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. The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in Syria works on strengthening value chain and food systems by building the capacity of stakeholders, mainly farmers, and expanding their knowledge and understanding of the local situation by sharing useful reports to make agriculture production more sustainable, gender sensitive, market-driven and climate smart. The Organization in Syria releases the “Monthly agriculture input and commodity price bulletin”, 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 Sector (FSS) partners supporting agriculture and food security interventions in the country, about the prevailing prices of agriculture inputs and commodities. The bulletin is a useful periodic resource since markets and market information both play an important role in enhancing food security, income generation, resilience and rural-market linkages. Regular dissemination of market information will benefit smallholder farmers in their market-oriented production endeavor.

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 and these can be access through the Syria Food Security Cluster FSC website here https://fscluster.org/search?
Key Highlights

- Findings show that 25 out of 30 monitored agriculture inputs witnessed an increase in October 2021, ranging from slight to significant. In October 2021, the official price of wheat seed was announced by GOSM for the upcoming planting season is 1,585 SYP per kg. However, in local markets, the price of wheat seed was around 1,492 SYP per kg (27 percent m-o-m increase). In Homs Hama and Rural Damascus governorates, the prices remained constant since September 2021. A notable increase was recorded in local markets in Hasakeh (32 percent m-o-m) and the price reached 1,813 SYP per kg. Basal fertilizer (NPK) average selling prices across the monitored sites, recorded a minimal increase (6 percent m-o-m) and the average selling reached 5,930 SYP per kg. Another key observation in October 2021 is the 25 percent m-o-m increase in the phosphate fertilizer selling price in Rural Damascus, reaching 1,500 SYP per kg.

- Owing to the constant increases reported in previous market bulletins, the high cost of agriculture inputs continues to exert significant pressure on vulnerable smallholder farmers (VSFs), since it is limiting adequate access and may affect the ongoing preparations for the 2021/2022 cropping season. Partners are encouraged to immediately scale-up support in crop and livestock production through the emergency provision of adapted quality inputs and training on good agricultural practices (GAP).

- For food, 15 out of 16 monitored food commodities showed varying price increases in October 2021, ranging between 2 percent for both cow milk and sheep milk, and 62 percent for potato in October 2021. The continued increase in some food prices, will continue to limit access and dietary diversity; especially for vulnerable and crisis-affected families.

- The national planting/cropping plans were developed for most locations in Syria, particularly for the key strategic crops, namely wheat, barley and cotton. The decision and planning by the authorities, shows a general increase in the area (i.e. hectares) planned for wheat. This general increase seeks to address the deficit emanating from a poor 2020/2021 season and the subsequent yield losses.

- Fuel shortages, particularly diesel, persist across all the 35 monitored sites in Syria and the continued shortage of fuel is resulting in a spike in overall agriculture production costs. This constraint is affecting critical farming operations, especially land preparation, transporta-

- The value of the Syrian pound continues to depreciate in the informal exchange market, ranging between 3,460 / USD to 3,475/ USD during the period September 2021 to October 2021 (https://sp-today.com/en/currency/us dollar). The continued weakening of the local Syria currency versus the USD is also contributing to the rise in most agriculture inputs, particularly those imported.

- Covid-19 remains a concern in Syria and as of 31 October 2021, there were 43,404 total Covid-19 confirmed cases, with 239 daily average cases being recorded. As of 31 October 2021, 1,125,146 vaccines had been administered (source: https://covid19.who.int/region/emro/country/sy). The covid-19 remains a threat to the agriculture sector in Syria, since the pandemic may put food supply chains under strain, though the situation has improved since the outbreak in March 2020. The secondary and damaging impacts of Covid – 19 pandemic on the sustainability of agricultural systems in Syria must not be ignored. It is necessary for sector partners to continue analysing the consequences of the pandemic on agricultural food systems in order to develop necessary actions.

Figure 1: Markets Monitored by FAO on a monthly basis.
**Agriculture Commodity and Input Prices**

**Top dressing fertilizer (Urea)**

In general, urea was available in the Agriculture Bank across most of the monitored governorates at an average price of 1 551 SYP per kg, except for Hasakeh governorate where there was no provision of urea fertilizer from the agriculture bank. Due to the significant challenge of urea availability, farmers are forced to purchase their unmet requirements from the local market at an average price of 2 163 SYP per kg (15 percent m-o-m increase). The prices for urea witnessed a significant change in Dará and Rural Damascus governorates (43 and 20 percent m-o-m respectively). While in Aleppo, Hasakeh the selling price increased (16 and 12 percent m-o-m), reaching 2 000 and 1 850 SYP per kg respectively. Homs, Hama and Tartous governorates witnessed (10 percent m-o-m increase). This could be attributed to the new policy to phase-out pesticide and fertilizer subsidies, due to the shortages emanating from the prevailing economic constraints. Deir-ez-Zor governorate observed a minimal increase (6 percent m-o-m) as highlighted in figure 2.

**Nitrate Fertilizer (Granular)**

A significant challenge in stocking sufficient quantities of nitrate fertilizer across most of the governorates is being noticed, particularly in Hasakeh, Tartous, Homs, Deir-ez-Zor, Rural Damascus and Hama. The average selling price was 1 550 SYP per kg in October 2021. The average selling price of granular nitrate fertilizer remained constant in Tartous, Hama and Homs governorates and no significant changes were observed. Deir-ez-Zor governorate recorded a decrease (14 percent m-o-m) and the selling price was at 950 SYP per kg. This could be attributed to the availability of ammonium nitrate in October 2021. Hasakeh governorate witnessed a significant increase also (23 percent m-o-m) and the price was 1 000 SYP per kg. In contrast, Rural Damascus observed a significant increase 23 percent m-o-m as highlighted below (figure 5).

**Nitrate Fertilizer (Liquid):**

A minimal decrease was observed for the average selling price of liquid nitrate fertilizer, reaching 6 669 SYP per litre in October 2021 (6 percent m-o-m). The prices for liquid nitrate fertilizer remained generally constant in Dar’a (7 500 SYP/lt), Hama (4 480 SYP/lt), Aleppo (11 000 SYP/lt) Homs (4 400 SYP/lt) and Tartous (4 600 SYP/lt). In Rural Damascus, a significant m-o-m increase was observed with the average selling price reaching 7 200 SYP per litre. The average-selling price in Hasakeh increased slightly to 7 500 SYP per litre (15 percent m-o-m) as highlighted in figure 4.

**Ammonium Nitrate (Topdressing):**

In October 2021, ammonium nitrate (AN) was available across most of the monitored governorates except in Dará and Aleppo. The average selling price for AN is 1 075 SYP per kg (7 percent m-o-m decrease). The price remained constant in Tartous, Hama and Homs governorates and no significant changes were observed.

Deir-ez-Zor governorate recorded a decrease (14 percent m-o-m) and the selling price was at 950 SYP per kg. This could be attributed to the availability of ammonium nitrate in October 2021.
Phosphate fertilizers (Basal)

In October 2021, shortages in Phosphate fertilizer from the agriculture bank were observed in four monitored governorates, namely Homs, Hama, Tartous, and Hasakeh. In Rural Damascus, the average selling price observed a significant increase (25 percent m-o-m) reaching 1 500 SYP per kg. The price in Dar’a also witnessed a minimal increase (8 percent m-o-m) and the price was 1 200 SYP per kg as highlighted in figure 6 below.

NPK fertilizer (Basal)

In October 2021, NPK fertilizer prices recorded a minimal increase (6 percent m-o-m) and the average selling price was at 5 930 SYP per kg. The prices in Dar’a, Aleppo, Homs, Hama, and Tartous governorates remained stable since September 2021. The average selling prices were 6 000, 5 000, 3 920, 4 260 and 4 133 SYP per kg respectively. Rural Damascus governorate witnessed a significant increase (20 percent m-o-m) and the average selling prices were 9 000 SYP per kg. Deir ez-Zor and Hasakeh governorates observed a notable increase (12 and 3 percent m-o-m) and the prices were 7 000 and 8 125 SYP per kg respectively (figure 8).

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 very high 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 or viability and the quality of farm products. 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 pesticides. IPM 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 practices, where feasible. IPM may offer benefits in terms of long-term pest control, while minimizing the exposure of humans to hazards and avoiding environmental pollution. IPM can increase the resilience of vulnerable farming households, especially due to the prevailing economic situation and 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):**

The average selling price of dust, granular and wettable powder insecticides was 72 894 SYP per kg (2 percent m-o-m increase) in October 2021. Insecticides are generally available across all the monitored locations. The selling prices remained constant in Tartous, Deir-ez-Zor, Aleppo, Hama and Dará governorates since September 2021. The lowest selling price was recorded in Dará governorate at 24 000 SYP per kg, while Homs governorate recorded a 5 percent m-o-m increase in Rural Damascus governorate since April 2021. The price in Hasakeh was (41 000) SYP per kg with (10 percent m-o-m), reaching 60 500 SYP per litre. There was a notable decrease in Deir-ez-Zor governorate (1 percent m-o-m), reaching 36 500 SYP per litre as illustrated in figure 9.

![Figure 9: M-O-M Comparison of Insecticide (Dusts, Granules, Wettable Powder) prices in SYP per kg in Local Market](image)

* **Fungicides**

  ♦ **(Dusts, granules or wettable powders):**

Fungicides are generally available across the monitored governorates at an average selling price of 52 119 SYP per kg. The prices in Dar’a, Deir-ez-Zor and Aleppo governorates remained constant since September 2021. Dar’a also recorded the highest selling price for fungicides across all monitored governorates, reaching 85 000 SYP per kg. The average selling prices observed a minimal increase in Rural Damascus, Homs, Hama and Tartous governorates (10, 6, 5 and 4 percent m-o-m), the prices were as follows; Rural Damascus (60 500), Homs (48 400), Hama (46 800), Tartous (47 000). The price in Hasakeh was (41 000) SYP per kg with 4 percent m-o-m decrease as illustrated in figure 11 below.

* **Liquid Fungicides:**

The price of liquid fungicides recorded an average of 49 833 SYP per litre in October 2021. Data from the market survey shows that slight increase in the selling price of liquid fungicides occurred in Rural Damascus, Homs and Hama governorates (10, 2 and 2 percent m-o-m respectively). While in Hasakeh governorate, the price decreased slightly (5 percent m-o-m), reaching 34 375 SYP per litre. In Aleppo, Tartous, Deir-ez-Zor and Dará governorates, the prices remained unchanged since September 2021, and the prices were at 38 700 (Aleppo), 50 667 (Tartous), 37 625 (Deir-ez-Zor) and 73 000 (Dará) SYP per litre. The highest selling price was recorded in Dará governorate since April 2021. Furthermore, the price recorded in Hasakeh was the lowest in...
in October 2021 (figure 12).

**Figure 11: M-O-M comparison of Fungicide (Dusts, Granules, or Wettable Powders) prices in SYP per kg in Local Market**

**Figure 12: M-O-M comparison of Fungicide prices in SYP per Litre in Local Market**

*Herbicides*

In general, the average price of herbicides (i.e. dusts, granules or wettable powders) was 64 438 SYP per kg (1 percent m-o-m increase). A notable increase in the selling price of herbicides was recorded in Rural Damascus (10 percent m-o-m), however this price is still below the herbicides average selling price in other governorates. This could be attributed to the recent shortages caused by limited supply. In Hasakeh governorate, a 2 percent m-o-m decrease was recorded, reaching 65 750 SYP per Kg. In Homs governorate, a slight 2 percent m-o-m increase was witnessed in October 2021, and the average selling price was at 77 800. The prices in Hama, Aleppo, Tartous and Dar’a remained constant since September 2021 (figure 13).

**Figure 13: M-O-M Comparison of dusts, granules or wettable powder Herbicide prices in SYP per Kg in Local Market**

Liquid herbicides recorded a 6 percent m-o-m increase with an average selling price of 45 227 SYP per litre. The price recorded in Dará was the lowest at 20 000 SYP per litre and remained constant since September 2021. The prices in Deir-ez-Zor and Aleppo governorates also remained unchanged in October 2021. Furthermore, Rural Damascus, Hama, Homs, Tartous and Hasakeh governors witnessed a notable increase in the average selling price of liquid herbicides (10, 9,8,8 and 6 percent m-o-m) and the actual prices recorded were 40 700, 64 400, 64 800, 63 667 and 39 250 SYP per litre respectively (figure 14).

**Figure 14: M-O-M Comparison of Herbicide prices in SYP per Litre in Local Market**

Poultry Feed (Egg production):

In terms of cost, feed is the most important input for intensive poultry production. For maximum performance and good health, poultry needs a steady supply of water, energy, protein, essential amino acids, minerals and vitamins. Tracking poultry feed price dynamics is very vital for poultry value chain actors. In October 2021 the average selling price of poultry feed for egg production recorded was 1 695 SYP per kg (13 percent m-o-m decrease). In Deir-ez-Zor governorate, the price observed a minimal decrease (10 percent m-o-m) reaching 900 SYP per Kg. In Hama, Aleppo, Tartous, Rural Damascus, Hasakeh and Dar’a the prices remained constant since September 2021. As reported in previous months, most families in Deir-ez-Zor continue to depend on other governorates to cover their requirements for eggs. Some families continue to obtain eggs from neighbouring countries through illegal trading routes with unverified quality and standards. Subsequently, most vulnerable smallholder farmers engaged in egg production are finding it difficult to afford the high production costs and this will potentially impact egg production and viability figure 15.

The average selling price of the poultry feed for chicken meat production recorded in October 2021 was 2 215 SYP per Kg (1 percent m-o-m increase). The prices in all monitored governorates except for Deir-ez-Zor and Hasakeh remained constant since September 2021. The prices were 2 350 SYP per Kg in Deir-ez-Zor (1 percent m-o-m decrease) and 2 625 SYP per Kg in Hasakeh (5 percent m-o-m increase) as highlighted in figure 16.
Cattle feed

In October 2021, Cattle feed was available within the governorates at an estimated price of 1 429 SYP per kg. The availability of cattle feed was acceptable in the monitored governorates. In Hasakeh and Deir-ez-Zor governorates, the prices witnessed a slight increase (14 and 3 percent m-o-m respectively). The prices in Homs, Hama, Tartous, Rural Damascus and Dará remained constant since September 2021, recording 1 200, 1 270, 1 262, 1 400 and 2 050 SYP per kg respectively. The price in Dará (2 050 SYP per kg), represented the highest selling price for cattle feed in October 2021. While the lowest price was recorded in Hasakeh governorate. FAO will closely monitor the price trends for cattle feed as the winter and 2021/2022 rainfall season commences (figure 17).

Diesel Fuel

The average diesel fuel price witnessed a notable m-o-m increase of 5 percent in local markets, reaching 56 203 SYP per 20 litres (figure 18). Deir-ez-Zor governorate witnessed a significant price increase in diesel fuel for a 20 litre gallon (79 percent m-o-m) and the prices recorded in October 2021 was 30 500 SYP per 20 litres. This is could be attributed to the limitation in supply versus the prevailing high demand, lack of government’s provision of fuel for agriculture purposes and the expensive price of fuel. In Hama and Aleppo governorates, the prices increased slightly and the prices were at 64 000 and 72 500 SYP per 20 litres respectively. Dará and Hasakeh governorates witnessed a notable decrease of 3 and 7 percent m-o-m and the selling price reached 78 000 and 8 625 SYP per 20 litres respectively. The price in Hasakeh representing the lowest price across the monitored locations (figure 18).

Wheat seed for planting

In October 2021, the official price of wheat seed announced by GOSM for the upcoming planting season is 1 585 SYP per kg. However, in local markets, the price of wheat seed was around 1 492 SYP per kg (27 percent m-o-m increase). In Homs Hama and Rural Damascus governorates, the prices remained constant since September 2021. A notable increase was recorded in Hasakeh (32 percent m-o-m) and the price was at 1 813 SYP per kg. A 19 percent m-o-m increase was
1 750 SYP per kg. This significant increase could be attributed to the current high demand as the planting season commences and also the limited supply and availability of retained seed, because of the poor 2020/2021 agricultural season, which resulted in low yield. Furthermore, there is a potential shortage of wheat seed for the upcoming season (figure 18). Sector partners are encouraged to provide immediate support to vulnerable small farmers, through provision of quality wheat seed, to sustain the production of the staple crop and contribute to food security (figure 19).

Figure 19: M-O-M Comparison for Wheat seed prices in SYP per kg in Local Market

Barley seed

The official price of Barley seed was announced by GOSM for the upcoming planting season is 1 743 SYP per Kg. Barley seed remained available in the local markets at an average selling price of 1 586 SYP per kg (6 percent m-o-m increase). The prices in Rural Damascus, Homs and Hama governorates remained constant in October 2021. In Deir-ez-Zor and Aleppo governorates, the prices witnessed a notable increase (13 and 14 percent m-o-m) and the prices were at 1 675 and 1 600 SYP per kg respectively. In October 2021, also Tartous, Hasakeh and Darā governorates observed a minimal increase (9, 3 and 7 percent m-o-m respectively) figure 20 below. The possible explanation for the observed increase could be the current high demand and the high official selling price of barley at the General Organization for Seed Multiplication (GOSM). Furthermore, due to the low production costs for barley compared to wheat, some farmers are now preferring to plant barley and hence demand for barley seed increased. figure 20 below.

Figure 20: M-O-M comparison of Barely seed prices in SYP per Kg in Local Market

Maize grain (Corn)

In October 2021, the price of maize observed a minimal decrease (6 percent m-o-m) reaching 1 286 SYP per kg. In Tartous, Homs, Hama, Darā and Rural Damascus the price remained constant since September 2021. In Hasakeh, a significant decrease was observed (25 percent m-o-m). Deir-ez-Zor governorate also witnessed a slight decrease (17 percent m-o-m) and the prices dropped to 1 100 SYP per kg (figure 21). This could be attributed to the low demand by farmers due to the increased availability of corn from the current 2021 summer production. Maize grain is commonly used as an important ingredient during the production of most livestock fodder, due to its high nutritional content, especially starch, fibre and protein (figure 21)

Figure 21: M-O-M Comparison of Maize grain prices in SYP per Kg in Local Market

Soybean Meal

In October 2021, the price of Soya bean reached 2 038 SYP per kg (1 percent m-o-m increase). Soya bean was generally available in six governorates out of the eight that are monitored. In Rural Damascus, the price increased 5 percent m-o-m reaching 2 300 SYP per kg. In Tartous, Hama and Darā governorates, the prices remained constant since September 2021. Homs governorate witnessed a slight increase (8 percent m-o-m) and the price reached 1 810 SYP per kg. In contrast, Aleppo governorate observed a slight decrease (6 percent m-o-m) as highlighted in (figure 22).

Figure 22: M-O-M Comparison of Soybean Prices in SYP per Kg in Local Market

Barley Grain

The average selling price of barley grain increased slightly 5 percent m-o-m, reaching 1 362 SYP per kg in October 2021. A significant increase of 23 percent m-o-m was observed in Deir-ez-Zor, with the price rising to 1 533 SYP per kg.
The increase could be due to increased demand from farmers, as they seek to cultivate barley early, to ensure timely availability of barley forage in winter. However, prices in Rural Damascus, Hasakeh, Tartous, Homs and Hama governorates remained unchanged since September 2021. The price in Dará witnessed a slight increase (4 percent m-o-m) reaching 1,350 SYP per kg. Similarly, a 4 percent m-o-m increase was observed in Aleppo as highlighted in figure 23 below.

Figure 23: M-O-M Comparison of Barely grain prices in SYP per Kg in Local Market

Cottonseed Meal

In general, the average selling price of cotton meal was at 1,694 SYP per kg in October 2021. Cottonseed meal was not available in Hasakeh and Dará governorates during the mentioned monitoring period. The prices remained constant in Homs, Hama, Tartous, Deir-ez-Zor and Rural Damascus governorates since September 2021. Aleppo governorate witnessed a minimal increase in the average selling price (3 percent m-o-m), reaching 1,800 SYP per kg as shown in figure 24.

Figure 24: M-O-M Comparison of Cottonseed Meal Prices in SYP per Kg in Local Market

Wheat Straw

Wheat straw was generally available across most of the monitored governorates at an average price of 414 SYP per kg. The price of wheat straw increased slightly (6 percent m-o-m) in October 2021 and this can be attributed to the prevailing high demand and diminishing supply. The prices in Hama, Homs, Tartous, Rural Damascus and Dará governorates remained constant since September 2021. In Aleppo governorate, a notable decrease in the price of wheat straw was recorded (7 percent m-o-m) and the average selling price was 325 SYP per kg. In Deir-ez-Zor, the price witnessed a significant increase (48 percent m-o-m) reaching 425 SYP per Kg. This could be attributed to the erratic 2020/2021 season, water scarcity and the drought-like conditions, which resulted in significant crop production losses, particularly for winter crops. In Hasakeh governorate, there was an observed 17 percent m-o-m increase in the selling price; reaching 525 SYP per kg in the mentioned governorate (figure 26).

Figure 26: M-O-M Comparison of Wheat straw prices in SYP per Kg in Local Market

Crop Residues

The average selling price of crop residues increased slightly in October 2021 (3 percent m-o-m), reaching 680 SYP per kg in October 2021. Deir-ez-Zor governorate witnessed a significant increase (24 percent m-o-m) and the price reached 700 SYP per kg. The prices in Homs, Hama, Tartous, Aleppo, Dará and Rural Damascus governorates remained constant since September 2021 (figure 27).

Figure 27: M-O-M Comparison of Crop Residues prices in SYP per Kg in Local Market
SECTION B. Food Prices:

The price of bread remained constant in October 2021, reaching 357 SYP per rabta. In Tartous and Aleppo governorates, the price of bread increased slightly (4 and 6 percent m-o-m). While in Homs, Hama, Rural Damascus, Deir-ez-Zor, Hasakeh and Dar’a the prices remained constant since September 2021. The bread subsidy system remains in place by government, with close monitoring by local authorities. The bread subsidy system and monitoring by the local authorities seeks to stabilize bread prices despite the increase in production costs and wheat shortages (figure 28).

The price of wheat flour recorded a minimal 3 percent m-o-m increase and the average selling price reached 1 969 SYP per kg. While the prices in Deir-ez-Zor, Rural Damascus and Dará governorates remained constant since September 2021. In Homs, Hama, Aleppo and Tartous governorates, a slight increase had been observed (3, 6, 9 and 4 percent m-o-m), reaching 1 910, 1 990, 2 100 and 1 933 SYP per kg respectively, as highlighted in figure 29. This could be explained by the prevailing limited availability of wheat flour at some markets and high demand, combined with the government regulations on wheat trade and stocking figure 29. The average selling price of sugar across the monitored governorates recorded a slight decrease (2 percent m-o-m), reaching 2 531 SYP per kg. The price of sugar in Deir-ez-Zor and Hasakeh governorates decreased slightly (7 and 9 percent m-o-m respectively). This is due to the low demand in markets since the start of October 2021. A slight increase was recorded in Tartous governorate (4 percent m-o-m), with the price rising to 2 425 SYP per kg. The price in Dará, Rural Damascus, Aleppo, Homs and Hama governorates remained unchanged since September 2021 (figure 30).
The average selling price across all monitored locations and markets for eggs showed a notable increase in September 2021 (9 percent m-o-m), reaching 10 401 SYP for a crate or pack. The price in Homs, Hama and Tartous governorates remained unchanged since September 2021. Aleppo showed a significant 22 percent m-o-m increase, with the prices rising to 11 250 SYP per pack. In Rural Damascus, Hasakeh and Dará, the prices recorded a notable increase (14, 14 and 19 percent m-o-m respectively). This increase could be attributed to the limited supply in the market and an increase in the transportation costs, coupled with the increase in the cost of production (figure 32).

Figure 32: M-O-M Comparison of Egg prices in SYP per Pack in Local Market

In general, the selling price of cow milk increased slightly in October 2021 (4 percent m-o-m) and the average price reached 1 410 SYP per litre. The prices in Hasakeh increased slightly (12 percent m-o-m), reaching 1 400 SYP per litre. Dar'a, Rural Damascus and Aleppo governorates witnessed a slight increase (8, 7 and 6 percent m-o-m respectively). This slight increase could be attributed to the prevailing price increase in and limited supply of fodder, due to the poor pasture production and erratic season in 2020/2021. The prices in Hama, Homs, Tartous and Deir-ez-Zor remained constant since September 2021, at 1 380, 1 310, 1 392 and 1 200 SYP per litre respectively (figure 33).

Figure 33: M-O-M Comparison of Cow Milk prices in SYP per Litre in Local Market

The average selling price for sheep milk increased slightly in October 2021 (5 percent m-o-m) across the monitored markets, with the average selling price increasing to 1 877 SYP per litre. A slight increase was recorded in Aleppo and Rural Damascus governorates (12 and 11 percent m-o-m respectively). This could be attributed to the general increase in the cost of production and the prevailing and prolonged shortage of feed. Hasakeh governorate also recorded a significant increase in the selling price of sheep milk (23 percent m-o-m). The selling prices for sheep milk observed in Hasakeh is 1 800 SYP per litre. The average selling price recorded in Hama was 1 960 SYP per litre, and in Homs 1 980 SYP per litre remaining constant since September 2021 as shown in figure 34.

Figure 34: M-O-M Comparison of Sheep Milk prices in SYP per Litre in Local Market

For Chicken meat, the average selling price reached 7 777 SYP per kg (1 percent m-o-m increase) in October 2021. The highest selling price of 9 500 SYP per kg was recorded in Aleppo governorate, remaining constant since August 2021. Hasakeh governorate observed a notable increase of 2 percent m-o-m and the price was at 5 950 SYP per kg. The selling price of chicken meat increased slightly by 13 percent m-o-m in Deir-ez-Zor and by 4, 3 percent m-o-m in, Homs and Hama governorates respectively. The price decreased to 7 400 SYP per kg in Rural Damascus with 8 percent m-o-m. In Tartous and Dará the price of chicken meat remained constant since September 2021. As highlighted in figure 35.

Figure 35: M-o-m Comparison of chicken meat prices in SYP per kg in Local Market
The average selling price for sheep meat (i.e. mutton) witnessed a negligible increase in October 2021 (1 percent m-o-m) to 22 885 SYP per kg. The prices in Dar’a, Rural Damascus, Deir-ez-Zor, Tartous, Hama and Homs governorates remained constant since September 2021 at 22 000 SYP (Dar’a), 28 000 SYP (Rural Damascus), 16 500 SYP (Deir-ez-Zor), 27 833 SYP (Tartous), 24 000 SYP (Hama) and 23 500 SYP (Homs) per kg respectively. For Hasakeh and Aleppo governorates, a slight increase was observed and the average selling prices were 16 750 and 24 500 SYP per kg respectively, as highlighted in figure 36.

Figure 36: M-O-M Comparison of Sheep Meat (i.e. Mutton) prices in SYP per kg in Local Market

For cow meat (i.e. beef), in general, the average selling price observed a slight decrease (2 percent m-o-m) and the price was 20 402 SYP per kg. The prices in Rural Damascus decreased slightly (12 percent m-o-m) and the average selling price dropped to 22 000 SYP per kg in October 2021. The prices in Homs, Hama, and Aleppo, Tartous, Deir-ez-Zor and Dar’a governorates remained constant since September 2021. The selling price recorded for October 2021 in Hasakeh was 16 500 per kg (2 percent m-o-m increase) as shown in figure 37.

Figure 37: M-O-M Comparison of Cow Meat Prices in SYP per Kg in Local Market

The average selling price for fish reached 8 504 SYP per kg (1 percent m-o-m decrease) in October 2021. In Hasakeh governorate, a 11 percent m-o-m increase was noted and the price was 4 375 SYP per kg. In Homs, Hama, Aleppo, Tartous and Rural Damascus governorates the prices remained constant since September 2021. Deir-ez-Zor witnessed a minimal increase (3 percent m-o-m) and the price was 3 850 SYP per Kg. The highest price was still recorded in Rural Damascus at 27 000 SYP per kg as highlighted in figure 38 below. This can be attributed to the increase in demand, limited supply and high transportation cost.

As highlighted in previous bulletins, the consumption of fish by most families in Syria remains generally low due to the low natural productivity of inland fisheries combined with low purchasing power among most families in Syria. Furthermore, the high cost of fishmeal and other fish production inputs also contribute to the high cost of fish. FAO acknowledges the nutritional value of fish and the potential contribution that the fisheries and aquaculture sector may bring to the Syrian economy.

Figure 38: M-O-M Comparison of Fish prices in SYP per kg in Local Market

Generally, the average olive oil price increased by 13 percent in October 2021 and the average selling price was at 12 801 SYP per litre for the eight monitored governorates. The increase in demand versus the limited supply of olive oil resulted in a general increase in the price of olive oil across the monitored locations. Furthermore, there is an anticipation that olive production for this year will not be that good due to the prevailing water scarcity and a poor 2020/2021 rainfall season.

The olive oil price in Dará and Homs governorates increased significantly (29 and 21 percent m-o-m), reaching 13 500 and 12 900 SYP per litre respectively. Rural Damascus witnessed a notable increase in the selling price (15 percent m-o-m), reaching 15 000 SYP per litre. A slight increase was also noticed in Hama and Tartous (18 and 9 percent m-o-m) and Aleppo (6 percent m-o-m) as shown in figure 39.

Figure 39: M-O-M Comparison of Olive Oil Prices in SYP per Litre in Local Market
A 1 percent m-o-m increase was recorded for the average selling price of sunflower oil in October 2021, reaching 8 348 SYP per litre. In Aleppo, Hasakeh and Hama the prices were 8 700, 6 225 and 8 780 SYP per litre. This represents a 9 percent m-o-m increase in Aleppo, 8 percent m-o-m increase in Hasakeh and a 3 percent m-o-m increase in Hama. The general increase for sunflower oil could be attributed to the continued rise in transportation costs due to fuel shortages and the high cost of petrol and diesel, bottlenecks within the supply chain, considering the prevailing high demand. In Dará, Tartous and Homs governorates witnessed a slight decrease (26, 20 and 17 percent m-o-m respectively). The selling price of Hama and Tartous remained constant since September 2021 at 1 180 and 1 150 SYP per kg. Deir-ez-Zor observed a minimal increase of 10 percent m-o-m and the price reached 1 375 SYP per kg.

The average selling price for tomatoes recorded a significant increase across most of the monitored locations (49 percent m-o-m), reaching 1 723 SYP per kg in October 2021. The average selling price of tomatoes was 1 202 SYP per kg in the monitored locations and markets in October 2021. The average selling price of tomatoes was 1 723 SYP per kg in October 2021. The average selling price of tomatoes reached 1 202 SYP per kg. Sharp increases of 33 percent m-o-m were recorded in Hasakeh, resulting in the prices rising to 2 000 SYP per kg (figure 41). The sharp rise in tomato prices is due to the current low supply versus high demand, since the peak harvest season ended in July 2021. Aleppo, Dará and Homs governorates witnessed a slight decrease (26, 20 and 17 percent m-o-m respectively). The selling price in Hama and Tartous remained constant since September 2021 at 1 180 and 1 150 SYP per kg. Deir-ez-Zor observed a minimal decrease of 10 percent m-o-m and the price reached 1 375 SYP per kg.

The average selling price of potatoes recorded a significant increase in October 2021 across the monitored locations (49 percent m-o-m), reaching 1 723 SYP per kg in October 2021. The average selling price of potatoes was 1 202 SYP per kg in the monitored locations and markets in October 2021. The average selling price of potatoes reached 1 723 SYP per kg. Sharp increases of 33 percent m-o-m were recorded in Hasakeh, resulting in the prices rising to 2 000 SYP per kg (figure 41). The sharp rise in tomato prices is due to the current low supply versus high demand, since the peak harvest season ended in July 2021. Aleppo, Dará and Homs governorates witnessed a slight decrease (26, 20 and 17 percent m-o-m respectively). The selling price in Hama and Tartous remained constant since September 2021 at 1 180 and 1 150 SYP per kg. Deir-ez-Zor observed a minimal decrease of 10 percent m-o-m and the price reached 1 375 SYP per kg.

The average selling price of eggplants increased significantly in October 2021 across the monitored locations (20 percent m-o-m), and the price reached 1 019 SYP per kg. The selling price of eggplant in Aleppo increased significantly (50 percent m-o-m), reaching 1 500 SYP per kg. Deir-ez-Zor, Rural Damascus and Hasakeh also witnessed a significant increase (31, 30 and 20 percent) and the prices were 850, 1 300 and 1 050 SYP per kg respectively in October 2021. This could be attributed to the end of the local production season in the aforementioned location. The market in Aleppo has had to rely on production from other locations to adequately cover the unmet needs and high demand. The increase in the prices for eggplants in the aforementioned locations is most likely due to increased demand and limited supply experienced in September 2021. The prices for eggplants reached 820 SYP (Hama) and 750 SYP (Tartous) per kg, price in the aforementioned areas remained constant since September 2021. The effect of the prevailing water scarcity, the high cost of fuel for irrigation and limited availability of quality inputs for vegetable production, especially seed and agro-chemicals, could also be affecting the production of various nutrient-rich vegetables and the subsequent increase in vegetable prices. This may have long-term effects on household dietary diversity and food security, especially for women and children.
Figure 43: M-O-M Comparison of Eggplant prices in SYP per Kg in Local Market

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