



Asia Pacific Weekly Price Monitor

Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific

29 November 2012



Policy

Regional

China and **Thailand** signed a Memorandum of Understanding based on which Thailand is ready to export more rice volume to China under Government to Government contract. Prices and quantities are to be negotiated later (Government of Thailand, 21 November 2012).

National

In **India**, the Rangarajan Committee recommended to the Parliament removal of levy obligation on sugar mills. Currently, this and other recommendations are under consideration by the Central Government. The Rangarajan panel is not the first committee set up by the government to study reforms in the sugar industry. Recommendations of the Tuteja Committee and Thorat Committee have not yet been implemented.

In **Thailand**, measures to regulate 2013 maize imports was approved and in **Viet Nam** the new 2020 import-export strategy on four product categories was approved: (i) fuel and minerals, (ii) agriculture, forest and seafood, (iii) processed and manufactured industrial products, and (iv) new products.

Prices

Over the past week, staple food commodity prices remained relatively stable in the majority of reporting countries, except:

- Soybean prices in **Myanmar** that increased by 6 percent during the week of 26 November.
- In **Viet Nam**, rice prices fell by 10 percent over the past week, when prices reached a record high in 2012 (VND 15,000), up 67 percent from a year earlier.

Weather conditions

Heavy rains in **Pakistan** affected 474,000 hectares of crops and 12,000 heads of cattle. In response, the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) continues to provide food assistance (37 kg ration packages) to over 250,000 households in the three most affected provinces: Punjab, Sindh and Balochistan (Government of Pakistan, 27 November 2012).

Technical note: Price changes are calculated from W_x , where W =week and x indicates the most recent week. The **one week** change is calculated as $[(W_x/W_{x-1})-1]$; the **one month** change is calculated as $[(W_x/\text{average}(W_{x-1}, W_{x-2}, W_{x-3}, W_{x-4}))-1]$; the **three months** change is calculated as $[(W_x/\text{average}(W_{x-9}, W_{x-10}, W_{x-11}, W_{x-12}))-1]$; and the **one year** change is calculated as $[(W_x/\text{average}(W_{x-49}, W_{x-50}, W_{x-51}, W_{x-52}))-1]$. The criteria to flag unusual price movements is the following: **on a weekly basis**, nominal price variations below plus or minus 5 percent are considered "stable." **On a monthly basis**, nominal price variations below plus or minus 10 percent are considered "stable." **On an annual basis**, nominal price variations below plus or minus 25 percent are considered "stable."



Price and policy information at country level

22 November 2012





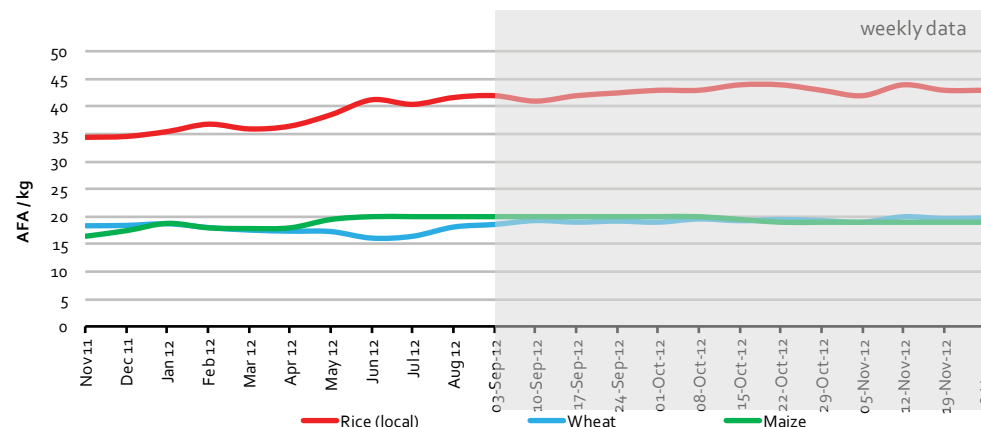
AFGHANISTAN, Kabul (25 November 2012)

Retail nominal prices

Country Highlights

Staple food prices in Kabul market have remained relatively stable over the past week and in comparison to those prices observed a year ago.

- Rice prices were 26 percent above the levels observed a year ago.



Week of 26-Nov-12

% change

Food item	Market	Price (AFA/kg)	1 week	1 month	3 months	1 year
Rice local	Kabul	43.0	0.0%	0.0%	2.7%	25.5%
Wheat	Kabul	19.8	0.5%	1.5%	4.1%	8.3%
Maize	Kabul	19.0	0.0%	0.0%	-5.0%	10.1%
Chicken	Kabul	120.0	0.0%	-2.0%	-4.0%	0.0%
Cooking oil (AFA/Lt)	Kabul	88.0	0.0%	0.3%	0.6%	4.1%

↑ increase ↓ decrease → stable (+/- 5% in a weekly basis), (+/- 10 % in a monthly basis), and (+/- 25% in an annual basis)

Policy+

Due to sufficient irrigation water availability following the 2012 primary grain harvest (record harvest), *winter* (second) crop harvests (from September to early November) was normal to above normal in most parts of the country. This harvest provides both food stocks for human consumption and fodder stocks for livestock. While wheat prices in Afghanistan increased in recent months, they remain below or similar to the five-year average. In this context, reduced import needs should continue to moderate the impact of rising international wheat prices (Famine Early Warning Systems Network, 28 November 2012).



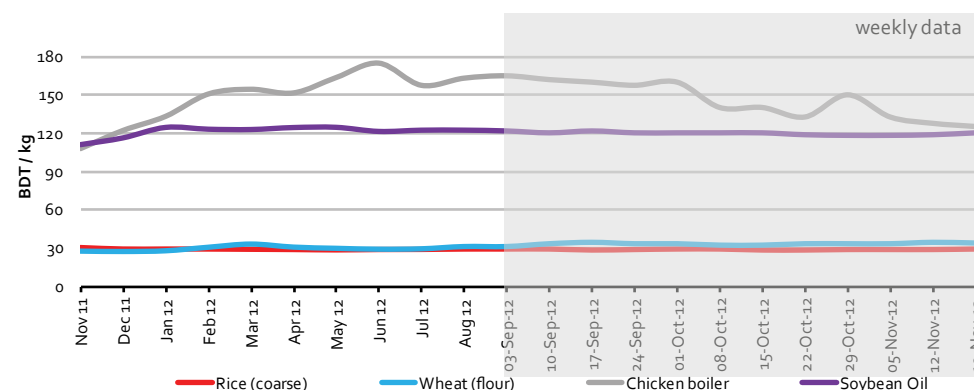
BANGLADESH, Dhaka (19 November 2012)

Retail nominal prices

Country Highlights

Staple food prices in Dhaka markets have remained relatively stable during the week of 19 November.

- Chicken prices were 23 percent below the levels registered three months ago from the week of 19 November.



Week of 19-Nov-12

Food item	Market	Price (BDT/ kg)	% change			
			1 week	1 month	3 months	1 year
Coarse rice	Dhaka	29.0	1.8%	2.2%	0.9%	-1.7%
Wheat flour	Dhaka	33.5	-1.5%	0.8%	3.9%	22.9%
Chicken broiler	Dhaka	125.0	-2.0%	-7.8%	-23.0%	11.7%
Soybean oil (BDT/ltr)	Dhaka	120.0	1.3%	1.5%	-0.8%	6.7%

↑ increase ↓ decrease → stable (+/-5% in a weekly basis), (+/-10 % in a monthly basis), and (+/-25% in an annual basis)

Policy+

NA



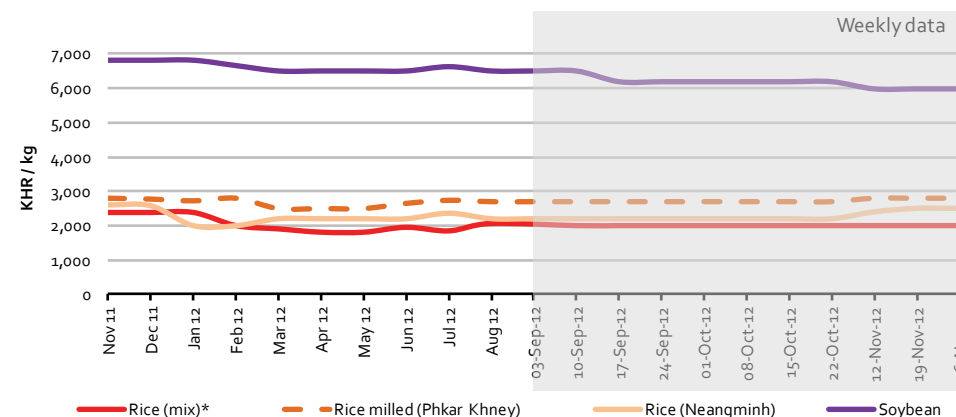
CAMBODIA, Phnom Penh (25 November 2012)

Wholesale nominal prices

Country Highlights

Staple food prices in Phnom Penh markets have remained relatively stable over the past week.

- Rice prices (Neangminh, *high quality*) were 14 percent above the prices observed three months earlier.



Week of 26-Nov-12

% change

Food item	Market	Price (KHR/kg)	1 week	1 month	3 months	1 year
Rice (mix)	Phnom Pehn	2,000	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	-16.7%
Rice (Phkar Khney)	Phnom Pehn	2,800	0.0%	0.0%	3.7%	0.0%
Rice (Neangminh)	Phnom Pehn	2,500	0.0%	2.0%	13.6%	-3.8%
Chicken	Phnom Pehn	20,000	0.0%	0.0%	-2.4%	-9.1%
Soybean oil	Phnom Pehn	6,000	0.0%	0.0%	-5.5%	-11.8%

↑increase ↓decrease → stable (+/-5% in a weekly basis), (+/-10 % in a monthly basis), and (+/-25% in an annual basis)

Policy+

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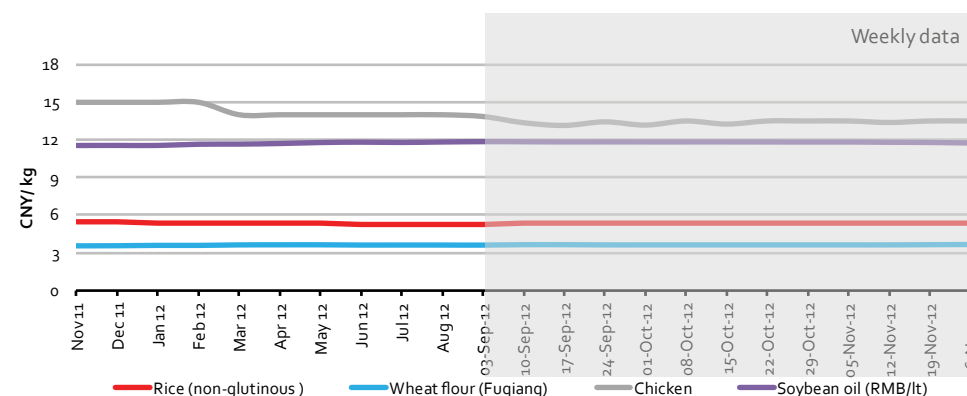


CHINA, Beijing (25 November 2012)

Retail and wholesale nominal prices

Country Highlights

Staple food prices in Beijing market have remained relatively stable over the past year.



Week of 26-Nov-12

% change

Food item	Market	Price (RMB/kg)	1 week	1 month	3 months	1 year
Non-Glutinous Rice	Beijing	5.4	-0.4%	-0.4%	1.0%	-1.5%
Fuqiang Wheat Flour	Beijing	3.7	0.5%	1.0%	1.0%	3.8%
Chicken (w)	Beijing	13.5	0.0%	0.2%	0.4%	-10.0%
Soybean oil RMB/lt	Beijing	11.7	-0.3%	-0.4%	-0.6%	1.2%

↑increase ↓decrease → stable (+/-5% in a weekly basis), (+/-10% in a monthly basis), and (+/-25% in an annual basis)

Policy+

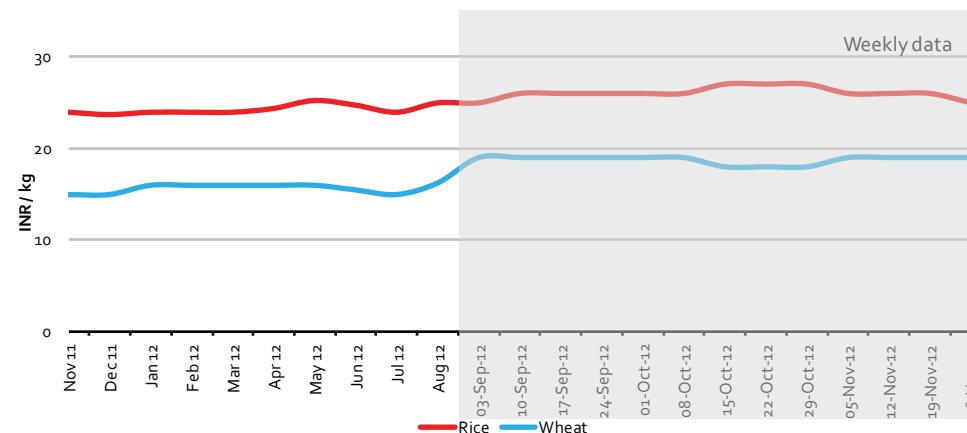
A super rice breed called Yongyou 12 produced a bumper harvest of 14.38 MT per hectare at a demonstration base in Zhejiang province. So far, China has approved 96 varieties of new super rice strains, with planting areas of 7.4 MMT, or nearly a quarter of the country's rice fields. The Ministry of Agriculture aims to develop more than 30 new super rice strains by 2015 (Ministry of Agriculture, 28 November 2012).



INDIA, Delhi (25 November 2012)
Retail nominal prices

Country Highlights

Staple food prices in Delhi market have remained relatively stable over the past week, except:
-Wheat prices were 27 percent higher than the levels registered a year earlier and 17 percent above the prices observed in August 2012.



Week of 26-Nov-12

% change

Food item	Market	Price (INR/kg)	1 week	1 month	3 months	1 year
Rice	New Delhi	25.0	-3.8%	-4.8%	-2.9%	4.2%
Wheat	New Delhi	19.0	0.0%	1.3%	0.0%	26.7%

↑increase ↓decrease → stable (+/- 5% in a weekly basis), (+/- 10 % in a monthly basis), and (+/- 25% in an annual basis)

Policy+

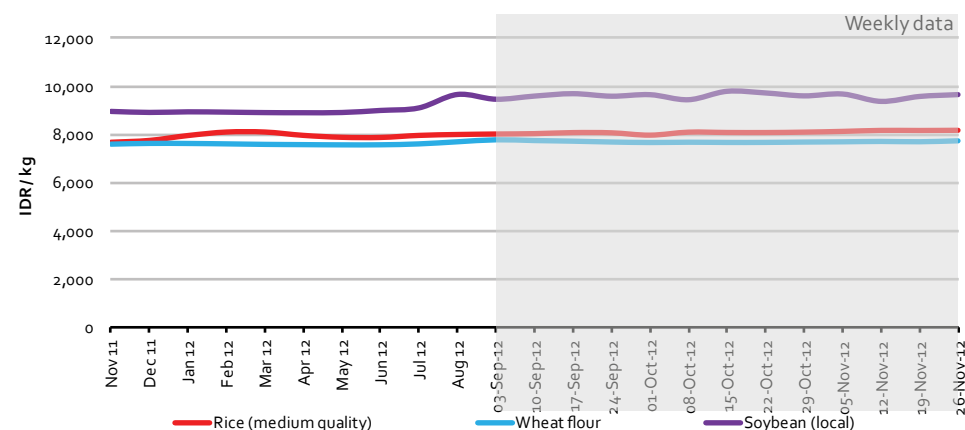
- The Rangarajan Committee recommended to the Parliament removal of levy obligation on sugar mills. Currently, this and other recommendations are under consideration by the Central Government. (Press Information Bureau and The Economic Times 26 November 2012).
- Urea maximum retail price (MRP) increased by one percentage point from INR 5,310 to 5,360 per tonne (from USD 95 to 96), effective on 1st November 2012. Along with this increase, the government modified the disbursement mechanism of fertilizer subsidies, by gradually switching to direct cash transfers to bring more transparency (Press Information Bureau, 22 November 2012).



INDONESIA, National Average (25 November 2012)
Retail nominal prices

Country Highlights

Staple food prices in Indonesia have remained relatively stable since mid-2011.



Week of 26-Nov-12

% change

Food item	Market	Price (IDR/kg)	1 week	1 month	3 months	1 year
Rice (medium quality)	National av	8,201	0.1%	0.4%	1.4%	5.8%
Wheat flour	National av	7,742	0.5%	0.6%	0.2%	1.7%
Chicken	National av	24,171	1.2%	-0.8%	-2.4%	0.9%
Soybean (local)	National av	9,651	0.8%	1.0%	0.3%	8.3%

↑increase ↓decrease → stable (+/- 5% in a weekly basis), (+/- 10 % in a monthly basis), and (+/- 25% in an annual basis)

Policy+

NA



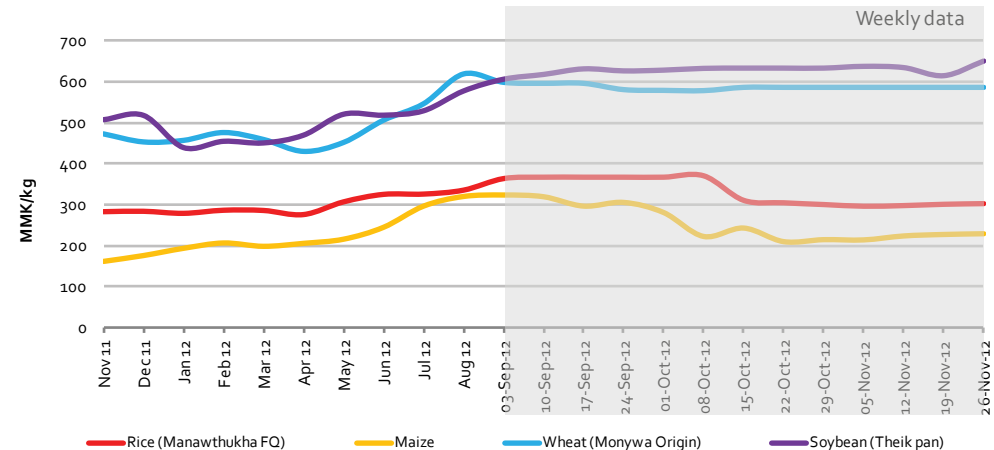
MYANMAR, Yangon and Mandalay (25 November 2012)

Wholesale nominal prices

Country Highlights

Staple food prices in Myanmar have remained relatively stable over the past week, except for:

- Soybean prices increased by 6 percent over the past week .
- Prices for rice, maize, groundnut oil and palm oil were 17, 27, 17 and 17 percent, respectively, below those observed three months earlier.



Week of 26-Nov-12

% change

Food item	Market	Price (MMK/kg)	1 week	1 month	3 months	1 year
Rice (Manawthukha FQ)	Yangon	303	0.5%	1.2%	-17.2%	6.9%
Wheat (Monywa Origin)	Mandalay	587	0.0%	0.0%	-1.1%	27.2%
Maize	Mandalay	228	0.8%	4.2%	-26.8%	36.6%
Groundnut oil (Special)	Yangon	2,388	-3.7%	-1.7%	-17.1%	17.3%
Soybean (Theik pan)	Yangon	650	5.8%	3.2%	4.8%	23.4%
Palm oil	Mandalay	855	-1.1%	-3.1%	-17.2%	-16.0%

↑ increase ↓ decrease → stable (+/-5% in a weekly basis), (+/-10% in a monthly basis), and (+/-25% in an annual basis)

Policy+

According to a media report, under a new Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) Myanmar will export about 500,000 tonnes of high quality rice to Indonesia, assuring a marked increase in its export market for the next year (Oryza News, 21 November 2012).

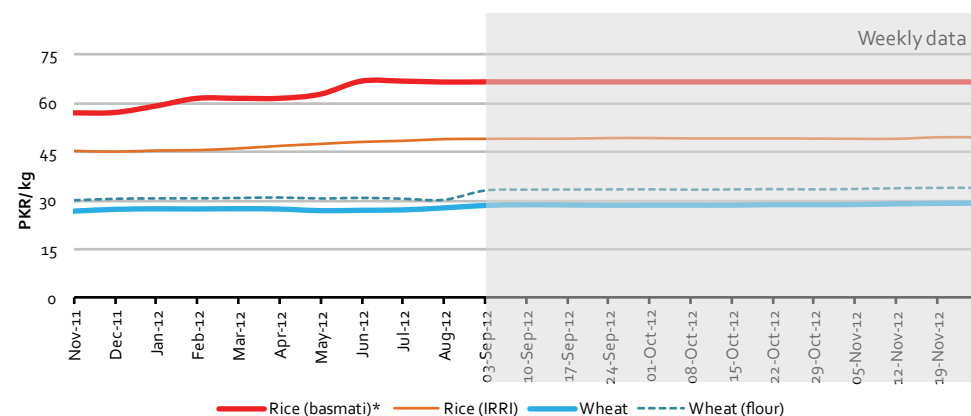


PAKISTAN, Karachi (25 November 2012)

Retail nominal prices

Country Highlights

Staple food prices in Karachi market remained stable over the past week.



Week of 26-Nov-12

% change

Food item	Market	Price (PKR/kg)	1 week	1 month	3 months	1 year
Rice (basmati)	Karachi	66.5	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	16.3%
Rice (IRRI)	Karachi	49.4	0.0%	0.7%	0.8%	9.8%
Wheat	Karachi	29.5	0.3%	1.2%	2.4%	8.2%
Wheat flour	Karachi	33.9	0.0%	0.6%	1.7%	11.1%

↑increase ↓decrease → stable (+/-5% in a weekly basis), (+/-10% in a monthly basis), and (+/-25% in an annual basis)

Policy+

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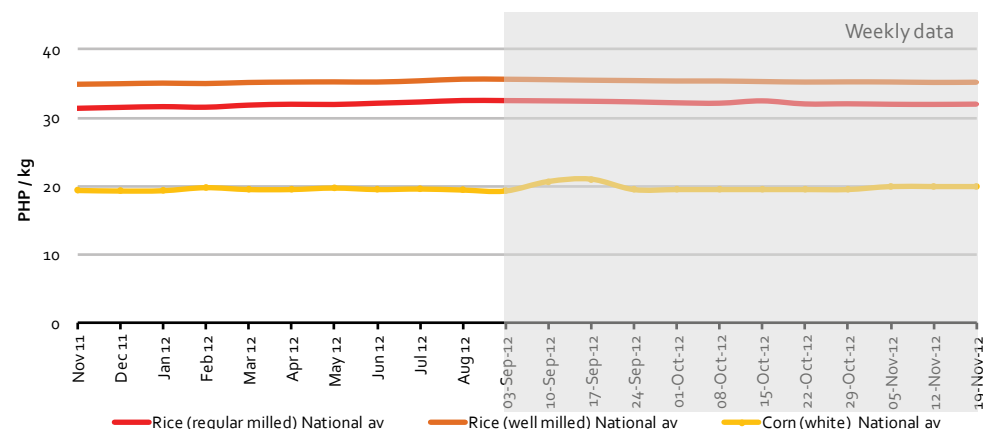


PHILIPPINES, National average and Metro Manila (25 November 2012)

Retail nominal prices

Country Highlights

Staple food prices in the Philippines have remained largely stable since early 2011.



Week of 26-Nov-12

% change

Food item	Market	Price (PHP/kg)	1 week	1 month	3 months	1 year
Rice (regular milled)*	National av	32.0	0.1%	0.0%	-1.5%	1.8%
Rice (well milled)*	National av	35.2	0.1%	-0.1%	-1.2%	0.8%
Corn (white)*	National av	20.0	0.0%	1.0%	-0.6%	3.1%
Rice (regular milled)	Metro Manila	30.0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Rice (well milled)	Metro Manila	35.0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

↑increase ↓decrease → stable (+/- 5% in a weekly basis), (+/- 10 % in a monthly basis), and (+/- 25% in an annual basis)

*Most recent price data available from 19-Nov-2012

Policy+

The National Food Authority (NFA) announced to aggressively buy palay from local farmers. The target is 13.4 million rice bags. The NFA is taking necessary steps to encourage more farmers to sell their produce by implementing new procurement strategies, such as lending empty sacks to farmer organizations using their Cooperative Development Incentive Fund (CDIF); coordinating with the Municipal Agriculture Office (MAO) and surveying areas where harvesting is on-going; and deploying mobile procurement teams especially in areas where ex-farm prices are low (Official Gazette, 22 November 2012).

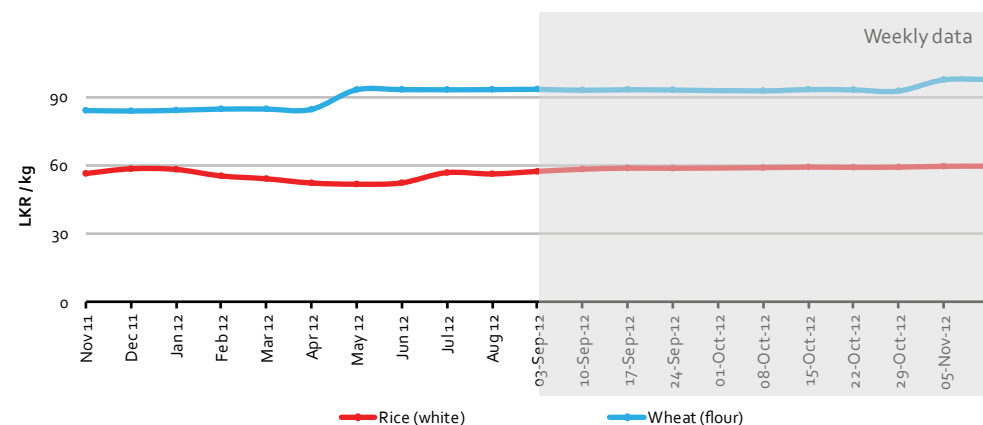


SRI-LANKA, Colombo (12 November 2012)

Retail nominal prices

Country Highlights

Staple food prices in Colombo markets were relatively stable in mid-November.



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Week of 12-Nov-12

% change

Food item	Market	Price (LKR/kg)	1 week	1 month	3 months	1 year
Rice (white)	Colombo	59.7	0.1%	0.6%	4.7%	4.2%
Wheat flour	Colombo	97.9	0.3%	3.9%	4.8%	16.5%

↑increase ↓decrease → stable (+/-5%in a weekly basis),(+/-10 %in a monthly basis), and (+/-25%in an annual basis)

Policy+

NA

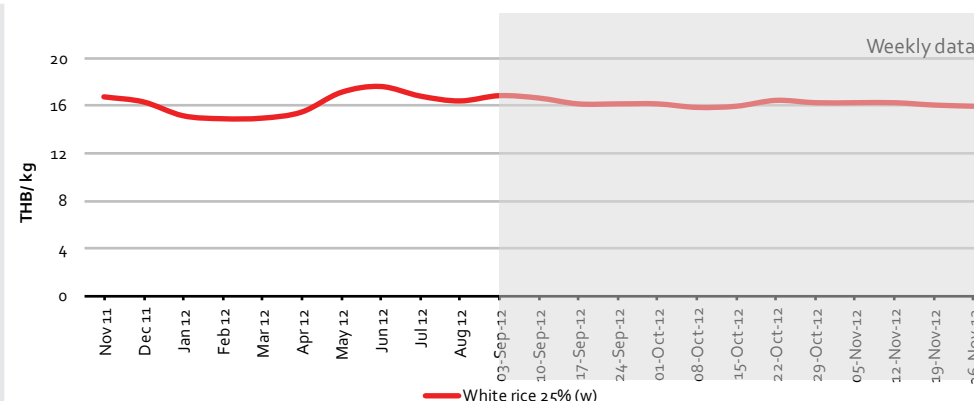


THAILAND, Bangkok (25 November 2012)

Retail nominal prices

Country Highlights

Overall, staple food prices in Bangkok have remained largely stable over the past week.



Week of 26-Nov-12

% change

Food item	Market	Price (THB/kg)	1 week	1 month	3 months	1 year
White rice 25% (w)	Bangkok	16.0	-0.6%	-1.5%	-3.0%	-2.9%
Chicken	Bangkok	63.5	0.0%	2.0%	7.6%	-23.0%
Pork tenderloin	Bangkok	122.5	0.0%	0.0%	-3.9%	-8.8%
Soybean oil (Baht/ltr)	Bangkok	55.0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

↑ increase ↓ decrease → stable (+/- 5% in a weekly basis), (+/- 10 % in a monthly basis), and (+/- 25% in an annual basis)

Policy+

Measures to regulate 2013 maize imports have been approved: (i) Zero tariff rate for imports under ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA) and under contract farming from any country entitled to Ayeyarwady-Chao Phraya- Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy (ACMECS); (ii) Annual import quota of 54,700 tonnes allowed under WTO agreement; (iii) Zero tariff rate for imports under Thailand-New Zealand Closer Economic Partnership Agreement (TNZCEP) without restrictions on import quota; (iv) Annual import quota of 8,081 tonnes allowed under Thailand-Australia Free Trade Area (TAFTA) (USDA Gain Report, 8 November 2012).

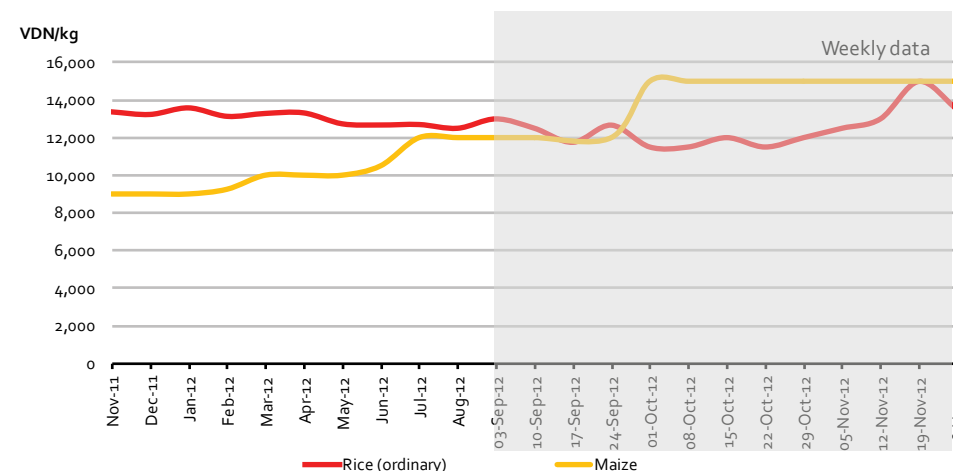


VIET NAM, Hanoi (25 November 2012)

Retail nominal prices

Country Highlights

- Maize prices in Hanoi were relatively stable over the past week.
- Rice prices fell by 10 percent over the past week when prices reached a record high in 2012 (VND 15,000), up 67 percent from a year earlier.
- Pork prices increased by 5 percent from the previous week and were 18 and 24 percent above the levels observed one and three months earlier, respectively.



Week of 26-Nov-12

% change

Food item	Market	Price (VND/kg)	1 week	1 month	3 months	1 year
Rice ordinary	Hanoi	13,500	-10.0%	2.9%	8.2%	2.0%
Maize	Hanoi	15,000	0.0%	0.0%	25.0%	66.7%
Pork	Hanoi	60,000	5.3%	18.2%	23.7%	1.3%

↑increase ↓decrease → stable (+/- 5% in a weekly basis), (+/- 10 % in a monthly basis), and (+/- 25% in an annual basis)

Policy+

The new 2020 import-export strategy has been approved, foreseen the balanced trade achieved by 2020 and the trade surplus by 2021-2030 period. The export strategy focuses on four product categories: (i) fuel and minerals, (ii) agriculture, forest and seafood, (iii) processed and manufactured industrial products, and (iv) new products. Imports will be closely monitored reduce trade deficit in the long run, and strengthen environmentally friendly and energy saving high technology and machinery's imports (Ministry of planning and Social portal, 29 November 2012).

Disclaimer and Acknowledgements

The Asia Pacific Weekly Price Monitor is prepared with information from official and non-official sources by the Economic, Social and Policy Assistance Group (ESP).

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I sincerely hope this weekly report is useful and meets your expectations.

*Yours sincerely,
Hiroyuki Konuma
Assistant Director-General and
Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific*