



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

Agricultural Inputs and Commodity Price Bulletin

in the Syrian Arab Republic

June 2023– Issue #18



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.

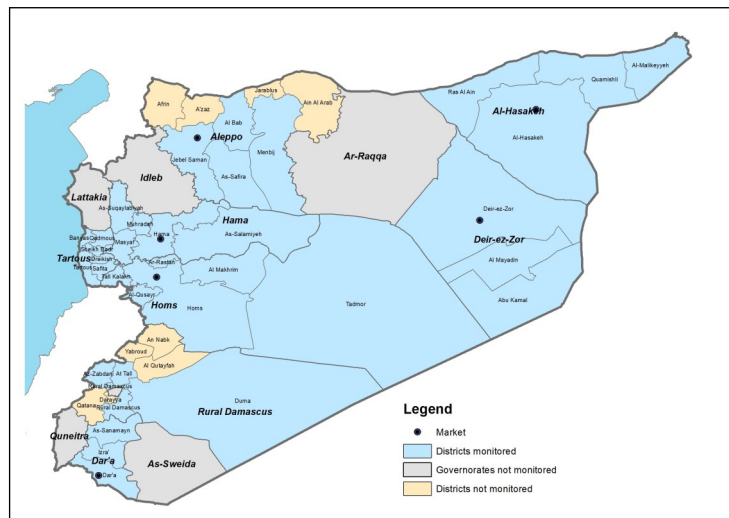


Figure 1: Markets monitored by FAO country office on a monthly basis.

Map source: UN – OCHA Feb 2021.

Key Highlights

- ◆ According to official media in Syria, the authorities announced that most areas planted with wheat and barley have been harvested and the amounts received are **544 370** tons of wheat and **31 000** tons of barley. The authorities also approved the Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reforms (MAAR's) suggestion to add 200 SYP per kg on the purchasing price for wheat delivered from non-safe zones in Deir-ez-Zor.
- ◆ In June 2023, the overall average informal exchange rate recorded relative stability with a minor 1 percent m-o-m depreciation.
- ◆ In June 2023, the General Organization for Fodder (GOFF) increased the delivered amounts of subsidized wheat bran fodder from 6 kg to 10 kg per head of sheep, and from 25 kg to 50 kg per head of cow (source: Syria Official Media).

Exchange Rate

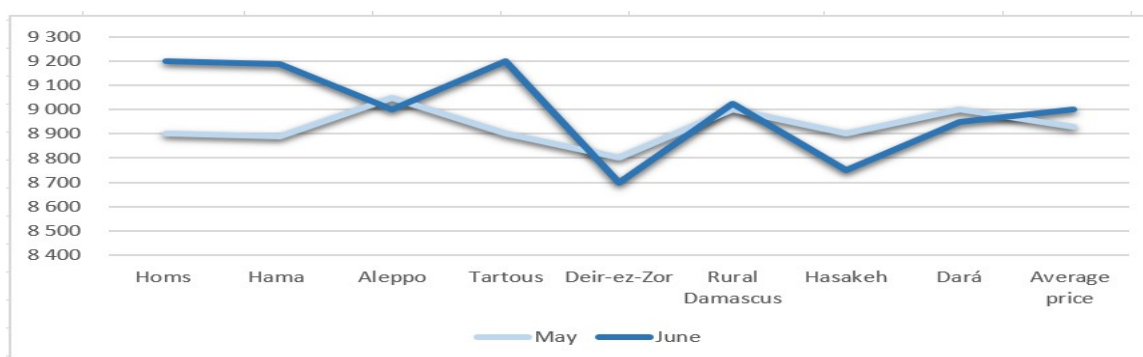
In June 2023, the domestic currency recorded relative stability in the overall average informal exchange rate (1 percent m-o-m depreciation), while it recorded a of 3 percent m-o-m in the central and coastal areas. The stability in the domestic currency noted in June 2023 reflected well on market dynamics on one hand while on the other hand, the high informal exchange rate of the domestic currency versus the USD, continues to put pressure and financial stress on vulnerable smallholders farmers' agriculture production efforts and general living conditions.

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
May	8 900	8 890	9 050	8 900	8 800	9 000	8 900	9 000	8 930
June	9 200	9 190	9 000	9 200	8 700	9 025	8 750	8 950	9 002

Source: Monthly survey conducted by FAO field staff

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



Agricultural Inputs

In June 2023, the availability of most winter crops and vegetable seeds was similar to the previous month across the monitored governorates. With the onset of the summer season in June 2023, the prices of most monitored winter crop seeds recorded marginal changes. Wheat and barley recorded slight decreases of 4 and 3 percent m-o-m respectively; lentil seed prices remained constant and chickpeas and peas recorded a very marginal increase of 1 percent m-o-m. The price trends for winter vegetable seeds remained similar to the previously mentioned crops. Cabbage and carrot recorded slight decreases of 2 and 1 percent m-o-m respectively, while lettuce seed prices remained constant, and spinach recorded a slight increase of 2 percent m-o-m.

For summer crop seeds, with the season progressing, the prices of most monitored summer crop seeds recorded slight increases ranging between (4 to 7 percent m-o-m), while cotton seeds have maintained the last officially-announced price. Summer vegetable seeds were generally available across all monitored locations. In general, the prices for observed vegetable seeds have seen a slight increase ranging between (2 to 5 percent m-o-m); this is for both local and hybrid varieties.



Soya bean seeds SYP/kg

1M: 4 LM: 9 505
6M: 46 1Y: 74



Wheat seeds (Local Market) SYP/kg

1M: -4 LM: 3 101
6M: -2 1Y: 13



Maize seeds SYP/kg

1M: 7 LM: 3 664
6M: 11 1Y: 18

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

Y1: % 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 June 2023, basal and top-dressing fertilizers were generally available across all monitored markets and slight price increases were noted for the following agro-chemicals: Urea (6 percent m-o-m); super phosphate (1 percent m-o-m); and NPK (3 percent m-o-m), while liquid ammonium nitrate recorded a slight decrease of (2 percent m-o-m). The very marginal price increases for agro-chemicals could be linked to the relative stability of the informal exchange rate, which prevailed in June 2023.

In general, most insecticides, fungicides and herbicides were available across all monitored locations. Following the onset of the summer cropping season, the price trends remained similar to May 2023, with price increases ranging between (1 to 14 percent m-o-m).

FAO continues to scale-up trainings on more effective, safe and efficient agricultural techniques and practices, which aim to enhance or boost food production and food safety, including the safe use of agrochemicals. Such climate-smart and environmentally friendly agricultural trainings cover relevant and appropriate integrated pest management (IPM), integrated weed management (IWM) and integrated soil fertility management (ISFM) practices.

Furthermore, FAO continues to encourage sector partners to continue supporting vulnerable and resource-constrained farmers with interventions that improve access to high-quality and critical agriculture inputs to support local food production. Supporting farmers to self-generate own-agriculture inputs such as vegetable seedlings, fodder and compost is also crucial.

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	150 000	
		Urea (Granular) Local Market	bag(50 kg)	400 000	400 000	400 000	406 250	285 000	400 000	267 500	275 000	354 219
		Nitrate (Liquid) (Local Market)	lt	27 000	19 000	19 000	27 000	16 667	19 000	21 000	37 000	23 208
	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	221 000	221 900	125 000	153 333	221 700	165 000	120 000	170 992
		NPK (Local Market)	kg	27 000	27 000	27 900	19 900	24 000	27 700	25 750	35 000	26 781
Pesticides	Insecticide	(Dusts, Granules, Wettable powders)										
		Mythomel	kg	221 650	290 000	290 000	540 000	200 000	290 000	141 667	240 000	276 665
		Acetamiprid	kg	140 635	145 000	145 900	158 700	95 000	145 700	105 000	145 000	135 117
		(Liquids)										
		Dimethoate	lt	130 300	145 000	145 900	147 000	85 000	145 700	106 250	135 000	130 019
		Delta Methrin	lt	140 635	145 000	145 900	158 700	95 000	145 700	105 000	145 000	135 117
	Fungicide	(Dusts, Granules or Wettable powders)										
		Thiophanate-methyl	kg	176 000	221 000	221 900	193 000	111 667	221 700	123 750	180 000	181 127
		Trifloxystrobin	kg	132 000	197 000	197 900	1 152 000	250 000	197 700	275 000		343 086
		(Liquids)										
		Propamocarb Hydrochloride	lt	125 000	166 000	166 900	141 000	80 667	166 700	120 000	135 000	137 658
		Herbicide	(Dusts, Granules or Wettable powders)									
	sulfonyl urea		kg	240 000	250 000	250 900	99 000	483 333	250 700	425 000	142 000	267 617
	Glyphosate Equivalent		kg	122 120	111 000	111 900	125 000	71 667	111 700	115 000		109 770
	(Liquids)											
glyphosate	lt		105 500	111 000	111 900	80 000	80 000	111 700	88 000	78 000	95 763	
Haloxypop-R-methyl	lt		142 000	189 000	189 900	155 000	120 000	189 700	156 250	145 000	160 856	
Trifluralin	lt	109 000	153 000	153 900	115 000	60 000	153 700	68 500	110 000	115 388		

Livestock feed

In June 2023 and following the end of wheat and barley harvest, notable price decreases were observed for various types of animal feed or fodder, particularly barley grains, wheat straw and crop residues; by 3, 12 and 5 percent m-o-m respectively. The remaining monitored fodder items recorded slight increases ranging between 3 to 13 percent m-o-m. In general, the trends that FAO is observing, particularly on the slight to moderate increase on fodder prices, is mainly attributed to the status of rangeland, increased demand, inflationary pressure and lack of stability in the informal exchange rate and high transportation and energy costs.



Barley grain

1M: -3 LM:2 467
6M: -14 1Y: -3

SYP/kg



Maize

1M: 10 LM:3 102
6M: 12 1Y: 21

SYP/kg



Cottonseed meal

1M: 3 LM:4 444
6M: 10 1Y: 30

SYP/kg



Wheat bran

1M: 6 LM:1 413
6M: -1 1Y: 4

SYP/kg



wheat straw

1M: -12 LM:395
6M: -42 1Y: -40

SYP/kg



Crop residues

1M: -15 LM:704
6M: -37 1Y: -33

SYP/kg



Soybean meal

1M: 6 LM:5 277
6M: 6 1Y: 25

SYP/kg



Poultry feed for Meat production

1M: 7 LM:6 180
6M: 19 1Y: 41

SYP/kg



Poultry feed for Egg production

1M: 13 LM:5 911
6M: 28 1Y: 55

SYP/kg



Cattle feed

1M: 4 LM:3 726
6M: 14 1Y: 34

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: 8 LM:38 752
3M: 14 1Y: 88



Sheep female SYP/Head

1M:1 LM:1 208 354
3M: 15 1Y: 99



Calf SYP/kg

1M: 8 LM:35 023
3M: 11 1Y: 82



Dairy Cow SYP/Head

1M:7 LM:10 627 550
3M:17 1Y: 74

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

LM: The price in Local Market in SYP

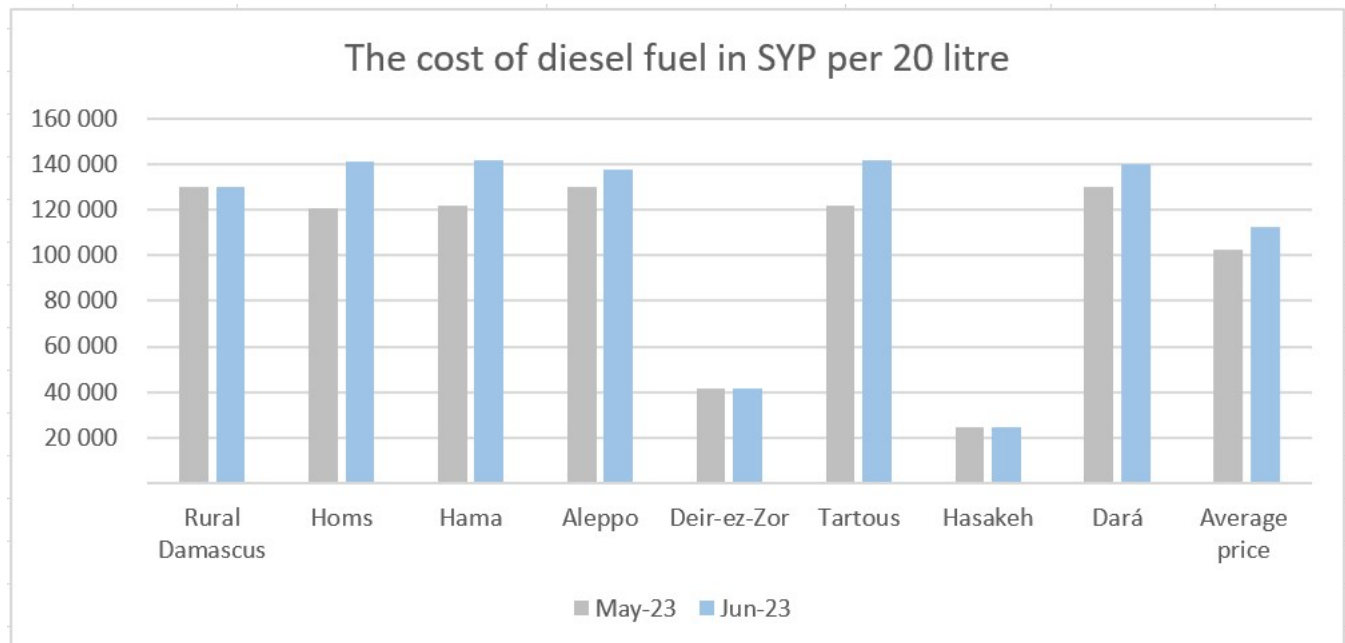
Y1: % Current Month Vs. Same Month in Previous Year

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

Diesel Fuel (20 liters)

In June 2023, diesel fuel prices remained constant in Rural Damascus, Deir-ez-Zor and Al-Hasakeh, while price increases for diesel were noted in the remaining monitored locations in Aleppo, Hama, Homs, Tartous and Dar'a. It is important to note that the average price across all monitored markets decreased by 10 percent m-o-m, reaching 112 346 SYP per 20 litres.

The increase in prices in some locations can be linked to the increased demand for pumping water and some machinery services and field operations as farmers prepare for the summer cropping season, in addition to the limited availability of diesel in general.



Food Items

In June 2023, the availability of food items was similar to May 2023 across all monitored markets. With the progression of summer vegetable production, notable decreases were seen across monitored markets, particularly for tomato, potato and eggplant (23, 14 and 20 percent m-o-m) respectively. On the other hand, some food items recorded moderate increase and these include rice, eggs and olive oil (13, 18 and 17 percent m-o-m) respectively, while the remaining monitored food items recorded slight increases ranging between (1 to 11 percent m-o-m). The rate of inflation on food prices will need to be closely monitored in coming months, including its impact on the price of standard reference food basket.

For a more detailed analysis on 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/sites/default/files/documents/wfp_syria_price_bulletin_june_2023.pdf

Items	M-O-M
Bread	↓ -1%
Flour	→ 0%
Sugar	↑ 1%
Rice	↑ 13%
Olive oil	↑ 17%
Sunflower oil	↓ -1%
Cow Meat (Calf)	↑ 6%
Chicken Meat	↑ 1%
Sheep Meat	↑ 9%
Fish Meat /Sea	→ 0%
Fish Meat /Rivers	↑ 9%
Eggs crate	↑ 18%
Sheep Milk	↑ 8%
Cow Milk	↑ 2%
Tomatoes	↓ -23%
Eggplant	↓ -20%
Potatoes	↓ -14%

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: -1 LM:268
6M: 1 1Y: 3

Rice



SYP/kg

1M: 13 LM:9 553
6M: 18 1Y: 51

Chicken Meat



SYP/kg

1M: 1 LM:25 252
6M: 16 1Y: 49

Sunflower oil



SYP/Litre

1M:-1 LM:17 199
6M:1 1Y: 10

Flour



SYP/kg

1M: 0 LM:4 696
6M: 11 1Y: 26

Egg



SYP/(1800—2000)g

1M: 18 LM:28 136
6M: 29 1Y: 53

Cow Meat



SYP/kg

1M: 6 LM:66 258
6M: 37 1Y: 78

Tomato



SYP/kg

1M: -23 LM:2 193
6M: -24 1Y: 2

Sugar



SYP/kg

1M: 1 LM:9 616
6M: 30 1Y: 56

Cow milk



SYP/litre

1M:2 LM:3 977
6M: 12 1Y: 33

Sheep Meat



SYP/kg

1M: 9 LM:77 165
6M: 38 1Y: 83

olive oil



SYP/Litre

1M: 17 LM:34 069
6M: 41 1Y: 69

Other Factors

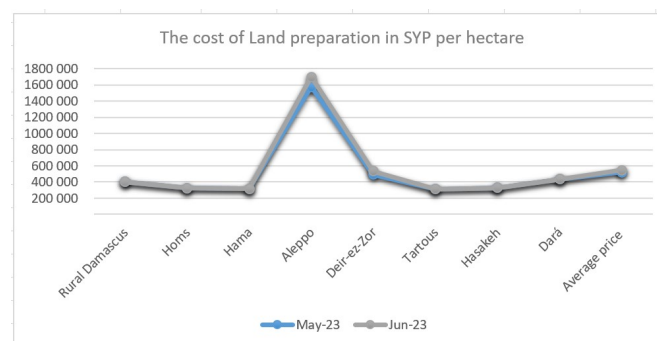
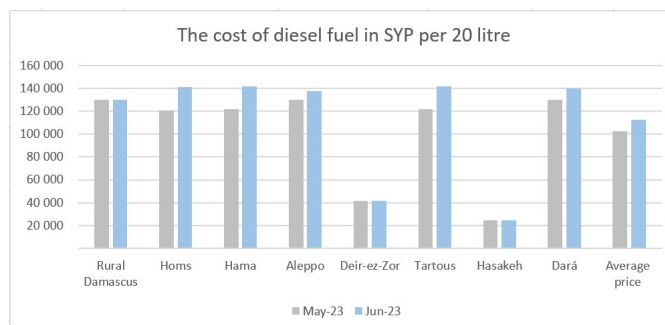
Farm Casual Labour and Wage

In June 2023, the recorded average daily wage rate for farm labour across monitored sites remained constant at 21 000 SYP per day. This stability can be linked to the decrease in demand for agricultural labour during the monitored period following the conclusion of the winter harvesting season.

Land Preparation

In June 2023, the cost of agricultural machinery services increased by 4 percent m-o-m, reaching an average of 542 758 SYP per hectare. This increase can be directly attributed to the increase in diesel prices.

The continued monitoring of diesel fuel prices and land preparation costs - and others, allows FAO and other sector partners to track changes in agricultural production and operational costs. This helps in the identification of potential hurdles that may affect food production and output during the current summer season output, profitability and commodity prices. The monitoring of such costs also helps the Food Security and Agriculture (FSA) Sector to plan appropriate relevant responses that will benefit vulnerable smallholder farmers and improve their resilience.



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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