



HIGHLIGHTS

- General inflation in the region in June was estimated at 3.9 percent, and food inflation was 4.9 percent.
- Sri Lanka recorded the highest monthly food price increase in the Asia-Pacific region in June, with a rise of 4.3 percent compared to May.
- Afghanistan reported higher prices for wheat flour (high and low quality) and rice (low quality) compared to a month and a year ago.
- In Indonesia, the Ministry of Trade increased the import quota for beef from 10 000 tonnes to 27 000 tonnes to increase supply and reduce prices during Ramadan.
- India was seeking potential suppliers of pulses from overseas as domestic prices continued to rise.

REGIONAL OVERVIEW

FOOD AND REGIONAL INFLATION

In the region, general inflation inched up 0.5 percent and food price inflation rose 0.6 percent in June compared to May. Year on year, general inflation was up 3.9 percent and food price inflation increased by 4.9 percent.

In Afghanistan, general inflation rose 0.5 percent in June 2016 compared to May and food inflation was up 0.6 percent, but general inflation was 6 percent higher than a year ago, and food inflation increased 6.8 percent. In Bangladesh, general and food inflation edged up 0.3 percent and 0.4 percent, respectively. However, year on year, general inflation increased 5.5 percent and food inflation was 4.2 percent higher.

In China, general inflation was stable, falling by just 0.1 percent and food inflation was down 1.4 percent in June. Lower prices were recorded for tomatoes, potatoes, eggs, pork, ducks and kidney beans. Year on year, however, general inflation rose 1.9 percent and food prices were up by 4.6 percent.

In Indonesia, general inflation was 0.2 percent higher and food inflation was up 0.5 percent compared to May. Higher prices for chicken, fresh fish, eggs, sugar, potatoes, carrots, rice and spinach pushed food prices higher. Year on year, however, general inflation increased 3.5 percent, and food inflation by 7.8 percent.

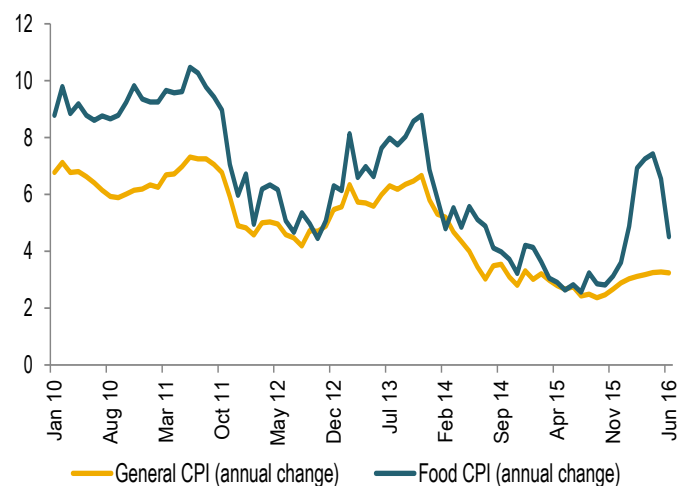
In Malaysia, general and food inflation were up by 0.2 and 0.5 percent, respectively, in June 2016, and 1.6 and 4.2 percent higher than a year ago. In the Philippines' general inflation inched up by 0.4 percent and food prices by 0.6 percent. Samoa's general inflation in June increased 1.4 percent and food price inflation by 3.5 percent. Year on year, consumer prices were up 2.2 percent and food prices 8.7 percent.

In Pakistan, general inflation was up by 0.6 percent compared to May, and increased by 3.2 percent compared to June last year. Food price inflation increased by 1.2 percent compared to May. Month on month, higher prices were recorded for tomatoes

(61.1 percent), potatoes (45.5 percent), eggs (8.5 percent), whole gram (5.7 percent), fresh fruits (2.5 percent), pulse gram (2.2 percent) and rice (1.4 percent).

India's general inflation was up by 1.2 percent month on month, and food prices increased by 2.4 percent, essentially due to higher prices on rice (3.4 percent), wheat (6.8 percent), pulses (26.6 percent) vegetables (16.9 percent),

Food and general inflation (percent)



Source: FAOSTAT, World Bank, and government statistics

Note: The consumer price index (CPI) measures changes in the consumer basket of goods and services purchased by households. Regional estimates for the CPI are aggregated by a weighted geometric average of each respective national CPI and its corresponding regional GDP share (deflated by purchasing power parity estimates) as its weight. The regional index includes contributions from ten countries, comprising: Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Pakistan, Philippines, Samoa, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Viet Nam.

Note: Prices in US dollars (US\$) are converted from local currencies using the average exchange rate for the corresponding month of publication supplied by the IMF International Financial Statistics.

potatoes (64.5 percent) and sugar (26.1 percent). Nepal's general and food inflation were up by 0.8 and 2 percent, respectively. Year on year, general inflation increased by 11.1 percent and food prices were up by 11.9 percent, mainly on increases in the prices of vegetables (29.4 percent) and pulses (21.5 percent).

Sri Lanka's general inflation rose by 2.1 percent and food prices were 4.3 percent higher than in May for the highest recorded monthly food price increase in the region. Prices rose for vegetables, green chillies, rice, sugar, potatoes, red onions and fish. In Thailand, general inflation remained stable and food prices decreased by just 0.1 percent. In Viet Nam, general and food inflation were up 0.5 percent and 0.2 percent, respectively. Year-on-year general inflation increased by 2.4 percent and food prices by 2.8 percent.

FOOD PRICES

The FAO Food Price Index (FPI) in June was up 4.2 percent compared to May, recording a 6.6-point rise for an average of 163.4 points. However, the FPI was 1 percent below its June 2015 level. Sugar led the price rises, but there were also moderate increases in prices for cereals, dairy and meat.

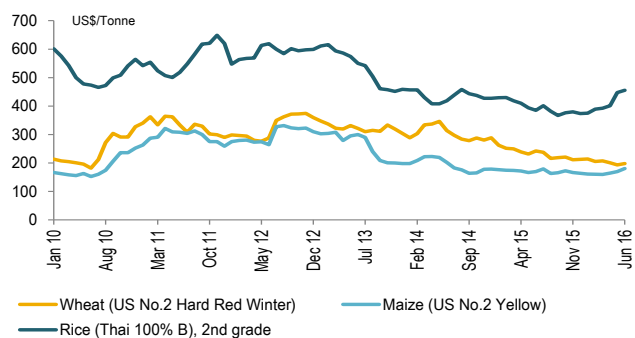
The regional rice price index in nominal terms in June was 0.3 percent higher than in May, but remained stable compared to June 2015. Nominal rice prices increased in South Asia (excluding India) and Southeast Asia by 5.3 and 1.4 percent, respectively, from May. Nominal rice prices also increased in East Asia by 0.2 percent, but decreased in India by 1.9 percent. Year on year, nominal rice prices fell by 5.7 percent for India, and 4.6 percent for the rest of South Asia, but rose by 7.6 percent in Southeast Asia and 1.8 percent in East Asia.

In real terms, regional rice prices were 0.1 percent lower than in May, and 4.1 percent lower than a year ago. Real rice prices declined year on year by 12 percent in India and 9.7 percent in the rest of South Asia, while decreasing just 0.1 percent in both East and Southeast Asia. Month on month, real rice prices edged up in East Asia and Southeast Asia by 0.3 and 0.6 percent, respectively, and increased by 4.9 percent in South Asia excluding India, where prices fell by 2.9 percent.

The regional wheat price index in June was 0.9 percent higher, in nominal terms, than in May, and 4.6 percent higher than a year ago. Month-on-month nominal wheat prices increased 1.6 percent in India and 0.8 percent in the rest of South Asia. Slightly higher prices were also recorded in East and Southeast Asia, with both up 0.4 percent compared to May. Year on year, nominal prices were up by 2.8 percent in South Asia excluding India where prices were 7.3 percent higher. Nominal prices also increased in East Asia by 3.4 percent, and Southeast Asia by 1.3 percent compared to June 2015.

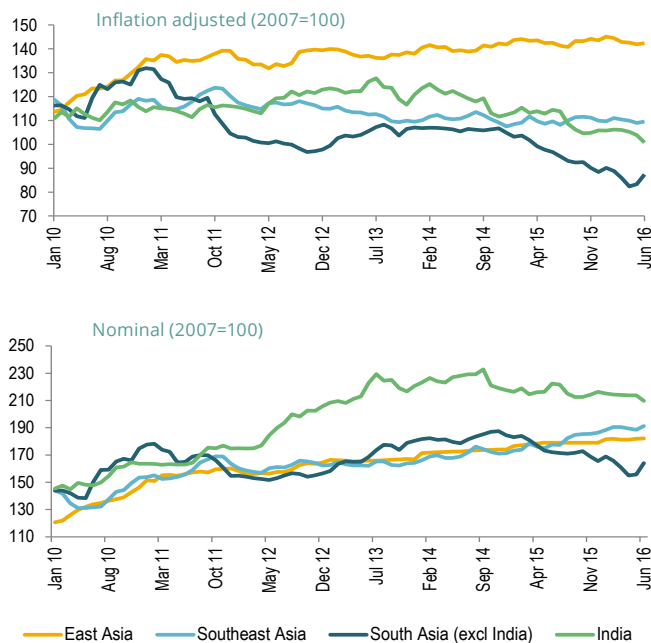
Real wheat prices in the region rose by 0.5 percent compared to May, and by 1.0 percent compared to a year ago. Month on month, slight increases in prices were recorded in East Asia at 0.6 percent, South Asia at 0.2 percent and India at 0.5 percent, but prices were down by 0.3 percent in Southeast Asia. Year on year, real wheat prices fell by 3.6 percent in Southeast Asia and 0.5 percent in South Asia excluding India, while they increased in East Asia and India by 1.4 and 1.2 percent, respectively.

Global benchmark prices

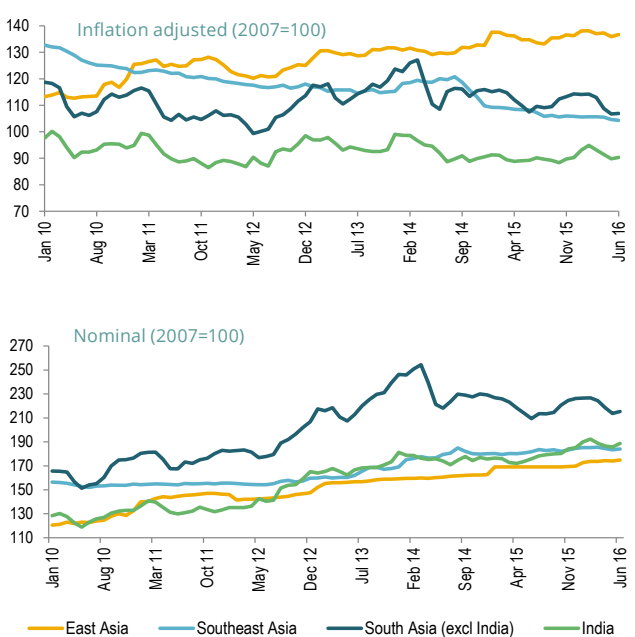


Source: FAO, International commodity prices

Subregional price indices: rice



Subregional price indices: wheat



Source: FAO GIEWS, National Governments and IMF International Financial Statistics

COUNTRY OVERVIEW

FOOD PRICES

In **Afghanistan** (Kabul markets), prices for wheat flour (low price) and wheat flour (high price) in June increased by 3.6 percent and 8.3 percent, respectively, from May. Compared to the same period last year, low and high prices of wheat flour increased 9.4 percent and 15.6 percent respectively.

Importers are usually required to obtain a special permit, but the permits were recently banned because some importers were misusing them. In addition, unofficial sources claim that an import duty of PKR 140 000 (US\$ 950) was imposed on each truck carrying 950 sacks of wheat from Pakistan. The combination of the cancellation of import permits and the taxes on the imported wheat were probably the major causes of the price hike for wheat and wheat flour.

An alternative explanation for the hike was that high procurement prices in Pakistan were making its wheat exports less competitive in international markets. The USDA had forecast that about 700 000 tonnes of Pakistan's wheat flour was slated for export to Afghanistan, which was approximately 300 000 tonnes below the usual target. Whatever the circumstances actually were, the supply of wheat and wheat flour available in markets in Afghanistan was much lower.

Prices for both commodities have been constantly increasing over the past year, with the exception of one monthly decrease in April 2016 when the lean season (January to March) was over and favourable weather conditions increased output, briefly pushing prices down.

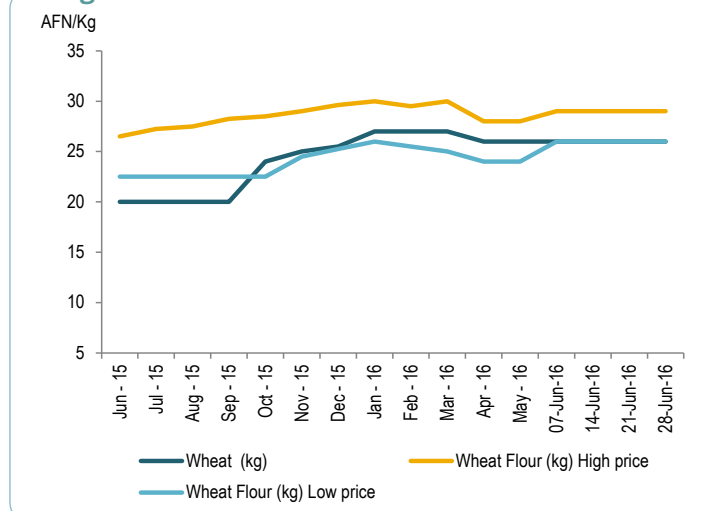
Prices for rice (low quality) increased by 0 percent and 18.4 percent on a monthly and yearly basis, respectively. Higher rice prices were also due to reduced supply (domestic and imported). Domestic rice output from the second season (September to November) was normal, sourced from plantations in the North, Northeastern and Eastern regions, and current production is estimated as average. Early crops normally planted in June and July have been delayed because on-going conflicts meant farmers were not able to start planting rice. In addition, rice imports from Pakistan were reduced. These two situations contributed to pushing prices up over the past month.

Prices for pulses (not shown in graph) in July were 5.3 percent higher than a month ago and 11.9 percent higher than a year ago. Media reports said that India is considering Afghanistan as a potential supplier of pulses because India is facing an estimated shortage of between 6 and 7 million tonnes. Pulses are grown in the central highlands of Afghanistan only once a year and are normally consumed by the local population.

In **Bangladesh** (Dhaka markets), retail and wholesale prices for Atta (wheat flour) in June declined 2.3 percent and 3.8 percent, respectively, from the previous month. The decreases were greater on an annual basis at 16.9 and 14.2 percent, respectively.

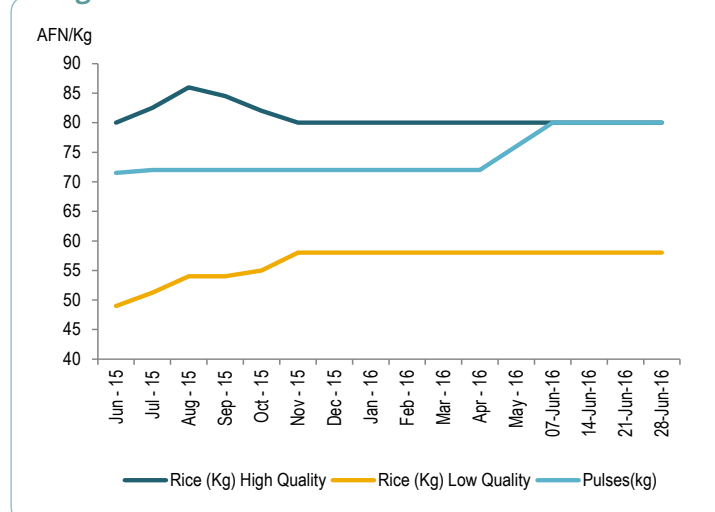
Retail and wholesale wheat prices dropped by 1.9 percent and 0.4 percent, respectively, in June, and 6.6 percent and 15.2 percent, respectively, compared to one a year ago. The price decreases were mainly driven by greater availability.

Afghanistan



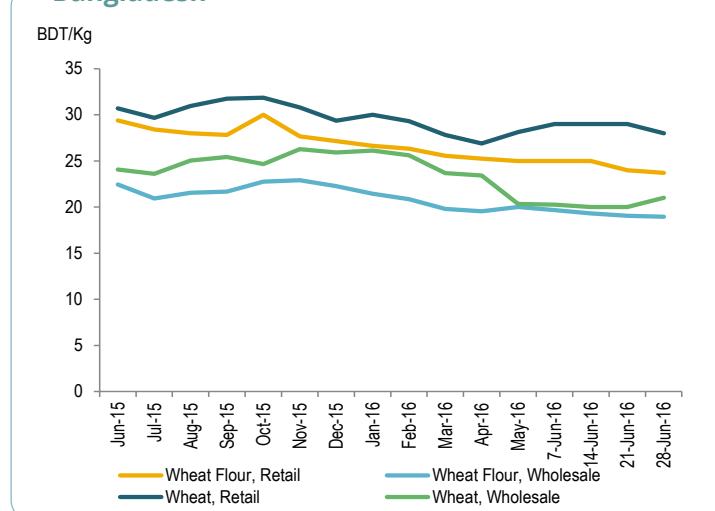
Source: World Food Programme, 2016

Afghanistan



Source: World Food Programme, 2016

Bangladesh



Source: National Food Policy Capacity Strengthening Programme, 2016

Retail prices for coarse rice increased by 10 percent from during June. Wholesale prices for coarse rice declined 1.1 percent with respect to a month ago, and 14.7 percent from a year ago.

In **Indonesia** (national average), prices for rice (medium quality) were 13.2 percent higher than a month ago, and 6.5 percent higher than a year ago. Prices for wheat were 0.4 percent higher than last month, and 1.3 percent higher than last year.

Month-on-month, prices for sugar increased 7.2 percent, while they were up 20.9 percent year on year. Prices for onion were 11.5 lower than a month ago, but 14.4 percent higher than a year ago.

The government took a combination of measures to maintain stable prices for some commodities during Ramadan (7 June to 5 July). It started by setting minimum farmers' selling prices at IDR 7 300 (US\$ 0.38) per kilo for medium quality rice, IDR 9 100 (US\$ 0.48) per kilo for sugar, and IDR 15 000 (US\$ 0.79) per kilo for onions. It followed by ordering two State Owned Enterprises (SOE) to import 381 000 tonnes of raw sugar to be processed into refined sugar and improve market supply.

Prices for beef increased by 2 percent and 9.9 percent from a month and a year ago, respectively. But beef prices had started to soar before Ramadan. In response, the Ministry of Trade raised the import quota from 10 000 tonnes to 27 000 tonnes to increase supply and consequently reduce beef prices during Ramadan when beef prices tend to significantly increase. The imports were undertaken by public entities such as Bulog (Indonesian Bureau of Logistics) with 10 000 tonnes, Berdikari (SOE) with 500 tonnes, and the remaining amount of 16 500 tonnes by private importers.

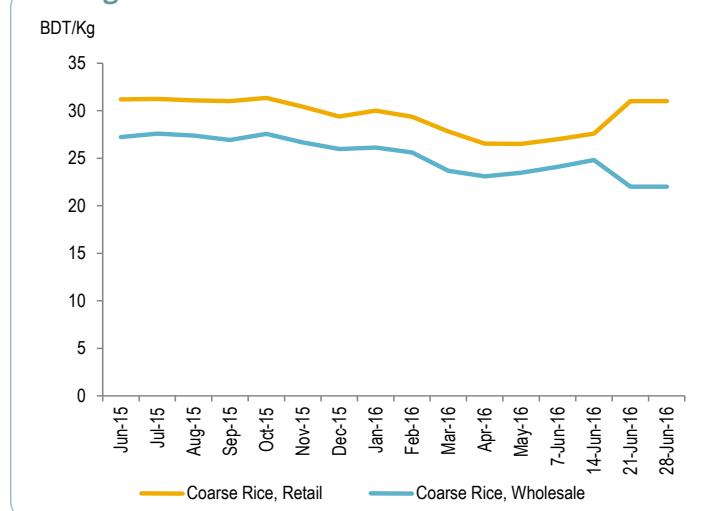
Other commodities (not shown in graph) such as local soybean, wheat flour and curly red chilli, showed minor monthly price increases of 1 percent, 0.4 percent and 0.2 percent, respectively.

In the **Philippines** (metro Manila markets), rice prices (not shown in graph) as reported by the National Food Authority (NFA) have remained unchanged since one year ago. Among the short-term policy efforts to ensure rice prices stability, the NFA maintained a buffer stock over a 30-day limit during the lean months. As of June 2016, the rice inventory was at 3.54 million metric tonnes.

Prices for commercial regular and well-milled rice (not shown in graph) were 3.9 percent and 4.8 percent lower than a year ago, respectively. As a long-term policy effort, the Department of Agriculture is using information and technology systems to improve rice productivity. One example is by using high-resolution Synthetic Aperture Radar imagery to map and assess rice areas and damage while rice is growing.

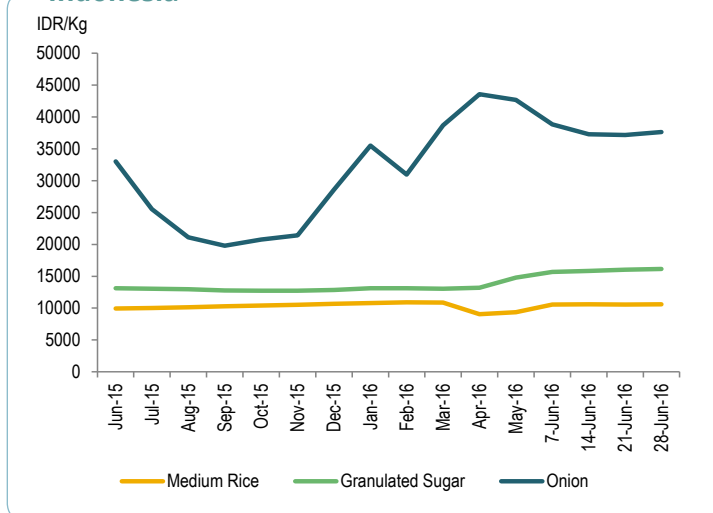
In mid-June, the Secretary of Agriculture requested PHP 30 billion (US\$ 458 million) to boost production of rice, mainly by improving irrigation systems over the next six months.

Bangladesh



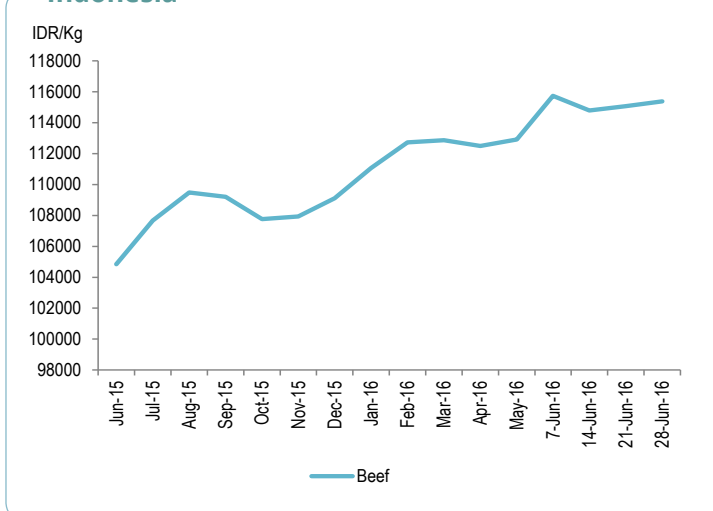
Source: National Food Policy Capacity Strengthening Programme, 2016

Indonesia



Source: Ministry of Trade, 2016

Indonesia



Source: Ministry of Trade, 2016

Note: Month-on-month changes are calculated as the price average of the current publication month from the price average of the previous month. Year-on-year changes are likewise reported as the price average of the current publication month from the price average of the same month in the previous year.

Month-on-month prices declined by 3.3 percent for chicken (whole) and by 0.2 percent for beef (brisket) due to improved production. On the contrary, the year-on-year prices increased by 10.6 percent for chicken (whole) and 13.8 percent for beef (brisket). In early 2016, outbreaks of Newcastle disease in Central Luzon, the main supplier to Metro Manila, negatively affected poultry production, pushing prices up. In response, the government distributed preventive medicines, and some commercial farms were set up in other regions such as Ilocos Norte, Sur and Samar. These actions helped increase the output of chicken and pushed prices downward.

Month-on-month prices for fresh vegetables were up, with a rise of 50 percent for eggplant, 30 percent for cabbage and 13.4 percent for red onions. Year-on-year prices also were higher, up by 95 percent for red onion, 24.5 percent for eggplant and 19 percent for cabbage. Overall, price increases were attributed to reduced production.

Prices for tomatoes were 6.3 percent higher than a month ago, but 12.3 percent lower than a year ago. Monthly prices reflected a reduction in output related to a decrease in contract growing under a scheme of the Northern Foods Corporation. On the other hand, annual prices reflected a more efficient use of fertilizer and an expansion of planted areas.

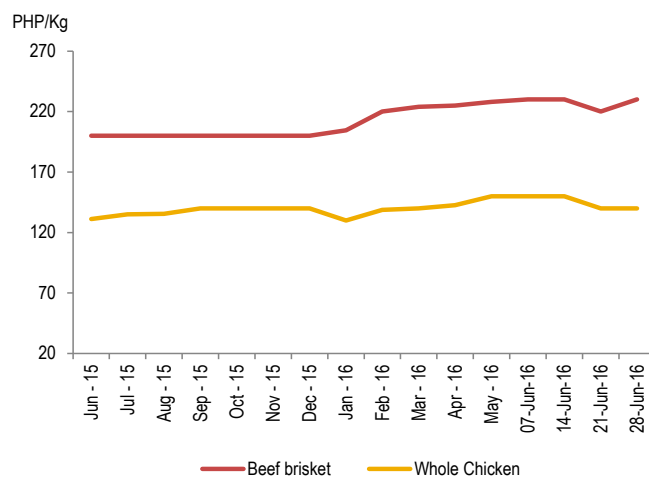
In **Sri Lanka** (Colombo markets), prices for rice and wheat flour (not shown in graph) in June were up 1.1 percent and 0.5 percent, respectively, in June.

In early May, tropical storm Roanu caused the worst floods in 25 years. According to the Oxford Business Group, climate change is perhaps the biggest challenge to Sri Lanka's long-term food security. Fresh vegetable prices increased non-stop on reduced output. Some planted areas were severely affected by floods, while other vegetables rotted very quickly after the storm. At the moment, it is not possible to harvest more food until the next season, so a deficit in output may continue to push prices higher. Increases of 53.2 percent for carrot, 37.7 percent for leek, 35.9 for bitter gourd, 32.3 for red pumpkin, 30.6 for eggplant (brinjal), 20.5 percent for okra (vetakolu), 20.4 percent for red onions, and 19.9 percent for long beans were recorded for June. Compared to a year ago, prices were up by 88.3 percent for red pumpkin, 52.6 percent for okra (vetakolu), 52.2 percent for eggplant (brinjal), 49.8 percent for bitter gourd, 20.7 percent for both long beans and leeks, followed by an 8.6 percent increase for carrot.

In response to the food price increases, the Ministry of Industry and Commerce imposed price controls on 16 essential items effective from 15 July. Three vegetables (onions, potatoes and dried chillies) were included in this measure. Prices were set at LKR 78 (US\$ 0.38) per kilo for imported onions, LKR 120 (US\$ 0.58) per kilo for imported potatoes and LKR 385. In addition to those two vegetables, commodities such as chicken meat, red lentil (red dhal), sprats (fish), gram-chickpeas, green bean (mung bean), canned fish, white sugar, white flour, full cream milk powder, and dried fish were also targets of the price control measure.

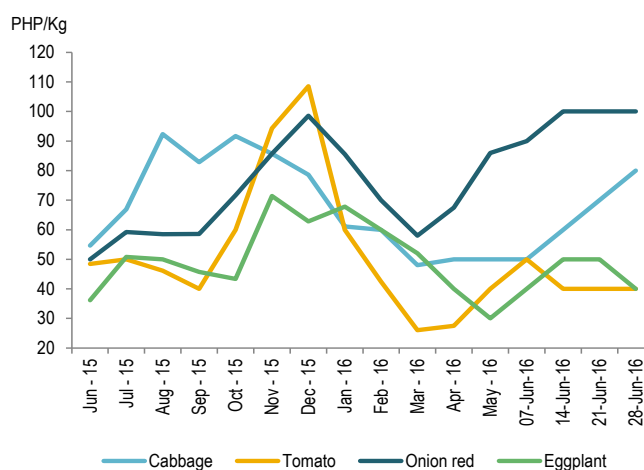
Month on month, prices for green chillies and red chillies increased by 106.8 percent and 28.0 percent, respectively, and were 150 percent and 15.3 percent higher, respectively,

Philippines



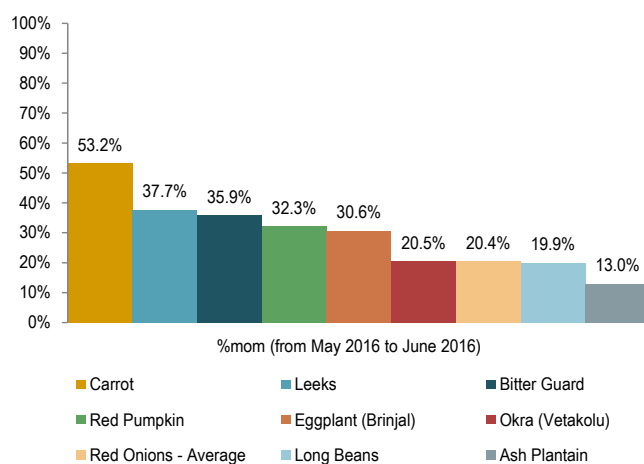
Source: Philippine Statistics Authority, 2016

Philippines



Source: Philippine Statistics Authority, 2016

Sri Lanka



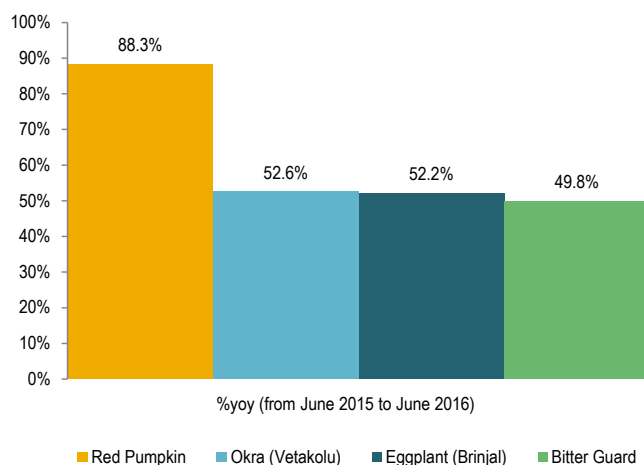
Source: Department of Census and Statistics, 2016

than a year ago. In addition to domestic production being negatively affected by weather, production yields have been trending downward over the past year. Input costs (deeds and labour) were relatively higher, and some commodities such as chilli were struck by plant diseases including leaf curl and root rot. To mitigate these effects and improve domestic availability of chillies, the government was incentivizing farmers to grow off-season chillies.

In **Thailand** (Bangkok wholesale markets), prices for rice (25 percent broken) were up by 1.8 percent from a month ago and 20.2 percent higher than a year ago. In response to the price increase, the Thai Rice Management Policy Committee announced the release of all inventories, totalling 9.5 million tonnes, between now and the first half of next year. During the first stage of the release, rice traders were invited to join the Foreign Trade Department's auction of 2.18 million tonnes, and bids were submitted on 25 July.

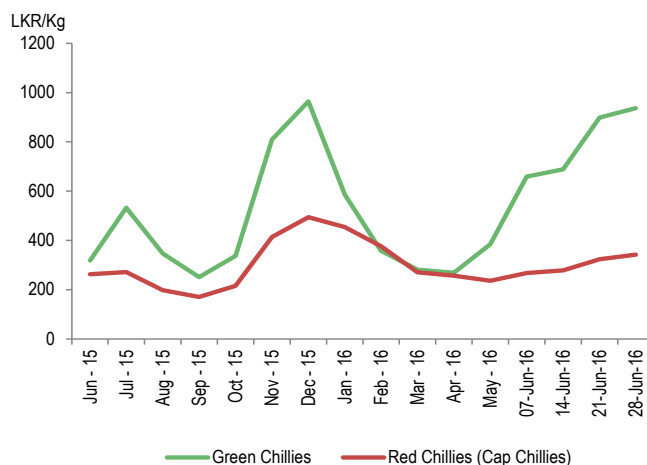
Prices for lime and morning glory (Chinese spinach) declined by 28.9 percent and 13.9 percent, respectively. However, prices for lime were 51.7 percent higher than a year ago, and for morning glory they were 10 percent above last year.

Sri Lanka



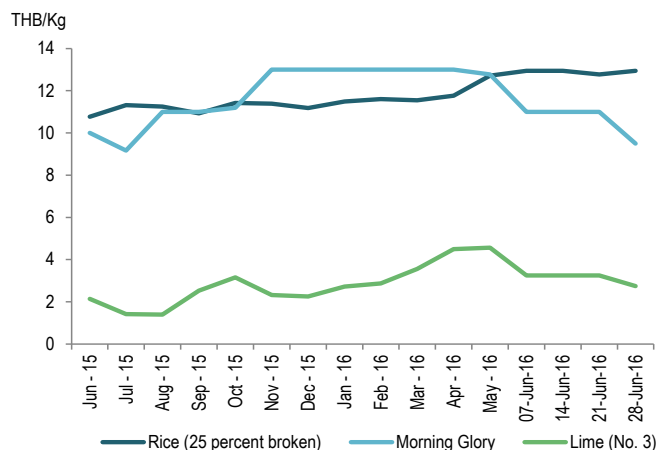
Source: Department of Census and Statistics, 2016

Sri Lanka



Source: Department of Census and Statistics, 2016

Thailand



Source: Ministry of Commerce, 2016

PRICE WATCH

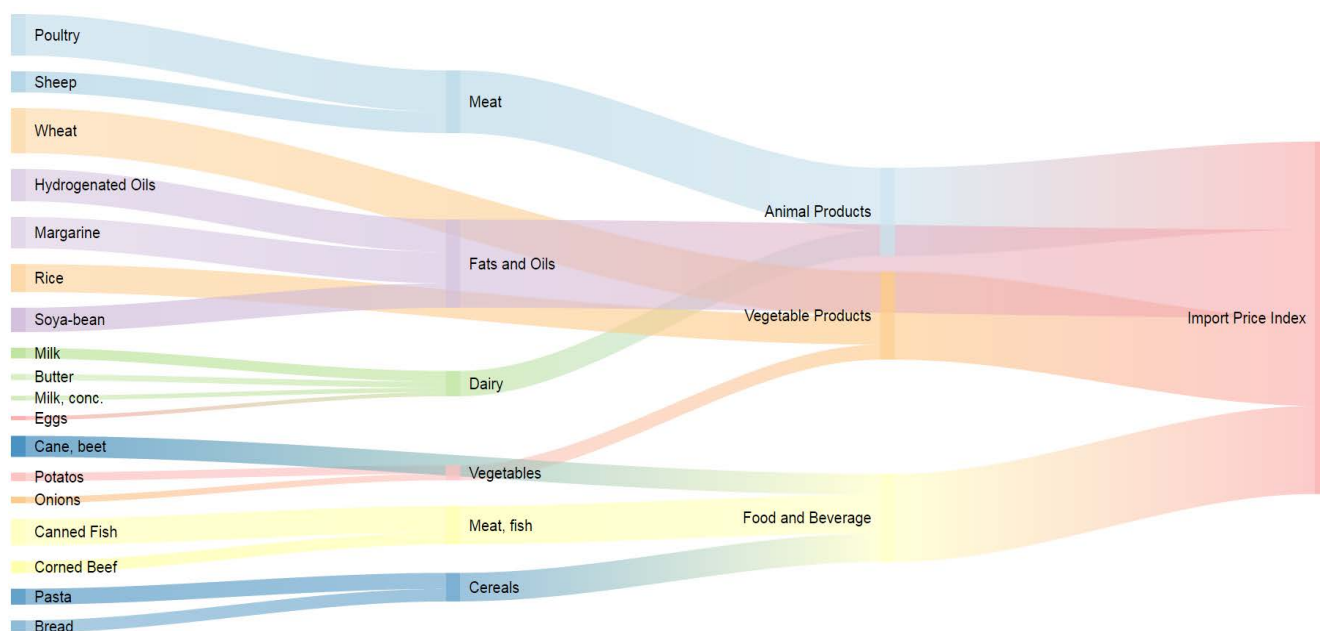
Role of Food Imports in rising consumer food prices in Samoa

The Oceania sub-region is considered to be among the most food insecure areas in the Asia Pacific region - with regards to both physical availability and the access to food. This insecurity stems not only from its geographic remoteness, but also partly from the limited resources it has available for the sustainability of self-sufficient food production. The Pacific Island Countries must in turn rely on food imports from outside the region, where food prices can be influenced not only by fluctuating international commodity prices, but also the volatility in transport costs and supply disruptions from the increasing occurrence of natural disasters as a result of climate change.

Samoa, while relatively large compared to its Pacific Island neighbors in terms of both population and land area, is not an exception to challenges of food insecurity. In 2015, it was estimated that food and live animal imports into Samoa accounted for 25 percent of total import value, and is considered the largest group of merchandise goods imported into the country. This figure has remained consistent in recent years – averaging 24.6 percent since 2011.

Among the food products that are imported, the largest in terms of value are both meat (poultry, sheep, and corned beef) and vegetables (potato and onion) (figure 1). Poultry meat is among the most prominent food imports – largely because of the inhibiting costs of raising chickens domestically as chickens require imported grains for feed. The import of vegetable products (potato and onion) are also necessary to supplement seasonal domestic supplies.

Figure 1. Relative Contributions of Food Items to the Samoan Import Price Index



Source: Samoa Bureau of Statistics and FAO staff calculations, 2016

The consumer price index has also recently been updated in February 2016 to reflect the structure of household expenditures derived from the recent Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES) 2013-14, which now estimate that the average household spends 16.4 percent of its weekly expenditures on meat, fish and seafood; and another 13.9 percent on fruits and vegetables. While some of these food items are grown and produced locally, dietary preferences in recent years have on average shifted towards cheaper imported varieties of the same goods that include fattier meats like corned beef and cheaper cereals such as white rice. The updated consumer food price basket is reflective of these dietary trends, where it is estimated that 66.7 percent of food items in the basket are imported and 33.3 percent sourced locally.

In June 2016, the import component of the consumer food price index increased by 5.8 percent over the previous month, while the local goods component declined by 1.1 percent. The net increase of both components combined pushed the consumer food price index up by 3.5 percent. Some of the imported goods contributing to the increase in the consumer price index include leg quarter chicken, flour, and milk. Meanwhile, the price of the local goods component was brought down by decreases in prices for fresh fish, Chinese cabbage, and tomato.

Figure 2. Consumer Food Price Index – Month on Month percent change

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2011		-2%	1%	-1%	-1%	-1%	4%	-1%	0%	5%	4%	4%
2012	-2%	-4%	-1%	3%	-5%	3%	0%	-2%	-7%	1%	-1%	1%
2013	11%	5%	-4%	-3%	-1%	-3%	-1%	-1%	0%	-2%	-1%	1%
2014	1%	-2%	4%	-2%	-1%	1%	-1%	0%	0%	3%	0%	7%
2015	-3%	0%	-1%	1%	-4%	2%	2%	-3%	-3%	3%	2%	3%
2016	6%	-7%	1%	1%	1%	4%						

Source: Samoa Bureau of Statistics and FAO staff calculations, 2016

Compared to historical averages since 2011, a month-on-month increase of 3.5 percent in the consumer food price index is within an expected range that has fluctuated between 1 and 4 percent in past years (figure 2). A small increase in food prices also typically occurs during this month, following the observation of independence celebrations. The only exception to this expected seasonal fluctuation was in 2013 when food prices continued to decline after prices spiked in the aftermath of Cyclone Evan.

Moving into the fourth quarter of 2016, food prices are expected to increase in line with the seasonal trends observed in previous years. The fourth quarter, particularly December and January, is typically regarded as the wet season, but is also influenced by an increase in the number of tourists from Australia and New Zealand taking their summer holidays.

NATIONAL POLICY DEVELOPMENTS

Production oriented policies

Afghanistan will start a nationwide insect pests and plant diseases survey, which will last over two years with a priority of identifying existing plant pests and diseases that prevail in the country. A national database will be developed to record all the information collected during the survey, and all the samples will be stored for future research.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock in **Afghanistan** announced that a dozen agriculture projects worth AFN 24 million (US\$ 349 000) will be conducted over one year in Kabul and 14 other districts. Projects include the expansion of 1 500 acres of irrigation, an awareness campaign to promote saffron cultivation, and building livestock clinics.

Bangladesh's Cabinet approved on 11 July a draft of the Bangladesh Agriculture Institute Law 2016, which aims to invigorate agriculture and to strengthen climate-change-related research. The new features of the draft cover research on climate risk management, production and distribution of new types of seeds, and use of new technologies in agriculture.

China's Ministry of Land Resources set a new target of retaining 1.87 billion mu (124.33 million hectares) of farmland by 2020. The new plan will protect farmland more strictly and encourages more efficient land use.

The Government of **India** launched the Disaster Management Plan for Animals to protect animals and prevent or mitigate loss of livestock during disasters. The plan consists of three parts: pre-disaster preparedness, disaster response, and post-disaster plans. Pre-disaster preparedness includes dissemination of early warning, identification of vulnerability in the livestock sector, promotion of animal vaccination, and the continuous monitoring of the feed and fodder supply. Effective and prompt response, rescue of livestock, and measures against epidemics and diseases are parts of the disaster response component. For post-disaster, measures such as the treatment of sick animals, disease surveillance, disposal of carcasses, and restoration and restocking of livestock are included.

The **Republic of Korea** announced on 20 July that a crop production plan would be implemented from 2016 to 2020. The plan aims to boost production of wheat, barley, pulses, potatoes, sweet potatoes and other crops, not including rice, from 570 000 tonnes in 2015 up to 819 000 tonnes combined by 2020. In order to attain the production target, several measures will be implemented, including development of high quality seeds, support for mechanisation, expanding demand for local crops, and encouraging contract farming. The country experiences oversupply of rice while supplies of other crops are heavily dependent on imports.

The **Philippines** will spend PHP 5 billion (US\$ 106 million) for the abaca (Manila hemp) industry over the next five years. This measure aims at rehabilitating the country's abaca sector with a target of 90 000 hectares of abaca plantations. The

fund will be used for planting materials, fertilizers, modern technology, stripping machines, and for the improvement of the industry in general.

Thailand's Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives and 120 aquaculture breeders agreed to lower the prices of parent stock for commercial fish, as well as their animal feed, by 10-15 percent to help aquaculture farmers. The new prices will be effective from 1 July until the end of September. Only farmers that have been certified by the Department of Fisheries for meeting farming requirements will be able to buy the parent stock and their feed at discounted prices.

The Rice Policy and Management Committee of **Thailand**, chaired by the Prime Minister, has approved several initiatives for assisting rice growers. One of them is to help farmers that are trying to switch from rice paddies to alternative crops for additional income during the water-scarce off-season. The Committee also approved THB 750 million (US\$ 21 million) for the establishment of a foundation for developing commercial agricultural technologies and innovations.

In July, **Thailand's** Egg Board approved a comprehensive development plan for egg farms, consumer promotion, and exports. According to the plan, the Livestock Department will create a standardized egg-farm development plan, while the Department of Cooperatives Promotion and the Bank for Agriculture and Agricultural Cooperatives will provide financial assistance to related cooperatives. In addition, the country will promote the consumption of eggs, market expansion, research on processing methods, and career development for egg farmers.

Trade and market policies

Australia has suspended the export of cattle to Vietnam since 13 June as Vietnamese facilities violated the Exporter Supply Chain Assurance System (ESCAS), which ensures the humane handling of all animals exported from Australia. While Australia is conducting an investigation of 21 facilities in Vietnam, including 3 feedlots and 18 abattoirs, those facilities have been suspended.

India's Cabinet approved a long-term contract for the country to increase imports of tur (pigeon pea) and other pulses from Mozambique by doubling the trade volume from 100 000 tonnes in 2016-17 to 200 000 tonnes in 2020-21. It aims to mitigate the shortfall of pulses as prices of pulses have continued to rise in recent years.

Consumer oriented policies

In order to prevent and control livestock diseases, **Bhutan's** Department of Livestock decided that all livestock and poultry vaccines in the national vaccination schedule are provided for free of cost. The vaccines in the schedule include 11 animal diseases such as Foot and Mouth disease, Classical Swine Fever, New Castle disease and Rabies.

Sources: Policy developments for the Asia-Pacific region are collected by FAO from official and non-official websites. For Afghanistan, Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation & Livestock and Pajhwok Afghan News; for Australia, Australian Department of Agriculture and Water Resources and VietNamNet; for Bangladesh, bdnews24; for China, Ministry of Agriculture; for India, Public Information Bureau; for Republic of Korea, Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Rural Affairs; for Philippines, Department of Agriculture; for Thailand, National News Bureau of Thailand.

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The support of FAO Country Offices and FAO's Food and Agriculture Policy Decision Analysis (FAPDA) are gratefully acknowledged for their contributions.