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# Agriculture Input and Commodity Bulletin

## April 2021



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## Introduction

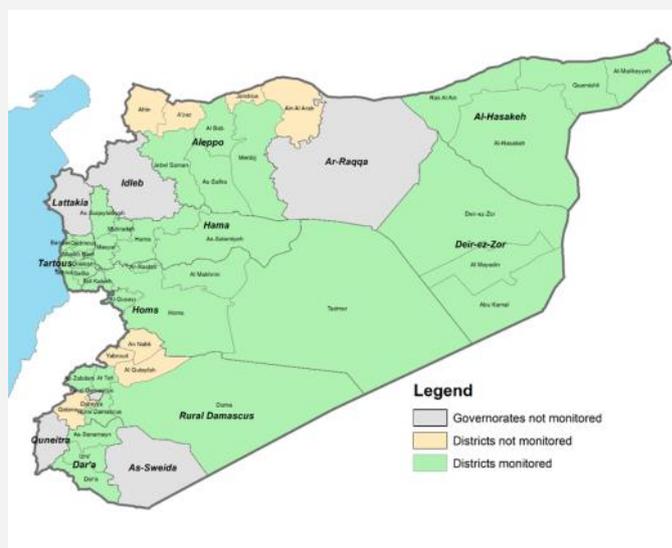
Agriculture, including crop and animal husbandry, forestry; fisheries and agro-processing with post-harvest handling and marketing, constitutes the basis of socio-economic lives of most smallholder farmers in the Syrian Arab Republic. FAO works on strengthening the value chain and food systems by empowering the involved stakeholders' capacity, mainly farmers, and expanding their knowledge and understand of the surrounding situation by sharing useful reports to make agriculture production sustainable, considers gender aspects and climate smart. The Organization in Syria releases the "Monthly agriculture input and commodity price bulletin" that provides timely insights from 35 districts across Homs, Hama, Aleppo, Tartous, Deir-ez-Zor, Rural Damascus, Al-Hasakeh and Dar'a Governorates, to inform relevant stakeholders, the Food Security Sector (FSS) and partners supporting agriculture and food security interventions in the country about the prevailing prices of agriculture inputs and commodities. This bulletin is a useful publication since markets and market information both play an important role in food security, income generation, resilience and rural-market linkages. Regular dissemination of market information will benefit smallholder farmers in their market-oriented production endeavors.

**DISCLAIMER:** The information in this bulletin comes from monthly market surveys conducted informally by FAO field staff. While FAO Syria strives to provide accurate and timely early warning information, there may be slight unintended technical or factual inaccuracies. Decisions based on information contained herein are the sole responsibility of the reader.

## Key Highlights

- Following the government's policy measures and regulations to protect the local currency against inflation, the situation of the Syrian pound has slightly improved against the USD in April 2021 as it became stable in the informal exchange market to 3 000 SYP per 1 USD. This slight improvement has decreased some agricultural inputs and food items' prices observed in April 2021.
- Ten out of eighteen monitored agricultural inputs has recorded variable m-o-m price decreases, including insecticide (liquid type), fungicide (liquid type), herbicide (dusts, granules, wettable powders, and liquid type), nitrate fertilizers, nitrate fertilizers (liquid type), phosphate fertilizer (liquid type), wheat and barley seeds and diesel fuel. Notably, a 30 percent m-o-m decrease was observed in Al-Hasakeh during this reporting period, other decreases will be elaborated further in the analysis section. In addition, m-o-m price decreases were observed for seven out of fifteen monitored food items, which included flour, sugar, olive oil, sunflower oil, potato, tomato and eggplant. It is important to note that flour prices decreased across most governorates, Al Hasakeh has recorded a 23 percent m-o-m decrease.
- As the 2020/2021 winter cropping season ended in April 2021, most farmers are preparing their lands for the summer vegetable production season. Progress on crop production during summer varied across the different geographical locations (i.e. governorates) and agro-stability zones. The major summer crops in Syria include a diversity of vegetable crops, fruits and some strategic cash crops like cotton and sunflower. The erratic rainfall has resulted in a deficit in the rainfall amount and low inflow into the main water bodies, such as dams and lake storages, especially Dará, Al -Sweidaa, Rural Damascus and Hama. This will highly threaten summer crop production, therefore; it will negatively impact the food security and livelihoods situation of vulnerable farmers. There are also concerns on the significant decrease in the water discharge of the Euphrates River, since this poses a real threat on the food security and livelihoods of families who benefit from the water downstream. This will be further worsened by the limited availability and high cost of fuel for underground water extraction.

- The fuel crisis, which caused significant paralyses in most sectors that rely on fuel, including the agriculture sector, has slightly improved, especially in the second half of April 2021, with the arrival of new oil shipments to Syria and the new applied measurements that obliged by concerned ministries (Oil, Internal Trade and Consumer, Telecommunication) this has stabilized the fuel situation.
- The number of COVID-19 cases was stable in April 2021. The overall number of registered cases reached 22 733 case, 1 592 of them is the number of deaths being recorded as of end of April 2021. However, and although of the stable situation, there is still a need to follow COVID-19 preventative measures due to potential escalation of the pandemic if the COVID-19 3rd wave arrives to Syria. Any escalation will have a significant impact on the economic situation of the majority of the Syrian families. COVID-19 continues to be a major risk in Syria and the globe and avoiding its spread of the pandemic is vital at all costs. Any further COVID-19 related socio-economic impacts will ultimately cause difficulties in agricultural and livestock production, food processing, market supply and access, and subsequently result in increased food prices

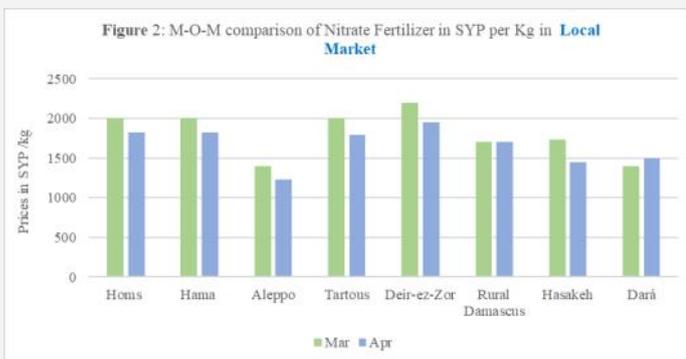


**Figure 1:** Markets Monitored by FAO on a monthly basis.

## Agriculture Commodity and Input Prices

### Nitrate fertilizers

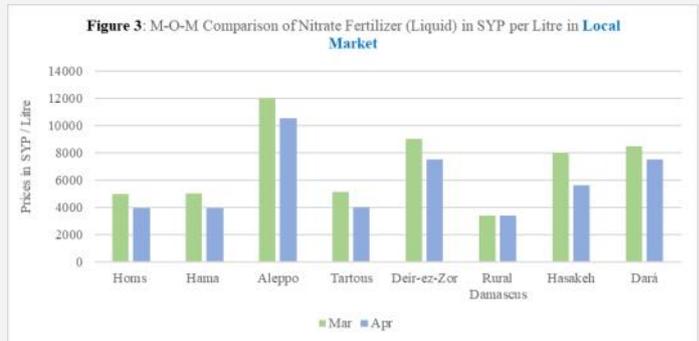
The Agriculture Bank used to provide each farmer with granular nitrate fertilizer at a supported price of 200 SYP per kg. The agriculture bank continued to face significant challenges in stocking this item in April 2021 across the governorates. Shortages were observed in Homs, Hama, Tartous and Hasakeh. Granular fertilizer remains available at the Agriculture bank in Aleppo, Deir-ez-Zor and Dar'a and the price remained constant m-o-m, however; the bank provides almost a third of the farmers' needs, forcing them to purchase the rest of their requirements from the local market at an average price of 1 657 SYP per kg (8 percent m-o-m decrease) The selling price decreased significantly in Hasakeh, Aleppo and Deir-ez-Zor governorates (16, 13 and 11 percent m-o-m decrease respectively). The remaining governorates also recorded a decrease in the average selling price with an 8 percent m-o-m decrease (figure 2). The improvement of the local currency against the USD in April 2021 slightly improved the already dire situation since it resulted in market price decrease for agricultural inputs purchased from local markets. This situation slightly improved the farmer's capability in covering their needs and field requirements.



In other governorate, most farmers continue to rely on the local market to address the shortage limited availability of granular nitrate fertilizer at the Agriculture Bank. The top dressing fertilizer is essential for good leaf and general plant growth, ultimately the yield. It is also important for attaining good protein levels. The shortage observed in Homs, Hama, Tartous and Al Hasakeh governorates of nitrate fertilizer is affecting the crop properties in these governorates.

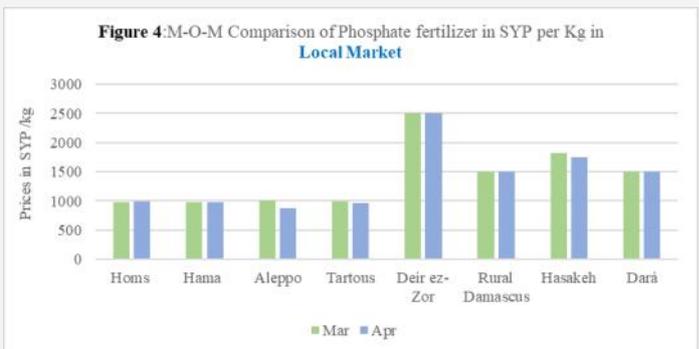
The average selling price of liquid nitrate fertilizer was 5 796 SYP per litre in April 2021 (11 percent m-o-m decrease). The average selling price in Hasakeh decreased significantly reaching 5 625 SYP per litre (30 percent m-o-m decrease), while the selling prices in Hama and Tartous governorates recorded 3 920 and 3 983 SYP per litre respectively,

representing a 22 percent m-o-m decrease as highlighted in figure 3. The price of the same top dressing fertilizer remained constant in Rural Damascus between March and April 2021.



### Phosphate fertilizers

Phosphate fertilizer is available at the Agriculture Bank at a subsidized price of 240 SYP per kg in three governorates out of eight, Aleppo, Rural Damascus and Dar'a. Phosphate fertilizer is still available in the local markets at a price of 1 383 SYP per kg (2 percent m-o-m decrease) in April 2021. The average selling price remained constant in Hama, Deir-ez-Zor, Rural Damascus and Dar'a governorates, while the lowest price was recorded in Aleppo at a price of 875 SYP per kg, highlighting a 13 percent m-o-m decrease (figure 4).

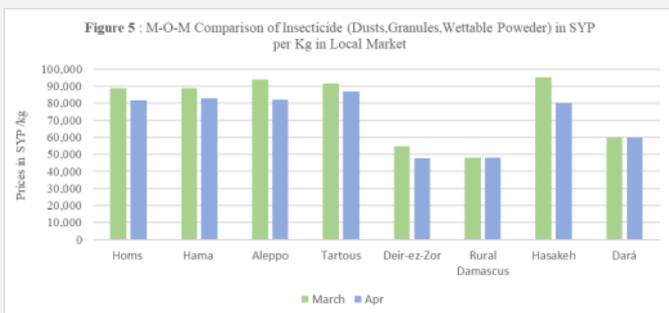


### Pesticides

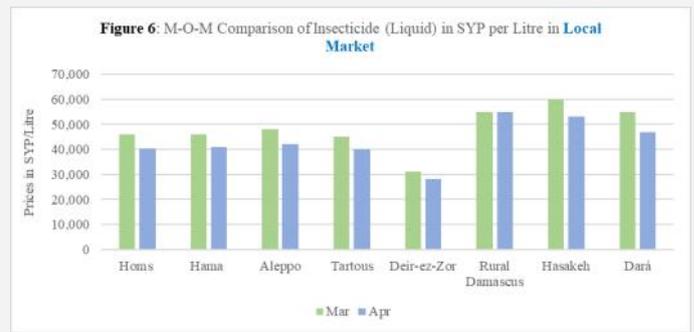
Crop-protection agro-chemicals (i.e. pesticides), which include insecticides, fungicides and herbicides, remain available across all monitored governorates. However, the average prices of pesticides in April 2021 witnessed a slight decrease compared to previous months. Despite the slight m-o-m decrease, the prices still remain expensive and out of reach for most farmers. The price of pesticides continues to adversely impact vulnerable farmer's application rates, leading to a greater risk of pest and disease incidences and prevalence, which will ultimately affect production, productivity and the quality of produce of vegetables and fruits.

FAO advises to scale-up integrated pest management (IPM) approaches and tactics to minimize the reliance on expensive synthetic or inorganic pesticides. Integrated pest management is an environmentally friendly strategy that aims at maintaining pest populations below economically damaging levels and reducing the use of toxic synthetic chemicals (i.e. pesticides). The farmers and the Food and Agriculture Sector (FAS) partners are encouraged to adopt IPM, where feasible, as this may offer ways to achieve effective long-term pest control while mitigating hazards to humans and the environment, with possibility of increasing the resilience of farming households. Furthermore, most available pesticides in the local market are coming from unknown and unofficial sources, hence the quality and efficacy is difficult to verify.

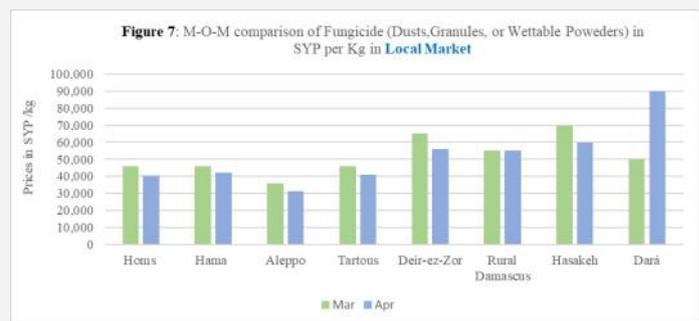
**Insecticides (dusts, granules, Wettable powders):** These items were generally available at an average price of 71 152 SYP per kg. The highest selling price was recorded in Tartous governorate at 86 667 SYP per kg (5 percent m-o-m decrease), the positive change in price was significant in Deir-ez-Zor also (14 percent m-o-m decrease). In Aleppo governorate, a significant m-o-m decrease (i.e. 13 percent) was observed, while in rural Damascus the average selling price remained constant and represent 48 000 SYP per Kg (figure 5).



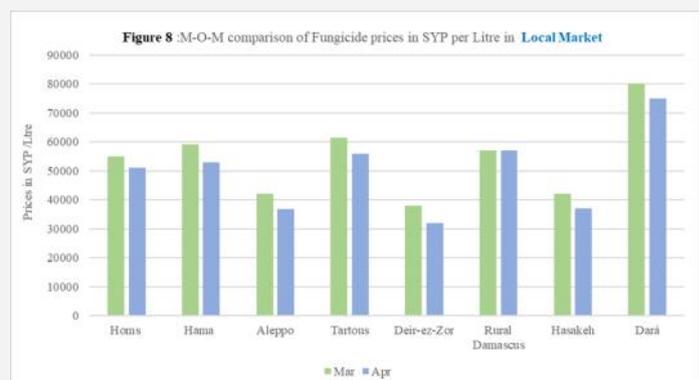
**Liquid Insecticides:** The liquid insecticide average prices decreased in April 2021 (10 percent m-o-m decrease), with the average selling price reaching 43 275 SYP per litre. Liquid insecticides were generally available across most of the monitored markets and the average selling prices remained constant m-o-m in Rural Damascus. Dará and Aleppo governorates witnessed a significant decrease in April 2021 and the price reached 47 000 and 42 000 SYP per litre respectively (15 and 13 percent m-o-m decrease). Hasakeh, Hama, Tartous and Deir-ez-Zor governorates recorded (12, 11, 11 and 10 percent m-o-m decrease respectively) as highlighted in figure 6.



**Fungicides (dusts, granules or Wettable powders):** Fungicides are generally available across the monitored governorates at an average selling price of 51 960 SYP per kg. Dará governorate recorded the highest price increase among the monitored governorates, with a selling price of 90 000 SYP per kg (80 percent m-o-m increase). However, a moderate decrease in the fungicide selling price was observed in six governorates, namely Hasakeh, Aleppo, Homs, Tartous and Hama (15, 13, 12, 11 and 8 percent m-o-m decrease respectively). The average selling price for fungicides remained constant in Rural Damascus at 55 000 SYP per kg (figure 7).

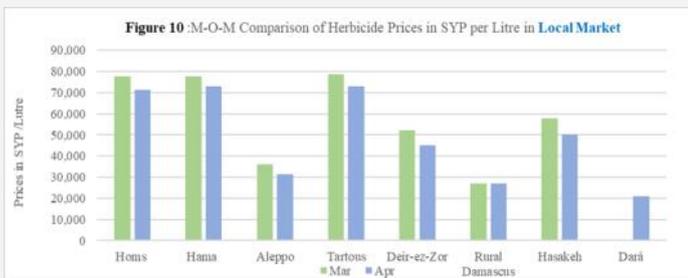


**Liquid Insecticides:** There was a slight m-o-m decrease in the average selling price of liquid fungicides in Deir-ez-Zur (16 percent), Aleppo (13 percent), Hasakeh (12 percent) and Hama (10 percent). However, in Rural Damascus governorate the average selling prices remained constant at 57 000 SYP per litre (figure 8).



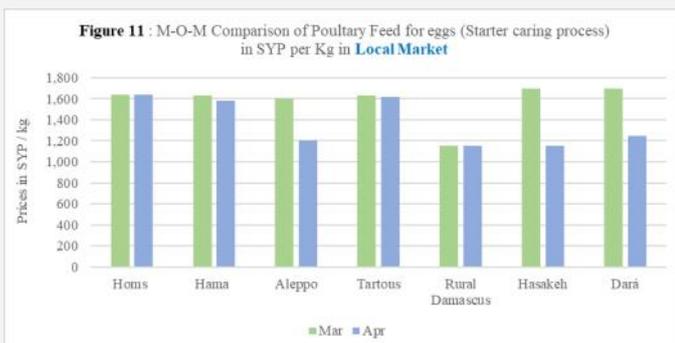
## Herbicides

The average selling price of herbicides (i.e. dusts, granules or Wettable powders) was 70 223 SYP per kg (13 percent m-o-m decrease). A notable m-o-m decrease in the selling price of herbicides was recorded in Dará (22 percent), Hasakeh (21 percent), Homs (15 percent), Hama (15 percent), Aleppo (13 percent), Tartous (13 percent) and Deir-ez-Zor (12 percent). Prices remained constant m-o-m in Rural Damascus (figure 9). The liquid herbicides recorded a 4 percent m-o-m decrease with an average selling price of 48 942 SYP per litre. All of the monitored governorates witnessed a m-o-m decrease in the average selling price ranging between 14 to 6 percent, except for Rural Damascus governorate, where the herbicide price remained constant at 27 000 SYP per litre since March 2021 (figure 10).

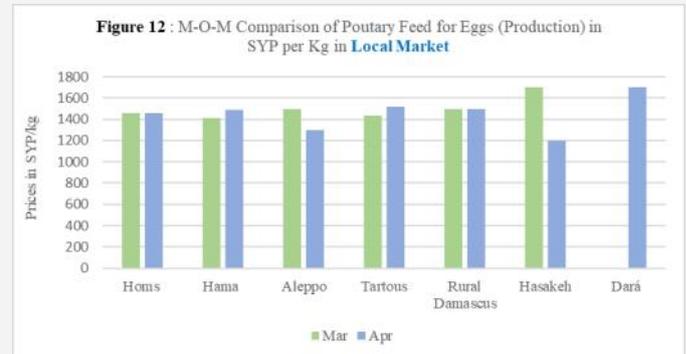


## Poultry Feed

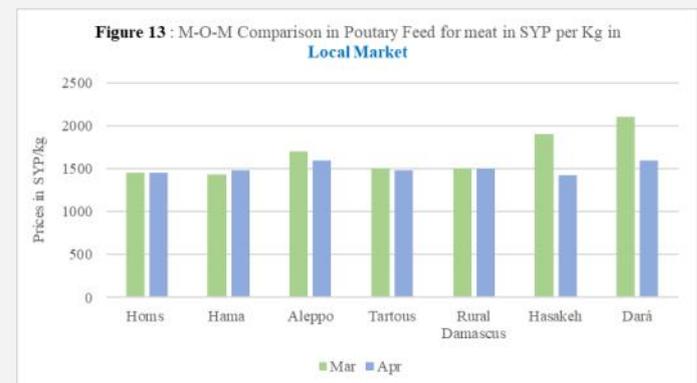
The average selling price of the starter mash poultry feed for egg production was recorded at 1 370 SYP per kg. This will result in limiting the availability of eggs in the local markets and access by most families in Deir-ez-Zor. It must be noted that families in Deir-er-Zor continue to rely on other neighbouring governorates or bordering countries to cover their needs for eggs through illegal trade routes, these are of unverified quality and standards. Dará witnessed a decrease in the average selling price (26 percent m-o-m) that reached 1 250 SYP per Kg. Al-Hasakeh governorate also recorded a notable decrease (32 percent m-o-m) and the average selling price was 1 150 SYP per Kg. The price of starter mash in Homs governorate remained constant at 1 640 SYP per Kg since March 2021 (figure 11).



The starter mash for poultry and egg production, decreased in Al-Hasakeh governorate and reached 1 200 SYP per kg (29 percent m-o-m decrease), while prices for poultry starter mash remained constant in Rural Damascus and Homs governorates at 1 500 and 1 460 SYP per kg respectively (figure 12).



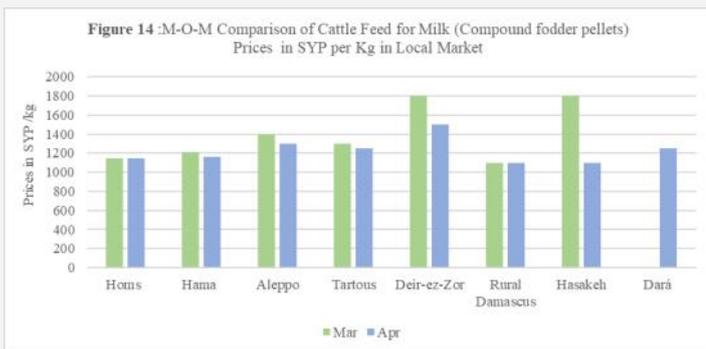
The average selling price of poultry feed for chicken production was recorded at 1 505 SYP per kg, representing a 25 percent m-o-m increase. Dará governorate recorded a significant decrease (24 percent m-o-m). However, Al Hasakeh governorate recorded the lowest price at 1 425 SYP per kg. Prices in Rural Damascus and Homs governorates remained constant since March 2021 (figure 13).



## Cattle feed

The availability of cattle feed for milk production (i.e. compound fodder pellets) was generally favourable and acceptable in the monitored locations, with an average price of 1 226 SYP per kg being recorded in April 2021 (1 percent increase m-o-m). The highest selling price was observed in Deir-ez-Zor at 1 500 SYP per kg, though there was a 17 percent m-o-m decrease. Prices for cattle feed in Rural Damascus governorate remained constant since March 2021 with the lowest price of 1 100 SYP per kg (figure 14).

Dará governorate witnessed a decrease in the average price of the ‘crashed-type’ cattle feed for milk production (14 percent m-o-m), with the price reaching 1 250 SYP per kg. The average selling price for the ‘crashed-type’ cattle feed for milk production was 1 068 (5 percent m-o-m increase). Cattle feed for meat production (i.e. compound fodder pellets) was available across all the monitored governorates at an estimate price of 1 197 SYP per kg. Dará recorded the highest price of cattle feed, which was sold for at least 1 300 SYP per kg. Livestock feed is the main challenge, which continues to affect the livelihoods of livestock keepers and herders as it constitutes about 70 percent of the total costs for livestock production. However; the availability of livestock feed is fair to good with a moderate decrease of the price for cattle feed being observed in April 2021. The current recovery of the local currency against the USD and the slight decrease of prices for livestock feed and other agriculture inputs, will potentially improve access by most livestock farmers. This will likely result in a slight improvement in cattle production output for both milk and meat.

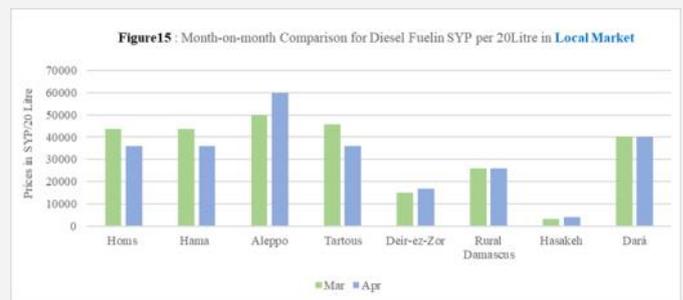


### Diesel Fuel

The Syrian government has allocated a specific quantity of diesel fuel for farmers in an endeavour to support the agriculture sector but this quantity remains inadequate to cover the demand. The farmers continue to access fuel through a subsidised price of 180 SYP per litre. There was a slight m-o-m decrease of 5 percent in the average diesel fuel price within the local markets, reaching 31 844 SYP per 20 litres (see figure 15). Three governorates out of eight witnessed a significant price decrease in diesel fuel price for a 20 litre gallon and these governorates are Tartous (36 000 SYP), Hama (36 833 SYP), Homs (36 000 SYP). The lowest price of diesel fuel continued to be observed in April 2021 in Al-Hasakeh at 4 000 SYP for a 20 liter gallon (26 percent m-o-m increase). Aleppo governorate selling price reached 60 000 SYP per 20 liters (20 percent m-o-m increase) (figure 15).

Diesel fuel availability was improved in April 2021, however; the farmers still have to rely on expensive diesel fuel offered in the local market to cover the unmet needs. The availability

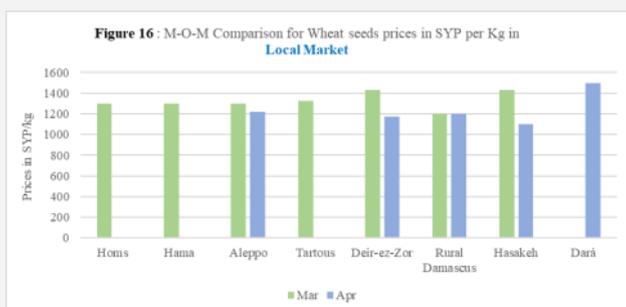
and subsequent price changes of fuel (i.e. diesel and gasoline) and other energy sources will be monitored continuously as this may have ripple effects on various agriculture operations, especially water extraction and irrigation. The limited ability of wheat farmers to effectively irrigate their crop based on their planned irrigation schedule; could have most impacted grain filling and expected production for both wheat and even barley, and there is need for an assessment to quantify these potential losses in expected production. Diesel fuel and other forms of energy are essential for groundwater extraction for irrigation purposes, transportation of products and inputs to markets, food processing and preservation. The high cost and extremely limited availability of diesel fuel, in particular, will have adverse effects on agricultural production and may affect food and nutrition security.



### Wheat seeds for planting

The optimum time for planting winter in Syria is between mid-October to end of December, depending on whether it is under irrigation or is rain fed. If rain fed, the time of sowing also depends on the onset of rainfall and the wheat varieties’ days to physiological maturity. FAO continuously monitors the prices of wheat seed beside other agriculture input, so that a comparison may be made for the prevailing wheat seed prices during peak demand and off-season. Continuous monitoring assists in analysing the price trends as mentioned above and checks on wheat seed availability as the successive winter planting seasons approach. However, FAO encourages sector partners and farmers to always verify the quality, expiry date and germ inability of the seed being bought from seed left-over from previous season.

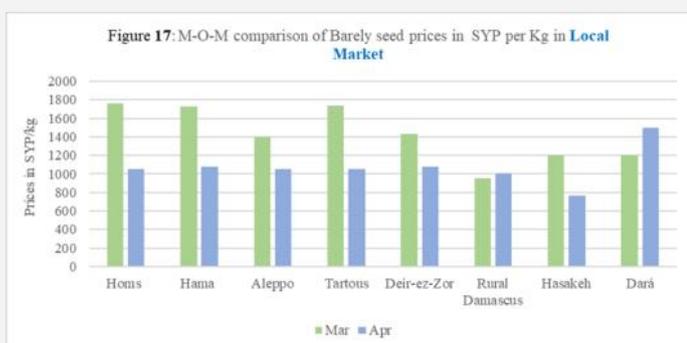
The General Organization for Seed Multiplication (GOSM) still has wheat seed in stock for 450 SYP per kg as the official price. The average selling price for wheat seeds in the local market decreased 33 percent m-o-m in April 2021 across the monitored governorates. However there was a significant decrease in the average selling prices in Hasakeh and Deir-ez-Zor, reaching 1 100 and 1 175 SYP per Kg respectively (23 and 18 m-o-m decrease respectively (figure 16). In Aleppo, the selling price of wheat seed recorded is 1 217 SYP per kg in April 2021 (6 percent m-o-m decrease) compared to 1 300 SYP per kg in March 2021.



### Barley seeds

The optimum time for planting barley in Syria is between early-October to mid-November, depending on the onset of rainfall and the barley varieties' days to physiological maturity. FAO continuously monitors the prices of barley seed, and other agriculture input prices, so that a comparison may be made for the prevailing barley seed prices during peak demand and off-season. Continuous monitoring assists in analysing the price trends as mentioned above and checks on barley seed availability as successive planting seasons approach. However, FAO encourages sector partners and farmers to always verify the quality, expiry date and germinability of the seed being bought from seed leftover from previous season.

GOSM still has in stock at an official price of 200 SYP per kg. The local market continues to offer barley seed at a price ranging between 763 SYP per kg in Hasakeh to 1 500 SYP per kg in Dará governorate. There was a general increase in the average selling price of barley seed at 25 percent m-o-m. The situation was different across other governorates since price decreases were observed. Homs, Tartous and Hama governorates recorded significant decreases of 40, 39 and 38 percent m-o-m respectively. The price in the local market reached 1 050 SYP per kg in Homs, 1 050 SYP per kg in Tartous and 1 080 SYP per kg in Hama. Barley seed price reached 1 075 SYP per kg in Deir-ez-Zor governorate (Figure 17).



**Maize (Corn):** The average selling price of Maize was 1 064 SYP per kg and the lowest price recorded in Deir-ez-Zur governorate was 450 SYP per kg, while Dará governorate observed the highest price at 1 200 SYP per kg.

**Soybean Meal:** Soybean is available in six of the monitored governorates, namely Homs, Hama, Aleppo, Tartous, Rural Damascus, and Dará at an average selling price 1 860 SYP per kg. Rural Damascus recorded 2 000 SYP per kg which was the highest recorded price across all governorates, while the price in Homs and Hama governorates were the lowest at 1 800 SYP per Kg.

**Barley Grain:** The average selling price was 1 667 SYP per kg and barley grain is not readily available in Hama and Tartous governorates. Al-Hasakeh recorded a selling price of 788 SYP per kg in April 2021.

**Cottonseed Meal:** Cottonseed is available in Homs, Hama, Aleppo and Tartous governorates and the average selling prices are 1 480, 1 400, 1 500 and 1 492 SYP per kg respectively.

**Wheat Bran:** The average selling price recorded in April 2021 is 689 SYP per kg and observations across all monitored governorates confirm that wheat bran is readily at 700 SYP. The highest price was recorded in Rural Damascus, Hasakeh and Dara at 700 SYP per kg. While the lowest price was recorded in Homs governorate at 635 SYP per kg.

**Wheat Straw:** It is available across all of monitored governorates with an average price that ranges from 246 SYP per kg in Homs Governorate and 450 SYP per kg in Rural Damascus. The average selling price across all monitored sites is 314 SYP per Kg. the price of wheat straw is most likely going to reduce moderately once the harvest period commences since there will be high supply.

**Crop Straw:** It is the crop residue consisting of the dry stems and leaves left after the harvest of legumes, vegetables and other crops (i.e. cumin). The average selling price of crop straw in Aleppo and Dará was 700 SYR per kg and 600 SYP per kg in Al-Hasakeh, while in Rural Damascus the price recorded 800 SYP Per kg.



## Food Prices

The observations in April 2021 indicate that almost seven food items, including tomato, sunflower, sugar, bread, olive oil, eggplant, flour and potato, recorded slight price decreases. The remaining food items witnessed a slight increase ranging from 11 to 3 percent m-o-m increase. The food prices reduction is due to the improvement and recovery of the Syrian currency against the USD in April 2021. It must be noted that the prices remain high and out of reach for most food insecure families compared to pre-crisis and pre-COVID-19 levels.

The average selling price of bread went up in April 2021 to 158 SYP per pack (7 percent m-o-m increase). The highest selling price of bread was recorded in Al-Hasakeh governorate at 263 SYP per pack (5 percent m-o-m increase). Deir-ez-Zor recorded an increase of 17 percent m-o-m as the selling price of bread reached 175 SYP per pack. Homs governorate has also recorded a 30 percent m-o-m increase as highlighted in figure 18.

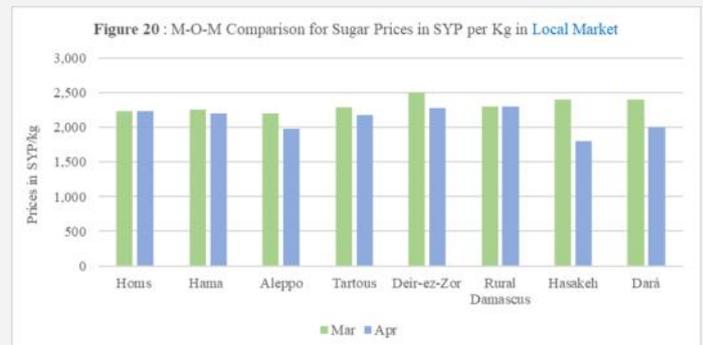


Generally, the price of flour decreased across most governorates with an average m-o-m decrease of 5 percent. Al Hasakeh governorate has witnessed an m-o-m decrease (23 percent), Aleppo (15 percent) and Deir-ez-Zor (4 percent). In Rural Damascus, Homs, Hama and Dará governorates the prices remained constant since March 2021 at 2 500, 1 790, 1 800 and 1 600 SYP per kg respectively (figure 19). Al Hasakeh,

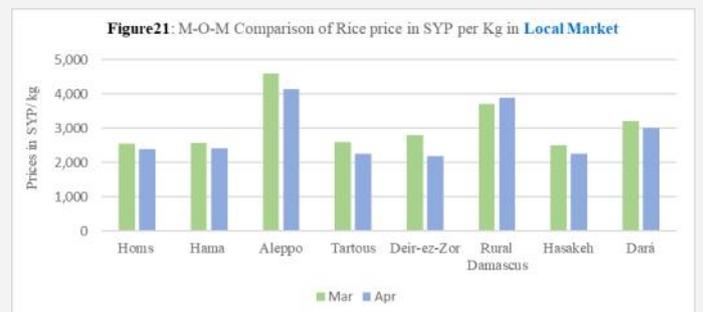


Dará, Aleppo and Deir-ez-Zor governorates recorded decreases on the average price of sugar in April 2021, with a

25 percent, 17 percent, 10 percent and 9 percent m-o-m decrease being recorded in the mentioned locations respectively. The prices in Rural Damascus and Homs governorates remained constant between March 2021 to April 2021 (figure 20).



For rice, there was an observed decrease in the selling prices across monitored governorates with an average of 2 815 SYP per kg (8 percent m-o-m decrease). Deir-ez-Zor observed the most significant price drop (22 percent decrease m-o-m), with the average selling price reaching 2 175 SYP per kg. Tartous observed a 13 percent decrease in the average selling price at 2 258 SYP per kg.

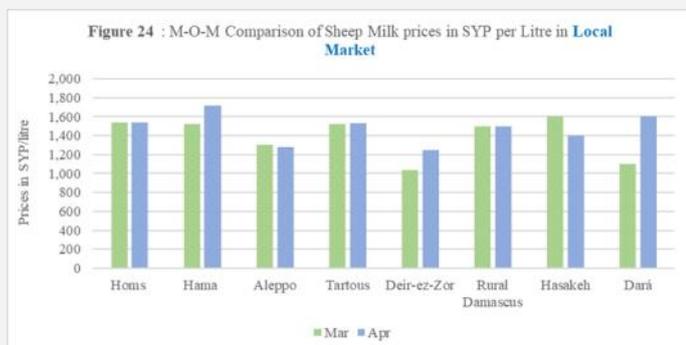
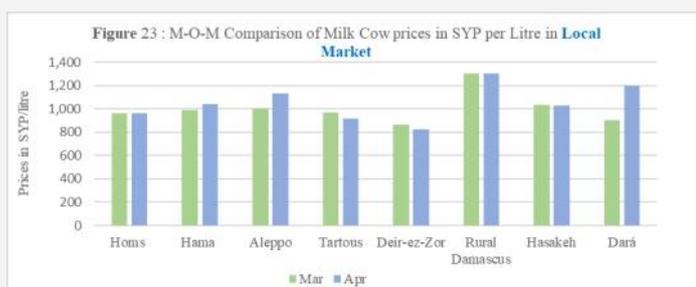


The selling price of eggs observed a moderate decrease across all monitored governorates in April 2021 with a 11 percent m-o-m decrease in the average price reaching 6 449 SYP for a crate or pack 30 eggs. The price in Rural Damascus remained constant at 7 700 SYP for a pack or crate of 30 eggs. Hama governorate recorded the lowest price at 5 040 SYP for the same quantity of eggs (figure 22).

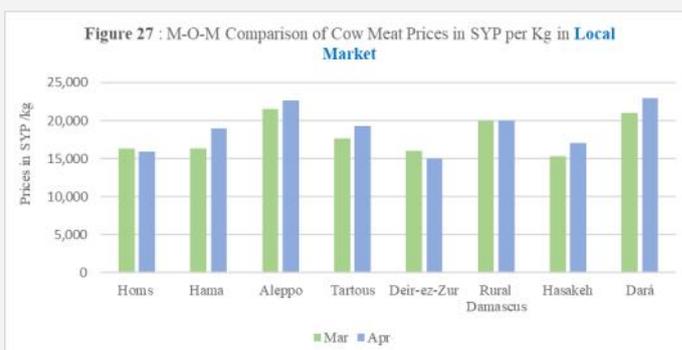
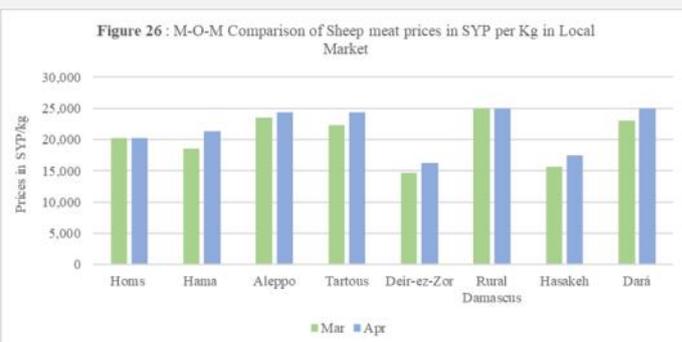
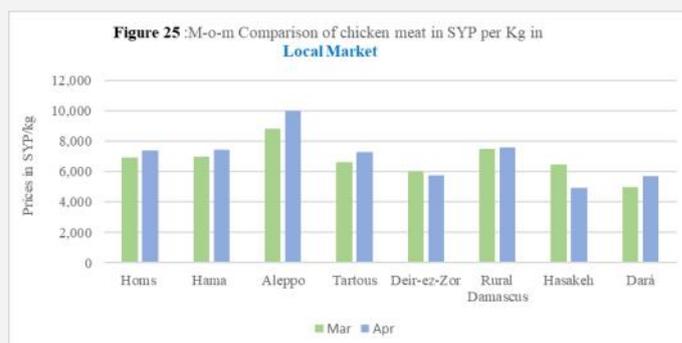


The selling price for cow milk increased in Dará, Aleppo and Al-Hasakeh and Hama governorates by 33, 13 and 3 percent respectively because of the feed high price and transportation costs. While in Tartous, the price decreased by 5 percent m-o-m. The average selling price reached 1 050 SYP per litre across all the eight monitored governorates with the highest price of 1 300 SYP per litre being recorded in Rural Damascus (figure 23).

For sheep milk, the average selling price reached 1 478 SYP per litre with the highest selling price of 1 720 SYP per litre being recorded in Hama governorate, while the lowest selling price was observed in Deir-ez-Zor at 1 250 SYP per litre. The selling price of sheep milk decreased in Al Hasakeh and reached 1 400 SYP per litre (13 percent m-o-m decrease). Dará governorate witnessed a significant increase in the average selling price of sheep milk reaching 1 600 SYP per litre (45 percent m-o-m increase) as highlighted in (figure 24).



For chicken, the prices in Al-Hasakeh and Deir-ez-Zor decreased by 24 and 4 percent respectively m-o-m. An average selling price of 7 013 SYP per kg was recorded across the eight monitored locations with a slight 3 percent m-o-m increase. The highest selling price was observed in Aleppo reaching 10 033 SYP per kg (13 percent m-o-m increase). Dará governorate also recorded a 14 percent increase m-o-m and the average selling price was 5 700 SYP per kg (figure 25). The average selling price for sheep meat reached 21 750 SYP per kg (7 percent m-o-m increase). The highest price was recorded in Rural Damascus and Dará at 25 000 SYP per kg (figure 26), while the average selling price for beef reached 18 987 SYP per kg (5 percent m-o-m increase). Aleppo governorate witnessed a slight 5 percent m-o-m increase and this price of 22 667 SYP per kg remained the highest across all the monitored governorates (figure 27).



For fish, the monthly market monitoring has noticed an increase on the average selling prices, which was similar to March 2021 at 20 000 SYP per kg in Rural Damascus. This high and exorbitant price will further limit access and consumption of fish by most vulnerable and food insecure families, potentially resulting in reduced dietary diversity.

Olive oil prices decreased by 7 percent in April 2021 with an average selling price of 9 475 SYP per litre recorded across the eight monitored governorates. Al-Hasakeh, Deir-ez-Zor and Aleppo governorates witnessed a sharp decrease (21, 18 and 17 percent m-o-m respectively), while the prices in Rural Damascus, Homs and Hama governorates remained constant from March 2021, and the prices were 10 000, 9 840 and 9700 SYP per litre respectively (figure 28).



Sunflower oil's average selling price witnessed a decrease to 7 452 SYP per litre (17 percent m-o-m decrease) as highlighted in figure 28. Aleppo and Deir-ez-Zor governorates witnessed a sharp m-o-m decrease as well (24 and 44 percent respectively). In Al-Hasakeh, the average selling price reached 5 500 SYP per litre (24 percent m-o-m decrease), while in Rural Damascus the price remained constant since February 2021 with a selling price of 10 000 SYP per litre (figure 29). The observed decreases in sunflower can also be attributed to the improvements and stabilization of the local Syrian currency.

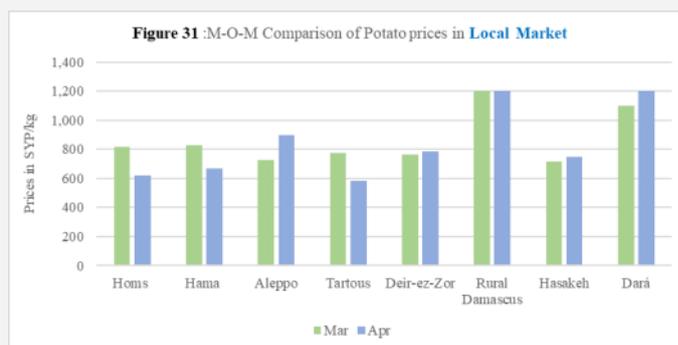


The average selling price of tomato decreased across the monitored markets with the average selling price of 868 SYP per kg, except in Al Hasakeh governorate where a 28 percent m-o-m increase on tomato prices was recorded. The selling price of tomatoes decreased significantly in Rural Damascus reaching 700 SYP per kg (42 percent m-o-m decrease). Tomato selling prices in Aleppo also decreased significantly from 1 050 SYP in March 2021 to 717 SYP in April 2021. Furthermore, Dará governorate recorded a 33 percent m-o-m decrease and one kilogram of tomatoes was selling at 868 SYP per kg (figure 30).



The average selling price of potatoes decreased in Tartous, Homs and Hama governorates with the average price reaching 583, 620 and 670 SYP per kg respectively. Aleppo witnessed 24 percent m-o-m increase and the average selling price reached 900 SYP per Kg. On the contrary, potato prices remained constant in Rural Damascus governorate at an

average selling price of 1 200 SYP per kg (figure 31).



The average price of eggplants was 1 031 SYP per kg in April 2021 across the monitored locations. However, Deir-ez-Zor governorate witnessed a sharp increase (22 percent m-o-m) with the average selling price reaching 1 425 SYP per kg. This price increase could indicate low supply of the vegetable and there is need for sector partners to support farmers with a diversity of vegetables inputs, including eggplant. Aleppo governorate observed a significant price drop (28 percent m-o-m) with a price reached 867 SYP per kg. In both Rural Damascus and Dará governorates the price decreased to 1 000 SYP per kg (17 percent m-o-m decrease) as highlighted in figure 32.

