



# **Asia Pacific Weekly Price Monitor**

Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific

**Issue 43, 15 December 2011**



## Policy

### National level

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In **Sri Lanka**, the Agriculture Ministry has drawn up a plan to develop 13 sectors of the agricultural field by allocating LKR 440 million (USD 3.8 million) to Api Wawamu Rata Nagamu, a programme that encourages domestic food production mostly through home gardening strategies.

The **Thai government** has prepared a comprehensive plan to provide assistance to flood -affected population. Farmers in the fisheries sub sector will receive THB 4,225 per rai (USD 135 per 0.16 ha), not exceeding 5 rai per person (0.8 ha per person). For farmers in the livestock sector, financial assistance will be provided from THB 3,600- 15,800 per animal (USD 112-505 per animal), not exceeding two animals per person. In both cases, assistance is subject to prior registration on the corresponding departments.

**Viet Nam's** largest rice exporter is discussing a 300,000 MT contract to ship 5 percent broken rice to Malaysia by 2012. The deal would be worth nearly USD 150 million, based on a free-on-board (FOB) price of USD 490-\$495 per tonne on Tuesday 13 December 2011. Rice exports reached a record level 6.84 MMT as of 8 December.

## Prices

Over the past week, staple food commodity prices remained relatively stable except for :

- Maize prices in **Afghanistan** increased by 3 percent from the previous week and were 4.5 percent above the prices recorded a month ago.
- Chicken prices in **Bangladesh** increased by 16 percent over the past week but were 16.5 percent below the prices observed a year ago.
- In **Fiji\***, corn prices fell by 14 percent, cassava prices increased by 41 percent and prices of dalo tausala increased by 72 percent.
- In **Samoa\*\***, taro prices increased by 30 percent, taro palagi prices increased by 63.5 percent, ta'amu prices fell by 6 percent and coconut prices increased by 4.2 percent
- Rice prices in **Sri Lanka** increased by 3 percent and were 14 percent above the prices observed 3 months ago.
- In **Viet Nam**, rice prices fell by 2 percent but were 2 percent above the prices observed 3 months ago.

## Weather conditions

- A total of 10 provinces in **Thailand** remain inundated. The flood response is shifting from emergency interventions towards recovery measures as more people return to their homes (OCHA, 13 December 2011).
- In response to floods that triggered by tropical storms Haima and Nock-Ten in June and July, the **Lao PDR** government will allocate LAK 400 billion (USD 3.5 million) to rehabilitate agricultural production, improve public works and transport (Vientiane Times, 09 December 2011).

\* Latest update available for the week of 28 November 2011.

\*\* Latest update available for November 2011 (monthly information)

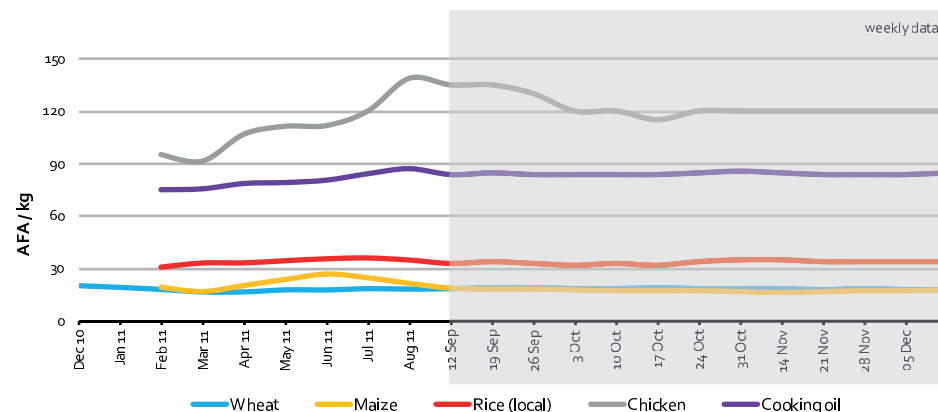


## AFGHANISTAN, Kabul (12 December 2011)

Retail nominal prices

### Country Highlights

- Maize prices increased by 3 percent from the previous week and were 4.5 percent above the prices recorded a month ago.
- Wheat prices are 3 and 4 percent below the prices observed a month and three months ago, respectively.



Week of 12-Dec-11

% change

Food item	Market	Price (AFA/kg)	1 week	1 month	3 months	1 year
Rice local	Kabul	34.0	0.0%	0.0%	3.0%	na
Wheat	Kabul	18.0	0.0%	-3.4%	-4.0%	na
Maize	Kabul	17.5	2.9%	4.5%	-0.7%	na
Chicken	Kabul	120.0	0.0%	1.1%	-5.0%	na
Cooking oil (AFA/Lt)	Kabul	85.0	1.2%	-0.3%	0.9%	na

→ (+/-2%) stable ↑ increase ↓ decrease

### Policy+

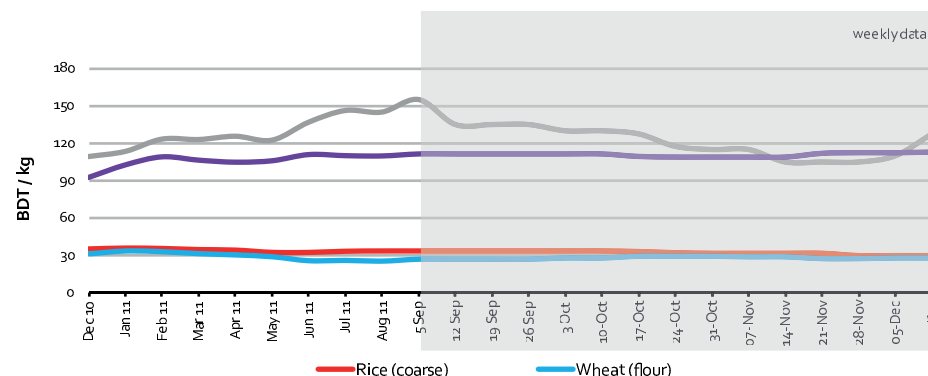
- The University of California, Davis, has received USD 14 million from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to lead a consortium of universities to strengthen Afghanistan's agricultural extension system and stabilize its agriculture-based economy (UC Davis, 13 December 2011).
- Canada's support to WFP will assist approximately 1.2 million drought-affected people with food rations. In addition, approximately 42,000 families in urban areas will receive cash vouchers worth the equivalent value of 50 kilograms of wheat flour for a period of six months (CIDA, 13 December 2011).



**BANGLADESH, Dhaka (12 December 2011)**  
Retail nominal prices

**Country Highlights**

- Chicken prices increased by 16 percent over the past week but were 16.5 percent below the prices observed a year ago.



Week of 12-Dec-11

% change

Food item	Market	Price (BDT/kg)	1 week	1 month	3 months	1 year
Coarse rice	Dhaka	29.0	0.0%	-7.9%	-12.1%	2.4%
Wheat flour	Dhaka	27.5	0.0%	-4.8%	2.8%	-7.6%
Chicken broiler	Dhaka	127.5	15.9%	7.4%	-3.8%	-16.5%
Soybean oil (BDT/ltr)	Dhaka	113.0	0.4%	3.6%	1.3%	39.9%

→ (+/-2%) stable ↑ increase ↓ decrease

**Policy+**

The National Food Policy Capacity Strengthening Programme (NFPCSP) held a National Workshop to present inception reports on 14 research topics that will serve as a platform to launch a new set of policy oriented researches on food security in the thematic areas of (i) Nutrition: food composition and dietary intake (ii) Access to food: safety net and migration (iii) Food availability: land, water and credit (iv) Food availability: efficiency and diversification (NFPCSP, December 2011).

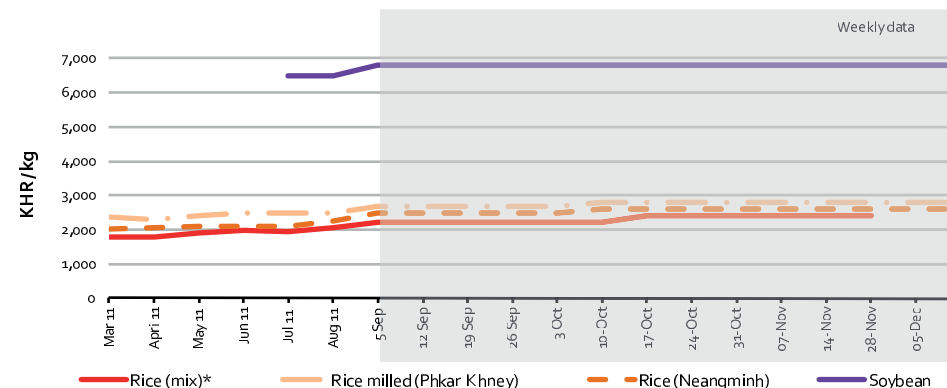


## CAMBODIA, Phnom Penh (12 December 2011)

Wholesale nominal prices

### Country Highlights

- Over the past week, wholesale nominal prices of all staple food commodities remained stable in Phnom Penh.
- Rice prices (mix variety) are 4 and 9 percent above the prices observed a month and three months ago, respectively.



Week of 12-Dec-11

% change

Food item	Market	Price (KHR/kg)	1 week	1 month	3 months	1 year
Rice (mix)*	Phnom Pehn	2,400	0.0%	4.3%	9.1%	29.0%
Rice (Phkar Khney)	Phnom Pehn	2,800	0.0%	0.0%	2.4%	na
Rice (Neangminh)	Phnom Pehn	2,600	0.0%	0.0%	2.6%	na
Chicken	Phnom Pehn	22,000	0.0%	0.0%	-2.9%	na
Soybean oil	Phnom Pehn	6,800	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	na

→ (+/-2%) stable ↑ increase ↓ decrease

\* Most recent data available from 28-Nov-2011

### Policy+

NA

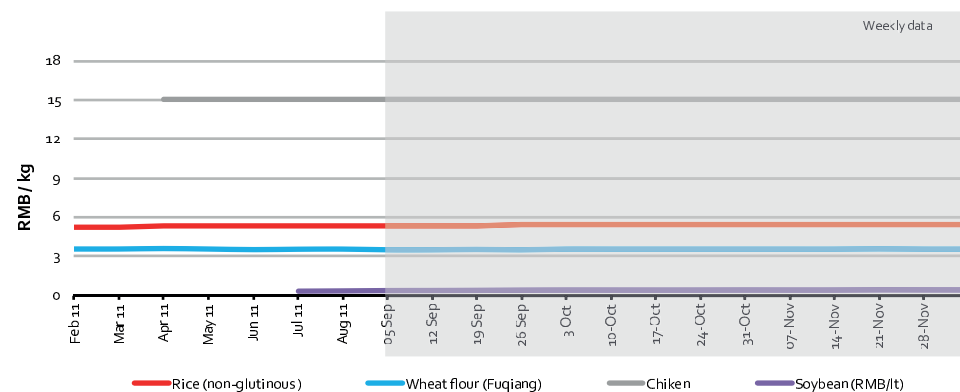


## CHINA, Beijing (12 December 2011)

Retail and wholesale nominal prices

### Country Highlights

- Staple food prices in Beijing market remain stable since early 2011.



Week of 12-Dec-11

% change

Food item	Market	Price (RMB/kg)	1 week	1 month	3 months	1 year
Non-Glutinous Rice	Beijing	5.5	0.0%	0.8%	1.4%	na
Fuqiang Wheat Flour	Beijing	3.5	0.0%	0.0%	0.4%	na
Chicken (w)	Beijing	15.0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	na

→ (+/-2%) stable ↑ increase ↓ decrease (w) wholesale prices

### Policy+

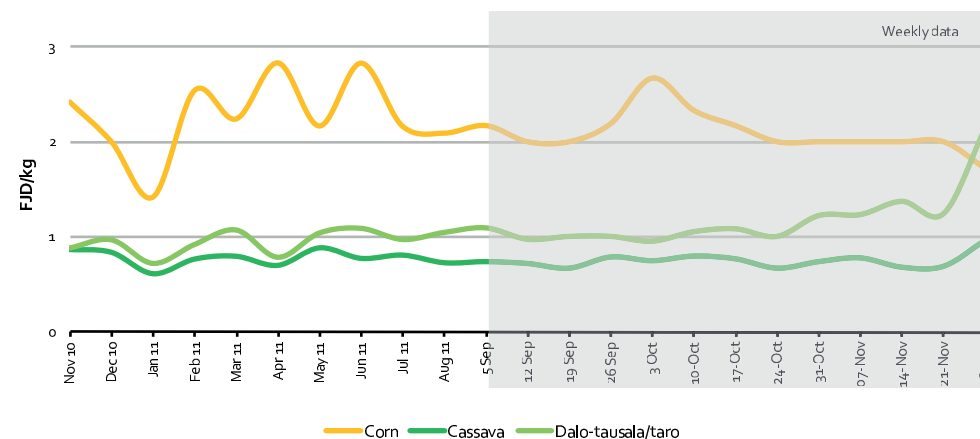
NA



**Fiji, National Average (28 November 2011)**  
Retail nominal prices

### Country Highlights

- Corn prices fell by 14 percent during the past week and were 18 percent below the prices observed a year ago.
- Cassava prices increased by 41 percent from the previous week and are 38 percent above the prices recorded three months ago.
- Prices of dalo tausala (taro) **increased by 72 percent** over the past week, and doubled from prices observed three months ago.



Week of 28-Nov-11

% change

Food item	Market	Price (FJD/kg)	1 week	1 month	3 months	1 year
Corn	National av	1.7	-14.0%	-25.0%	-17.7%	-18%
Cassava	National av	1.0	40.6%	29.8%	32.9%	14%
Dalo-tausala taro	National av	2.2	72.0%	108.7%	109.8%	126%

→ (+/-2%) stable ↑ increase ↓ decrease

### Policy+

NA

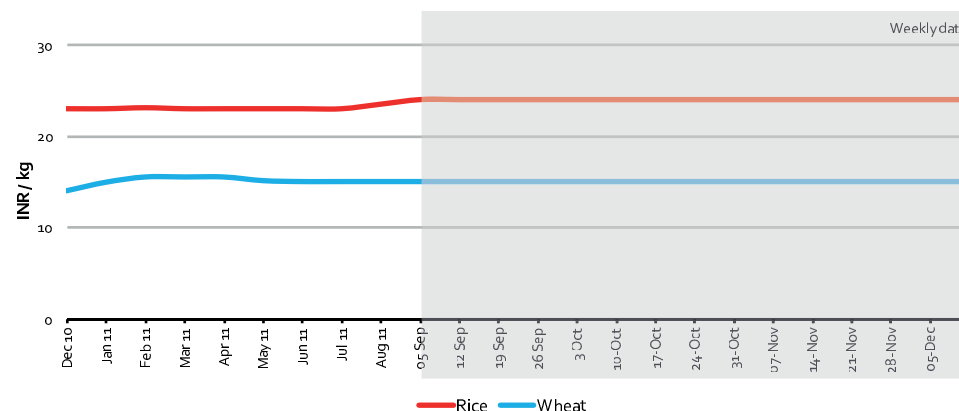


## INDIA, Delhi (12 December 2011)

Retail nominal prices

### Country Highlights

- In New Delhi market, rice and wheat prices remained unchanged from the previous week and were 4 and 7 percent respectively above the prices observed a year ago.



Week of 12-Dec-11

% change

Food item	Market	Price (INR/kg)	1 week	1 month	3 months	1 year
Rice	New Delhi	24.0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	4.3%
Wheat	New Delhi	15.0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	7.1%

→ (+/-2%) stable ↑ increase ↓ decrease

### Policy+

- The Indian cabinet postponed a decision on a proposed Food Security Bill for 18 December 2011. The bill entitles up to 75 percent of rural population and 50 percent of urban population to receive subsidised foodgrains on a monthly basis. Although is a centrally sponsored law, it will be implemented by State governments (The Hindu and Wall Street Journal, 14 December 2011).



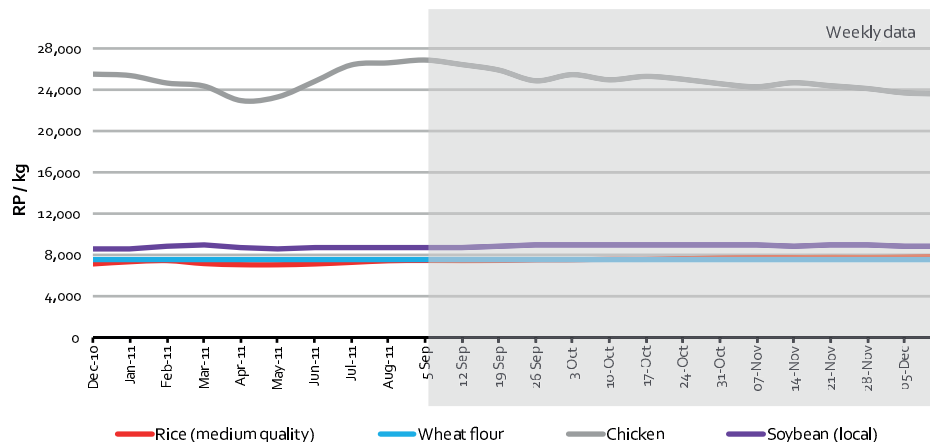


## INDONESIA, National Average (12 December 2011)

Retail nominal prices

### Country Highlights

- Overall, prices of staple food commodities (rice, wheat flour, chicken and soybean) remained largely stable over the past week.
- Rice prices are 2 percent above the prices observed a month ago and 12 percent above the prices recorded a year ago.
- Chicken prices have continued to drop since early September, and are currently 7.3% lower than a year ago.



Week of 12-Dec-11

% change

Food item	Market	Price (RP/ kg)	1 week	1 month	3 months	1 year
Rice (medium quality)	National av	7,779	0.5%	2.1%	3.7%	12.2%
Wheat flour	National av	7,620	0.1%	0.3%	0.0%	1.0%
Chicken	National av	23,650	-0.5%	-4.8%	-6.6%	-7.3%
Soybean (local)	National av	8,890	-0.4%	-0.7%	-0.5%	3.9%

→ (+/-2%) stable ↑ increase ↓ decrease

### Policy+

NA

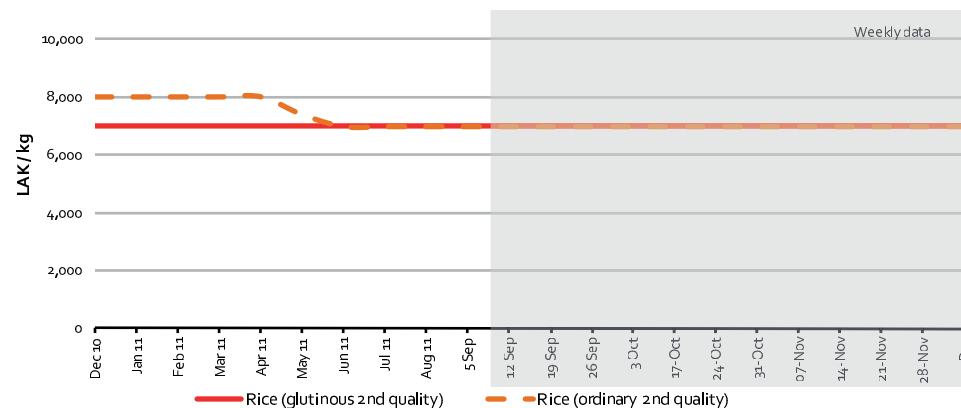


## LAO PDR, Vientiane (05 December 2011)

Retail nominal prices

### Country Highlights

-Prices of staple food commodities were stable over the past week in Vientiane market.



Week of 5-Dec-11

% change

Food item	Market	Price (LAK/kg)	1 week	1 month	3 months	1 year
Rice glutinous	Vientiane	7,000	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Rice ordinary	Vientiane	7,000	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	-12.5%
Chicken	Vientiane	45,000	0.0%	12.5%	12.5%	na

→ (+/-2%) stable ↑ increase ↓ decrease

### Policy+

- Officials from the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, Lao Federation of Trade Unions and Lao National Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Vientiane announced the minimum wage increase from the LAK 348,000 to 626,000 per month (USD 43.70- 78.50), which will come into effect on January 1, 2012 (National Portal, 14 December 2011).

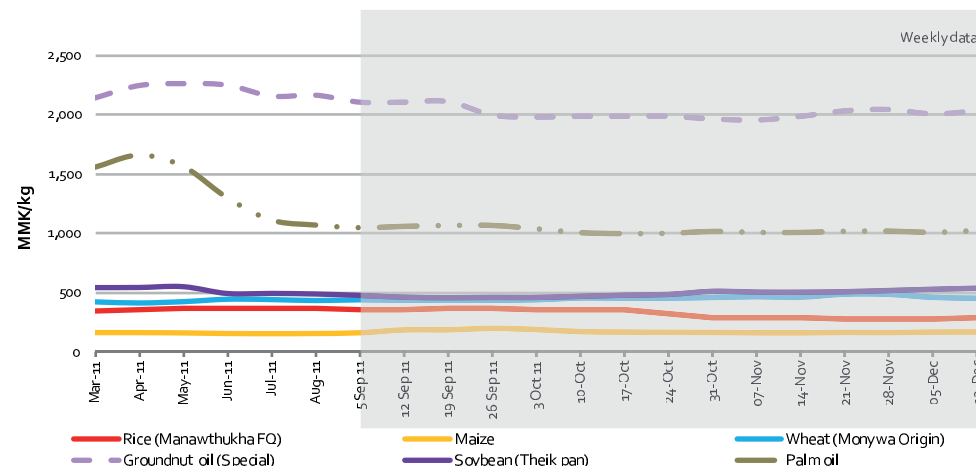


## MYANMAR, Yangon and Mandalay (12 December 2011)

Wholesale nominal prices

### Country Highlights

- Overall, prices of staple food commodities (rice, wheat flour, chicken and soybean) remained fairly stable over the past week.
- Rice prices are 8.5 percent below the prices observed a month ago.



Week of 12-Dec-11

% change

Food item	Market	Price (MMK/kg)	1 week	1 month	3 months	1 year
Rice (Manawthukha FO)	Yangon	284	0.4%	-8.5%	-20.7%	na
Wheat (Monywa Origin)	Mandalay	453	-1.5%	-1.1%	2.3%	na
Maize	Mandalay	167	0.7%	2.7%	-11.5%	na
Groundnut oil (Special)	Yangon	2,036	1.3%	3.0%	0.7%	na
Soybean (Theik pan)	Yangon	536	1.6%	8.5%	16.2%	na
Palm oil	Mandalay	1,021	1.6%	1.8%	-1.9%	na

→ (+/-2%) stable ↑ increase ↓ decrease

### Policy+

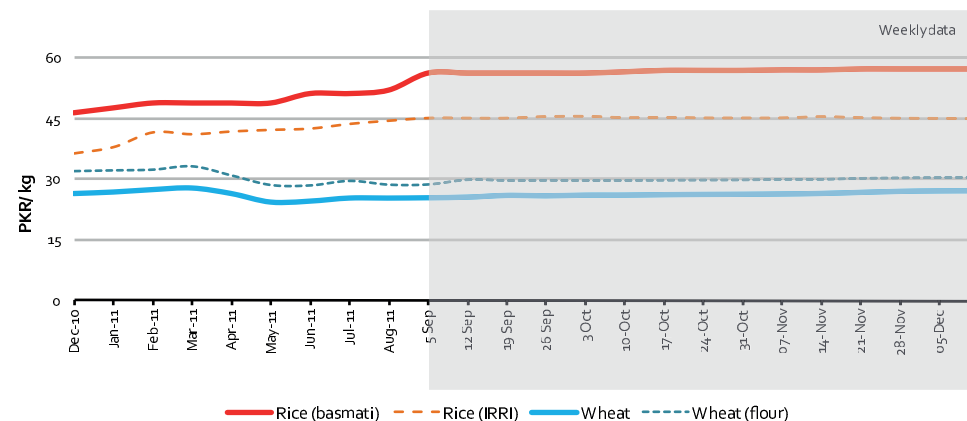
- The government of Myanmar provided cash transfers and food assistance in kind to flood victims of Pakokku (Government of Myanmar, 13 December 2011).



**PAKISTAN, Karachi (12 Decemberr 2011)**  
Retail nominal prices

### Country Highlights

- Retail nominal prices of staple foods remained largely stable over the past week in Karachi market.
- Wheat prices are 3 percent above the prices observed a year ago; but wheat flour prices are 5 percent below the prices recorded the previous year.



Week of 12-Dec-11

% change

Food item	Market	Price (PKR/ kg)	1 week	1 month	3 months	1 year
Rice (basmati)	Karachi	57.2	0.0%	0.6%	1.6%	23.0%
Rice (IRRI)	Karachi	44.9	-0.2%	-0.5%	-0.9%	22.9%
Wheat	Karachi	27.2	0.1%	3.4%	4.5%	2.6%
Wheat flour	Karachi	30.5	0.1%	2.0%	2.5%	-4.6%

→ (+/-2%) stable ↑ increase ↓ decrease

### Policy+

- According to a media report, the National Nutritional Survey conducted by the government after the floods of 2010 revealed acute malnutrition rates in children under five years of age. The rates were 23 percent in northern Sindh and 21 percent in southern Sindh, while malnutrition in women was 12 percent (Dawn, 13 December 2011).

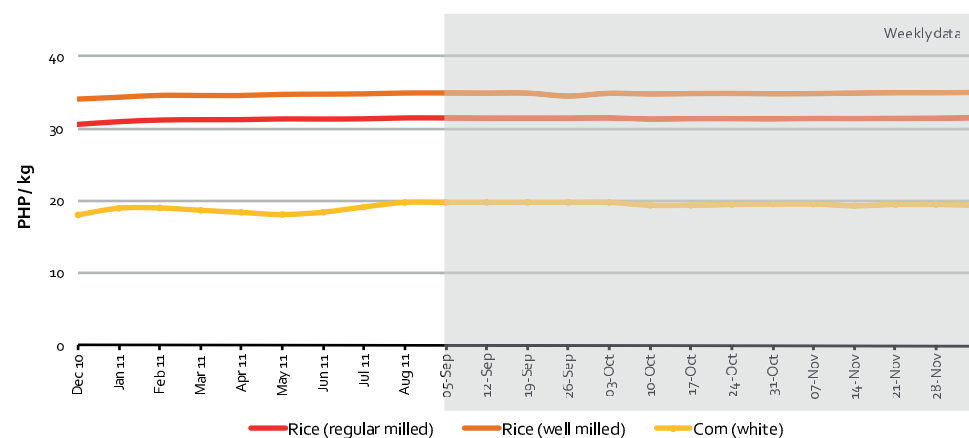


## PHILIPPINES, National Average (05 December 2011)

Retail nominal prices

### Country Highlights

- Overall, prices of staple food commodities remained largely stable over the past week.



Week of 5-Dec-11

% change

Food item	Market	Price (PHP/kg)	1 week	1 month	3 months	1 year
Rice (regular milled)	National av	31.5	0.2%	0.4%	0.2%	2.9%
Rice (well milled)	National av	35.0	0.1%	0.5%	0.8%	2.5%
Rice (regular milled)	Metro Manila	30.0	0.0%	0.0%	9.3%	0.0%
Rice (well milled)	Metro Manila	35.0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Corn (white)	National av	19.4	-0.5%	-0.6%	-2.0%	7.4%

→ (+/-2%) stable ↑ increase ↓ decrease

### Policy+

- The government has removed irrigation fees for 12,000 farmers from Nueva Ecija and certain towns in Central Luzon after their farmlands were devastated by typhoons Pedring and Quiel (Philippines Star, 12 December 2011).
- Department of Agriculture allocates PHP 253 million (USD 5.7 million) to combat banana disease (Business Mirror, 12 December 2011).

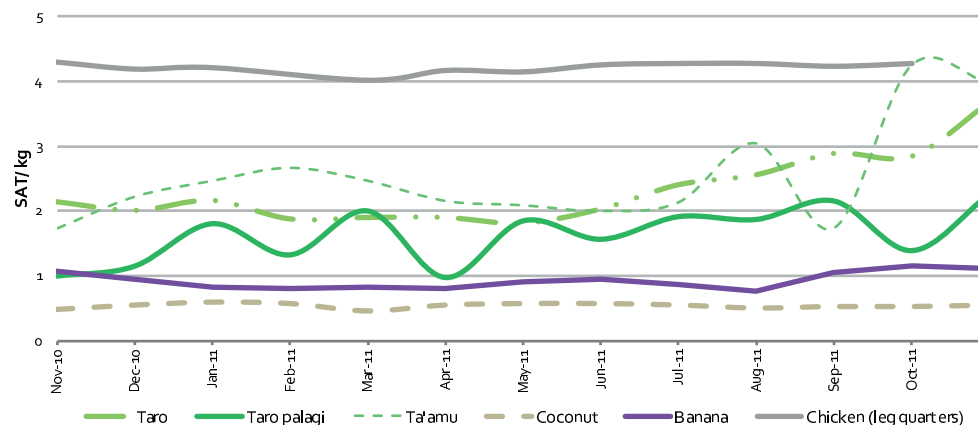


## SAMOA, Fugalei (November 2011)

Retail nominal prices

### Country Highlights

- Taro prices increased by 30 percent from October to November and were 72 percent above the prices observed a year ago.
- Taro palagi prices **increased by 63.5 percent** from the previous month and were nearly 130 percent above the prices observed a year ago.
- Ta'amu prices fell by 6 percent during the past month but were nearly **a 130 percent above the prices recorded a year ago**.
- Coconut prices increased by 4.2 percent and were 4 percent above the prices observed a year ago but 16 percent below the prices registered 3 years ago.



Month of Nov-11

% change

Food item	Market	Price (SAT/kg)	1 month	3 months	1 year	3 years
Taro	Fugalei	3.7	29.5%	44.0%	72.2%	-3.5%
Taro palagi	Fugalei	2.3	63.5%	21.2%	128.9%	68.9%
Ta'amu	Fugalei	4.0	-6.3%	30.4%	127.9%	-21.1%
Coconut	Fugalei	0.6	4.2%	8.7%	13.6%	0.0%
Banana	Fugalei	1.1	-1.9%	45.7%	4.1%	-16.4%
Chicken (leg quarters): National Av		5.3	23.4%	23.4%	22.7%	-11.3%

→ (+/-2%) stable ↑ increase ↓ decrease

### Policy+

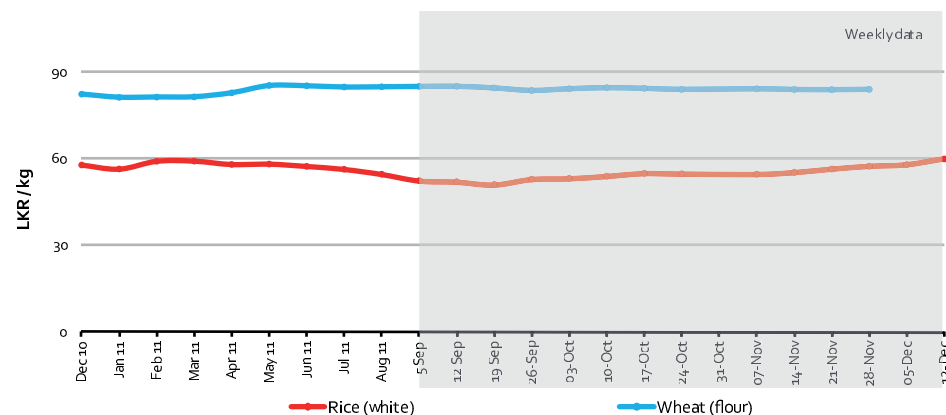
Farmers and consumers both are feeling the effects of the dry season in Samoa. The the majority of sellers at the market show that most of their staple crop has been negatively affected by the drought. In recent months Samoa has experienced a little more rainfall but the damage to root crops have already been done and most farmers have shared that the quality of the crop is just not good enough to sell at the market.



**SRI-LANKA, Colombo (12 December 2011)**  
Retail nominal prices

### Country Highlights

- Rice prices have been edging upwards since mid-September and increased by 3 percent over the past week and were 14 percent above the prices observed three months ago.



Week of 12-Dec-11

% change

Food item	Market	Price (LKR/kg)	1 week	1 month	3 months	1 year
Rice (white)	Colombo	60.0	3.4%	9.5%	13.6%	4%
Wheat flour*	Colombo	84.1	0.1%	-0.2%	-0.6%	2%

→ (+/-2%) stable ↑ increase ↓ decrease

\* Most recent data available from 28 November 2011

### Policy+

- The Agriculture Ministry has drawn up a plan to develop 13 sectors of the agricultural field by allocating LKR 440 million (USD 3.8 million) to Api Wawamu Rata Nagamu, a programme that encourages domestic food production mostly through home gardening strategies (Colombo Page 13 December 2011).

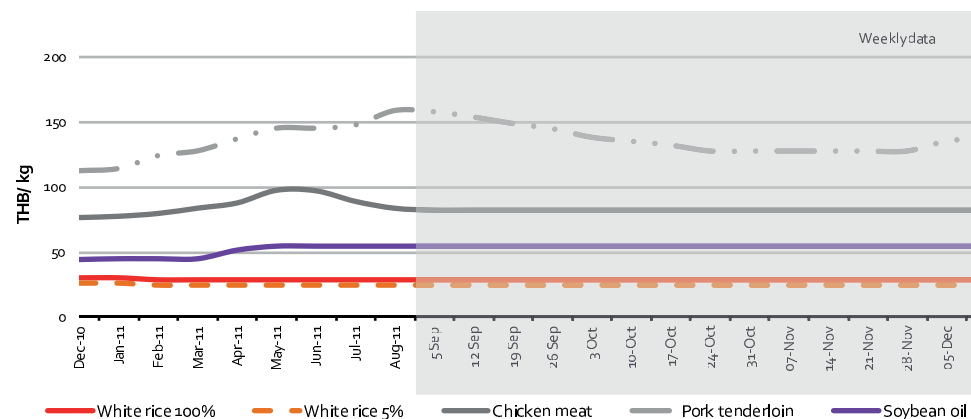


## THAILAND, Bangkok (12 December 2011)

Retail nominal prices

### Country Highlights

- Retail nominal prices of staple foods remained largely stable over the past week in Bangkok market.
- Pork prices are 7 percent below the prices observed a month ago, and 3 percent below the prices recorded a year ago. Pork prices had been gradually declining since August 2011.



Week of 12-Dec-11

% change

Food item	Market	Price (THB/kg)	1 week	1 month	3 months	1 year
White rice 100%	Bangkok	28.67	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	na
White rice 5%	Bangkok	24.67	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	na
Chicken	Bangkok	82.5	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	na
Pork tenderloin	Bangkok	137.5	1.9%	6.9%	-2.8%	na
Soybean oil (Baht/ltr)	Bangkok	55.0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	na

→ (+/-2%) stable ↑ increase ↓ decrease

### Policy+

- The Thai government has prepared a comprehensive plan to provide assistance to flood-affected population. Particularly farmers in the fisheries sub sector will receive THB 4225 per rai (USD 135 per 0.16 ha), not exceeding 5 rai per person (0.8 ha per person). For farmers in the livestock sector, financial assistance will be provided from THB 3,600-15,800 per animal (USD 112-505 per animal), not exceeding 2 animal per person. In both cases, assistance is subject to prior registration on the corresponding departments (Inside Thailand 14 December 2011).

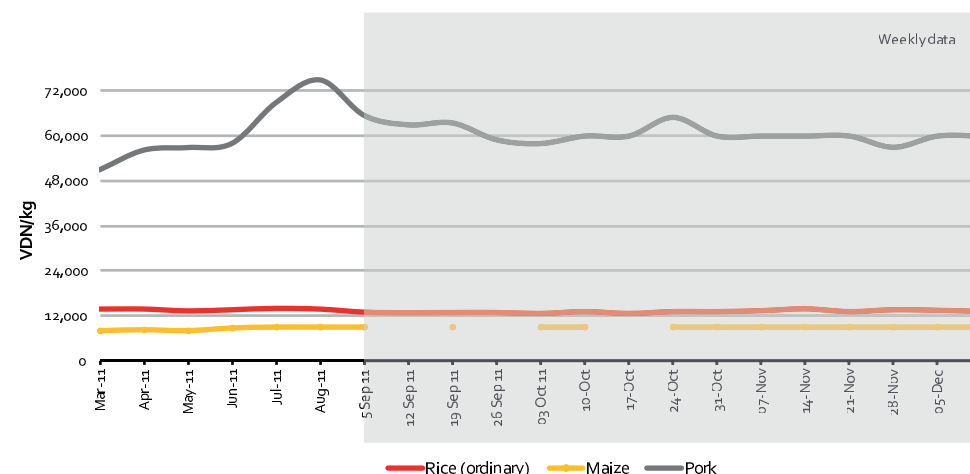




**VIET NAM, Hanoi (12 December 2011)**  
Retail nominal prices

**Country Highlights**

- Rice prices fell by 2 percent over the past week and were 2 percent above the prices observed three months ago.



Food item	Market	Week of 12-Dec-11				
		Price (VND/kg)	% change			
			1 week	1 month	3 months	1 year
Rice ordinary	Hanoi	13,050	-2.2%	0.9%	2.4%	na
Maize	Hanoi	9,000	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	na
Pork	Hanoi	60,000	0.0%	-2.0%	-0.2%	na

→ (+/-2%) stable ↑ increase ↓ decrease

**Policy+**

- Vinafood 2, Vietnam's largest rice exporter, has secured a 300,000 MT contract to ship 5 percent broken rice to Malaysia by 2012. The deal would be worth nearly USD 150 million, based on a free-on-board (FOB) price of USD 490-\$495 per tonne on Tuesday 13 December 2011. Rice exports reached a record level 6.84 MMT as of 8 December (The Star and Thanh Nien News, 13 December 2011).

## Disclaimer and Acknowledgements

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