



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations

# Agricultural Inputs and Commodity Price Bulletin

*in the Syrian Arab Republic*

January 2023– Issue #13



## 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.

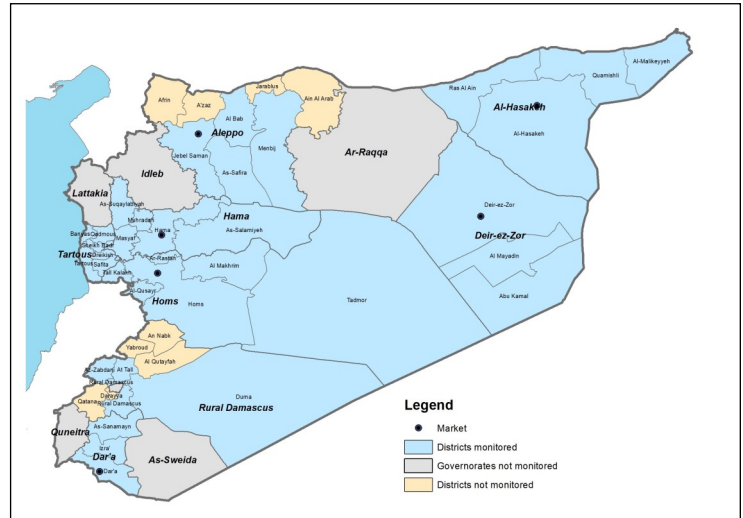


Figure 1: Markets monitored by FAO country office on a monthly basis.

Map source: UN – OCHA Feb 2021.

## Key Highlights

- ◆ The Central bank of Syria announced a new official exchange rate at 4 522 SYP/USD by the beginning of January 2023. This increase represents a 50 percent depreciation of the domestic currency compared to the last adjustment made last September 2022. In contrast, the average parallel market rate appears to have stabilized compared to December 2022, since it registered a 3 percent m-o-m depreciation dropping to 6 799 SYP/USD.
- ◆ In January 2023, subsidized diesel was distributed to families for residential and agricultural purposes and this resulted in the relative decrease in the price of diesel in the informal market (13 percent m-o-m). This follows a severe shortage that had occurred in the previous months.
- ◆ In January 2023, the Ministry of Internal Trade announced that it will not define or set the selling prices of food items for retailers. This shift in position may have implications on the agricultural sector and consumers, particularly regarding the pricing and affordability of agri-food items.

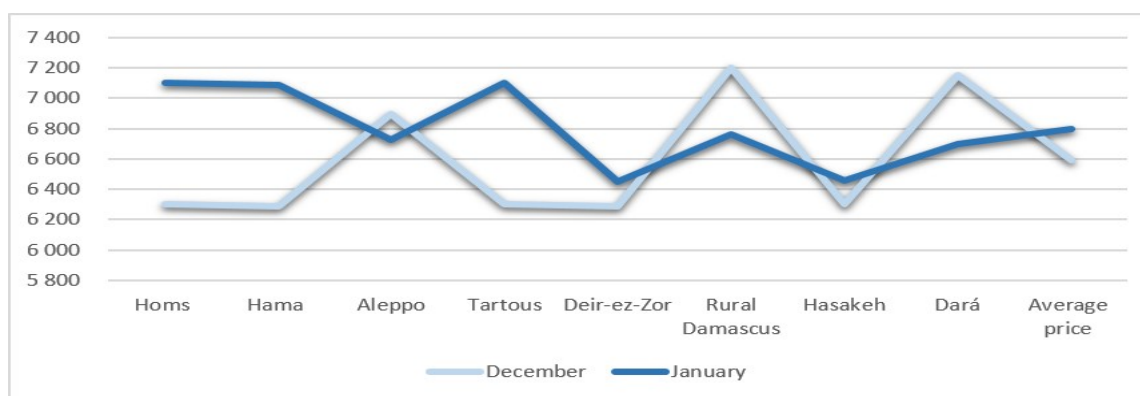
## Exchange Rate

The Central bank of Syria announced a new official exchange rate at 4 522 SYP/USD by the beginning of January 2023. This increase represents a 50 percent depreciation of the domestic currency compared to the last adjustment made last September 2022. In contrast, the average parallel market rate appears to have stabilized compared to December 2022, since it registered a 3 percent m-o-m depreciation dropping to 6 799 SYP/USD. The prolonged economic crisis is negatively impacting the agricultural production cycle and adding more pressure on vulnerable smallholder farmers across most governorates.

**Note:** FAO market bulletin continues to monitor prices in the official domestic currency – SYP - and does not specifically analyse price changes in other foreign currencies. The price trends, whether increase or decrease, are therefore in reference to the domestic currency and not in USD terms.

Trends of unofficial exchange rate for the last two months (SYP/USD)									
	Homs	Hama	Aleppo	Tartous	Deir-ez-Zor	Rural Damascus	Hasakeh	Dar'á	Average price
December	6 300	6 290	6 900	6 300	6 290	7 200	6 300	7 150	6 591
January	7 100	7 090	6 730	7 100	6 450	6 760	6 460	6 700	6 799

Source: Monthly survey conducted by FAO field staff  
Note: The exchange rate was 50 SYP/USD before the crisis in 2012.



## Agricultural Inputs

In January 2023, most of the winter crops and vegetable seeds were available across monitored governorates, following the commencement of the winter season and most farmers had already completed their winter cropping for various winter crops and vegetables. However, slight increases in the price of various winter crop and winter vegetable seeds was observed in January 2023 (less than 6 percent m-o-m). Compared to winter seeds, the availability of summer crops and vegetable seeds was quite varied across the monitored locations. Generally the latter recorded some slight increase in the price of some summer seeds, though not exceeding 10 percent m-o-m. In contrast, price increases for hybrid vegetable seeds recorded slight decrease, (5 percent m-o-m and 4 percent m-o-m respectively). Cucumber hybrid seeds recorded a significant increase of 27 percent m-o-m and the average price rose to 105 095 SYP/ 1000 seed. The significant increase of hybrid cucumber seeds may be attributed to the specific type of varieties sold in Dar'a, which are relatively more costly than in other monitored governorates.



### Wheat seeds (Local Market) SYP/kg

1M: 4      LM: 3 048  
6M: 23     1Y: 36



### Cucumber Hybrid seeds SYP/1000 seed

1M: 27      LM: 105 095  
6M: -5     1Y: -10



### Peas seeds SYP/kg

1M: 3      LM: 21 133  
6M: 34     1Y: 55

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

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

LM: The price in Local Market in SYP

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

## Agro-chemicals

In January 2023 and during this reporting period, basal and top dressing fertilizers were generally available across all monitored markets and most of them witnessed varied slight price increases; Urea (11 percent m-o-m), liquid ammonium nitrate (9 percent m-o-m), super phosphate (3 percent m-o-m) and NPK (1 percent m-o-m). It is important to mention that the price of subsidized fertilizers remained constant during the winter season, since the last notable increase was in November 2022. Overall, fertilizer prices are influenced by various factors, including government policy on fertilizer subsidies, currency fluctuations and seasonal demand. It is important to monitor these factors to understand the trends and anticipate potential changes in fertilizer prices.

For insecticides, fungicides and herbicides, all these agro-chemicals were available across all monitored locations except for Trifloxystrobin (i.e. a fungicide) and Glyphosate-equivalent herbicide, which was generally unavailable Dar'a. On average, the prices of various monitored insecticides witnessed a slight increase, ranging between 2 percent m-o-m to 5 percent m-o-m. On the other hand, the prices of various monitored granular fungicides recorded marginal or slight decreases of between 2 percent m-o-m and 5 percent m-o-m, while the monitored liquid fungicides witnessed 11 percent m-o-m increase. This suggests that different types of fungicides may be affected differently by market forces and factors, and the shift in market trends and subsequently prices can vary. The prices of herbicides recorded slight increases (less than 10 percent m-o-m) except for Trifluralin, which recorded 17 percent m-o-m increase.

Due to the above trends and generally high cost of agro-chemicals – especially those imported, and the intermittent currency depreciation, access to these agro-chemicals for vulnerable small-holder farmers still remains limited across most monitored locations. It remains essential that sector partners continue to promote locally-available organic materials that may be used to address soil fertility constraints (i.e. home-made compost). FAO's vision is to continuously promote 'context-specific' and 'proven' sustainable agricultural production practices and enhance productivity, through achieving higher production while conserving natural resources, reducing the negative impact on the environment and enhancing sustainability of the natural capital. FAO once again encourages sector partners to continue supporting vulnerable and small-holder farmers with interventions that improve access to quality and critical inputs to support local food production, coupled with relevant agricultural training on integrated pest management (IPM), integrated weed management (IWM) and integrated soil fertility management (ISFM), including compost making using agriculture waste. The afore-mentioned techniques and climate-smart and environmentally friendly approaches, will likely cushion farmers against market-related shocks and ensure that farmers rely less on the costly synthetic or inorganic agro-chemicals.

Items		Unit	Rural Damascus	Homs	Hama	Aleppo	Deir-ez-Zur	Tartous	Hasakeh	Dar'a	Average price	
Fertilizer	Top dressing	Urea (Agriculture Bank)	bag(50 kg)	150 000			150 000	150 000		150 000	150 000	
		Urea (Granular) Local Market	bag(50 kg)	375 000	300 000	300 000	265 000	275 333	300 000	248 750	225 000	286 135
		Nitrate (Liquid) (Local Market)	lt	27 000	13 000	13 000	20 200	14 333	13 000	15 000	30 000	18 192
	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)	140 000	206 000	206 900	110 000	138 333	206 700	176 250	135 000	164 898
		NPK (Local Market)	kg	23 000	21 000	21 900	14 800	18 000	21 700	16 000	25 000	20 175
Pesticides	Insecticide	(Dusts, Granules, Wettable powders)										
		Mythomel	kg	221 650	116 000	116 000	404 100	185 000	116 000	86 667	205 000	181 302
		Acetamidrid	kg	162 300	121 000	121 900	185 200	94 667	121 700	75 750	149 000	128 940
		(Liquids)										
		Dimethoate	lt	130 300	91 000	91 900	112 200	52 000	91 700	70 500	127 000	95 825
		Delta Methrin	lt	140 635	91 000	91 900	121 400	91 333	91 700	69 500	125 000	102 809
	Fungicide	(Dusts, Granules or Wettable powders)										
		Thiophanate-methyl	kg	171 900	96 000	96 900	148 000	55 667	96 700	74 500	155 000	111 833
		Trifloxystrobin	kg	132 000	91 000	91 900	877 900	240 000	91 700	215 000		248 500
		(Liquids)										
		Propamocarb Hydrochloride	lt	125 000	126 000	126 900	107 000	57 333	126 700	78 000	112 000	107 367
		(Dusts, Granules or Wettable powders)										
	Herbicide	sulfonyl urea	kg	234 000	116 000	116 900	74 100	415 000	116 700	252 500	130 000	181 900
		Glyphosate Equivalent	kg	122 120	89 000	89 900	105 500	50 000	89 700	68 000		87 746
		(Liquids)										
glyphosate		lt	105 500	97 000	97 900	68 000	47 667	97 700	54 500	70 000	79 783	
Haloxifop-R-methyl		lt	138 130	91 000	91 900	119 350	84 000	91 700	109 000	124 000	106 135	
Trifluralin		lt	102 000	106 000	106 900	88 200	45 000	106 700	52 000	91 000	87 225	

## Livestock feed

In January 2023, there was no major change in the availability of livestock feed (i.e. stock feed). Livestock and poultry feed was generally available across the monitored governorates except for soybean meal which was only available in Rural Damascus, Aleppo and Dar'a and the price remained generally constant. While Cottonseed meal was not available in Al-Hasakeh and Deir-ez-Zor governorates and crop residues were also generally not available in Homs, Hama and Tartous due to seasonality. On the other hand, fodder prices generally recorded slight increases (less than 4 percent m-o-m), but there was a very slight decrease for Maize (1 percent m-o-m). In contrast the poultry sector continues to face daunting challenges, especially continuous price increases in poultry feed (ranging between 16 percent m-o-m and 14 percent m-o-m) for egg production and meat production respectively. The increases of poultry feed continue to be observed across most monitored locations, for broiler start, growers and finisher mash and also for the layers mash.

Further, the limited natural pastures and human-planted forage crops in January 2023, coupled with the continued increase in fodder prices, is resulting in generally limited availability of and access to animal feed for most vulnerable smallholder livestock keepers. This will have knock-on effects on livestock productivity, including dairy.



### Barley grain

1M: 2      LM: 2 816  
6M: 18     1Y: 36

SYP/kg



### Maize

1M: -1     LM: 2 636  
6M: 7      1Y: 22

SYP/kg



### Cottonseed meal

1M: 6      LM: 3 623  
6M: 23     1Y: 51

SYP/kg



### Wheat bran

1M: 0      LM: 1 448  
6M: 8      1Y: 13

SYP/kg



### Wheat straw

1M: 3      LM: 774  
6M: 15     1Y: 12

SYP/kg



### Crop residues

1M: 3      LM: 1 157  
6M: 14     1Y: 14

SYP/kg



### Soybean meal

1M: 0      LM: 4 733  
6M: 26     1Y: 43

SYP/kg



### Poultry feed for Meat production

1M: 15     LM: 4 726  
6M: 27     1Y: 51

SYP/kg



### Poultry feed for Egg production

1M: 16     LM: 4 308  
6M: 36     1Y: 54

SYP/kg



### Cattle feed

1M: 4      LM: 3 023  
6M: 23     1Y: 38

SYP/kg

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

LM: The price in Local Market in SYP

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

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

## Live Animals



### Sheep SYP/kg

1M: 28      LM: 22 888  
3M: 53      1Y: 79



### Sheep female SYP/Head

1M: 34      LM: 612 000  
3M: 47      1Y: 54



### Dairy Cow SYP/Head

1M: 21      LM: 6 336 925  
3M: 29      1Y: 40



### Calf SYP/Kg

1M: 27      LM: 21 356  
3M: 50      1Y: 76

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

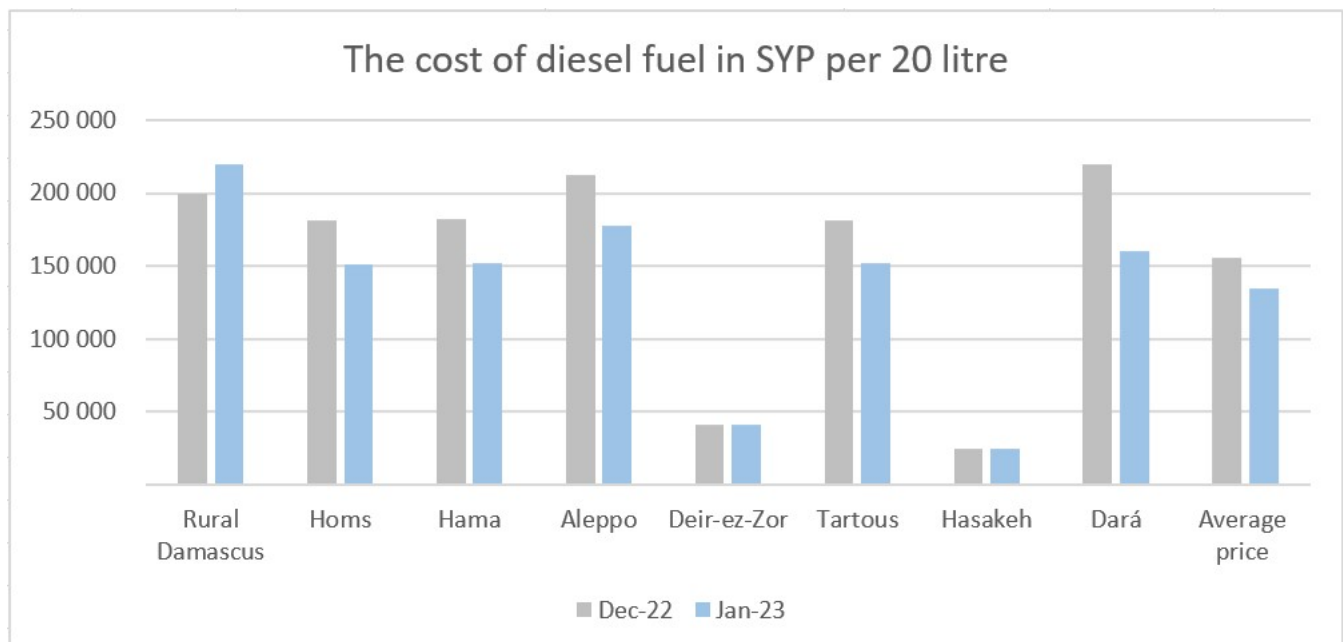
LM: The price in Local Market in SYP

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

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

## Diesel Fuel (20 liters)

In January 2023, subsidized diesel was distributed to families for residential and agricultural purposes and this resulted in the relative decrease in the price of diesel in the informal market (13 percent m-o-m). This follows a severe shortage that had occurred in the previous months. While the prices were constant in Deir-ez-Zor and Al-Hasakeh, there was notable decrease in Homs, Hama, Tartous and Aleppo (19 percent m-o-m). Dar'a also recorded a significant decrease of almost 37 percent m-o-m. The only recorded price increase for diesel was in Rural Damascus (10 percent m-o-m). The average price of diesel recorded across all the monitored sites is 134 804 SYP/20L, though specific prices for diesel vary by location and site.



## Food Items

In January 2023, the Ministry of Internal Trade announced that it will not define or set the selling prices of food items for retailers. This shift in position may have implications on the agricultural sector and consumers, particularly regarding the pricing and affordability of agri-food items. Notably, there was a moderate increase in the price of tomato (24 percent m-o-m). In addition to the previous price increase for tomatoes and potatoes in December 2022, food prices have generally increased due to the worsening economic hardships. This continues to have knock-on effects in terms adequate access to diversified food sources and food consumption practices. Generally and more concerning, food products are becoming less affordable for most vulnerable families, especially animal source foods (ASFs) especially meat. For more detailed analysis on food commodities and food consumption data, please refer to the WFP Market Price Bulletins for Syria, found on the official Syria Food Security Cluster (FSC) website.

Items	M-O-M
Bread	↑ 5%
Flour	↑ 4%
Sugar	↑ 4%
Rice	↑ 13%
Olive oil	↑ 10%
Sunflower oil	↑ 4%
Cow Meat (Calf)	↑ 10%
Chicken Meat	↑ 10%
Sheep Meat	↑ 4%
Fish Meat /Sea	↑ 18%
Fish Meat /Rivers	↑ 3%
Eggs crate	↑ 15%
Sheep Milk	↑ 7%
Cow Milk	↑ 5%
Tomatoes	↑ 24%
Eggplant	↑ 2%
Potatoes	↓ -4%

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: 5 LM:265  
6M: 4 1Y: 0

### Rice



SYP/kg

1M: 13 LM:7 819  
6M: 54 1Y: 78

### Chicken Meat



SYP/kg

1M: 10 LM:17 762  
6M: 34 1Y: 53

### Sunflower oil



SYP/Litre

1M:4 LM:17 069  
6M:16 1Y: 28

### Flour



SYP/kg

1M: 4 LM:3 699  
6M: 11 1Y: 24

### Egg



SYP/(1800—2000)g

1M: 15 LM:21 136  
6M: 30 1Y: 52

### Cow Meat



SYP/kg

1M: 10 LM:35 821  
6M: 30 1Y: 41

### Tomato



SYP/kg

1M: 24 LM:3 118  
6M: 90 1Y: 54

### Sugar



SYP/kg

1M: 4 LM:6 795  
6M: 29 1Y: 57

### Cow milk



SYP/litre

1M:5 LM:3 361  
6M: 28 1Y: 46

### Sheep Meat



SYP/kg

1M: 4 LM:42 258  
6M: 38 1Y: 47

### olive oil



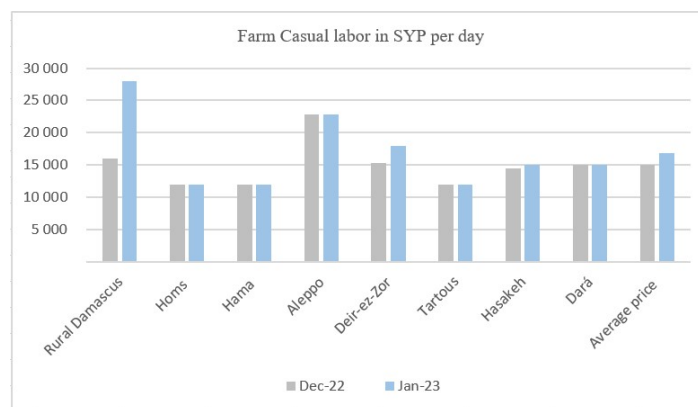
SYP/Litre

1M: 10 LM:21 408  
6M: 27 1Y: 34

## Other Factors

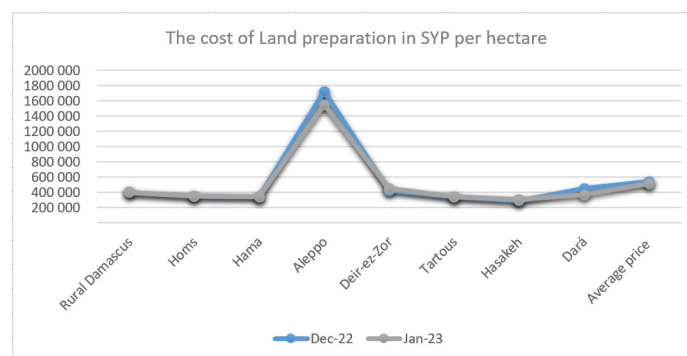
### Farm Casual Labour and Wage

In January 2023, the recorded average daily wage was 16 844 SYP per day and this reflects a 12 percent m-o-m increase. The daily wage rate remained generally constant across Homs, Hama, Tartous, Aleppo and Dar'a, while it was increased in Rural Damascus, Deir-ez-Zor and Al-Hasakeh (75, 17, 3 percent m-o-m respectively). The highest recorded increase in the wage rate was in Rural Damascus, rising to 28 000 SYP per day.



### Land Preparation

The cost of land preparation In January 2023, remained constant with no major change across Rural Damascus, Homs, Hama and Tartous. However, there was a moderate to significant decrease (11 and 22 percent m-o-m) in Aleppo and Dar'a respectively. This can be attributed to the reduced demand since most farmers have completed their land preparation field operations. It is important to note that the cost of land preparation generally increased slightly in the eastern governorates, particularly in Deir-ez-Zor and Al-Hasakeh (6 and 5 percent m-o-m respectively). On average, the cost of land preparation decreased by 12 percent m-o-m at 513 696 SYP per hectare due to some improvements in fuel availability and cost. FAO will continue to closely monitor the cost of land preparation and cultivation as the winter cropping season comes to an end, especially with the instability of diesel prices.



### 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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