



Agricultural Inputs and Commodity Price Bulletin (AICPB) in Syrian Arabic Republic

March 2022 #3



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Background

Agriculture, including crop and animal husbandry, forestry, fisheries and agro-processing, post-harvest handling and marketing, provides livelihood for most smallholder farmers in the Syrian Arab Republic. The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in Syria works on strengthening value chains and food systems by building technical and productive capacity of stakeholders, mainly farmers, expanding their knowledge and understanding of the local situation by sharing reports that aimed 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-urbans markets linkages. Regular dissemination of market information benefits smallholder farmers in their market-oriented production endeavour.

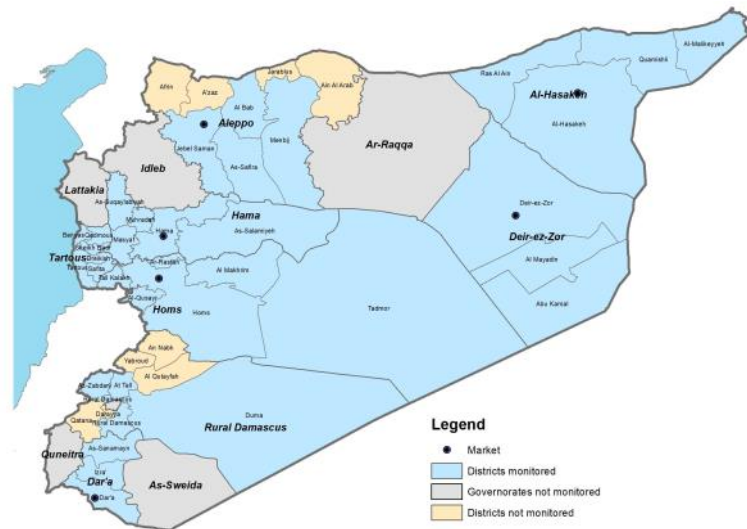


Figure 1: Markets monitored by FAO country office on a monthly basis.

Key Highlights:

A cold wave occurred in March 2022 and resulted in frost, which caused damage on fruit trees and vegetables. Apart from the prevailing economic challenges, the additional consequence of frost damage also contributed to the general increase in vegetable prices (25 percent m-o-m). The damage on fruit trees, particularly *Amygdaleae* species (i.e. cherry, plum, and almond) which were mainly at the fruiting and seed formation stage, was the most significant. The frost damage observed during this reporting period increased the potential of infection by fungi, which may result in adverse effects on fruit production.

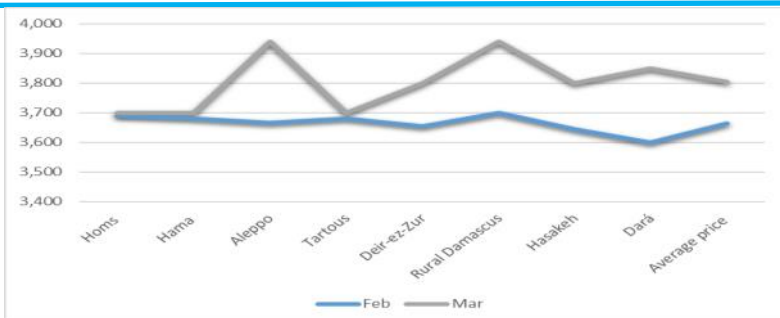
The livestock sector continues to face significant challenges in terms of high and increasing production costs, especially costs related to feed and animal health. The challenges are worsened by the low or limited purchasing power of most individuals, which is resulting in reduced profitability and limited access to and consumption of animal products by poor families. The challenges and losses affecting the livestock sector have become a major threat to livestock-based livelihoods and market systems, and urgent interventions are needed to avert these constraints.

Fuel shortages continue to persist in most governorates and this continues to present challenges to farmers who rely on fuel for supplementary irrigation. The amount of subsidised fuel covers only 20% of the need of farmers, and the significant lack of electricity has pushed farmers to look for alternative power resources to cover this energy gap, to sustain agriculture production especially in farms located in returnee locations.



Exchange rate

The value of the Syrian pound continued to depreciate in the informal exchange market, ranging between 3 700 and 3 900 SYP / USD during the period February to March 2022. Moreover, the inflation rate of the local currency increased to reach unprecedented levels, with estimates indicating a loss in value of more than 900 percent compared to pre-crisis levels in 2010. The continued weakening of the local currency in the informal market, is eroding the purchasing power of most families and farmers. The official exchange rate remained constant in March 2022 at 2 525 SYP/USD. The FAO market bulletin monitors prices in the official local currency and does not specifically analyse the changes in prices in other currencies.



	Homs	Hama	Aleppo	Tartous	Deir-ez-Zur	Rural Damascus	Hasakeh	Darà
February	3 690	3 680	3 665	3 680	3 655	3 700	3 645	3 664
March	3 700	3 700	3 940	3 700	3 800	3 940	3 800	3 804

Source: Monthly survey conducted by FAO field staff

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

Agricultural Inputs

1M: % Current Month Vs. Previous Month in LM
LM: The price in Local Market in SYP

GOSM: General Organization for seed multiplication
PC: The price Pre-Crisis in LM in SYP

Crops and Vegetables Seeds

Wheat seeds



GOSM: 1 585 LM: 2 161
PC: 20 1M: 33

SYP/KG

Barley seeds



GOSM: 1 743 LM: 1 700
PC: 16 1M: 13

SYP/KG

Lentil seeds



4 003 1M 23

SYP/KG

Faba bean seeds



LM: 2 365 1M 9

SYP/KG

Chickpeas Seeds



LM: 1 700 1M: 0

SYP/KG

Peas seeds



LM: 9 977 1M: 0

SYP/KG

In March 2022, winter crop seeds (i.e. wheat, barley, lentil, broad bean, chickpeas and peas) and vegetable seeds (i.e. spinach, cabbage, lettuce and carrot) were available in all monitored markets. Lentil seeds witnessed 23 percent m-o-m increase while the prices remained relatively constant since February for the other remaining monitored kinds of seeds.

For summer crop seeds, the price of cotton seeds increased 46 percent m-o-m and reached 638 SYP per kg this could be contributed to the close of the planting season and anticipated high demand by farmers. Also bean seeds witnessed a moderate increase 14 percent m-o-m as the price per one kg of seeds was 17 087 SYP.

The prices of summer vegetables seeds witnessed a significant m-o-m increase as follows; local tomato (57 percent), hybrid tomato (17 percent), local cucumbers (32 percent), hybrid cucumbers (21 percent), local eggplant (30 Percent) and hybrid eggplant (25 percent). The continuous increase of crop production costs, combined with the significant rise in the prices of food crops and commodities including vegetables, will further limit access to healthy and nutritious food, especially for vulnerable families.



Agricultural Inputs

Agro-chemicals

In general, agrochemicals were relatively available in all monitored markets. Top dressing and basal fertilizers witnessed a moderate to significant increase ranging between 12 percent for phosphate and nitrate (liquid from Local Market) till 32 percent m-o-m for phosphate from local market. This could be attributed to the increase in demand combined with the weakening of the local currency against the USD. Furthermore, the increase in prices for insecticides, fungicides, and herbicides varied across variety of kinds (i.e. Trifloxystrobin a solid fungicide and sulfonyleurea a solid herbicide increased 12 and 49 percent m-o-m respectively) while some other kinds remained constant since February 2022(i.e. glyphosate equivalent which is a solid herbicide and Haloxyfop-R-methyl as a liquid herbicide). The continuous increase in agro chemicals prices continue to limit access to the available agricultural inputs by most smallholder farmers and will most likely have an effect on overall yields and ultimately food security.

Items		Unit	Homs	Hama	Aleppo	Tartous	Deir-ez-Zor	Rural Damascus	Hasakeh	Dará	Average price	
Fertilizer	Top dressing	Urea (Agriculture Bank)	bag(50 kg)	75,000			69,000	70,000			94,250	77,063
		Urea (Granular) Local Market	bag(50 kg)	110,000	170,000	170,000	130,000	141,667	170,000	159,500	120,000	146,396
		Nitrate (Liquid) (Local Market)	lt	11,000	5,000	5,000	11,900	10,333	5,000	9,500	10,500	8,529
	Basal	Phosphate fertilizers (Agriculture Bank)	bag(50 kg)	60,000			62,000	60,000			45,000	56,750
		Phosphate fertilizers (Local Market)	bag(50 kg)	90,000	81,000	81,900	65,000	84,500	81,700	133,625	72,000	86,216
		NPK (Local Market)	kg	9,500	11,000	11,900	8,700	8,667	11,700	9,875	7,100	9,805
Pesticides	Insecticide	(Dusts, Granules, Wettable powders)										
		Mythomel	kg	100,275			236,700	190,000		57,000	105,000	137,795
		Acetamidrid	kg	73,500	96,000	96,900	115,500	84,333	96,700	61,000	73,500	87,179
		(Liquids)										
		Dimethoate	lt	59,168	53,000	53,900	64,000	36,333	53,700	42,875	58,000	52,622
		Delta Methrin	lt	63,840	53,000	53,900	75,975	85,333	53,700	69,500	63,000	64,781
	Fungicide	(Dusts, Granules or Wettable powders)										
		Thiophanate-methyl	kg	78,015	55,000	55,900	71,020	44,000	55,700	48,500	84,000	61,517
		Trifloxystrobin	kg	66,150	46,000	46,900	505,000	240,000	46,700	214,000		166,393
		(Liquids)										
		Propamocarb Hydrochloride	lt	56,800	64,000	64,900	61,455	43,000	64,700	76,750	63,000	61,826
		Herbicide	(Dusts, Granules or Wettable powders)									
	sulfonyle urea		kg	34,125	115,000	115,900	43,395	158,333	115,700	142,250	705,000	178,713
	Glyphosate Equivalent		kg	50,610	66,000	66,900	60,235	39,000	66,700	44,250		56,242
	(Liquids)											
glyphosate	lt		34,125	49,000	49,900	40,615	34,667	49,700	38,125	36,000	41,516	
Haloxyfop-R-methyl	lt		62,685	53,000	53,900	74,620	61,000	53,700	72,750	63,000	61,832	
Trifluralin	lt	46,275	46,000	46,900	55,100	34,000	46,700	37,500	51,000	45,434		



Agricultural Inputs

1M: %Current Month Vs. Previous Month in LM
3M: %Current Month Vs. 3 Months Earlier in LM
LM: The price in Local Market in SYP

GOSM: General Organization for seed multiplication
6M: % Current Month Vs. 6 Months Earlier in LM
PC: The price Pre-Crisis in LM

Livestock feed

In March 2022, Barley grain in Dará and Deir-ez-Zor governorates observed a significant increase (39 and 27 percent m-o-m respectively). Wheat straw, maize, and cottonseed meal also witnessed a significant increase in (29, 25 and 29 percent m-o-m respectively). The increase for Wheat bran was moderate in March (18 percent m-o-m) and was available in all monitored governorates. This could be attributed to a combination of several factors. Most important is the limited availability of green pastures, limited access to and availability of fodder due to prevailing drought –like conditions all over the country recently and, particularly with the current disruption of the global supply chain, and the low production of previous production season in Syria.

During this reporting period, crop residues were not readily available in Hama, Aleppo and Rural Damascus governorates .The average price per kg was 1 233 SYP. Poultry feed for meat and egg production witnessed a moderate increase (18 and 10 percent m-o-m respectively). Furthermore, the increase in the average price for cattle feed for meat production was quite significant (35 percent m-o-m). Sector partners are encouraged to support small livestock herders by fully understanding the existing production systems and value chain constraints. This will ensure that livestock interventions are tailored to the local context and challenges to ensure increased productivity, sustainability and increased resilience among vulnerable livestock keepers. Sector partners are also encouraged to particularly consider delivering interventions related to animal nutrition and health.

Barley Grains SYP/KG

1M: **8** LM: **1 958**
3M: **10** 6M: **26**

Soya bean Meal SYP/KG

1M: **59** LM **2 544**
3M: **59** 6M **71**

Maize SYP/KG

1M: **25** LM: **2 061**
3M: **32** 6M **46**

Cottonseed Meal SYP/KG

1M: **29** LM: **2 293**
3M: **30** 6M: **38**

Wheat Bran SYP/KG

1M: **18** LM: **1 381**
3M: **18** 6M: **28**

Wheat Straw SYP/KG

1M: **29** LM **890**
3M: **29** 6M: **50**

Crop Residues SYP/KG

1M: **25** LM **1 233**
3M: **89** 6M: **17**

Poultry Feed/ Egg Production SYP/KG

1M: **18** LM **2 810**
3M: **28** 6M: **31**

Poultry Feed/ Meat Production SYP/KG

1M: **10** LM **2 741**
3M: **17** 6M: **21**

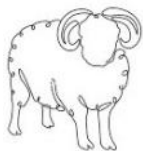
Cattle Feed SYP/KG

1M: **35** LM **2 144**
3M: **17** 6M: **32**

Live Animals

LM: The price in Local Market in SYP
1M: %Current Month Vs. Previous Month in LM

Sheep Female (Ewe)



Sheep

1M: 9 LM: 12 503

SYP/KG



SYP/Head

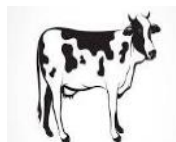
1M: 3 LM: 396 357

Calf



1M: 6 LM: 11 064

SYP/KG



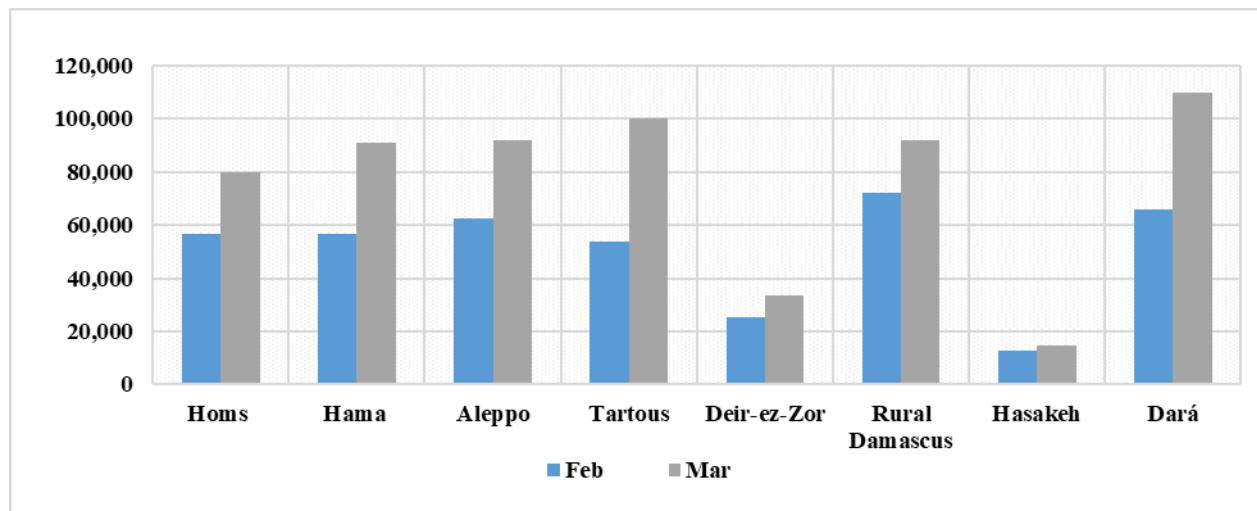
Dairy Cow

1M: 0 LM: 4 400 938

SYP/Head

Agricultural Inputs

Diesel fuel (20 litres)

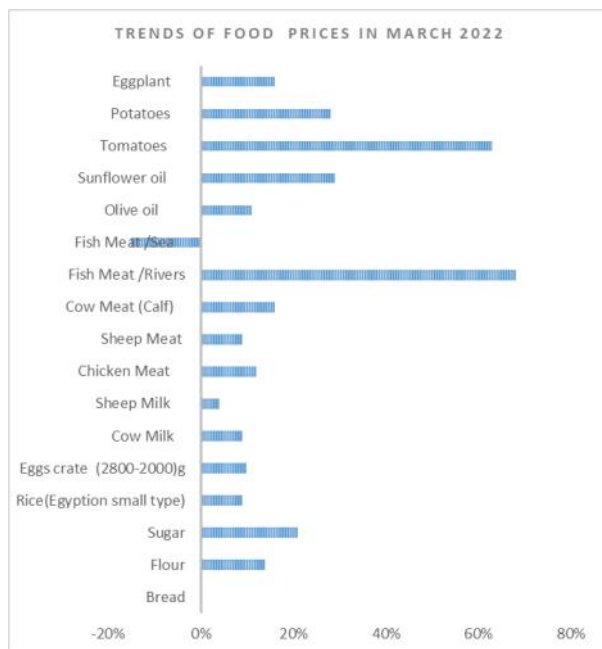


The average selling price of diesel increased significantly (47 percent m-o-m) in local markets, reaching 76 585 SYP from the previous 50 675 SYP per 20 litres observed in February 2022. In Tartous, Hama and Dará governorates, the price of diesel fuel increased significantly (86, 61 and 67 percent m-o-m) in March 2022, reaching 100 000, 91 000 and 110 000 SYP for 20 litres. This increase could be attributed to the limited supply versus high demand particularly during the cold wave, low temperatures and resultant frost experienced during mid-March. The other contributing factor could be the general increase in the global fuel prices owing to the current challenges in Eastern Europe. The remaining monitored governorates also witnessed a moderate to significant increase in the price of fuel. The increase ranged between 18 percent m-o-m in Al-Hasakeh governorate to 47 percent m-o-m in Aleppo.

Food Items

1M: % Current Month Vs. Previous Month in LM
3M: % Current Month Vs. 3 Months Earlier in LM

6M: % Current Month Vs. 6 Months Earlier in LM
LM: The price in the local market in SYP



Food prices continued to increase in March 2022. Tomato prices witnessed a significant increase (63 percent m-o-m), reaching 3 297 SYP per kg. There were significant shortages of sunflower oil reported across most monitored markets with a significant increase in sunflower oil price (29 percent m-o-m), in local markets where this food commodity is availability. Some of the sunflower oil is entering the country through unofficial channels and the quality is also difficult to ascertain. Tomato and sugar observed a significant increase (28 and 21 percent m-o-m), reaching 2 540 SYP and 14 173 SYP per kg respectively. Eggplant and wheat flour also witnessed a moderate increase (16 and 14 percent m-o-m respectively). The average price of chicken meat and cow meat increased moderately (12 and 16 percent m-o-m respectively). Similarly, the increase in the prices for the remaining monitored food items ranged between 9 percent for rice, sheep meat and cow milk and 11 percent for olive oil.

Bread



1M: **2** 6M: **8**
3M: **7** LM: **284**

SYP/ Rabta(1000)g

Rice



1M: **9** 6M: **22**
3M: **21** LM: **3 818**

SYP/KG

Chicken Meat



1M: **12** 6M: **25**
3M: **21** LM: **8 915**

SYP/KG

Sunflower



1M: **29** 6M: **62**
3M: **65** LM: **14 173**

SYP/ Litre



SYP/KG

Flour

1M: **14** 6M: **33**
3M: **30** LM: **2 181**

Egg



SYP/ Crate(1800-2000)g

1M: **10** 6M: **20**
3M: **21** LM: **12 469**

Cow Meat



SYP/KG

1M: **16** 6M: **16**
3M: **16** LM: **24 029**

Tomato



SYP/KG

1M: **63** 6M: **133**
3M: **136** LM: **3 279**

Sugar



SYP/KG

1M: **21** 6M: **40**
3M: **40** LM: **3 824**

Cow milk



SYP/ Litre

1M: **9** 6M: **26**
3M: **20** LM: **2 068**

Sheep Meat



SYP/KG

1M: **9** 6M: **19**
3M: **19** LM: **28 227**

Eggplant

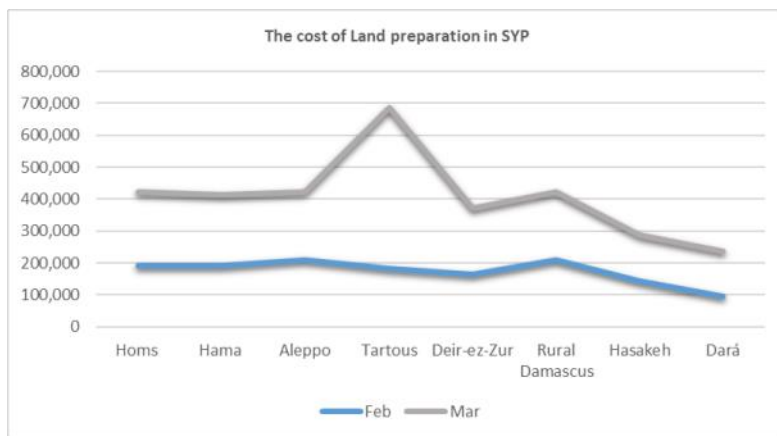
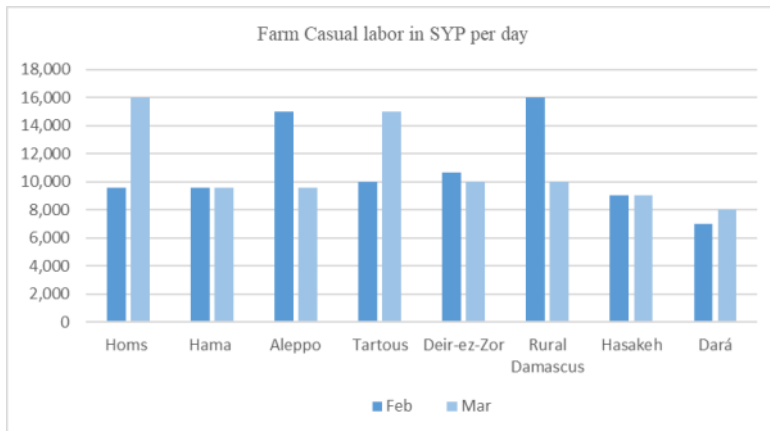


SYP/KG

1M: **16** 6M: **102**
3M: **93** LM: **3 143**



Other Factors



The average wage rate reached 10 900 SYP per day and this represents 6 percent m-o-m increase in March 2022. In Tartous and Homs governorates the average wage rate increased significantly reaching 67 and 50 percent m-o-m. This could be attributed to the continued weakening of the local currency value versus the USD which is the major contributing factor to the increase of the average daily wages across the monitored governorates. The wage of skilled workers especially in the current grafting season that increased significantly 50 percent y-o-y, and the wage per one graft is 3 000 SYP after it was 2 000 in the previous year. Subsequently, the wage rate is resulting in an increase in the overall agriculture production costs.

In March 2022, Tartous witnessed a significant increase in the cost of preparing the land (175% per month). In Daraa, Deir ez-Zor and Homs, where a significant increase in the cost of preparing the land was observed (47,25 and 20% per month, respectively). This can be attributed to the approaching summer planting and the demand for land preparation at its peak.

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.