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

Crop	Month	CIF Price (Rs/kg)	Wholesale price (Rs/kg)	Retail price (Rs/kg)	Gross Margin (Rs/Kg)	
					WP-CIF	RP-WP
Green gram	Mar 2016	169.08	207.94	246.73	38.85	38.79
	Feb 2016	175.17	199.79	243.85	24.62	44.06
	Mar 2015	-	219.25	272.89	-	53.64
Cowpea (White)	Mar 2016	103.76	199.64	254.12	95.88	54.48
	Feb 2016	96.14	192.16	251.48	96.02	59.32
	Mar 2015	-	202.02	261.16	-	59.14
Cowpea (Red)	Mar 2016	-	206.96	251.07	-	-206.96
	Feb 2016	-	203.25	248.04	-	44.79
	Mar 2015	-	219.40	256.88	-	37.48

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

2.5 Red dhal

Prices and Supply/Demand Situation

A quantity of 17,192 mt (13,612 mt of whole type and 3,581 mt of split type) of red dhal was imported in March and it was 2,853 mt lower than the quantity imported in February. About 71% and 29% of the stocks of whole type were received from Canada and Australia respectively, while about 59% and 41% of split type were received from Canada and India respectively. Compared to March, 2015 (17,519 mt), the imports of red dhal were low during this month. The average CIF price was Rs.139.00/kg in March.

In March, the wholesale and retail prices of red dhal have decreased by 1%. The average wholesale price was Rs.174.00/kg in March. Compared to the same period of last year, the current retail price of red dhal had increased by 2%.

Table 2.5.1: Wholesale and Retail Prices of Red dhal – March 2016

Red Dhal	Price Range	Average			Change Compared to			
	Mar 2016	Mar 2016	Feb 2016	Mar 2015	Feb 2016		Mar 2015	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Wholesale Price	149.00-215.00	173.98	176.08	159.87	-2.10	-1.19	14.11	8.83
Retail Price	165.00-230.00	180.90	182.75	177.11	-1.85	-1.01	3.79	2.14

Source: Marketing Food Policy & Agribusiness Division

Table 2.5.2: Quantity, Value and CIF prices of Imported Red dhal
October 2015 to March 2016

Month	Quantity (mt)	CIF Price Rs/kg	Wholesale price Rs/kg	Retail price Rs/kg	Gross Margin (Rs/kg)	
					CIF-WP	WP-RP
Mar 2016	17192.10	139.14	173.98	180.90	34.84	6.92
Feb 2016	19944.88	129.33	176.08	182.75	46.75	6.67
Jan 2016	22496.13	127.42	184.51	179.96	57.09	-4.55
Dec 2015	21861.10	123.71	161.68	171.71	37.98	10.03
Nov 2015	11470.86	260.78	171.17	191.79	-89.61	20.62
Oct 2015	7822.15	126.86	171.78	192.21	44.92	20.43

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

3. Vegetables

Crop Situation

According to the Department of Meteorology data, during the month of March, a below average rainfall was received in most of the major producing districts. As a result, a dry weather prevailed in all the up, mid and low country the major producing areas of the country. In Matale district, a set target for vegetable cultivation in *Maha* season is 2,768 ha of which 1,614 ha was completed by the end of March, recording a 2.5% increase in extent, compared to same period of the last year. The set target for upcountry varieties at the beginning of the season in Nuwara Eliya district was 5,044 ha of which about 89% was achieved at the end of the season. Generally, crop establishment for *Maha* season has progressed well in the Kandy district with the rainy weather experienced in the beginning of the cultivation season. The reported cultivation progress for upcountry varieties cultivated in the district was 1,383 ha, recording an 81% achievement of the seasonal target at the end of *Maha* season. Further, Badulla and Jaffna districts recorded 99% and 94% cultivation progress respectively, at the end of *Maha* season.

Crop establishment commenced well in all the lowcountry major producing areas of low country districts with the received rainfall at the beginning of the cultivation season. However, as a result of the prevailed dry weather throughout the month of March, water availability for agricultural activities was minimal. In Hambantota district, early establishment of 2015/2016 *Maha* cultivation has been observed due to advancement of the monsoonal rain by 3 weeks at the beginning of the season. The set target for lowcountry varieties in the *Maha* season was 3,387 ha of which the cultivation progress was about 4,898 ha, recording a 145% achievement at the end of the season. Further, in Anuradhpura and Monaragala districts, 81% and 73% cultivation progress of the seasonal target respectively, was achieved at the end of March. In addition, both Jaffna and Puttlam district reported a 90% cultivation progress for lowcountry varieties at the end of the season.

Prices and supply/Demand situation

Even though the latter phase of the *Maha* harvesting season prevailed, supplies have decreased by 20% - 30% from major producing areas, compared to previous month, due to persistent dry weather. In all the major producing districts, around 30% crop damage was reported, in the field which had reached the harvesting stage. Further, the continued dry weather has stimulated the process of ripening in some varieties so that the harvesting interval shortened and low quality supplies reached the market. The total supply of vegetables from Matale district was around 4,037 mt in March, recording a 39% decrease compared to the previous month. The daily supply of vegetables at the Dambulla Dedicated Economic Centre (DEC) was around 1,400 - 1,500 mt in March, recoding a 6% decrease compared to last month. Further, daily supply from Jaffna district to the Dambulla DEC has decreased up to 144 mt recording a 10% decrease compared to last month. Main varieties supplied from Jaffna and Puttlam district were beetroot and cabbage during the month of March.

Considering upcountry vegetables, prices of most of the vegetable varieties have decreased in March, compared to previous month, due to low quality supplies. The highest price decrease was reported for 48% as carrot, followed by cabbage as 29% and knokhol as 24%. Prices of carrot and cabbage have decreased due to low quality supplies received in the last two weeks of the month from both up and low country major producing areas. Prices of all the other upcountry varieties, except radish have decreased in the range of 5% - 21%. Meanwhile, price of radish have increased by 82% as a result of limited stocks received from Puttlam and Jaffna during March. With the high supply of low country variety in the peak harvesting season, prices of radish had decreased up to Rs.21.00/kg during last month.

Price of tomato has increased marginally by 5.5% in March, compared to last month. However, price of capsicum have decreased by 38%. As lowcountry variety of capsicum is drought–resistant than upcountry variety, high supplies have received from Suriyawewa, Anuradhapura and Matale, during March.

Drought seems to have affected in two different ways to the supply of lowcountry vegetables. Prices of some of the lowcountry varieties have decreased due to low quality supplies, while prices of other groups of lowcountry varieties have shown an increasing trend during the last two weeks of the month due to limited supplies. Therefore prices of pumpkin, drumsticks, ladies fingers, bittergourd and ash plantain have decreased, with the highest price decrease recorded for pumpkin as 60%, followed by drumsticks as 40%. Meanwhile, prices of brinjal, cucumber, long beans, snakegourd and luffa have increased, with the highest price increase reported for cucumber as 117% followed by brinjal as 36%.

Prices of green chilies have further decreased by 25% in March, with the low quality supplies receiving from Puttlam and Jaffna as a result of dry weather. With the ending of peak harvesting season, price of lime increased 76% compared to previous month.

In line with the wholesale prices, retail prices of most of the vegetables have decreased in March. The highest price decrease was reported for pumpkin as 34% followed by carrot as 33%.

Table 3.1: Wholesale Prices of Vegetables – March 2016

Items	Price Range	Average			Change Compared to			
	Mar 2016	Mar 2016	Feb 2016	Mar 2015	Feb 2016		Mar 2015	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Beans (green)	70.00-120.00	91.25	95.80	104.74	*-4.55*	*-4.75*	*-13.49*	*-12.88*
Carrot	60.00-130.00	81.82	157.97	83.67	*-76.15*	*-48.21*	*-1.85*	*-2.21*
Leeks	40.00-100.00	58.54	74.03	111.62	*-15.49*	*-20.92*	*-53.08*	*-47.55*
Beetroot	40.00-100.00	64.43	77.37	54.21	*-12.94*	*-16.72*	*10.22*	*18.85*
Knokhol	50.00-70.00	57.87	75.99	49.97	*-18.12*	*-23.85*	*7.90*	*15.81*
Radish	20.00-60.00	37.81	20.80	24.63	*17.01*	*81.78*	*13.18*	*53.51*
Cabbage	35.00-90.00	49.02	69.44	36.87	*-20.42*	*-29.41*	*12.15*	*32.95*
Tomato	20.00-60.00	33.55	31.80	57.53	*1.75*	*5.50*	*-23.98*	*-41.68*
Ladies Fingers	40.00-80.00	56.67	70.71	33.40	*-14.04*	*-19.86*	*23.27*	*69.67*
Brinjal	50.00-90.00	70.77	52.11	34.98	*18.66*	*35.81*	*35.79*	*102.32*
Capsicum	100.00-160.00	128.55	207.78	157.58	*-79.23*	*-38.13*	*-29.03*	*-18.42*
Pumpkin	20.00-60.00	31.67	78.78	68.76	*-47.11*	*-59.80*	*-37.09*	*-53.94*
Cucumber	40.00-80.00	61.88	28.57	15.70	*33.31*	*116.59*	*46.18*	*294.14*
Bittergourd	40.00-100.00	71.83	86.75	85.25	*-14.92*	*-17.20*	*-13.42*	*-15.74*
Snakegourd	50.00-80.00	60.63	57.41	43.39	*3.22*	*5.61*	*17.24*	*39.73*
Drumstick	80.00-230.00	152.21	251.90	177.20	*-99.69*	*-39.58*	*-24.99*	*-14.10*
Luffa	40.00-100.00	69.79	67.30	44.25	*2.49*	*3.70*	*25.54*	*57.72*
Long Beans	50.00-80.00	64.05	50.84	65.80	*13.21*	*25.98*	*-1.75*	*-2.66*
Ash Plantain	30.00-80.00	47.30	52.82	81.98	*-5.52*	*-10.45*	*-34.68*	*-42.30*
Green Chillies	80.00-180.00	130.63	173.19	54.43	*-42.56*	*-24.57*	*76.20*	*140.00*
Lime	40.00-150.00	80.21	45.65	41.09	*34.56*	*75.71*	*39.12*	*95.21*

Source: Marketing, Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

Table 3.2: Retail Prices of Vegetables – March 2016

Items	Price Range	Average			Change Compared to			
	Mar 2016	Mar 2016	Feb 2016	Mar 2015	Feb 2016		Mar 2015	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Beans (green)	100.00-240.00	147.88	153.14	162.10	*-5.26*	*-3.43*	*-14.22*	*-8.77*
Carrot	100.00-260.00	154.60	231.66	151.08	*-77.06*	*-33.26*	*3.52*	*2.33*
Leeks	80.00-200.00	128.21	145.35	174.33	*-17.14*	*-11.79*	*-46.12*	*-26.46*
Beetroot	80.00-200.00	135.77	156.70	116.08	*-20.93*	*-13.36*	*19.69*	*16.96*
Knokhol	80.00-200.00	138.71	170.82	130.94	*-32.11*	*-18.80*	*7.77*	*5.93*
Radish	80.00-220.00	107.12	94.76	82.62	*12.36*	*13.04*	*24.50*	*29.65*
Cabbage	50.00-160.00	119.74	139.50	99.91	*-19.76*	*-14.16*	*19.83*	*19.85*
Tomato	80.00-200.00	78.65	76.45	120.94	*2.20*	*2.88*	*-42.29*	*-34.97*
Ladies Fingers	40.00-120.00	120.74	134.96	95.67	*-14.22*	*-10.54*	*25.07*	*26.20*
Brinjal	70.00-200.00	127.65	119.76	90.01	*7.89*	*6.59*	*37.64*	*41.82*
Capsicum	80.00-200.00	223.30	329.00	246.47	*-105.70*	*-32.13*	*-23.17*	*-9.40*
Pumpkin	120.00-320.00	91.57	137.95	137.05	*-46.38*	*-33.62*	*-45.48*	*-33.18*
Cucumber	40.00-200.00	113.17	87.80	68.85	*25.37*	*28.90*	*44.32*	*64.37*
Bittergourd	60.00-160.00	151.94	168.94	148.46	*-17.00*	*-10.06*	*3.48*	*2.34*
Snakegourd	80.00-240.00	123.12	119.56	108.05	*3.56*	*2.98*	*15.07*	*13.95*
Drumstick	170.00-800.00	321.23	436.53	329.71	*-115.30*	*-26.41*	*-8.48*	*-2.57*
Luffa	80.00-200.00	138.82	150.81	116.53	*-11.99*	*-7.95*	*22.29*	*19.13*
Long Beans	80.00-200.00	126.01	122.65	126.72	*3.36*	*2.74*	*-0.71*	*-0.56*
Ash Plantain	60.00-200.00	110.92	121.06	141.33	*-10.14*	*-8.38*	*-30.41*	*-21.52*
Green Chillies	140.00-400.00	278.75	333.27	162.86	*-54.52*	*-16.36*	*115.89*	*71.16*
Lime	70.00-300.00	196.47	161.26	145.29	*35.21*	*21.83*	*51.18*	*35.23*

Source: Marketing, Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HART

4. Fruits

Prices and Supply/Demand Situation

Wholesale prices of most of the fruit varieties have increased. The highest price increase (15%) was reported for slimeapple due to low supply with end of the harvesting season. With low supplies received from Beliatta and Tangalle, the price of woodapple has increased by 35%. In addition, prices of all the sizes of pineapple have increased in the range of 12%-13% due to dry weather condition. Prices also all the sizes of banana except (kolikuttu) have increased in the range of 2%-4% with low supply.

However, a price decrease in the range of 5%-9% for avocado, papaw and banana (kolikuttu) can be seen. High supplies received from Anuradhapura, Wellawaya, Kurunegala and Vavuniya areas were the reason for price increase of papaw and low quality stocks received from Welimada and Bandarawela was the main reason for price decrease in avocado.

Compared to the same period of last year, prices of most of the fruit varieties have increased and the highest price increase was reported as 56% for pineapple (small size).

The wholesale market price increase can be seen in the retail market also. Prices of most of the fruit varieties have increased with the highest price increase (14%) noted for woodapple. Prices of all the sizes of pineapple were increased in the range of 4%-12%. In addition, prices of avocado and passionfruit have decreased by 24% and 5% respectively.

Compared to the same period of last year, prices of most of the fruit varieties have increased and the highest price increase of 43% was reported for pineapple (small size).

According to market information, most of the fruit varieties are expected to increase with upcoming Sinhala and Hindu New Year season in both wholesale and retail markets.

According to table 4.3, producer price of banana (kolikuttu) has increased by 3%. Meanwhile, price increase of papaw was not significant and price of banana (ambul) has decreased by 1%.

Compared to the same period of last year, price of papaw has decreased by 40% and the price of banana (kolikuttu) has increased by 26%. According to market information, producer prices of most of the fruit varieties will increase in the next month with festival season.

Exports/Imports of Fruits

According to table 4.4, papaw was the most imported fruit in March with the quantity of 200.57 mt. However, the highest export value (Rs.20.53mn) has acquired with exporting pineapple. The total export value of this month was Rs.40.5mn for considered fruit varieties and it has decreased by Rs.17.29mn compared to last month.

Considering fruit imports, as usual apple was the most imported type of fruit and 56% of apple were imported from China. 1,786.80 mt of apple were imported in March and its value was Rs.283.77mn. In addition, 1,582.68 mt of mandarin were imported and its value was Rs.61.90mn. The entire import expenditure for selected fruit varieties was Rs.600.17mn for this month and it has increased by Rs.50.31mn compared to last month.

Table 4.1: Wholesale Prices of Fruits – March 2016

Items	Price Range	Average			Change Compared to			
	Mar 2016	Mar 2016	Feb 2016	Mar 2015	Feb 2016		Mar 2015	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Plantain								
Ambul (Rs/kg)	20.00-50.00	35.33	31.96	42.80	*3.37*	*10.54*	*-7.47*	*-17.45*
Kolikuttu (Rs/kg)	100.00-140.00	117.98	124.98	107.64	*-7.00*	*-5.60*	*10.34*	*9.61*
Seeni (Rs/kg)	30.00-60.00	42.31	37.22	45.83	*5.09*	*13.68*	*-3.52*	*-7.68*
Anamalu	6.00-13.00	8.60	7.91	9.55	*0.69*	*8.72*	*-0.95*	*-9.95*
Ambun	8.00-15.00	10.71	10.54	12.62	*0.17*	*1.61*	*-1.91*	*-15.13*
Pineapple								
Large	160.00-200.00	178.53	158.50	126.16	*20.03*	*12.64*	*52.37*	*41.51*
Medium	130.00-170.00	148.52	131.34	100.86	*17.18*	*13.08*	*47.66*	*47.25*
Small	90.00-130.00	117.88	105.00	75.66	*12.88*	*12.27*	*42.22*	*55.80*
Mango								
Betti	16.00-40.00	27.15	-	35.38	-	-	*-8.23*	*-23.26*
Karthakolomban	50.00-120.00	79.84	80.00	81.68	*-0.16*	*-0.20*	*-1.84*	*-2.25*
Vilad	20.00-80.00	36.29	-	25.46	-	-	*10.83*	*42.54*
Kohu	11.42-30.00	17.06	-	14.29	-	-	*2.77*	*19.38*
Papaw (Rs/kg)	60.00-120.00	94.19	98.70	145.83	*-4.51*	*-4.57*	*-51.64*	*-35.41*
Passionfruit	12.00-16.66	14.24	13.55	11.09	*0.69*	*5.09*	*3.15*	*28.40*
Woodapple	20.00-40.00	33.07	24.55	41.99	*8.52*	*34.70*	*-8.92*	*-21.24*
Orange	15.00-25.00	19.29	17.49	18.20	*1.80*	*10.29*	*1.09*	*5.99*
Avocado	25.00-60.00	46.66	51.45	53.63	*-4.79*	*-9.31*	*-6.97*	*-13.00*
Slime Apple	20.00-50.00	36.32	23.98	29.62	*12.34*	*51.46*	*6.70*	*22.62*
Grapes Imported (Rs/kg)	466.00-600.00	525.74	476.69	487.22	*49.05*	*10.29*	*38.52*	*7.91*

Source: Marketing, Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

Table 4.2: Retail Prices of Fruits – March 2016

Items	Price Range	Average			Change Compared to			
	Mar 2016	Mar 2016	Feb 2016	Mar 2015	Feb 2016		Mar 2015	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Plantain								
Ambul (Rs/kg)	60.00-90.00	77.84	76.70	79.77	*1.14*	*1.49*	*-1.93*	*-2.42*
Kolikuttu (Rs/kg)	140.00-220.00	181.50	189.70	152.10	*-8.20*	*-4.32*	*29.40*	*19.33*
Seeni (Rs/kg)	60.00-100.00	78.01	77.80	79.28	*0.21*	*0.27*	*-1.27*	*-1.60*
Anamalu	14.00-25.00	17.53	17.15	15.79	*0.38*	*2.22*	*1.74*	*11.02*
Ambun	15.00-25.00	17.95	17.77	17.22	*0.18*	*1.01*	*0.73*	*4.24*
Pineapple								
Large	200.00-260.00	221.05	196.96	164.12	*24.09*	*12.23*	*56.93*	*34.69*
Medium	145.00-180.00	161.76	156.25	123.81	*5.51*	*3.53*	*37.95*	*30.65*
Small	100.00-140.00	120.60	109.42	84.26	*11.18*	*10.22*	*36.34*	*43.13*
Mango								
Betti	35.00-60.00	53.75	-	56.71	-	-	*-2.96*	*-5.22*
Karthakolomban	50.00-200.00	111.85	-	148.06	-	-	*-36.21*	*-24.46*
Vilad	30.00-120.00	64.88	-	48.61	-	-	*16.27*	*33.47*
Kohu	20.00-20.00	20.00	-	-	-	-	-	-
Papaw (Rs/kg)	100.00-200.00	154.47	151.10	201.91	*3.37*	*2.23*	*-47.44*	*-23.50*
Passionfruit	18.00-33.00	28.73	30.11	23.91	*-1.38*	*-4.58*	*4.82*	*20.16*
Woodapple	25.00-80.00	50.89	44.60	59.60	*6.29*	*14.10*	*-8.71*	*-14.61*
Orange	25.00-60.00	41.35	40.44	33.40	*0.91*	*2.25*	*7.95*	*23.80*
Avocado	40.00-150.00	76.85	100.82	74.77	*-23.97*	*-23.78*	*2.08*	*2.78*
Slime Apple	30.00-80.00	50.47	49.74	55.15	*0.73*	*1.47*	*-4.68*	*-8.49*
Grapes Imported (Rs/kg)	600.00-900.00	776.14	758.87	752.05	*17.27*	*2.28*	*24.09*	*3.20*

Source: Marketing, Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

Table 4.3: Producer Prices of Selected Fruits – March 2016

Items	Price Range	Average			Change Compared to			
	Mar 2016	Mar 2016	Feb 2016	Mar 2015	Feb 2016		Mar 2015	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Ambul	14.50-52.50	30.20	30.40	29.40	-0.20	-0.66	0.80	2.72
Kolikuttu	87.50-112.50	95.50	92.52	75.88	2.98	3.22	19.62	25.86
Papaw	45.40-57.00	53.60	53.52	88.62	0.08	0.15	-35.02	-39.52
Pineapple	-	-	-	54.55	-	-	-	-

Source Marketing Food Policy Agribusiness Division, HARTI

Table 4.4: Quantity, Value and FOB Prices of Exported Fruits January – March 2016

Type of Fruit	March			February			January		
	Qty (mt)	Value (Rs.mn)	FOB (Rs/kg)	Qty (mt)	Value (Rs.mn)	FOB (Rs/kg)	Qty (mt)	Value (Rs.mn)	FOB (Rs/kg)
Fresh Pineapple	117.95	20.53	174.03	138.22	36.02	260.60	105.30	23.89	226.90
Papaw	200.57	19.94	99.42	189.82	21.38	112.65	160.78	16.69	103.78
Fresh Mango	0.02	0.01	734.00	0.64	0.32	502.28	16.97	9.31	548.59
Avocados, fresh	0.05	0.02	408.42	0.03	0.01	393.82	-	-	-
Oranges, fresh	-	-	-	0.80	0.06	73.01	0.40	0.30	760.27

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

Table 4.5: Quantity, Value and CIF Prices of Imported Fruits
January – March 2016

Type of Fruit	March			February			January		
	Qty (mt)	Value (Rs.mn)	CIF (Rs/kg)	Qty (mt)	Value (Rs.mn)	CIF (Rs/kg)	Qty (mt)	Value (Rs.mn)	CIF (Rs/kg)
Apple	1,786.80	283.77	158.81	1,788.47	237.02	132.53	1,480.68	173.52	117.19
Grapes	607.70	196.89	323.99	687.01	220.06	320.31	304.15	111.52	366.66
Oranges	771.35	57.61	74.69	465.50	36.02	77.37	483.67	48.36	99.98
Mandarin	1,582.68	61.90	39.11	1,458.54	56.70	38.87	2,257.01	92.56	41.01

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 month of February, prices of most of the fresh fish varieties had decreased in the range of 2%-15% at the wholesale level in March. The highest price decrease was reported for salaya (15%) and the lowest price decrease was reported for mora (2%). Prices of balaya and thora had decreased by 8% while price of kelawalla had decreased by 5%. Sufficient stocks of these varieties were available in the market and stocks have been supplied mainly from the Southern coastal belt. However, prices of other varieties had increased at the wholesale level. The highest price increase of 7% was noted for hurulla followed by shrimp (2%). In addition, prices of paraw and thalapath had increased by 1%. Off season for coastal fisheries in the Eastern coastal belt had resulted in limited stocks reaching the market from that area. In the month of March, the monthly average wholesale prices of selected fresh fish varieties ranged between Rs.103.89–946.25/kg. According to the data in previous years, it can be expected that fish prices could increase in the coming month. Compared to the same period of the previous year, wholesale prices of all the fresh fish varieties except shrimp had increased in the range of 1%-53% with the highest price increase noted for both salaya and hurulla.

Though decreased prices were noted for most of the fresh fish varieties at the wholesale market, prices of most of the fresh fish varieties had increased in the range of 1%-4% at the retail level. The highest price increase was reported for hurulla (4%) and the lowest price increase (1%) was noted for both mora and thalapath. In addition, a price increase of 3% was observed for shrimp, kelawalla and balaya. However, price of thora had decreased by 4% while prices of paraw and salaya had decreased by 2%. In the month of March, the monthly average retail prices of selected fresh fish varieties ranged between Rs.152.78 – 1,206.36/kg. Compared to the same month of the last year, retail prices of all the fresh fish varieties except shrimp had increased in the range of 1%-30%with the highest price increase noted for hurulla.

Table 5.1: Wholesale and Retail Prices of Fish – March 2016

Items	Price Range	Average			Change Compared to			
	Mar 2016	Mar 2016	Feb 2016	Mar 2015	Feb 2016		Mar 2015	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Wholesale Prices								
Salaya	80.00-130.00	103.89	121.80	68.06	*-17.91*	*-14.70*	*35.83*	*52.64*
Hurulla	280.00-350.00	313.00	292.51	205.13	*20.49*	*7.00*	*107.87*	*52.59*
Balaya	250.00-380.00	316.00	343.84	313.80	*-27.84*	*-8.10*	*2.20*	*0.70*
Kelawalla	400.00-550.00	486.90	515.02	451.35	*-28.12*	*-5.46*	*35.55*	*7.88*
Thora	800.00-1200.00	946.25	1024.33	727.89	*-78.08*	*-7.62*	*218.36*	*30.00*
Paraw	500.00-650.00	556.03	548.19	408.36	*7.84*	*1.43*	*147.67*	*36.16*
Mora	430.00-550.00	492.29	500.55	434.33	*-8.26*	*-1.65*	*57.96*	*13.34*
Shrimp (small)	700.00-950.00	806.25	788.59	868.42	*17.66*	*2.24*	*-62.17*	*-7.16*
Thalapath	520.00-680.00	603.75	597.64	550.43	*6.11*	*1.02*	*53.32*	*9.69*
Retail Prices								
Salaya	100.00-200.00	152.78	155.95	123.06	*-3.17*	*-2.03*	*29.72*	*24.15*
Hurulla	300.00-460.00	377.56	362.25	289.92	*15.31*	*4.23*	*87.64*	*30.23*
Balaya	300.00-720.00	425.28	410.97	419.40	*14.31*	*3.48*	*5.88*	*1.40*
Kelawalla	480.00-1000.00	725.36	705.73	696.78	*19.63*	*2.78*	*28.58*	*4.10*
Thora	1000.00-1600.00	1206.36	1250.91	1025.02	*-44.55*	*-3.56*	*181.34*	*17.69*
Paraw	550.00-1100.00	747.93	763.47	644.43	*-15.54*	*-2.04*	*103.50*	*16.06*
Mora	480.00-1200.00	628.63	623.58	587.58	*5.05*	*0.81*	*41.05*	*6.99*
Shrimp (small)	700.00-1200.00	908.83	880.08	1001.92	*28.75*	*3.27*	*-93.09*	*-9.29*
Thalapath	600.00-1100.00	817.98	809.24	770.08	*8.74*	*1.08*	*47.90*	*6.22*

Source: Marketing, Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

Dried Fish

Prices and Supply/Demand Situation

The wholesale prices of all the other dried fish varieties except imported balaya and imported maduwa have increased. The increase was 10% for both local and imported anguluwa, 8% for imported thora and local balaya. The price of local thora has increased by 6%. The change was not significant for other price increased varieties. Meanwhile, among price decreased varieties, the price of local balaya has decreased by 2%. As the previous month, stocks of koduwa and imported salaya were not available in the wholesale market. Compared to the same period of last year, wholesale prices of all the dried fish varieties have increased. The increase was 60% for both local and imported sprats while it was 33% for anguluwa.

Though the local supplies were stable supplies of imported stocks were limited and the demand was at satisfactory level which caused a price increase at wholesale level. Local stocks of dried fish were mainly supplied from Kalpitiya, Puttlam, Negambo, Valachchena, Mannar, Trincomalee and Jaffna areas. India, Pakistan, Oman, Dubai, Thailand and Indonesia were the main importing countries.

According to the reports of the Department of Customs a quantity of 3,152 mt of died sprats was imported in March. Considering the imports of last six months, it has shown a considerable increase in March. The value of the imports was Rs.1,252mn and the average CIF price was Rs.397.37/kg recording a slight decrease against the previous month.

Out of the total imports, 82% was imported from Thailand while 11% and 7% from India and the United Arabs Emirates respectively. A very few quantity from Vietnam was also imported. The

CIF prices ranged between Rs.227.55-413.77/kg and the majority imported from Thailand fetched the highest price. The reason for that was the prevailing high demand for Thailand sprats in local market.

Considering retail market, the prices of all the dried fish have increased against the previous month. But the increase was in the range of 1%-7% and the highest price was reported for anguluwa. Compared to the same period of last year, retail prices of all the dried fish have increased with the highest increase of 24% for anguluwa.

Table 5.2: Wholesale and Retail Prices of Dried Fish – March 2016

Items	Price Range	Average			Change Compared to			
	Mar 2016	Mar 2016	Feb 2016	Mar 2015	Feb 2016		Mar 2015	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Dried fish – Wholesale								
Sprats	600.00-830.00	742.63	739.83	462.62	*2.80*	*0.38*	*280.01*	*60.53*
Sprats (imported)	430.00-580.00	507.08	501.44	315.44	*5.65*	*1.13*	*191.65*	*60.76*
Kattawa	650.00-820.00	779.07	763.24	713.80	*15.83*	*2.07*	*65.27*	*9.14*
Kattawa (imported)	700.00-800.00	737.32	720.68	692.40	*16.64*	*2.31*	*44.92*	*6.49*
Thora	1000.00-1200.00	1148.33	1086.00	940.00	*62.33*	*5.74*	*208.33*	*22.16*
Thora (imported)	1000.00-1200.00	1087.83	1011.86	947.27	*75.98*	*7.51*	*140.57*	*14.84*
Mora	750.00-820.00	798.95	794.60	774.80	*4.35*	*0.55*	*24.15*	*3.12*
Mora (imported)	650.00-800.00	748.75	734.10	710.27	*14.65*	*2.00*	*38.48*	*5.42*
Balaya	500.00-750.00	572.19	529.29	464.45	*42.90*	*8.11*	*107.75*	*23.20*
Balaya (imported)	420.00-600.00	486.25	495.83	443.00	*-9.58*	*-1.93*	*43.25*	*9.76*
Anguluwa	600.00-800.00	717.68	655.31	539.48	*62.37*	*9.52*	*178.20*	*33.03*
Anguluwa (imported)	600.00-800.00	708.16	646.36	533.12	*61.80*	*9.56*	*175.04*	*32.83*
Maduwa	480.00-750.00	570.86	553.11	510.02	*17.75*	*3.21*	*60.84*	*11.93*
Maduwa (imported)	400.00-500.00	457.93	458.64	442.53	*-0.71*	*-0.16*	*15.39*	*3.48*
Koduwa		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Koduwa(imported)		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Salaya	250.00-360.00	309.54	261.80	189.31	*47.74*	*18.24*	*120.23*	*63.51*
Salaya (imported)		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dried fish – Retail								
Sprats	480.00-900.00	655.26	627.91	-	*44.01*	*5.00*	-	-
Sprats (imported)	800.00-1300.00	925.01	881.00	615.27	*31.59*	*2.91*	*84.50*	*8.18*
Kattawa	800.00-1300.00	1117.00	1085.41	1032.50	*47.06*	*3.58*	*52.79*	*4.03*
Thora	1200.00-2000.00	1362.74	1315.68	1309.95	*47.06*	*3.58*	*52.79*	*4.03*
Mora	500.00-1200.00	988.60	958.81	929.99	*29.79*	*3.11*	*58.61*	*6.30*
Balaya	600.00-1100.00	854.75	847.11	770.34	*7.64*	*0.90*	*84.41*	*10.96*
Anguluwa	800.00-1200.00	994.50	933.13	804.32	*61.37*	*6.58*	*190.18*	*23.64*
Maduwa	600.00-850.00	737.33	719.41	645.00	*17.92*	*2.49*	*92.33*	*14.31*
Koduwa	-	-	-	800.00	-	-	-	-
Salaya	400.00-700.00	576.05	542.94	488.71	*33.11*	*6.10*	*87.34*	*17.87*

Source: Marketing, Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

Table 5.3: Quantity, Value and CIF prices of Sprats – October 2015 to March 2016

Month	Quantity (mt.)	Value (Rs.mn)	CIF price (Rs/kg)	Retail Price (Rs/kg)	Gross Margin (Rs/kg)
Mar 2016	3151.52	1252.33	397.37	925.01	*527.64*
Feb 2016	2134.70	877.98	411.29	881.00	*469.71*
Jan 2016	1622.88	544.77	335.68	556.34	*220.66*
Dec 2015	1962.87	684.65	348.80	867.94	*519.14*
Nov 2015	1754.66	592.63	337.75	604.26	*266.51*
Oct 2015	1701.40	623.74	366.60	622.31	*255.71*

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

Eggs

Though decreased prices in March were expected in the previous month, prices of both brown and white eggs had increased by 2% at the wholesale market. However, a decreasing trend in egg prices was observed in the first week of the month and thereafter only an increasing trend in prices was observed. Egg supply was mainly from Hettipola, Kuliyapitiya and Wariyapola areas. The monthly average wholesale prices of brown and white eggs were Rs.16.33/egg and Rs.15.33/egg respectively. According to the data in previous years, it can be expected that egg prices could further increase in the coming month 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 had increased by 21% and 22% respectively.

In line with the increased wholesale prices, prices of both brown and white eggs had increased by 2% at the retail level too. The monthly average retail prices of a brown and a white egg were Rs.17.63 and Rs.16.67 respectively. Further, a consumer had to pay Rs.15.00-20.00 per egg in the month. Compared to the same period of the last year, retail prices of both brown and white eggs had increased by 19% and 20% respectively.

Table 5.4: Wholesale and Retail Prices of Eggs – March 2016

Items	Price Range	Average			Change Compared to			
	Mar 2016	Mar 2016	Feb 2016	Mar 2015	Feb 2016		Mar 2015	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Wholesale Price								
Eggs – Brown (each)	15.20-18.20	16.33	16.04	13.49	*0.29*	*1.81*	*2.84*	*21.05*
White (each)	14.20-17.20	15.33	15.04	12.59	*0.29*	*1.93*	*2.74*	*21.76*
Retail Price								
Eggs- Brown (each)	16.00-20.00	17.63	17.31	14.78	*0.32*	*1.85*	*2.85*	*19.28*
White (each)	15.00-18.50	16.67	16.35	13.90	*0.32*	*1.96*	*2.77*	*19.93*

Source: Marketing, Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

Meat

Prices did not change significantly. The prices of beef and pork have shown a slight decrease, while the other meat varieties shown a slight increase. The demand and the supply was normal for all meats. Compared to the same period of last year, prices of all the meat varieties had increased, while it was significant for beef and mutton.

Table 5.5: Retail Prices of Meat – March 2016

Items	Price Range	Average			Change Compared to			
	Mar 2016	Mar 2016	Feb 2016	Mar 2015	Feb 2016		Mar 2015	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Meat								
Beef (without bones)	700.00-800.00	750.81	751.42	607.17	*-0.61*	*-0.08*	*143.64*	*23.66*
Chicken (Broiler)	420.00-550.00	480.78	474.85	479.38	*5.93*	*1.25*	*1.40*	*0.29*
Chicken (curry)	450.00-560.00	496.00	467.68	463.19	*28.32*	*6.06*	*32.81*	*7.08*
Mutton	1500.00-1800.00	1547.71	1520.66	1308.33	*27.05*	*1.78*	*239.38*	*18.30*
Pork	550.00-650.00	620.00	624.40	572.00	*-4.40*	*-0.70*	*48.00*	*8.39*

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

6. Wheat grain, Wheat flour and Sugar

Wheat grain, Wheat flour

The total quantity of 93,955 mt of wheat grain was imported and it was an increase of 19,578 mt against the previous month. The value of the imports was Rs.3,432mn. The average CIF price has increased by Rs.2.15/kg.

Among the imported stocks, 68% from Canada while 25% from Russia and 6% from Australia consisted. A very few quantity of only 154 mt from India was also included. The CIF price ranged between Rs.30.73-50.33/kg representing the lowest and highest price for Russian and Indian wheat respectively.

The import of wheat flour was stable in most of the times and it was 304 mt in March. The value of the imports was Rs.21mn. Considering the CIF prices it was Rs.71.76/kg in January 2016 and thereafter it has shown a decreasing trend. The average price was less than Rs.68.00/kg in both previous and this month and it was Rs.67.82/kg.

Considering retail price of wheat flour, it remained in the range of Rs.78.00-98.00/kg and the average price was Rs.88.81/kg. It was an increase of Rs.2.09/kg against the previous month and an increase of 3% when compared to the same period of last year.

Table 6.1: Open Market Retail Prices of Wheat Flour and Sugar – March 2016

Items	Price Range	Average			Change Compared to			
	Mar 2016	Mar 2016	Feb 2016	Mar 2015	Feb 2016		Mar 2015	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Wheat Flour	78.00-98.00	88.81	86.72	86.45	*2.09*	*2.41*	*2.36*	*2.73*
Sugar	87.00-110.00	99.52	97.88	*86.12*	*1.64*	*1.68*	*13.40*	*15.56*

Source: Department of Census and Statistics

Table 6.2: Quantity, Value and CIF prices of Wheat Flour & Grain – October 2015 to March 2016

Month	Quantity (mt.)	Value (Rs.mn)	CIF price (Rs/kg)	Retail Price (Rs/kg)	Gross Margin (Rs/kg)
Wheat Flour					
Mar 2016	304.75	20.67	67.82	88.81	*20.99*
Feb 2016	246.06	16.59	67.42	86.72	*19.30*
Jan 2016	201.10	14.43	71.76	87.16	*15.40*
Dec 2015	272.70	0.54	66.96	86.43	*19.47*
Nov 2015	306.91	21.89	71.32	86.57	*15.25*
Oct 2015	96.51	6.64	68.75	86.90	*18.15*
Wheat Grain					
Mar 2016	93955.21	3431.82	36.53	88.81	*52.28*
Feb 2016	74376.48	2556.86	34.38	86.72	*52.34*
Jan 2016	241020.14	9172.08	38.06	87.16	*49.10*
Dec 2015	158661.24	5648.59	35.60	86.43	*50.83*
Nov 2015	168958.30	5774.68	34.18	86.57	*52.39*
Oct 2015	105781.50	4023.19	38.03	86.90	*48.87*

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

Sugar

The imported quantity of sugar was 80,914 mt in March recording the highest import in recent months. Total value of the imports was Rs.5,083mn.

The average CIF price of sugar in 2012, 2013 and 2014 was Rs.78.48/kg, 66.24/kg and Rs.63.64/kg respectively. But the price remained in the range of Rs.50.00-60.00/kg in 2015, averaging Rs.55.25/kg. With the beginning of 2016, it has risen to over Rs.60.00/kg again and it was Rs.62.82/kg in March.

Out of the total imports, 46% from Brazil, 30% from India, 13% from the United Arabs Emirates and 10% from Thailand were imported. The rest was from Korea and Myanmar. The CIF price ranged between Rs.61.21-89.39/kg and the highest and the lowest prices were recorded for Korean and Indian sugar respectively. The majority imported from Brazil fetched the price of Rs.62.52/kg.

In line with increased CIF prices, the retail price of sugar has also increased by Rs.1.64/kg against the previous month. The price ranged between Rs.87.00-110.00/kg and the average price was Rs.99.52/kg. Compared to the same period of last year, retail price had increased nearly by 16%.

Table 6.3: Quantity, Value and CIF prices of Sugar- October 2015 to March 2016

Month	Quantity (mt.)	Value (Rs.mn)	CIF price (Rs/kg)	Retail Price (Rs/kg)	Gross Margin (Rs/kg)
Mar 2016	80914.83	5083.00	62.82	99.52	*36.70*
Feb 2016	38492.23	2430.31	63.14	97.88	*34.74*
Jan 2016	22394.30	1363.45	60.88	97.05	*36.17*
Dec 2015	38590.95	2273.33	58.91	90.86	*31.95*
Nov 2015	44042.06	2475.18	56.20	92.26	*36.06*
Oct 2015	55301.09	2862.08	51.75	92.76	*41.01*

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

Table 7: Import of Selected Food Items - March 2016

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 2016	Feb 2016		Mar 2016	Feb 2016		Mar 2016	Feb 2016	
Rice	1774.41	1640.08	8	127.47	97.69	30	71.84	59.56	21
Red Onion	1917.51	2642.87	-27	86.11	147.27	-42	44.91	55.72	-19
Big Onion	22592.47	21268.34	6	646.46	647.13	0	28.61	30.43	-6
Potato	11871.70	17227.96	-31	264.18	422.09	-37	22.25	24.50	-9
Dried Chillies	5678.82	3764.25	51	1608.61	1029.70	56	283.26	273.55	4
Masoor Dhal	17192.10	19944.88	-14	2392.11	2579.40	-7	139.14	129.33	8
Green Gram	2496.96	804.69	210	422.19	140.96	200	169.08	175.17	-3
Cowpea	685.81	382.56	79	71.16	36.78	93	103.76	96.14	8
Garlic	2657.80	2021.82	31	613.24	480.81	28	230.73	237.81	-3
Wheat flour	304.75	246.06	24	20.67	16.59	25	67.82	67.42	1
Wheat grain	93955.21	74376.48	26	3431.82	2556.86	34	36.53	34.38	6
White crystalline cane sugar	80914.83	38492.23	110	5083.00	2430.31	109	62.82	63.14	-1
Maize (Seed)	-	25.00	-	-	17.00	-	-	680.03	-
Maize (Other)	125.00	13708.24	-99	10.96	524.25	-98	87.72	38.24	129
Sprats, dried unsalted	3151.52	2134.70	48	1252.33	877.98	43	397.37	411.29	-3

Source: Automated data Processing Division, Department of Customs

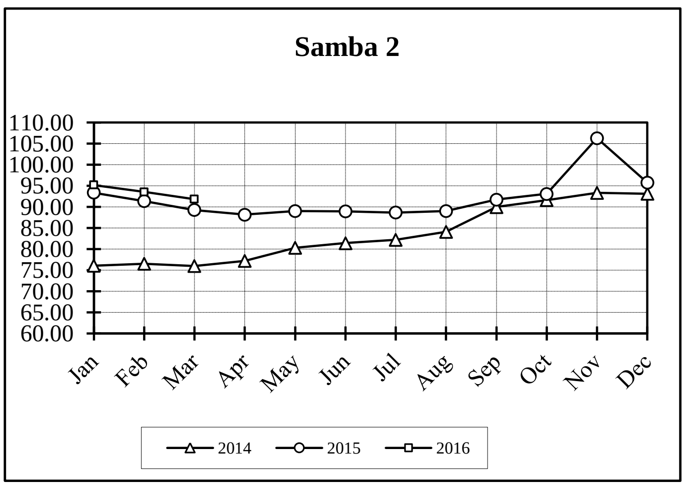
Table 8: Monthly Rainfall (mm) – March 2016

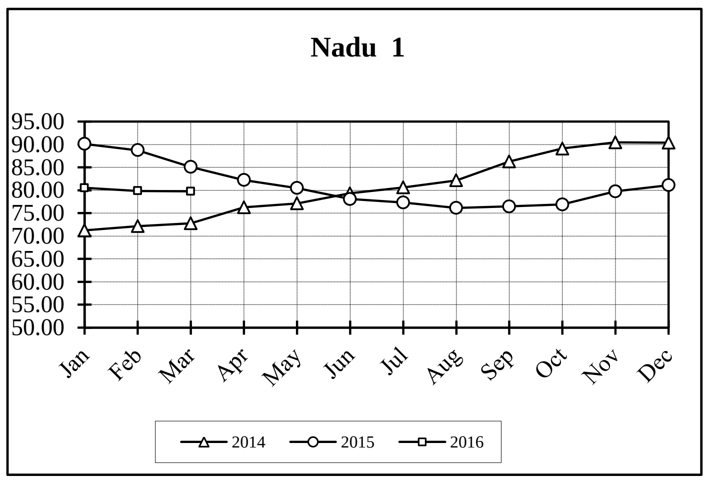
Rainfall Station	Total Rainfall (mm)	30 Year Avg. Rainfall (mm)	Total Rainy Days	30 Year Average Rainy Days
Anuradhapura	9.1	68.7	4	5
Badulla	47.0	119.4	5	9
Bandarawela	62.7	98.5	7	7
Batticaloa	62.9	89.0	4	6
Colombo	91.3	128.0	11	9
Galle	39.4	111.3	5	9
Hambantota	25.0	65.4	1	5
Jaffna	1.8	25.7	1	2
Katugastota	131.4	71.9	7	8
Katunayaka	10.2	132.9	4	8
Kurunegala	150.7	139.1	9	8
Mahailuppallama	15.5	84.9	4	6
Mannar	16.7	44.4	2	3
Nuwara Eliya	67.8	71.5	5	8
Pottuvil	76.0	75.7	3	na
Puttalam	26.9	67.7	2	5
Ratmalana	63.8	141.5	8	9
Ratnapura	193.7	212.2	13	14
Trincomalee	43.5	55.5	1	4
Vavuniya	1.6	62.9	1	4
Polonnaruwa	68.4	na	3	na
Moneragala	129.2	na	5	na
Mattala	1.3	na	1	na

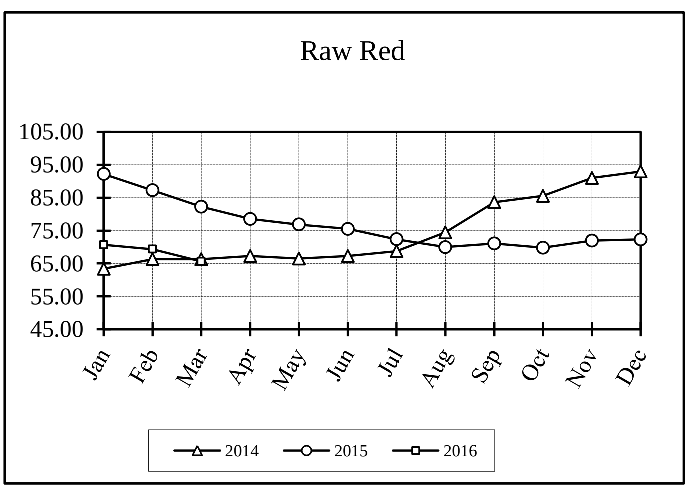
Source: Department of Meteorology

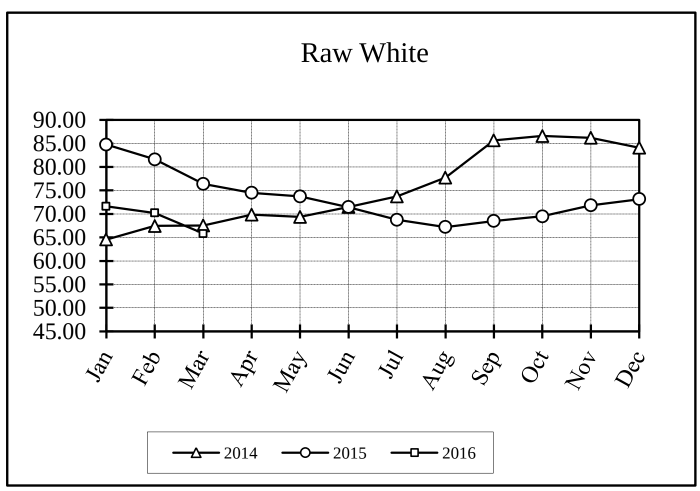
Appendix 01:Retail Price of Rice in Colombo & Suburbs (Rs/kg)

Month	Samba 2			Nadu 1			Raw Red			Raw White		
	2014	2015	2016	2014	2015	2016	2014	2015	2016	2014	2015	2016
Jan	76.11	93.38	95.20	71.22	90.13	80.51	63.39	92.21	70.64	64.54	84.76	71.61
Feb	76.54	91.39	93.55	72.18	88.75	79.87	66.32	87.23	69.32	67.44	81.61	70.19
Mar	76.04	89.30	91.87	72.77	85.09	79.76	66.29	82.21	65.58	67.56	76.40	65.80
Apr	77.22	88.17		76.26	82.22		67.23	78.56		69.84	74.51	
May	80.30	89.04		77.15	80.50		66.48	76.85		69.36	73.70	
Jun	81.44	88.93		79.33	78.08		67.30	75.50		71.50	71.45	
Jul	82.22	88.66		80.59	77.33		68.70	72.36		73.70	68.75	
Aug	84.09	89.04		82.18	76.16		74.47	69.99		77.75	67.22	
Sep	89.99	91.75		86.30	76.46		83.61	71.10		85.68	68.49	
Oct	91.63	93.10		89.10	76.89		85.52	69.77		86.58	69.49	
Nov	93.32	106.27		90.47	79.77		91.02	71.96		86.20	71.84	
Dec	93.12	95.76		90.37	81.10		92.98	72.33		84.10	73.15	



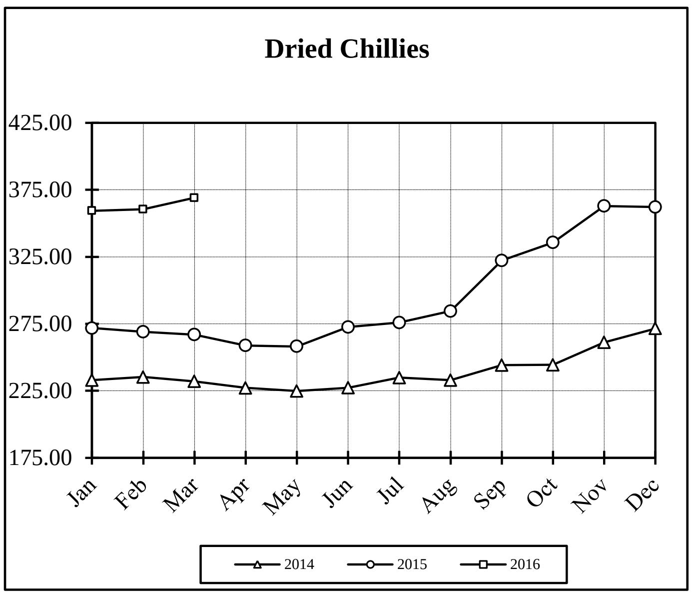


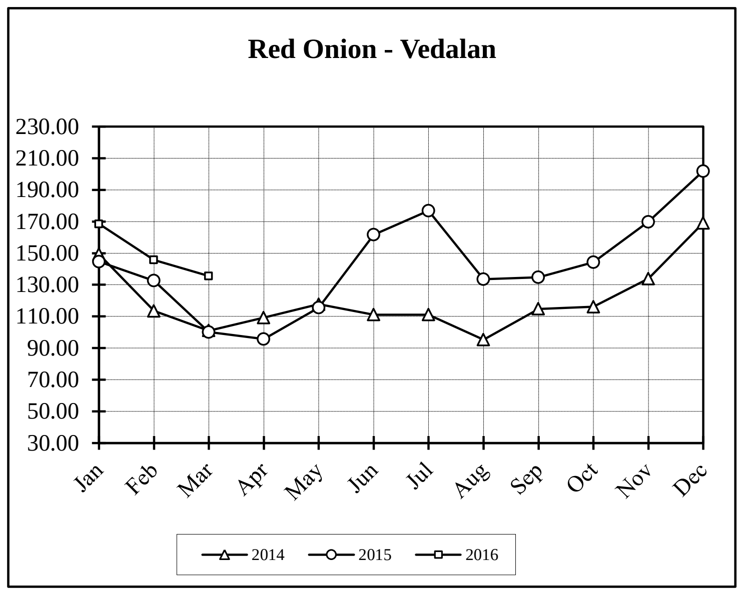


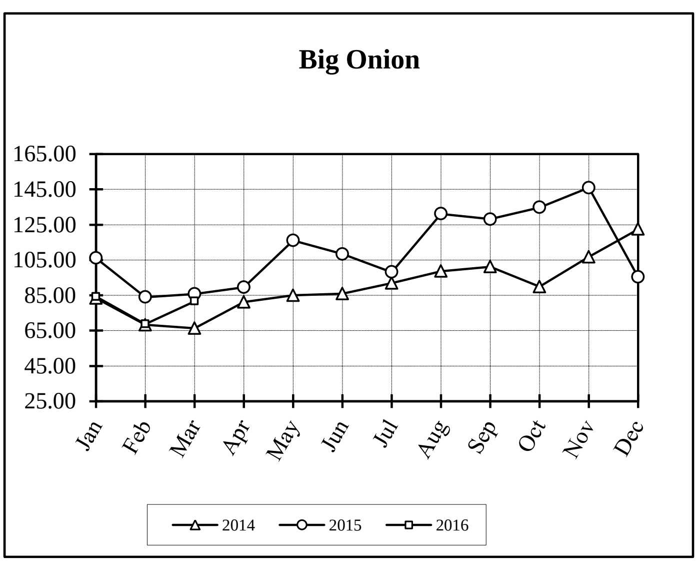


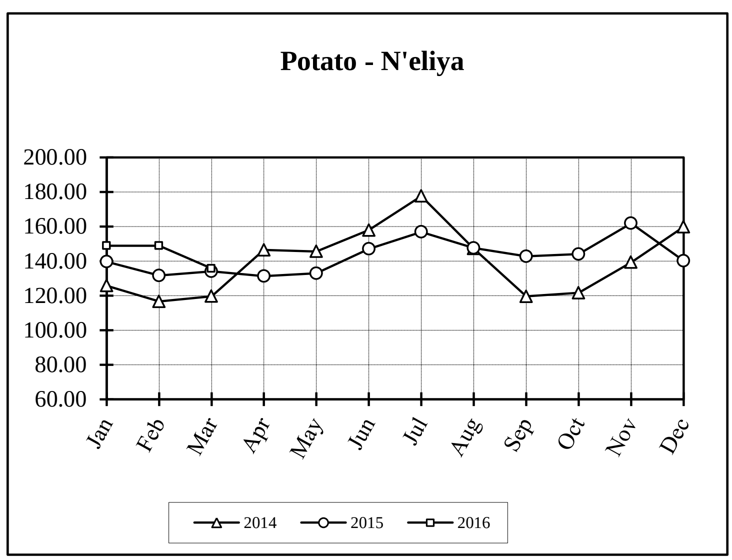
Appendix 02: Retail Pricees of Chillies, Onions & Potato in Colombo & Suburbs (Rs/kg)

Month	Dried Chillies			Red Onion			Big Onion			Potato - N'Eliya		
	2014	2015	2016	2014	2015	2016	2014	2015	2016	2014	2015	2016
Jan	232.90	271.85	359.36	149.35	144.64	168.42	83.40	106.11	84.20	125.68	139.63	148.73
Feb	235.25	269.09	360.56	113.49	132.59	145.71	68.30	83.99	68.73	116.52	131.58	148.75
Mar	232.07	266.95	369.06	101.03	100.10	135.49	66.39	85.73	81.58	119.57	133.91	135.62
Apr	227.14	258.81		109.14	95.65		81.18	89.56		146.34	131.19	
May	224.87	258.15		117.65	115.55		84.92	115.99		145.56	132.82	
Jun	227.29	272.61		111.07	161.67		85.92	108.39		157.84	146.91	
Jul	234.85	275.90		111.07	176.85		91.93	98.14		177.57	156.77	
Aug	232.85	284.48		95.25	133.51		98.70	131.16		147.11	147.47	
Sep	244.16	322.19		114.80	134.69		101.20	128.09		119.46	142.68	
Oct	244.33	335.70		116.12	144.23		89.85	134.76		121.58	143.91	
Nov	261.19	362.89		133.87	169.84		106.71	145.93		139.24	161.86	
Dec	271.53	362.08		169.07	201.81		122.46	95.39		159.65	140.10	









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

March 2016

Commodity	1St Week	2nd Week	3rd Week	4th Week
Paddy				
Short grain				
A'pura	31.80	31.80	30.80	32.00
P'naruwa	32.13	32.20	37.15	37.65
Kalawewa	36.00	33.33	33.33	34.00
Kurunegala	32.20	32.20	32.20	32.20
Dehiattakandiya	34.50	33.60	36.10	36.30
Ampara	36.40	36.40	36.90	36.80
Long grain (White)				
A'pura	25.00	27.00	26.60	29.20
P'naruwa	22.81	24.35	31.55	33.65
Kalawewa	28.50	28.75	30.67	32.00
Kurunegala	23.20	23.20	23.20	23.20
Dehiattakandiya	24.25	24.60	30.70	30.70
Embilipitiya	31.60	31.60	29.60	29.70
Ampara	21.30	31.20	31.40	31.30
Matara	29.00	28.33	29.00	28.33
Hambantota				
Long grain (Red)				
Matara	28.33	27.67	28.33	27.67
Hambantota				
Ampara	20.40	25.00	25.50	25.70
Embilipitiya	27.60	27.60	26.40	26.40
Other Food Crops				
Dried Chillies				
A'Pura				
Galgamuwa				
Kalawewa				
Red Onion				
Puttalam	116.00	49.00	50.00	55.00
Big Onion				
Dambulla				
Kalawewa				
A'Pura				
Kurunegala				

Commodity	1St Week	2nd Week	3rd Week	4th Week
Potato				
N'Eliya	81.40	74.40	72.80	83.40
Badulla	72.00	74.00	72.00	77.00
Welimada	80.00	74.00	70.00	79.00
Pulses				
Green Gram				
Galgamuwa				
Kalawewa	155.00	170.00	165.00	170.00
Embilipitiya	174.00	174.00	174.00	174.00
Kurunegala	94.00	94.00	94.00	94.00
A'pura	170.00	200.00	176.00	170.00
Cowpea				
A'pura	155.00	174.00	158.00	166.00
Galgamuwa				
Nikaweratiya	155.00	150.00	150.00	150.00
Kalawewa	150.00	150.00	158.33	160.00
Embilipitiya	176.00	176.00	176.00	176.00
Kurunegala				
Maize				
A'Pura	45.00	44.80	45.60	46.40
Kalawewa			45.00	
Gingelly				
A'Pura	86.00	90.00	90.00	
Kalawewa	100.00		105.00	105.00
Black Gram				
Kalawewa	237.50	235.00	235.00	235.00
A'Pura	232.00	228.00	235.00	238.40
Vegetables (Up Country)				
Beans				
Dambulla	77.80	74.20	70.80	76.20
Welimada	69.00	79.00	75.00	75.00
Badulla				
Carrot				
Hanguranketha				
N'Eliya	70.00	63.20	64.40	62.00
Welimada	60.00	60.00	55.00	76.00

Commodity	1St Week	2nd Week	3rd Week	4th Week
Leeks				
Welimada				
N'Eliya	40.60	40.60	46.80	60.60
Beetroot				
Hanguranketha				
N'Eliya	38.20	46.80	52.00	57.60
Dambulla	49.00	50.60	59.20	59.80
Kurunegala				
Welimada	52.00	53.00	59.50	76.00
Knokhol				
Hanguranketha				
N'Eliya	29.60	29.60	37.80	36.80
Welimada	38.00	40.00	39.00	53.00
Radish				
Hanguranketha				
N'Eliya	15.80	15.80	20.80	42.00
Welimada	13.00	14.00	14.00	28.00
Cabbage				
Hanguranketha				
N'Eliya	37.60	37.60	45.60	59.60
Welimada	29.00	29.00	34.00	50.00
Hambantota				
Badulla	23.00	27.00	27.00	29.00
Tomato				
Hanguranketha				
Welimada	19.00	20.00	20.00	26.00
Hambantota				
Dambulla	29.80	28.80	21.20	42.20
Low Country				
Ladies Fingers				
A'pura	41.67	60.00	55.00	36.00
Dambulla	55.60	51.00	45.40	59.20
Hambantota				
Embilipitiya	48.00	50.00	50.00	50.00
Matara	43.33	41.67	43.33	43.33

Appendix 03: contd…..

Commodity	1st Week	2nd Week	3rd Week	4th Week
Brinjals				
A'pura	55.00		63.00	60.00
Dambulla	62.20	73.40	67.60	69.20
Hambantota				
Embilipitiya	48.60	52.00	68.00	52.00
Matara	30.67	30.67	62.00	30.67
Welimada	50.00	80.00	75.00	80.00
Capsicum				
Welimada	149.00	143.00	141.00	131.00
Bitter Gourd				
A'pura	40.00		59.00	43.00
Dambulla	50.60	61.60	46.80	62.60
Hambantota				
Embilipitiya	94.50	82.00	90.00	102.00
Matara	93.33	88.33	93.33	86.67
Snake Gourd				
Dambulla	35.00	39.20	40.00	47.20
Hambantota				
Embilipitiya	41.40	45.40	47.00	47.00
Matara	41.67	41.67	41.67	41.67
A'pura	40.00		41.00	42.00
Luffa				
Dambulla	39.60	36.80	41.20	59.80
Hambantota				
Embilipitiya	51.40	55.40	67.00	59.00
Matara	46.67	43.33	46.67	48.33
A'pura	48.33		56.00	56.00

Commodity	1st Week	2nd Week	3rd Week	4th Week
Pumpkin				
Dambulla	25.20	17.80	13.40	18.60
Hambantota			0.00	0.00
Embilipitiya	42.40	42.40	44.00	34.40
Matara				
A'pura	39.00		22.00	25.40
Moneragala	65.00	45.00	12.33	11.40
Cucumber				
A'pura	38.33		51.00	48.00
Dambulla	40.60	41.60	41.60	41.00
Hambantota				
Matara				
Long beans				
Dambulla	48.00	43.20	45.40	51.40
Hambantota				
Embilipitiya	73.00	73.00	55.00	76.00
Matara	33.33	31.67	33.33	31.67
A'Pura	42.50		49.00	45.00
Ash Plantain				
Hambantota				
Embilipitiya	29.00	30.00	30.00	31.40
Matara	38.33	38.33	38.33	38.33
Green Chillies				
Dambulla	125.00	146.00	135.00	90.40
Hambantota				
Embilipitiya	185.00	189.00	160.00	262.00
Puttalam	139.00	102.00	124.00	84.00
A'Pura	160.00		162.00	121.00

Commodity	1st Week	2nd Week	3rd Week	4th Week
Lime				
Hambantota				
Embilipitiya	54.00	54.00	45.00	134.00
Moneragala	27.50	37.50	30.00	77.75
Fruits (Rs/Kg)				
Banana				
Ambul				
Moneragala	45.00	52.50	31.67	31.67
Embilipitiya	14.50	20.00	20.00	26.00
Hambantota				
Kolikuttu				
Moneragala	101.67	112.50	87.50	87.50
Embilipitiya	92.00	92.00	92.00	99.00
Hambantota				
Papaw				
Moneragala				
Embilipitiya	57.00	57.00	55.00	45.40
Hambantota				
Pineapple				
Divulapitiya				