Agriculture Input and Commodity Bulletin
May 2021
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-Hasakah 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

Out of twenty-eight monitored agriculture inputs, thirteen of these inputs showed an increase in price in May 2021. The most significant average price increase recorded for fertilizers ranged between 228 to 237 percent from the Agriculture Bank. The other significant increase of 55 percent was for wheat seed and this is linked to the new selling price that was set by the Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform (MAAR) for production season 2021. Soybean, which is one of the main component for livestock feed, receded 30 percent increase, this will further limit livestock keepers’ access to fodder for their animals, which will affect the productivity in the livestock sector. There is still a need to address the prevailing economic hardships and the limited access to agricultural inputs by most Syrian families across the country in a holistic and multipronged approach.

Thirteen out of twenty-eight monitored agricultural inputs has recorded variable monthly price decreases: barely grain, cottonseed meal, wheat straw, crop straw, granular nitrate fertilizers, phosphate fertilizers, granular and liquid types for insecticides, fungicides, herbicide and diesel fuel recorded a decrease in May 2021, ranging from 2 percent to 17 percent.

Five food items out of eight recorded an increase in May 2021, they are bread, eggs, cow milk, sheep meat and cow meat. The increase ranged between 2 to 5 percent and three monitored food items maintained a constant price since April 2021, they are chicken meat, fish and olive oil.

A significant decrease of 28 to 25 percent was observed for potato and eggplant respectively in May 2021. This is a normal and expected decrease as it is the peak production season, hence, it is available in the market. For tomato, a 13 percent decrease was observed and this is linked to the raise of the local production. This decrease has improved the consumers’ ability to buy tomatoes, but with detrimental effects for producers because of the high production cost and fluctuation in prices monthly impacting profit margins. Meanwhile, flour, sugar, rice, sheep milk, and sunflower oil witnessed a slight decrease, ranging between 2 to 6 percent in May 2021.

The shortage and the high cost of poultry, cattle and sheep fodder, maize, soybean, and wheat bran coupled with the fragile veterinary services, remain a challenge for livestock keepers. Combined with other factors such as limited access and availability of grazing and the early cessation of rainfall season, most livestock keepers have started selling off their livestock assets. Unfortunately, this will have detrimental effects on most household’s dietary diversity and will subsequently result in asset depletion.

Following the Government of Syria’s policy measures and regulations to protect the local currency against continued inflation, the Syrian pound’s value remained stable in the informal exchange market to 3 125 SYP per 1 USD in May 2021. This slight improvement has resulted in the decrease of some agricultural input and food prices in May 2021.

Water scarcity has become a major challenge and concern for agriculture production in Syria for the 2021 summer season. The water scarcity has resulted due to the poor and erratic rainfall, coupled with the reduced water flow and discharge from the Euphrates River, is worsening the already difficult situation for farmers. At least 70 – 80 percent of Euphrates river water is used for agriculture activities as it is the main water source for most farmers engaged in agriculture-based livelihoods. The current water crisis in the North will affect water availability and supply for lands in the northern and central parts of Syria. This prevailing crisis will highly threaten and adversely impact all aspects of agriculture production (i.e. crop and livestock). The water crisis will result in both short, medium, and long term impacts on the food security and livelihoods situation of most vulnerable farmers. The water scarcity challenge is coming in the backdrop of limited availability and access to fuel for underground water extraction.

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

Top dressing fertilizer (Urea)

The Agriculture Bank continues to provide farmers in Rural Damascus, Deir-ez-Zor, Aleppo and Darā with urea at a support price of 200 SYP per kg. Shortages are still being observed in Homs, Hama, Tartous and Hasakeh Governorates in May 2021. Yet, 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 1 576 SYP per kg (8 percent m-o-m decrease). The selling price decreased significantly in Deir-ez-Zor and Hasakeh Governorates (18 and 16 percent m-o-m decrease respectively). In Homs, Hama, Aleppo and Rural Damascus Governorates, prices remained constant and no significant changes were observed in May 2021 (figure 2). In general, the improvement of the value of the local currency against the USD led to prices stability of some agriculture inputs and food items in the markets. This improved the farmer's ability to cover their requirements.

Nitrate Fertilizer (Liquid)

The average selling price of liquid nitrate fertilizer was 5 900 SYP per litre in May 2021 (2 percent m-o-m increase). The average selling price in Hasakeh Governorate increased significantly reaching 6 500 SYP per litre (16 percent m-o-m increase), and slightly in Homs and Hama Governorates (2 percent m-o-m increase), while the selling price for liquid nitrate fertilizer remained constant in Aleppo, Tartous, Darā and Rural Damascus Governorates as the prices reached 10 500, 4 000, 7 500 and 3 400 SYP per litre respectively. Deir-ez-Zor Governorate witnessed a slight decrease (3 percent m-o-m) and the average selling price was 7 300 SYP per litre (figure 3).

Nitrate Ammonium

Nitrate Ammonium promotes plant growth, increases yield and its resistance to adverse factors. In addition, it protects plants and fruit crops from possible fungal diseases. This substance is available in all of monitored Governorates, the farmers are able to cover their needs through local markets in their respective areas with an average selling price of 5 900 SYP per kg.

Ammonium nitrate is highly soluble in water, so when applying fertilizers during irrigation, it penetrates well into the soil and saturates it with essential elements, which make it important for agricultural production in specific conditions that is preferable to use in a low temperature environment.

Basal fertilizers (Phosphate)

The Agriculture Bank continues to provide farmers with Phosphate fertilizer in Aleppo and Darā Governorates, the subsided price reached 240 SYP per kg. The Agriculture Bank faced challenges in stocking phosphate fertilizer during May 2021 across the remaining six monitored Governorates due to shortages observed in Homs, Hama, Tartous, Deir-ez-Zor, Rural Damascus and Hasakeh. As for local markets, phosphate fertilizer is still available at a price of 1 274 SYP per kg (2 percent m-o-m decrease) in May 2021. The average selling price remained constant in Homs, Hama, Deir-ez-Zor, Rural Damascus and Darā Governorates, while Aleppo witnessed a significant decrease in May 2021 and the average selling price reached 875 SYP per kg representing the lowest price across the all monitored Governorates. Hasakeh and Tartous Governorates recorded a slight decrease (4 and 3 percent m-o-m decrease) and the average selling prices were 1 400 and 933 SYP per kg respectively (figure 4).
Basal fertilizer (NPK)

The nutrients that are required by crops in the largest amounts are Nitrogen (N), Phosphorus (P) and Potassium (K). For that reason, they are often considered as the most important nutrients that ensure optimal growth of crops and the good quality of the harvested plant products. NPK is available in all monitored Governorates and respective local markets. The average selling price reached 5 028 in May 2021 with the highest price being recorded in Hasakeh Governorate at 7 625. The selling price in Homs and Hama Governorates was the lowest, reaching 3 760 SYP per kg.

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

Generally, this item is available in all of the monitored Governorates at an average price of 58 854 SYP per kg. The highest selling price was recorded in Aleppo Governorate at 82 250 SYP per kg, while the lowest selling price was recorded in Dará at 4 000 SYP per kg. The average selling price remained constant in both mentioned Governorates since April 2021 and also in Rural Damascus Governorate. The recorded average selling price was 48 000 SYP per kg across all Governorates. The positive change in price was significant in Deir-ez-Zor, Hasakeh and Tartous Governorates (16, 14 and 13 percent m-o-m decrease respectively) as highlighted in figure 5.

Pesticides

Crop-protection agro-chemicals (i.e. pesticides), which mainly include insecticides, fungicides and herbicides, remain available across all monitored Governorates. However, the average prices of pesticides in May 2021 continued to witness 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. This will ultimately affect production, productivity and the quality of produce of vegetables and fruits. FAO advises to scale-up an 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 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.
Fungicides (dusts, granules or wettable powders):
The average selling price of fungicides decreased in six Governorates out of eight. The price decrease ranged between 21 percent m-o-m in Hasakeh Governorate and 5 percent m-o-m in Deir-ez-Zor (Figure 7). The average selling price for fungicides remained constant in Rural Damascus at 55 000 SYP per kg for the third consecutive month and the selling price for fungicides in Aleppo in May 2021 was 31 500 SYP per kg. Overall, fungicides are generally available across the monitored Governorates at an average selling price of 48 113 SYP per kg (7 percent m-o-m decrease).

Liquid Fungicides:
There was a slight m-o-m increase in the average selling price of liquid fungicides (3 percent m-o-m increase). Tartous and Hama Governorates recorded a significant decrease (17 and 13 percent m-o-m) and the average selling price reached 46 200 and 46 200 SYP per litre respectively. The prices in Aleppo, Rural Damascus Governorates remained constant since April 2021, reaching 36 750 and 57 000 SYP per litre respectively (figure 8).

Herbicides
The average selling price of herbicides (i.e. dusts, granules or wettable powders) was 63 813 SYP per kg (9 percent m-o-m decrease). A notable m-o-m decrease in the selling price of herbicides was recorded in Hasakeh (22 percent) and Deir-ez-Zor (17 percent). Prices remained constant m-o-m in Rural Damascus and Aleppo Governorates. Dará, Homs and Hama Governorates recorded slight decreases (9, 6 and 6 percent m-o-m respectively) as highlighted in figure 9.

The liquid herbicides recorded a 10 percent m-o-m decrease with an average selling price of 43 819 SYP per litre. All of the monitored Governorates witnessed a m-o-m decrease in the average selling price ranging between 24 to 5 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 poultry feed for egg production was recorded at 1 266 SYP per kg. This will result in limiting the availability of eggs in the local markets for families’ consumption 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. Aleppo witnessed a significant 48 percent m-o-m increase and the average selling price reached 1 775 SYP per kg. this was the highest selling price recorded across all monitored Governorates. Rural Damascus and Dará Governorates also witnessed a 30 and 12 percent m-o-m increase respectively. On the contrary, Homs, Tartous, Hama and Hasakeh Governorates recorded a significant decrease (12, 10, 8 and 4 percent m-o-m) respectively as highlighted in figure 11. The poultry feed for meat production increased significantly in Aleppo and Dará Governorates and reached 1 950 and 1 800 SYP per kg (22 and 13 percent m-o-m decrease respectively), while the price for poultry feed for meat production remained constant in Homs and Hasakeh Governorates at 1 450 and 1 425 SYP per kg respectively.
Cattle feed

The availability of cattle feed (i.e. compound fodder pellets) was generally favourable and acceptable in the monitored locations, with an average price of 1,289 SYP per kg being recorded in May 2021 (4 percent increase m-o-m). Five of the monitored Governorates witnessed a slight m-o-m increase in the average selling price, ranging between 17 to 2 percent. In Deir-ez-Zor and Homs Governorates the prices remained constant since April 2021. However, Deir-ez-Zor Governorate recorded the highest selling price of 1,500 SYP per kg (figure 13).

Diesel Fuel

There was a slight m-o-m decrease of 13 percent in the average diesel fuel price within the local markets, reaching 2,782 SYP per 20 litres (see figure 14). Aleppo Governorate witnessed a significant price decrease in diesel fuel price for a 20 litre gallon (50 percent m-o-m) and the recorded price was 30,000 SYP per 20 litre in May 2021 from 60,000 in April 2021.

Darā Governorate also witnessed a decrease of 20 percent m-o-m and the selling price reached 32,000 SYP per 20 litre. In contrast, Hasakeh and Rural Damascus Governorates recorded 16 and 15 percent m-o-m increase respectively. The lowest selling price of 4,625 SYP per 20 litre of diesel fuel was recorded in Hasakeh (figure 14).

With the conditions of water scarcity that Syria is currently experiencing and the subsequent reduced water flow and discharge in the Euphrates River, which is the main water resource in the north and eastern part of Syria, farmers are likely to be impacted due to this threat on crop and livestock production. Farmers will have to allocate more financial resources to purchase expensive diesel fuel available in the local market, and to cover the irrigation needs through ground water extraction. 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 seeds for planting

The optimum time for planting winter crops in Syria is between mid-October to end of December, depending on whether the crops are under irrigation or are 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 as well as other agriculture inputs. The market price analysis helps FAO to compare 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. FAO encourages sector partners and farmers to always verify the quality, season of production and seed viability and germinability of the seed being bought from seed carried over from the previous season.

At the beginning of harvesting time in May 2021, The General Organization for Seed Multiplication (GOSM) increased the price of wheat Grain to 900 SYP per kg as the new official price (42 percent increase).
This applied for all of the monitored Governorates except for Hasakeh and Deir-ez-Zor, where the new price was set at 1 200 SYP per kg. The average selling price for wheat seeds in the local market increased 40 percent m-o-m in May 2021 across the monitored Governorates and the average selling price reached 1 081 SYP per kg. However, there was a significant decrease in the average selling price in Dará, reaching 850 SYP per kg (43 m-o-m decrease) as shown in figure 15. In Aleppo, the selling price of wheat seed recorded is 1 500 SYP per kg in May 2021 (23 percent m-o-m increase). While in Rural Damascus the price decreased 8 percent m-o-m with the average selling price of 1 100 SYP per kg being recorded in May 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, season of production and seed viability and germinability of the seed being bought from seed leftover from previous season.

Local market offered barley seed at a price ranging between 1 400 SYP per kg in Aleppo to 994 SYP per kg in Hasakeh Governorate. There was a general increase in the average selling price of barley seed at 15 percent m-o-m. Aleppo, Tartous and Homs Governorates recorded significant increases of 33, 31 and 30 percent m-o-m, respectively. Dará witnessed a 17 percent m-o-m decrease and the average selling price reaching 1 250 SYP per kg as shown in figure 16 below.

**Maize (Corn)**

The average selling price of Maize was 1 074 SYP per kg and the lowest price of 475 SYP per kg was recorded in Deir-ez-Zor Governorate (6 percent m-o-m increase). It must be noted that the reduced water flow in the Euphrates River is adversely impacting maize production. The water scarcity resulting from the mentioned constraint will result in a significant reduction in the maize cropped area. Maize is produced during the summer season under irrigation and the water primarily comes from the Euphrates River.

While Rural Damascus Governorate recorded the highest price at 1 250 SYP per kg (17 percent m-o-m decrease), Hasakeh witnessed a 9 percent m-o-m decrease and the average selling price was 1 050. Aleppo and Homs Governorates recorded slight increases (12 and 10 percent m-o-m) respectively, with the prices reaching 1 100 and 1 170 SYP per Kg respectively (figure 17).

**Soybean Meal**

Soybean remains available in six of the monitored Governorates: Homs, Hama, Aleppo, Tartous, Rural Damascus and Dará, at an average selling price of 1 818 SYP per kg. Aleppo and Rural Damascus recorded 2 200 SYP per kg, which was the highest recorded price across all monitored Governorates, with 21 and 10 percent m-o-m increase respectively. The price of soybean meal in Tartous, Homs and Hama Governorates decreased (20, 18 and 18 percent m-o-m) respectively as highlighted in figure 18.
Barley Grain

Barley grain is available in all the monitored Governorates. The average selling price decreased significantly (29 percent m-o-m), it reached 1,178 SYP per kg in May 2021. Tartous Governorate recorded a selling price of 1,342 SYP per kg representing the highest price in May 2021. In Homs Governorate, a significant decrease was also observed (73 percent m-o-m) and the average selling price was 1,340 SYP per kg, while in rural Damascus and Hasakah Governorates the average selling prices were 1,200 and 975 SYP per kg respectively. The decrease on barley grain prices can be attributed to increased supply due to the harvest period.

Cottonseed Meal

In May 2021, cottonseed remained available in Homs, Hama, Aleppo, Dará, rural Damascus and Tartous Governorates, the average selling prices were 1,570, 1,570, 1,500, 1,200, 1,200 and 1,567 SYP per kg respectively. A slight increase in the average selling price was observed at 1,552 SYP per kg.

Wheat Bran

Hasakeh Governorate recorded a significant increase (25 percent m-o-m) and the average selling price was 875 SYP per kg, while the price in Dará and rural Damascus Governorates decreased 7 percent m-o-m, with the price reaching 650 SYP per kg for both areas (figure 19).

Wheat Straw

The price of wheat straw slightly decreased (4 percent m-o-m) as the harvest period commenced, therefore increasing supply and availability. In May 2021, wheat straw was readily available across all monitored Governorates at an average price of 293 SYP per kg. In Deir-ez-Zor, rural Damascus, and Hama Governorates, a significant decrease in the price of wheat straw was recorded (20, 17 and 16 percent m-o-m) and the average selling prices were 240, 375 and 208 SYP per kg respectively. In Hasakah Governorate, a 15 percent m-o-m increase in the selling price was recorded at 375 SYP per kg, while in rural Damascus the price remained constant from April 2021 (figure 20). The price increase in Hasakah could be attributed to low supply owing to the erratic rainfall received during the 2020/2021 agricultural season.

Crop Residues

The most common crop residues are obtained from the dry stems and leaves left after the harvest of legumes, vegetables and other crops (i.e. cumin). The average selling price of crop residues recorded 41 percent m-o-m increase and the average selling price reached 563 SYP per kg in Deir-ez-Zur and rural Damascus. The price increased 25 percent m-o-m for both areas and the average selling prices were 500 and 1,000 SYP per kg respectively. The price of crop residue in Hasakah Governorate remained constant, reaching 600 SYP per kg. Aleppo witnessed a slight decrease (14 percent m-o-m) and the average selling price was 600 SYP per kg.

SECTION B. Food Prices

Five food items: bread, eggs, cow milk, sheep and cow meat recorded a slight price increases. The remaining food items witnessed a slight decrease, ranging from 28 to 2 percent m-o-m. The reduction in the food prices can be attributed to the improvement and recovery of the Syrian currency against the USD in April and May 2021. It must be noted that the prices remain high and out of reach for most food insecure families compared to pre-crisis.
The average selling price of bread went up in May 2021 to 166 SYP per pack (5 percent m-o-m increase). Hasakeh Governorate still recorded the highest selling price of bread since April 2021 at 250 SYP per pack (5 percent m-o-m decrease). Prices in Homs, Deir-ez-Zor, Rural Damascus and Dará remained constant in May 2021. A 22 percent m-o-m increase was recorded in Hama Governorate, with the selling price of bread reaching 195 SYP per pack from 160 SYP per pack. Tartous Governorate also recorded an 18 percent m-o-m increase as highlighted in figure 21.

For eggs, there was an observed increase in the selling prices across monitored Governorates with an average of 6 684 SYP being recorded for a crate or pack of 30 eggs (4 percent m-o-m increase). Dará observed the most significant price increase (11 percent increase m-o-m), with the average selling price reaching 7 767 SYP a crate or pack 30 eggs. Rural Damascus and Hama Governorate recorded a very slight decrease (1 percent m-o-m decrease) and the average selling prices were at 7 600 and 6 980 SYP per a pack 30 eggs respectively (figure 25).

The selling price of cow milk observed a slight increase (2 percent m-o-m) in May 2021 and the average price reached 1 068 SYP per litre. The price in Rural Damascus and Hasakeh Governorates remained constant at 1 300 and 1 025 SYP per litre. Tartous Governorate recorded a significant increase (20 percent m-o-m) and the price was at 1 100 SYP per litre. The price of milk in Hama, Homs, Dará and Aleppo Governorates witnessed a slight decrease (5, 5, 3 and 1 percent m-o-m decrease) and the average selling prices were at 990 in Hama, 910 in Homs, 1 161 in Dar’a and 1 125 SYP in Aleppo per litre (figure 26).

Generally, the price of flour decreased across most Governorates with an average m-o-m decrease of 4 percent. Deir-ez-Zor Governorate witnessed a 11 percent m-o-m decrease (11 percent) and both Tartous and Homs recording a 9 percent m-o-m decrease followed by Hama (7 percent m-o-m decrease). In Rural Damascus and Dará Governorates, the prices remained constant since March 2021 at 2 500 and 1 600 SYP per kg respectively (figure 22).

Generally, the average selling price of rice decreased (5 percent m-o-m), the average selling price reached 2 678 SYP per kg. The price of rice in Rural Damascus and Dará Governorates remained constant between April 2021 to May 2021 at 3 700 and 2 275 SYP per kg respectively. Hama Governorate witnessed a slight decrease (14 percent m-o-m) and the average selling price was 2 070 SYP per kg. Homs, Aleppo, Tartous and Rural Damascus recorded a decrease and the observed prices were 2 150, 3 900, 2 150, 3 700 SYP per kg respectively (figure 24).
The selling price for sheep milk decreased in Hama significantly (17 percent m-o-m decrease), with the selling pricing dropping to 1 420 SYP per litre. While a slight decrease was recorded in Aleppo, Homs and Dará and Tartous Governorates (3, 3, 2, and 2 percent m-o-m). The selling price of sheep milk in Rural Damascus remained constant since March 2021 (figure 27).

For chicken meat, the average selling price reached 7 042 SYP per kg, with the highest selling price of 7 300 SYP per kg being recorded in Rural Damascus Governorate. The lowest selling price was observed in Dará at 5 000 SYP per kg (12 percent m-o-m decrease). The selling price of chicken meat increased in Deir-ez-Zor, Hasakeh and Aleppo Governorates (17, 8 and 7 percent m-o-m respectively) reached 6 725 SYP per kg in Deir-eZor, 5 300 SYP per kg in Hasakeh and 10 750 SYP per kg in Aleppo (figure 28).

Homs, Tartous and Hama Governorates witnessed a significant increase in the average selling price of sheep meat, reaching 24 800, 28 000 and 24 000 SYP per kg respectively. This represents a 23, 15 and 13 percent m-o-m increase respectively, for the three locations mentioned. The prices in Aleppo and Rural Damascus remained constant as highlighted in (figure 29). A slight decrease was recorded in Hasakeh and Dará Governorates (3 and 4 percent m-o-m) and the average selling prices recorded were at 16 750 and 24 333 SYP per kg respectively.

The selling price for fish reached 7 371 SYP per kg (14 percent m-o-m increase). The highest price was recorded in Rural Damascus at 20 000 SYP per kg and this remained constant from April 2021. The price also remained constant in Aleppo Governorate and the average selling price was 7 500 SYP per kg. Tartous Governorate recorded a significant increase (44 percent m-o-m increase) and the average selling price of kilogram of fish of 6 000 SYP was recorded in April 2021. In contrast, the price in Hama Governorate decreased 36 percent m-o-m and the average selling price was 4 900 SYP per Kg (figure 31).

For cow meat, the prices in Rural Damascus and Deir-ez-Zor remained constant from April 2021 with an average selling price of 19 431 SYP per kg being recorded across the eight monitored locations (2 percent m-o-m increase). The highest selling price was observed in Aleppo reaching 22 500 SYP per kg (1 percent m-o-m decrease). Tartous Governorate also recorded a 14 percent increase m-o-m and the average selling price was 22 000 SYP per kg of cow meat (figure 29).

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.

The fisheries and aquaculture production greatly reduced and was heavily impacted by the crisis and a lack of water resources. Syria remains dependent on fish imports to meet the majority of its fish consumption needs. 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 remained constant and the average selling price of 9 475 SYP remained constant from April 2021. Tartous, Homs and Hama Governorates witnessed a slight decrease (5, 4 and 3 percent m-o-m respectively), while the average price in Deir-ez-Zor increased slightly to 10 000 SYP per litre (figure 32).

The average price of sunflower oil increased slightly to 7 322 SYP per litre (2 percent m-o-m decrease) as highlighted in figure 33. Hama, Aleppo, Tartous and Dará Governorates witnessed a slight m-o-m decrease as well (9, 6, 2 and 1 percent respectively). This can be attributed to the stability in the informal exchange rate of the local Syrian currency and the USD. In Rural Damascus, Hasakeh and Homs the price remained constant since April 2021 with a selling price of 10 000, 5 525 and 7 500 SYP per litre (figure 33).

The average selling price of tomato decreased across the monitored markets with an average of 756 SYP per kg being recorded across most Governorates except in Rural Damascus Governorate, where a 29 percent m-o-m increase on tomato prices was recorded. The high cost of tomatoes in Rural Damascus could be attributed to limited supply coupled with high demand. Furthermore, supply is expected to improve by June 2021 and onwards, following the commencement of tomato harvest. The selling price of tomatoes decreased significantly in Aleppo by 475 SYP per kg (34 percent m-o-m decrease). Tomato selling prices in Dará also decreased slightly from 800 SYP in April 2021 to 756 SYP in May 2021. Furthermore, Hama Governorate recorded a 20 percent m-o-m decrease and one kilogram of tomatoes was selling at 630 SYP per kg (figure 34).

For Potato, the average selling price decreased sharply in Dará, Rural Damascus, Deir-ez-Zor and Aleppo Governorates (54, 50, 35 and 31 percent m-o-m respectively). Hama, Hasakeh and Homs Governorates witnessed a slight decrease (10, 5, and 3 percent m-o-m respectively). Tartous is the only exemption as the average selling price slightly increased by 3 percent, with a selling price of 600 SYP per Kg being recorded in May 2021 (figure 35).

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