



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

Syria: Agriculture Input and Commodity Bulletins

July 2021





Background and 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 market information, there may be slight unintended technical or factual inaccuracies. Decisions based on information contained herein are the sole responsibility of the reader. For further insights and analysis of food prices, WFP also issues Syria Price Bulletins regularly that could be found on the Syria Food Security Cluster FSC website.

Key Highlights

- Price increases for both agriculture inputs and food commodities continue to be observed in Syria. This continues to exert significant pressure on Syrian families 10 years into a protracted crisis. In July 2021, eighteen (18) out of thirty (30) monitored agriculture inputs showed varying price increases. Significant price increases were recorded for wheat seed in local markets (26 percent m-o-m increase), with a 21 percent m-o-m increase being observed for phosphate fertilizer. Average price increases were also noted in July 2021 for wheat bran (17 percent m-o-m), poultry feed for meat production (15 percent m-o-m), Urea (12 percent m-o-m) diesel fuel (8 percent m-o-m) and poultry feed for egg production and maize (6 percent m-o-m). A minimal 1 percent m-o-m increase was recorded for cottonseed, nitrate fertilizers (granular), NPK (basal), insecticides (granular and liquid), fungicides and cattle feed. The recurrent price increases and prevailing high cost of agriculture inputs, particularly in the local market, will continue to limit access; especially for crisis-affected vulnerable smallholder farmers. It is also important to note that the government has started to initiate new policies related to phasing-out pesticide and fertilizer subsidies and more will be covered in the August 2021 bulletin.
- For July 2021, ten (10) out of sixteen (16) monitored food items recorded variable m-o-m price increases. Price increases were also recorded for bread, tomato, cow and sheep milk, potato, sugar, sunflower oil, rice, cow meat and olive oil and specific price trends are presented in the respective analysis section.
- The price of bread increased significantly back in October 2020 and another increase announced officially in July 2021 due to the new official price announced by the ministry of internal trade and consumer protection. The price adjustment resulted in the price of bread rising from 100 SYP per rabta to 200 SYP per rabta through the official bread distribution points. The prevailing economic difficulties are making it difficult for the continuation of the bread subsidies and this is further limiting access to bread by most vulnerable households.
- Fuel shortages continue to persist in most governorates and this continues to present challenges to farmers who rely on fuel for irrigation during the sum-

mer season and transportation of their produce to the market. The fuel shortages are putting financial pressure on farmers since this is having knock-on effects on overall production costs.

- The reaction of markets is different from one location to another and Rural Damascus looks more stable across all monitored locations. This could be attributed to the unofficial entry of some agriculture inputs that is sometimes evident along the border entry points. Overall, market prices in most governorates are unstable, particularly due to the worsening macro-economic conditions prevailing in the country.
- The water crisis coupled with the climate-induced drought-like conditions, has severely impacted agricultural output and is threatening food security and agriculture-based livelihoods of farmers in Syria. There are indications that some productive agricultural land may be out of production due to water scarcity, dry spells and erratic rainfall distribution experienced during the 2020/2021 agricultural season. There is urgent need to address the various challenges being faced in the agriculture sector, including awareness raising on climate change impact on the performance of the agriculture sector and adaptation strategies. Besides reducing agricultural productivity and threatening the agriculture sector, frequency and intensity of extreme weather events and the reduction in water availability will also impact output markets for agriculture produce and these will need to be closely monitored.

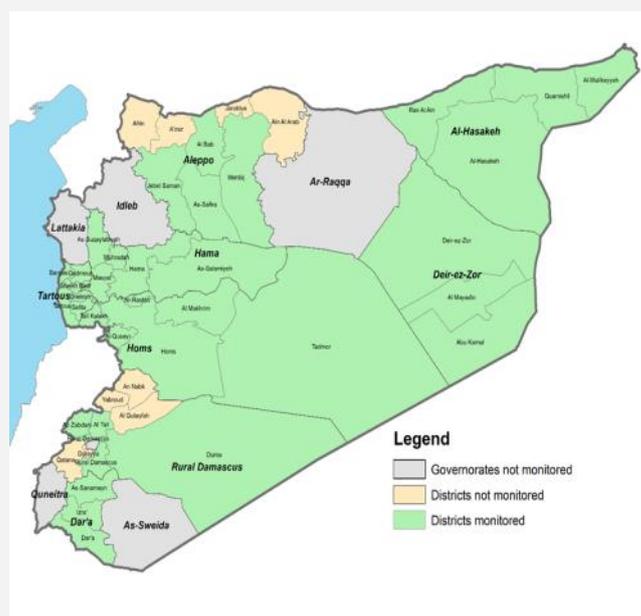


Figure 1: Markets Monitored by FAO on a monthly basis.

- Agriculture Commodity and Input Prices**

Top dressing fertilizer (Urea)

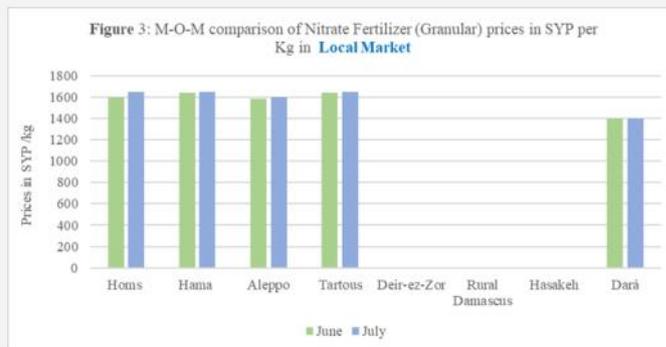
In the beginning of July 2021, the Agriculture Bank made some changes in its policy related to supporting farmers with urea. Based on availability, the Agriculture Bank announced that the selling price for urea was now pegged at 1 400 SYP per kg. The price adjustment due to the knock-on effects of the prevailing macro-economic difficulties and currency fluctuation, continues to put pressure on most vulnerable farmers. Significant challenges in stocking sufficient quantities of urea across some governorates is being noticed in Hasakeh, Tartous, Homs and Hama governorates in July 2021. Due to the shortage and limited availability of urea at the Agriculture Bank, most farmers continue to rely on the local market to address the shortage and cover the significant gap. Farmers try to purchase the rest of their needs from the local market at an average price of 1 725 SYP per kg (15 percent m-o-m increase). The selling price increased slightly in Tartous (11 percent), Aleppo (11 percent), Hama (11 percent) and Homs governorates (10 percent) m-o-m and the average selling prices were 2 000, 1 660 , 2 000 and 2 000 SYP per kg respectively. In Deir-ez-Zor, Rural Damascus, Hasakeh and Dará governorates, the prices remained constant and no significant changes were observed (figure 2). The general stability of the SYP vs the USD in July 2021 has resulted in price stability for some agriculture inputs and food items within the local markets.



Nitrate Fertilizer (Granular)

The average selling price of granular nitrate fertilizer witnessed a very minimal change in July 2021 (1 percent m-o-m increase) and the average selling was at 1 590 SYP per kg. The granular nitrate fertilizers shortages continued to be observed in Deir-ez-Zor, Rural Damascus and Hasakeh governorates since June 2021. In Homs, Hama, Aleppo, Tartous and Dará governorates granular

nitrate fertilizer is readily available with also a slight m-o-m increase ranging between 1 percent for Hama, Aleppo and Tartous governorates and 3 percent for Homs. The price in Dará governorate remained constant since June 2021 and the average selling price was at 1 400 SYP per kg (figure 3).



Nitrate Fertilizer (Liquid):

As highlighted in figure 4, the average selling price of liquid nitrate fertilizer remained constant across most of monitored governorates, except for Deir-ez-Zor governorate where a slight m-o-m decrease was observed with the average selling price reaching 6 000 SYP per litre. A m-o-m price decrease of 3 percent was recorded for liquid nitrate fertilizer in July 2021 and the recorded price was 6 177 SYP per litre. Generally, the price of liquid nitrate fertilizer remained fairly stable from June to July 2021.



Ammonium Nitrate (Topdressing):

Ammonium nitrate is very important in agriculture as it promotes plant growth, increases yield and its resistance to adverse factors. In addition, it protects plants and fruit crops from possible fungal infection and diseases. Ammonium nitrate was not available in Aleppo, Rural Damascus and Dará governorates in July 2021. The general average selling price of 1 340 SYP per kg

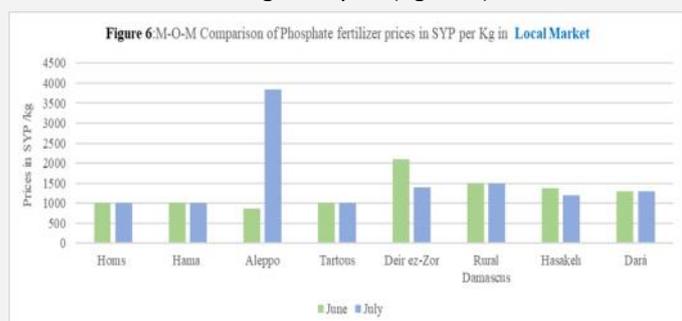
remained constant since June 2021 and no changes in prices were observed during this monitoring period in Homs, Hama, Tartous, Deir-ez-Zor and Hasakeh governorates. Actual prices recorded for July 2021 are 1 500, 1 500, 1 500, 900 and 1 300 SYP per kg respectively (figure 5).



Phosphate fertilizers (Basal)

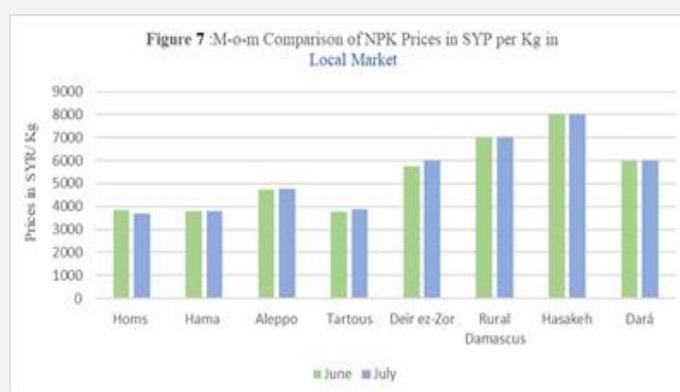
In July 2021, the new policy from the Agriculture Bank liberalized the prices related to provision of phosphate fertilizer support to farmers. The policy pronouncement resulted in the increase of phosphate fertilizer from 300 to 1 103 SYP per kg. As a result, in Aleppo governorate, the new price of phosphate fertilizer reached 1,000 SYP per kg at the agriculture bank in July 2021 from a previous 293 SYP per kg in June 2021 (241 percent m-o-m increase). The Agriculture Bank faced challenges in providing and stocking phosphate fertilizer in July 2021 across Homs, Hama, Tartous and Hasakeh governorates.

For local markets, phosphate fertilizer is still available at a price of 1 530 SYP per kg (21 percent m-o-m increase) in July 2021. The average selling price remained constant in Homs, Hama, Rural Damascus, Dará and Tartous governorates. Aleppo witnessed a significant increase in July 2021 with the average selling price reaching 3 840 SYP per kg, representing the highest price across all the monitored governorates. Hasakeh and Deir-ez-Zor governorates recorded a notable decrease (13 and 33 percent m-o-m respectively) and the average selling prices were 1 200 and 1 400 SYP per kg respectively. This observed phosphate fertilizer price decrease in Hasakeh and Deir-ez-Zor is mainly due to the introduction of a new 'low quality' phosphate fertilizer which most farmers are having to rely on (figure 6).



NPK fertilizer (Basal)

NPK fertilizer prices recorded a very minimal increase (1 percent m-o-m) and the average selling price was 5 395 SYP per kg in July 2021. NPK is available in all monitored governorates and respective local markets. The prices in Rural Damascus, Hasakeh and Dará governorates remained constant since June 2021 and the average selling prices were 7 000, 8 000 and 6 000 SYP per kg respectively. Homs witnessed a slight decrease (5 percent m-o-m) and the average selling price was 3 680 SYP per kg. The selling prices in Tartous, Aleppo and Hama governorates recorded a slight increase and the selling prices were 3 867, 4 790 and 3 820 SYP per kg respectively (Figure 7).



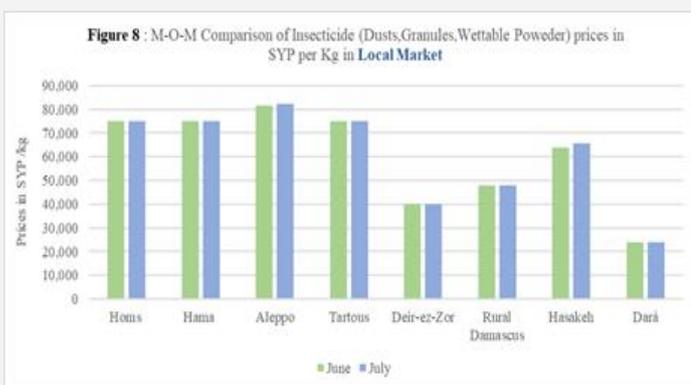
Pesticides

Crop-protection agro-chemicals (i.e. pesticides), which mainly include insecticides, fungicides and herbicides, remain available across all monitored governorates. In general, the average prices of pesticides remain expensive and out of reach for most farmers. It is important to note that the price of pesticides continues to limit access for most vulnerable farmers and this tends to affect the application rates, leading to a greater risk of pest and disease incidences and prevalence. This will ultimately affect production, productivity and the quality of produce of vegetables and fruits. FAO continues to advise sector partners and stakeholders supporting the agriculture sector, to scale-up context-specific Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approaches and tactics to minimize the reliance on expensive synthetic or inorganic pesticides. Integrated pest management is an environment friendly strategy that aims at maintaining pest populations below economic 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 context-specific and appropriate 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, including helping farmers cope with the lack of price stability for various pesticides. Furthermore,

most available pesticides in the local market are coming from unknown and unofficial sources, hence the quality and efficacy is difficult to verify.

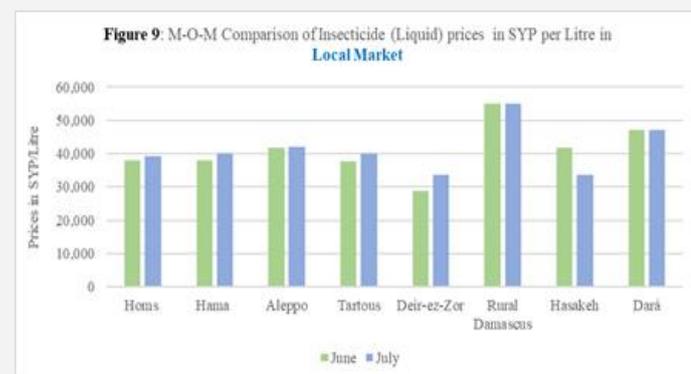
*** Insecticides (dusts, granules, wettable powders):**

Generally, dust, granular and wettable powder insecticides are readily available in all of the monitored governorates at an average price of 60 613 SYP per kg (1 percent m-o-m increase). The highest selling price was recorded in Aleppo governorate at 82 400 SYP per kg, while the lowest selling price was recorded in Dará at 24 000 SYP per kg. The average selling price remained constant in Homs, Hama, Tartous, Deir-ez-Zor, Rural Damascus and Dará governorates since June 2021. In Hasakeh, a slight increase of 3 percent m-o-m was observed, with the selling price reaching 65 500 SYP per kg as highlighted in figure 8.



*** Liquid Insecticides:**

Liquid insecticides were generally available across most of the monitored markets at 41 306 SYP per litre. In Rural Damascus and Dará governorates, the average selling prices remained constant m-o-m at 55 000 and 47 000 SYP per litre respectively, since July 2021. In Hasakeh, a significant decrease (20 percent m-o-m) was recorded and the price reached 33 500 SYP per litre. In July 2021, there was also a slight increase in Deir-ez-Zor governorate (17 percent m-o-m), with the average selling price reaching 33 750 SYP per litre. A very minimal increase was observed in Tartous, Hama, Homs and Aleppo governorates (6, 5, 3 and 1 percent m-o-m



respectively) and the average selling prices were 40 000 SYP per litre in Tartous and Hama, 39 200 SYP in Homs and 42 000 SYP per litre in Aleppo as highlighted in figure 9 below.

*** Fungicides**

◆ (Dusts, granules or wettable powders):

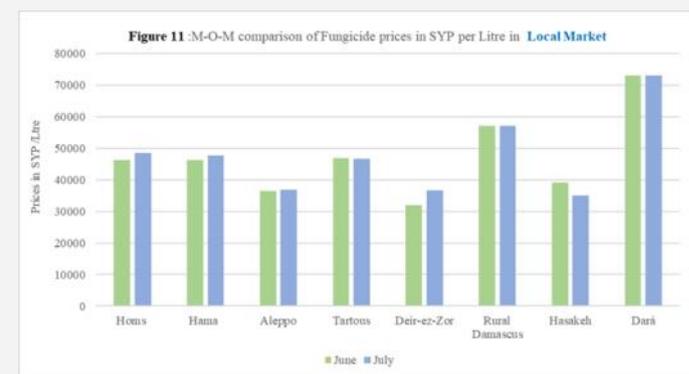
The general average selling price of fungicides remained constant since June 2021 at 49 046 SYP per Kg. Tartous and Hasakeh governorates recorded a slight decrease (3 percent m-o-m) and the specific selling prices recorded were 40 667 and 42 000 SYP per kg respectively.

While a slight increase was recorded in Homs, Hama and Aleppo governorates (15, 1 and 1 percent m-o-m respectively) as highlighted in figure 10.



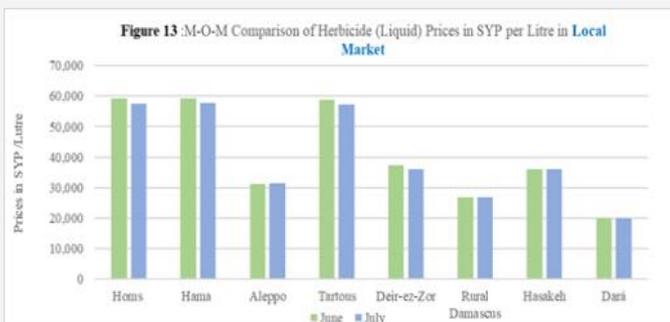
◆ Liquid Fungicides:

There was a slight increase in the average selling price of liquid fungicides (1 percent m-o-m). The prices in Rural Damascus, Tartous and Dará governorates remained constant m-o-m in July 2021. Deir-ez-Zor, Homs, Hama and Aleppo governorates recorded a slight increase (15, 5, 3 and 1 percent m-o-m) and the average selling price reached 36 750, 48 400, 47 600 and 36 800 SYP per litre respectively. The prices in Hasakeh governorate witnessed a slight decrease, reaching 35 000 SYP per litre (figure 11).



* **Herbicides**

The general average selling price of herbicides, namely dusts, granules, wettable powders and the liquid type, witnessed a slight decrease ranging from 1 to 2 percent m-o-m. The dust/granular/wettable powders reached 62 735 and the liquid type reached 40 385 SYP per kg in July 2021. In addition, a slight m-o-m decrease in the selling price of herbicides (i.e. granular) was recorded in Deir-ez-Zor and Hasakeh governorates (7 and 5 percent) and the prices were 64 750 and 66 250 SYP per kg respectively. Prices remained constant m-o-m in Homs, Rural Damascus and Dará governorates (figure 12). The liquid type herbicide recorded a minimal decrease in Homs, Hama, Deir-ez-Zor and Tartous governorates ranging from 2 to 3 percent m-o-m. For the same herbicide type, the prices remained constant in Rural Damascus, Hasakeh and Dará governorates (Figure 13). Though prices remained constant, they remain exorbitant and higher than pre-crisis levels and this will limit access and use of herbicides by most vulnerable smallholder farmers. Some herbicides are produced in the country and others are imported and considered more effective. For instance, in Homs and Hama governorate, the most commonly used herbicides are **Treflan** and **Afalon**, while you commonly find **Topac**, **agri Combi** and **Atlantis** in Aleppo governorate. In Damascus and South area, **Granstar**, **Agri Combi** and **Tredolan** are the most commonly used among many others. It is important to note that various herbicides continue to find their way onto the local market, but are regulated by the government of Syria (GoS) procedures for imported agro-chemicals.

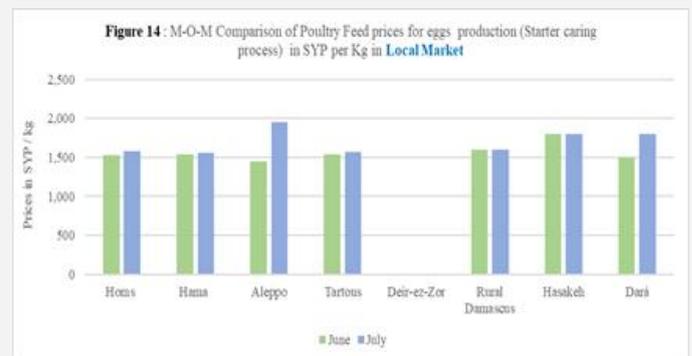


Poultry Feed (Egg production)

In Deir-ez-Zor and since February 2021, limited availability of eggs has been observed within the local markets and this can be attributed to the high cost of poultry feed and prevailing economic hardships. Families who have financial resources are relying on other neighbouring governorates or bordering

countries to cover their needs for eggs through the illegal trade routes. However, these are of unverified quality and standards.

In general, the average selling price of the poultry feed for egg production was recorded at 1 694 SYP per kg (8 percent m-o-m increase). The recorded selling price for poultry feed in Aleppo governorate increased by 34 percent m-o-m and reached 1 950 SYP per kg from 1 450 SYP per kg in June 2021. In Dará, a significant increase was recorded in the poultry feed selling price, reaching 1 800 SYP per kg (20 percent m-o-m). The price in Hasakeh and Rural Damascus remained constant since June 2021 and the average selling prices were 1 800 and 1 600 SYP per kg respectively (figure 14).



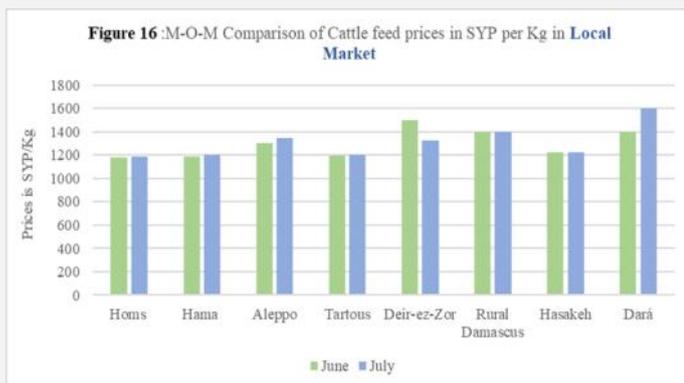
The price of poultry feed for meat production increased significantly in Hasakeh and Aleppo governorates and reached 2 323 and 1 833 SYP per kg (29 and 26 percent m-o-m respectively). Homs, Tartous and Hama governorates recorded slight increases ranging between 16 and 15 percent m-o-m. The price in Rural Damascus remained constant at 1 800 SYP per kg since June 2021 as shown in figure 15 below.



Cattle feed

In general, the availability of cattle feed (i.e. compound fodder pellets) was acceptable to good across the monitored locations, with an average selling price of 1 311 SYP per kg being recorded in July 2021 (1 percent increase m-o-m). The selling price witnessed a slight increase in Dará, Aleppo, Homs, Hama and Tartous, ranging between 1 and 14 percent m-o-m. In Rural Damascus and Hasakeh governorates the prices remained constant since June 2021, recording 1 400 and 1 225 SYP per kg respectively. Deir-ez-Zor is the only governorate which witnessed a slight decrease in the average selling price, reaching 1 325 SYP per kg from 1 500 SYP per kg

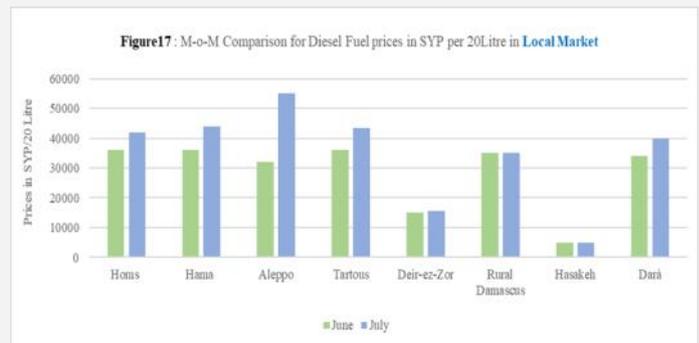
in June 2021. The erratic rainfall distribution coupled with high temperatures experienced during the 2020/2021 season adversely impacted the growth of vegetation, particularly natural pastures and rangelands, cultivated green fodder. The limited availability of the aforementioned is resulting in limited supply versus high demand and this is having a knock-on effect on the price of compound fodder pellets. FAO is closely and constantly monitoring the situation and exploring the effects of the poor 2020/2021 seasonal performance and climate change on cattle feed prices, in particular, and livestock feed prices in general since. FAO is monitoring the impact on input and output markets, taking into account national and regional market integration.



Diesel Fuel

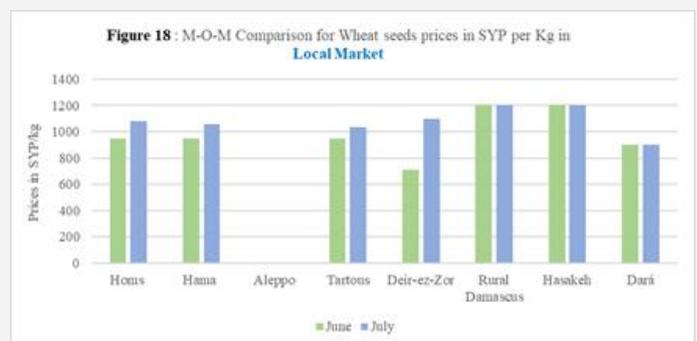
The continued shortage of and limited access to diesel fuel is still impacting agricultural production and this is impacting household food security and threatening agriculture-based livelihoods and prospects for income generation among crisis-affected farmers. The farmers continue to access fuel through a subsidised price of 180 SYP per litre. There was a slight m-o-m increase of 12 percent in the average diesel fuel price reaching 12 109 SYP per 20 litres (figure 17). Aleppo, Hama and Tartous governorates witnessed a sharp increase (72, 22 and 20 percent m-o-m increase), with the selling price reaching 55 000, 44 000 and 43 333 SYP per 20 litre respectively. A slight increase was however recorded in Homs and Dará governorates (17 and 18 percent m-o-m respectively) and the average selling price was 40 000 and 42 000 SYP per 20 litre respectively. The prices in Rural Damascus and Hasakeh remained constant in July 2021, at 35 000 SYP per litre in Rural Damascus and 4 875 SYP per litre in Hasakeh. This represents the lowest selling price of diesel fuel in Hasakeh since May 2021 (figure 17).

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.



Wheat seed for planting

Wheat seed remains available in most monitored local markets at 1 082 SYP per kg (26 percent m-o-m increase). In Deir-ez-Zor governorate, a significant increase was recorded (54 percent m-o-m increase). The major reason why the price of wheat seed is showing a gradual increase is the poor 2020/2021 production season that resulted in low yield and an anticipated shortage of wheat seed for the upcoming season. The government restrictions regarding wheat trade in the aforementioned areas could also be a contributing factor. A 14 and 12 percent m-o-m increase was also observed in Homs and Hama governorates respectively, with the price reaching 1 080 and 1 060 SYP per kg respectively (figure 18).



Barley seed

In July 2021, barley seed remained available in the local market at an average selling price of 1 321 SYP per kg (5 percent m-o-m decrease). The prices in Rural Damascus and Dará governorates remained constant since June 2021, while in Tartous, Aleppo, Hama and Homs governorates a slight decrease of 11, 10, 10 and 9 percent m-o-m was observed respectively. The selling prices reached 1 250 SYP per kg in Tartous, 1 300 SYP per kg in Aleppo, 1 260 SYP per kg in Hama and lastly 1 270 SYP per kg in Homs. Deir-ez-Zor recorded a 5 percent m-o-m increase, with the price in the mentioned location reaching 1 488 SYP per kg as highlighted in figure 19 below.



Maize grain (Corn)

Maize remains available in six of the monitored governorates, namely Homs, Hama, Aleppo, Tartous, Deir-ez-Zor, Hasakeh and Dará, at an average selling price of 1 384 SYP per kg. Aleppo and Dará recorded 1 400 SYP per kg for maize grain and this was the highest recorded price across monitored governorates, with a 17 percent m-o-m increase for both locations. The price of maize in Deir-ez-Zor and Hasakeh governorates decreased slightly (9 and 2 percent m-o-m) respectively. In contrast, Tartous, Hama and Homs recorded a slight increase (14, 12 and 8 percent m-o-m respectively) as shown in figure 20. The increase in maize grain prices can be attributed to the limited availability of pasture as a result of the erratic 2020/2021 agricultural season's impact on vegetation growth. Since maize grain is commonly used as a component in the production of most livestock fodder, especially due to its nutritional value, the prices have subsequently risen due to increased demand, poor pasture conditions and lack of feed as mentioned above.



Soybean Meal

Soya bean was generally available in six governorates out of eight in July 2021 and the average selling price reached 2 233 SYP per kg. The lowest price of 2 100 SYP per kg was recorded in Aleppo governorate (13 percent m-o-m decrease). The price in Rural Damascus governorate remained constant since June 2021. Aleppo, Homs, Tartous and Hama governorates witnessed a slight decrease (13, 5, 4 and 3 percent m-o-m respectively), with the prices reaching 2 100 and 2 280, 2 300 and 2 320 SYP per kg respectively (figure 21).

Barley Grain

The average selling price of barley grain decreased 4 percent m-o-m, reaching 1 240 SYP per kg. Six governorates out of eight witnessed a slight decrease ranging between 13 and 7 percent m-o-m in Aleppo and Tartous governorates respectively. The m-o-m decrease observed in Homs and Hama is similar to that recorded in Tartous. Rural Damascus and Dará governorates both recorded a slight increase (14 and 8 percent m-o-m respectively), with the prices reaching 1 250 SYP per kg in Damascus and 1 300 SYP per kg in Dar'a as highlighted in figure 22 below.



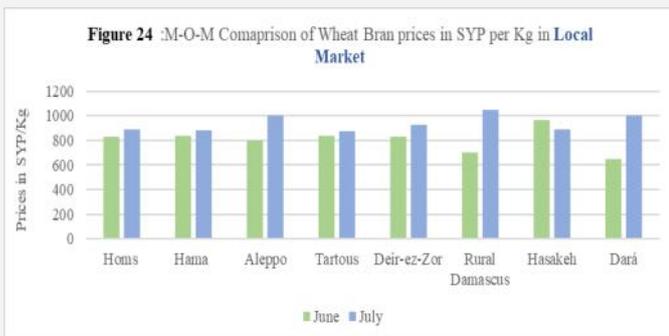
Cottonseed Meal

Cottonseed remained unavailable in Rural Damascus and Dará governorates since June 2021. In general, the average selling prices was 1 556 SYP per kg (1percent m-o-m increase). A slight increase in the average selling price was observed in Deir-ez-Zor and Aleppo (13 and 2 percent m-o-m-respectively), with the price remaining constant at 1 200 SYP per kg in Rural Damascus as shown in figure 23.



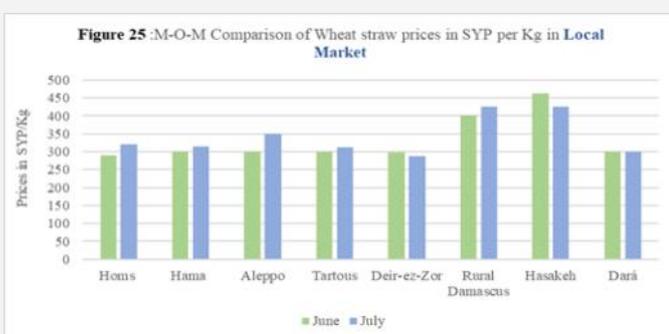
Wheat Bran

Wheat bran was available across 8 monitored governorates and the average selling price reached 938 SYP per kg in July 2021 (17 percent m-o-m increase). Dará, Rural Damascus and Aleppo governorates witnessed a significant increase (54, 50 and 25 percent m-o-m) and the sharp price increases noted can be attributed to increased demand coupled with the inadequate supply due to the erratic rainfall. Homs, Hama and Tartous governorates recorded a slight increase (7, 5 and 5 percent m-o-m) and the average selling price reached 890 SYP per kg in Homs, 880 SYP per kg in Hama 875 SYP per kg in Tartous. While the price in Hasakeh governorate decreased slightly (8 percent m-o-m), reaching 888 SYP per kg (figure 24).



Wheat Straw

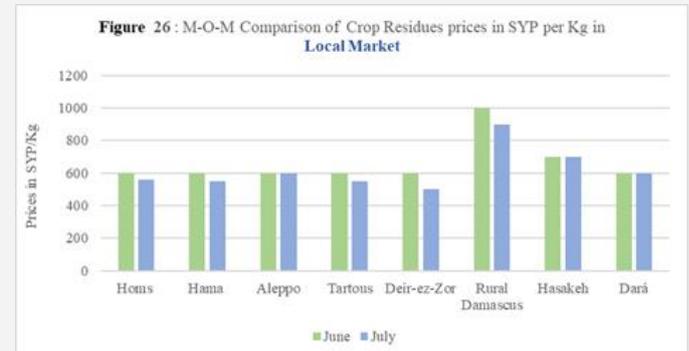
The price of wheat straw increased slightly (3 percent m-o-m) in July 2021. Wheat straw was available across most of monitored governorates at an average price of 342 SYP per kg. In Aleppo, Homs and Rural Damascus governorates, a minimal increase in the price of wheat straw was recorded (17, 10 and 6 percent m-o-m) and the average selling prices were 350, 320 and 425 SYP per kg respectively. In Hasakeh governorate, an 8 percent m-o-m decrease in the selling price reaching 425 SYP per kg, while in Deir-ez-Zor the a decrease of 3 percent was recorded m-o-m as in figure 25.



Crop Residues

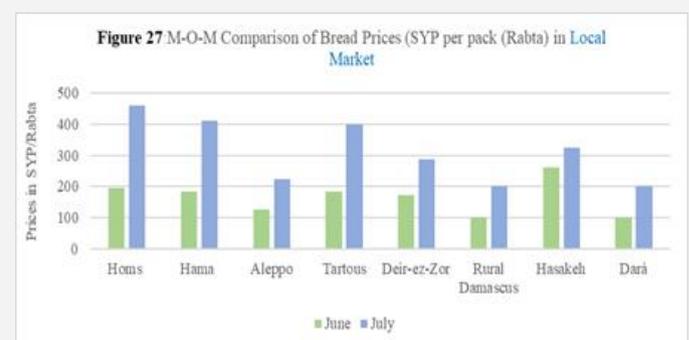
The average selling price of crop residues decreased slightly in July 2021 (6 percent m-o-m), with the average selling price reaching 620 SYP per kg from 663 per kg in June 2021. Deir-ez-Zor, Rural Damascus, Hama and Homs governorates

recorded a slight decrease of 17, 10, 8 and 7 percent m-o-m, respectively. The selling price remained constant in Dará, Hasakeh and Aleppo governorates, with the average selling price holding at 600, 700 and 600 SYP per kg in the mentioned locations respectively (Figure 26).



Food Prices:

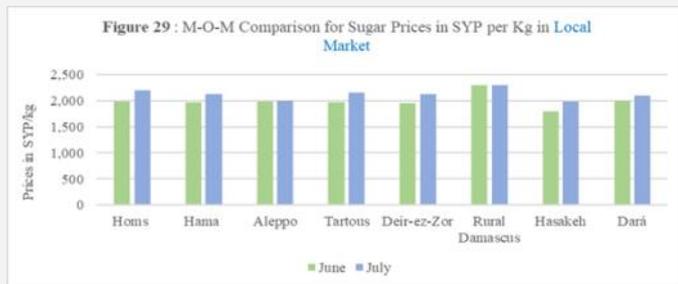
In July 2021, the price of bread significantly increased across all monitored governorates reaching 313 SYP per rabta. The change in the price of bread can be directly attributed to the new official price of bread declared by the national government due to the current economic difficulties. The bread subsidy system remains in place but with a slight increase as mentioned above due to increased production costs and wheat shortage. All monitored governorates recorded a sharp increase in the price of bread, ranging from 136 percent m-o-m in Homs governorate, representing the highest price of bread (460 SYP per rabta). A 24 percent m-o-m increase was recorded in Hasakeh governorate. The price recorded in Hasakeh governorate is the lowest (i.e. 325 SYP per rabta) as highlighted in figure 27.



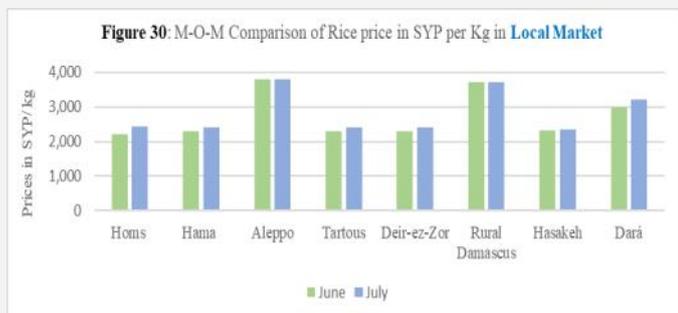
The price of flour recorded a slight 1 percent m-o-m decrease and the average selling price reached 1 726 SYP per kg. The prices in Rural Damascus, Dará and Deir-ez-Zor remained constant in July 2021, with Aleppo governorate recording a slight decrease (3 percent m-o-m), with the selling price reaching 1 750 SYP per kg. Hama, Homs, Tartous and Hasakeh governorates recorded a slight increase (9, 8, 7 and 2 percent m-o-m) with the selling prices reaching 1 800, 1 780, 1 800 and 1 325 SYP per kg respectively as highlighted in figure 28.



Generally, the average selling price of sugar across the monitored governorates recorded a slight increase (6 percent m-o-m), reaching 2 123 SYP per kg. The price of sugar in Rural Damascus remained constant, reaching 2 300 SYP per kg. The sugar prices in Homs, Hasakeh, Tartous, Deir-ez-Zor and Hama governorates increased by 11, 10, 9, 9 and 8 percent m-o-m as highlighted in figure 29.



For rice, the price remained constant in Aleppo and Rural Damascus governorates since June 2021 and the recorded prices for July 2021 in Aleppo of 3 800 SYP per kg represented the highest recorded price across the all monitored locations. In Rural Damascus, the price of a kilogram recorded in July 2021 is 3 700 SYP per kg. In Homs governorate, a 11 percent m-o-m increase was recorded, with the price reaching 2 440 SYP per kg. Dará and Tartous governorates also recorded a marginal m-o-m increase, just below 7 percent, with the selling price reaching 3 200 and 2 400 SYP per kg respectively (figure 30).

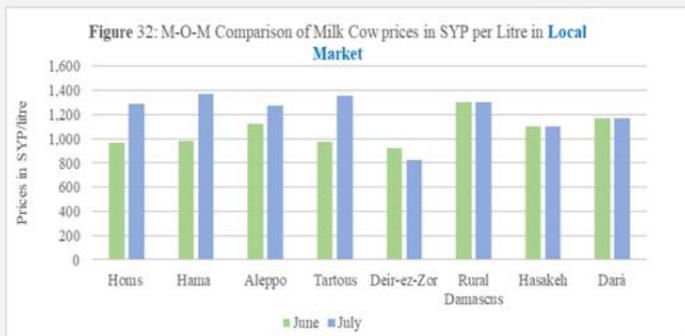


The average selling prices of eggs showed a general decrease in July 2021 (2 percent m-o-m), reaching 7 605 SYP for a crate or pack 30 eggs. Aleppo witnessed a slight 10 percent m-o-m decrease and the average selling price reached 7 500 SYP per pack. Deir-ez-Zor observed a 7 percent m-o-m increase, with

the average selling price reaching 8 000 SYP per pack as shown in figure 31.



The selling price of cow milk increased 12 percent m-o-m in July 2021 and the average price reached 1 211 SYP per litre. The prices in Rural Damascus, Hasakeh and Dará remained constant since June 2021 at 1 300, 1 100 and 1 1 67 SYP per litre respectively. Deir-ez-Zor governorate recorded a 11 percent m-o-m decrease and the price reached 825 SYP per litre. The price of milk in Hama, Tartous and Homs governorates witnessed a significant increase (40, 39 and 33 percent m-o-m), with prices reaching 1 370 SYP per litre in Hama, 1 358 SYP per litre in Tartous and 1 290 SYP per litre in Homs (figure 32).



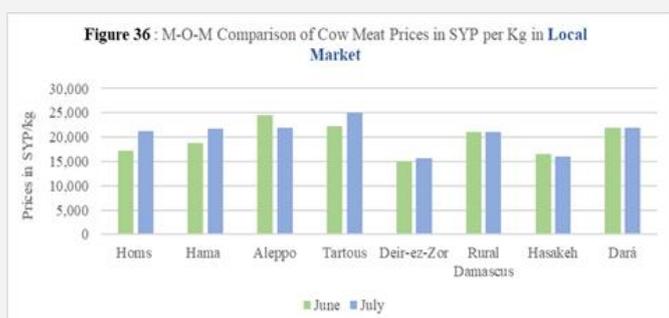
The average selling price for sheep milk increased slightly (10 percent m-o-m) across the monitored markets, with the average selling price increasing to 1 674 SYP per litre. A slight decrease was recorded particularly in Deir-ez-Zor and Hasakeh governorates (2 percent m-o-m). The selling price of sheep milk in Tartous, Hama and Homs increased 26 25 and 20 percent m-o-m respectively. The average selling prices recorded in July 2021 are 2 000 (Tartous), 1 980 (Hama) and 1 900 (Homs) SYP per litre as shown in figure 33.



For chicken meat, the average selling price reached 6 400 SYP per kg (6 percent m-o-m decrease), with the highest selling price of 7 850 SYP per kg being recorded in Aleppo governorate, though there was a 6 percent m-o-m decrease in this location. The lowest selling price was observed in Hasakeh at 4 000 SYP per kg (25 percent m-o-m decrease). The selling price of chicken meat decreased significantly in Deir-ez-Zor governorate (30 percent m-o-m decrease), reaching 5 275 SYP per kg. This could be explained by the increased supply and availability since producers are tending to sell off their production, to avoid losses due to high temperature and lack of electricity. The price for chicken meat remained constant in Rural Damascus and Tartous governorates at 7 300 and 7 217 SYP per kg (figure 34).



For cow meat, the prices in Homs increased significantly (23percent m-o-m) and the average selling prices recorded for July 2021 is 21 200 SYP per kg. The highest selling price was observed in Tartous, reaching 25 000 SYP per kg (12 percent m-o-m increase). Hama governorate also recorded an increase (16 percent m-o-m) and the average selling price reached 21 800 SYP per kg. Aleppo witnessed a slight decrease (10 percent m-o-m) and the selling price reached 22 000 SYP per kg (figure 36).

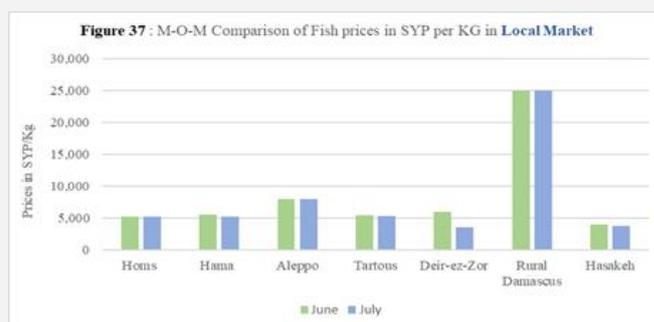


In terms of fish, it must be noted that due to the low natural productivity of inland fisheries combined with low purchasing power among most families in Syria, coupled with the high cost of fish meal and other fish production inputs, the fishery and aquaculture sector plays a minor role in the Syrian Arab Republic's economy. Despite this, FAO continues to monitor fish prices in output markets and noted that the average

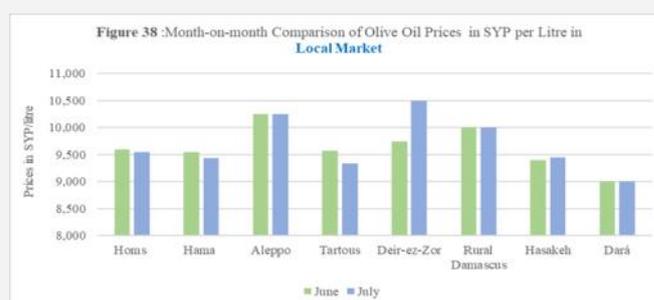
selling price for fish reached 7 998 SYP per kg (8 percent m-o-m increase) in July 2021.

The highest price was still recorded in Rural Damascus at 25 000 SYP per kg, having remained constant since June 2021. Deir-ez-Zor governorate recorded a significant decrease (42 percent m-o-m) and the average selling price of fish reached 3 500 per kg in July 2021 from 6 029 in June 2021. This could be attributed to the general availability of fish and limited demand and preference compared to other types of meat. The prices of fish in Homs and Hama remained constant and the average selling price was 5 200 SYP per kg for both aforementioned locations (figure 37). The average Syrian meal does not usually include fish except for some locations such as the coastal areas, Al-Ghab and Deir-Ez-Zor governorates, where marine fish and fresh water fish are available and are a part of the traditional meals there.

To meet the majority of the fish consumption needs internally, new national assembly for fish resources established to promote fishery production in Syria through farms of fishes in various locations. FAO acknowledges the nutritional value of fish and the benefits this sector may potentially bring to Syria economy and will keep a close eye to monitor the situation in this sector.



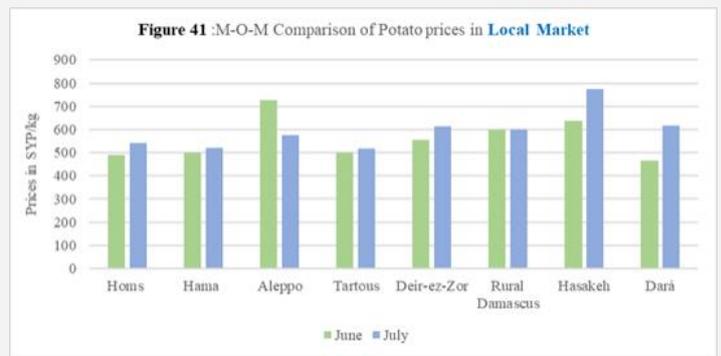
Olive oil prices increased by 1 percent in July 2021 and the average selling price of 9 689 SYP per litre was recorded across the eight monitored governorates. The olive oil price remained constant in Aleppo, Rural Damascus and Dará governorates at 10 250, 9 000, 10 000 SYP per k respectively. Deir-ez-Zor governorate witnessed a slight increase in the selling price, reaching 10 500 SYP per kg in July 2021 from 9 739 in June 2021 (8 percent m-o-m increase). A slight decrease was noticed in Tartous, Hama and in Homs governorates (2, 1 and 1 percent m-o-m respectively) as shown in figure 38.



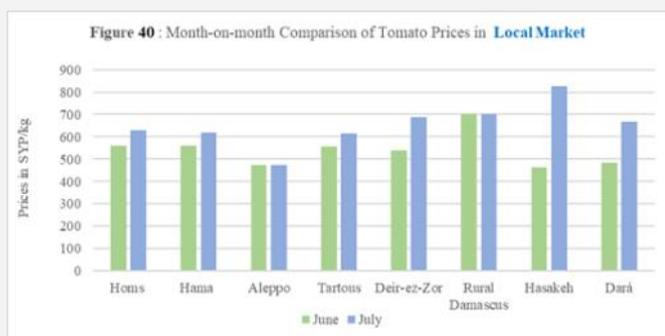
A slight 2 percent m-o-m decrease was recorded for the average selling price of sunflower oil in July 2021, reaching 7 466 SYP per litre. In Homs, Hama and Tartous the prices remained constant at 7 500 SYP per litre. The price in Rural Damascus and Dar'a governorates remained constant at 10 000 and 8 000 SYP per litre. This could be attributed to the stability in the informal exchange rate of the local Syrian currency versus the USD from April to July 2021. In Hasakeh governorate, the selling price increased slightly (4 percent m-o-m), reaching 5 725 SYP per litre, representing the lowest price across all monitored markets. The selling price for sunflower oil in Deir-ez-Zor governorate recorded a 19 percent m-o-m decrease with the price reaching 6 000 SYP per litre (figure 39).



In general, the average selling price of potato recorded an increase across most of the monitored locations (6 percent m-o-m increase), reaching 594 SYP per kg. Aleppo governorate recorded a significant decrease (21 percent m-o-m) with the price reaching 575 SYP per kg. While in Hasakeh and Dar'a governorate, the prices experienced a significant increase (22 and 32 percent m-o-m respectively), reaching 775 and 617 SYP per kg respectively. The price remained constant in Rural Damascus since June 2021 and the price was at 600 SYP per kg (figure 41).

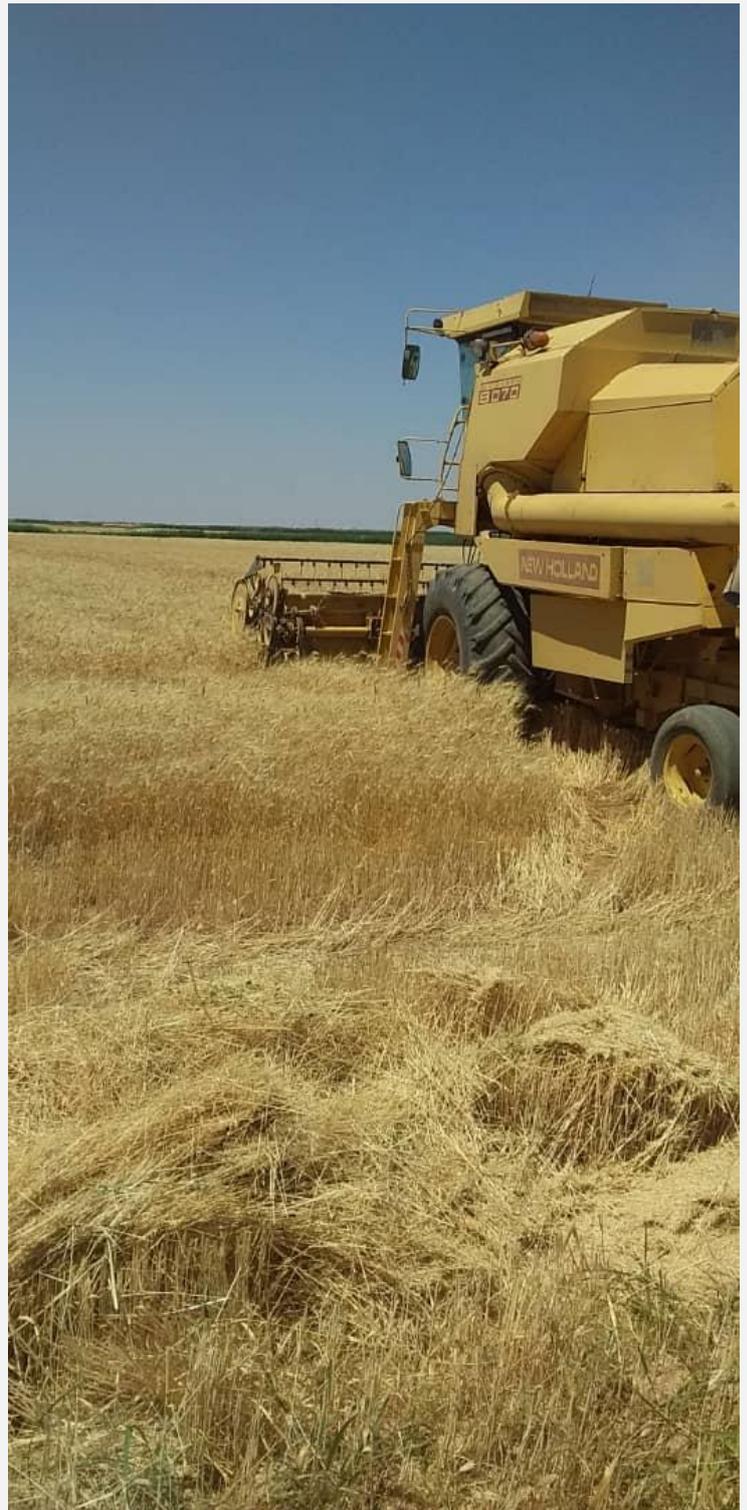
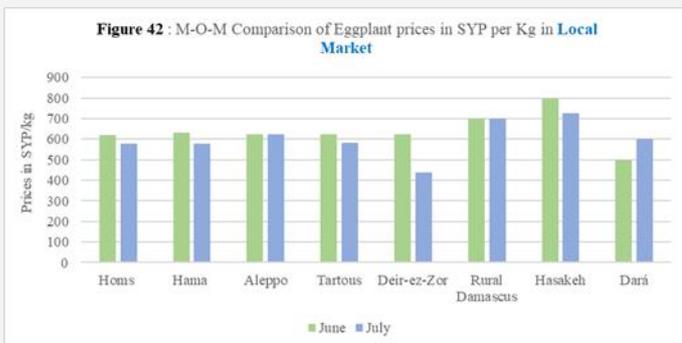


The average selling price for tomatoes increased significantly across the monitored markets with an average selling price of 653 SYP per kg being recorded across the monitored markets in July 2021 from 542 SYP per g in June 2021. Sharp increases were also recorded in Hasakeh (78 percent m-o-m), Dar'a (38 percent m-o-m) and Deir-ez-Zor (28 percent m-o-m). This could be attributed to limited supply and increased demand as a result of the peak harvest season having ended in June 2021. This has resulted in more reliance on tomatoes imported from neighbourhood countries. In contrast, the prices remained constant in Aleppo and Rural Damascus, with the selling price holding at 475 and 700 SYP per kg respectively. This could be attributed to the constant supply in both markets. A slight increase was recorded in Homs, Hama and Tartous governorates (13, 11 and 10 percent m-o-m respectively) as highlighted in figure 40.



The average price of eggplants decreased slightly in July 2021 across the monitored markets, and the price was 604 SYP per kg (6 percent m-o-m decrease). The selling price of eggplant in Deir-ez-Zor represented the lowest price across monitored markets and governorates and a significant decrease (30 percent m-o-m) was recorded in July 2021, reaching 438 SYP per kg. Hasakeh, Hama, Tartous and Homs governorates also witnessed a slight m-o-m decrease (9, 8, 7 and 6 percent respectively). The prices were 725 SYP per kg in Hasakeh, 580 SYP per kg in Hama, 583 SYP per kg in Tartous and 580 SYP per kg in Homs (figure 42).

The price decrease for eggplants in the afore mentioned locations is most likely due to increased supply due to the harvest of eggplants which commenced from July to August 2021. Dará recorded a significant increase (20 percent m-o-m) for eggplant with the selling price reaching 600 SYP per kg from 500 in July 2021. The price increase for eggplant in Dará could be attributed to the new security incidents and access constraints, which are affecting the transportation of goods and supply chain. Eggplant is generally desired by most families and the limited supply within the local market in Dar'a, likely due to the reasons mentioned above, coupled with fuel price increases in July 2021, is contributing to the price increase noted in July 2021 in Dar'a.



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