



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations

# Agricultural Inputs and Commodity Price Bulletin *in the Syrian Arab Republic*

June 2022– Issue #6



## Background

Agriculture, including crop and animal husbandry, forestry, fisheries and agro-processing, post-harvest handling and marketing, provides livelihood for most smallholder farmers in the Syrian Arab Republic. The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in Syria works on strengthening value chains and food systems by building technical and productive capacity of stakeholders, mainly farmers, expanding their knowledge and understanding of the local situation by sharing reports that aimed to make agricultural production more sustainable, gender sensitive, market-driven and climate smart. The Organization in Syria releases the “**Monthly Agriculture Input and Commodity Price Bulletin - AICPB**”, which provides timely insights from 35 districts across Homs, Hama, Aleppo, Tartous, Deir-ez-Zor, Rural Damascus, Al-Hasakeh and Dar’a governorates. The purpose of the bulletin is to inform relevant stakeholders, including the Food Security and Agriculture (FSA) partners supporting agricultural and food security interventions in the country, about the prevailing price trends of agricultural inputs and commodities. The bulletin is a periodic resource as markets and market information play an important role in enhancing food security, income generation, resilience and rural-urban market linkages. Regular dissemination of market information benefits smallholder farmers in their market-oriented production endeavour.

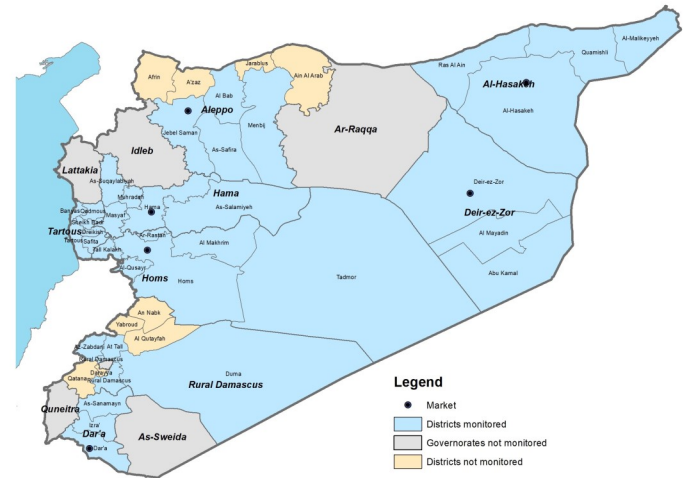


Figure 1: Markets monitored by FAO country office on a monthly basis.

Source: UN – OCHA February 2021.

## Key Highlights

Farmers continued harvesting their wheat and barley crop across all governorates. The cost of harvesting for the current production season witnessed a significant increase between 75 to 100 percent year on year (y-o-y). This could be attributed to fuel shortages, and the increase in the average daily wage rate. These factors continue to constrain wheat production in Syria and this is affecting smallholder farmers who rely on wheat production as a source of livelihoods.

During this reporting period, fruits prices witnessed a general increase due to the low amount of production. The crisis is the main reason behind reduce fruit production output.

Since most fruit plantations in Ghuta went out of the production when the conflict started in Syria. The affected fruit plantation need at least 4-5 years to regenerate and reach previous production levels. Fruit export has also contributed to the recent increase in the prices of various fruits, coupled with the high transportation cost.

Fuel shortages continue to persist in most governorates and this presents challenges to farmers who rely on fuel for irrigation during the summer season and transportation of their produce to the market. The fuel shortages are putting financial pressure on farmers since this is having knock-on effects on overall production costs.

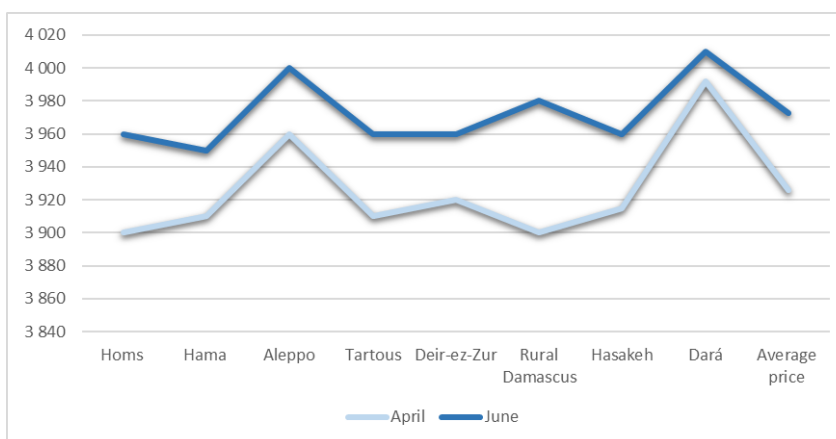
## Exchange Rate

The Syrian Pound (SYP) remained weak in the informal exchange rate market at 3 973 SYP/USD 1 in June 2022 (1 percent increase m-o-m). The continued weakened domestic currency and the resulting impact on supply chain, exacerbated by the prevailing economic crisis and continued sanctions, resulted in the constant increase of agricultural inputs prices. This is further limiting access to critical agriculture inputs for most vulnerable farmers. Despite the informal exchange rate increasing slightly and remaining generally high as above, the official exchange rate was at 2 814 SYP/USD in June 2022. The FAO market bulletin monitors prices in the official local currency and does not specifically analyse the changes in prices in other foreign currencies.

Trends of unofficial exchange rate for the last two months (SYP/USD)									
	Homs	Hama	Aleppo	Tartous	Deir-ez-Zur	Rural Damascus	Hasakeh	Dará	Average price
April	3 900	3 910	3 960	3 910	3 920	3 900	3 915	3 992	3 926
June	3 960	3 950	4 000	3 960	3 960	3 980	3 960	4 010	3 973

Source: Monthly survey conducted by FAO field staff

Note: The exchange rate was 50 SYP/USD before the crisis in 2012.



## Agricultural Inputs

### Crops and Vegetables Seeds

Similar to May 2022, summer crop seeds were available in all monitored markets except for cottonseeds that were available only in Aleppo, Rural Damascus and Deir-ez-Zor governorates. In June 2022, the price of local seed for eggplants increased 7 percent m-o-m, reaching 35 360 SYP per kg. The local seed for eggplants were generally available in most of the monitored governorates. A diversity of vegetable seeds were generally available across most of the monitored governorates and the prices remained relatively constant since May 2022.

One of the important objectives of the agricultural policy after the protracted crisis is to stabilize prices and thus incomes of agricultural producers to mitigate the risks of market volatility and price fluctuations on farmers, especially small holder farmers. Generally, it is anticipated that the provisions within the above-mentioned policy will continue to enhance the sustainability and viability of agricultural production, though the prevailing economic crisis remains a significant threat.



#### Bean seeds SYP/kg

1M: -4    LM: 15 399  
6M: -12    1Y: 114



#### Maize seeds SYP/kg

1M: 3    LM: 12 682  
6M: 26    1Y: 75



#### Tomato hybrid seeds SYP/1000 seeds

1M: 1    LM: 148 350  
6M: -18    1Y: 7



#### Cucumbers Local Seeds SYP/kg

1M: 25    LM: 55 150  
6M: 509    1Y: 229

Y1: % Current Month Vs. Same Month Previous year in LM

6M: % Current Month Vs. 6 Months Before in LM

1M: % Current Month Vs. Previous Month in LM

LM: The price in Local Market in SYP

## Agro-chemicals

Pesticides and fertilizers were available across all the monitored markets in June 2022. The prices for both remained relatively constant since May 2022. The prices are still very expensive, and farmers are finding it extremely difficult to cover their needs continually.

FAO's vision for sustainable food and agriculture is that food should be safe, nutritious and accessible to everyone and that natural resources should be managed in a way that maintains ecosystem functions to support current and future human needs. As sector partners continue to bolster sustainability of agricultural production, to achieve higher production while conserving resources, it is fundamental to reduce any negative impact on the environment through appropriate use of agro chemicals. Sector partners are encouraged to continue supporting vulnerable and resource constrained farmers with interventions that improve access to quality and critical inputs to support local food production, coupled with relevant agricultural training on integrated pest management (IPM) including integrated weed management (IWM). IPM, as a cost-saving measures will likely cushion farmers against market-related shocks and ensure that farmers rely less on synthetic or inorganic agro-chemicals.

Items		Unit	Rural Damascus	Homs	Hama	Aleppo	Deir-ez-Zur	Tartous	Hasakeh	Dará	Average price	
Fertilizer	Top dressing	Urea (Agriculture Bank)	bag(50 kg)	75 000			69 000	71 250		94 250	78 167	
		Urea (Granular) Local Market	bag(50 kg)	110 000	180 000	180 000	175 000	180 000	180 000	158 000	180 000	174 600
		Nitrate (Liquid) (Local Market)	Litre	14 000	6 200	6 200	12 000	9 667	6 200	10 000	12 500	10 073
	Basal	Phosphate fertilizers (Agriculture Bank)	bag(50 kg)	50 000			62 000	60 000			45 000	55 667
		Phosphate fertilizers (Local Market)	bag(50 kg)	90 000	91 000	91 900	70 000	80 667	91 700	135 000	77 000	90 873
		NPK (Local Market)	kg	9 500	13 000	13 900	8 825	10 000	13 700	12 625	10 000	11 030
Pesticides	Insecticide	<b>(Dusts Granules Wettable powders)</b>										
		Phthomel	kg	110 300			239 700	187 333		60 000	110 000	119 111
		Acetamiprid	kg	106 700	96 000	96 900	107 000	84 333	96 700	60 250	78 000	79 821
		<b>(Liquids)</b>										
		Dimethoate	lt	65 065	56 000	56 900	65 200	37 333	56 700	47 500	63 000	55 962
		Delta Methrin	lt	70 180	55 000	55 900	70 350	85 000	55 700	60 500	68 000	65 079
	Fungicide	<b>(Dusts Granules or Wettable powders)</b>										
		Thiophanate-methyl	kg	85 800	59 000	59 900	86 000	45 000	59 700	47 750	88 000	66 394
		Trifloxystrobin	kg	72 860	49 000	49 900	511 600	240 000	49 700	205 000		164 900
		<b>(Liquids)</b>										
		Propamocarb Hydrochloride	Litre	62 480	71 000	71 900	62 600	44 333	71 700	69 250	65 000	64 783
	Herbicide	<b>(Dusts Granules or Wettable powders)</b>										
		sulfonyl urea	kg	34 125	117 000	117 900	44 000	163 333	117 700	148 333	720 000	182 799
		Glyphosate Equivalent	kg	50 610	71 000	71 900	61 000	40 667	71 700	46 667		53 011
<b>(Liquids)</b>												
glyphosate		Litre	39 725	59 000	59 900	40 000	36 000	59 700	39 000	38 000	46 416	
Haloxypop-R-methyl		Litre	68 970	53 000	53 900	69 000	65 333	53 700	75 500	66 000	63 175	
Trifluralin	Litre	50 930	49 000	49 900	51 000	36 667	49 700	37 500	52 000	47 087		

## Livestock feed

Livestock feed was available across the monitored markets except soybean meal which was available only in Rural Damascus, Dará and Aleppo governorates. Barley grain and cattle feed witnessed a slight increase in the average price (7 percent m-o-m). Wheat bran, wheat straw, other crop residues and poultry feed for egg production, witnessed a slight decrease (8, 6, 5 and 6 percent m-o-m respectively). The prices dropped slightly to 1 124 SYP per kg for wheat bran, 570 SYP per kg for wheat straw, 891 SYP per kg for crop residues and 2 527 SYP per kg for poultry feed. This decrease could be due to increased supply following the commencement of the harvesting season.



### Barley grain

1M: 6      LM:1 823  
6M: 38      1Y: 22

SYP/kg



### Maize

1M: 7      LM:2 161  
6M: 63      1Y: 42

SYP/kg



### Cottonseed meal

1M: 2      LM:2 458  
6M: 49      1Y: 67

SYP/kg



### wheat bran

1M: -8      LM:1 124  
6M: 14      1Y: 4

SYP/kg



### Poultry feed for Egg production

1M: 7      LM:2 527  
6M: 39      1Y: 30

SYP/kg



### Crop residues

1M: -5      LM:891  
6M: 32      1Y: 15

SYP/kg



### Soybean meal

1M: 0      LM:2 900  
6M: 53      1Y: 60

SYP/kg



### Poultry feed for Meat production

1M: 4      LM:3 321  
6M: 53      1Y: 39

SYP/kg



### Cattle feed

1M: 7      LM:1 943  
6M: 38      1Y: 21

SYP/kg



### wheat straw

1M: -6      LM:569  
6M: 35      1Y: 4

SYP/kg

1M: % Current Month Vs. Same Month Previous year in LM

LM: The price in Local Market in SYP

1Y: % Current Month Vs. Previous year in LM

6M: % Current Month Vs. 6 Months Before in LM

## Live Animal



### Sheep SYP/kg

1M: 5      LM:12 884  
3M: 4      1Y: N/A



### Sheep female SYP/Head

1M:-3      LM:416 151  
3M: 6      1Y: N/A



### Dairy Cow SYP/Head

1M: 1      LM:4 363 958  
3M: -1      1Y: N/A



### Calf SYP/Kg

1M: 8      LM:12 120  
3M: 3      1Y: N/A

1M: % Current Month Vs. Same Month Previous Month in LM

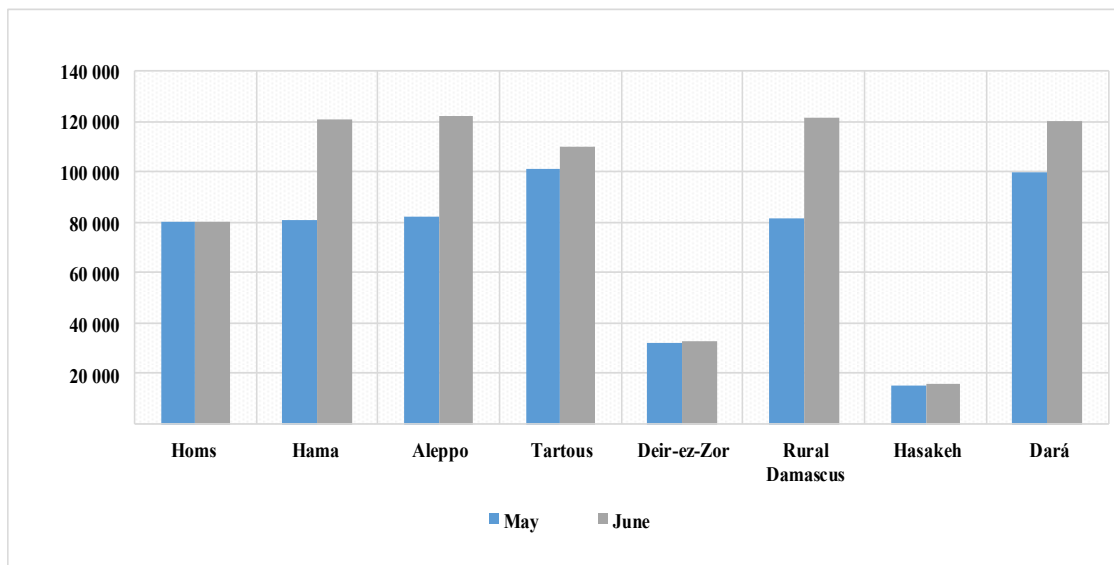
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## Diesel Fuel (20 liters)

The average selling price of diesel increased significantly (26 percent m-o-m) in local markets, reaching 90 408 SYP per 20 liters in June 2022. A significant increase in the price of fuel (49 percent m-o-m) was observed in Hama, Aleppo and Rural Damascus. Dará recorded a 20 percent m-o-m increase in fuel prices in the local markets. Fuel shortages continue to persist in most governorates and this continues to present challenges to farmers who rely on fuel for supplementary irrigation and other field operations during the current summer season. The amount of subsidized fuel covers only 20% of the need for farmers, and the significant lack of electricity has pushed farmers to look for alternative power sources to cover this energy gap. Farmers with the adequate financial resources have adopted these measures to sustain agriculture production, especially in farms located in returnee locations. However, vulnerable smallholder farmers have limited financial resources to explore such alternatives.



## Food Items

In June 2022, the average price of sheep milk witnessed a significant increase (39 percent m-o-m), while the price of cow milk witnessed a moderate increase (16 percent m-o-m). This increase could be attributed to the increase in demand versus the high production costs in the dairy value chain production segment. In addition, the price of potato and fish from freshwater witnessed a significant increase (49 and 26 percent m-o-m respectively). The increase in demand, limited production and high transportation cost for the aforementioned commodities would justify the increase in the mentioned prices. For tomato, the price observed a slight increase (8 percent m-o-m), reaching 2 805 SYP per kg. In contrast, the price of eggplant witnessed a significant decrease (32 percent m-o-m). This could be attributed to increased availability in the supply chain due to protected (i.e. greenhouse) vegetable production during the summer season. For sheep meat, the price witnessed a moderate decrease (13 percent m-o-m), while for flour, rice, eggs, chicken meat, marine fish, olive oil, and sunflower oil, the prices remained relatively constant since May 2022.

1M: % Current Month Vs. Same Month Previous Month in LM

LM: The price in Local Market in SYP

Y1: % Current Month Vs. Previous year in LM

6M: % Current Month Vs. 6 Months Before in LM

Items	M-O-M
Eggplant	↓ -32%
Sheep Meat	↓ -13%
Sugar	↓ -12%
Cow Meat (Calf)	↓ -9%
Eggs crate	↓ -7%
Olive oil	↓ -6%
Fish Meat /Sea	↓ -5%
Chicken Meat	↓ -4%
Bread	↓ -1%
Sunflower oil	↓ -1%
Rice	↑ 1%
Flour	↑ 7%
Tomatoes	↑ 8%
Cow Milk	↑ 16%
Fish Meat /Rivers	↑ 26%
Sheep Milk	↑ 39%
Potatoes	↑ 49%

### Bread



SYP/kg

1M: -1 LM:257  
6M: 0 1Y: 0

### Rice



SYP/kg

1M: 1 LM:3 836  
6M: 23 1Y: 16

### Chicken Meat



SYP/kg

1M: -4 LM:8 750  
6M: 14 1Y: 2

### Sunflower oil



SYP/kg

1M: -1 LM:14 293  
6M: 77 1Y: 46

### Flour



SYP/kg

1M: 7 LM:3 231  
6M: 68 1Y: 44

### Egg



SYP/(1800—2000)g

1M: -7 LM:10 651  
6M: 13 1Y: 5

### Cow Meat



SYP/kg

1M: -9 LM:22 279  
6M: 8 1Y: 3

### Tomato



SYP/kg

1M: 8 LM:2 805  
6M: 165 1Y: 66

### Sugar



SYP/kg

1M: -12 LM:3 488  
6M: 41 1Y: 21

### Cow milk



SYP/litre

1M:16 LM:2 318  
6M: 62 1Y: 43

### Sheep Meat



SYP/kg

1M: -3 LM:27 352  
6M: 7 1Y: 19

### Eggplant



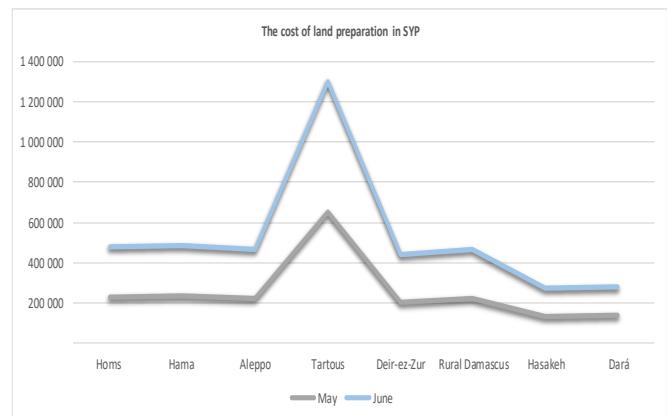
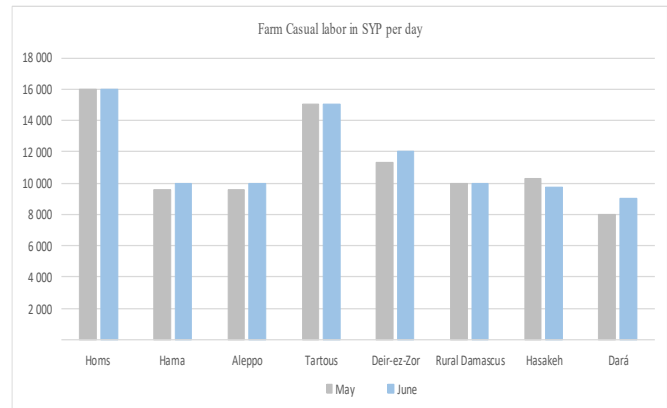
SYP/kg

1M: -32 LM:1 027  
6M: -10 1Y: -33

## Other Factors

In June 2022, the average daily wage rate increased slightly (9 percent m-o-m). Subsequently, the prevailing high labour rate continues to drive the overall agriculture production costs upward.

The average cost of land preparation (i.e. ploughing and leveling) increased slightly in June 2022 and the average cost of land preparation (Ploughing and leveling) for one hectare recorded is 269 790 SYP, though this may vary slightly by location. The prevailing fuel shortages, mainly diesel, and economic sanctions on Syria are adversely affecting the capacity of farmers to efficiently use and adopt mechanization in agriculture and this continues to compromise farm worker productivity and agriculture output.



### DISCLAIMER

The information in this bulletin comes from monthly market monitoring surveys conducted informally by FAO field staff. While FAO Syria strives to provide accurate and timely market information, there may be slight unintended technical or factual inaccuracies. Decisions based on information contained herein are the sole responsibility of the reader. All changes in market prices for the monitored agriculture inputs and commodities are in local Syrian currency (SYP). For further insights and analysis on food commodities, WFP also issues regular Market Price Bulletins for Syria and these can be found on the official Syria Food Security Cluster (FSC) website.

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