HARTI

# FOOD INFORMATION BULLETIN

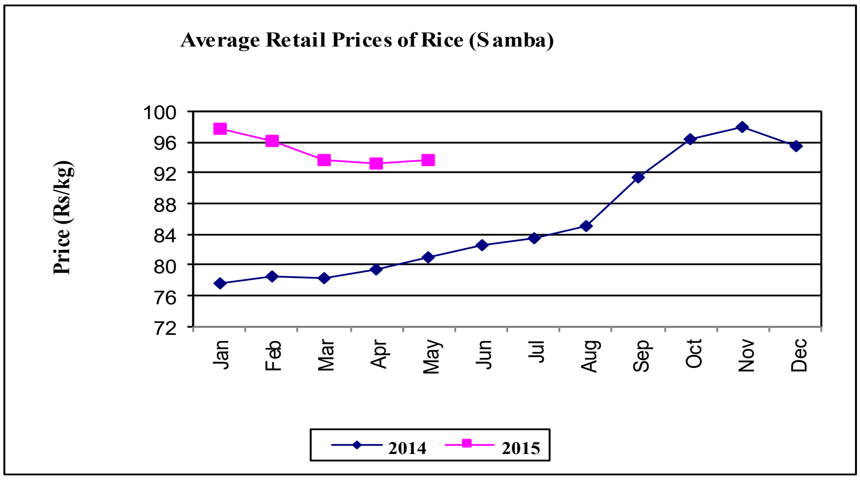
Vol 08 May - 2015 No 05

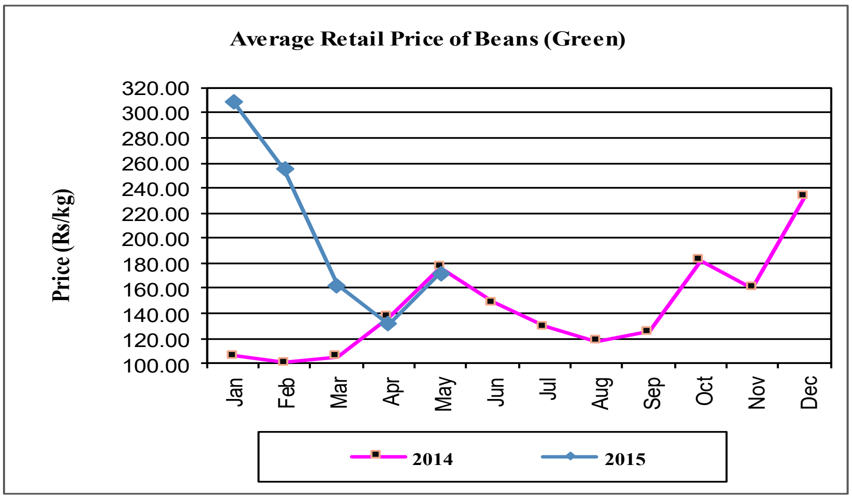
## RICE:

Rice prices are on an upward trend and it would continue till July. Generally, rice prices increase during May-July.

## VEGETABLES:

Prices of both up country and low country varieties have increased by 40% and 30% respectively, with the reaching of off season for vegetables. Prices are expected to be at a higher range, until the *Yala* harvest reaches the market in August.

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## EXPLANTATORY NOTE

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

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

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## 1. Paddy

### Crop Situation

The early prospects of paddy crop in 2015 *Yala* season were favorable in most of the major producing areas. The prevailing favorable weather condition and better water availability in major and minor irrigation reservoirs led to the progress of paddy cultivation. The monsoons were activated and rainy weather was experienced and the land preparation activities and paddy crop establishment was in progress in all major producing areas. According to the latest crop forecast report of Department of Agriculture, the target paddy extent is 523,988 ha. The cultivation progress up to end May is 436,979 ha and it is already 39% above, compared to the previous *Yala* season. Further the report reveals that the production forecast for the *Yala* season is 1.7 million Mt, which is 48 percent higher than the *Yala* 2014. Cultivation targets have already exceeded in Ampara, Kilinochchi, Udawalawe, Mahaweli H, C, L and B areas.

**Table 1.1: Achievement of Paddy Cultivation in 2015 *Yala* season**
**(Up to end of May - 2015)**

| District | Targeted Extent (ha) | Achievement (ha) | Achievement as a % of the Targeted Extent (ha) | Production forecast Based on the Progress (mt) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Anuradhapura | 46,883 | 42,744 | 91 | 146,391 |
| Polonnaruwa | 32,166 | 24,067 | 75 | 98,121 |
| Ampara | 55,534 | 56,616 | 102 | 257,176 |
| Hambantota | 70,480 | 63,187 | 90 | 220,837 |
| Kurunegala | 28,458 | 22,650 | 80 | 95,633 |
| Colombo | 2,970 | 1,000 | 34 | 2,436 |
| Gampaha | 7,172 | 3,470 | 48 | 9,223 |
| Kalutara | 11,195 | 4,462 | 40 | 10,639 |
| Galle | 12,800 | 2,641 | 21 | 5,841 |
| Matara | 16,600 | 13,824 | 83 | 36,102 |
| Ratnapura | 10,389 | 5,877 | 57 | 18,172 |
| Kegalle | 8,254 | 5,177 | 63 | 13,376 |
| Puttalam | 16,285 | 13,529 | 83 | 43,565 |
| Kandy | 11,285 | 5,417 | 48 | 15,544 |
| Matale | 16,240 | 3,139 | 19 | 11,723 |
| Nuwara Eliya | 3,660 | 69 | 2 | 136 |
| Badulla | 8,599 | 5,670 | 66 | 21,529 |
| Moneragala | 4,929 | 4,802 | 97 | 17,929 |
| Jaffna | - | - | - | - |
| Kilinochchi | 6,535 | 6,865 | 105 | 28,311 |
| Vavuniya | 7,454 | 4,070 | 55 | 16,778 |
| Mullaitivu | 6,410 | 5,866 | 92 | 22,970 |
| Mannar | 2,762 | 1,535 | 56 | 6,558 |
| Trincomalee | 24,130 | 22,732 | 94 | 96,149 |
| Batticaloa | 25,598 | 24,466 | 96 | 91,448 |
| Udawalawa | 10,807 | 11,144 | 103 | 55,611 |
| System H | 12,216 | 18,923 | 155 | 76,036 |
| System H1 | 6,200 | 5,464 | 88 | 25,663 |
| System B | 18,000 | 19,023 | 106 | 89,345 |
| System C | 19,000 | 21,823 | 115 | 102,495 |
| System G | 4,800 | 3,889 | 81 | 18,265 |
| System L | 365 | 545 | 149 | 2,560 |
| **Sri Lanka** | **508,176** | **424,686** | **84** | **1,656,562** |

***Source: Department of Agriculture***

**Table1.2: Producer Prices of Paddy – May 2015**

| Commodity | Price Range | | Average Price | | | Change Compared to | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | May 2015 | Apr 2015 | May 2015 | Apr 2015 | May 2014 | Apr 2015 | | May 2014 | |
| | Rs/kg | Rs/kg | Rs/kg | Rs/kg | Rs/kg | Rs/kg | % | Rs/kg | % |
| **Short Grain** | | | | | | | | | |
| Anuradhapura | 37.00-38.00 | 38.00-42.00 | 37.63 | 39.13 | 39.13 | *-1.50* | *-3.83* | *-1.50* | *-3.83* |
| Polonnaruwa | 39.00-42.00 | 38.00-40.00 | 40.80 | 38.87 | 41.47 | *1.93* | *4.96* | *-0.67* | *-1.61* |
| Kalawewa | 38.00-38.50 | 38.00-42.00 | 38.17 | 40.23 | 39.00 | *-2.06* | *-5.12* | *-0.83* | *-2.13* |
| Kurunegala | 44.50-46.50 | 43.00-44.50 | 45.45 | 43.69 | 39.88 | *1.76* | *4.03* | *5.57* | *13.97* |
| Dehiattakandiya | 40.00-42.00 | 40.00-46.00 | 40.85 | 42.05 | 41.69 | *-1.20* | *-2.85* | - | - |
| Nikaweratiya | 45.00-47.00 | 44.00-46.00 | 46.30 | 45.24 | 39.10 | *1.06* | *2.35* | *7.20* | *18.41* |
| Ampara | - | - | - | - | 40.50 | - | - | - | - |
| **Long Grain White** | | | | | | | | | |
| Anuradhapura | 30.00-34.00 | 32.00-37.00 | 31.50 | 33.56 | 37.50 | *-2.06* | *-6.15* | *-6.00* | *-16.00* |
| Polonnaruwa | 31.50-33.50 | 30.00-32.00 | 32.39 | 31.15 | 39.11 | *1.24* | *3.97* | *-6.72* | *-17.18* |
| Kalawewa | 32.00-33.00 | 32.00-35.00 | 32.33 | 33.21 | 37.50 | *-0.88* | *-2.64* | *-5.17* | *-13.79* |
| Kurunegala | 34.50-35.50 | 34.00-35.50 | 34.90 | 34.56 | 37.33 | *0.34* | *0.98* | *-2.43* | *-6.50* |
| Dehiattakandiya | 30.00-32.00 | 29.00-42.00 | 30.73 | 33.50 | 39.50 | *-2.78* | *-8.28* | - | - |
| Embilipitiya | 35.00-37.00 | 36.00-39.00 | 36.43 | 37.68 | 36.65 | *-1.25* | *-3.32* | *-0.22* | *-0.61* |
| Nikaweratiya | 34.00-36.00 | 34.00-36.00 | 34.93 | 34.98 | 37.66 | *-0.05* | *-0.14* | *-2.74* | *-7.27* |
| Matara | 34.00-36.00 | 34.00-38.00 | 35.00 | 35.63 | 36.67 | *-0.63* | *-1.75* | *-1.67* | *-4.55* |
| Hambantota | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Ampara | - | - | - | - | 37.75 | - | - | - | - |
| **Long Grain Red** | | | | | | | | | |
| Anuradhapura | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Matara | 34.00-35.00 | 34.00-37.00 | 34.50 | 35.42 | 32.50 | *-0.92* | *-2.59* | *2.00* | *6.16* |
| Hambantota | 33.00-35.00 | 33.00-35.00 | 34.00 | 34.00 | 34.00 | *0.00* | *0.00* | *0.00* | *0.00* |
| Embilipitiya | 33.00-35.00 | 34.00-37.00 | 34.10 | 35.61 | 32.88 | *-1.51* | *-4.25* | *1.23* | *3.73* |

***Source: Marketing Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI***

## Producer Prices

Producer prices of long grain paddy varieties have decreased by less than Rs3.00/kg in most of the major producing areas. The highest and the lowest decline for long grain white was recorded in Dehiattakandiya and Nikaweratiya respectively. However, the prices of long grain white have increased by more than Rs.1.00/kg in Polonnaruwa. Meanwhile, the prices of short grain have decreased by less than Rs.2.00/kg in Anuradhapura, Kalawewa and Dehiattakandiya, while the prices have increased in Polonnaruwa and Kurunegala. A bumper harvest of paddy arrived at the markets in last months in all major producing areas during last *Maha* season. Prices of long grain red have decreased by Rs.1.00/kg in Matara and Rs.1.50/kg in Embilipitiya. It is expected that the prices will stabilize during next month. Prices of *Keeri* samba paddy ranged between Rs.39.00-42.00/kg in Polonnaruwa producing area during the month. Prices of short grain have ranged between Rs.37.00-47.00/kg in all considered major producing areas. Prices of long grain white ranged between Rs.30.00-37.00/kg in major producing areas with the lowest prices from Anuradhapura and Dehiattakandiya.

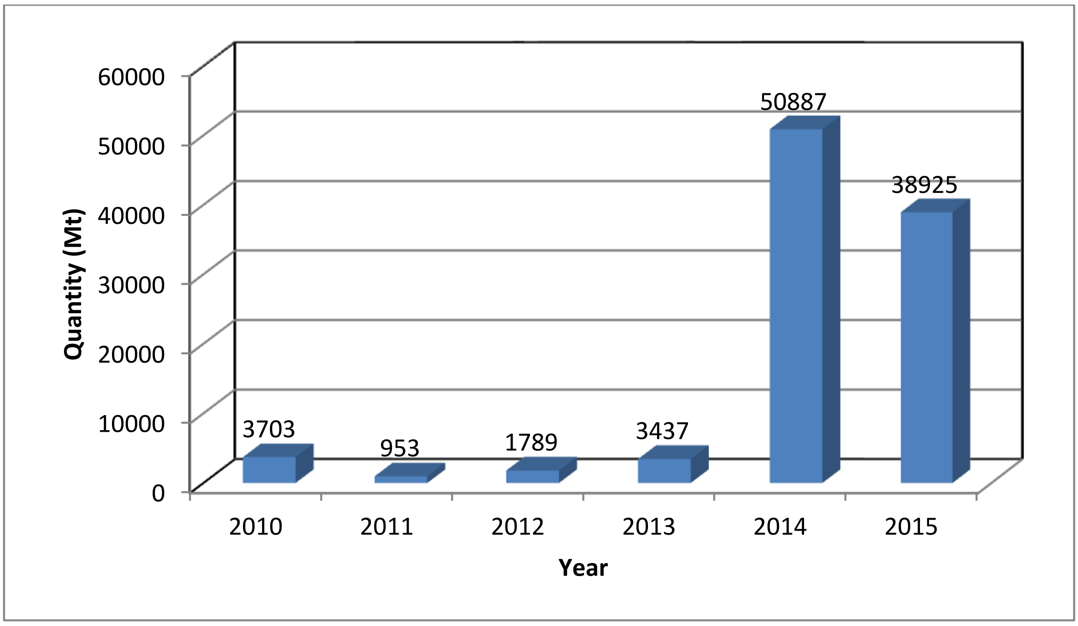
Compared to the same period of last year, the prices of long grain white varieties have decreased by less than 16% in all considered major producing areas with the highest decline in Polonnaruwa. Prices of short grain have decreased by less than 4% in Anuradhapura, Polonnaruwa and Kalawewa areas. Meanwhile, the prices of long grain red have increased by 6% in Matara and 4% in Embilipitiya.

## Rice Demand and Supply Situation

### Wholesale prices

Prices of most of the rice varieties are on an upward trend. The price increase of the reporting month was about 1%. Generally, the off season for paddy starts after the month of April in a year. Hence, the price behavior of this month was normal. This price increasing trend will continue up to the month of July 2015 till the *Yala* production reaches the market. Meanwhile, rice imports further increased. According to the statistics released by the Department of Customs 38,925 mt of rice have been imported during the month of May. Considering the rice imports of month of May in last five years this is the second time when the import went up abnormally (Figure : 01). It is expected to release paddy stocks purchased by the government to the market in near future. As well as production of *Yala* 2015 too expected to reach the market during July. Considering this situation, continuous rice imports may distort future paddy and rice market. Hence, it is needed to further increase the import levy on rice imports or direct intervention of the government to control rice imports.

**Figure 01: Imported Quantity of Rice in May**




***Source: Marketing Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI***

Compared to the same period of last year, prices of samba varieties and raw red had increased by 3%-6%, while those of nadu and raw decreased by 7%-17%.

### Retail

The prices of samba and nadu grade II have slightly increased. However, prices of most of the rice varieties have decreased marginally. The price of samba grade I and raw red has decreased by Rs.2.00/kg followed by local raw white as Rs.1.00/kg. Meanwhile, the price of imported raw white decreased nearly by Rs.3.00/kg due to low consumer preference. Further, price of imported *ponni* samba has increased significantly by Rs.10.00/kg due to the impact of increased import levy. The highest price of Rs.115.00/kg was reported for imported *ponni* samba, while the lowest price of Rs.63.00/kg for imported raw white.

Compared to the same period of last year, prices of all the rice varieties had increased in the range of 4%-30% except for imported raw white.

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

| Item | Price Range | Average Price | | | Change Compared to | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | May 2015 | May 2015 | Apr 2015 | May 2014 | Apr 2015 | | May 2014 | |
| | Rs/kg | Rs/kg | Rs/kg | Rs/kg | Rs/kg | % | Rs/kg | % |
| **Wholesale Prices** | | | | | | | | |
| Samba 1 | 85.00-93.00 | 89.71 | 88.95 | 83.97 | *0.76* | *0.85* | *5.74* | *6.84* |
| Samba 2 | 80.00-85.00 | 81.39 | 80.90 | 76.20 | *0.49* | *0.60* | *5.19* | *6.81* |
| Samba 3 | - | - | - | 73.86 | - | - | - | - |
| Nadu 1 | 68.00-70.00 | 69.46 | 70.19 | 72.00 | *-0.73* | *-1.03* | *-2.54* | *-3.52* |
| Nadu 2 | 65.00-68.00 | 66.46 | 66.31 | 68.85 | *0.15* | *0.23* | *-2.39* | *-3.48* |
| Raw red | 65.00-72.00 | 69.61 | 68.95 | 59.37 | *0.66* | *0.95* | *10.25* | *17.26* |
| Raw white | 59.00-68.00 | 61.72 | 62.40 | 65.41 | *-0.67* | *-1.08* | *-3.69* | *-5.63* |
| *Ponni* Samba (Imported) | 80.00-96.00 | 91.38 | 82.55 | - | *8.83* | *10.70* | - | - |
| Raw white (imported) | 56.00-60.00 | 58.00 | 57.67 | 44.39 | *0.33* | *0.57* | *13.61* | *30.67* |
| **Retail Prices** | | | | | | | | |
| Samba 1 | 90.00-110.00 | 98.53 | 98.12 | 87.63 | *0.41* | *0.42* | *10.90* | *12.44* |
| Samba 2 | 85.00-100.00 | 89.04 | 88.17 | 80.30 | *0.87* | *0.99* | *8.74* | *10.88* |
| Samba 3 | - | - | 85.00 | 74.83 | - | - | - | - |
| Nadu 1 | 75.00-90.00 | 80.58 | 82.22 | 77.15 | *-1.64* | *-1.99* | *3.43* | *4.45* |
| Nadu 2 | 70.00-80.00 | 76.39 | 76.02 | 72.33 | *0.37* | *0.49* | *4.06* | *5.61* |
| Raw red | 67.00-85.00 | 76.85 | 78.56 | 66.48 | *-1.71* | *-2.18* | *10.37* | *15.60* |
| Raw white | 67.00-85.00 | 73.70 | 74.51 | 69.36 | *-0.81* | *-1.09* | *4.34* | *6.26* |
| *Ponni* Samba (Imported) | 88.00-115.00 | 97.38 | 87.36 | 74.83 | *10.02* | *11.47* | *22.55* | *30.13* |
| Raw white (imported) | 63.00-63.00 | 63.00 | 65.60 | 82.50 | *-2.60* | *-3.96* | *-19.50* | *-23.64* |

***Source: Marketing Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI***

## 2. Other Field Crops

### 2.1 Chillies

### Crop situation

The targeted extent of green chillies of *Yala* 2015 was 791 ha in Anuradhapura, 850 ha in Puttalam, 439 ha in Hambantota and 432 ha in Kurunegala. By the end of May 2015, around 406 ha, 163 ha, 248 ha and 225 ha have been cultivated respectively in those areas. Crops are in different stages in main producing areas. The expected production of *Yala* 2015 is 15,050 mt and out of that 58% of the production will arrive from Anuradhapura (38%), Moneragala (12%) and Puttalam (8%) districts.

**Table 2.1.1: Cultivation Progress of Green Chillies for *Yala* 2015**

| Areas | Targeted Extent (ha) | Cultivation progress at the end of May 2015 | | Expected production (mt) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Cultivated Extent (ha) | % of the targeted extent | |
| Anuradhapura | 791 | 406 | 51 | 5,750 |
| Puttalam | 850 | 163 | 19 | 1,158 |
| Moneragala | 406 | 291 | 72 | 1,806 |
| Hambantota | 493 | 248 | 50 | 884 |
| Kurunegala | 432 | 225 | 52 | 360 |
| Ampara | 324 | 177 | 55 | 455 |
| Matale | 371 | 130 | 35 | 676 |
| Other areas | 3,536 | 1,240 | 35 | 3,961 |
| Total | 7,203 | 2,880 | 40 | 15,050 |

***Source: Crop Forecasting Unit, Department of Agriculture***

## Prices and Supply/Demand Situation

Producer prices of green chillies ranged between Rs.27.00-104.00/kg during this month in Dambulla, Hambantota, Embilipitiya, Puttalam and Anuradhapura producing areas and the highest price was recorded in Puttalam in the end of the last week in the month. Supplies of green chillies from main producing areas have decreased further during this month and both wholesale and retail prices of green chillies have increased by about Rs.17.00/kg. Average wholesale and retail price of green chillies were Rs.54.11/kg and Rs.174.36/kg respectively and both prices have decreased by about 62% and 40% respectively when compared to the same period of last year.

The market consisted only of imported dried chillies. A quantity of 4,083 mt of dried chillies was imported during the month and it was an increase of 867 mt compared to that of the last month. The CIF price was Rs.184.69/kg and it was an increase of Rs.2.81/kg compared to the previous month. The wholesale price of imported dried chillies has increased by Rs.2.00/kg, while the retail price has decreased by about Rs.1.00/kg. Compared to the same period of last year, both wholesale and retail prices of dried chillies have increased by about 24% and 15% respectively.

**Table 2.1.2: Wholesale and Retail Prices of Dried Chillies and Green Chillies May 2015**

| Items | Price Range | Average Price | | | Change Compared to | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | May 2015 | May 2015 | Apr 2015 | May 2014 | Apr 2015 | | May 2014 | |
| | Rs/kg | Rs/kg | Rs/kg | Rs/kg | Rs/kg | % | Rs/kg | % |
| **Wholesale Price** | | | | | | | | |
| Green chillies | 30.00-110.00 | 54.11 | 37.39 | 145.04 | *16.72* | *44.72* | *-90.93* | *-62.69* |
| Dried chillies | 208.00-212.00 | 211.53 | 209.48 | 170.16 | *2.05* | *0.98* | *41.36* | *24.31* |
| **Retail Price** | | | | | | | | |
| Green chillies | 70.00-300.00 | 174.36 | 157.02 | 291.22 | *17.34* | *11.04* | *-116.86* | *-40.13* |
| Dried chillies | 220.00-280.00 | 258.15 | 258.81 | 224.87 | *-0.66* | *-0.26* | *33.28* | *14.80* |

***Source: Marketing, Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI***

**Table 2.1.3: Quantity, Value and CIF Prices of Imported Dried Chillies - Dec 2014 to May 2015**

| Month | Quantity (mt) | Value (Rs.mn.) | CIF Price (Rs/kg) | Retail Price (Rs/kg) | Gross Margin (Rs/kg) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| May - 2015 | 4,082.94 | 754.08 | 184.69 | 258.15 | 73.46 |
| 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 |

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

**Table 2.1.4: Producer Prices of Green Chillies (Rs/kg) – May 2015**

| Location | 1st week | 2nd week | 3rd week | 4th week |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Dambulla | - | 64.80 | 62.20 | 62.20 |
| Hambantota | - | - | 55.00 | 55.00 |
| Embilipitiya | 76.40 | 84.00 | 82.40 | 100.40 |
| Puttalam | 27.00 | 27.00 | 70.00 | 104.00 |
| A'Pura | 31.00 | 45.00 | 55.00 | 65.00 |

***Source: Marketing, Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI***

## 2.2 Big Onion and Red Onion

### Crop situation

Around 50% of big onion nurseries have been damaged in Matale district due to unfavorable weather condition and nursery preparation could be expected to finish next month (June). Around 40% of the big onion cultivation will also take place during June in Matale district. At the end of this month only 7% of the targeted extent of big onion has been cultivated in May. Compared to the previous year, the cultivation of big onion has commenced by about 20 days later during this season in Matale district due to unfavorable weather condition. Compared to the previous *Yala* season a decrease of cultivation could be expected during this season due to the unfavorable weather condition prevailed at the beginning of the season. Most if the farmers tend to cultivate paddy as there was no water scarcity during this season and this also has caused a decrease in cultivation of big onion in Matale district. In Anuradhapura district the targeted extent of big onion for *Yala* 2015 was 2,395 ha and 157 ha of cultivation have been completed by the end of May representing only 7% 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 May 2015 | | Expected production (mt) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Extent (ha) | % of the target | |
| Matale | 3,500 | 257 | 7 | 5,589 |
| Anuradhapura | 2,395 | 157 | 7 | 2,529 |
| System $H_1$ | 1,500 | 241 | 16 | 2,851 |
| System H | 450 | 109 | 24 | 1,289 |
| Hambantota | 174 | 103 | 59 | 1,317 |
| Other areas | 1,196 | 160 | 13 | 1.663 |
| **Total** | **9,215** | **1,027** | **11** | **15,138** |

***Source: Marketing, Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI***

The targeted extent of red onion for this *Yala* was 5,475 ha in Sri Lanka out of which 1,053 ha were cultivated by the end of May. It represented 19% of the total targeted extent. The highest cultivated extent of red onion was reported from Puttalam at the end of May 2015 and 291 ha was cultivated representing 26% of the total targeted extent.

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

| Areas | Target Extent (ha) | Cultivation Progress at the end of May 2015 | | Expected Production (mt) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Extent (ha) | % of the target | |
| Jaffna | 2,000 | 255 | 13 | 3,276 |
| Puttalam | 1,100 | 291 | 26 | 3,923 |
| Trincomalee | 244 | 65 | 27 | 906 |
| Moneragala | 280 | 155 | 55 | 1,420 |
| Vavuniya | 490 | 57 | 12 | 714 |
| Mullaitivu | 430 | 65 | 15 | 709 |
| Other areas | 931 | 165 | 18 | 1,367 |
| **Total** | **5,475** | **1,053** | **19** | **12,315** |

***Source: Marketing, Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI***

## Prices and Supply/Demand Situation

The imported quantity of big onion during the month was about 22,288 mt and this was about 4,674 mt higher than the imported amount last month. Average CIF price was Rs.45.53/kg and it is an increase of Rs.1.26/kg compared to that of the previous month. However, both wholesale and retail prices of imported big onion have increased by Rs.28.00/kg and Rs.26.00/kg respectively. The gross margin between the CIF and wholesale price of big onion was higher than that of the previous month's margin is and the margin between wholesale and retail prices during this month.

Supplies of both sinnan and vedalan from Jaffna, Puttalam and Trincomalee areas had decreased throughout this month as it was the end of the *Maha* harvesting season. Hence, wholesale prices of sinnan and vedalan have increased by about Rs.13.00/kg and Rs.15.00/kg respectively. However, retail price of sinnan has decreased by about Rs.3.00/kg due to availability of low quality stocks with most of the retailers and the retail price of vedalan had increased by Rs.12.36/kg.

About 1,276 mt of red onion was imported from India during this month and it was an increase of 919 mt compared to that of the previous month. Average CIF price was Rs.81.14/kg and it has an increase of Rs.30.40/kg compared to April. Both wholesale and retail prices of imported red onion have increased by about Rs.24.00/kg and Rs.27.00/kg respectively due to increased imported prices. Compared to the same period of last year, both wholesale and retail prices of imported red onion have increased by about 14% and 3% respectively.

**Table 2.2.3: Wholesale Prices and Retail Prices of Red Onion and Big Onion May 2015**

| Crop | Price Range | Average | | | Change Compared to | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | May 2015 | May 2015 | Apr 2015 | May 2014 | Apr 2015 | | May 2014 | |
| | Rs/kg | Rs/kg | Rs/kg | Rs/kg | Rs/kg | % | Rs/kg | % |
| **Wholesale Prices** | | | | | | | | |
| Red Onion (Sinnan) | 50.00-90.00 | 69.95 | 56.56 | 65.94 | *13.39* | *23.67* | *4.01* | *6.09* |
| Red Onion (Vedalan) | 75.00-130.00 | 95.84 | 83.30 | 90.49 | *12.55* | *15.06* | *5.35* | *5.91* |
| Red Onion (Imported) | 60.00-115.00 | 92.28 | 68.43 | 81.23 | *23.85* | *34.86* | *11.05* | *13.60* |
| Big Onion (imported) | 65.00-105.00 | 91.21 | 62.85 | 63.91 | *28.36* | *45.12* | *27.30* | *42.71* |
| Big Onion (Local) | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| **Retail Prices** | | | | | | | | |
| Red Onion (Sinnan) | 80.00-100.00 | 96.66 | 100.00 | 101.27 | *-3.34* | *-3.34* | *-4.61* | *-4.55* |
| Red Onion (Vedalan) | 100.00-180.00 | 127.50 | 115.14 | 133.29 | *12.36* | *10.73* | *-5.79* | *-4.34* |
| Red Onion (Imported) | 110.00-130.00 | 122.50 | 95.65 | 118.39 | *26.85* | *28.07* | *4.11* | *3.47* |
| Big Onion (imported) | 80.00-140.00 | 115.99 | 89.56 | 84.92 | *26.43* | *29.51* | *31.07* | *36.59* |
| 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 | Wholesale Price | Retail Price | Margin (Rs/kg) | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | (Rs/kg) | (Rs/kg) | (Rs/kg) | WP-CIF | RP-WP |
| Big onion | May,2015 | 45.53 | 91.21 | 115.99 | *45.69* | *24.78* |
| | Apr,2015 | 44.27 | 62.85 | 89.56 | *18.58* | *26.71* |
| | May,2014 | 39.59 | 63.91 | 84.92 | *24.32* | *21.01* |
| Red onion | May,2015 | 81.14 | 92.28 | 122.50 | *11.15* | *30.22* |
| | Apr,2015 | 50.74 | 68.43 | 95.65 | *17.69* | *27.22* |
| | May,2014 | 59.10 | 81.23 | 118.39 | *22.13* | *37.16* |

***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) | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | May 2015 | Apr 2015 | May 2015 | Apr 2015 | May 2015 | Apr 2015 |
| Red Onion | 1276.07 | 357.28 | 103.54 | 18.13 | 81.14 | 50.74 |
| Big Onion | 22288.23 | 17614.60 | 1014.69 | 779.88 | 45.53 | 44.27 |

***Source: Department of Custom***

**Table 2.2.6: Quantity Imported, CIF Price, Wholesale and Retail Price of Big Onion - Dec 2014 to May 2015**

| Month | Quantity Imported (mt) | CIF Price (Rs/kg) | Wholesale Price (Rs/kg) | Retail Price (Rs/kg) | Gross Margin (RP-CIF) (Rs/kg) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| May - 2015 | 22288.23 | 45.53 | 91.21 | 115.99 | 70.46 |
| 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 |

***Source: Department of Customs***

## 2.3 Potato

### Crop Situation and Progress

The targeted extent of potato for *Yala* 2015 is 3,076 ha and about 222 ha were cultivated by the end of May achieving 7% of the targeted extent. According to the cultivated extent up to end of this month, the expected production of potato for this *Yala* season is 3,636 mt. In the Nuwara Eliya and Badulla districts, the targeted extent for this *Yala* about 161ha and 61ha were cultivated by the end of this month. In the Badulla district, new cultivation will be taken largely in June and July months. Compared to the same period of *Yala* 2014, the cultivated extents in both districts were higher in *Yala* 2015.

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

| District | Targeted Extent (ha) | | Achievement (ha) | | Progress (%) | Expected Production (mt) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *Yala* 2014* | *Yala* 2015 | *Yala* 2014* | *Yala* 2015 | *Yala* 2015 | |
| N'Eliya | 900 | 860 | 60 | 161 | 19 | 2,690 |
| Badulla | 2,198 | 2,214 | 32 | 61 | 3 | 946 |
| **Sri Lanka** | **3,098** | **3,076** | **92** | **222** | **7** | **3,636** |

***Source: MFPAD/HARTI***
***Crop Forecast No.2, Yala 2015, Socio-economic & Planning Centre/DOA***
****Crop Forecast No.2, Yala 2014, Socio-economic & Planning Centre/DOA***

### Prices and Supply/Demand Situation

A quantity of 5,966mt of potato had been imported in May which was 6,505mt lower than that was imported during the previous month as the special commodity levy for imported potato has been increased to Rs.55.00/kg with effect from 26/04/2015. About 96% of the imported stocks were received from Pakistan during this month. Compared to May, 2014 (8,587mt), the imports were low during this month. Average CIF price was Rs.22.00/kg in May.

Both local and imported stocks were available in the market. With regard to local potato, supply of Welimada potato was at a low level due to end of the peak harvesting period. Also, the supply of Nuwara Eliya potato has decreased slightly. Hence, the wholesale prices of Welimada and Nuwara Eliya potatoes have increased by 11% and 7% respectively. On average, the producer price of Nuwara Eliya potato was Rs.80.00/kg in May. Meanwhile, the wholesale and retail prices of imported potato have increased by 25% and 19% respectively due to low stocks position of imported stocks with prevailing high tax for imported potato. During the month, the wholesale prices of Welimada, Nuwara Eliya and imported potatoes ranged between Rs.70.00-105.00/kg, Rs.80.00-110.00/kg and Rs.70.00-100.00/kg respectively. Compared to the same period of last year, the current retail prices of Welimada (10%) and imported (16%) potatoes have decreased, while the price of Nuwara Eliya potato has increased (9%). Prices of local potatoes are expected to increase further in June.

**Table 2.3.2: Quantity, Value and CIF prices of Imported Potatoes - Dec 2014 to May 2015**

| Month | Quantity (mt.) | Value (Rs.mn) | CIF price (Rs/kg) | Retail Price (Rs/kg) | Gross Margin (Rs/kg) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| May - 2015 | 5965.66 | 132.55 | 22.22 | 108.23 | *86.01* |
| 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* |

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

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

| Items | Price Range | Average | | | Change Compared to | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | May 2015 | May 2015 | Apr 2015 | May 2014 | Apr 2015 | | May 2014 | |
| | Rs/kg | Rs/kg | Rs/kg | Rs/kg | Rs/kg | % | Rs/kg | % |
| **Producer Prices (PP)** | | | | | | | | |
| Welimada | 65.00-90.00 | 79.80 | 78.75 | 103.33 | *1.05* | *1.33* | *-23.53* | *-22.77* |
| Nuwara Eliya | 70.00-100.00 | *85.20* | *78.73* | 98.95 | *6.48* | *8.22* | *-13.75* | *-13.90* |
| Imported – CIF | 21.87-31.76 | 22.22 | 24.28 | 42.26 | *-2.06* | *-8.48* | *-20.04* | *-47.42* |
| **Wholesale Prices (WP)** | | | | | | | | |
| Welimada | 70.00-105.00 | 91.88 | 82.75 | 102.46 | *9.12* | *11.03* | *-10.58* | *-10.33* |
| Nuwara Eliya | 85.00-110.00 | 98.98 | 92.15 | 112.86 | *6.82* | *7.41* | *-13.89* | *-12.30* |
| Imported | 70.00-100.00 | 85.10 | 68.17 | 79.50 | *16.94* | *24.84* | *5.60* | *7.05* |
| **Retail Prices (RP)** | | | | | | | | |
| Welimada | 120.00-160.00 | 135.00 | 117.22 | 122.50 | *17.78* | *15.17* | *12.50* | *10.20* |
| Nuwara Eliya | 120.00-160.00 | 132.82 | 131.19 | 145.56 | *1.63* | *1.24* | *-12.74* | *-8.75* |
| Imported | 90.00-120.00 | 108.23 | 90.97 | 104.71 | *17.26* | *18.97* | *3.52* | *3.36* |
| **Gross Margin (RP-PP)** | | | | | | | | |
| Welimada | | 55.20 | 38.47 | 19.17 | *16.73* | *43.49* | *36.03* | *188.00* |
| Nuwara Eliya | | 47.62 | 52.47 | 46.61 | *-4.85* | *-9.23* | *1.01* | *2.17* |
| Imported (CIF-RP) | | 86.01 | 66.69 | 62.45 | *19.32* | *28.97* | *23.56* | *37.73* |
| **Gross Margin (RP -WP)** | | | | | | | | |
| Welimada | | 43.13 | 34.47 | 20.04 | *8.66* | *25.11* | *23.08* | *115.18* |
| Nuwara Eliya | | 33.85 | 39.04 | 32.70 | *-5.19* | *-13.30* | *1.15* | *3.51* |
| Imported | | 23.13 | 22.80 | 25.21 | *0.33* | *1.43* | *-2.08* | *-8.26* |

***Source: Marketing Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI***

## 2.4 Green gram and Cowpea

### Crop Situation

The targeted extent of green gram for *Yala* 2015 is 10,729 ha and out of which about 2,286 ha were cultivated by the end of May representing 21% of the total targeted extent. Compared to the same period of *Yala* 2014, the cultivated extent is low in *Yala* 2015. According to the cultivated extent up to now, the expected production of green gram is 3,038mt. In the Hambantota district, the targeted extent is 3,537 ha for this *Yala* season and only 250 ha were cultivated by the end of this month. In Kurunegala and Moneragala districts, the targeted extents were 1,276 ha and 880 ha respectively and about 503ha and 266 ha were cultivated by the end of May achieving 39% and 30% of the targeted extents.

The targeted extent of cowpea was 8,414 ha for *Yala* 2015 and about 2,716 ha was cultivated by the end of May achieving 32% of the targeted extent. The highest targeted extent of 3,584 ha was recorded in the Ampara district for this *Yala* season and about 1,198 ha was cultivated by the end of this month achieving 33% of the targeted extent. In Kurunegala and Moneragala districts, the targeted extents were 1,255 ha and 584 ha respectively and about 309 ha and 387 ha were cultivated by the end of this month achieving 25% and 66% of the targeted extents. Compared to the same period of *Yala* 2014, the cultivated extents of cowpea in all the districts were at a low level during this *Yala* season.

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

| Crop | District | Targeted Ext. (ha) | | Achievement (ha) | | Progress (%) | Expected Production (mt) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | ***Yala* 2014*** | ***Yala* 2015** | ***Yala* 2014*** | ***Yala* 2015** | ***Yala* 2015** | |
| Green | Hambantota | 4,690 | 3,537 | 3,186 | 250 | 7 | 357 |
| | Kurunegala | 720 | 1,276 | 465 | 503 | 39 | 379 |
| | Moneragala | 618 | 880 | 269 | 266 | 30 | 341 |
| | **Sri Lanka** | **12,556** | **10,729** | **6,100** | **2,286** | **21** | **3,038** |
| Cowpea | Ampara | 4,222 | 3,584 | 1,394 | 1,198 | 33 | 2,032 |
| | Kurunegala | 814 | 1,255 | 379 | 309 | 25 | 216 |
| | Moneragala | 709 | 584 | 467 | 387 | 66 | 413 |
| | **Sri Lanka** | **8,542** | **8,414** | **3,160** | **2,716** | **32** | **3,637** |

***Source:* *MFPAD/HARTI***
***Crop Forecast No.2, Yala 2015, Socio-economic & Planning Centre/DOA***
****Crop Forecast No.2, Yala 2014, Socio-economic & Planning Centre/DOA***

### Prices and Supply Demand Situation

A quantity of 697mt of green gram was imported in May and it was 800mt lower than the quantity imported in April. The average CIF price was Rs.175.00/kg in May. Compared to May, 2014 (450mt), the imported quantity of green gram was higher in May, 2015. Wholesale and retail prices of green gram have decreased by 3% and 4% respectively due to availability of high stocks imported from Australia, China and Thailand. 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 has decreased by 19%.

Wholesale and retail prices of white cowpea have increased by 3% and 1% respectively due to limited stocks. However, the wholesale and retail prices of red cowpea have decreased by 6% and 4% respectively due to availability of sufficient local stocks. During the month, the wholesale prices of white and red cowpea ranged between Rs.180.00-215.00/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 have increased by 7% and 10% respectively.

**Table 2.4.2: Quantity, Value and CIF prices of Imported Green gram - Dec 2014 to May 2015**

| Month | Quantity (mt) | Value (Rs.mn) | CIF price (Rs/kg) | Retail Price (Rs/kg) | Gross Margin (Rs/kg) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| May - 2015 | 697.00 | 122.00 | 175.04 | 258.41 | 89.49 |
| 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 |
| Dec - 2014 | 697.00 | 122.00 | 175.04 | 258.41 | 89.49 |

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

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

| Items | Price Range | Average | | | Change Compared to | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | May 2015 | May 2015 | Apr 2015 | May 2014 | Apr 2015 | | May 2014 | |
| | Rs/kg | Rs/kg | Rs/kg | Rs/kg | Rs/kg | % | Rs/kg | % |
| **Wholesale Prices** | | | | | | | | |
| Green gram | 190.00-225.00 | 206.49 | 213.13 | 293.94 | -6.64 | -3.12 | -87.45 | -29.75 |
| Cowpea (White) | 180.00-215.00 | 201.62 | 195.25 | 173.16 | 6.37 | 3.26 | 28.46 | 16.44 |
| Cowpea (Red) | 200.00-225.00 | 217.00 | 230.73 | 157.91 | -13.73 | -5.95 | 59.09 | 37.42 |
| **Retail Prices** | | | | | | | | |
| Green gram | 230.00-280.00 | 258.41 | 268.51 | 319.44 | -10.10 | -3.76 | -61.03 | -19.11 |
| Cowpea (White) | 200.00-300.00 | 257.69 | 255.26 | 241.32 | 2.43 | 0.95 | 16.37 | 6.78 |
| Cowpea (Red) | 220.00-300.00 | 256.65 | 265.95 | 233.53 | -9.30 | -3.50 | 23.12 | 9.90 |

***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** | May,2015 | 175.04 | 206.49 | 258.41 | 31.45 | 51.92 |
| | Apr,2015 | 179.02 | 213.13 | 268.51 | 34.11 | 55.38 |
| | May,2014 | 159.39 | 293.94 | 319.44 | 134.55 | 25.50 |
| **Cowpea (White)** | May,2015 | - | 201.62 | 257.69 | - | 56.07 |
| | Apr,2015 | - | 195.25 | 255.26 | - | 60.01 |
| | May,2014 | - | 173.16 | 241.32 | - | 68.16 |
| **Cowpea (Red)** | May,2015 | - | 217.00 | 256.65 | - | 39.65 |
| | Apr,2015 | - | 230.73 | 265.95 | - | 37.48 |
| | May,2014 | - | 157.91 | 233.53 | - | 75.62 |

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

## 2.5 Red dhal

### Prices and Supply/Demand Situation

A quantity of 10,190 mt of red dhal was imported in May and it was 3,658 mt lower than the quantity imported in April. Most of the stocks had been received from Australia and Canada. Compared to May, 2014 (14,694 mt), the imports of red dhal were low during this month. The average CIF price was Rs.121.00/kg during the month.

Wholesale and retail prices of red dhal have increased by 11%. The average wholesale price was Rs.184.00/kg in May. Compared to the same period of last year, the current retail price of red dhal has increased by 25%.

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

| Red Dhal | Price Range | Average | | | Change Compared to | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | May 2015 | May 2015 | Apr 2015 | May 2014 | Apr 2015 | | May 2014 | |
| | Rs/kg | Rs/kg | Rs/kg | Rs/kg | Rs/kg | % | Rs/kg | % |
| Wholesale Price | 165.00-195.00 | 184.48 | 165.69 | 142.47 | 18.79 | 11.34 | 42.00 | 29.48 |
| Retail Price | 160.00-220.00 | 196.02 | 176.96 | 157.11 | 19.06 | 10.77 | 38.91 | 24.77 |

***Source: Marketing Food Policy & Agribusiness Division***

**Table 2.5.2: The CIF, Wholesale and Retail Prices of Red dhal - Dec 2014 to May 2015**

| Month | Quantity (mt) | CIF Price Rs/kg | Wholesale price Rs/kg | Retail price Rs/kg | Gross Margin (Rs/kg) | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | CIF-WP | WP-RP |
| May - 2015 | 10190.51 | 120.63 | 184.48 | 196.02 | 63.85 | 11.55 |
| 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 |

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

## 3. Vegetables

### Crop Situation

With the beginning of the off season for vegetables, supply has started to decline from all the major producing areas. Further, land preparation for establishing the *Yala* vegetable cultivation has progressed well in all the up country major producing areas in May. In Matale district, set target for *Yala* season is 4,363 ha of which 896.4 ha were completed by the end of May. The cultivation progress in the district was 18% higher than the same period of last year. Regarding Badulla district, the reported cultivation progress for *Yala* season at the end of May was 12.1% of the seasonal target. Further, Keppetipola, one of the major producing areas of Badulla district reported 220 ha of cultivation progress for up country varieties. In Nuwara Eliya district by the end of May, total cultivated extent was 1,280 ha with the highest achievement reported for cabbage. Further, land preparation and crop establishment for *Yala* season has progressed well in the Kandy district with the rainy weather experienced through the month. The crop progress was 38.7% at the end of May, for up country varieties.

Land preparation for *Yala* cultivation has begun in all the low country major producing areas of low country districts with the received rainfall throughout the month of May. In Puttalam district, reported cultivation progress for both up and low country varieties were 530 ha at by the end of May. In Hambantota district, the reported low country vegetable cultivation extent was 2,216 ha, marking 168% higher cultivation progress compared to the same period of last year. In Jaffna district, vegetable cultivation has shown a high progress reporting 30% achievement at the end of May.

**Prices and supply/Demand situation**

With the reaching of the first phase of the off season for vegetables, low supplies reached the market from all the major producing areas of up country vegetables such as Nuwara Eliya, Welimada, Badulla, Kandy, Matale and Ratnapura in May. The total supply of vegetables of the Matale district was around 1,483 mt in May, which recorded a 63% reduction compared to previous month. The daily supply of vegetables at the Dambulla Dedicated Economic Centre was around 1,200 mt in May which recorded a 40% decrease compared to last month. Meanwhile, supply from Jaffna reached its end phase with a daily supply of 97 mt, which recorded a 50% decrease compared to last month.

Considering up country vegetables, prices of all the varieties have increased, compared to last month. The highest price increase was reported for beetroot as 72% followed by raddish as 71% and knolkhol as 52%. Prices of all the other up country varieties have increased in the range of 26%-40% due to low supply. High stocks of knokhol and beetroot that reached the market from up country areas such as Badulla, Nuwara Eliya and Kandy in April had caused a considerable price decreases in the previous month. The reported wholesale prices of beetroot and knokhol were Rs.30.00/kg and Rs.44.00/kg respectively in the previous month. Due to overlapping of extended *Maha* cultivation season in up country areas and end phase of the *Maha* harvesting time of low country areas which grow a substantial amount of up country vegetables such as Jaffna, Puttalam and Melsiripura, 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 this trend has continued up to April. With the reaching of off season, prices of all the other up country vegetables have started to show an increasing trend from May and this is expected to continue till the *Yala* harvest reaches the Market.

Regarding tomato, high stocks of low quality tomato reached the market from the fields where last harvesting phase had reached. Therefore, prices have shown a significant decrease recording a wholesale price of Rs.33.00/kg in May. However, prices are expected to increase in June, by the end of last phase of *Maha* harvest in May. Prices of capsicum have increased by 11% compared to last month, due to reduced supply at the latter phase of the month.

The supply of most of the domestic vegetables also remained low during the off season. Therefore, prices have increased for most of the varieties, except pumpkin, drumsticks and ash plantain. The highest price increase was recorded for snakegourd as 143% followed by ladies fingers as 64% and brinjal as 60%, compared to last month. Prices of all the other varieties, have increased in the range of 11%-44% with the reduced supply. High stocks of snakegourd, bitter gourd and long beans were supplied to the market from Wadigala and Monaragala and thereby prices have reduced considerably in the previous month. However, supply has dropped considerably due to ending of the harvesting season in Hambantota and Monaragala in May and thereby, prices have started to show an increasing trend.

However, 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. Recorded high cultivation progress in Anuradhapura district has resulted in a continuous high supply thereby prices have dropped significantly. This trend has continued in May with further reducing the average price up to Rs.19.00/kg. However, prices are expected to increase in June, with the ending of last phase of *Maha* harvesting in May.

Regarding lime, a price increase of 35% was experienced in May, compared to April, with the ending of harvesting season in both Ampara and Monaragala.

In line with the wholesale prices, retail prices of most of the vegetables had increased in May. The highest price increase was reported for beetroot as 46% followed by 34% for long beans.

**Table 3.1: Wholesale Prices of Vegetables – May 2015**

| Items | Price Range | Average | | | Change Compared to | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | May 2015 | May 2015 | Apr 2015 | May 2014 | Apr 2015 | | May 2014 | |
| | Rs/kg | Rs/kg | Rs/kg | Rs/kg | Rs/kg | % | Rs/kg | % |
| Beans (green) | 80.00-140.00 | 111.24 | 79.43 | 116.07 | *31.81* | *40.05* | *-4.83* | *-4.16* |
| Carrot | 70.00-170.00 | 108.37 | 95.88 | 86.63 | *12.49* | *13.03* | *21.74* | *25.10* |
| Leeks | 90.00-180.00 | 125.10 | 90.75 | 30.42 | *34.35* | *37.85* | *94.68* | *311.24* |
| Beetroot | 35.00-110.00 | 75.67 | 44.02 | 45.18 | *31.65* | *71.90* | *30.49* | *67.49* |
| Knokhol | 30.00-70.00 | 45.71 | 30.00 | 40.85 | *15.71* | *52.37* | *4.86* | *11.90* |
| Radish | 20.00-70.00 | 39.46 | 23.10 | 39.21 | *16.36* | *70.82* | *0.25* | *0.64* |
| Cabbage | 20.00-60.00 | 35.54 | 28.13 | 30.20 | *7.41* | *26.34* | *5.34* | *17.68* |
| Tomato | 20.00-50.00 | 32.54 | 58.63 | 102.83 | *-26.09* | *-44.50* | *-70.29* | *-68.36* |
| Ladies Fingers | 30.00-70.00 | 52.64 | 32.18 | 78.28 | *20.46* | *63.58* | *-25.64* | *-32.75* |
| Brinjal | 25.00-60.00 | 42.58 | 26.48 | 53.49 | *16.10* | *60.80* | *-10.91* | *-20.40* |
| Capsicum | 60.00-160.00 | 117.53 | 105.67 | 97.10 | *11.86* | *11.22* | *20.43* | *21.04* |
| Pumpkin | 15.00-25.00 | 19.24 | 26.32 | 40.13 | *-7.08* | *-26.90* | *-20.89* | *-52.06* |
| Cucumber | 15.00-40.00 | 24.88 | 22.48 | 52.79 | *2.40* | *10.68* | *-27.91* | *-52.87* |
| Bitter Gourd | 70.00-100.00 | 87.00 | 65.75 | 99.97 | *21.25* | *32.32* | *-12.97* | *-12.97* |
| Snake Gourd | 50.00-80.00 | 65.00 | 26.71 | 81.92 | *38.29* | *143.35* | *-16.92* | *-20.65* |
| Drumstick | 150.00-200.00 | 171.19 | 254.58 | 72.43 | *-83.39* | *-32.76* | *98.76* | *136.35* |
| Luffa | 40.00-70.00 | 50.46 | 38.17 | 88.11 | *12.29* | *32.20* | *-37.65* | *-42.73* |
| Long Beans | 40.00-90.00 | 61.96 | 42.96 | 62.59 | *19.00* | *44.23* | *-0.63* | *-1.01* |
| Ash Plantain | 40.00-60.00 | 46.30 | 54.15 | 44.31 | *-7.85* | *-14.50* | *1.99* | *4.49* |
| Green Chillies | 30.00-110.00 | 54.11 | 37.39 | 145.04 | *16.72* | *44.72* | *-90.93* | *-62.69* |
| Lime | 100.00-230.00 | 149.73 | 114.42 | 86.30 | *35.31* | *30.86* | *63.43* | *73.50* |

***Source: Marketing, Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI***

**Table 3.2: Retail Prices of Vegetables – May 2015**

| Items | Price Range | Average | | | Change Compared to | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | May 2015 | May 2015 | Apr 2015 | May 2014 | Apr 2015 | | May 2014 | |
| | Rs/kg | Rs/kg | Rs/kg | Rs/kg | Rs/kg | % | Rs/kg | % |
| Beans (green) | 100.00-280.00 | 171.76 | 131.40 | 176.65 | *40.36* | *30.72* | *-4.89* | *-2.77* |
| Carrot | 100.00-260.00 | 171.49 | 162.33 | 153.89 | *9.16* | *5.64* | *17.60* | *11.44* |
| Leeks | 120.00-280.00 | 190.41 | 155.48 | 99.98 | *34.93* | *22.47* | *90.43* | *90.45* |
| Beetroot | 80.00-240.00 | 152.16 | 104.55 | 119.53 | *47.61* | *45.54* | *32.63* | *27.30* |
| Knokhol | 60.00-200.00 | 127.53 | 99.75 | 121.04 | *27.78* | *27.85* | *6.49* | *5.36* |
| Radish | 40.00-160.00 | 103.46 | 80.28 | 98.49 | *23.18* | *28.87* | *4.97* | *5.05* |
| Cabbage | 40.00-160.00 | 98.29 | 84.54 | 91.32 | *13.75* | *16.26* | *6.97* | *7.63* |
| Tomato | 50.00-160.00 | 89.16 | 111.06 | 173.40 | *-21.90* | *-19.72* | *-84.24* | *-48.58* |
| Ladies Fingers | 60.00-160.00 | 111.08 | 88.43 | 149.72 | *22.65* | *25.61* | *-38.64* | *-25.81* |
| Brinjal | 60.00-200.00 | 93.80 | 88.57 | 115.91 | *5.23* | *5.90* | *-22.11* | *-19.08* |
| Capsicum | 120.00-300.00 | 195.78 | 172.58 | 177.56 | *23.20* | *13.44* | *18.22* | *10.26* |
| Pumpkin | 30.00-120.00 | 71.45 | 83.27 | 92.97 | *-11.82* | *-14.19* | *-21.52* | *-23.15* |
| Cucumber | 30.00-120.00 | 78.13 | 75.13 | 109.02 | *3.00* | *3.99* | *-30.89* | *-28.33* |
| Bittergourd | 90.00-240.00 | 155.66 | 131.79 | 170.62 | *23.87* | *18.11* | *-14.96* | *-8.77* |
| Snakegourd | 60.00-180.00 | 122.75 | 91.76 | 156.36 | *30.99* | *33.77* | *-33.61* | *-21.50* |
| Drumstick | 250.00-800.00 | 555.40 | 462.92 | 190.58 | *92.48* | *19.98* | *364.82* | *191.43* |
| Luffa | 70.00-200.00 | 121.36 | 103.98 | 162.69 | *17.38* | *16.71* | *-41.33* | *-25.40* |
| Long Beans | 70.00-200.00 | 131.01 | 97.63 | 135.55 | *33.38* | *34.19* | *-4.54* | *-3.35* |
| Ash Plantain | 60.00-200.00 | 111.74 | 119.55 | 107.53 | *-7.81* | *-6.53* | *4.21* | *3.92* |
| Green Chillies | 70.00-300.00 | 174.36 | 157.02 | 291.22 | *17.34* | *11.04* | *-116.86* | *-40.13* |
| Lime | 130.00-500.00 | 320.57 | 255.55 | 193.48 | *65.02* | *25.44* | *127.09* | *65.69* |

***Source: Marketing, Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HART***

## 4. Fruits

### Prices and Supply/Demand Situation

Supplies of most of the fruits had increased further due to the ongoing major harvesting season. Hence, the wholesale prices of most of the fruits had decreased with the highest price decrease of 33% for banana (ambul). Sufficient supplies of banana were recorded from Embilipitiya, Hambantota and Moneragala areas and the demand also had decreased compared to the previous month. Hence, the wholesale prices of all the varieties of banana had decreased in the range of 17%-33%. Further, the wholesale prices of papaw, passionfruit and woodapple had decreased in the range of 5%-11%. The demand of the papaw, passionfruit and woodapple had decreased compared to the previous month due to rainy weather. Meanwhile, the highest wholesale price increase of 41% was recorded for avocado due to low supplies in off season. According to the market information, price increase for most of the fruits could be expected next month. Compared to the same period of last year, wholesale prices of most of the fruits had increased with the highest price increase of 113% for papaw.

With reference to the retail prices, in line with the wholesale prices, retail prices of most of the fruits had decreased with the highest price decrease of 28% for mango (kohu). Further, the retail prices of all the varieties of mango had decreased in the range of 7%-28% due to high supplies with ongoing harvesting season. Retail prices of all the varieties of banana had decreased in the range of 9%-18% due to low demand compared to the previous month. Meanwhile, the highest retail price increase of 15% was recorded for orange. Compared to the same period of last year, retail prices of most of the fruits had increased with the highest price increase of 71% for papaw.

Producer prices of ambul, kolikuttu (banana) and papaw had decreased by 33%, 25% and 53% respectively due to high supplies as well as low demand compared to the previous month. Meanwhile, the producer price of pineapple had increased slightly by 4%. Compared to the same period of last year, producer prices of banana and papaw had increased with the highest price increase of 101% for papaw.

### Exports/Imports of Fruits

Papaw was the most exported type of fruit in May with the quantity of 336 mt. The total income of exporting pineapple, papaw, mango and oranges was Rs.58.60 mn in May.

Apple was the mostly imported type of fruit in May with the quantity of 1,719 mt. The total expenditure on importing apple, grapes, oranges and mandarin was Rs.474.96 mn in May.

**Table 4.1: Wholesale Prices of Fruits – May 2015**

| Items | Price Range | Average | | | Change Compared to | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | May 2015 | May 2015 | Apr 2015 | May 2014 | Apr 2015 | | May 2014 | |
| | Rs/kg | Rs/kg | Rs/kg | Rs/kg | Rs/kg | % | Rs/kg | % |
| **Plantain** | | | | | | | | |
| Ambul (Rs/kg) | 20.00-60.00 | 35.31 | 52.90 | 25.80 | *-17.59* | *-33.25* | *9.51* | *36.86* |
| Kolikuttu (Rs/kg) | 80.00-170.00 | 109.91 | 145.01 | 71.39 | *-35.10* | *-24.21* | *38.52* | *53.96* |
| Seeni (Rs/kg) | 30.00-50.00 | 41.15 | 49.73 | 28.16 | *-8.58* | *-17.25* | *12.99* | *46.13* |
| Anamalu | 6.00-12.00 | 7.46 | 10.34 | 6.74 | *-2.88* | *-27.85* | *0.72* | *10.68* |
| Ambun | 8.00-15.00 | 11.03 | 14.29 | 8.85 | *-3.26* | *-22.81* | *2.18* | *24.63* |
| **Pineapple** | | | | | | | | |
| Large | 90.00-140.00 | 106.21 | 108.83 | 97.19 | *-2.62* | *-2.41* | *9.02* | *9.28* |
| Medium | 70.00-110.00 | 82.66 | 84.31 | 77.78 | *-1.65* | *-1.96* | *4.88* | *6.27* |
| Small | 50.00-90.00 | 64.13 | 57.71 | 57.84 | *6.42* | *11.12* | *6.29* | *10.87* |
| **Mango** | | | | | | | | |
| Betti | 10.00-20.00 | 13.71 | 16.64 | 7.55 | *-2.93* | *-17.61* | *6.16* | *81.59* |
| Karthakolomban | 26.00-78.00 | 49.09 | 39.83 | 26.39 | *9.26* | *23.25* | *22.70* | *86.02* |
| Vilad | 12.00-25.00 | 18.84 | 22.50 | 11.84 | *-3.66* | *-16.27* | *7.00* | *59.12* |
| Kohu | 6.00-15.00 | 10.04 | 8.17 | 5.72 | *1.87* | *22.89* | *4.32* | *75.52* |
| **Papaw (Rs/kg)** | 35.00-100.00 | 63.15 | 66.43 | 29.58 | *-3.28* | *-4.94* | *33.57* | *113.49* |
| **Passionfruit** | 6.00-8.00 | 7.01 | 7.36 | 7.34 | *-0.35* | *-4.76* | *-0.33* | *-4.50* |
| **Woodapple** | 25.00-60.00 | 42.71 | 47.88 | 21.24 | *-5.17* | *-10.80* | *21.47* | *101.08* |
| **Orange** | 15.00-40.00 | 24.48 | 22.81 | 12.27 | *1.67* | *7.32* | *12.21* | *99.51* |
| **Avocado** | 30.00-70.00 | 45.61 | 32.26 | 24.28 | *13.35* | *41.38* | *21.33* | *87.85* |
| **Slimeapple** | 20.00-50.00 | 35.86 | 34.52 | 23.72 | *1.34* | *3.88* | *12.14* | *51.18* |
| **Grapes Imported (Rs/kg)** | 442.00-631.00 | 543.36 | 514.35 | 534.51 | *29.01* | *5.64* | *8.85* | *1.66* |

***Source: Marketing, Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI***

**Table 4.2: Retail Prices of Fruits – May 2015**

| Items | Price Range | Average | | | Change Compared to | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | May 2015 | May 2015 | Apr 2015 | May 2014 | Apr 2015 | | May 2014 | |
| | Rs/kg | Rs/kg | Rs/kg | Rs/kg | Rs/kg | % | Rs/kg | % |
| **Plantain** | | | | | | | | |
| Ambul (Rs/kg) | 40.00-100.00 | 73.43 | 86.23 | 64.97 | *-12.80* | *-14.84* | *8.46* | *13.02* |
| Kolikuttu (Rs/kg) | 100.00-230.00 | 168.90 | 183.90 | 129.70 | *-15.00* | *-8.16* | *39.20* | *30.22* |
| Seeni (Rs/kg) | 50.00-100.00 | 75.92 | 83.57 | 66.07 | *-7.65* | *-9.15* | *9.85* | *14.91* |
| Anamalu | 10.00-20.00 | 13.58 | 16.49 | 11.67 | *-2.91* | *-17.65* | *1.91* | *16.37* |
| Ambun | 10.00-20.00 | 15.29 | 17.53 | 13.88 | *-2.24* | *-12.78* | *1.41* | *10.16* |
| **Pineapple** | | | | | | | | |
| Large | 100.00-180.00 | 147.56 | 149.26 | 141.62 | *-1.70* | *-1.14* | *5.94* | *4.19* |
| Medium | 80.00-130.00 | 102.66 | 108.34 | 105.02 | *-5.68* | *-5.24* | *-2.36* | *-2.25* |
| Small | 50.00-100.00 | 72.78 | 73.76 | 71.00 | *-0.98* | *-1.33* | *1.78* | *2.51* |
| **Mango** | | | | | | | | |
| Betti | 16.00-50.00 | 28.78 | 30.97 | 23.51 | *-2.19* | *-7.07* | *5.27* | *22.42* |
| Karthakolomban | 40.00-120.00 | 62.98 | 68.22 | 43.52 | *-5.24* | *-7.68* | *19.46* | *44.72* |
| Vilad | 25.00-60.00 | 36.50 | 44.04 | 26.01 | *-7.54* | *-17.12* | *10.49* | *40.33* |
| Kohu | 15.00-20.00 | 16.44 | 22.83 | 15.88 | *-6.39* | *-27.99* | *0.56* | *3.53* |
| **Papaw (Rs/kg)** | 60.00-160.00 | 102.91 | 130.22 | 60.27 | *-27.31* | *-20.97* | *42.64* | *70.75* |
| **Passionfruit** | 10.00-20.83 | 15.03 | 17.16 | 14.83 | *-2.13* | *-12.41* | *0.20* | *1.35* |
| **Woodapple** | 30.00-100.00 | 58.99 | 59.01 | 43.14 | *-0.02* | *-0.03* | *15.85* | *36.74* |
| **Orange** | 30.00-60.00 | 45.80 | 39.94 | 30.40 | *5.86* | *14.67* | *15.40* | *50.66* |
| **Avocado** | 35.00-80.00 | 60.62 | 56.64 | 47.29 | *3.98* | *7.03* | *13.33* | *28.19* |
| **Slimeapple** | 30.00-80.00 | 57.20 | 55.51 | 48.88 | *1.69* | *3.04* | *8.32* | *17.02* |
| **Grapes Imported (Rs/kg)** | 700.00-900.00 | 801.92 | 772.91 | 748.74 | *29.01* | *3.75* | *53.18* | *7.10* |

***Source: Marketing, Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI***

**Table 4.3: Producer Prices of Selected Fruits - May 2015**

| Items | Price Range | Average | | | Change Compared to | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | May 2015 | May 2015 | Apr 2015 | May 2014 | Apr 2015 | | May 2014 | |
| | Rs/kg | Rs/kg | Rs/kg | Rs/kg | Rs/kg | % | Rs/kg | % |
| Ambul | 16.00-31.00 | 23.63 | 35.50 | 16.15 | -11.88 | -33.45 | 7.48 | 46.28 |
| Kolikuttu | 76.00-91.00 | 83.88 | 111.30 | 45.75 | -27.42 | -24.64 | 38.13 | 83.33 |
| Papaw | 23.00-32.50 | 28.85 | 61.46 | 14.38 | -32.61 | -53.06 | 14.47 | 100.63 |
| Pineapple | 40.00-50.00 | 45.00 | 43.13 | 45.33 | 1.88 | 4.35 | -0.33 | -0.73 |

***Source Marketing Food Policy Agribusiness Division, HARTI***

**Table 4.4: Quantity, Value and FOB Prices of Exported Fruits March – May 2015**

| Type of Fruit | May | | | April | | | March | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 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 | 161.33 | 28.38 | 175.89 | 170.82 | 28.17 | 164.88 | 192.56 | 37.69 | 195.76 |
| Papaw | 336.04 | 27.84 | 82.86 | 333.92 | 23.96 | 71.76 | 176.77 | 9.49 | 53.66 |
| Fresh Mango | 2.36 | 2.36 | 1000.63 | 2.19 | 3.43 | 1570.53 | 1.40 | 0.91 | 648.69 |
| Fresh Oranges | 0.17 | 0.02 | 105.31 | - | - | - | 0.11 | 0.01 | 87.54 |
| Avocados, fresh | - | - | - | 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 March – May 2015**

| Type of Fruit | May | | | April | | | March | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 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 | 1,718.59 | 266.54 | 155.09 | 1,171.05 | 171.80 | 146.71 | 987.92 | 141.18 | 142.90 |
| Grapes | 462.27 | 149.21 | 322.78 | 275.23 | 77.57 | 281.84 | 356.85 | 98.95 | 277.30 |
| Oranges | 801.58 | 58.35 | 72.79 | 715.94 | 46.80 | 65.37 | 398.16 | 25.51 | 64.06 |
| Mandarin | 21.90 | 0.86 | 39.14 | 450.20 | 14.29 | 31.75 | 1,264.21 | 46.82 | 37.03 |

***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%-24% at the wholesale level due to the mid season for coastal fisheries prevailed in both Eastern and Southern coastal belts. The highest price increase (24%) was reported for hurulla and the lowest price increase (3%) was noted for salaya, kelawalla and thora. Price increases of 20% and 19% were observed for balaya and paraw respectively. In addition, prices of mora, shrimp and thalapath had increased in the range of 5%-7%. In the month of May, the monthly average wholesale prices of selected fresh fish varieties ranged between Rs.96.21-958.10/kg. According to the data in previous years, it can be expected that fish prices could increase in the coming month too due to the mid season for coastal fisheries. Compared to the same month of 2014, wholesale prices of all the fresh fish varieties had increased in the range of 1%-58% with the highest price increase noted for hurulla.

Even though the prices of all the fresh fish varieties had increased at the wholesale level, increased prices were observed only for hurulla, balaya, paraw, mora and shrimp at the retail level while, decreased prices were noted for salaya, kelawalla, thora and thalapath. The highest price increase was reported for hurulla (14%) followed by shrimp (8%). In addition, prices of balaya, paraw and mora had increased in the range of 2%-4%. Meanwhile, prices of salaya, kelawalla, thora and thalapath had decreased in the range of 1%-5%. In the month of May, the monthly average retail prices of selected fresh fish varieties ranged between Rs.138.02–1,124.10/kg. Compared to the same month of 2014, retail prices of all the fresh fish varieties except salaya, balaya and thalapath had increased with the highest price increase of 30% noted for hurulla.

**Table 5.1: Wholesale and Retail Prices of Fish – May 2015**

| Items | Price Range | Average | | | Change Compared to | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | May 2015 | May 2015 | Apr 2015 | May 2014 | Apr 2015 | | May 2014 | |
| | Rs/kg | Rs/kg | Rs/kg | Rs/kg | Rs/kg | % | Rs/kg | % |
| **Wholesale Prices** | | | | | | | | |
| Salaya | 50.00-130.00 | 96.21 | 93.00 | 82.95 | *3.21* | *3.45* | *13.26* | *15.99* |
| Hurulla | 240.00-380.00 | 310.14 | 249.25 | 195.81 | *60.89* | *24.43* | *114.33* | *58.39* |
| Balaya | 330.00-450.00 | 391.05 | 326.77 | 304.81 | *64.28* | *19.67* | *86.24* | *28.29* |
| Kelawalla | 500.00-700.00 | 573.55 | 556.46 | 430.00 | *17.09* | *3.07* | *143.55* | *33.38* |
| Thora | 800.00-1200.00 | 928.52 | 902.50 | 873.10 | *26.02* | *2.88* | *55.42* | *6.35* |
| Paraw | 450.00-600.00 | 540.93 | 453.59 | 461.88 | *87.34* | *19.26* | *79.05* | *17.11* |
| Mora | 800.00-1200.00 | 525.94 | 501.13 | 448.00 | *24.81* | *4.95* | *77.94* | *17.40* |
| Shrimp (small) | 800.00-1250.00 | 958.10 | 891.67 | 815.19 | *66.43* | *7.45* | *142.91* | *17.53* |
| Thalapath | 550.00-700.00 | 608.29 | 572.41 | 604.70 | *35.88* | *6.27* | *3.59* | *0.59* |
| **Retail Prices** | | | | | | | | |
| Salaya | 100.00-200.00 | 138.02 | 140.89 | 155.49 | *-2.87* | *-2.04* | *-17.47* | *-11.24* |
| Hurulla | 240.00-480.00 | 378.21 | 330.96 | 291.87 | *47.25* | *14.28* | *86.34* | *29.58* |
| Balaya | 380.00-760.00 | 471.30 | 456.05 | 482.53 | *15.25* | *3.34* | *-11.23* | *-2.33* |
| Kelawalla | 600.00-960.00 | 751.67 | 791.91 | 682.14 | *-40.24* | *-5.08* | *69.53* | *10.19* |
| Thora | 950.00-1500.00 | 1124.10 | 1133.98 | 1119.03 | *-9.88* | *-0.87* | *5.07* | *0.45* |
| Paraw | 550.00-900.00 | 709.98 | 683.87 | 700.75 | *26.11* | *3.82* | *9.23* | *1.32* |
| Mora | 360.00-860.00 | 642.76 | 630.96 | 577.75 | *11.80* | *1.87* | *65.01* | *11.25* |
| Shrimp (small) | 1000.00-1350.00 | 1097.37 | 1018.35 | 1025.77 | *79.02* | *7.76* | *71.60* | *6.98* |
| Thalapath | 650.00-1000.00 | 786.06 | 810.17 | 794.82 | *-24.11* | *-2.98* | *-8.76* | *-1.10* |

***Source: Marketing, Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI***

## Dried Fish

### Prices and Supply/Demand Situation

Prices of most of the dried fish varieties had decreased with sufficient quantity. The highest price decrease of 8% was observed for imported maduwa followed by local anguluwa, mora, and kattawa has decreased by less than 7% and local maduwa (5%). However, the levels of decreases were not significant. Meanwhile, prices of local sprats (16%), balaya (8%) and salaya (7%) had increased with limited supply. Main local supply areas were Kalpitiya, Valachchenai, Mannar and imported varieties mainly from Oman, Dubai and Thailand. According to the Department of Customs the quantity of sprats 1,929 mt was imported in the month of May and it has increased by 129 mt compared to last month. The CIF price of imported sprats was Rs.241.56/kg and it has decreased by Rs.5.39/kg. Compared to May in 2014, wholesale prices of most of the dried fish varieties had increased with the highest price increase noted for 24% for imported maduwa and the price of local maduwa by 20%.

Regarding the retail prices, the prices of maduwa, salaya and anguluwa have increased by 8%, 6% and 5% respectively. However the prices of kattawa and thora have decreased by around 1%. Compared to the same period of last year the retail prices of most of the dried fish varieties had increased, especially maduwa thora and kattawa. According to the market information, the prices of most of the dried fish varieties may increase next month with limited supply especially sprats.

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

| Items | Price Range | Average | | | Change Compared to | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | May 2015 | May 2015 | Apr 2015 | May 2014 | Apr 2015 | | May 2014 | |
| | Rs/kg | Rs/kg | Rs/kg | Rs/kg | Rs/kg | % | Rs/kg | % |
| **Dried fish – Wholesale** | | | | | | | | |
| Sprats | 500.00-780.00 | 612.26 | 529.07 | 540.08 | *83.20* | *15.72* | *72.18* | *13.37* |
| Sprats (imported) | 250.00-350.00 | 313.60 | 322.75 | 345.58 | *-9.15* | *-2.84* | *-31.98* | *-9.25* |
| Kattawa | 700.00-850.00 | 798.06 | 798.00 | 743.25 | *0.06* | *0.01* | *54.81* | *7.37* |
| Kattawa (imported) | 650.00-850.00 | 744.25 | 758.75 | 715.37 | *-14.50* | *-1.91* | *28.88* | *4.04* |
| Thora | 900.00-1100.00 | 984.38 | 987.33 | 965.00 | *-2.96* | *-0.30* | *19.38* | *2.01* |
| Thora (imported) | 900.00-1050.00 | 968.47 | 972.00 | 956.18 | *-3.53* | *-0.36* | *12.28* | *1.28* |
| Mora | 700.00-950.00 | 816.13 | 833.00 | 789.63 | *-16.88* | *-2.03* | *26.49* | *3.35* |
| Mora (imported) | 520.00-850.00 | 748.25 | 779.23 | 737.44 | *-30.98* | *-3.98* | *10.81* | *1.47* |
| Balaya | 420.00-850.00 | 500.42 | 463.75 | 532.24 | *36.67* | *7.91* | *-31.83* | *-5.98* |
| Balaya (imported) | 350.00-620.00 | 487.07 | 521.00 | 450.00 | *-33.93* | *-6.51* | *37.07* | *8.24* |
| Anguluwa | 450.00-750.00 | 566.00 | 601.00 | 582.50 | *-35.00* | *-5.82* | *-16.50* | *-2.83* |
| Anguluwa (imported) | 400.00-580.00 | 531.25 | 567.44 | 573.49 | *-36.19* | *-6.38* | *-42.24* | *-7.36* |
| Maduwa | 400.00-630.00 | 519.55 | 542.17 | 431.83 | *-22.62* | *-4.17* | *87.71* | *20.31* |
| Maduwa (imported) | 350.00-550.00 | 386.46 | 421.04 | 312.50 | *-34.58* | *-8.21* | *73.96* | *23.67* |
| Koduwa | - | - | - | 553.75 | - | - | - | - |
| Koduwa(imported) | 650.00-650.00 | 650.00 | - | 712.00 | - | - | *-62.00* | *-8.71* |
| Salaya | 200.00-300.00 | 229.00 | 214.28 | 229.92 | *14.72* | *6.87* | *-0.92* | *-0.40* |
| Salaya (imported) | 220.00-220.00 | 220.00 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| **Dried fish – Retail** | | | | | | | | |
| Sprats | 350.00-1200.00 | 627.67 | 625.94 | 629.70 | *1.73* | *0.28* | *-2.03* | *-0.32* |
| Kattawa | 800.00-1300.00 | 1064.35 | 1077.55 | 996.56 | *-13.20* | *-1.23* | *67.79* | *6.80* |
| Thora | 1100.00-1600.00 | 1364.52 | 1376.53 | 1262.50 | *-12.01* | *-0.87* | *102.02* | *8.08* |
| Mora | 800.00-1100.00 | 945.26 | 938.84 | 917.57 | *6.42* | *0.68* | *27.69* | *3.02* |
| Balaya | 550.00-920.00 | 784.01 | 783.34 | 772.69 | *0.67* | *0.09* | *11.32* | *1.47* |
| Anguluwa | 600.00-1100.00 | 866.78 | 824.80 | 830.90 | *41.98* | *5.09* | *35.88* | *4.32* |
| Maduwa | 450.00-800.00 | 710.35 | 654.77 | 614.15 | *55.58* | *8.49* | *96.20* | *15.66* |
| Koduwa | 480.00-500.00 | 620.00 | - | 819.00 | - | - | *-199.00* | *-24.30* |
| Salaya | 320.00-800.00 | 530.11 | 500.01 | 508.78 | *30.10* | *6.02* | *21.33* | *4.19* |

***Source: Marketing, Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI***

**Table 5.3: Quantity, Value and CIF prices of Sprats - Dec 2014 to May 2015**

| Month | Quantity (mt.) | Value (Rs.mn) | CIF price (Rs/kg) | Retail Price (Rs/kg) | Gross Margin (Rs/kg) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| May - 2015 | 1928.86 | 465.93 | 241.56 | 627.67 | *386.11* |
| 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* |

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

## Eggs

Prices of brown eggs had increased by 3% while, the prices of white eggs remained unchanged. According to market information, compared to white eggs, the supply of brown eggs had declined. Compared to the white egg layers, there was a declined demand for brown egg layers at the farm level due to their high mortality rate. This reason had contributed to these price changes of white and brown eggs. However, prices of both brown and white eggs remained unchanged in the latter part of the month. The monthly average wholesale price of a brown egg was Rs.13.38 and for a white egg it was Rs.12.50. According to the data in previous years, it can be expected that egg prices could increase in the coming month. Compared to the same month of last year, wholesale prices of both brown and white eggs had increased by 29% and 32% respectively.

As predicted in the previous month, prices of both brown and white eggs had decreased by 2% at the retail level as a result of the declined consumer demand in the *Vesak* month. The monthly average retail prices of brown and white eggs were Rs.14.60/egg and Rs.13.62/egg respectively. Compared to the same month of last year, a price increase of 21% was noted for brown eggs while, a price increase of 23% was noted for white eggs.

**Table 5.4: Wholesale and Retail Prices of Eggs – May 2015**

| Items | Price Range | Average | | | Change Compared to | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | May 2015 | May 2015 | Apr 2015 | May 2014 | Apr 2015 | | May 2014 | |
| | Rs/kg | Rs/kg | Rs/kg | Rs/kg | Rs/kg | % | Rs/kg | % |
| **Wholesale Price** | | | | | | | | |
| Eggs – Brown (each) | 13.00-13.50 | 13.38 | 13.00 | 10.38 | *0.38* | *2.92* | *3.00* | *28.90* |
| White (each) | 12.50-12.50 | 12.50 | 12.50 | 9.50 | *0.00* | *0.00* | *3.00* | *31.58* |
| **Retail Price** | | | | | | | | |
| Eggs- Brown (each) | 14.00-16.00 | *14.60* | *14.90* | *12.06* | *-0.30* | *-2.01* | *2.54* | *21.06* |
| White (each) | 13.00-15.00 | *13.62* | *13.93* | *11.03* | *-0.31* | *-2.23* | *2.59* | *23.48* |

***Source: Marketing, Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI***

## Meat

Prices of all the meat varieties except both broiler and curry chicken had increased at the retail market due to limited supply with *Vesak* festival. However, the prices of chicken both broiler and curry chicken have decreased by around 3% with low demand. The highest price increase of Rs.18.84/kg was reported for mutton and the price range was between Rs.1300.00-1400.00/kg. Compared to May in 2014, retail prices of all the meat varieties had increased with the highest price increase noted for chicken (17%).

**Table 5.5: Retail Prices of Meat – May 2015**

| Items | Price Range | Average | | | Change Compared to | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | May 2015 | May 2015 | Apr 2015 | May 2014 | Apr 2015 | | May 2014 | |
| | Rs/kg | Rs/kg | Rs/kg | Rs/kg | Rs/kg | % | Rs/kg | % |
| **Meat** | | | | | | | | |
| Beef (without bones) | 600.00-650.00 | 636.37 | 619.75 | 586.17 | *16.62* | *2.68* | *50.20* | *8.56* |
| Chicken (Broiler) | 470.00-520.00 | 505.65 | 523.05 | 461.53 | *-17.40* | *-3.33* | *44.12* | *9.56* |
| Chicken (curry) | 380.00-530.00 | 485.13 | 498.16 | 414.71 | *-13.03* | *-2.62* | *70.42* | *16.98* |
| Mutton | 1300.00-1400.00 | 1335.45 | 1316.61 | 1284.64 | *18.84* | *1.43* | *50.81* | *3.96* |
| Pork | 500.00-650.00 | 586.00 | 575.50 | 543.69 | *10.50* | *1.82* | *42.31* | *7.78* |

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

## 6. Wheat grain, Wheat flour and Sugar

### Wheat grain, Wheat flour

The total quantity of 188,999 mt valued at Rs.7,444mn of wheat grain was imported. The average CIF price did not change much during last few months and it was Rs.39.39/kg in May. The average CIF price has fluctuated in the range of Rs.39.39-41.30/kg during the period of January to May 2015.

Considering wheat flour imports only a little quantity was imported during the month. A quantity of 26 mt valued at Rs.1.40mn was imported. The average CIF price of wheat flour has decreased by Rs.13.92/kg against the previous month and the it was Rs.53.80/kg.

Meanwhile, the retail price of wheat flour remained in the range of Rs.77.00-90.00/kg and the average price was Rs.85.98/kg. The price has decreased by cents 58/kg against the previous month and has decreased by 12% when compared to the same period of last year.

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

| Items | Price Range | Average | | | Change Compared to | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | May 2015 | May 2015 | Apr 2015 | May 2014 | Apr 2015 | | May 2014 | |
| | Rs/kg | Rs/kg | Rs/kg | Rs/kg | Rs/kg | % | Rs/kg | % |
| Wheat Flour | 77.00-90.00 | 85.98 | 86.56 | 97.45 | *-0.58* | *-0.67* | *-11.48* | *-11.78* |
| Sugar | 80.00-90.00 | 84.37 | 85.65 | *106.51* | *-1.27* | *-1.49* | *-22.14* | *-20.78* |

***Source: Department of Census and Statistics***

**Table 6.2: Quantity, Value and CIF prices of Wheat Flour & Grain - - Dec 2014 to May 2015**

| Month | Quantity (mt.) | Value (Rs.mn) | CIF price (Rs/kg) | Retail Price (Rs/kg) | Gross Margin (Rs/kg) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Wheat Flour** | | | | | |
| May - 2015 | 26.00 | 1.40 | 53.80 | 85.98 | *32.17* |
| 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* |
| **Wheat Grain** | | | | | |
| May - 2015 | 188,998.88 | 7,444.26 | 39.39 | 85.98 | *46.59* |
| 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* |

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

### Sugar

A total quantity of 34,063 mt was imported and compared to previous month, the quantity has decreased by 25,337 mt. Imported quantity has shown a decrease, because of that high imports were reported during the months of March and April. The value of the imports was Rs.1,886mn and the average CIF price was Rs.55.37/kg. The highest CIF price was reported in June 2014 and since then the price has decreased continuously. It has decreased further by cents 45/kg against the previous month. Compared to the price of June 2014, it has shown a decrease of Rs.11.54/kg.

In line with the world prices, the retail price has also decreased. The prices remained in the range of Rs.80.00-90.00/kg and the average price was Rs.84.37/kg recording a decrease of Rs.1.27/kg against the previous month. Compared to the same period of last year, retail price has decreased by 21%.

**Table 6.3: Quantity, Value and CIF prices of Sugar- Dec 2014 to May 2015**

| Month | Quantity (mt.) | Value (Rs.mn) | CIF price (Rs/kg) | Retail Price (Rs/kg) | Gross Margin (Rs/kg) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| May - 2015 | 34,063.19 | 1,886.09 | 55.37 | 84.37 | *29.00* |
| 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* |

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

**Table 7: Imports of Selected Food Items - May 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 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | May 2015 | Apr 2015 | | May 2015 | Apr 2015 | | May 2015 | Apr 2015 | |
| Rice | 38,924.64 | 46,063.08 | -15.50 | 2,599.08 | 2,987.16 | -12.99 | 66.77 | 64.85 | 2.96 |
| Red Onion | 1,276.07 | 357.28 | 257.17 | 103.54 | 18.13 | 471.10 | 81.14 | 50.74 | 59.90 |
| Big Onion | 22,288.23 | 17,614.60 | 26.53 | 1,014.69 | 779.88 | 30.11 | 45.53 | 44.27 | 2.83 |
| Potato | 5,965.66 | 12,471.59 | -52.17 | 132.55 | 302.80 | -56.23 | 22.22 | 24.28 | -8.49 |
| Dried Chillies | 4,082.94 | 3,215.57 | 26.97 | 754.08 | 584.85 | 28.93 | 184.69 | 181.88 | 1.54 |
| Masoor Dhal | 10,190.51 | 13,848.16 | -26.41 | 1,229.27 | 1,701.93 | -27.77 | 120.63 | 122.90 | -1.85 |
| Green Gram | 697.00 | - | - | 122.00 | - | - | 175.04 | - | - |
| Black gram | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Garlic | 2,792.40 | 2,513.00 | 11.12 | 354.99 | 274.89 | 29.14 | 127.13 | 109.39 | 16.22 |
| Wheat flour | 26.00 | 656.70 | -96.04 | 1.40 | 44.47 | -96.85 | 53.80 | 67.72 | -20.55 |
| Wheat grain | 188,998.88 | 115,469.80 | 63.68 | 7,444.26 | 4,619.23 | 61.16 | 39.39 | 40.00 | -1.54 |
| White crystalline cane sugar | 34,063.19 | 59,400.18 | -42.65 | 1,886.09 | 3,315.79 | -43.12 | 55.37 | 55.82 | -0.81 |
| Maize (Seed) | 10.01 | - | - | 4.09 | - | - | 408.92 | - | - |
| Maize (Other) | 25.00 | 50.24 | - | 2.18 | 4.32 | - | 87.03 | 85.97 | - |

***Source: Automated data Processing Division, Department of Customs***

**Table 8: Monthly Rainfall (mm) – May 2015**

| Rainfall Station | Total Rainfall (mm) | 30 Year Avg. Rainfall (mm) | Total Rainy Days | 30 Year Average Rainy Days |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Anuradhapura | 264.7 | 84.3 | 15 | 6 |
| Badulla | 97.8 | 104.0 | 15 | 10 |
| Bandarawela | 134.5 | 104.2 | 11 | 9 |
| Batticaloa | 71.5 | 39.3 | 9 | 3 |
| Colombo | 169.2 | 392.4 | 21 | 16 |
| Galle | 282.1 | 290.4 | 25 | 16 |
| Hambantota | 48.8 | 85.1 | 14 | 7 |
| Jaffna | 215.7 | 46.7 | 9 | 3 |
| Katugastota | 141.5 | 144.0 | 15 | 11 |
| Katunayaka | 282.5 | 317.6 | 16 | 16 |
| Kurunegala | 159.8 | 188.3 | 12 | 12 |
| MahaIluppallama | 142.9 | 93.0 | 11 | 6 |
| Mannar | 149.8 | 44.7 | 7 | 3 |
| Nuwara Eliya | 203.9 | 175.9 | 17 | 13 |
| Pottuvil | 148.5 | 35.1 | 6 | na |
| Puttalam | 202.3 | 84.3 | 11 | 7 |
| Ratmalana | 261.7 | 360.6 | 20 | 17 |
| Ratnapura | 180.3 | 475.9 | 24 | 20 |
| Trincomalee | 122.6 | 50.2 | 7 | 4 |
| Vavuniya | 277.2 | 74.8 | 12 | 6 |
| Polonnaruwa | 188.1 | na | 9 | na |
| Moneragala | 138.0 | na | 10 | na |
| Mattala | 55.1 | na | 11 | na |

***Source: Department of Meteorology***