FPMA BULLETIN

10 July 2015

MONTHLY REPORT ON FOOD PRICE TRENDS

KEY MESSAGES

- **↗** Export prices of wheat and maize mostly increased in June on concerns about the impact on crops of unfavourable weather during the month in major producing countries. By contrast, international prices of rice weakened further, mainly because of weak import demand. In general, cereal prices in June remained well below their year-earlier levels, reflecting the overall continuing positive outlook for this year's production.
- In East Africa, maize prices in Kenya, the United Republic of Tanzania and Uganda declined in June, after sharp increases in the previous months, as a result of recent imports and the ongoing 2015 harvests, which are, however, expected at below-average levels.
- 7 In Southern Africa, maize price increases persisted in June in the main producer, South Africa, as markets continued to respond to the tighter supply outlook in the marketing year 2015/16, following the sharply-reduced maize production this year. Elsewhere in the subregion, prices decreased seasonally, reflecting new supplies from the nearly-completed 2015 harvests.
- **↗** In West Africa, strong increases in cereal prices were recorded in coastal countries in recent months, reflecting uncertain prospects for the 2015 first season crops, due to delayed rains, as well as depreciation of the national currencies.
- 7 In Central America and the Caribbean, prices of maize generally increased in June and remained significantly above their year-earlier level. Prices of beans strengthened in most countries and in the Dominican Republic reached record levels, underpinned by a reduced 2014 harvest and low imports.

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Domestic price warnings



Moderate [Based on GIEWS analysis]



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.

Colombia | Rice Dominican Republic | Beans El Salvador | White maize **Honduras** | White maize Indonesia | Rice Myanmar | Rice Nicaragua | White maize South Africa | Maize Tajikistan | Wheat flour **Uganda** | Maize **United Republic of Tanzania** | Maize

INTERNATIONAL CEREAL PRICES

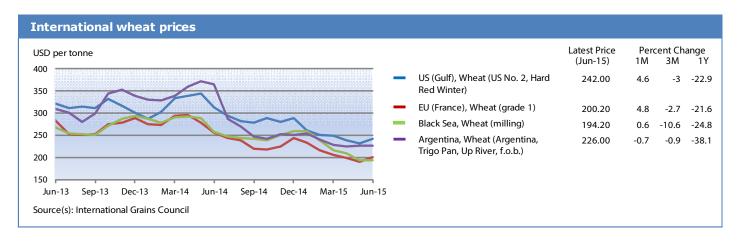
Export prices of wheat and maize increased in June; those of rice continued to ease

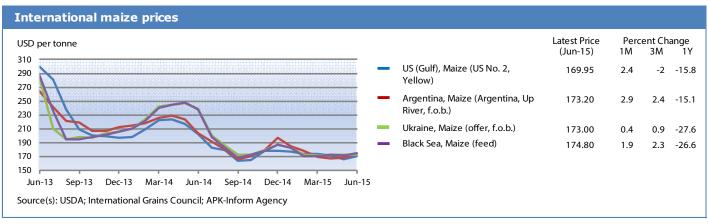
Export prices of **wheat** generally increased in June, after steadily declining in the past several months. The benchmark US wheat (No.2 Hard Red Winter) price averaged USD 242 per tonne, 5 percent higher than in May, but still more than 20 percent lower than in June last year. The increase in June reflected harvest delays and concerns about crop quality of the 2015 wheat crop, due to heavy rain in key growing areas of the United States of America. Worries about the impact of dry conditions on crop yield potential in Canada and the European Union provided further support. By contrast, in the Russian Federation and Ukraine, wheat export prices declined for the fifth consecutive month in June, reflecting overall favourable production prospects for the 2015 wheat crop, currently being harvested, and also limited trade activity.

International prices of maize also rose in June, with the international benchmark US maize (No.2, Yellow) price averaging USD 170, slightly up from May. This mainly reflected excessive rains in

June which slowed planting progress early in the month and caused some deterioration in crop conditions in the main producing areas of the United States of America. Slow export demand and ample global supplies, however, prevented further price increases. In general, maize export prices were well-below their levels of June last year.

In June, the FAO All **Rice** Price Index (2002-2004=100) fell for the tenth consecutive month, shedding 1 percent from May. The market weakness was pervasive, dominating all rice market segments and virtually all origins. Among the various varieties, aromatic rice prices were again under the strongest pressure, falling by 1.7 percent on large production surpluses and continued weak import demand. Prices of Indica and Japonica rice also edged lower. In Thailand, the benchmark Thai 100%B white rice was down 9 points, or 2.2 percent, reflecting the general tendency of falling rice prices in the country, which only spared the fully broken Thai A1 super. Prices also softened in India and Viet Nam as well as in the Americas.





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

Ocolombia | Rice

Growth Rate (%)		
	to 06/15	Same period average
3 months	-1.2	0.5
12 months	3.2	0.0

Compound growth rate in real terms.
Refers to: Colombia, Bogotá, Wholesale, Rice (first quality)

Prices of rice at high levels despite recent declines

Rice prices remained up to 54 percent above their year-earlier levels in June, sustained by low domestic availabilities following a sharply reduced 2014 output. Prices, however, declined from the record highs of March as recent imports, mainly from the United States of America, began to supply the markets.

O Dominican Republic | Beans

Growth Rate (%)		
	to 06/15	Same period average
3 months	7.5	-0.4
12 months	2.9	0.0

Compound growth rate in real terms.

Refers to: Dominican Republic, Santo Domingo, Retail, Beans (red)

Prices of beans increasing and at record levels in June

Retail prices of **red** and **black beans** increased markedly for the fifth consecutive month in June and were at record levels, underpinned by a reduced 2014 harvest and low import levels partly due to increased prices in the international market.

O El Salvador | White maize

Growth Rate (%)		
	to 06/15	Same period average
3 months	-0.5	3.0
12 months	1.7	-0.2

Compound growth rate in real terms.
Refers to: El Salvador, San Salvador, Wholesale, Maize (white)

Prices of white maize continued to increase in June and were well above their year-earlier levels

White maize prices strengthened in June and were well above their year-earlier values. Uncertain prospects for the forthcoming 2015 main season crop, affected by dry spells, and tight market supplies following last year's reduced production underpinned prices.

Red bean prices increased in June after remaining stable in the previous month and were slightly higher than in June 2014. Prices were supported by a reduced 2014 production and low regional availabilities, as the country depends on imports to meet its consumption requirements.

Price warning level:





DOMESTIC PRICE WARNINGS contd.

Honduras | White maize

Growth Rate (%)		
	to 06/15	Same period average
3 months	3.9	4.9
12 months	1.5	-0.2

Compound growth rate in real terms. Refers to: Honduras, Tegucigalpa, Wholesale, Maize (white)

Prices of white maize increased sharply in June

White maize prices rose sharply in June, erasing the price decline of the previous month. Uncertain prospects for the forthcoming 2015 main season crop, affected by dry spells, and tight market supplies following last year's reduced production underpinned prices.

Red bean prices followed mixed trends in June, increasing in the capital, Tegucigalpa, and declining in the important San Pedro Sula market. Prices were lower than their high levels of a year earlier, but more than twice those of June 2013.

Indonesia | Rice

Growth Rate (%)		
	to 06/15	Same period average
3 months	-2.0	-0.8
12 months	0.4	0.1

Compound growth rate in real terms. Refers to: Indonesia, National Average, Retail, Rice (medium quality)

Rice prices stable in June but at high levels

The average price of medium quality rice remained unchanged in June and was only 4 percent below the record level of March. Despite good supplies from the recently-completed 2015 main season harvest, significantly lower rice imports in January-May this year compared to the same period in 2014 have supported prices in recent months. Higher fuel prices have also provided support.

Myanmar | Rice

Growth Rate (%)		
	to 06/15	Same period average
3 months	5.9	1.7
12 months	0.9	-0.1

Compound growth rate in real terms. Refers to: Myanmar, Yangon, Wholesale, Rice (Emata, Manawthukha)

Rice prices on the increase and at record levels in June

Prices of emata rice, the most commonly consumed variety, rose sharply in June, continuing the upward trend of the past months, and reached record highs, 16 percent above those of a year earlier. The increase in prices reflects strong export demand, particularly from China, supported by the depreciation of the national currency against the US dollar.

Price warning level: O High O Moderate





DOMESTIC PRICE WARNINGS contd.

Nicaragua | White maize

Growth Rate (%)		
	to 06/15	Same period average
3 months	1.5	4.6
12 months	0.7	0.1

Compound growth rate in real terms. Refers to: Nicaragua, Managua (oriental), Wholesale, Maize (white)

White maize prices relatively unchanged in June but above their yearearlier levels

White maize prices eased in June but were well above their year-earlier levels. Uncertain prospects for the forthcoming 2015 main season crop, affected by dry spells, and tight market supplies following last year's reduced production kept prices at high levels.

Red bean prices declined in June, as a result of recent imports from Ethiopia and the United States of America. Prices were well below the high levels of June last year.

South Africa | Maize

Growth Rate (%)		
	to 06/15	Same period average
3 months	2.6	-3.4
12 months	3.5	0.0

Compound growth rate in real terms. Refers to: South Africa, Randfontein, Wholesale, Maize (white)

Maize prices increased further in June and were well above their yearearlier values

White and yellow maize prices continued their overall increasing trend in June, despite the progress of the harvest and were well above their year-earlier levels. Markets continued to respond to the tighter supply outlook in 2015/16 (May/April) due to an estimated 30 percent contraction in this year's output. Prices of white maize increased faster than those of yellow maize in the past few months and were comparatively higher, reflecting a steeper production decline. However, substantial stock levels of over 2 million tonnes and low international prices limited the upward price pressure.

Tajikistan | Wheat flour

Growth Rate (%)		
	to 06/15	Same period average
3 months	0.5	-0.4
12 months	1.2	0.2

Refers to: Tajikistan, National Average, Retail, Wheat (flour, first grade)

Wheat flour prices relatively unchanged in June but at record or nearrecord levels

Prices of wheat flour, the main staple in the country, remained relatively unchanged in June, but at record or near-record levels, more than 20 percent above those of a year earlier. The country normally imports around half of its wheat consumption requirements and high prices mainly reflect the strong depreciation of the national currency in the past months, as well as relatively high export quotations from Kazakhstan, the main source of imports.

Price warning level:



Moderate

DOMESTIC PRICE WARNINGS contd.

Uganda | Maize

Growth Rate (%)		
to 06/15 Same period average		
3 months	8.3	1.6
12 months	-2.5	0.3

Compound growth rate in real terms. Refers to: Uganda, Kampala, Wholesale, Maize

Maize prices still relatively high despite declines in June

Wholesale prices of maize declined in June with the 2015 first season harvest, currently underway. Prices, however, were still up to one-third higher than their levels three months ago, supported by an anticipated reduction of this season's crop, adversely affected by below-average rainfall particularly in eastern and central bi-modal areas. Strong export demand from neighbouring countries contributed to the relatively high prices. Maize prices in June were, however, still below the high levels of a year earlier.

United Republic of Tanzania Maize

Growth Rate (%)		
	to 06/15	Same period average
3 months	9.6	-5.5
12 months	-0.4	-0.1

Compound growth rate in real terms. Refers to: United Republic of Tanzania, Dar es Salaam, Wholesale, Maize

Maize prices still relatively high despite declines in June

Wholesale prices of maize declined in June with the progress of the 2015 main msimu season harvest. Prices, however, were still up to nearly 70 percent higher than their levels three months ago, supported by an anticipated reduced output, strong export demand from neighbouring countries and uncertain prospects for the masika season crop, about to be harvested.





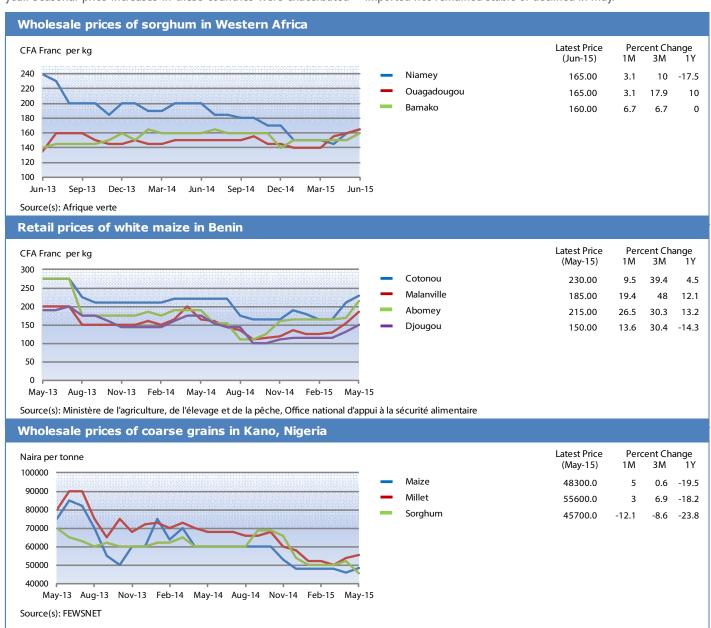
WEST AFRICA

Coarse grain prices relatively stable in the Sahel, while strong increases were recorded in coastal countries

Prices of locally-grown millet, sorghum and maize, the main staples in the subregion, have shown mixed trends in recent months. In the Sahel belt, coarse grain prices showed moderate seasonal increases in June in some markets in **Burkina Faso**, **Niger** and **Mali**, after remaining mostly stable in the past several months. In **Chad**, millet and sorghum prices were relatively stable in May. Although prices of coarse grains rose in some countries, they remained generally below their year-earlier levels, reflecting abundant supplies from last year's good production. In coastal countries, maize prices increased significantly in May in **Benin** and **Togo** after several consecutive months of stability and were higher than at the same time last year. Seasonal price increases in these countries were exacerbated

by uncertain production prospects for the 2015 crop due to delayed rains. Similarly, in **Ghana**, cereal prices were on the rise, driven by a steep depreciation of the national currency causing the consumer price inflation rate to more than triple over the last three years. By contrast, in **Nigeria**, sorghum prices declined in May and were well below their year-earlier levels driven by good supplies from the 2014 harvest.

In the countries affected by the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD), while a significant recovery of marketing activities was observed in **Liberia**, market disruptions continued in **Sierra Leone**. Markets have remained open and functional in **Guinea**. In these countries, prices of local and imported rice remained stable or declined in May.

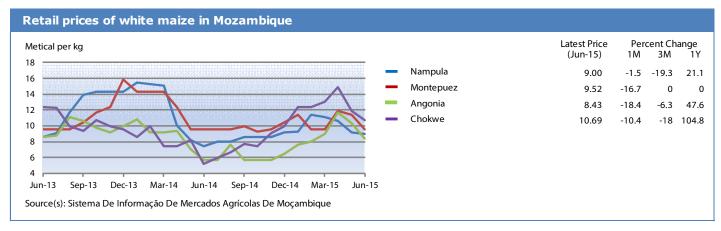


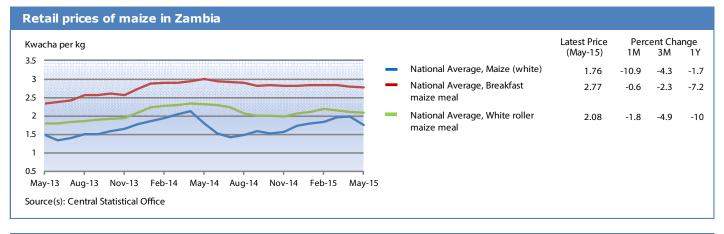
SOUTHERN AFRICA

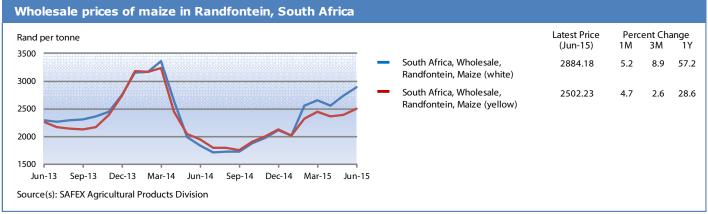
Prices of maize declined seasonally but remained high in most countries; in South Africa prices continued to strengthen

In several countries of the subregion, prices of maize decreased seasonally in June reflecting improved supplies from the nearly-completed 2015 harvest, despite the estimated below-average crops. While prices in **Mozambique** and **Malawi** remained well above their year-earlier levels, reflecting reduced outputs this year, maize prices in **Zambia** in May were below the levels of the previous year on account of large carryover stocks following the record production in 2014. In **South Africa**, strong price increases persisted in June, as markets continued to respond to the tighter supply outlook in 2015/16

due to an expected 30 percent contraction in this year's output. Prices of white maize increased faster than those of yellow maize in the past few months and were comparatively higher, reflecting a steeper estimated production decline. In the import-dependent countries of Namibia and Lesotho, maize meal prices continued to rise, mainly as a result of the increased cost of importing from South Africa, their main supplier, and unfavourable domestic production prospects. In Swaziland, maize meal prices remained stable and around their year-earlier levels, due to the regulated price system.





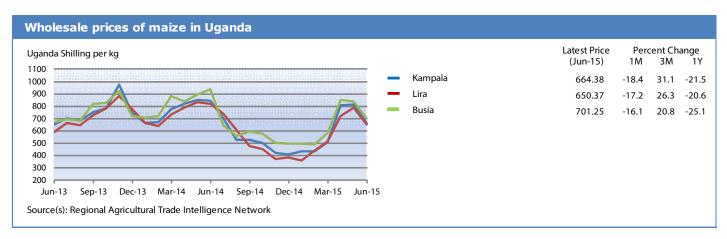


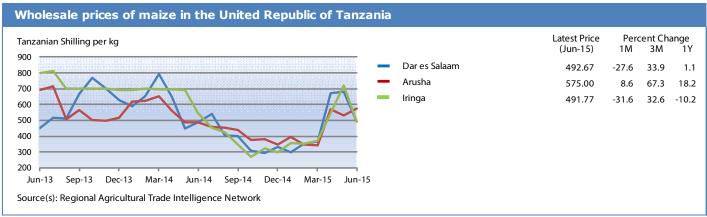
EAST AFRICA

Coarse grain prices generally declined in June

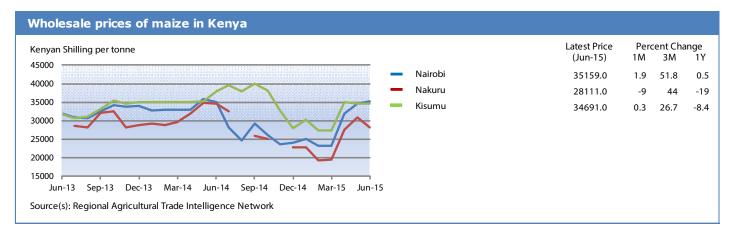
In several countries of the subregion, coarse grain prices decreased in June with the new 2015 harvests and increased imports. In **Uganda** and **the United Republic of Tanzania**, prices of maize declined substantially in June, after the sharp increases in previous months, with the ongoing 2015 harvests, which are, however, expected at below-average levels. In **Kenya**, prices of maize declined or remained relatively unchanged due to increased imports from Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania, easing the upward pressure on prices from the below-average *short-rains* harvest, gathered in February. Maize prices decreased also in **Rwanda** with new supplies from the *2015B* main season harvest. In **the Sudan**, prices of locally-produced millet and sorghum declined in June and were well below their year-earlier levels, as a result of ample supplies from last year's bumper crop. By contrast, in **Ethiopia**, prices of

locally-produced cereals increased in June, following the reduced output from the secondary 2015 *belg* season harvest. However, despite the recent increases, prices in June were still generally below their year-earlier levels reflecting good supplies overall from the bumper 2015 main *meher* harvest, concluded earlier in the year. In **South Sudan**, prices of cereals increased sharply in April and May in most markets due to the escalation of conflict, the devaluation of the national currency and fuel shortages. In the capital, Juba, between March and May, prices of maize and sorghum increased by 44 and 60 percent, respectively, while prices of wheat more than doubled. In **Somalia**, prices of cereals remained unchanged or increased in most monitored markets in June as the lean season progressed. However, they declined in the capital, Mogadishu. Prices were well below the high levels of June last year.

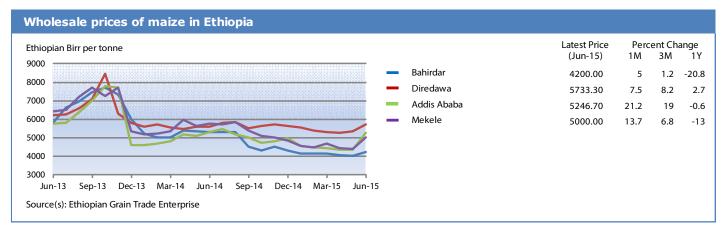


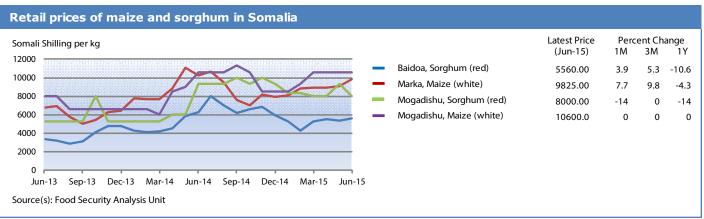


EAST AFRICA contd.



udanese Pound per tonne	Latest Price (Jun-15)	Per 1M	cent Ch 3M	ange 1'
000 — El Ge	edarif 3491.18	-7	-11.8	-38
	toum 3382.50	-8.9	-14.6	-45
	Sudan 4647.50	-1.7	-3.4	-29
— El Ol	beid 3942.95	-1	-6.4	-37
000				
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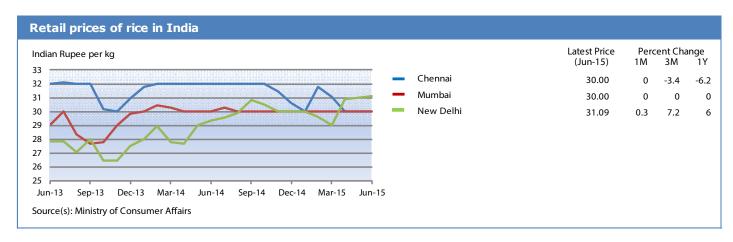


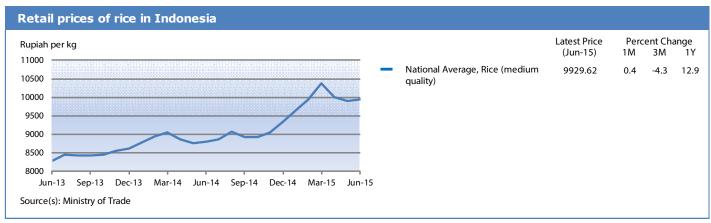


Prices of rice and wheat flour generally stable in June

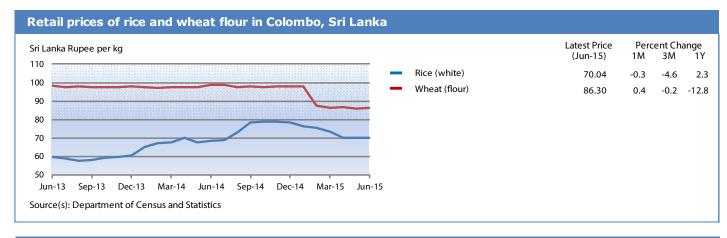
In most countries of the subregion, domestic rice prices showed little change in June compared to the previous month. In India, the downward pressure from the recently-harvested 2014/15 secondary season crops was offset by a decline in output following unfavourable weather and a recent increase in the Minimum Support Price (FPMA Food Policies). In Indonesia, average prices of rice remained stable in June but close to their peaks of March. Despite the good supplies from the recently-completed 2015 main season harvest, significant lower rice imports in January-May this year, compared with the same period in 2014, have supported prices in recent months. Higher fuel prices have also provided support. In Sri Lanka, prices remained relatively unchanged for the third consecutive month in June and were only slightly higher than their year-earlier levels. Price declines were reported in Bangladesh, with good supplies from

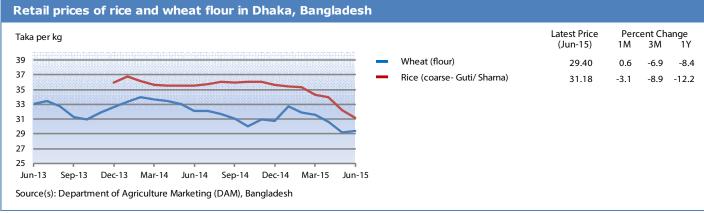
the 2015 boro and the onset of the aus harvests and in exporters, Viet Nam and Thailand, mainly as a result of sluggish export demand. By contrast, rice prices continued to increase in Myanmar and reached record highs in June, mainly underpinned by sustained export demand, coupled with the depreciation of the national currency since mid-April. Strong exports in recent months also supported prices in Cambodia. Wheat and wheat flour prices in the subregion remained overall unchanged in June and below their levels at the same time last year. In Pakistan, ongoing procurement purchases and in India a reduction in this year's output provided support to prices and offset the downward pressure from the recently-completed 2015 main season harvests. In China, wholesale prices of wheat declined markedly in June as a result of improved supplies from the 2015 main harvest, just completed and estimated at record levels.

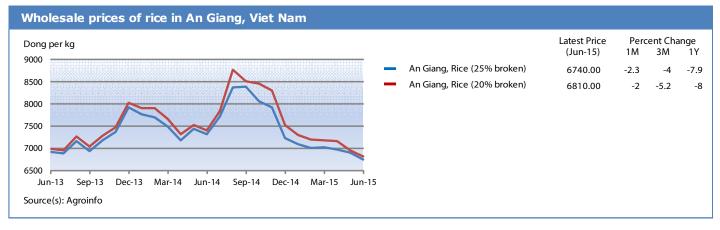


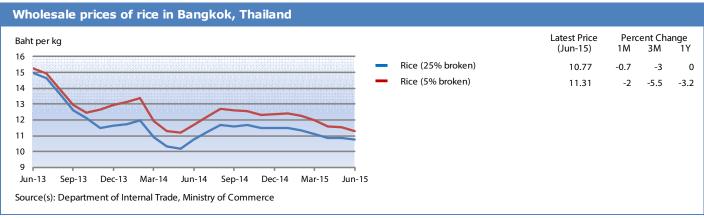


EAST ASIA contd.

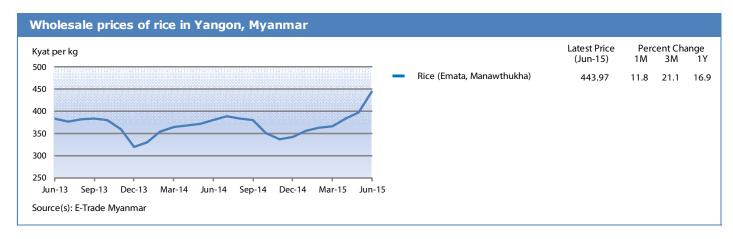


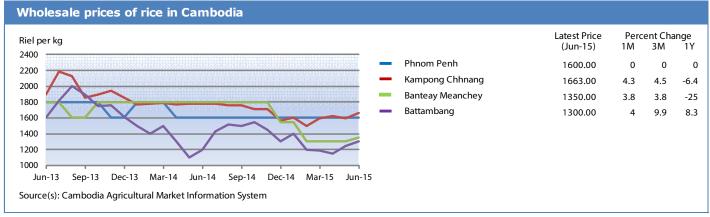


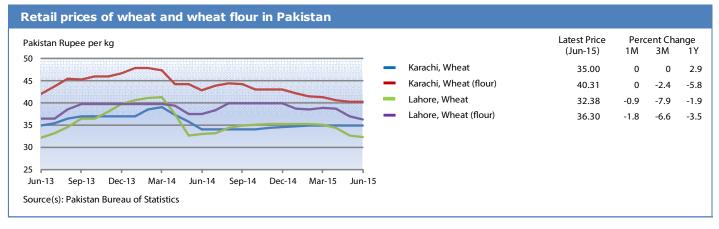


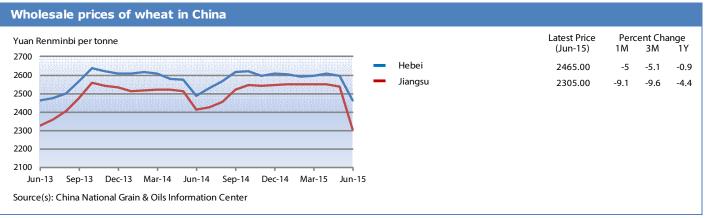


EAST ASIA contd.







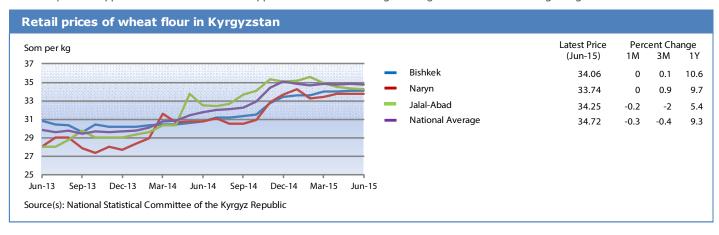


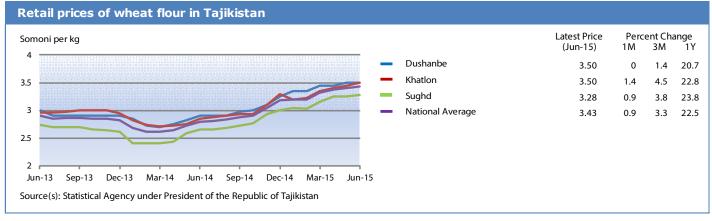
CIS - ASIA AND EUROPE

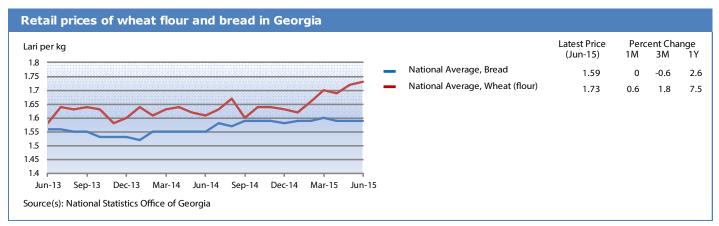
Domestic prices of wheat and wheat flour generally stable in June but higher than the corresponding period last year

In importing countries of the subregion, prices of the main staple, wheat flour, remained overall unchanged in June but at levels above those of a year earlier, especially in Low-Income Food-Deficit Countries, **Kyrgyzstan** and **Tajikistan**, after sustained increases in the past year due to the depreciation of the national currencies. In exporter **the Russian Federation**, domestic prices of wheat and wheat flour were also stable in June, after the declines of the previous months and were above their values at the same time last year. In **Ukraine**, domestic prices dropped further in June with the approach of the new

harvest and ample availabilities from the 2014 record wheat output, but they remained 30-50 percent higher than their year-earlier values. However, in these countries, export prices of milling wheat declined for the fourth consecutive month in June, mainly reflecting favourable production prospects for the 2015 winter wheat crop, about to be harvested. Overall, export prices of wheat were one-third below their levels a year earlier. In **Kazakhstan**, wheat export quotations in June remained relatively stable, as a result of reduced import demand from neighbouring countries due to the beginning of the 2015 wheat harvest.



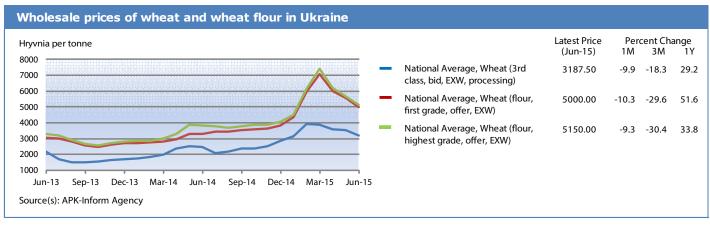


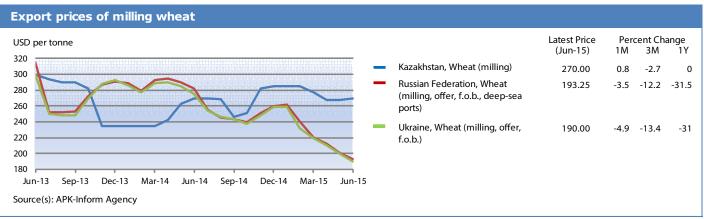


CIS - ASIA AND EUROPE contd.

rmenian Dram per kg		Latest Price (Jun-15)	Perc 1M	ent Cha 3M	ange 1Y
00	 National Average, Bread (high grade flour) 	504.40	0	0	5.
	 National Average, Wheat (flour, high grade) 	414.80	0	-3	-1.
Jun-13 Sep-13 Dec-13 Mar-14 Jun-14 Sep-14 Dec-14 Mar-15 Jun- ource(s): National Statistical Service of the Republic of Armenia	15				

Russian Ruble per tonne	Latest Price (Jun-15)	Per 1M	cent Cha 3M	ange 1Y
17000 (Milling, 3rd	verage, Wheat 9658.33 d class, offer, EXW)	-1.4	-11	4.9
12000	n, Wheat (flour, 15500.0 de, offer, EXW)	0	-7.9	7.
	ck Earth, Wheat (flour, 14800.0 de, offer, EXW)	-0.3	-10.3	3.
	egion, Wheat (flour, 14766.6 de, offer, EXW)	-0.9	-8.6	5.





CENTRAL AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Prices of white maize and beans on the increase in most countries of the subregion

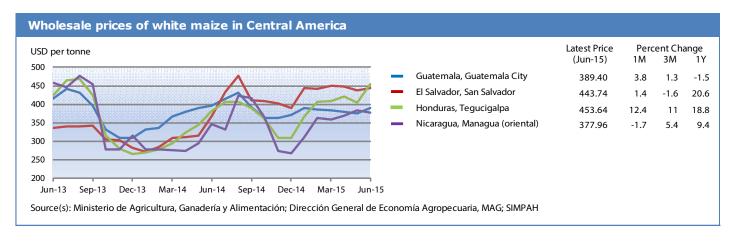
In most countries of the subregion, prices of maize and beans increased in June with the progress of the lean season to end in September.

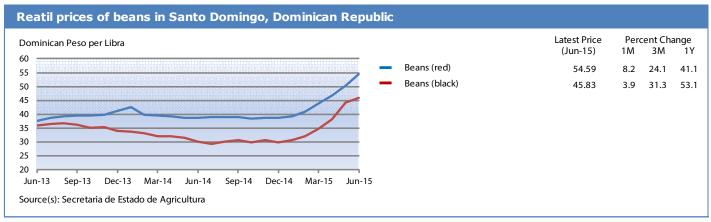
Prices of white maize rose in **Honduras** and **El Salvador** in June, while they eased in **Nicaragua** after the increases of the previous two months. In these countries, prices were above their year-earlier values as a result of tight availabilities, following the reduced 2014/15 aggregate production affected by dry weather. In **Guatemala**, the largest producer in the subregion after Mexico, white maize prices increased slightly in June after the declines in the preceding months with the 2014/15 harvest in the Northern Region. Prices, however, remained somewhat below their year-earlier levels, reflecting good supplies from last year's harvests and adequate imports from Mexico. In **Mexico**, prices of white maize in June remained unchanged as a result of the Government's price support measures and were lower compared to a year earlier.

Prices of staple red beans increased in June in **El Salvador**, the main importer of the subregion, and in **Honduras**. By contrast, they declined in **Nicaragua**, after a sharp increase in the previous

month, following recent imports from Ethiopia and the United States of America. Prices were below or around the high levels of June last year. In **Guatemala**, where black beans are the variety mainly produced and consumed, prices continued to seasonally increase in June, as new products will not enter the market until September with the next harvest. In **Mexico**, black bean prices remain stable and below their levels a year earlier, as a result of the 2014 bumper harvest. In **the Dominican Republic**, prices of red and black beans increased further in June and were at record highs, underpinned by a reduced 2014 harvest and low imports.

In Haiti, prices of main staple imported rice continued unchanged in June in major markets and were around their year-earlier values, mostly reflecting trends in export prices from the United States of America, the country's main supplier. By contrast, maize meal prices rose markedly in main markets of Port-au-Prince, the capital city, and Jeremie and were higher than in June last year, underpinned by reduced domestic availabilities due to a shortfall in 2014 production. Bean prices increased sharply in recent months due to reduced 2014/15 harvests and low imports.





SOUTH AMERICA

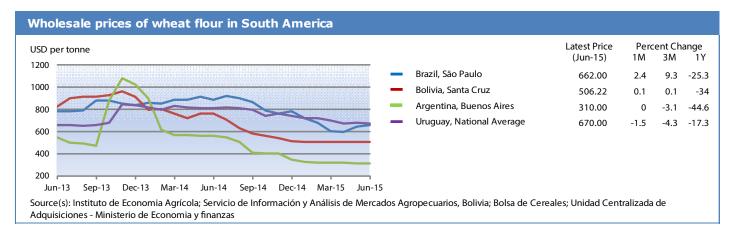
Wheat flour prices overall stable in June; those of maize generally declined

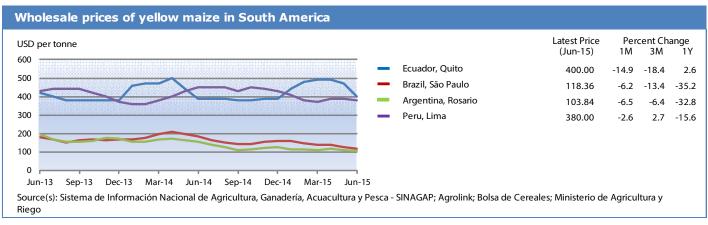
In most countries of the subregion, prices of wheat flour remained stable in June and below their levels a year earlier. In main producer and exporter, **Argentina**, prices were about 40 percent lower than their values in June last year, as a result of the bumper production in 2014 and ample stocks. In **Bolivia**, which largely depends on imports from Argentina to meet its consumption requirements, prices of wheat flour in June were more than one-third lower than their year-earlier levels. In the capital city markets of Bogotá, **Colombia**, prices were stable but higher than in June last year due to the sharp depreciation of the national currency in recent months. Wheat flour prices were also stable in most markets in **Ecuador**. In **Brazil**, reduced imports in the previous months, coupled with the depreciation of the national currency, underpinned prices for the second consecutive month in June, when they reached record highs.

Yellow maize prices continued to decline across the subregion in June and were well below their levels a year earlier, pressured

by good recently-concluded or ongoing 2015 harvests. By contrast, however, in **Colombia**, prices strengthened in June and were higher than a year earlier mainly due to last year's reduced harvest.

Prices of staple rice declined in **Brazil**, with the arrival into the markets of the recently-completed 2014/15 harvest, which is estimated at a good level. Similarly, in **Colombia**, rice prices declined for the third consecutive month in June following recent imports, mainly from the United States of America. Prices, however, remained well above their levels in June last year, after sustained increases in the previous months due to the sharply reduced production in 2014. In **Peru**, rice prices remained unchanged compared to May and around the high levels of a year earlier. In **Ecuador**, prices of rice were relatively stable in June but above the corresponding period last year, reflecting low stocks as a result of the reduced output in 2014.





This bulletin is prepared by the **Food Price Monitoring and Analysis (FPMA)** Team 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 2015.

All the data used in the analysis can be found in the FPMA Tool at: www.fao.org/giews/pricetool

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