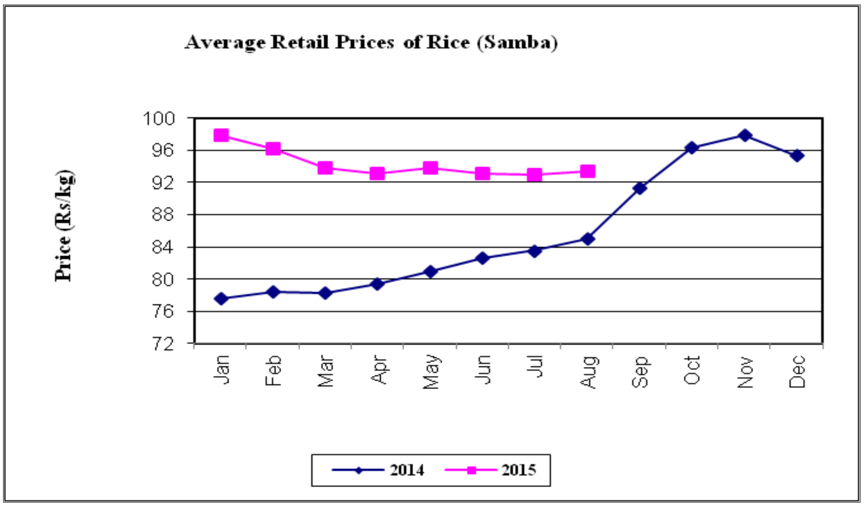
HARTI

FOOD INFORMATION BULLETIN

Vol 08 August - 2015 No 08

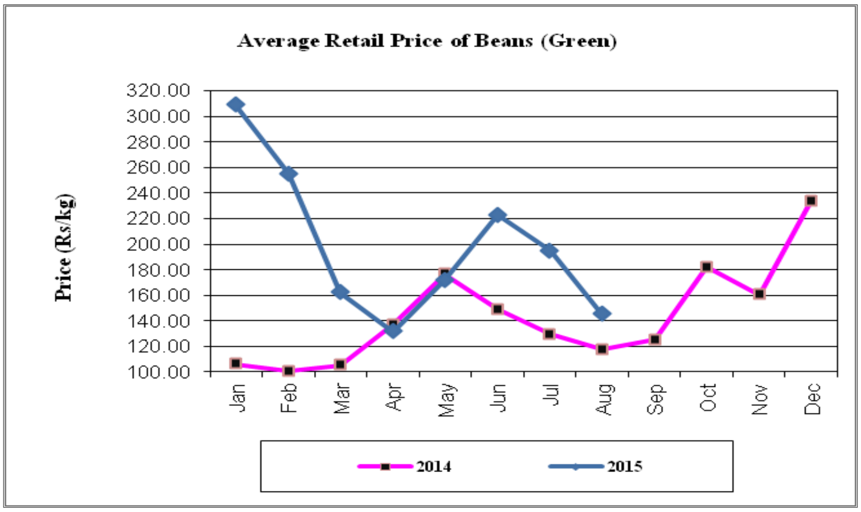
RICE:

Prices of all the local rice varieties have decreased during the first half of the month. However, in the second half, an increase in samba rice prices was reported due to government paddy purchasing programme which continued further and also due to delay in harvesting of short grain paddy varieties.



VEGETABLES:

Prices of most of the upcountry and lowcountry varieties have decreased by 35% and 25% respectively, with the reaching of peak *Yala* harvesting for vegetables. If the rainy weather intensified, harvesting season would be shorter than expected and prices would show an increasing trend in September.



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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

Harvesting of 2015 y*ala* season paddy crop progressed and by the end of the month a bumper harvest reached the markets from all major producing areas. Dry weather prevailed in most of the major producing areas during the month. A peak harvesting was recorded by the end of month and it is expected that harvesting continues up to the end of September in Anuradhapura, Polonnaruwa, Hambantota, Tissamaharama and some Mahaweli areas. According to the field information, prospects of the y*ala* harvest was favorable in all of the major producing areas. The latest crop forecast report of the Department of Agriculture reveals that the cultivated extent of paddy is 502,177 ha and it is already 60% above when compared to the previous y*ala* season. The production forecast for the *yala* season is 1.93 million tones, 68 percent higher than the y*ala* 2014. The prevailed favorable weather condition and better water availability in major and minor irrigation tanks throughout the season caused the progress of paddy cultivation. A significant increase of paddy cultivated extent can be observed in Ampara, Anuradhapura, Polonnaruwa and Mahaweli areas.

Table 1.1: Achievement of Paddy Cultivation 2015 *yala* season
(Up to end of August - 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	53,879	115	184,396
Polonnaruwa	32,166	32,378	101	132,005
Ampara	55,534	57,136	103	259,537
Kurunegala	67,440	64,124	95	224,111
Hambantota	28,458	27,850	98	117,586
Colombo	2,970	1,515	51	3,690
Gampaha	7,172	4,730	66	12,573
Kalutara	11,195	7,774	69	18,536
Galle	12,800	5,745	45	12,707
Matara	16,600	15,598	94	40,733
Ratnapura	10,389	8,218	79	25,411
Kegalle	8,254	5,177	63	13,376
Puttalam	16,285	15,156	93	48,804
Kandy	11,285	9,694	86	27,817
Matale	16,240	11,005	68	41,101
N' Eliya	3,660	802	22	1,580
Badulla	9,540	8,548	90	32,457
Monaragala	20,742	18,415	89	68,757
Jaffna	-	-	-	-
Kilinochchi	6,535	6,928	106	28,568
Vavniya	7,454	7,912	106	32,615
Mullaitivu	6,410	6,070	95	23,768
Mannar	2,762	2,762	100	11,800
Trincomalee	24,130	23,321	97	98,641
Batticaloa	25,598	24,466	96	91,448
Udawalawa	10,807	12,426	115	62,008
System H	12,216	18,923	155	76,036
System H1	6,200	5,464	88	25,663
System B	18,000	19,266	107	90,486
System C	19,000	21,959	116	103,134
System G	4,800	4,393	92	20,632
System L	365	545	149	2,560
Sri Lanka	**521,890**	**502,177**	**96**	**1,932,538**

Source: Department of Agriculture

Table1.2: Producer Prices of Paddy – August 2015

Commodity	Price Range		Average Price			Change Compared to			
	Aug 2015	July 2015	Aug 2015	July 2015	Aug 2014	July 2015		Aug 2014	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Short Grain									
Anuradhapura	36.00-43.00	38.00-42.00	40.47	40.00	40.75	*0.47*	*1.17*	*-0.28*	*-0.70*
Polonnaruwa	31.00-43.00	39.00-43.00	37.93	40.98	41.43	*-3.05*	*-7.44*	*-3.50*	*-8.46*
Kalawewa	36.00-42.00	38.00-42.00	39.80	40.73	41.59	*-0.93*	*-2.28*	*-1.79*	*-4.30*
Kurunegala	34.00-43.00	34.00-46.50	39.24	41.40	41.70	*-2.16*	*-5.22*	*-2.46*	*-5.90*
Dehiattakandiya	37.00-42.00	40.00-42.00	40.34	40.60	41.69	*-0.26*	*-0.64*	*-1.35*	*-3.24*
Nikaweratiya	38.00-43.00	35.00-46.00	40.80	41.20	41.75	*-0.40*	*-0.97*	*-0.95*	*-2.28*
Ampara	34.00-41.00	34.00-35.00	36.34	34.60	-	*1.74*	*5.03*	-	-
Long Grain White									
Anuradhapura	22.00-31.00	25.00-33.00	28.59	27.83	39.75	*0.76*	*2.74*	*-11.16*	*-28.08*
Polonnaruwa	26.00-31.50	27.00-31.00	28.31	28.80	40.85	*-0.49*	*-1.70*	*-12.54*	*-30.70*
Kalawewa	24.00-31.00	24.00-33.00	28.15	28.06	41.05	*0.09*	*0.32*	*-12.90*	*-31.42*
Kurunegala	25.00-34.00	26.00-35.50	28.60	30.75	40.73	*-2.15*	*-6.99*	*-12.13*	*-29.78*
Dehiattakandiya	23.00-31.00	20.00-30.00	26.90	25.85	42.25	*1.05*	*4.06*	*-15.35*	*-36.33*
Embilipitiya	29.00-33.00	29.00-32.00	30.80	30.85	39.80	*-0.05*	*-0.16*	*-9.00*	*-22.61*
Nikaweratiya	26.00-33.00	23.00-35.00	29.68	29.60	40.63	*0.08*	*0.27*	*-10.95*	*-26.95*
Matara	30.00-33.00	32.00-35.00	31.53	33.42	42.08	*-1.89*	*-5.64*	*-10.55*	*-25.07*
Hambantota	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ampara	27.00-33.00	27.00-28.50	30.40	27.75	-	*2.65*	*9.55*	-	-
Long Grain Red									
Anuradhapura	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Matara	30.00-31.00	30.00-33.00	30.26	31.33	36.40	*-1.07*	*-3.41*	*-6.14*	*-16.86*
Hambantota	25.00-32.00	28.00-35.00	28.70	32.00	37.38	*-3.30*	*-10.31*	*-8.68*	*-23.22*
Embilipitiya	28.00-32.00	27.00-31.00	30.08	29.20	36.40	*0.88*	*3.01*	*-6.32*	*-17.36*

Source: Marketing Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

Producer Prices

A bumper harvest reached the markets in all major producing areas by the end of month and the prices of all the paddy varieties have shown a decreasing trend. The arrival of high moisture newly harvested paddy to the markets mainly from the producing areas in the Eastern and North Central provinces also caused the price decline. Government paddy purchasing programme is in progress in all major producing areas in order to stabilize the paddy market. As a result of increased guaranteed prices and the satisfactory production most of the farmers tend to sell their paddy stocks to the Paddy Marketing Board stores in all major producing areas. The paddy Marketing Board purchased short grain paddy for Rs.50.00/kg and long grain for Rs.45.00/kg as guaranteed prices. Government allocated more money to paddy procurement programme in order to increase the domestic prices. Therefore, it is expected that the prices will be stable in next month.

Prices of short grain paddy have decreased by less than 7% with the highest decline from Polonnaruwa. The average prices of long grain white have also decreased by less than 7% in Polonnaruwa, Kurunegala, Embilipitiya and Matara while the prices have increased in other considered producing areas. Meanwhile the price of long grain red has decreased by 1% in Matara, 10% in Hambantota while prices have increased by 3% in Embilipitiya. The prices of long grain white were ranged Rs.22.00-34.00/kg with the lowest price in Anuradhapura. The lowest prices were recorded for highly moisture newly harvested paddy. Compared to the same period of last year, the price of short grain has decreased by less than 8% with the highest decline from Polonnaruwa. Prices of long grain white have decreased in the range of 25%-36% with the highest decline from Dehiattakandiya. Meanwhile the prices of long grain red have decreased in the range of 17%-23% in producing areas in the Southern Province.

Rice Demand and Supply Situation

Wholesale prices

Harvesting in the 2015 *yala* season was carried out in every major rice producing areas during the whole month. Due to the constant rice supply reported from those rice producing areas, a price decrease of all the local rice varieties could be seen during first two weeks of the month. The highest price decrease of 6% was reported for raw red while the prices have decreased by 4% for nadu grade I, by 3% for nadu grade II, by 2% for raw white and slightly for samba grade I. In the third week of the month, government paddy purchasing programme has continued further and harvesting of short grain paddy varieties has not started yet. Subsequently prices of samba grade II and III have increased in the range of 2%-3%. According to the statistical data released by the Department of Customs, rice imports have reduced further and it was 2,240mt. Due to these low import stocks, the price of imported *ponni* samba has increased by 9%.

Compared to the same period of last year, prices of nadu and raw varieties have decreased by 18%-27%, while the prices of all the other rice varieties have increased by 4%-40%.

Retail Prices

In line with the wholesale prices, the price behavior was more or less depicted in the retail market too. The prices have decreased by Rs.4.00/kg for nadu grade II, by Rs.2.00/kg for raw varieties and by Rs.1.00/kg for nadu grade I. The prices of samba varieties have increased by less than Rs.1.00/kg. Also, the price of imported *ponni* samba has increased by Rs.6.00/kg. The highest price of Rs.112.00/kg was reported for imported *ponni* samba and the lowest price of Rs.57.00/kg was reported for raw white.

Referring to the retail prices of the outstation markets except Colombo, the highest price for samba varieties has been reported in Badulla, Kalutara and Kurunegala markets while the lowest price was reported in Killinochchi and Puttalam markets. The highest price for nadu rice was noted in Moneragala, Badulla, Mannar and Kalutara markets and the lowest price was noted in Puttalam, Trincomallee and Polonnaruwa markets. Also, the highest price of raw red was reported in Kegalle market and that of raw white was reported in Mannar market.

Compared to the same period of last year, prices of nadu and raw varieties have decreased by 6%-14%, while the prices of all the other rice varieties have increased by 5%-32%.

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

Item	Price Range	Average Price			Change Compared to			
	Aug 2015	Aug 2015	July 2015	Aug 2014	July 2015		Aug 2014	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Wholesale Prices								
Samba 1	86.00-94.00	89.09	89.24	85.29	*-0.15*	*-0.17*	*3.80*	*4.45*
Samba 2	78.00-86.00	82.17	80.66	78.30	*1.51*	*1.87*	*3.87*	*4.94*
Samba 3	75.00-81.00	78.25	76.00	73.85	*2.25*	*2.96*	*4.40*	*5.96*
Nadu 1	60.00-70.00	63.93	66.35	77.85	*-2.42*	*-3.65*	*-13.92*	*-17.88*
Nadu 2	52.00-64.00	59.94	61.95	73.00	*-2.02*	*-3.26*	*-13.06*	*-17.90*
Raw red	55.00-60.00	58.79	62.50	71.85	*-3.72*	*-5.95*	*-13.06*	*-18.18*
Raw white	50.00-60.00	55.25	56.58	75.63	*-1.33*	*-2.35*	*-20.38*	*-26.95*
Ponni Samba (Imported)	93.00-106.00	100.56	92.65	71.71	*7.91*	*8.53*	*28.85*	*40.23*
Raw white (imported)	-	-	-	49.24	-	-	-	-
Retail Prices								
Samba 1	92.00-110.00	97.69	97.25	93.42	*0.44*	*0.45*	*4.27*	*4.57*
Samba 2	85.00-95.00	89.04	88.66	84.09	*0.38*	*0.43*	*4.95*	*5.89*
Samba 3	80.00-89.00	84.19	83.00	77.46	*1.19*	*1.43*	*6.73*	*8.69*
Nadu 1	70.00-80.00	76.16	77.33	82.18	*-1.17*	*-1.51*	*-6.02*	*-7.33*
Nadu 2	60.00-74.00	69.01	72.69	77.39	*-3.68*	*-5.06*	*-8.38*	*-10.83*
Raw red	61.00-85.00	69.99	72.36	74.47	*-2.37*	*-3.28*	*-4.48*	*-6.02*
Raw white	57.00-75.00	67.22	68.75	77.75	*-1.53*	*-2.23*	*-10.53*	*-13.54*
Ponni Samba (Imported)	100.00-112.00	106.72	100.89	80.88	*5.83*	*5.78*	*25.84*	*31.95*
Raw white (imported)	-	-	-	77.00	-	-	-	-

Source: Marketing Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

2. Other Field Crops

2.1 Chillies

Crop situation

The target extent of green chillies of *yala* 2015 was 6,253 ha and out of that 5,065 ha (81%) had been cultivated by the end of August in Sri Lanka. Cultivation progress was satisfactory in all the major producing districts by the end of August. More than 70% of the production was harvested in most of the producing areas by the end of this month. The production forecast of chillies for the season is 26,565 mt and out of that 58% of the production could be expected from Anuradhapura (36%), Puttalam (13%) and Monaragala (9%) districts.

Table 2.1.1: Cultivation Progress of Green Chillies by the end of August 2015

Areas	Targeted Extent (ha)	Cultivation progress at the end of August 2015		Expected production (mt)
		Cultivated Extent (ha)	% of the targeted extent	
Anuradhapura	791	675	85	9,568
Puttalam	850	484	57	3,438
Monaragala	406	396	98	2,456
Hambantota	493	344	70	1,230
Matale	371	224	60	1,166
Ampara	177	234	132	604
Kandy	313	190	61	974
Other areas	2,852	2,518	88	7,129
Total	**6,253**	**5,065**	**81**	**26,565**

Source: Crop forecasting Unit, Department of Agriculture

Prices and Supply/Demand Situation

The supply of green chillies to the market had increased from main producing areas during this month. Hence, both wholesale and retail prices of green chillies had decreased significantly by about Rs.200.00/kg and Rs.243.00/kg respectively. The average wholesale and retail prices of green chillies were Rs.137.33/kg and Rs.290.02/kg respectively and retail price of green chillies is higher than that of the price of dried chillies. Compared to the same period of last year, current wholesale and retail prices of green chillies have increased by about 36% and 15% respectively.

The market consisted of only imported dried chillies. A quantity of 3,901 mt of dried chillies was imported during the month and it was a decrease of 86 mt compared to the previous month. The CIF price was Rs.206.82/kg and it was an increase of Rs.1.18/kg compared to the previous month. The wholesale price of imported dried chillies has not changed significantly during this month, while the retail price has increased by about Rs.9.00/kg. The gross margin between the CIF price and retail price of imported dried chillies was higher during this month than the previous month. Compared to the same period of last year, the current wholesale and retail prices of imported dried chillies had increased by about 23% and 22% respectively.

Table 2.1.2: Wholesale and Retail Prices of Dried Chillies and Green Chillies - August 2015

Items	Price Range	Average Price			Change Compared to			
	Aug 2015	Aug 2015	July 2015	Aug 2014	July 2015		Aug 2014	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Wholesale Price								
Green chillies	80.00-250.00	137.33	336.94	213.45	*-199.61*	*-59.24*	*-76.12*	*-35.66*
Dried chillies	235.00-245.00	238.30	238.38	193.48	*-0.08*	*-0.03*	*44.83*	*23.17*
Retail Price								
Green chillies	80.00-400.00	290.02	533.43	340.76	*-243.41*	*-45.63*	*-50.74*	*-14.89*
Dried chillies	260.00-320.00	284.48	275.90	232.85	*8.58*	*3.11*	*51.63*	*22.17*

Source: Marketing, Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

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

Month	Quantity (mt)	Value (Rs.mn.)	CIF Price (Rs/kg)	Retail Price (Rs/kg)	Gross Margin (Rs/kg)
Aug	3,900.58	806.71	206.82	284.48	77.66
July	3,986.71	819.85	205.64	275.90	70.26
June	2,923.47	593.87	203.14	272.61	69.47
May	4,082.94	754.08	184.69	258.15	73.46
Apr	3,215.57	584.85	181.88	258.81	76.93
Mar	6,478.41	1,179.43	182.06	266.95	84.89

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

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

Location	1st week	2nd week	3rd week	4th week
Dambulla	191.00	100.00	100.00	86.40
Hambantota	210.00	200.00	200.00	145.00
Embilipitiya	272.00	221.00	221.00	112.00
Puttalam	0.00	0.00	102.00	56.00

Source: Marketing, Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

2.2 Big Onion and Red Onion

Crop Situation

In the Matale district about 1,779.5 ha had been cultivated representing 51% of the total targeted extent by the end of August 2015. However, no cultivation took place during this month in Matale district. Around 5,140 mt of big onion was supplied to the market during this month representing 14% of the total expected production of Matale district, while another 14,061 mt will be expected during the next month (September). However, peak harvesting will take place during the month of October (16,389 mt) due to cultivation delay at the beginning of the season.

The cultivation progress of big onion in Anuradhapura district and system H_1 was at a satisfactory level and 1,499 ha and 1,081 ha have been cultivated respectively by the end of August. Total big onion production for *yala* 2015 was estimated at nearly 81,644 mt and out of that 90% was supplied from Matale (44%), Anuradhapura (30%) and system H_1 (16%).

Table 2.2.1: Cultivation Progress of Big Onion at the end of August 2015

Areas	Targeted Extent (ha)	Cultivation progress at the end of August 2015		Expected production (mt)
		Cultivated Extent (ha)	% of the target	
Matale	3,500	1,779.5	51	35,590
Anuradhapura	2,395	1,499	63	24,148
System H_1	1,500	1,081	72	12,787
System H	450	328	73	3,880
Other areas	1,352	413.5	31	5,239
Total	**9,197**	**5,101**	**55**	**81,644**

In Jaffna around 1,647 ha which represent 82% of the targeted area under red onion had been cultivated at the end of August. About 1,100 ha were targeted for red onion cultivation in the Puttalam district and out of that 607 ha had been cultivated by the end of this month which represent about 55% of the targeted extent. The production forecast of red onion for this *yala* season is 43,638 mt and out of that 49% (21,203 mt) is expected from Jaffna and 19% (8,184 mt) from Puttalam district.

Table 2.2.2: Cultivation progress of Red Onion at the end of August 2015

Areas	Target Extent (ha)	Cultivation Progress at the end of August 2015		Expected Production (mt)
		Extent (ha)	% of the target	
Jaffna	2,000	1,647	82	21,203
Puttalam	1,100	607	55	8,184
Trincomalee	244	130	53	1,824
Vavuniya	490	305	62	3,836
Mullaitivu	430	196	46	2,157
Monaragala	280	246	88	2,255
Other areas	931	541	58	4,179
Total	**5,475**	**3,672**	**67**	**43,638**

Prices and Supply/Demand Situation

The market supply of big onion consisted of both imported and local big onion varieties during this month. Limited stocks of local big onion started to reach the market from 3rd week of the previous month (July). The stocks were pre mature and the supply had increased continuously during this month. According to the field information, about 5,140 mt of big onion had arrived to the market from Matale district this month. This represents 14% of the total expected production of the district. A quantity of 11,727 mt of big onion was imported from India (2,278 mt – 19%), Pakistan (9,332 mt – 80%) and China (117 mt – 1%) in August 2015 and it was a decrease of 7,803 mt compared to last month. Average CIF price was Rs.48.58/kg and it was a decrease of Rs.7.51/kg compared to the last month.

Both wholesale and retail prices of imported big onion had increased by about Rs.25.00/kg and Rs.22.00/kg due to limited imports. Wholesale price of local big onion had also increased by about Rs.10.00/kg due to its good quality. Stocks of local big onion were available in the retail market with the price range of Rs.100.00-180.00/kg. According to the field information, about 14,061 mt of big onion will arrive at the market from the Matale district during next month (September). This represents 40% of the total expected production of the district and thereby a price drop of local big onion could be experience during next month onwards. The gross margin between the CIF and wholesale price of imported big onion was higher than that of the previous month's margin as well as the margin between the wholesale price and the retail price during this month.

The higher supply of both sinnan and vedalan continued during this month too, from Jaffna, Puttalam and Trincomalee areas. Hence, wholesale prices of both sinnan and vedalan had decreased by about Rs.39.00/kg and Rs.51.00/kg respectively. In line with the wholesale prices, retail prices of vedalan had decreased by about Rs.43.00/kg and stocks of sinnan were not available at the retail markets.

A quantity of 396 mt of red onion was imported from India in August 2015, and it was a decrease of 451 mt compared to the previous month. Average CIF price was Rs.74.20/kg and it is lower than the last month by Rs.31.18/kg. However, both wholesale and retail prices of imported red onions had decreased by about Rs.45.00/kg and Rs.24.00/kg respectively due to higher availability of local red onions at the market.

Compared to the same period of last year, current prices of vedalan and imported red onion had increased by about 21% and 38% respectively.

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

Crop	Price Range	Average			Change Compared to			
	Aug 2015	Aug 2015	July 2015	Aug 2014	July 2015		Aug 2014	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Wholesale Prices								
Red Onion (Sinnan)	45.00-85.00	67.79	106.94	42.95	*-39.16*	*-36.61*	*24.84*	*57.84*
Red Onion (Vedalan)	65.00-110.00	85.41	136.20	64.06	*-50.79*	*-37.29*	*21.35*	*33.32*
Red Onion (Imported)	60.00-90.00	79.35	123.88	55.07	*-44.52*	*-35.94*	*24.28*	*44.10*
Big Onion (imported)	65.00-130.00	95.57	70.99	76.48	*24.57*	*34.62*	*19.09*	*24.96*
Big Onion (Local)	80.00-125.00	96.02	85.87	78.80	*10.15*	*11.82*	*17.22*	*21.85*
Retail Prices								
Red Onion (Sinnan)	-	-	-	86.25	-	-	-	-
Red Onion (Vedalan)	100.00-180.00	133.51	176.85	109.97	*-43.34*	*-24.51*	*23.54*	*21.41*
Red Onion (Imported)	80.00-160.00	123.22	147.29	89.52	*-24.07*	*-16.34*	*33.70*	*37.65*
Big Onion (imported)	80.00-160.00	120.90	98.64	98.70	*22.26*	*22.57*	*22.20*	*22.49*
Big Onion (Local)	100.00-180.00	131.16	-	111.70	-	-	*19.46*	*17.42*

Source: Marketing, Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

Table 2.2.4: Monthly Average CIF, Wholesale and Retail Prices of Imported Onion

Crop	Month	CIF Price (Rs/kg)	Wholesale Price (Rs/kg)	Retail Price (Rs/kg)	Margin (Rs/kg)	
					WP-CIF	RP-WP
Big onion	Aug,2015	48.58	95.57	120.90	*46.98*	*25.33*
	July,2015	56.09	70.99	98.64	*14.90*	*27.65*
	Aug,2014	46.75	76.48	98.70	*29.73*	*22.22*
Red onion	Aug,2015	74.20	79.35	123.22	*5.16*	*43.87*
	July,2015	105.38	123.88	147.29	*18.49*	*23.42*
	Aug,2014	49.47	55.07	89.52	*5.60*	*34.45*

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)	
	Aug 2015	July 2015	Aug 2015	July 2015	Aug 2015	July 2015
Red Onion	396.50	847.18	29.42	89.28	74.20	105.38
Big Onion	11726.68	19530.12	569.72	1095.39	48.58	56.09

Source: Department of Custom

Table 2.2.6: Quantity Imported, CIF Price, Wholesale and Retail Price of Big Onion - March to August 2015

Month	Quantity Imported (mt)	CIF Price (Rs/kg)	Wholesale Price (Rs/kg)	Retail Price (Rs/kg)	Gross Margin (RP-CIF) (Rs/kg)
Aug	11726.68	48.58	95.57	120.90	72.32
July	19530.12	56.09	70.99	98.64	42.55
June	22393.78	52.59	82.29	108.39	55.80
May	22288.23	45.53	91.21	115.99	70.46
Apr	17614.60	44.27	62.85	89.56	45.29
Mar	22313.71	45.33	61.69	85.73	40.40

Source: Department of Customs

2.3 Potato

Crop Situation and Progress

The targeted extent of potato for *yala* 2015 is 3,076 ha and by the end of August about 2,632 ha were cultivated achieving 86% of the total targeted extent. During the month, about 784 ha of potatoes were cultivated in the country which was lower compared to the extent cultivated in July. According to the cultivated extent up to end of this month, the expected production of potato for this *yala* season is 41,882 mt. Compared to the same period of *yala* 2014, the total cultivated extent of potato was at a high level by the end of August of this *yala* season.

In the Nuwara Eliya district, about 600 ha of potato was cultivated by the end of this month achieving 70% of the targeted extent. In August only few extents of potatoes were cultivated in the district due to prevailed bad weather condition.

In the Badulla district, the targeted extent is 2,214 ha for this *yala* season and about 1,898 ha were cultivated by the end of this month achieving 86% of the targeted extent. During the month, about 634 ha of potato were cultivated in the district. Compared to the same period of *yala* 2014, the cultivated extent is at a high level in *yala* 2015 in the district due to favourable weather condition. The *yala* harvesting of potato commenced in mid-August.

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	608	600	70	12,215
Badulla	2,198	2,214	1,799	1,898	86	29,667
Sri Lanka	**3,098**	**3,076**	**2,407**	**2,632**	**86**	**41,882**

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

Prices and Supply/Demand Situation

A quantity of 11,141 mt of potato had been imported in August which was 5,864 mt lower than that was imported during the previous month as the Special Commodity Levy for imported potato has been increased up to Rs.40.00/kg with effect from 08/09/2015. Imported stocks were received from Pakistan, India and China. About 43% of the imported stocks were received from India during this month. Compared to August, 2014 (14,261 mt), the imports were low during this month. Average CIF price was Rs.36.87/kg in August.

With regard to local potato, the *yala* harvesting of potato commenced in mid-August in the Badulla district and sufficient stocks of both Welimada and Nuwara Eliya potatoes were available in the market. Wholesale and retail prices of Nuwara Eliya potato have decreased by 10% and 9% respectively. On average, the producer price of Nuwara Eliya potato was Rs.95.00/kg in August. Meanwhile, the wholesale and retail prices of imported potato have increased by 2% and 3% respectively due to low stock position. During the month, the wholesale prices of Welimada, Nuwara Eliya and imported potatoes ranged between Rs.80.00-110.00/kg, Rs.90.00-120.00/kg and Rs.60.00-90.00/kg respectively. Compared to the same period of last year, the current retail prices of Welimada (5%) and imported potatoes (22%) have increased.

Table 2.3.2: Quantity, Value and CIF prices of Imported Potatoes - March to August 2015

Month	Quantity (mt.)	Value (Rs.mn)	CIF price (Rs/kg)	Retail Price (Rs/kg)	Gross Margin (Rs/kg)
Aug	11141.20	410.81	36.87	103.14	*66.27*
July	17005.16	628.57	36.96	100.13	*63.17*
June	11972.16	369.73	30.88	110.13	*79.25*
May	5965.66	132.55	22.22	108.23	*86.01*
Apr	12471.59	302.80	24.28	90.97	*66.69*
Mar	8118.18	231.96	28.57	92.29	*63.72*

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

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

Items	Price Range	Average			Change Compared to			
	Aug 2015	Aug 2015	July 2015	Aug 2014	July 2015		Aug 2014	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Producer Prices (PP)								
Welimada	-	-	-	82.50	-	-	-	-
Nuwara Eliya	78.00-103.00	95.95	104.15	87.65	*-8.20*	*-7.87*	*8.30*	*9.47*
Imported – CIF	25.79-46.71	36.87	36.96	36.14	*-0.09*	*-0.24*	*0.73*	*2.02*
Wholesale Prices (WP)								
Welimada	80.00-110.00	99.61	-	89.46	-	-	*10.15*	*11.34*
Nuwara Eliya	90.00-120.00	109.35	119.31	106.89	*-9.96*	*-8.35*	*2.47*	*2.31*
Imported	60.00-90.00	75.37	72.96	50.23	*2.40*	*3.29*	*25.14*	*50.04*
Retail Prices (RP)								
Welimada	100.00-140.00	124.05	-	118.52	-	-	*5.53*	*4.67*
Nuwara Eliya	120.00-180.00	147.47	156.77	147.11	*-9.30*	*-5.93*	*0.36*	*0.24*
Imported	80.00-140.00	103.14	100.13	84.16	*3.01*	*3.01*	*18.98*	*22.55*
Gross Margin (RP-PP)								
Welimada		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nuwara Eliya		51.52	52.62	59.46	*-1.10*	*-2.09*	*-7.94*	*-13.35*
Imported (CIF-RP)		66.27	63.17	48.02	*3.10*	*4.91*	*18.25*	*38.00*
Gross Margin (RP -WP)								
Welimada		24.44	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nuwara Eliya		38.12	37.46	40.22	*0.66*	*1.76*	*-2.11*	*-5.24*
Imported		27.77	27.17	33.93	*0.61*	*2.24*	*-6.16*	*-18.14*

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 10,710 ha and out of which about 7,042 ha were cultivated by the end of August representing 37% of the total targeted extent. Compared to the same period of *yala* 2014, the cultivated extent by the end of August, *yala* 2015 is low due to increased extent of paddy in most of the producing areas with favourable weather condition. According to the cultivated extent up to now, the expected production of green gram is 9,987 mt for this *yala* season. In the Hambantota district, the targeted extent is 3,537 ha for this *yala* season and only 1,309 ha was cultivated by the end of this month. In Kurunegala and Monaragala districts, the targeted extents were 1,250 ha and 880 ha respectively and about 1,025 ha and 945 ha were cultivated by the end of August achieving 82% and 107% of the targeted extents. Compared to the same period of *yala* 2014, the cultivated extents were low in Hambantota district, while it was high in Kurunegala and Monaragala districts during this *yala* season.

The targeted extent of cowpea was 8,414 ha for *yala* 2015 and about 4,508 ha was cultivated by the end of August achieving 54% of the targeted extent. The highest targeted extent of 3,584 ha was recorded in the Ampara district for this *yala* season and about 2,310 ha was cultivated by the end of this month achieving 64% of the targeted extent. In Kurunegala and Monaragala districts, the targeted extents were 1,250 ha and 584 ha respectively and about 335 ha and 573 ha were cultivated by the end of this month achieving 27% and 98% 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 due to increased cultivation of paddy 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 gram	Hambantota	4,690	3,537	4,835	1,309	37	1,873
	Kurunegala	720	1,250	924	1,025	82	772
	Monaragala	618	880	553	945	107	1,212
	Sri Lanka	**12,556**	**10,710**	**10,768**	**7,042**	**66**	**9,987**
Cowpea	Ampara	4,222	3,584	3,216	2,310	64	3,920
	Kurunegala	814	1,250	420	335	27	235
	Monaragala	709	584	775	573	98	611
	Sri Lanka	**8,542**	**8,414**	**6,414**	**4,508**	**54**	**6,305**

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

Prices and Supply Demand Situation

A quantity of 777 mt of green gram was imported in August and it was 729 mt lower than the quantity imported in July. The average CIF price was Rs.170.00/kg in August. About 90% of the imports were received from Australia. In addition to that, few stocks were received from Argentina and Myanmar. Compared to August, 2014 (294 mt), the imported quantity of green gram was higher during this month. Wholesale price of green gram has decreased by 1% and the retail price was stable during this month. Sufficient stocks of imported green gram were available in the market. During the month, the wholesale price of green gram ranged between Rs.150.00-190.00/kg. Compared to the same period of last year, the current retail price of green gram had decreased by 25%.

A quantity of 263 mt of cowpea was imported in August and about 57% of that was received from Brazil. The average CIF price was Rs.101.00/kg. Wholesale and retail prices of white cowpea have increased by 8% and 4% respectively. Also, the wholesale and retail prices of red cowpea have increased by 16% and 7% respectively. During the month, the wholesale prices of white and red cowpea ranged between Rs.160.00-235.00/kg and Rs.200.00-225.00/kg respectively. Imported stocks fetched high price. Compared to the same period of last year, the current retail prices of white cowpea (10%) and red cowpea (18%) have increased.

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

Month	Quantity (mt)	Value (Rs.mn)	CIF price (Rs/kg)	Retail Price (Rs/kg)	Gross Margin (Rs/kg)
Aug	777	132.59	170.54	239.69	69.15
July	1,506	266.09	176.63	239.67	63.04
June	1,551	264.00	170.21	249.99	79.78
May	697	122.00	175.04	258.41	83.37
Apr	1,497	268.00	179.02	268.51	89.49
Mar	1,817	316.00	173.91	272.89	98.98

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

Table 2.4.3: Quantity, Value and CIF prices of Imported Cowpea July to August 2015

Month	Quantity (mt)	Value (Rs.mn)	CIF price (Rs/kg)	Retail Price (Rs/kg)	Gross Margin (Rs/kg)
August	262.74	26.58	101.15	255.63	154.48
July	214.00	25.36	118.52	245.32	126.80

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

Table 2.4.4: Wholesale and Retail Prices of Green gram and Cowpea- August 2015

Items	Price Range	Average			Change Compared to			
	Aug 2015	Aug 2015	July 2015	Aug 2014	July 2015		Aug 2014	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Wholesale Prices								
Green gram	150.00-190.00	178.56	181.22	269.06	-2.66	-1.47	-90.50	-33.64
Cowpea (White)	160.00-235.00	213.39	196.75	182.58	16.63	8.45	30.81	16.88
Cowpea (Red)	200.00-225.00	228.30	196.73	143.76	31.58	16.05	84.54	58.80
Retail Prices								
Green gram	200.00-280.00	239.69	239.67	319.33	0.02	0.01	-79.64	-24.94
Cowpea (White)	200.00-320.00	255.63	245.32	232.54	10.31	4.20	23.09	9.93
Cowpea (Red)	220.00-300.00	258.20	241.59	217.86	16.61	6.88	40.34	18.52

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	Aug.2015	170.54	178.56	239.69	8.02	61.13
	July.2015	176.63	181.22	239.67	4.59	58.45
	Aug.2014	172.66	269.06	319.33	96.40	50.27
Cowpea (White)	Aug.2015	101.15	213.39	255.63	112.23	42.24
	July.2015	118.52	196.75	245.32	78.23	48.57
	Aug.2014	-	182.58	232.54	-	49.97
Cowpea (Red)	Aug.2015	-	228.30	258.20	-	29.90
	July.2015	-	196.73	241.59	-	44.87
	Aug.2014	-	143.76	217.86	-	74.10

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

2.5 Red dhal

Prices and Supply/Demand Situation

A quantity of 15,090 mt (11,382 mt of whole type and 3,708 mt of split type) of red dhal was imported in August and it was 4,232 mt higher than the quantity imported in July. About 65% and 34% of the stocks of whole type had been received from Canada and Australia, while 76% of split type had been received from Canada. Compared to August, 2014 (11,461 mt), the imports of red dhal were high during this month.

Wholesale and retail prices of red dhal have increased by 3% and 1% respectively. The average wholesale price was Rs.175.00/kg in August. Compared to the same period of last year, the current retail price of red dhal has increased by 14%.

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

Red Dhal	Price Range	Average			Change Compared to			
	Aug 2015	Aug 2015	July 2015	Aug 2014	July 2015		Aug 2014	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Wholesale Price	165.00-186.00	174.73	169.28	153.81	5.46	3.22	20.92	13.60
Retail Price	170.00-220.00	190.96	188.24	167.24	2.72	1.44	23.72	14.18

Source: Marketing Food Policy & Agribusiness Division

Table 2.5.2: The CIF, Wholesale and Retail Prices of Red Dhal - March to August 2015

Month	Quantity (mt)	CIF Price Rs/kg	Wholesale price Rs/kg	Retail price Rs/kg	Gross Margin (Rs/kg)	
					CIF-WP	WP-RP
Aug	15091	133.07	174.73	190.96	41.66	16.23
July	10858	131.45	169.28	188.24	37.83	18.96
June	13169	129.29	177.47	193.97	48.18	16.50
May	10191	120.63	184.48	196.02	63.85	11.55
Apr	13848	122.90	165.69	176.96	42.79	11.27
Mar	17519	119.23	159.87	177.11	40.64	17.24

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

3. Vegetables

Crop Situation

With the reaching of peak y*ala* harvesting season, supply has started to show an increasing trend from all the upcountry major producing areas. In Matale district, set target for y*ala* season is 4,363 ha of which 2,008 ha was completed by the end of August. The cultivation progress in the district was 46% of the seasonal target by the end of August. Regarding Badulla district, the reported cultivation progress for upcountry varieties at the end of August was 74% of the seasonal target. In Nuwara Eliya district, set target for upcountry varieties in the y*ala* season is 5,433 ha of which 4,306 ha was completed by the end of August, recording an achievement of 79% of the seasonal target. Further, crop establishment for y*ala* 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 major vegetables in the district was 87% at the end of August. In Ratnapura district, beans cultivation has recorded 87% progress of the seasonal target, by the end of August.

Crop establishment has continued well, in all the lowcountry major producing areas of low country districts with the received rainfall at the beginning of the cultivation season. Even though many districts experienced dry weather during August, water availability for agriculture was at satisfactory level. In Ratnapura district, the set target for lowcountry varieties in the y*ala* season is 1,400 ha of which extent cultivated by the end of August was 1,050 ha. In the meantime, vegetable cultivation has progressed well in Puttalam district reporting the highest cultivation extent for long beans as 405 ha followed by beetroot as 200 ha. In Hambantota district, reported lowcountry vegetable cultivation extent was 3,091 ha, marking a 143% higher cultivation progress compared to the same period of the last year.

Prices and supply/Demand situation

With the reaching of *yala* peak harvesting season for vegetables, high supplies have reached the market from all the major producing areas of upcountry vegetables such as Nuwara Eliya, Badulla, Welimada, Kandy, Matale Ratnapura and Puttalam in August. The total supply of vegetables in the Matale district was around 11,712 mt in August, which recorded a 54 %

compared to previous month. The highest supply from the district was recorded for tomato, brinjal and sweet potato as 1,000 mt for each, within the month of August. The daily supply of vegetables at the Dambulla Dedicated Economic Centre was around 2,000-2,200 mt in August, recoding a 33% increase compared to last month.

Considering upcountry vegetables, prices of all the vegetable varieties, except cabbage have decreased in August, compared to previous month, due to increasing trend in market supplies. The highest price decrease was reported for beetroot as 47% followed by beans as 37% and leeks as 35%. Prices of all the other upcountry varieties, except cabbage have decreased in the range of 27% - 31%, due to high supplies. High stocks of beetroot and beans reaching the market from both up and lowcountry producing areas alike, caused a considerable price decreases in August. Rainy weather that prevailed throughout the growing season has increased the water availability for agricultural purposes and raised the extent cultivated in upcountry areas considerably. Due to continuous supply, prices remained low throughout the considered month. As high supplies of leeks have reached the market from Nuwara Eliya during the peak harvesting season, prices have decreased by 35% compared to previous month. However, if the rainy weather intensified, harvesting season would be shorter than expected and prices would show an increasing trend in September.

As the harvesting of tomato continued up to the first week of June, in the cultivation that had been established in the previous season, re-planting of tomato was delayed in current *yala* season. As a result of delayed plantation, prices had gone up to Rs.89.00/kg in July. With the reaching of *yala* harvesting season, supply of tomato had increased in last two weeks of August, hence prices have decreased considerably, by 48% compared to previous month. Along with tomato, prices of capsicum have also increased by 50% in August.

The supply of most of the domestic vegetables has also increased in the peak harvesting season and thereby prices have decreased for most of the varieties except for brinjal, pumpkin and drumsticks. The highest prices decrease was recorded for ladies fingers as 43% followed by luffa as 37% and long beans as 36%. Prices of other varieties except brinjal, pumpkin and drumsticks have decreased in a range of 5% -11%, due to high supplies. As major low country producing such as Hambantota has recorded a 100% crop progress compared to same period of the last year, continuous supply has reached the market thorough the month.

With the ending of *maha* supply of pumpkin, supply has reduced hence prices have moved up to Rs.28.00/kg in July. Due to delayed planting in *yala* season, supplies has not yet reached the market, hence prices have increased by 34% compared to previous month.

Regarding lime, a price increase of 37% was experienced in August, compared to previous month, due to decreased supply from Ampara. Meanwhile, prices of green chilies have started to show a decreasing trend in September by 59% due to increased supply from Puttalam.

In line with the wholesale prices, retail prices of most of the vegetables had decreased in August. The highest price decrease was reported for capsicum as 34% followed by 31% for beetroot.

Table 3.1: Wholesale Prices of Vegetables – August 2015

Items	Price Range	Average			Change Compared to			
	Aug 2015	Aug 2015	July 2015	Aug 2014	July 2015		Aug 2014	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Beans (green)	60.00-100.00	84.63	134.98	69.32	*-50.35*	*-37.30*	*15.31*	*22.09*
Carrot	70.00-100.00	86.82	123.34	56.33	*-36.52*	*-29.61*	*30.49*	*54.13*
Leeks	30.00-60.00	45.47	70.29	37.13	*-24.82*	*-35.31*	*8.34*	*22.46*
Beetroot	20.00-80.00	48.33	90.70	56.59	*-42.37*	*-46.71*	*-8.26*	*-14.60*
Knokhol	30.00-60.00	43.74	60.47	25.99	*-16.73*	*-27.67*	*17.75*	*68.30*
Radish	15.00-35.00	25.03	36.22	16.93	*-11.19*	*-30.89*	*8.10*	*47.84*
Cabbage	25.00-60.00	41.46	33.54	64.25	*7.92*	*23.61*	*-22.79*	*-35.47*
Tomato	30.00-*80.00	45.98	89.04	45.39	*-43.06*	*-48.36*	*0.59*	*1.30*
Ladies Fingers	10.00-50.00	29.53	51.68	20.75	*-22.15*	*-42.86*	*8.78*	*42.31*
Brinjal	30.00-60.00	44.41	34.55	34.65	*9.86*	*28.54*	*9.76*	*28.17*
Capsicum	60.00-130.00	92.10	184.49	99.25	*-92.39*	*-50.08*	*-7.15*	*-7.20*
Pumpkin	30.00-50.00	38.44	28.66	28.07	*9.78*	*34.12*	*10.37*	*36.94*
Cucumber	10.00-40.00	21.80	25.42	12.68	*-3.62*	*-14.24*	*9.12*	*71.92*
Bittergourd	40.00-100.00	78.75	108.03	37.00	*-29.28*	*-27.10*	*41.75*	*112.84*
Snakegourd	30.00-60.00	42.55	50.44	34.50	*-7.89*	*-15.64*	*8.05*	*23.33*
Drumstick	60.00-100.00	77.33	52.61	28.18	*24.72*	*46.99*	*49.15*	*174.41*
Luffa	30.00-70.00	48.31	77.27	30.24	*-28.96*	*-37.48*	*18.07*	*59.76*
Long Beans	40.00-70.00	50.82	79.23	42.84	*-28.41*	*-35.86*	*7.98*	*18.63*
Ash Plantain	40.00-60.00	53.40	56.30	47.77	*-2.90*	*-5.15*	*5.63*	*11.79*
Green Chillies	80.00-250.00	137.33	336.94	213.45	*-199.61*	*-59.24*	*-76.12*	*-35.66*
Lime	70.00-200.00	103.37	75.43	88.61	*27.94*	*37.04*	*14.76*	*16.66*

Source: Marketing, Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

Table 3.2: Retail Prices of Vegetables – August 2015

Items	Price Range	Average			Change Compared to			
	Aug 2015	Aug 2015	July 2015	Aug 2014	July 2015		Aug 2014	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Beans (green)	100.00-200.00	145.31	194.90	117.58	*-49.59*	*-25.44*	*27.73*	*23.58*
Carrot	100.00-240.00	158.30	201.26	109.05	*-42.96*	*-21.35*	*49.25*	*45.16*
Leeks	60.00-240.00	113.86	152.24	89.32	*-38.38*	*-25.21*	*24.54*	*27.47*
Beetroot	60.00-180.00	107.01	155.01	107.60	*-48.00*	*-30.97*	*-0.59*	*-0.55*
Knolkhol	60.00-160.00	123.08	138.02	92.91	*-14.94*	*-10.82*	*30.17*	*32.47*
Radish	50.00-160.00	91.18	106.51	75.38	*-15.33*	*-14.39*	*15.80*	*20.96*
Cabbage	60.00-160.00	102.25	107.13	121.50	*-4.88*	*-4.56*	*-19.25*	*-15.84*
Tomato	60.00-160.00	107.93	153.60	101.62	*-45.67*	*-29.73*	*6.31*	*6.21*
Ladies Fingers	60.00-200.00	95.58	114.08	85.10	*-18.50*	*-16.22*	*10.48*	*12.31*
Brinjal	60.00-160.00	102.40	97.20	95.42	*5.20*	*5.35*	*6.98*	*7.32*
Capsicum	70.00-250.00	171.63	260.46	153.58	*-88.83*	*-34.11*	*18.05*	*11.75*
Pumpkin	50.00-300.00	86.39	76.00	78.10	*10.39*	*13.67*	*8.29*	*10.61*
Cucumber	40.00-160.00	75.71	77.35	67.05	*-1.64*	*-2.12*	*8.66*	*12.92*
Bitter Gourd	40.00-200.00	132.88	160.63	116.00	*-27.75*	*-17.28*	*16.88*	*14.55*
Snake Gourd	60.00-200.00	103.55	117.16	92.29	*-13.61*	*-11.62*	*11.26*	*12.20*
Drumstick	70.00-300.00	143.97	137.15	95.04	*6.82*	*4.97*	*48.93*	*51.48*
Luffa	70.00-240.00	124.66	142.74	98.12	*-18.08*	*-12.67*	*26.54*	*27.05*
Long Beans	70.00-200.00	128.17	158.27	101.31	*-30.10*	*-19.02*	*26.86*	*26.51*
Ash Plantain	70.00-200.00	115.63	120.55	107.82	*-4.92*	*-4.08*	*7.81*	*7.24*
Green Chillies	80.00-400.00	290.02	533.43	340.76	*-243.41*	*-45.63*	*-50.74*	*-14.89*
Lime	120.00-400.00	249.61	213.12	218.41	*36.49*	*17.12*	*31.20*	*14.29*

Source: Marketing, Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HART

4. Fruits

Prices and Supply/Demand Situation

Supplies of most of the fruits had decreased during the month compared to previous month. Hence, the wholesale prices of most of the fruits had increased with the highest price increase of 63% for slimeapple due to limited supplies with the off season. The wholesale prices of all the varieties of mango had increased in the range of 14%-61%. Price increases for mango and slimeapple could be expected by the next month too at the end of the major harvesting season. Further, the wholesale prices of all the varieties of banana had increased in the range of 2%-18% due to limited supplies with the dry weather condition.

Meanwhile, the highest wholesale price decrease of 49% was recorded for woodapple due to increased supply with the commencement of the harvesting season. The prices of orange and avocado had decreased by 15%.

Compared to the same period of last year, wholesale prices of most of the fruits had increased with the highest price increase of 184% for mango (vilad).

According to the Table:4.2, retail prices of most of the fruits had increased with the highest price increase of 41% for mango (karthakolomban). The prices of all the other varieties of mango (betti, vilad) had increased in the range of 28%-37% due to low supplies with the end of the harvesting season. Price increase for mango could be expected during the next month too. The retail prices of all the varieties of banana had increased in the range of 4%-17% due to low supply. Further, the retail prices of all the sizes of pineapple had increased in the range of 9%-15%.

Meanwhile, the retail prices of woodapple had decreased by 31% due to increased supplies with the commencement of the harvesting season. The retail prices of papaw, avocado and passionfruit had decreased in the range of 5%-12% due to increased supply.

Compared to the same period of last year, retail prices of most of the fruits had increased with the highest price increase of 67% for mango (vilad).

According to the Table:4.3, producer prices of banana (ambul) had increased significantly by 13% compared to previous month. The producer price of papaw had decreased by 27%. Compared to the same period of last year, producer prices of all the selected fruits except pineapple had increased with the highest price increase of 65% for banana (kolikuttu).

Exports/Imports of Fruits

Papaw was the most exported fruit in August with the quantity of 350 mt. The total income of exporting pineapple, papaw, mango, orange and avocado was Rs.46.49mn in August.

Apple was the most imported type of fruit in August as usual. A total quantity of 787 mt of apple was imported. The value of imports was Rs.98.95mn. Out of the total imports, 47% were imported from the United States, 37% from China and the rest from South Africa, Canada and New Zealand. The total import expenditure of importing apple, grapes, orange and mandarin was Rs.311.67mn in August.

Table 4.1: Wholesale Prices of Fruits – August 2015

Items	Price Range	Average			Change Compared to			
	Aug 2015	Aug 2015	July 2015	Aug 2014	July 2015		Aug 2014	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Plantain								
Ambul (Rs/kg)	30.00-80.00	50.81	42.88	52.25	*7.93*	*18.49*	*-1.44*	*-2.76*
Kolikuttu (Rs/kg)	110.00-160.00	140.87	132.51	94.35	*8.36*	*6.31*	*46.52*	*49.31*
Seeni (Rs/kg)	35.00-60.00	47.84	45.10	43.65	*2.74*	*6.08*	*4.19*	*9.60*
Anamalu	6.00-12.00	8.88	8.07	8.22	*0.81*	*10.04*	*0.66*	*8.03*
Ambun	8.00-15.00	12.72	12.53	11.45	*0.19*	*1.52*	*1.27*	*11.09*
Pineapple								
Large	130.00-180.00	156.60	146.16	147.88	*10.44*	*7.14*	*8.72*	*5.90*
Medium	100.00-150.00	129.50	119.07	127.24	*10.43*	*8.76*	*2.26*	*1.78*
Small	80.00-120.00	104.09	94.22	105.86	*9.87*	*10.48*	*-1.77*	*-1.67*
Mango								
Betti	40.00-40.00	40.00	26.06	20.24	*13.94*	*53.49*	*19.76*	*97.63*
Karthakolomban	110.00-200.00	153.51	106.27	74.08	*47.24*	*44.45*	*79.43*	*107.22*
Vilad	46.00-80.00	60.57	37.72	21.34	*22.85*	*60.58*	*39.23*	*183.83*
Kohu	15.00-25.00	18.33	16.11	14.32	*2.22*	*13.78*	*4.01*	*28.00*
Papaw (Rs/kg)	50.00-120.00	76.72	79.66	91.36	*-2.94*	*-3.69*	*-14.64*	*-16.02*
Passionfruit	6.00-10.83	8.71	8.63	8.63	*0.08*	*0.93*	*0.08*	*0.93*
Woodapple	15.00-40.00	22.37	43.68	18.48	*-21.31*	*-48.79*	*3.89*	*21.05*
Orange	15.00-30.00	20.60	24.21	26.95	*-3.61*	*-14.91*	*-6.35*	*-23.56*
Avocado	15.00-30.00	21.68	25.38	22.96	*-3.70*	*-14.58*	*-1.28*	*-5.57*
Slime Apple	20.00-100.00	50.91	31.30	21.59	*19.61*	*62.65*	*29.32*	*135.80*
Grapes Imported (Rs/kg)	370.00-600.00	489.46	480.16	482.11	*9.30*	*1.94*	*7.35*	*1.52*

Source: Marketing, Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

Table 4.2: Retail Prices of Fruits – August 2015

Items	Price Range	Average			Change Compared to			
	Aug 2015	Aug 2015	July 2015	Aug 2014	July 2015		Aug 2014	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Plantain								
Ambul (Rs/kg)	70.00-100.00	83.73	76.70	77.33	*7.03*	*9.17*	*6.40*	*8.28*
Kolikuttu (Rs/kg)	150.00-220.00	182.40	170.10	134.30	*12.30*	*7.23*	*48.10*	*35.82*
Seeni (Rs/kg)	70.00-100.00	80.31	77.26	74.47	*3.05*	*3.95*	*5.84*	*7.84*
Anamalu	10.00-25.00	17.46	14.92	13.93	*2.54*	*17.02*	*3.53*	*25.34*
Ambun	12.00-25.00	18.45	17.68	15.08	*0.77*	*4.36*	*3.37*	*22.35*
Pineapple								
Large	160.00-230.00	192.59	173.23	187.00	*19.36*	*11.18*	*5.59*	*2.99*
Medium	130.00-180.00	152.22	131.86	153.71	*20.36*	*15.44*	*-1.49*	*-0.97*
Small	100.00-140.00	110.84	102.09	122.53	*8.75*	*8.57*	*-11.69*	*-9.54*
Mango								
Betti	50.00-80.00	56.67	44.26	40.89	*12.41*	*28.04*	*15.78*	*38.59*
Karthakolomban	150.00-300.00	210.93	149.31	136.84	*61.62*	*41.27*	*74.09*	*54.14*
Vilad	50.00-150.00	86.90	63.49	52.11	*23.41*	*36.87*	*34.79*	*66.76*
Kohu	-	-	-	26.20	-	-	-	-
Papaw (Rs/kg)	80.00-180.00	118.37	134.90	125.30	*-16.53*	*-12.25*	*-6.93*	*-5.53*
Passionfruit	10.00-20.00	14.89	15.67	15.49	*-0.78*	*-4.98*	*-0.60*	*-3.87*
Woodapple	30.00-80.00	48.83	70.30	39.96	*-21.47*	*-30.54*	*8.87*	*22.20*
Orange	30.00-60.00	43.05	46.28	49.04	*-3.23*	*-6.98*	*-5.99*	*-12.21*
Avocado	25.00-80.00	47.85	54.29	47.74	*-6.44*	*-11.86*	*0.11*	*0.23*
Slime Apple	40.00-150.00	70.49	56.25	45.28	*14.24*	*25.32*	*25.21*	*55.68*
Grapes Imported (Rs/kg)	700.00-900.00	773.34	766.13	746.54	*7.21*	*0.94*	*26.80*	*3.59*

Source: Marketing, Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

Table 4.3: Producer Prices of Selected Fruits – August 2015

Items	Price Range	Average			Change Compared to			
	Aug 2015	Aug 2015	July 2015	Aug 2014	July 2015		Aug 2014	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Ambul	27.50-40.00	31.70	28.14	24.84	3.56	12.64	6.86	27.62
Kolikuttu	80.00-130.00	102.20	94.71	62.11	7.49	7.91	40.09	64.55
Papaw	42.50-72.40	55.49	76.13	52.97	-20.64	-27.11	2.52	4.76
Pineapple	67.50-70.00	68.50	61.00	87.63	7.50	12.30	-19.13	-21.83

Source Marketing Food Policy Agribusiness Division, HARTI

Table 4.4: Quantity, Value and FOB Prices of Exported Fruits June – August 2015

Type of Fruit	August			July			June		
	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	89.26	14.90	166.96	100.53	20.91	207.97	122.35	25.86	211.34
Papaw	350.44	29.38	83.84	296.69	27.43	92.46	202.81	14.70	72.47
Fresh Mango	2.15	1.30	602.54	5.60	2.90	518.23	1.67	0.91	542.89
Fresh Oranges	6.16	0.50	81.70	-	-	-	0.49	0.05	104.98
Avocados, fresh	6.40	0.41	63.51	-	-	-	0.58	0.06	105.32

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

Table 4.5: Quantity, Value and CIF Prices of Imported Fruits June – August 2015

Type of Fruit	August			July			June		
	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	786.95	98.95	125.74	1,730.16	244.12	141.09	1,964.80	304.42	154.94
Grapes	457.04	140.15	306.66	347.99	104.16	299.31	401.68	132.70	330.36
Oranges	726.53	67.77	93.27	1085.05	103.31	95.21	864.95	83.88	96.98
Mandarin	72.34	4.80	66.38	241.78	15.54	64.27	199.15	12.49	62.73

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 except kelawalla and thora had decreased in the range of 1%-21% at the wholesale level. The highest price decrease was reported for balaya (21%) followed by hurulla (15%). Price decreases of 13%, 11% and 6% were noted for shrimp, mora and salaya respectively. In addition, prices of thalapath and paraw had decreased by 3% and 1% respectively. Fishing season for coastal fisheries in the Eastern coastal belt had contributed to these price decreases. Most of the stocks had been supplied from Kalmunai, Jaffna, Trincomalee, Mannar, Mullaitivu and Batticaloa areas. However, prices of thora and kelawalla had increased by 2% and 1% respectively. Off season for coastal fisheries in the areas Puttalam, Chillaw, Negombo and Southern coastal belt had contributed to these price increases. In the month of August, the monthly average wholesale prices of selected fresh fish varieties ranged between Rs.141.33–1,203.75/kg. It can be expected that fish prices could further decrease in the coming month due to the fishing season for coastal fisheries in the Eastern coastal belt. Compared to the same month in previous year, wholesale prices of all the fresh fish varieties except balaya, shrimp and thalapath had increased in the range of 3%-21% with the highest price increase noted for kelawalla.

In line with the decreased prices at the wholesale market, prices of all the fresh fish varieties except thora, paraw and thalapath had decreased in the range of 1%-18% at the retail level. The highest price decrease was reported for balaya (18%) followed by shrimp (9%). A price decrease of 8% was noted for both salaya and hurulla. In addition, prices of mora and kelawalla had decreased by 5% and 1% respectively. Meanwhile, prices of thora and paraw had increased by 5% while, price of thalapath had increased by 1%. In the month of August, the monthly average retail prices of selected fresh fish varieties ranged between Rs.189.65–1,441.34/kg. Compared to the same month in previous year, retail prices of all the fresh fish varieties except hurulla and kelawalla had decreased in the range of 2%-25%with the highest price decrease noted for shrimp.

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

Items	Price Range	Average			Change Compared to			
	Aug 2015	Aug 2015	July 2015	Aug 2014	July 2015		Aug 2014	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Wholesale Prices								
Salaya	100.00-180.00	141.33	150.06	121.94	*-8.73*	*-5.82*	*19.39*	*15.90*
Hurulla	200.00-320.00	264.47	310.00	256.69	*-45.53*	*-14.69*	*7.78*	*3.03*
Balaya	220.00-380.00	305.60	385.75	340.88	*-80.15*	*-20.78*	*-35.28*	*-10.35*
Kelawalla	450.00-680.00	569.11	565.05	471.39	*4.06*	*0.72*	*97.72*	*20.73*
Thora	1050.00-1350.00	1203.75	1178.29	1100.31	*25.46*	*2.16*	*103.44*	*9.40*
Paraw	400.00-630.00	542.09	548.97	501.19	*-6.88*	*-1.25*	*40.90*	*8.16*
Mora	350.00-560.00	478.00	536.26	460.40	*-58.26*	*-10.86*	*17.60*	*3.82*
Shrimp (small)	600.00-850.00	694.75	798.75	938.10	*-104.00*	*-13.02*	*-243.35*	*-25.94*
Thalapath	500.00-650.00	589.18	606.84	593.07	*-17.66*	*-2.91*	*-3.89*	*-0.66*
Retail Prices								
Salaya	140.00-280.00	189.65	206.69	195.05	*-17.04*	*-8.24*	*-5.40*	*-2.77*
Hurulla	250.00-560.00	370.59	402.87	318.93	*-32.28*	*-8.01*	*51.66*	*16.20*
Balaya	300.00-720.00	461.73	563.14	498.06	*-101.41*	*-18.01*	*-36.33*	*-7.29*
Kelawalla	550.00-940.00	743.30	749.19	733.17	*-5.89*	*-0.79*	*10.13*	*1.38*
Thora	1200.00-1680.00	1441.34	1375.23	1474.58	*66.11*	*4.81*	*-33.24*	*-2.25*
Paraw	550.00-960.00	767.98	729.87	816.95	*38.11*	*5.22*	*-48.97*	*-5.99*
Mora	450.00-800.00	608.60	638.52	627.77	*-29.92*	*-4.69*	*-19.17*	*-3.05*
Shrimp (small)	750.00-1000.00	843.83	932.06	1122.95	*-88.23*	*-9.47*	*-279.12*	*-24.86*
Thalapath	580.00-1000.00	799.14	789.25	834.58	*9.89*	*1.25*	*-35.44*	*-4.25*

Source: Marketing, Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

Dried Fish

Prices and Supply/Demand Situation

Wholesale prices of most of the dried fish varieties had decreased due to high supplies of local and imported stocks. There was a significant decrease for local sprats, imported sprats, local balaya and local salaya. Price of local sprats remained at higher level in the previous month and with the increased supplies from Kalpitiya and Mannar areas it had decreased by Rs.170.00/kg. Meanwhile, the prices of imported thora, local mora and imported anguluwa had increased in the range of 4%-7% against the previous month. Compared to the same period of last year, wholesale prices of most of the dried fish varieties had increased with the highest price increase of 24% reported for imported sprats.

Local dried fish stocks were mainly supplied from Kalpitiya, Mannar, Trincomalee and Valachchena areas, while the imported stocks mainly from Thailand, the United Arab Emirates and India. According to the Department of Customs, a total quantity of 1,650 mt of dried sprats was imported in August. The CIF price ranged between Rs.191.83-468.50/kg and the average price was Rs.327.66/kg. Out of the total imports, 62% was imported from Thailand 18% from the United Arab Emirates and 16% from India. Thailand sprats fetched Rs.379.58/kg and also the majority of the imports fetched a similar price. Therefore, the average CIF price had increased against the previous month.

Regarding the retail prices of all the other dried fish varieties except local sprats had decreased. Decrease was significant for kattawa, thora, koduwa and anguluwa. Compared to the same period of last year, prices of most of the varieties had increased with the highest price increase of 13% for maduwa.

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

Items	Price Range	Average			Change Compared to			
	Aug 2015	Aug 2015	July 2015	Aug 2014	July 2015		Aug 2014	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Dried fish – Wholesale								
Sprats	400.00-850.00	643.67	813.58	708.33	*-169.92*	*-20.88*	*-64.67*	*-9.13*
Sprats (imported)	300.00-650.00	449.45	480.78	362.24	*-31.32*	*-6.52*	*87.21*	*24.07*
Kattawa	680.00-780.00	723.14	739.39	709.77	*-16.25*	*-2.20*	*13.37*	*1.88*
Kattawa (imported)	600.00-750.00	693.20	717.92	664.39	*-24.72*	*-3.44*	*28.81*	*4.34*
Thora	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Thora (imported)	950.00-1100.00	1013.33	976.58	968.14	*36.75*	*3.76*	*45.19*	*4.67*
Mora	800.00-950.00	829.71	798.61	811.42	*31.10*	*3.89*	*18.29*	*2.25*
Mora (imported)	700.00-800.00	758.80	764.81	710.95	*-6.01*	*-0.79*	*47.85*	*6.73*
Balaya	430.00-580.00	482.00	538.67	502.01	*-56.67*	*-10.52*	*-20.01*	*-3.99*
Balaya (imported)	380.00-600.00	514.80	540.50	-	*-25.70*	*-4.75*	-	-
Anguluwa	450.00-680.00	604.00	620.68	583.54	*-16.68*	*-2.69*	*20.46*	*3.51*
Anguluwa (imported)	500.00-800.00	604.60	567.29	564.55	*37.31*	*6.58*	*40.05*	*7.10*
Maduwa	400.00-650.00	516.32	531.94	457.63	*-15.63*	*-2.94*	*58.68*	*12.82*
Maduwa (imported)	400.00-500.00	452.81	452.87	-	*-0.06*	*-0.01*	-	-
Koduwa	-	-	550.00	-	-	-	-	-
Koduwa(imported)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Salaya	150.00-300.00	229.80	266.59	230.42	*-36.79*	*-13.80*	*-0.62*	*-0.27*
Salaya (imported)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dried fish – Retail								
Sprats	800.00-1200.00	957.91	967.36	0.00	*95.78*	*18.35*	*-34.60*	*-5.30*
Kattawa	400.00-800.00	617.66	521.88	652.26	*-4.13*	*-0.39*	*61.77*	*6.14*
Thora	780.00-1300.00	1068.51	1072.64	1006.74	*-46.30*	*-3.28*	*81.10*	*6.31*
Mora	1000.00-1700.00	1365.78	1412.08	1284.68	*-46.30*	*-3.28*	*81.10*	*6.31*
Balaya	800.00-1200.00	961.81	974.58	926.80	*-12.77*	*-1.31*	*35.01*	*3.78*
Anguluwa	480.00-1000.00	803.15	816.77	820.37	*-13.62*	*-1.67*	*-17.22*	*-2.10*
Maduwa	640.00-1100.00	876.69	908.08	822.14	*-31.39*	*-3.46*	*54.55*	*6.64*
Koduwa	400.00-880.00	717.76	728.27	635.63	*-10.51*	*-1.44*	*82.13*	*12.92*
Salaya	700.00-900.00	797.86	875.00	894.50	*-77.14*	*-8.82*	*-96.64*	*-10.80*

Source: Marketing, Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

Table 5.3: Quantity, Value and CIF prices of Sprats - March to August 2015

Month	Quantity (mt.)	Value (Rs.mn)	CIF price (Rs/kg)	Retail Price (Rs/kg)	Gross Margin (Rs/kg)
Aug	1649.94	540.63	327.66	617.66	*290.00*
July	1736.68	453.48	261.12	521.88	*260.76*
June	2469.09	616.35	249.62	424.61	*174.99*
May	1928.86	465.93	241.56	627.67	*386.11*
Apr	2058.17	509.38	247.49	625.94	*378.45*
Mar	2205.57	560.67	254.21	615.27	*361.06*

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

Eggs

Though a decline in prices was expected in the month of August, prices of both brown and white eggs had increased by 3% and 5% respectively at the wholesale level. According to price information, prices of eggs had increased significantly in the first week of the month. Thereafter, a declining trend in prices was observed with the increased supply. However, the increased prices during the first week of the month had resulted increased egg prices in the month of August compared to July. Most of the stocks had been supplied from Hettipola, Madampe, Marawila and Kuliyapitiya areas. The monthly average wholesale prices of both brown and white eggs were Rs.15.70/egg and Rs.14.70/egg respectively. According to the data in previous years, an increase in egg prices could be expected in the coming month with the declined supply. Compared to the same month in previous year, wholesale prices of both brown and white eggs had increased by 31% and 28% respectively.

In line with the increased wholesale prices, prices of both brown and white eggs had increased by 4% and 5% respectively at the retail level. The monthly average retail price of a brown egg was Rs.17.06 and it was Rs.16.06 per white egg. Further, the price range of an egg for the month was Rs.14.00 – 20.00. Compared to the same month in the previous year, retail prices of brown eggs had increased by 25% while, price of white eggs had increased by 24%.

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

Items	Price Range	Average			Change Compared to			
	Aug 2015	Aug 2015	July 2015	Aug 2014	July 2015		Aug 2014	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Wholesale Price								
Eggs – Brown (each)	15.00-17.00	15.70	15.29	12.00	*0.41*	*2.68*	*3.70*	*30.83*
White (each)	14.00-16.00	14.70	14.02	11.50	*0.68*	*4.85*	*3.20*	*27.83*
Retail Price								
Eggs- Brown (each)	15.50-20.00	*17.06*	*16.39*	*13.69*	*0.67*	*4.09*	*3.37*	*24.62*
White (each)	14.50-19.00	*16.06*	*15.34*	*12.91*	*0.72*	*4.69*	*3.15*	*24.40*

Source: Marketing, Food Policy and Agribusiness Division/HARTI

Meat

Prices of other meat varieties except pork had increased due to prevailed high demand. The increase was in the range of Rs.5.84/kg (beef) to Rs.34.37/kg (broiler). Meanwhile, the price of pork had decreased by Rs.6.23/kg. Compared to the same period of last year, prices of all the meat varieties had increased in the range of 3%-34% with the highest increase noted for curry chicken.

Table 5.5: Retail Prices of Meat – August 2015

Items	Price Range	Average			Change Compared to			
	Aug 2015	Aug 2015	July 2015	Aug 2014	July 2015		Aug 2014	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Meat								
Beef (without bones)	700.00-750.00	706.81	700.97	589.12	*5.84*	*0.83*	*117.69*	*19.98*
Chicken (Broiler)	500.00-580.00	545.85	511.48	443.88	*34.37*	*6.72*	*101.97*	*22.97*
Chicken (curry)	500.00-590.00	544.19	513.43	407.02	*30.76*	*5.99*	*137.17*	*33.70*
Mutton	1400.00-1600.00	1429.29	1407.14	1305.91	*22.15*	*1.57*	*123.38*	*9.45*
Pork	500.00-700.00	561.44	567.67	543.93	*-6.23*	*-1.10*	*17.51*	*3.22*

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

6. Wheat grain, Wheat flour and Sugar

Wheat grain, Wheat flour

Though the imported quantity of wheat grain was continuously high in the last few months, since February 2015, it has shown a significant decrease in August. The quantity of 90,739 mt of wheat grain was imported recording a decrease of 40% against the previous month. The value of the imports was Rs.3,329mn. Among the imports 67% was from Canada, 27% from Russia and the rest of the stocks were from India and Australia. The CIF price ranged between Rs.33.67-40.76/kg and the average price was Rs.36.69/kg recording the lowest in last 4 years. The CIF price has decreased by about Rs.3.00/kg against the previous month.

Considering wheat flour, a total quantity of 550 mt was imported. The value of the imports was Rs.38mn. The CIF price remained in the range of Rs.68.18-81.61/kg and the average price was Rs.69.37/kg. Retail price of wheat flour ranged between Rs.78.00-90.00/kg and the average price was Rs.85.99/kg. Compared to the same period of last year, retail price had decreased by 12%.

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

Items	Price Range	Average			Change Compared to			
	Aug 2015	Aug 2015	July 2015	Aug 2014	July 2015		Aug 2014	
	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	Rs/kg	%	Rs/kg	%
Wheat Flour	78.00-90.00	85.99	86.27	97.71	*-0.27*	*-0.32*	*-11.72*	*-11.99*
Sugar	72.00-90.00	81.17	82.47	*99.57*	*-1.30*	*-1.58*	*-18.40*	*-18.48*

Source: Department of Census and Statistics

Table 6.2: Quantity, Value and CIF prices of Wheat Flour & Grain - March to August 2015

Month	Quantity (mt.)	Value (Rs.mn)	CIF price (Rs/kg)	Retail Price (Rs/kg)	Gross Margin (Rs/kg)
Wheat Flour					
Aug	550.80	38.21	69.37	85.99	*16.62*
July	60.29	4.09	67.83	86.27	*18.44*
June	470.63	33.51	71.20	86.29	*15.09*
May	26.00	1.40	53.80	85.98	*32.18*
Apr	656.70	44.47	67.72	86.56	*18.84*
Mar	138.41	9.41	67.99	86.45	*18.46*
Wheat Grain					
Aug	90739.07	3329.48	36.69	85.99	*49.30*
July	149628.02	5936.53	39.68	86.27	*46.59*
June	255707.48	9517.17	37.22	86.29	*49.07*
May	188998.88	7444.26	39.39	85.98	*46.59*
Apr	115469.80	4619.23	40.00	86.56	*46.56*
Mar	241131.11	9615.19	39.88	86.45	*46.57*

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

Sugar

The lowest imported quantity in this year was recorded in May as 34,063 mt and since then it has increased gradually up to August (Table 6.2). Total quantity of 64,088 mt valued at Rs.3,153mn of sugar was imported in August. Out of the total imports 51% from India, 38% from Brazil, 10% from Thailand and the rest was from Korea and Malaysia. The CIF price ranged between Rs.46.44-70-79/kg and the average price was Rs.49.20/kg. Indian sugar fetched the lowest CIF price when compared to other countries hence, the highest quantity was imported from India. The highest CIF price of Rs.70.99/kg was reported for the sugar from Malaysia therefore the imports were limited to 164 mt.

In the recent past the highest CIF price of sugar was reported in June 2014 as Rs.66.91/kg. Since then the world prices of sugar had decreased continuously. In line with that trend, a further decrease of Rs.1.71/kg against the previous month was observed. Compared to the highest price in June 2014, CIF price had decreased by 25% and it was Rs.17.71/kg. However, the retail price of sugar had decreased by only cents 27/kg against the previous month. Prices ranged between Rs.72.00-90.00/kg and the average price was Rs.81.17/kg. Compared to the same period of last year, the retail price had decreased by more than 18%.

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

Month	Quantity (mt.)	Value (Rs.mn)	CIF price (Rs/kg)	Retail Price (Rs/kg)	Gross Margin (Rs/kg)
Aug	64088.25	3153.43	49.20	81.17	*31.97*
July	62900.75	3202.16	50.91	82.47	*31.56*
June	47223.46	2541.97	53.83	83.61	*29.78*
May	34063.19	1886.09	55.37	84.37	*29.00*
Apr	59400.18	3315.79	55.82	85.65	*29.83*
Mar	67842.78	3962.55	58.41	86.12	*27.71*

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

Table 7: Imports of Selected Food Items - August 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
	Aug 2015	July 2015		Aug 2015	July 2015		Aug 2015	July 2015	
Rice	2239.77	3132.64	-28.50	130.39	224.13	-41.82	58.22	71.55	-18.63
Red Onion	396.50	847.18	-53.20	29.42	89.28	-67.05	74.20	105.38	-29.59
Big Onion	11726.68	19530.12	-39.96	569.72	1095.39	-47.99	48.58	56.09	-13.38
Potato	11141.20	17005.16	-34.48	410.81	628.57	-34.64	36.87	36.96	-0.24
Dried Chillies	3900.58	3986.71	-2.16	806.71	819.85	-1.60	206.82	205.64	0.57
Masoor Dhal	15090.58	10858.38	38.98	2008.15	1427.28	40.70	133.07	131.45	1.24
Green Gram	777.43	1506.47	-	132.59	266.09	-	170.54	176.63	-
Cowpea	262.74	214.00	-	26.58	25.36	-	101.15	118.52	-
Garlic	3122.48	2222.72	40.48	401.71	288.12	39.42	128.65	129.62	-0.75
Wheat flour	550.80	60.29	813.61	38.21	4.09	834.41	69.37	67.83	2.28
Wheat grain	90739.07	149628.02	-39.36	3329.48	5936.53	-43.92	36.69	39.68	-7.52
White crystalline cane sugar	64088.25	62900.75	1.89	3153.43	3202.16	-1.52	49.20	50.91	-3.35
Maize (Seed)	550.20	143.05	-	337.52	80.86	-	613.45	565.23	-
Maize (Other)	8198.77	50.00	-	299.12	4.29	-	36.48	85.85	-

Source: Automated data Processing Division, Department of Customs

Table 8: Monthly Rainfall (mm) – August 2015

Rainfall Station	Total Rainfall (mm)	30 Year Avg. Rainfall (mm)	Total Rainy Days	30 Year Average Rainy Days
Anuradhapura	180.2	39.8	3	3
Badulla	25.8	93.2	5	7
Bandarawela	16.3	69.3	7	6
Batticaloa	13.9	48.5	3	4
Colombo	90.7	119.5	20	11
Galle	153.3	185.9	21	16
Hambantota	159.3	56.3	10	7
Jaffna	59.5	38.7	5	3
Katugastota	140.2	112.8	15	13
Katunayaka	44.9	117.6	13	9
Kurunegala	74.3	98.0	13	10
MahaIluppallama	134.1	32.0	3	3
Mannar	3.4	12.3	2	1
NuwaraEliya	75.3	161.0	18	16
Pottuvil	26.1	18.9	2	na
Puttalam	17.0	17.1	5	2
Ratmalana	106.6	139.3	18	12
Ratnapura	339.3	304.1	23	20
Trincomalee	30.7	85.9	2	5
Vavuniya	71.0	75.0	3	4
Polonnaruwa	63.5	na	3	na
Monaragala	24.5	na	7	na
Mattala	71.9	na	9	na

Source: Department of Meteorology