

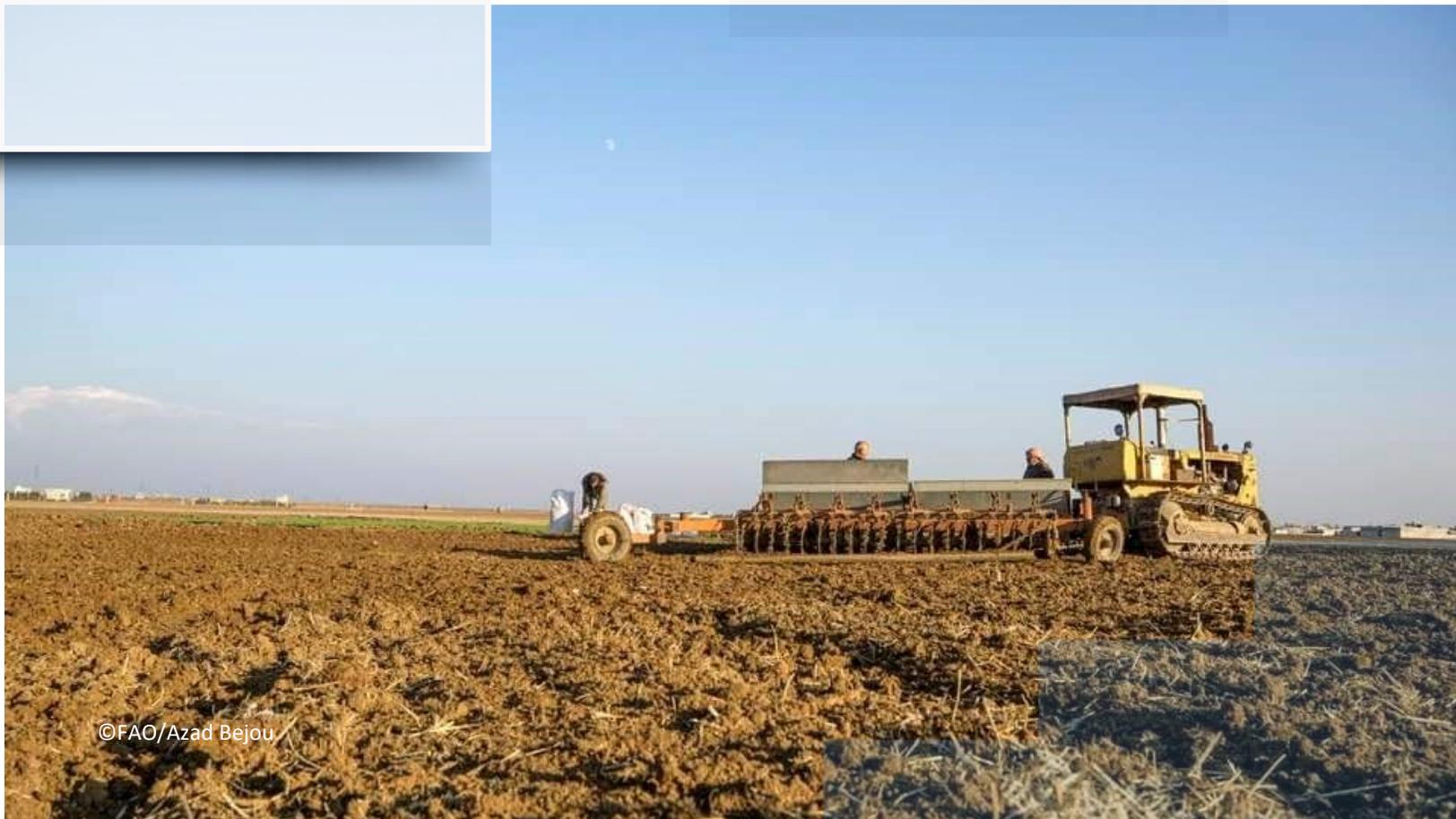


Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

Agricultural Inputs and Commodity Price Bulletin

in the Syrian Arab Republic

November 2022– Issue #11



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.

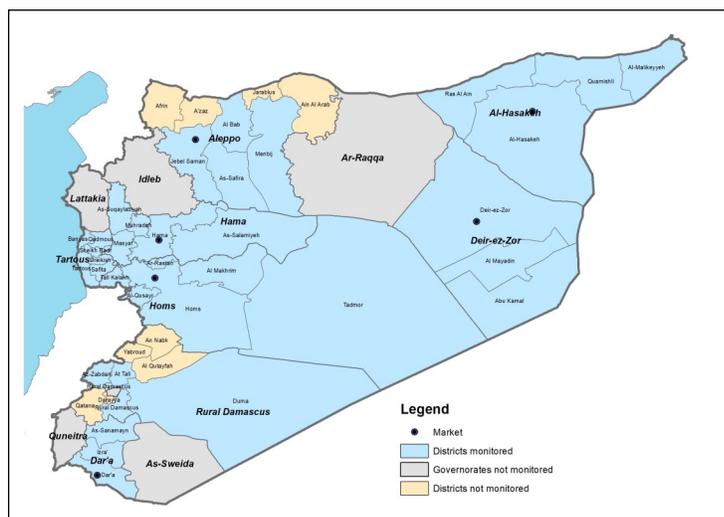


Figure 1: Markets monitored by FAO country office on a monthly basis.

Map source: UN – OCHA Feb 2021.

Key Highlights

- ◆ In Syria, subsidization of agrochemicals, especially fertilizers for strategic crops stipulated in the annual production plan, is done through the Agricultural Bank. The fertilizer subsidy cushions farmers and ensures that farmers have timely access to both basal and top-dressing fertilizer at a lower price. In November 2022 the Agricultural Bank in Syria announced new official prices for subsidized fertilizers. One Metric Ton (MT) of super phosphate rose to 2 050 000 SYP and a MT of Urea 46 increased to 3 000 000 SYP. This reflects an estimated increase of 70% and 25% respectively, compared to the last cropping season.
- ◆ The Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform (MAAR) set a new procedure to support farmers in accessing diesel fuel for the 2022-2023 winter wheat production season, specifically for land preparation purposes. Farmers licenced to produce winter by the agriculture field departments are eligible to receive 20 litres of subsidized diesel per hectare at 700 SYP per litre.
- ◆ The continued rise in the prices of agriculture inputs and food commodities continues to exert more pressure on Syrian families. The price increases in local currency terms can be attributed to the worsening economic situation and instability weakening domestic currency. The most significant average price increase was recorded for diesel at 21%. This significant increase can be attributed to the demand for the land preparation of fields with the shortage of the affordable fuel in the market.
- ◆ As mentioned above, the continued devaluation of the Syrian Pound (SYP) against other foreign currencies within the informal exchange market has resulted in continued market price volatility, supply chain constraints and inflation. The purchasing power of the local currency has been greatly impacted across most governorates. In November 2022, the SYP was trading at 5 751 versus the USD in the informal market.

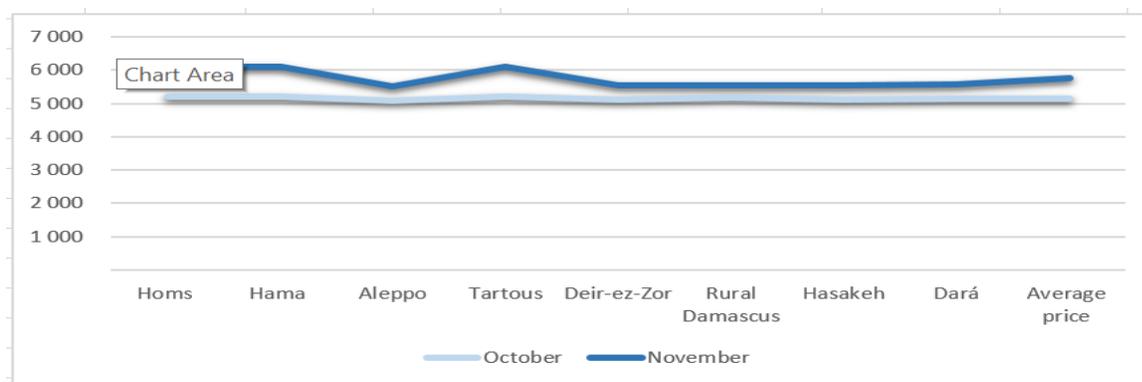
Exchange Rate

In November 2022, the Syrian pound kept sliding in the informal exchange rate market and was reported at 5 751 SYP/USD (12 percent m-o-m). The depreciation of the domestic currency continues to result in an increase in agricultural input prices, further limiting access for vulnerable smallholder farmers in most governorates. In November 2022, the official exchange rate issued by the Syrian central bank remained constant compared to the last modification made in September 2022 at 3 015 SYP/USD. It is important to highlight that the FAO market bulletin continues to monitor prices in the official domestic currency – SYP - and does not specifically analyse the changes in prices in other foreign currencies, since the SYP remains the official currency for any purchases or trading within Syria. The price trends, whether increase or decrease, are therefore in reference to the domestic currency and not in USD terms or any other foreign currency.

Trends of unofficial exchange rate for the last two months (SYP/USD)									
	Homs	Hama	Aleppo	Tartous	Deir-ez-Zor	Rural Damas-cus	Hasakeh	Dará	Average price
October	5 200	5 190	5 070	5 200	5 115	5 160	5 115	5 150	5 150
November	6 100	6 100	5 500	6 100	5 550	5 535	5 550	5 575	5 751

Source: Monthly survey conducted by FAO field staff

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



Agricultural Inputs

In November 2022, most of the winter crops and vegetables seeds were available across monitored governorates and these seeds recorded varied increases in prices due to the increase in demand by farmers, combined with the continued instability and depreciation of the local currency. The price increase for the winter legume crops was however slight, ranging between 1 to 9 percent m-o-m and the average prices recorded are 4 400, 5 760 SYP, 4 970 and 17 370 SYP per Kg for Chickpea, Lentil, Faba bean and Peas seeds respectively. However, the increase was moderate for the monitored winter vegetables seeds. A 14 percent m-o-m increase was recorded for spinach, 15 percent m-o-m for cabbage, 11 percent m-o-m for lettuce and 15 percent m-o-m for carrot and the average prices per Kg were 15 470 SYP, 30 135 SYP, 35 815 SYP and 36 000 SYP respectively, for the mentioned vegetable winter seeds. For summer crops and vegetables seeds availability, this varied across monitored locations since it is out of season. In general, there was a slight increase in the price of seed for summer cereals, legumes and vegetables, with the increase not exceeding 10 percent m-o-m, especially for greenhouse vegetable production.



wheat seeds (GOSM) SYP/kg

1M: 0 LM: 2 750
6M: 74 1Y: 74



Barley local seeds SYP/

1M: 11 LM: 2 659
6M: 25 1Y: 37

Lettuce local market

SYP/kg

1M: 12 LM: 35 815
6M: 31 1Y: 35



Y1: % Current Month Vs. Same Month Previous year in LM

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

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

LM: The price in Local Market in SYP

Agro-chemicals

In November 2022, the agricultural bank announced new official prices for subsidized fertilizers. One Metric Ton (MT) of super phosphate rose to 2 050 000 SYP and a MT of Urea 46 increased to 3 000 000 SYP. Most fertilizers were generally available across all monitored markets in November 2022, though slight price increases were observed for liquid ammonium nitrate and super phosphate fertilizer (4 percent m-o-m), while Urea and NPK witnessed a 7 percent m-o-m price increase.

On average, the prices of insecticides, fungicides and herbicides also recorded varied but slight increase, from between 6 percent m-o-m to 13 percent m-o-m. This could be linked to currency depreciation and an increase in the exchange rate. Increased demand for the above-mentioned agro-chemicals is not a major contributing factor to the observed slight increase since the winter season is just started. The accessibility of these agro-chemicals for small-medium farmers is limited across most monitored locations, especially those imported, due to the recurrent increase in prices of the monitored agro-chemicals.

FAO advises sector partners to promote the use of locally-available soil fertility amendments such as home-made compost and other organic materials and bio-fertilizers. Sector partners and farmers are also advised to promote relevant and context-specific intercropping and crop rotation systems. Promotion of cereal - legume intercropping and crop rotation systems in Syria will help farmers improve soil fertility management, enhance productivity, reduce soil erosion, fix atmospheric nitrogen and reduce the risk of crop failure, including increasing land use efficiency.

Furthermore, FAO encourages sector partners to promote fertilizer use efficiency, especially where mineral fertilizers are used, following the 4Rs of nutrient stewardship; right fertilizer source, right application rate, right time and right place. Sector partners are also encouraged to refer to FAO guidance on possible responses to the high fertilizer prices, which may affect Syria.

https://fscluster.org/sites/default/files/documents/impact_and_possible_response_to_high_fertilizers_prices_rebrev_17-5-2022.pdf

Items		Unit	Rural Damascus	Homs	Hama	Aleppo	Deir-ez-Zur	Tartous	Hasakeh	Darâ	Average price	
Fertilizer	Top dressing	Urea (Agriculture Bank)	bag(50 kg)	137 500			150 000	125 000		122 500	133 750	
		Urea (Granular) Local Market	bag(50 kg)	137 500	260 000	260 000	235 000	236 667	260 000	203 500	225 000	227 208
		Nitrate (Liquid) (Local Market)	lt	25 000	8 900	8 900	16 500	12 333	8 900	12 000	27 000	14 942
	Basal	Phosphate fertilizers (Agriculture Bank)	bag(50 kg)	90 000			102 500	60 000			60 000	78 125
		Phosphate fertilizers (Local Market)	bag(50 kg)	90 000	121 000	121 900	110 000	135 000	121 700	190 750	77 000	120 919
		NPK (Local Market)	kg	20 000	19 500	20 400	12 100	15 000	20 200	14 125	19 000	17 541
Pesticides	Insecticide	(Dusts, Granules, Wettable powders)										
		Mythomel	kg	170 500	113 000	113 000	330 000	183 333	113 000	80 000	185 000	160 979
		Acetamidrid	kg	124 850	114 000	114 900	181 500	91 667	114 700	77 000	134 000	119 077
		(Liquids)										
		Dimethoate	lt	100 265	79 000	79 900	110 000	48 000	79 700	56 000	105 000	82 233
		Delta Methrin	lt	108 185	78 000	78 900	119 000	89 333	78 700	72 250	113 700	92 259
	Fungicide	(Dusts, Granules or Wettable powders)										
		Thiophanate-methyl	kg	132 220	79 000	79 900	145 000	51 667	79 700	65 500	140 000	96 623
		Trifloxystrobin	kg	101 640	67 000	67 900	704 000	240 000	67 700	215 000		209 034
		(Liquids)										
		Propamocarb Hydrochloride	lt	96 250	93 000	93 900	105 000	53 333	93 700	75 250	104 000	89 304
		Herbicide	(Dusts, Granules or Wettable powders)									
	sulfonyl urea		kg	179 960	133 000	133 900	60 500	270 000	133 700	215 000	118 000	155 508
	Glyphosate Equivalent		kg	93 940	81 000	81 900	103 500	48 000	81 700	59 000		78 434
	(Liquids)											
glyphosate	lt		81 180	79 000	79 900	66 700	43 333	79 700	46 000	63 000	67 352	
Haloxifop-R-methyl	lt		106 260	69 000	69 900	117 000	84 000	69 700	96 750	112 000	90 576	
Trifluralin	lt	78 485	66 000	66 900	86 400	44 667	66 700	45 000	83 000	67 144		

Livestock feed

In general, livestock feed (i.e. stock feed) prices and availability in the local markets was quite similar to the previous month - October 2022. Fodder was generally available across the monitored governorates except for soybean meal which was available only in Rural Damascus, Dará and Aleppo. In November 2022, FAO noted significant differences in Soybean meal fodder prices across the monitored locations, ranging from 2 500 SYP per Kg in Rural Damascus to 6 000 SYP in Aleppo, while in Dará its price was 3 750 SYP per Kg. It is important to note that Soybean meal remains an important protein and energy-rich supplement for livestock in Syria, for dairy cattle, beef cattle and other livestock species. Cottonseed meal, was generally unavailable in Al-Hasakeh and Deir-ez-Zor governorates. Most monitored fodder prices recorded similar price increase trends, of between 3 to 11 percent m-o-m. However, these continuous and exorbitant price increases are resulting in fodder prices being out of reach for most vulnerable smallholder farmers. Sector partners are advised to promote own fodder production by crisis-affected farmers and livestock keepers, especially through corn and alfa alfa production, combined with silage making. Spineless cactus production is another medium-term option since it is more drought tolerant and rich in minerals and fiber. Sector partners may also consider supporting and building the capacity of livestock keepers to sprout grains such as barley during winter at HH level. Barley sprouts are high in protein and a great source for food for dairy cattle and other livestock during winter, before natural pastures and / or forage crops are available.

Barley grain



SYP/kg

1M: 5 LM:2 540
6M: 22 1Y: 37

Maize



SYP/kg

1M: 6 LM:2 548
6M: 12 1Y: 32

Cottonseed meal



SYP/kg

1M: 5 LM:3 123
6M: 18 1Y: 45

wheat bran



SYP/kg

1M: 4 LM:1 409
6M: 12 1Y: 17

Poultry feed for Egg production



SYP/kg

1M: 9 LM:3 480
6M: 24 1Y: 41

Crop residues



SYP/kg

1M: 9 LM:1 080
6M: 13 1Y: 14

Soybean meal



SYP/kg

1M: 11 LM:4 083
6M: 25 1Y: 40

Poultry feed for Meat production



SYP/kg

1M: 6 LM:3 923
6M: 13 1Y: 31

Cattle feed



SYP/kg

1M: 10 LM:2 676
6M: 24 1Y: 37

wheat straw



SYP/kg

1M: 5 LM:717
6M: 15 1Y: 9

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: 6 LM:13 976
3M: 9 1Y: 15



Sheep female SYP/Head

1M: 8 LM:410 734
3M: 9 1Y: 5



Dairy Cow SYP/Head

1M: 7 LM:4 906 667
3M: 9 1Y: 11



Calf SYP/Kg

1M: 4 LM:13 183
3M: 9 1Y: 14

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

LM: The price in Local Market in SYP

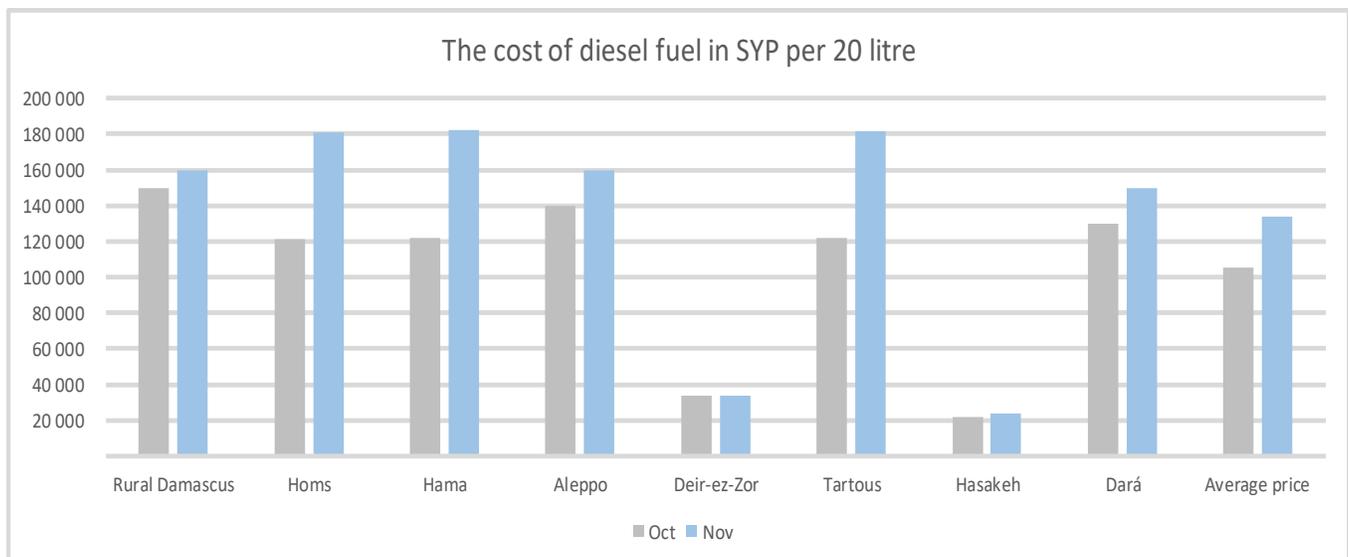
1Y: % Current Month Vs. Same Month in Previous Year

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

Diesel Fuel (20 liters)

In November 2022, the price of diesel fuel increased across all monitored governorates, with significant differences being noted across all monitored locations except for Deir-ez-Zor, where diesel fuel prices remained generally constant. Specifically, diesel fuel prices in Rural Damascus and Hasakeh increased slightly by 6 percent m-o-m and 9 percent m-o-m respectively. While in Homs, Hama and Tartous significant diesel price increases were observed, reaching 49 percent m-o-m on average. In Aleppo and Dará, moderate price increases were noted (15 percent m-o-m). The highest diesel fuel price in November 2022 across all monitored locations was registered in Hama, reaching 181 900 SYP per 20 litre.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform (MAAR) set a new procedure to support farmers in accessing diesel fuel for the 2022-2023 winter wheat production season, specifically for land preparation purposes. Farmers licenced to produce winter wheat by the agriculture field departments are eligible to receive 20 litres of subsidized diesel per hectare at 700 SYP per litre.



Food Items

The average price for most monitored food items increased slightly and did not exceed 13 percent m-o-m. It is important to note that food commodity prices continue to steadily increase, following such increases in the past months. This is making food less accessible to most food insecure families and affected vulnerable smallholder. The generally high cost of food commodities, is adding more pressure on most food insecure families in Syria, especially those in rural areas. This is further compounded by the continuous rise in agriculture input prices, depreciation of the local currency and erosion of purchasing power.

For more detailed and specific analysis on food commodities, please refer to the WFP Market Price Bulletin for Syria for November 2022, found on the official Syria Food Security Cluster (FSC) website.

Items	M-O-M
Bread	⇒ 0%
Flour	⇒ 0%
Sugar	↑ 11%
Rice	↑ 13%
Olive oil	↑ 10%
Sunflower oil	↑ 9%
Cow Meat (Calf)	↑ 5%
Chicken Meat	↑ 4%
Sheep Meat	↑ 2%
Fish Meat /Sea	⇒ 0%
Fish Meat /Rivers	↑ 5%
Eggs crate	↑ 8%
Sheep Milk	↑ 5%
Cow Milk	↑ 7%
Tomatoes	↑ 13%
Eggplant	↑ 10%
Potatoes	↑ 8%

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:253
6M: -2 1Y: -5

Rice



SYP/kg

1M: 13 LM:5 276
6M: 22 1Y: 35

Chicken Meat



SYP/kg

1M: 4 LM:13 950
6M: 23 1Y: 33

Sunflower oil



SYP/Litre

1M:9 LM:15 528
6M:11 1Y: 29

Flour



SYP/kg

1M: 0 LM:3 305
6M: 3 1Y: 21

Egg



SYP/(1800—2000)g

1M: 8 LM:18 136
6M: 30 1Y: 44

Cow Meat



SYP/kg

1M: 5 LM:29 029
6M: 14 1Y: 22

Tomato



SYP/kg

1M: 13 LM:2 007
6M: 35 1Y: 10

Sugar



SYP/kg

1M: 11 LM:5 584
6M: 23 1Y: 49

Cow milk



SYP/litre

1M:7 LM:2 986
6M: 31 1Y: 44

Sheep Meat



SYP/kg

1M: 2 LM:31 258
6M: 12 1Y: 17

olive oil



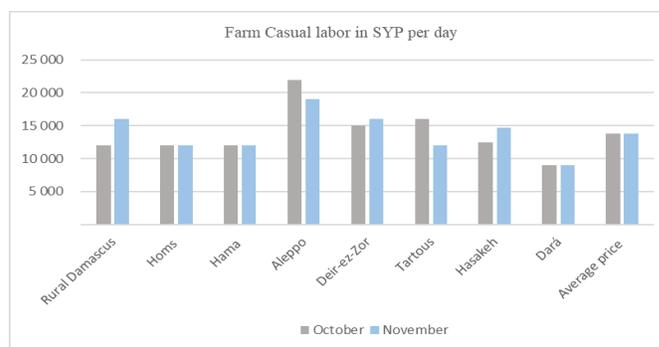
SYP/Litre

1M: 10 LM:18 408
6M: 18 1Y: 22

Other Factors

Farm Casual Labour and Wage

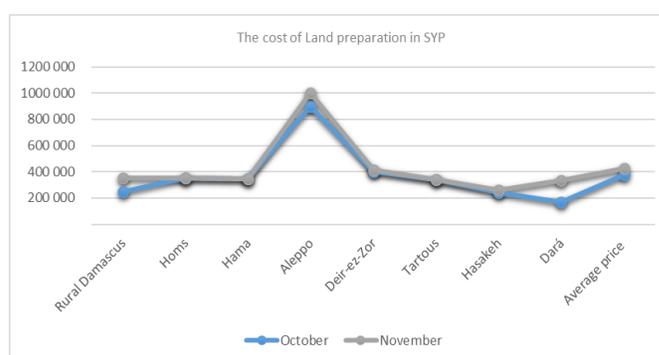
In general, the average daily wage rate remained constant across most governorates since September 2022, except in Aleppo governorate. The average daily wage rate in Aleppo witnessed a slight decrease (15 percent m-o-m) and remains the highest wage rate between all monitored governorates at 19 000 SYP per day. In contrast, the average daily wage rate was 13 843 SYP per a day in November 2022.



Land Preparation

In November 2022, the cost for land preparation was quite varied across the different monitored governorates. The cost of land preparation remained constant in Homs, Hama and Tartous. However, significant increases were observed in Dara (90 percent m-o-m) and Rural Damascus (40 percent m-o-m). Aleppo, Al-Hasakeh and Deir-er-Zor observed slight increase, ranging between 3 percent m-o-m to 11 percent m-o-m. The slight increase in Aleppo, Al-Hasakeh and Deir-er-Zor could be attributed to the general availability of diesel fuel and lower cost of diesel fuel in these locations. The average cost of land preparation for one hectare was 424 633 SYP in November 2022.

The above cost is as a result of several contributing factors including availability of agriculture machinery in the various monitored locations, the increase in the fuel price, especially diesel and increased demand due to the expected commencement of the 2022/2023 winter cropping season. The prevailing fuel shortages, worsening economic situation and economic measures on Syria, are adversely affecting the capacity of farmers to efficiently use and adopt mechanization in agriculture and this is compromising farm worker productivity and overall agriculture output. FAO will continue to closely monitor the cost of land preparation and cultivation as the winter cropping season progresses.



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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