



Asia Pacific Weekly Price Monitor
Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific

10 May 2013



Policy

The amendments of National Food Security Bill in **India** submitted on 6 May 2013 the Lok Sabha (Parliament) could not be passed in the current parliamentary session as Parliament was adjourned "sine die" on Wednesday 8 May 2013. The National Food Security Bill was enacted in 2009 shifting from a welfare-based to a rights-based approach. It was firstly introduced to the Lok Sabha on late 2011 and referred to a multidisciplinary Standing Committee whose recommendations were submitted in early 2013. In a nutshell, the amendments are related to topics such as coverage (state wise) and entitlement under the Targeted Public Distribution System, subsidized prices and cost of food transportation and distribution and the maternity benefit (Press Information Bureau, 2 May 2013).

For the first time in 40 years the **Philippines** resumed rice exports by signing an export contract of 35 tonnes of aromatic, long-grain, and organic black rice with United Arab Emirates. Other additional 80 tonnes of aromatic and heirloom rice varieties are expected to be exported in the next months (Official Gazette 7 May 2013).

Prices

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

During March, both corn and dalo prices in **Fiji** were 5 and 10 above those observed in February 2013.

Weather conditions

The **Government of Marshal Islands** declared a state of emergency for the northern region on 19 April 2013 due to a prolonged dry season and severe drought experienced in Wotje and the atolls north of Majuro. The severe drought conditions may have affected drinking water supplies, rainwater catchment storage, salinity of groundwater and agriculture/food production on the atoll islands requiring immediate as well as long-term response measures (OCHA, 1 May 2013).

OCHA's precipitation forecast for this week predict above average levels of precipitation in the southern **Philippines**, as well as Borneo, Sulawesi, and Papua islands of **Indonesia**. Less than average rainfall is forecast throughout most of the South Pacific (OCHA, 6 May 2013).

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 are 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

10 May 2013





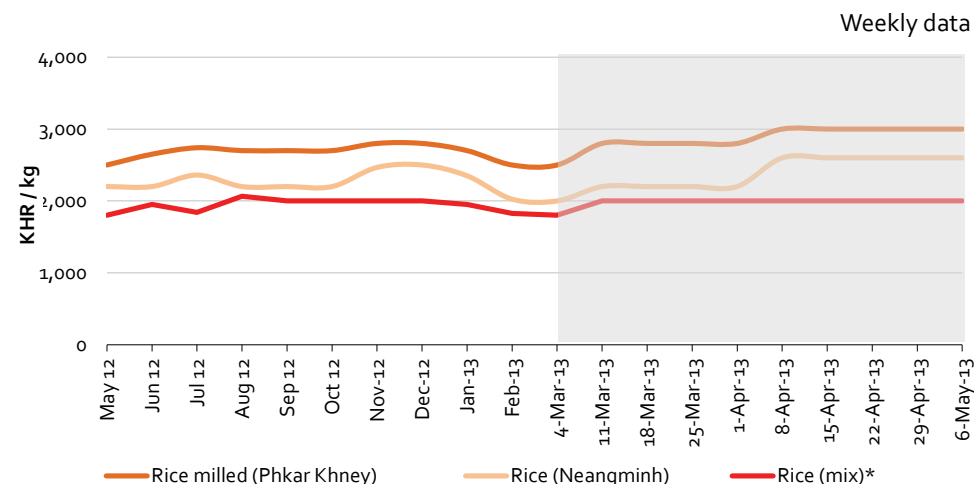
CAMBODIA, Phnom Penh (6 May 2013)

Retail nominal prices

Country Highlights

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

- Rice prices for mixed varieties, Phkar Khney and Neangmingh, however, were 11, 20 and 30 percent above those observed three months ago, respectively.
- Chicken prices were 11 and 12 percent lower than those observed a month and three months ago.



Week of 6-May-13

% 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%	11.1%	11.1%
Rice (Phkar Khney)	Phnom Pehn	3,000	0.0%	0.0%	20.0%	20.0%
Rice (Neangmingh)	Phnom Pehn	2,600	0.0%	0.0%	30.0%	18.2%
Chicken	Phnom Pehn	21,000	-4.5%	-10.6%	-11.6%	-4.5%
Soybean oil	Phnom Pehn	6,000	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	-7.7%

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

Policy+

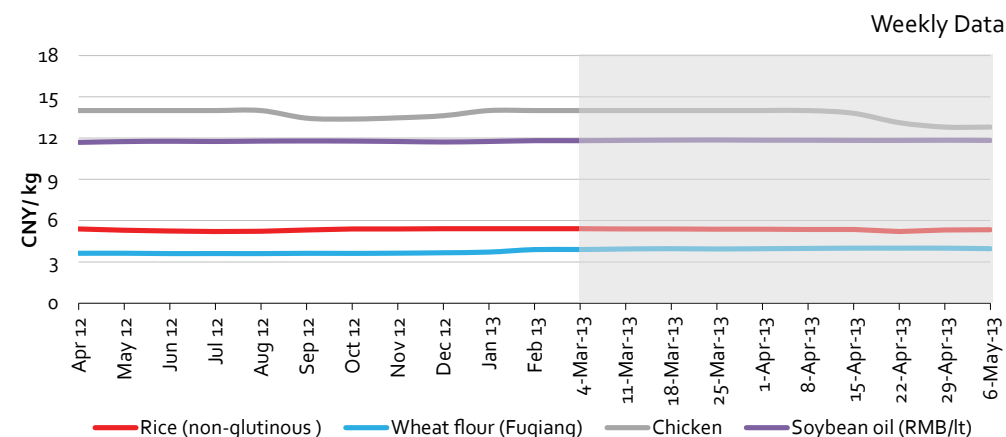
During the fourth meeting of the Joint Trade Commission (JTC), Thailand and Cambodia agreed to strengthen cooperation on trade and investment, particularly in expanding crop production (The Nation, 29 April 2013).



CHINA, Beijing (6 May 2013)
Retail and wholesale nominal prices

Country Highlights

Staple food prices in Beijing markets have remained relatively stable over the past week and since a year earlier.



Week of 6-May-13

% change

Food item	Market	Price (RMB/kg)	1 week	1 month	3 months	1 year
Non-Glutinous Rice	Beijing	5.3	0.4%	0.6%	-1.4%	0.8%
Fuqiang Wheat Flour	Beijing	4.0	-1.0%	-0.9%	1.5%	9.1%
Chicken (w)	Beijing	12.8	0.0%	-4.7%	-8.6%	-8.6%
Soybean oil RMB/lt	Beijing	11.8	-0.1%	-0.1%	0.1%	0.7%

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China's Cabinet announced detailed plans for deepening market-oriented economic reform, among them: (i) the national pricing system for electricity, water, gas and leaving fees will be determined more by the market; and (ii) the agriculture sector will be modernized through a reinforced system of registering and certifying landed property (Xinhua, 6 May 2013).



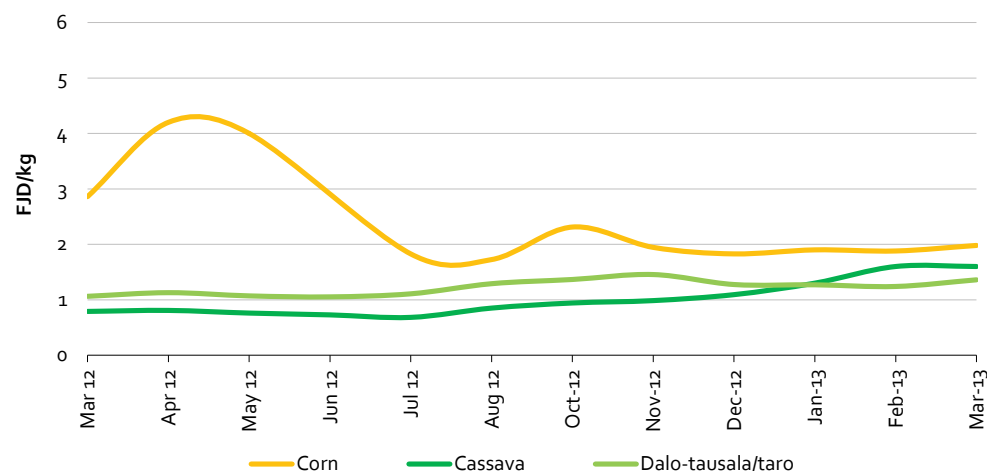
Fiji, National Average (March 2013)

Retail nominal prices

Country Highlights

Monthly prices for staple food in Fijian markets have been slightly volatile during March, reflecting a slow recovery from the damage experienced in December 2012 after the Cyclone Evan.

- Corn and dalo prices were 5 and 10 percent above those observed in February 2013. in comparison to the prices observed a year ago, corn prices were 44 higher while dalo prices were 22 lower.
- Cassava prices show a downward trend as prices were half



Month of Mar-13

% change

Food item	Market	Price (FJD/kg)	1 month	3 months	1 year
Corn	National av	2.0	5.3%	-7.7%	44.4%
Cassava	National av	1.6	0.0%	-31.7%	-50.6%
Dalo-kausala taro	National av	1.4	9.7%	-6.3%	-21.9%

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

Policy+

According to a media report, recent estimates on the total cost of Cyclone Evan (2012) amount to USD 108 million, equal to about 2.6 percent of its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) (Radio New Zealand, 24 April 2013).

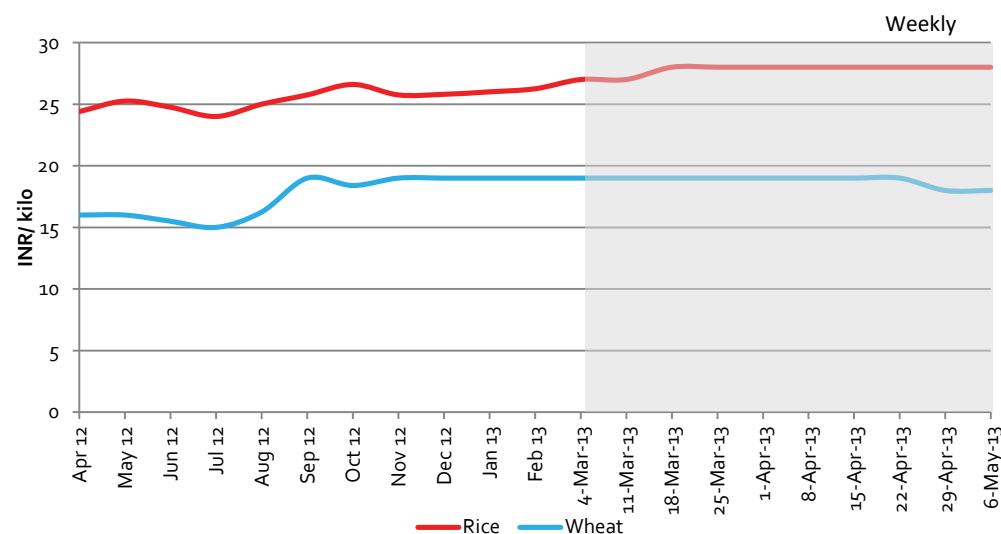


INDIA, Delhi (6 May 2013)

Retail nominal prices

Country Highlights

Staple food prices in Delhi markets have remained relatively stable over the past week and since a year earlier.



Week of 6-May-13

% change

Food item	Market	Price (INR/kg)	1 week	1 month	3 months	1 year
Rice	New Delhi	28.0	0.0%	0.0%	5.7%	10.9%
Wheat	New Delhi	18.0	0.0%	-4.0%	-5.3%	12.5%

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Policy+

The amendments of National Food Security Bill in India submitted on 6 May 2013 the Lok Sabha (Parliament) could not be passed in the current parliamentary session as Parliament was adjourned sine die on Wednesday 8 May 2013 (Press Information Bureau, 2 May 2013).

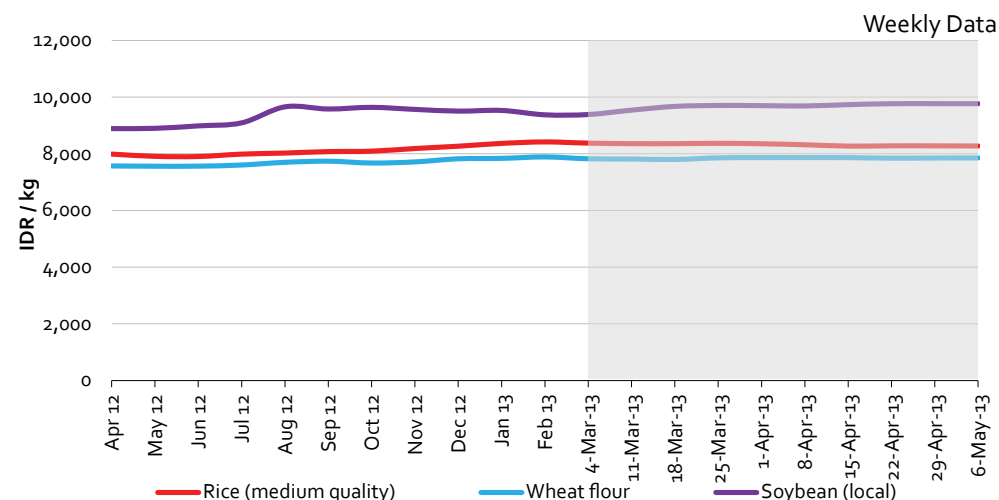


INDONESIA, National Average (6 May 2013)

Retail nominal prices

Country Highlights

Staple food prices in Indonesian markets have remained relatively stable over the past week and over the past year.



Week of 6-May-13

% change

Food item	Market	Price (IDR/kg)	1 week	1 month	3 months	1 year
Rice (medium quality)	National av	8,275	-0.1%	-0.2%	-1.6%	4.6%
Wheat flour	National av	7,855	0.0%	0.0%	-0.5%	3.9%
Chicken	National av	25,080	-0.8%	-1.3%	-3.3%	2.8%
Soybean (local)	National av	9,768	0.0%	0.3%	4.1%	9.8%

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Policy+

The monthly consumer price index (CPI) declined by 0.1 percent compared to a month earlier, thanks to a fall in food prices due to the harvest season. The deflation was mainly driven by a drop in the price of food and clothes, by 0.8 percent and 1.13 percent, respectively. Among the food commodities with declining prices during the month were rice, garlic, shallots, rice and tomatoes (Central Statistics Agency and The Jakarta Post, 2 May 2013).

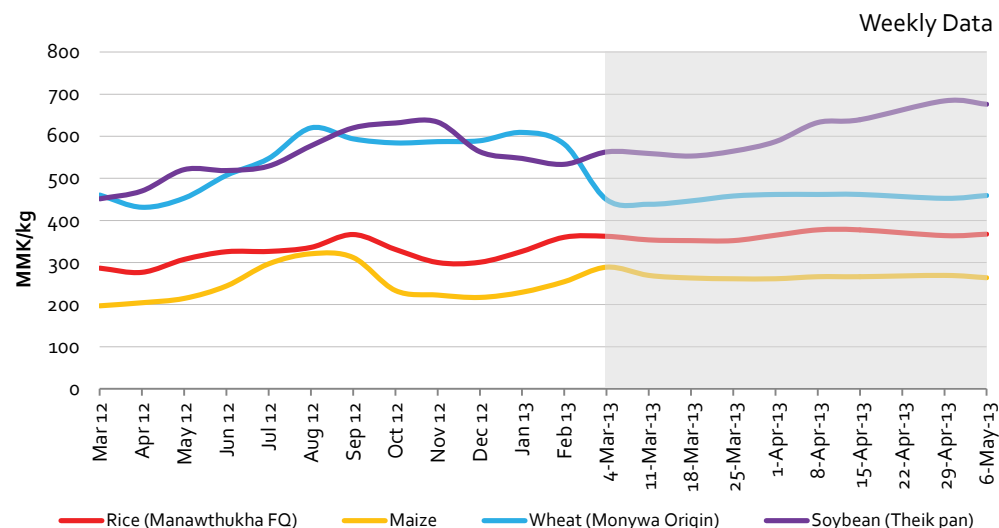


MYANMAR, Yangon and Mandalay (6 May 2013)
Wholesale nominal prices

Country Highlights

Staple food prices in Yangon and Mandalay markets were relatively stable over the past week, except for:

- Wheat prices, which were 16 percent below the prices registered three months ago.
- Soybean prices, which were 25 and 30 percent higher than those observed three months and a year earlier.



Week of 6-May-13

% change

Food item	Market	Price (MMK/kg)	1 week	1 month	3 months	1 year
Rice (Manawthukha FQ)	Yangon	367	0.9%	-1.5%	1.9%	19.5%
Wheat (Monywa Origin)	Mandalay	459	1.5%	0.1%	-16.2%	1.4%
Maize	Mandalay	264	-2.0%	-1.3%	0.3%	22.9%
Groundnut oil (Special)	Yangon	2,449	0.0%	2.3%	4.6%	2.5%
Soybean (Theik pan)	Yangon	676	-1.2%	3.7%	25.0%	29.8%
Palm oil	Mandalay	868	-0.5%	-0.6%	-0.2%	-24.0%

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Policy+

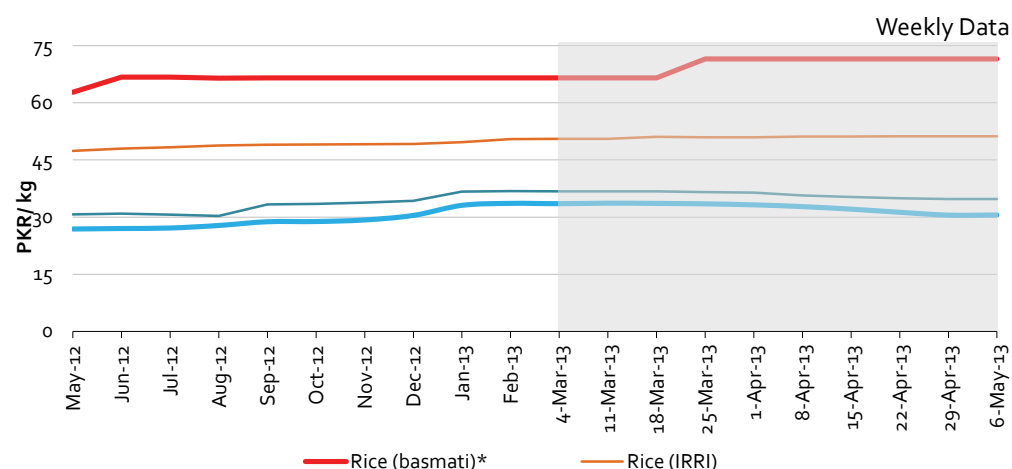
NA



PAKISTAN, Karachi (6 May 2013)
Retail nominal prices

Country Highlights

Staple food prices in Karachi market remained stable during the previous week and throughout 2013.



Week of 6-May-13

% change

Food item	Market	Price (PKR/kg)	1 week	1 month	3 months	1 year
Rice (basmati)	Karachi	71.5	0.0%	0.0%	7.5%	13.9%
Rice (IRRI)	Karachi	51.2	0.0%	0.1%	1.5%	8.2%
Wheat	Karachi	30.6	0.1%	-3.5%	-9.0%	13.7%
Wheat flour	Karachi	34.8	0.1%	-1.1%	-5.7%	13.1%

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The Government of Pakistan set a wheat procurement target of 7.91 million tonnes for the current marketing year 2013/14. The Government also allocated PKR 244.6 billion (USD 2.48 billion) in guarantees for Pakistan Agricultural Storage and Services Corporation (PASSCO) and the provincial food departments to ensure food procurement (USDA Report, 26 April 2013).

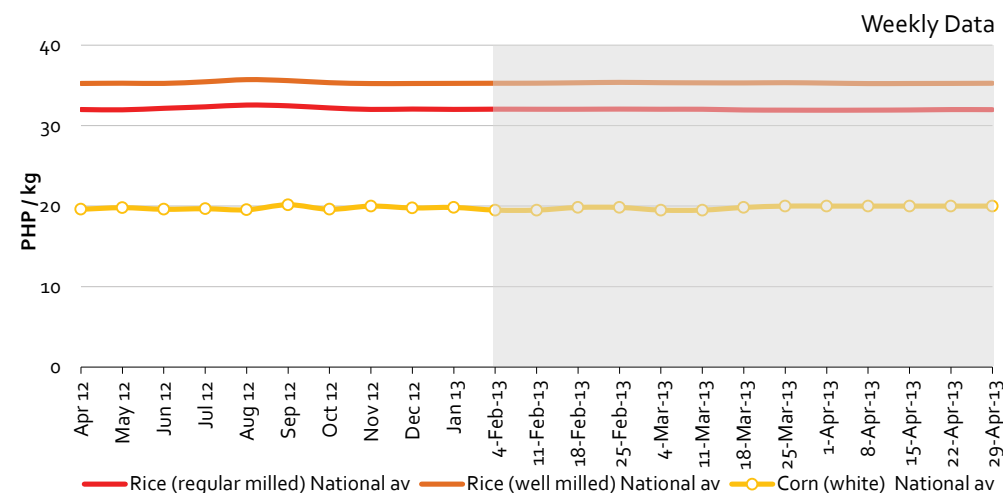


Country Highlights

Staple food prices in the Philippines have remained largely stable since early 2013.

PHILIPPINES, National average and Metro Manila (6 May 2013)

Retail nominal prices



Week of 6-May-13

% change

Food item	Market	Price (PHP/kg)	1 week	1 month	3 months	1 year
Rice (regular milled)*	National av	32.0	-0.2%	0.1%	-0.2%	0.1%
Rice (well milled)*	National av	35.3	-0.1%	0.0%	-0.1%	-0.1%
Corn (white)*	National av	20.0	2.6%	0.0%	1.7%	1.4%
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% on a weekly basis), (+/-10 % on a monthly basis), and (+/-25% on an annual basis)

* Most recent price data available from 29 April 2013

Policy+

NA



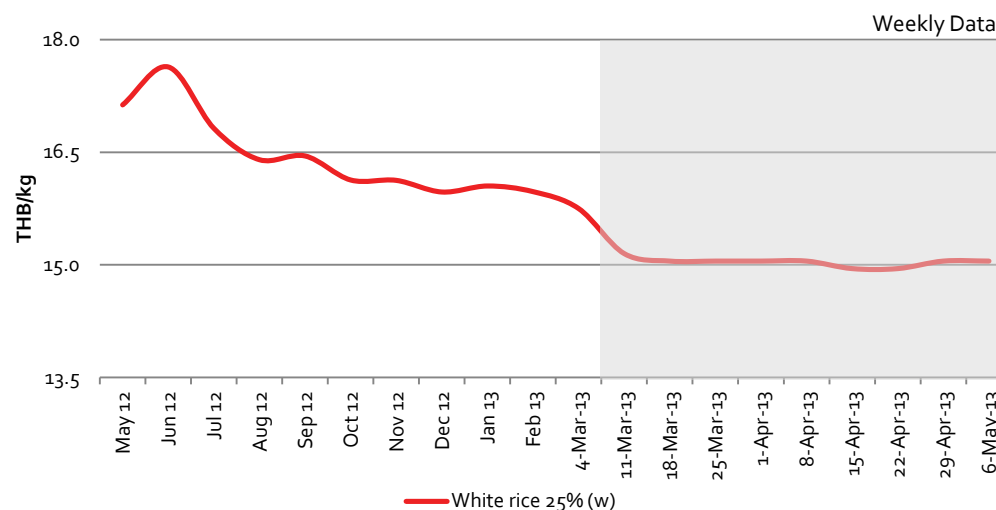
THAILAND, Bangkok (6 May 2013)

Nominal prices

Country Highlights

Overall, staple food prices in Bangkok have remained largely stable during the previous week.

- Chicken prices were 10 percent above those observed three months ago.



Week of 6-May-13

% change

Food item	Market	Price (THB/kg)	1 week	1 month	3 months	1 year
White rice 25% (w)	Bangkok	15.1	0.0%	0.3%	-5.3%	-12.1%
Chicken	Bangkok	69.0	0.0%	1.1%	10.4%	10.4%
Pork tenderloin	Bangkok	132.5	-3.6%	-3.6%	-4.5%	-2.3%
Soybean oil (Baht/ltr)	Bangkok	55.0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

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

Retail nominal prices, except for (w), which means wholesale nominal prices.

Policy+

NA

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).

Conditions can change rapidly and information may not always represent the current food price situation as of the present date. As policy information is based on official and non-official sources, not all of them should be taken as official government position. The designations employed and the presentation of material in this report do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The support of FAO Country Offices and FAO's Food and Agriculture Policy Decision Analysis (FAPDA) are gratefully acknowledged for their contributions.

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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