# Food Price Monitoring and Analysis

# BULLETIN

10 July 2017

#### MONTHLY REPORT ON FOOD PRICE TRENDS

### **KEY MESSAGES**

#### → International wheat prices generally increased in June on quality concerns amid unfavourable growing conditions for the 2017 crops in some key producing countries. Export prices of maize remained generally unchanged, while rice quotations continued to increase mainly on account of strong demand.

- **↗** In East Africa, cereal prices either remain stable or declined in June with the new 2017 harvests, but remained at near-record levels in several countries. Prices increased sharply in the past several months, due to tight supplies because of drought-reduced 2016 second season crops and concerns about the overall performance of this year's harvests following poor rains and crop pests.
- 7 In Asia, sustained demand further underpinned domestic prices of rice in exporting countries in June. Elsewhere in the subregion, rice prices rose further and reached record highs in Bangladesh, reflecting losses incurred in the 2017 main season crop, coupled with reduced production and imports in 2016. In Sri Lanka, an anticipated reduction in the 2017 output continued to support prices of rice.

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### **Domestic price warnings**



Price warning level: High Moderate [Based on GIEWS analysis]



Warnings are only included if latest available price data is not older than two months.

The designations employed and the presentation of material in the map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of FAO concerning the legal or constitutional status of any country, territory or sea area, or concerning the delimitation of frontiers.

Bangladesh | Rice

Burundi | Maize

Ethiopia | Maize

Kenya | Maize

**Niger** | Coarse grains

Nigeria | Staple foods

Rwanda | Maize

Somalia | Coarse grains

South Sudan | Staple foods

Sri Lanka | Rice

Uganda | Maize

**United Republic of Tanzania** | Maize

#### INTERNATIONAL CEREAL PRICES

#### Wheat and rice prices increased in June, those of maize generally unchanged

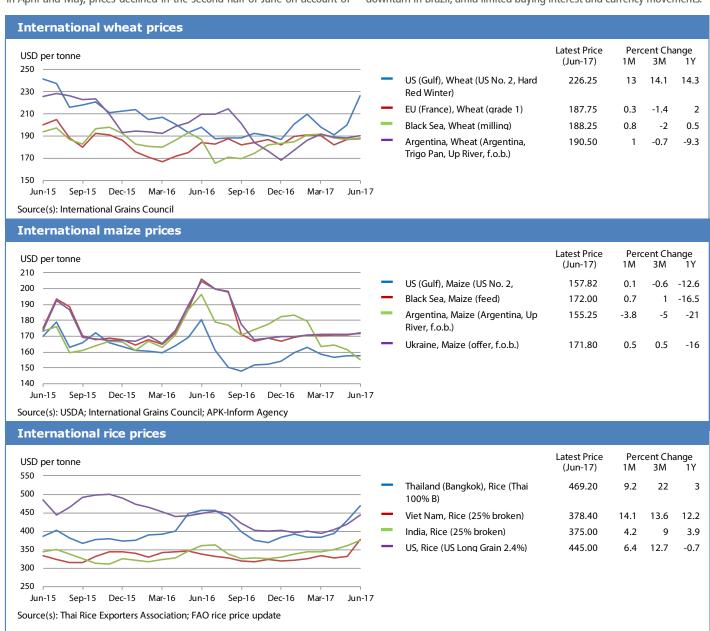
International prices of **wheat** generally strengthened in June. The benchmark US wheat (No.2 Hard Red Winter, f.o.b.) price increased for the second consecutive month and at a steep rate, averaging USD 226 per tonne, 13 percent higher than in May and about 14 percent above its level in the corresponding month last year. Seasonal pressure from the 2017 winter wheat harvest was more than offset by reports of low grain quality this year, implying a reduced availability of premium grade milling wheat, and deteriorating spring wheat conditions due to hot and dry weather. Less than ideal conditions in other key-growing countries in the Northern Hemisphere and in parts of Australia also provided support. In Argentina, wet conditions hampering plantings of the new crop contributed to the month-on-month price increase in June.

International **maize** prices remained generally stable in June, with the benchmark US maize (No.2, Yellow, f.o.b.) price averaging USD 158 per tonne, virtually unchanged from May and nearly 13 percent down from the corresponding month in 2016. After increasing early in the month on concerns about hot conditions in key growing areas, following some delays in planting in April and May, prices declined in the second half of June on account of

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improved weather. In the Black Sea region, maize prices kept a firmer tone on account of sustained demand, while in South America, quotations declined with the ongoing harvest of the 2017 crops, anticipated at a bumper level.

The FAO All **Rice** Price Index (2002-04=100) rose for the seventh consecutive month in June and reached 209 points, up 4 percent from its value a month earlier. Export prices registered further increases in all the major Asian origins during June, as suppliers remained busy meeting the rush in orders placed by countries such as Iraq, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Bangladesh in recent weeks. Expectations of additional purchases by the Philippines, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh tended to accentuate gains. It was only towards the latter part of the month that prices subsided somewhat, amid easing pressure to secure supplies and a lack of fresh interest. In the Americas, a sale to Iraq provided a further boost to long grain quotations in the United States of America, which had already found support on continued concerns over flood losses and a good pace of exports. An upbeat pace of sales also underpinned quotations in Argentina and Uruguay, while prices took a downturn in Brazil, amid limited buying interest and currency movements.

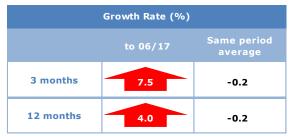


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#### DOMESTIC PRICE WARNINGS

Countries where prices of one or more basic food commodity are at abnormal high levels which could negatively impact access to food

# Bangladesh | Rice



Compound growth rate in real terms. Refers to: Bangladesh, Dhaka, Wholesale, Rice (coarse-BR-8/11/Guti/ Sharna)

#### Rice prices increased further to record highs

Prices of coarse rice rose further to record highs in June reflecting dwindling market availabilities, following flood-induced losses to the 2017 main boro crop, coupled with reduced production and imports in 2016. In response to the high prices, the Government has recently purchased increased quantities of rice from neighbouring countries and also announced the reduction of the import duty on rice to 10 percent from the current 25 percent, while the Central Bank has removed the Letter of Credit margin on rice imports until 31 December 2017 (FPMA Food Policies).

# **Burundi** | Maize

Growth Rate (%)		
	to 06/17	Same period average
3 months	0.4	-3.4
12 months	5.6	-0.3

Compound growth rate in real terms. Refers to: Burundi, Bujumbura, Wholesale, Maize

#### Maize prices firm and at high levels in June

Prices of maize remained firm in June, at about twice their year-earlier levels despite the 2017B harvest. The high level of prices reflects an overall tight supply situation due to a reduced 2017A harvest, gathered earlier in the year, and lower imports from neighbouring United Republic of Tanzania and Rwanda. A weak currency and low foreign currency reserves hampering trade, and fuel shortages leading to higher transport costs, exerted additional upward pressure on prices. By contrast, prices of staple beans declined in the past weeks with the ongoing harvest. Maize seeds and flour, cassava and flour, rice and beans were exempted from custom duties in mid-May.

# Ethiopia | Maize

Growth Rate (%)		
	to 06/17	Same period average
3 months	9.2	5.1
12 months	3.4	-0.7

Compound growth rate in real terms. Refers to: Ethiopia, Jimma, Wholesale, Maize

#### Maize prices strengthened further in June

Prices of maize continued to increase significantly in June and reached levels well above those a year earlier. The sharp increase of the recent months reflects seasonal trends compounded by concerns about the overall performance of the belg harvest, just started, due to early season dryness and Fall armyworm infestations in southwestern areas, which affected yield potential. By contrast, prices of teff levelled off or declined in some markets in June, but they were still higher than in the same month last year. Prices of wheat, partly imported and mainly consumed in urban centres, slightly increased in June in the capital, Addis Ababa, but remained around their year-earlier levels reflecting adequate volumes of imports and a good 2016 output.

Price warning level:



Moderate

### DOMESTIC PRICE WARNINGS contd.

# O Kenya | Maize

Growth Rate (%)		
	to 06/17	Same period average
3 months	6.2	5.1
12 months	4.3	-0.5

Compound growth rate in real terms.
Refers to: Kenya, Nakuru, Wholesale, Maize

#### Prices of maize still high despite recent declines

Prices of maize declined moderately in June from the previous month's record highs mainly as a result of imports from neighbouring Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania. Prices, however, remained up to 80 percent higher than their year-earlier levels as a result of reduced supplies from the drought-reduced 2016 *short-rains* harvest and concerns over the upcoming 2017 *long-rains* harvest, due to early season dryness and Fall armyworm infestations. The high price of imports from Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania, where exportable surpluses are lower than average due to reduced 2016 harvests, provided further support to prices. The Government has taken a number of measures in an effort to curb prices including subsidies for maize imports and for the sale of maize flour (FPMA Food Policies). Prices of staple beans declined sharply in June by some 20 percent mainly on account of increased imports from Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania.

# O Niger | Coarse grains

Growth Rate (%)		
	to 06/17	Same period average
3 months	9.5	3.3
12 months	4.1	-0.2

Compound growth rate in real terms.

Refers to: Niger, Zinder, Wholesale, Millet (local)

#### Coarse grain prices rose further and at record highs in June

Prices of **coarse grains** rose in most markets in June, continuing the rising trend which began in early 2017 and reached record or near-record highs, well above those a year earlier. Seasonal trends were exacerbated by sustained demand for the Ramadan festive period. In addition, 2016 production shortfalls in some departments, large institutional purchases in the past months and lower imports from Nigeria were all drivers that contributed to keep prices at high levels. By contrast, the sustained flow of imports kept prices of **rice** stable and below their values in June last year. Planting of the 2017 cereal crops, to be harvested from September, has begun under generally favourable weather conditions.

# O Nigeria | Staple foods

Growth Rate (%)		
	to 05/17	Same period average
3 months	-1.9	1.9
12 months	2.0	0.0

Compound growth rate in real terms.

Refers to: Nigeria, Kano, Wholesale, Maize (white)

#### Food prices remained high in May

Prices of **coarse grains** and **white gari** (a staple food made from cassava) strengthened further in May and reached record or near-record highs. Seasonal trends were compounded by stronger domestic demand for the Ramadan festive period. The high level of food prices is the result of the substantial depreciation of the local currency over the past year, civil insecurity, tight market supplies and high transportation costs. High prices of cereals, meat and dairy products, fish, potatoes, and vegetables kept food inflation at high levels in May, 19 percent up from the corresponding month last year. However, food inflation remained close to the rate recorded in April as food prices increased only slightly in May, mainly reflecting some strengthening in the local currency, particularly in the parallel market, and following some improvement of the market functioning in the northeast. Despite the high food prices, the general inflation rate fell for the fourth consecutive month in May, reflecting the decreasing inflation rate in other categories of goods. In early July, the Government also announced its intention to curb prices of food items in the next few weeks.

Price warning level:

**Q** High

Moderate

### DOMESTIC PRICE WARNINGS contd.

# Rwanda | Maize

Growth Rate (%)		
	to 06/17	Same period average
3 months	0.5	3.6
12 months	2.3	0.0

Compound growth rate in real terms.

Refers to: Rwanda, Kigali, Wholesale, Maize

#### Maize prices firm at near-record highs

Prices of **maize** in the capital, Kigali, remained firm in June and at near-record levels, about 40 percent above their year-earlier values. Harvesting of the *2017B* crops halted the increasing trend of the past several months; however, localized production shortfalls and a reduced *2017A* harvest hindered price declines. Highly-priced imports from neighbouring Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania provided further support to prices. However, prices are expected to ease in the coming weeks with the bulk of the new harvest and improved inflows of imports. The East African Community (EAC) has removed or reduced the Common External Tariff (CET) on some imported food products for Rwanda, in an effort to ease supply pressure and curb food inflation (FPMA Food Policies).

# O Somalia | Coarse grains

Growth Rate (%)		
	to 06/17	Same period average
3 months	2.2	2.8
12 months	3.4	-0.3

Compound growth rate in real terms.

Refers to: Somalia, Mogadishu, Retail, Sorghum (red)

#### Prices of coarse grains remain at high levels

Prices of **sorghum** generally increased in June, while those of **maize** remained firm or declined in some markets as a result of the ongoing food assistance operations. However, prices remained up to twice their year-earlier levels, underpinned by reduced supplies from the drought-affected 2016 cereal output and by unfavourable prospects for the main 2017 *gu* season harvest, to be gathered in August, due to the poor performance of rains, reduced plantings and pest damage on germinated crops. This may lead to a third consecutive reduced cereal output after the poor *deyr* harvest gathered earlier in the year and the reduced 2016 *gu* crop.

# O South Sudan | Staple foods

Growth Rate (%)		
	to 06/17	Same period average
3 months	1.2	1.0
12 months	-1.1	-0.1

Compound growth rate in real terms.
Refers to: South Sudan, Juba, Retail, Groundnuts

#### Food prices still at high levels despite some declines

In the capital, Juba, prices of maize, sorghum and groundnuts levelled off in June, while those of other important staples, including wheat flour and cassava declined by 13 and 26 percent, respectively. Recent trends reflect increased supplies from the first season harvest, currently underway in southern bi-modal areas as well as subsidized sales of basic food commodities. In May, the Government established a trading company to import and sell five basic food items (sugar, wheat flour, maize flour, beans and cooking oil) in 35 shops in Juba. The prices of these subsidized food items are 25-45 percent lower than the market prices. In addition, the import duty on basic food commodities was lifted for three months. Food prices in June, however, remained three to five times higher than their year-earlier levels, in nominal terms, underpinned by the depreciation of the local currency, tight domestic supplies and marketing disruptions due to insecurity.

### DOMESTIC PRICE WARNINGS contd.

# O Sri Lanka | Rice

Growth Rate (%)		
	to 06/17	Same period average
3 months	2.0	-0.8
12 months	0.9	0.0

Compound growth rate in real terms.

Refers to: Sri Lanka, Colombo, Retail, Rice (white)

#### Rice prices rose in June and higher than a year earlier

Prices of **rice** rose further in June and were 17 percent above their year-earlier levels. Seasonal trends were exacerbated by expectations of a sharply-reduced 2017 secondary *yala* crop, to be harvested in August and September, due to persisting tight water supplies and shortages of seeds. The high level of prices reflects anticipations of a significant decline in the 2017 aggregate rice output, which is forecast almost 40 percent less than last year's production and 35 percent lower than the average of the previous five years, due to a severe drought in late 2016 and early 2017, which affected the 2016/17 main *maha* season crop (Sri Lanka, GIEWS Special Report). In an effort to boost market supplies, the Government increased imports in the first months of 2017 and recently extended tax concessions on imported rice until August 2017 (initially set to end on 31 May).

# O Uganda | Maize

Growth Rate (%)		
	to 06/17	Same period average
3 months	-0.6	4.3
12 months	2.9	0.3

Compound growth rate in real terms.

Refers to: Uganda, Kampala, Wholesale, Maize

#### Prices of maize rose further in May to record levels

In most monitored markets, prices of maize declined in June by more than 10 percent from the record highs in May as the first season harvest, currently underway, began to supply markets. However, prices remained about 50 percent higher than a year earlier due to tight supplies from the reduced 2016 cereal output and concerns over shortfalls in the ongoing harvest. Yields were affected by erratic and below-average rains in southwestern and northern districts and by Fall armyworm infestations, reported in 60 of the country's 111 districts. Sustained demand from neighbouring countries provided further support. In the capital, Kampala, retail prices of beans, matooke and cassava flour, important staples in the local diet, also declined in June.

### O United Republic of Tanzania | Maize

Growth Rate (%)		
	to 06/17	Same period average
3 months	2.0	-1.2
12 months	7.6	-0.7

Compound growth rate in real terms.

Refers to: United Republic of Tanzania, Arusha, Wholesale, Maize

#### Prices of maize still high despite further declines in June

Prices of maize declined for the second consecutive month in June as a result of increased supplies from the *msimu* harvest, recently concluded in central and southern uni-modal rainfall areas and from the green harvest of *masika* crops, gathered from early July in northern and eastern bi-modal rainfall areas. Despite the recent declines, however, prices were still well above their levels in June last year due to the drought-reduced 2016 second season crop output and 2017 harvest shortfalls in central and northern areas due to poor rains and Fall armyworm infestations. In Dar es Salaam, the largest urban centre, and in Iringa, prices were 38 and 32 percent up on June last year, respectively, while in Arusha, located in a drought-affected northern bi-modal rainfall areas, prices in June were more than twice higher.

For more information visit the FPMA website here

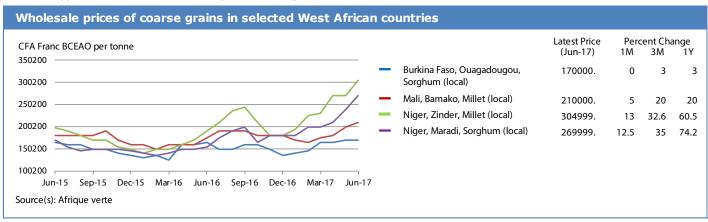
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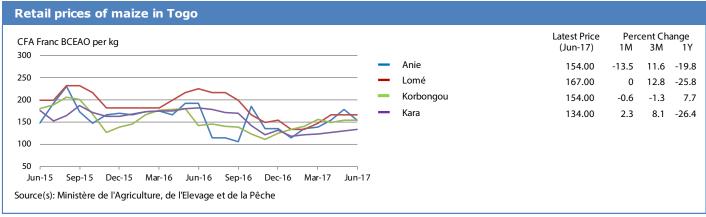
#### **WEST AFRICA**

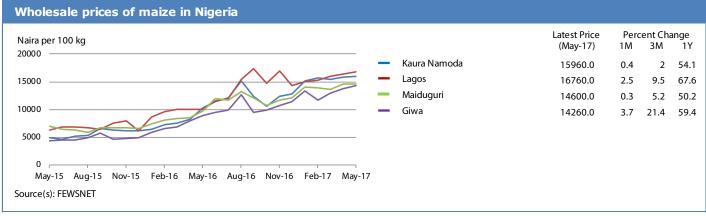
#### Coarse grain prices increased in most countries, those of rice generally stable

In the Sahel belt, prices of coarse grains generally increased in June, continuing the upward trend of the past few months, and reaching levels well above those a year earlier. Seasonal trends were mainly exacerbated by stronger domestic demand for the Ramadan festive period. In **Burkina Faso** and **Mali**, however, farmers' destocking and governments' subsidized cereal sales contributed to limit the increase in prices. In **Niger**, prices of coarse grains rose to record highs in some markets in June due to relatively tighter market supplies, on account of reduced imports, localized production shortfalls last year and large institutional purchases in the past months. In **Chad**, maize prices remained stable in May, while those of millet and sorghum increased in most markets. Prices of coarse grains, however, remained generally below their year-earlier values, mainly as a result of the good output in 2016 and ample domestic supplies. In the Sahelian countries, prices of mostly imported

rice remained relatively stable and around or below their values in June last year on account of the steady flow of imports. In coastal countries, **Ghana** and **Togo**, prices of staple maize and other coarse grains remained generally stable or eased somewhat in June and remained lower than a year earlier. This reflects the adequate supplies from the 2016 bumper outputs and the overall favourable prospects for the 2017 crops. In these countries, prices of imported rice were stable in June and generally lower than a year earlier, In **Nigeria**, prices of coarse grains increased in May but at a slower pace than in April, mostly reflecting some strengthening in the local currency. Prices of locally-produced rice eased somewhat in most markets. Prices of cereals, however, remained at record or near-record levels in most markets following the sustained increases in the past months due to the depreciation of the currency, civil insecurity and high transport costs.







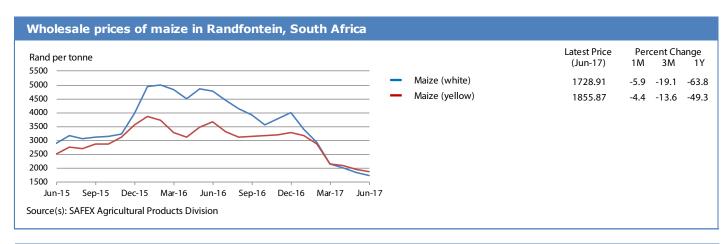
#### **SOUTHERN AFRICA**

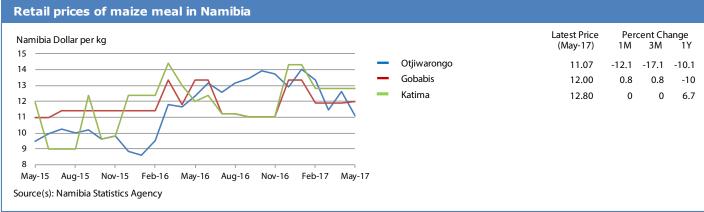
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#### Maize prices decline further and generally down on a yearly basis

In most countries of the subregion, maize prices continued to decline in June and were generally lower than a year earlier, with the 2017 main season harvest nearing completion and expected at a bumper level. In South Africa, maize prices declined further in June and were well below their year-earlier values, mostly pressured by a favourable supply outlook, with recently-released production forecasts confirming expectations of a record output. Low international prices coupled with limited import demand from neighbouring countries, on account of bumper harvests, also contributed to the downward pressure on prices. As a result, white maize prices, the main food staple, were below export parity levels in June. In the net-importing countries of Namibia and Swaziland, maize meal prices continued to remain stable or declined in May and were down on a yearly basis. The lower year-on-year levels mainly reflect the reduced prices in South Africa, the main source of imported grain, and weather-driven production increases in 2017. In Mozambique, maize

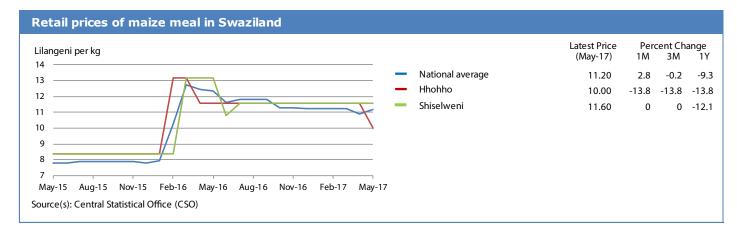
prices generally declined compared to the previous month, mostly on account of an improved supply situation resulting from this year's larger domestic harvest and were well below their year-earlier levels. By contrast, prices of rice were stable and higher than a year earlier, mainly supported by the recent price increases in the international market, with the country importing over 50 percent of its domestic consumption requirements. In **Malawi**, prices of maize also fell steeply in May and were down on an annual basis reflecting expectations of a larger output in 2017 and ample imports that helped to ease supply pressure. In **Zimbabwe**, prices of maize meal remained below their year-earlier levels and with the 2017 maize output forecast to rebound significantly, they are expected to remain low. Similarly, in **Zambia**, the expected production increase that prompted the Government to lift the export ban in late April (FPMA Food Policies), weighed on prices in recent months, although they remained some 20 percent higher than in May last year.

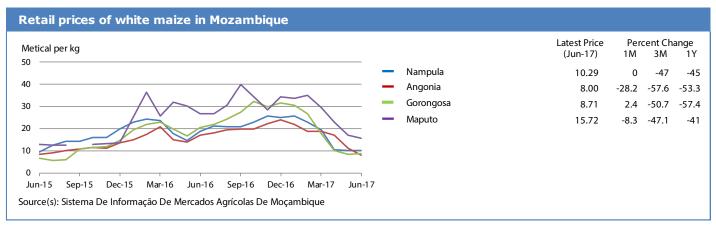


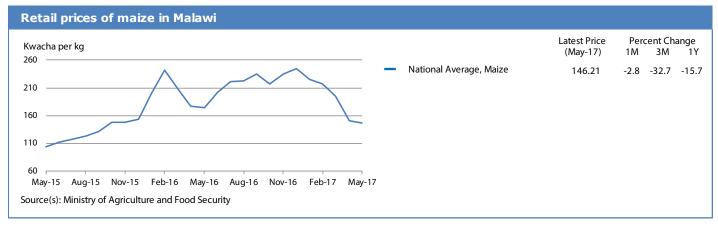


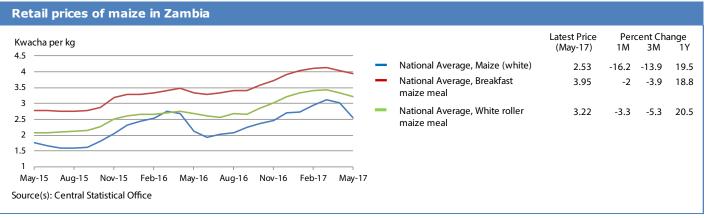
For more information visit the FPMA website <a href="here">here</a>

### SOUTHERN AFRICA contd.









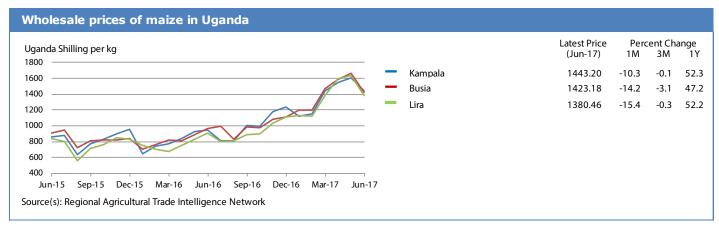
#### **EAST AFRICA**

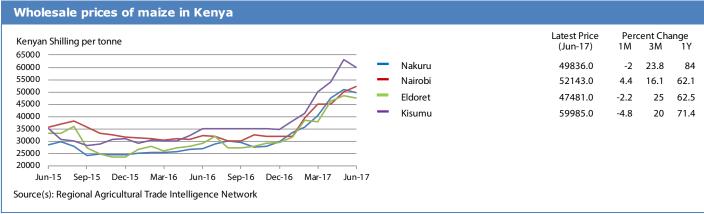
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#### Cereal prices declined in June in some countries but still high

Cereal prices declined or stabilized in June with the new 2017 harvests, after the sharp increases of the past several months. Prices, however, remained at near-record levels in several countries due to tight supplies following the drought-affected 2016 second season crops and concerns about the overall performance of this year's harvests affected by poor rains and crop pests. In **Uganda** and **Kenya**, prices of maize declined from their record highs in the previous month but remained well above their year-earlier levels. In the United Republic of Tanzania, prices of maize declined further and at a steep rate in June as a result of increased supplies from the *msimu* harvest and the green harvest of the masika crop. However, prices in June were still well above their yearearlier levels, due to the drought-reduced 2016 second season output and 2017 harvest shortfalls in central and northern growing areas. In **South Sudan**, prices of maize and sorghum levelled off in June in the capital, Juba, as the first season harvest, currently underway in southern bi-modal areas, increased market supplies. Subsidized sales of basic food commodities also contributed to stabilize prices. Prices, however, were

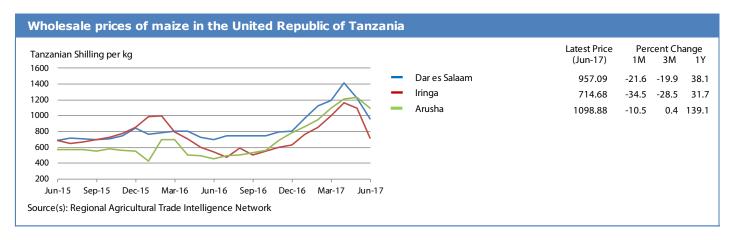
about three to five times higher than their levels in June last year, in nominal terms. In Rwanda, the ongoing harvest halted the increasing trend of the past months but localized production shortfalls and a general tight supply situation limited the downward pressure, with prices remaining at near-record highs in June, about 40 percent higher than a year earlier. Prices remained firm also in **Burundi** despite the ongoing harvest and were about twice their year-earlier levels, due to a reduced 2017A output and lower imports. In **Ethiopia**, prices of maize continued to increase in June and were well above their year-earlier levels due to concerns over the performance of the upcoming secondary season belg harvest, despite recently-improved rainfall. In **Somalia**, prices of sorghum increased in some markets in June, while those of maize remained firm. Prices of coarse grains were well above their year-earlier levels due to a sharply-reduced 2016 cereal output and unfavourable prospects for the 2017 gu harvest. In the Sudan, prices of coarse grains were mostly stable in June, with those of sorghum lower than a year earlier as a result of the above-average 2016 harvest.



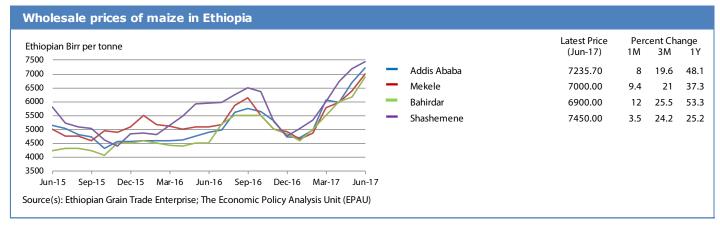


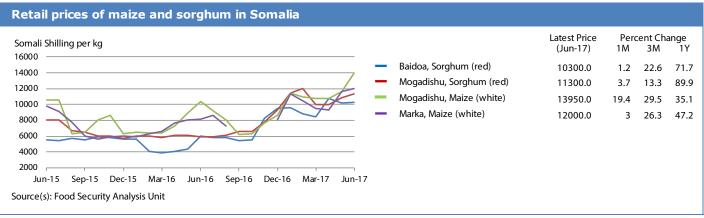
For more information visit the FPMA website here

### EAST AFRICA contd.



South Sudanese Pound per kg		Latest Price (Jun-17)	Percent Change 1M 3M 1Y		
	Maize (white)	451.00	-0.9	56.6 3	306.
00 —	Sorghum (Feterita)	449.00	1.4	53.8 2	290.
00	Wheat (flour)	115.00	-12.9	27.8 1	87.
00 00 00					
0 Jun-15 Sep-15 Dec-15 Mar-16 Jun-16 Sep-16 Dec-16 Mar-17 Jun-17					





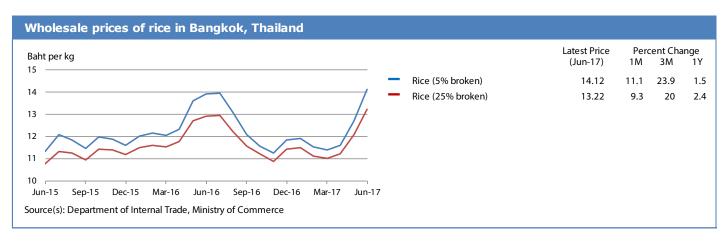
#### **EAST ASIA**

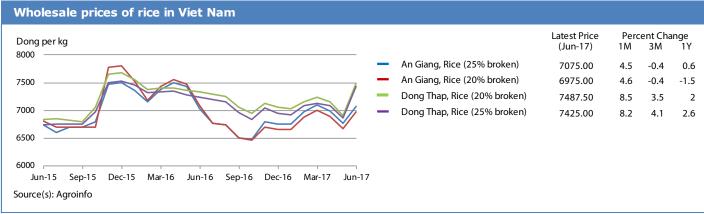
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# Domestic prices of rice increased in most countries, while trends for wheat were mixed

In most exporting countries of the subregion, domestic prices of rice recorded further significant gains in June due to sustained international demand. Prices increased most notably in Thailand and Viet Nam, where they reached multi-year highs on account of strong export prospects. Similarly, rice quotations rose, although to a lesser extent, in Myanmar, where they remained lower than a year earlier, and in Cambodia, due to persistent demand. In India, ongoing Government purchases added to the upward pressure. Prices increased also in some importers of the subregion. In Bangladesh, prices reached all-time highs in June, following flood-induced losses to the 2017 main boro crop, which exacerbated the upward pressure that markets were already experiencing after reduced production and low imports in 2016. Rice prices rose further in Sri Lanka, where seasonal trends in June were exacerbated by expectations of a sharply-reduced 2017 secondary yala crop, to be harvested in August and September, due to continuing tight water supplies and shortages of seeds. Prices were higher than a year earlier underpinned by an anticipated reduction in the 2017 aggregate

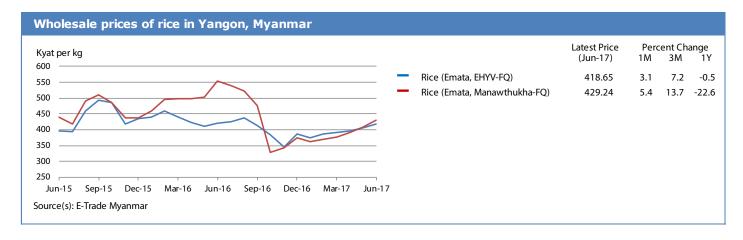
output. In other importers, including China, Indonesia and the Philippines, prices of rice remained generally stable and were close to their year-earlier levels, mainly reflecting adequate market availabilities from imports. As for wheat and wheat flour, prices moved relatively little in June in most countries of the subregion. They decreased marginally in the subregion's main producers, India and Pakistan, pressured downward by good availabilities from the recently-concluded 2017 main rabi season harvests, estimated at bumper levels. Similarly, prices of wheat weakened in Bangladesh, reflecting high imports in recent months and ongoing Open Market Sales by the Government. In Indonesia, prices of mostly imported wheat flour increased only marginally in June, reflecting Government efforts to keep food prices stable during the festive period. In China and Sri Lanka, prices of wheat flour remained relatively stable. In Afghanistan, prices of wheat grain and of mostly-imported wheat flour increased in June, reflecting the depreciation of the local currency and expectations of a slightly below-average 2017 harvest, due to dry weather.

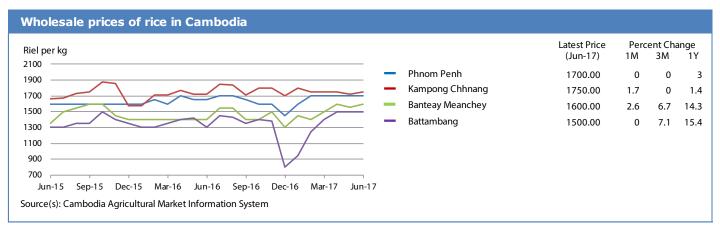




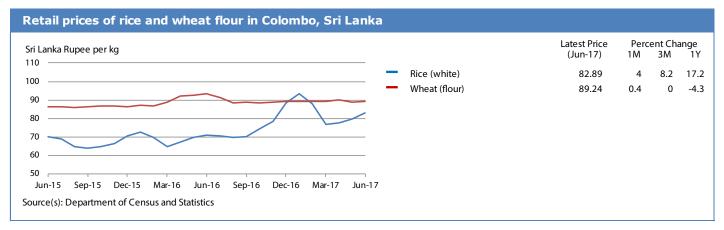
For more information visit the FPMA website <a href="here">here</a>

### EAST ASIA contd.





aka per kg			Latest Price (Jun-17)	Percent Change 1M 3M 1Y		
45	-	Rice (coarse- BR-8/ 11/ Guti/ Sharna)	47.30	4.4	26.1	66.
35	_	Wheat (flour)	24.00	-1.2	-1	-1.8
25						
20	,					



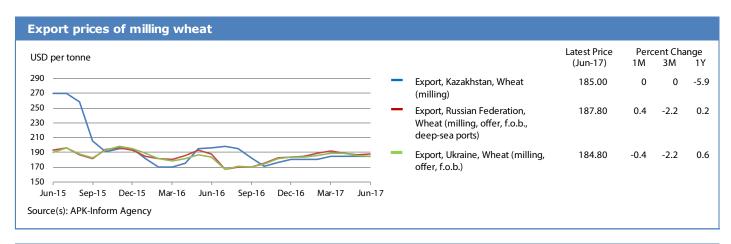
# **CIS - ASIA AND EUROPE**

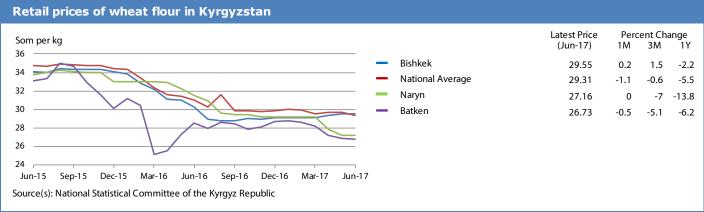
# Prices of wheat remained stable in June, while those of potatoes increased sharply to record highs

In the exporting countries of the subregion, export prices of milling wheat remained stable in June, with the downward pressure from low trade activity and approaching harvests offset by concerns over crop conditions in key-growing areas and trends in the international market. In the domestic markets, prices of wheat grain firmed in the Russian Federation, reflecting worries over harvest delays and the quality of the 2017 crops due to unfavourable weather. Prices, however, were still well below their year-earlier levels. By contrast, in Ukraine, prices declined with the beginning of the harvest in southern and central regions. In the importing countries of the subregion, wheat prices were generally stable. In Kyrgyzstan, where the 2017 harvest is soon to begin, prices of wheat flour remained virtually unchanged and well below their values in June last year, on account of adequate domestic supplies from last year's good output and imports. In Tajikistan, prices were also generally stable but slightly higher than a year earlier due to the depreciation of the currency over the past year and higher fuel costs, which in June were more than 20 percent up year-on-year. Similarly, in Armenia, prices of wheat flour remained virtually unchanged, while they declined in **Georgia** and in both countries, prices were around their levels in June last year. By contrast, in Azerbaijan, prices of domesticallyproduced wheat flour increased in May and were nearly 50 percent higher

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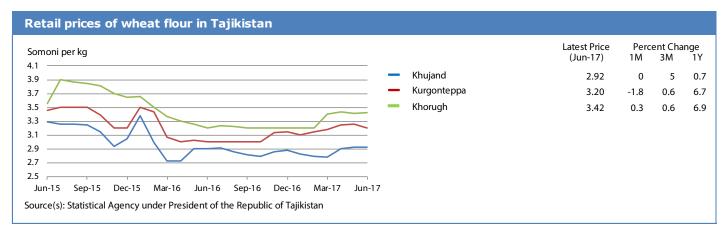
than their year-earlier values, mainly due to high production costs and currency weakness. Prices of potatoes, another staple in the subregion, continued to rise in June with seasonal trends exacerbated by tight market supplies after last year's reduced output. In **Belarus**, a key exporter in the subregion, prices rose sharply in May and were twice their year-earlier levels, mainly due to reduced availabilities of late variety potatoes. In the Russian Federation, another exporter of the subregion, prices increased by more than 25 percent in June and reached record highs, more than 50 percent higher than their year-earlier levels. In the importing countries, high prices in the subregional export market and reduced 2016 domestic outputs also pushed up potato prices in recent months. In **Kyrgyzstan**, prices of potatoes increased further in June, although, with the new harvest approaching, to a less extent than in the past months. Prices were at levels nearly twice those a year earlier. Prices of potatoes were high also in **Tajikistan**, despite recent declines with the beginning of the new harvest. In Armenia, prices rose by 60 percent since the beginning of the year. In Azerbaijan, prices increased in May and were nearly 35 percent higher than a year earlier. In Kazakhstan, retail prices of potatoes reached record highs in June and were more than 50 percent higher than in the corresponding month last year. Prices in June were reportedly at record levels also in **Ukraine** and **Uzbekistan**.

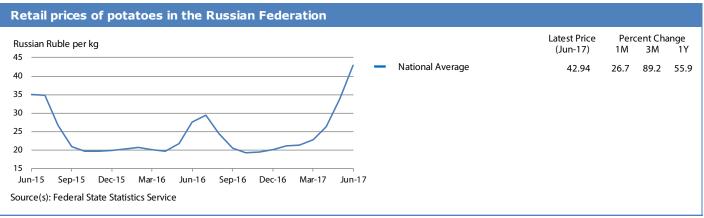


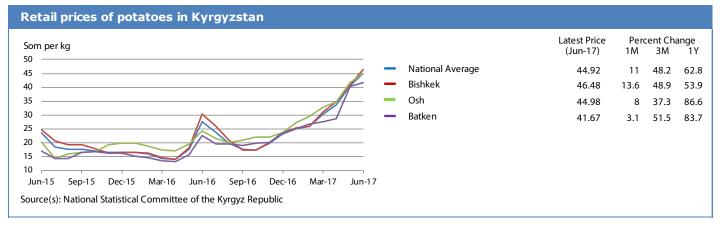


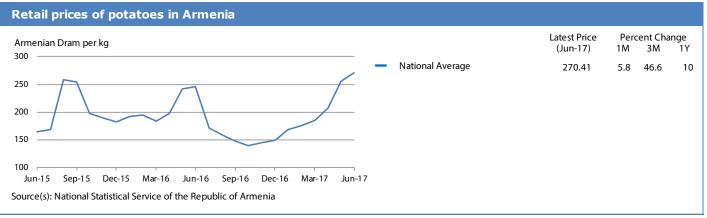
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# CIS - ASIA AND EUROPE contd.









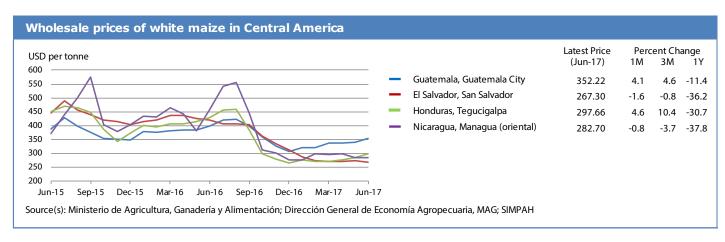
#### CENTRAL AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

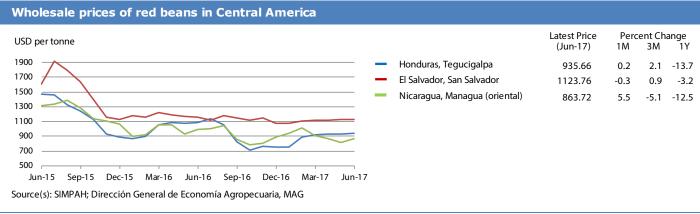
#### Prices of maize and beans remain overall stable in June

In most countries, ample domestic supplies and favourable prospects for the 2017 main de primera harvest, beginning in late August, limited or offset seasonal upward pressure on maize prices and kept them below their year-earlier levels. In El Salvador and Nicaragua, prices weakened in June and were more than one-third below their levels a year earlier. In Guatemala and Honduras, prices increased seasonally, but only moderately, and remained significantly lower than in June last year. In Costa Rica, retail prices of white maize weakened and were down from a year earlier. In Mexico, harvesting of the 2017 second season crop put downward pressure on maize prices in June, however, prices of tortillas remained firm and higher than a year earlier, sustained by high producing costs. In Haiti, maize meal prices remained stable or declined in June with the start of the main spring harvest, but in the southeastern markets, the worst affected by the passage of Hurricane Matthew, they were still about 25 percent higher than a year earlier. In the Dominican Republic, maize prices declined sharply in June with the new harvest, but remained at high levels after the sharp increases in the past months due to reduced imports and demand from Haiti. In general,

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prices of beans followed similar trends to those of maize and remained stable or increased only slightly with the downward pressure from good domestic supplies. In **El Salvador** and **Honduras**, prices of red beans were unchanged and lower than a year earlier, while in Nicaragua, they increased somewhat, mainly supported by subregional demand, but were still lower on an annual basis. In Costa Rica, retail prices of beans also remained generally stable; however, prices of black beans averaged higher than a year earlier supported by the 2016 reduced harvest. In Guatemala, where black beans are the variety mostly consumed and produced, prices were relatively stable in June, with imports offsetting the seasonal upward pressure, and were only moderately above their levels a year earlier. In Mexico, despite downward pressure brought by the ongoing 2017 harvest, prices of black beans, remained above their year-earlier levels, mainly reflecting generally low supplies following the reduced 2016/17 harvests. In Haiti, prices of red and black beans remained generally stable or declined in June and were well above their year-earlier levels in the southeastern markets. In the Dominican Republic, retail prices of black beans weakened with the beginning of the new harvest.



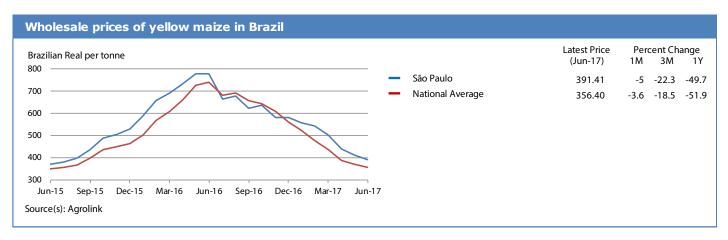


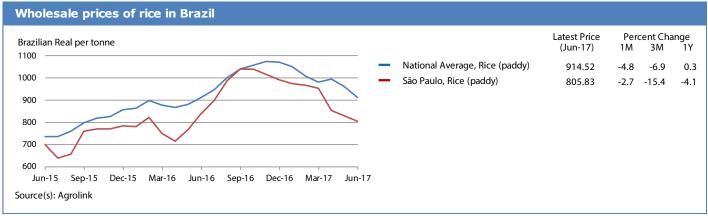
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#### **SOUTH AMERICA**

#### Cereal prices overall stable and lower than a year earlier

Prices of yellow maize declined in June in key producers, Argentina and Brazil, with the advancement of the 2017 harvests which are expected at a bumper level, while they remained relatively stable elsewhere. In general, prices were lower than in June last year, reflecting the good availabilities from the 2017 harvests and imports. In Argentina and Brazil, prices of yellow maize declined by some 5 percent with the ongoing harvests and were well below their year-earlier levels. In Chile, prices remained unchanged as the downward pressure from the harvest was offset by a significantly-reduced output. Lower imports in the first six months of 2017 compared to the same period last year also contributed to offset the harvest pressure. In Bolivia (Plurinational State of), despite the ongoing main harvest, maize prices also were relatively stable in June reflecting some concerns over the delays due to heavy rains. However, adequate imports kept prices below those a year earlier. In Peru, yellow maize prices remained unchanged and were well below their year-earlier levels, mainly reflecting abundant imports in the past months. Similarly, in **Colombia**, ample availabilities, mostly from imports, kept prices of yellow maize down from a year earlier. In **Ecuador**, prices of maize declined in June with the ongoing harvest, although they were generally higher than a year earlier. In most countries of the subregion, prices of wheat and wheat flour remained relatively stable in June and below their year-earlier levels. In key producer and exporter, Argentina, wheat grain prices strengthened somewhat for the second consecutive month in June in line with seasonal trends and were higher than a year earlier, supported by strong demand. By contrast, in Brazil, prices of wheat grain and wheat flour were well below their year-earlier levels, reflecting the good 2016 harvest and imports. In Chile, wheat prices increased slightly in June; however, high imports in the first semester of 2017 contributed to keep prices nearly 10 percent lower than a year earlier. In import-dependant, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru, wheat flour prices remained relatively unchanged in June and around their levels a year earlier, with imports keeping markets adequately supplied. In Bolivia (Plurinational State of), prices of imported and domestically-produced wheat flour eased in June and were lower than a year earlier, with the downward pressure from imports compounded by favourable prospects for this year's crop, to be harvested from September. Prices of rice declined or remained stable across the subregion and were lower than a year earlier, except in Peru and Bolivia (Plurinational State of), where they were higher reflecting a decline in this year's production. In Brazil, national average prices of paddy continued to decline in June with the new harvest and were 15 percent below the record highs of November 2016.





This bulletin is prepared by the **Food Price Monitoring and Analysis (FPMA)** Team of the Global Information and Early Warning System on Food and Agriculture (GIEWS) in the Trade and Markets Division of FAO. It contains latest information and analysis on domestic prices of basic foods mainly in developing countries, complementing FAO analysis on international markets. It provides early warning on high food prices at country level that may negatively affect food security.

This report is based on information available up to early July 2017.

All the data used in the analysis can be found in the **FPMA Tool** at: <a href="https://www.fao.org/giews/food-prices/tool/public/index.">www.fao.org/giews/food-prices/tool/public/index.</a> <a href="https://html#/home">https://html#/home</a>

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