



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations

# Agricultural Inputs and Commodity Price Bulletin

*in the Syrian Arab Republic*

September 2023—Issue #21



## Background

Agriculture, including crop and animal husbandry, forestry, fisheries and agro-processing, post-harvest handling and marketing, provides a source of livelihoods for most smallholder farmers in the Syrian Arab Republic (SAR). The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in Syria works on strengthening value chains and food production systems by building technical and productive capacity of stakeholders, mainly farmers, expanding their knowledge and understanding of the local context and situation by sharing reports that aim to make agricultural production more sustainable, gender sensitive, market-driven and climate smart. The Organization in Syria releases the “*Monthly Agriculture Input and Commodity Price Bulletin - AICPB*”, which provides timely insights from 35 districts across Homs, Hama, Aleppo, Tartous, Deir-ez-Zor, Rural Damascus, Al-Hasakeh and Dar’a governorates. The purpose of the bulletin is to inform relevant stakeholders, including the Food Security and Agriculture (FSA) partners supporting agricultural and food security interventions in the country, about the prevailing price trends of agricultural inputs and commodities. The bulletin is a periodic resource as markets and market information, play an important role in enhancing food security, income generation, resilience and rural-urban market linkages. Regular dissemination of market information benefits smallholder farmers in their market-oriented production endeavor.

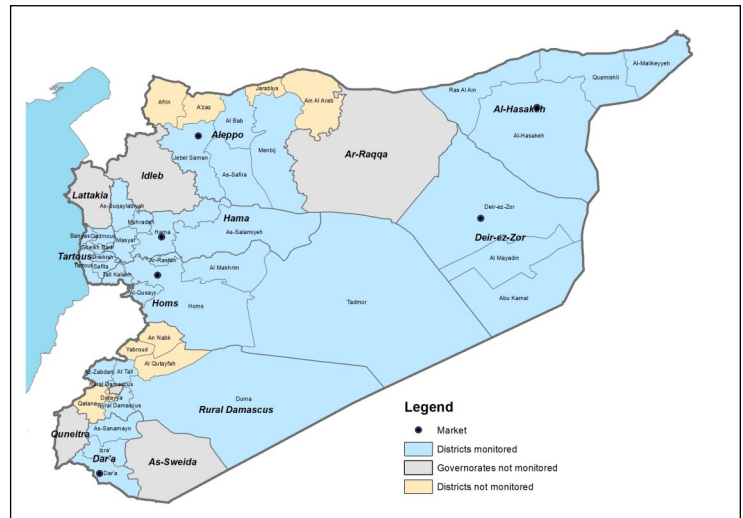


Figure 1: Markets monitored by FAO country office on a monthly basis.

Map source: UN – OCHA Feb 2021.

## Key Highlights

- ◆ In September 2023, the Council of Ministers endorsed the annual agricultural production plan for 2023-2024, which was submitted by the Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform (MAAR). The plan is targeting to plant a variety of crops namely, 1.5 million hectares of wheat and 105 thousand hectares of legumes. MAAR also requested farmers to complete their production license applications via the nearest agricultural extension units, which will make them eligible to benefit from the inputs and fuel subsidies for the upcoming winter cropping season.
- ◆ MAAR announced that the distribution of subsidized diesel to farmers to cover their agricultural production needs, will begin by October 2023 based on the agricultural production licenses obtained by the farmers. Furthermore, the mechanism for delivering this service will be the same for petrol in the transportation sector through an automated system. Each farmer will get a smart-card and will receive an SMS notification, informing them of the location and date to collect their subsidized amounts.
- ◆ In September 2023, the General Organization for Seed Multiplication (GOSM) announced their preparedness to deliver 90 000 tons of wheat seeds and 5 000 tons of barley seeds for the 2023-2024 season cultivation, which will meet 80 percent of the needs of the annual agricultural production plan. The new official prices will be announced after the plan is endorsed.

## Exchange Rate

In September 2023, the informal exchange rate recorded relative stability with marginal fluctuation limited within the range of 600 SYP of depreciation. During the reporting period, the informal exchange rate for the domestic currency remained stable m-o-m month-on-month basis. Recording 13 813 SYP/USD in September 2023 compared to 13 878 SYP/USD in August 2023. If this stability continues, it may have a positive effect on food commodity and agricultural input prices, since the exchange rate is one of the main factors affecting the local market dynamics.

**Note:** The FAO market bulletin monitors prices of agriculture inputs and products in the official domestic currency – Syrian Pound (SYP) - and does not specifically analyze price changes in any other foreign currencies. The price trends, whether increase or decrease, are therefore in reference to the domestic currency.

Trends of unofficial exchange rate for the last two months (SYP/USD)									
	Homs	Hama	Aleppo	Tartous	Deir-ez-Zor	Rural Damascus	Hasakeh	Dará	Average price
August	14 000	13 990	14 000	14 000	14 033	13 100	14 000	13 900	13 878
September	14 000	13 990	13 700	14 000	14 000	13 300		13 700	13 813

Source: Monthly survey conducted by FAO field staff

Note: The exchange rate was 50 SYP/USD before the crisis in 2012.

## Agricultural Inputs

In September 2023, with the new winter season approaching, the availability of most winter crops and vegetable seeds was similar to the previous month across the monitored governorates, though moderate to significant price increases were noted especially for legumes ranging between 4 to 36 percent m-o-m, as the preparation for its cultivation will begin in the upcoming period, while cereals seed prices remained constant with only one recorded reduction for local wheat seeds of 7 percent m-o-m. Winter vegetables seeds recorded relative stability with the exception of spinach, which increased by 12 percent m-o-m, and that could be attributed to the high demand for the upcoming season.

For summer crop seeds with heading to the end of the season, prices of cotton and soya bean seeds were constant while maize seeds recorded decrease with 3 percent m-o-m and the only increase was recorded for bean with 9 percent m-o-m. Summer vegetable seeds were available across all monitored locations. In general, the prices for monitored vegetable seeds witnessed a slight increase for hybrid varieties, increasing 7 percent m-o-m for tomato and 9 percent for cucumber seeds while eggplant seeds were constant. Local variety seed prices recorded slight decreases with 13 percent m-o-m for tomato, 7 percent decrease m-o-m for eggplant and 2 percent m-o-m for cucumber.



### Lentil seeds SYP/kg

1M: 36    LM: 12 182  
6M: 59    1Y: 82



### Eggplant Local seeds SYP/Kg

1M: -7    LM: 84 933  
6M: 24    1Y: 48



### Tomato Hybrid seeds SYP/1000 seed

1M: 7    LM: 309 229  
6M: 37    1Y: 62

LM: The price in Local Market in SYP

1M: % Current Month Vs. Previous Month in LM

6M: % Current Month Vs. 6 Months Before in LM

1Y: % Current Month Vs. Same Month Previous year in LM

## Agro-chemicals

In September 2023, basal and top-dressing fertilizers remained generally available across all monitored markets and relative stability was recorded for liquid ammonium and NPK (1 percent m-o-m). Super phosphate recorded a slight price increase of (7 percent m-o-m), while Urea recorded a moderate price decrease of 25 percent m-o-m. These price changes for agro-chemicals correlate with the stability of the informal exchange rate during the reporting period, in addition to limitation of risk mitigation measures that were in place in the previous month by agro-dealers and traders especially for urea, which is considered a main fertilizer for farmers in both winter and summer seasons.

As a result, all monitored insecticides, fungicides and herbicides recorded slight price changes. For insecticides, the price recorded increases ranging between 3 to 7 percent m-o-m, while fungicide price increases ranged between 4 to 8 percent m-o-m. Herbicide price increases ranged between 7 to 9 percent m-o-m, with the exception of sulfonyl urea which recorded a slight decrease of 5 percent m-o-m, and haloxyfop-r-methyl which recorded a moderate increase of 21 percent m-o-m, and this was notable in the central and coastal region as a reflection of demand. During this reporting period, the above-mentioned plant protection products (pesticides) were generally available across all monitored locations.

The need is still in place for stakeholders to provide farmers with agricultural trainings that will help the adoption of more effective climate smart agriculture (CSA) approaches and good agricultural practices (GAP), including integrated pest management (IPM) and integrated soil fertility management (ISFM). This will help crises -affected farmers enhance or boost food production despite the high cost of agro-chemicals.

Items		Unit	Rural Damascus	Homs	Hama	Aleppo	Deir-ez-Zur	Tartous	Hasakeh	Dará	Average price	
Fertilizer	Top dressing	Urea (Agriculture Bank)	bag(50 kg)	150 000			150 000			150 000	150 000	
		Urea (Granular) Local Market	bag(50 kg)	415 000			550 000	425 000			320 000	427 500
		Nitrate (Liquid) (Local Market)	lt	30 000	27 000	27 000	41 100	22 000	27 000		53 000	32 000
	Basal	Phosphate fertilizers (Agriculture Bank)	bag(50 kg)	102 500	102 500	102 500	102 500	102 500	102 500		102 500	102 500
		Phosphate fertilizers (Local Market)	bag(50 kg)	150 000	301 000	301 900	250 000	250 000	301 700		130 000	240 657
		NPK (Local Market)	kg	30 000	36 000	36 900	30 150	36 667	36 700		50 000	36 631
Pesticides	Insecticide	(Dusts, Granules, Wettable powders)										
		Mythomel	kg	235 000	322 000	322 000	822 000	250 000	322 000		390 000	380 429
		Acetamidprid	kg	170 300	221 000	221 900	305 850	125 000	221 700		295 000	222 964
		(Liquids)										
		Dimethoate	lt	140 600	180 000	180 900	186 100	105 000	180 700		215 000	169 757
		Delta Methrin	lt	165 400	180 000	180 900	200 765	108 333	180 700		235 000	178 728
	Fungicide	(Dusts, Granules or Wettable powders)										
		Thiophanate-methyl	kg	185 200	297 000	297 900	245 290	118 333	297 700		290 000	247 346
		Trifloxystrobin	kg	146 000	301 000	301 900	1 753 500	270 000	301 700			512 350
		(Liquids)										
		Propamocarb Hydrochloride	lt	143 000	220 000	220 900	178 735	120 000	220 700		220 000	189 048
		Herbicide	(Dusts, Granules or Wettable powders)									
	sulfonyl urea		kg	265 000	344 000	344 900	150 700	483 333	344 700		235 000	309 662
	Glyphosate Equivalent		kg	135 200	193 000	193 900	158 435	150 000	193 700			170 706
(Liquids)												
glyphosate	lt		125 800	134 000	134 900	102 210	150 000	134 700		122 000	129 087	
Haloxyfop-R-methyl	lt		156 000	246 000	246 900	197 125	200 000	246 700		232 000	217 818	
Trifluralin	lt	116 000	188 000	188 900	145 590	110 000	188 700		173 000	158 599		

## Livestock feed

In September 2023, fodder items, which are mostly from local origin, recorded slight increases ranging between 1 to 8 percent m-o-m, including barley, maize, wheat straw, wheat bran and crops residue, while cotton and soybean meals, which are partially provided from local production, recorded moderate increases of 29 percent and 17 percent m-o-m respectively. On the other hand, poultry feed both egg and meat production recorded a slight decrease of 2 percent and 7 percent respectively while cattle feed was constant. This could be attributed to the stability of informal exchange rate, which limited risk mitigation measures taken by fodder traders toward imported items.



### Barley grain

1M: 1      LM:3 531  
6M: 22      1Y: 28

SYP/kg



### Maize

1M: 4      LM:4 402  
6M: 35      1Y:51

SYP/kg



### Cottonseed meal

1M: 29      LM:7 673  
6M: 61      1Y: 89

SYP/kg



### Wheat bran

1M: 8      LM:1 774  
6M: 21      1Y: 24

SYP/kg



### wheat straw

1M: 7      LM:770  
6M: 38      1Y: 19

SYP/kg



### Crop residues

1M: 5      LM:990  
6M: 7      1Y: -2

SYP/kg



### Soybean meal

1M: 17      LM:8 936  
6M: 57      1Y: 79

SYP/kg



### Poultry feed for Meat production

1M: -7      LM:7 820  
6M: 29      1Y: 45

SYP/kg



### Poultry feed for Egg production

1M: -2      LM:8 155  
6M: 32      1Y: 65

SYP/kg



### Cattle feed

1M: 0      LM:4 941  
6M: 24      1Y: 46

SYP/kg

1M: % Current Month Vs. Same Month Previous year in LM

LM: The price in Local Market in SYP

Y1: % Current Month Vs. Previous year in LM

6M: % Current Month Vs. 6 Months Before in LM

## Live Animals



### Sheep SYP/kg

1M: 0      LM:51 300  
3M: 59      1Y: 79



### Sheep female SYP/Head

1M:7      LM:1 626 810  
3M: 22      1Y: 92



### Calf SYP/Kg

1M: -2      LM:46 371  
3M: 15      1Y: 76



### Dairy Cow SYP/Head

1M:25      LM:20 191 010  
3M:53      1Y: 143

1M: % Current Month Vs. Previous Month in LM

LM: The price in Local Market in SYP

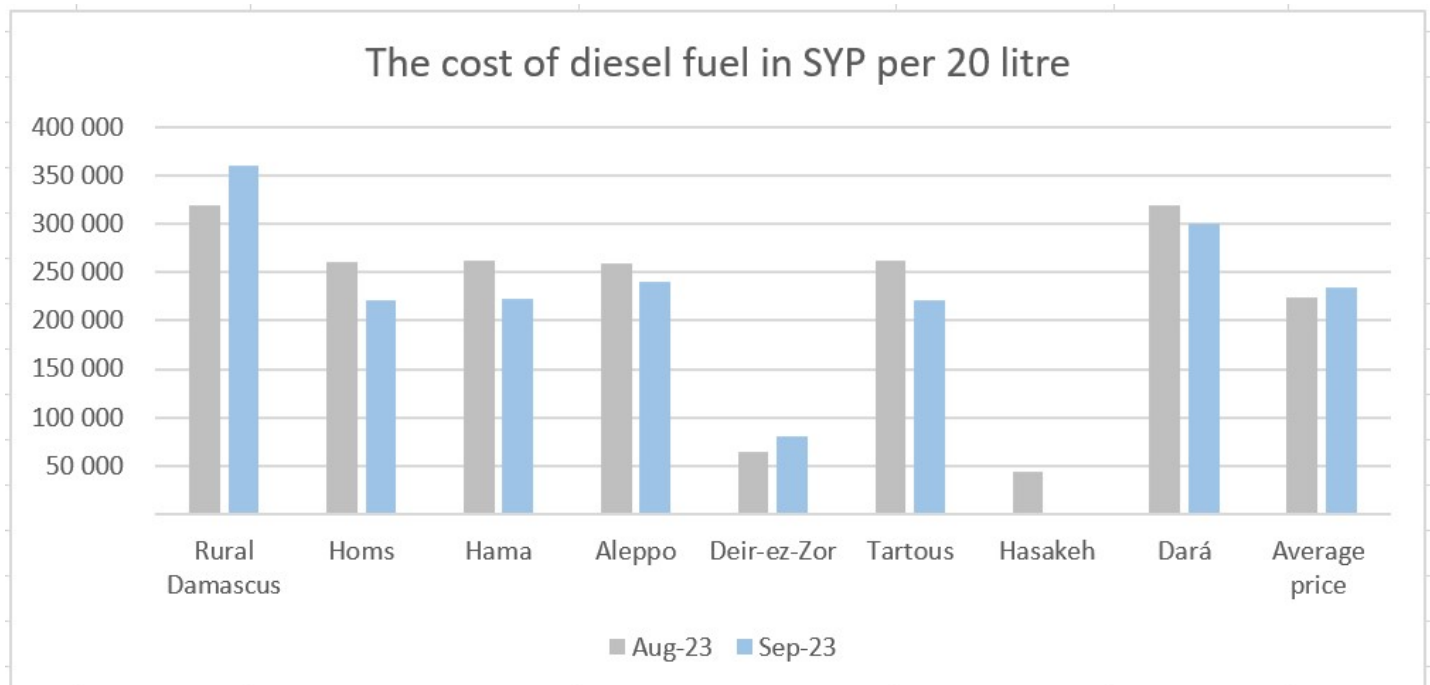
Y1: % Current Month Vs. Same Month in Previous Year

3M: % Current Month Vs. 3 Months Before in LM

## Diesel Fuel (20 liters)

In September 2023, diesel fuel prices continued to reflect the implications of last month's official announcement regarding the price for oil derivatives. Subsequently, an increase of 5 percent m-o-m followed August's 66 percent increase. The slight increase during this reporting period is due to the limited for agricultural production needs.

On average, the recorded price for 20 litres of diesel was 234 943 SYP. FAO will continue to closely monitor the implications on the upcoming winter season. MAAR announced that they will apply the same procedure used to deliver petrol in the transportation for delivering subsidized diesel. This will be done through providing licensed farmers with smart cards.



## Food Items

In September 2023, most monitored food items from local production recorded moderate to significant price increases from both agriculture and livestock sources. These increases ranged from 11 to 32 percent m-o-m, except for chicken meat which recorded only 4 percent m-o-m increase and olive oil which recorded slight decrease with 5 percent m-o-m. This can be linked to the new seasonal production and the recent official ban on exporting olive oil. On the other hand, imported sugar and rice recorded slight increases of 3 percent and 4 percent respectively.

For a more detailed analysis of food commodities and market price trends, please refer to the WFP Market Price Bulletins for Syria, which can be found on the official Syria Food Security Cluster (FSC) website: <https://fscluster.org/syria/document/wfp-syria-price-bulletin-Septemebr-2023>

Items	M-O-M
Bread	→ 0%
Flour	↑ 11%
Sugar	↑ 3%
Rice	↑ 4%
Olive oil	↓ -5%
Sunflower oil	↓ -5%
Cow Meat (Calf)	↑ 18%
Chicken Meat	↑ 4%
Sheep Meat	↑ 16%
Fish Meat /Sea	↑ 12%
Fish Meat /Rivers	↑ 18%
Eggs crate	↑ 32%
Sheep Milk	↑ 8%
Cow Milk	↑ 18%
Tomatoes	↑ 31%
Eggplant	↑ 27%
Potatoes	↑ 25%

1M: % Current Month Vs. Previous Month in LM

LM: The price in Local Market in SYP

Y1: % Current Month Vs. year before in LM

6M: % Current Month Vs. 6 Months Before in LM

### Bread



SYP/kg

1M: 0 LM:357  
6M: 26 1Y: 32

### Rice



SYP/kg

1M: 4 LM:17 203  
6M: 59 1Y: 101

### Chicken Meat



SYP/kg

1M: 4 LM:37 276  
6M: 39 1Y: 76

### Sunflower oil



SYP/Litre

1M:-5 LM:23 293  
6M:23 1Y: 35

### Flour



SYP/kg

1M: 11 LM:6 483  
6M: 18 1Y: 52

### Egg



SYP/(1800—2000)g

1M: 32 LM:55 191  
6M: 92 1Y: 132

### Cow Meat



SYP/kg

1M: 18 LM:114 557  
6M: 63 1Y: 123

### Tomato



SYP/kg

1M: 31 LM:4 963  
6M: 74 1Y: 93

### Sugar



SYP/kg

1M: 3 LM:14 584  
6M: 44 1Y: 81

### Cow milk



SYP/litre

1M:18 LM:5 934  
6M: 46 1Y: 67

### Sheep Meat



SYP/kg

1M: 16 LM:127 557  
6M: 59 1Y: 117

### olive oil



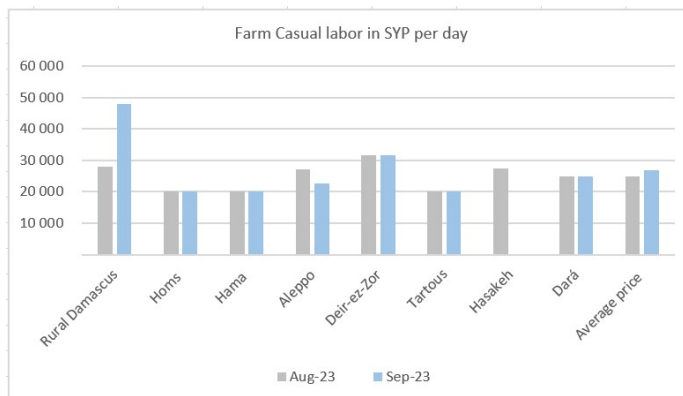
SYP/Litre

1M: -5 LM:56 591  
6M: 52 1Y: 99

## Other Factors

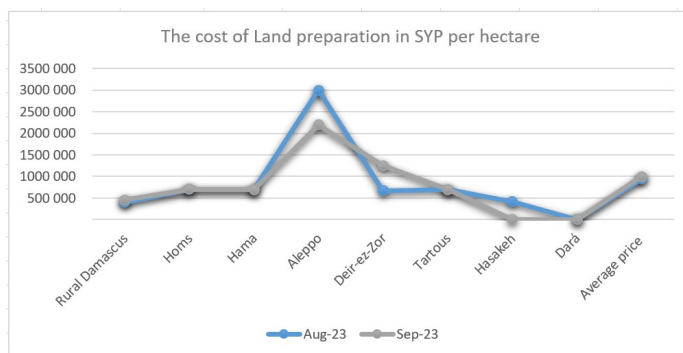
### Farm Casual Labour and Wage

The average daily wage rate recorded in September 2023 for casual farm labour increased by 7 percent m-o-m to 26 738 SYP per day. The domestic currency remains generally weak against the USD and coupled with the economic challenges; FAO continued to observe a general increase in the daily wage rates for casual farm labour. This continuous increase in farm casual labour can be attributed to the local socio-economic situation during the reporting period. It is worth mentioning that the increase in the daily wage rate is not adequate to meet the daily cost of living for the average family.



### Mechanized Farm Operations

In September 2023, the cost of hiring agricultural machinery services for land preparation increased by 6 percent m-o-m, reaching an average of 997 983 SYP per hectare. This is directly attributed to the alignment with price trends of diesel fuel. The high cost of diesel and hiring agricultural machinery will be more noticeable as the peak period for preparing for the winter cropping season approaches. FAO will continue to closely monitor the availability of and access to diesel, and its implications on cropping in the 2023/24 winter season.



### DISCLAIMER

The information in this bulletin comes from monthly market monitoring surveys conducted informally by FAO field staff. While FAO Syria strives to provide accurate and timely market information, there may be slight unintended technical or factual inaccuracies. Decisions based on information contained herein are the sole responsibility of the reader. All changes in market prices for the monitored agriculture inputs and commodities are in local Syrian currency (SYP). For further insights and analysis on food commodities, WFP also issues regular Market Price Bulletins for Syria and these can be found on the official Syria Food Security Cluster (FSC) website.

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