

VOL 3/2020

FARM GATE AND MARKET PRICES OF SELECTED COMMODITIES IN SELECTED DISTRICTS OF UGANDA IN THE WAKE OF **COVID-19** PANDEMIC



"Collective Voices for
Sustainable Development"



P. O. Box 21556, Kampala – Uganda

Tel: +256 414670400 / +256772463220

Email: acsa.ug@gmail.com / info@acsaug.org

Website: www.acsa-ug.org

ABOUT ACSA

Advocacy Coalition for Sustainable Agriculture



ACSA is a legally registered national network of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), which work with Smallholder farmers and Promote Sustainable Agriculture, Agricultural market development, Environmental conservation, research and advocacy. This is aimed at increasing farmer's understanding of policy issues affecting small holder farmers in Uganda.

ACSA has membership of 29 CSOs spread country wide with Mission "to Empower civil society organizations working with small holder farmers to advocate for favorable agrarian Policy environment for sustainable communities" and a Vision of "Smallholder farmers living in a Sustainable Environment"

As part of her objectives, ACSA member organizations(MOs) should ultimately have the capacity to support smallholder farmers towards improved access to reliable and profitable markets. This pager is therefore meant to inform ACSA MOs and other farmers of the current farm gate prices in selected districts in Uganda.

Mission: "to Empower civil society organizations working with small holder farmers to advocate for favorable agrarian policy environment for sustainable communities."

Vision: "Smallholder farmers living in a Sustainable Environment"

The COVID-19-induced pandemic is affecting the entire food system. It has exerted a symmetric, but asynchronous shock on national, regional and global food systems. Its impact is affecting both supply and demand channels, and it will be felt at different points in time (during and aftermath). Covid-19 is affecting all elements of the food system, from primary production, primary supply, to processing, to trade as well as logistics systems, to intermediate and final demand. It also affects factor markets, namely labour and capital, and intermediate inputs of production. The channels of transmission into food and agricultural demand in Uganda are being affected by the contractions in overall economic activity in the short run and unemployment in the intermediate and long runs.

The announcement of the first case of COVID-19 in March led the government to announce administrative measures to curb the spread. These include an unprecedented number of shutdowns of schools and businesses, transport restrictions and the ban of weekly markets where many farmers sell their produce and dawn to dusk curfew. These measures not only impede farmers' access to input and output markets but also curb productive capacities of farmers and denying points of sale for produce.



BACKGROUND

Although Uganda has not restricted agricultural farms, farmers' markets, food stores, takeaways, and food and beverage manufacturing facilities from being open, access to these areas is a challenge due to the ban on private and public transport. Moreover, Uganda's food system is heavily dominated by small, independent transporters as the link between producers and consumers. Urban and peri-urban produce markets are at the heart of distribution of small holder agriculture produce in urban areas as this traditional informal system accounts for over 90% of the small holder farmer agriculture produce market. Besides, the closure of many of weekly and monthly markets, while a reasonable measure to avoid crowding in the allowed food markets, has disrupted food supply systems, especially for fresh produce. The impact is felt most in smallholder farmer households which rely on these informal food markets.

Livestock prices have been affected greatly. A significant proportion of eggs, fish and milk from Uganda smallholder farmers have been finding market in DRC, South Sudan and Kenya. With the loss of this market, the prices have gone low on the local market forcing farmers to sell below the breakeven point. The situation has been worsened but the increase in the prices of cereals like maize which serve as the main ingredient in the feeds processing as they have been opted by the government and people because of their longevity resulting into shortages of feeds.

ANALYSIS

SN	Commodity	Kampala		Arua/Nebbi		Gulu		Mbale		Kabale		Jinja		Mubende	
		WSP	RT	FGP	MP	FGP	MP	FGP	MP	FGP	MP	FGP	MP	FGP	MP
1	Beans (kg) Nambale	3500	4500	3000	3500	3000	3500	3000	3500	3000	3500	3000	3500	2800	3300
2	Sweet Potatoes (kgs)	600	800	450	550			500		500	550	500		450	550
3	Simsim (kg)	5500	6000	4500	5000	4800	6000	5500	6000	6500	7000	5500	6000	4500	5000
4	Rice (super) (kg)	3800	4200	3500	3800	3000	3500	3800	4000	3500	4000	3800	4000	3200	3500
5	Milk (litre)	1200	1600	1400	1600	1600	2000	1600	1800	800	1000	1200	1600	800	1200
6	Matooke (kg)	550	700		1000		1200	600	700			600	700		600
7	Matooke bunch	15000	20000	15000	20000	20000	25000	15000	18000	15000	20000	15000	18000	15000	18000
7	Maize grain (kg)	1600	1800	1200	1500	1300	1600	1200	1500	1200	1800	1200	1500	1000	1500
8	Maize Flour (kg)	2000	2200		2200		2000		2000		2200		2000		2000
9	Irish potatoes (kg)	1200	1500	1500	2000	1800	2000	1000	1200	1200	1600	1000	1200	1000	1250
10	Groundnuts (kg)	5000	6000	4000	4500	3500	3800	3500	4000	5000	5500	3800	4500	3500	4000
11	Fresh Cassava (kg)	800	1000	550	650	550	650	1200	1500	450	600	1200	1500	450	550
12	Cassava flour (kg)	1200	1500		1100		1600		1300		1600		1300		1000
13	Fish Tilapia (kg)	10000	12000	8000	11000	10000	12000	9000	11000	7000	7500	12000	14000	10000	11000
14	Fish Nile Perch (kg)	8000	11000	9000	11000	9000	11000	11000	12000			8000	9000	9000	11000
15	Eggs (tray)	6000	7500	7000	8000	6000	8000	6500	8000	6500	8000	7000	9000	600	8000
16	Chicken exotic (bird)	6000	8000	8000	9000	7000	9000	6000	8000	6000	8000	6000	9000	6000	9000

Table showing the current (April) farm gate and market prices of selected commodities in selected towns in Uganda

Note: These prices have been computed through gathering daily price information which is used to calculate average weekly prices of different commodities from the last week of March through the month of April. This followed the confirmation of the first case of Covid-19 case in Uganda following the same announcements in the regional countries of Kenya, Rwanda and Tanzania a week prior. Weekly prices were obtained from credible organizational websites (as referenced) and phone call inquiries from different farmers in our MO network across the country by the ACSA secretariat staff.

RT: Retail Price

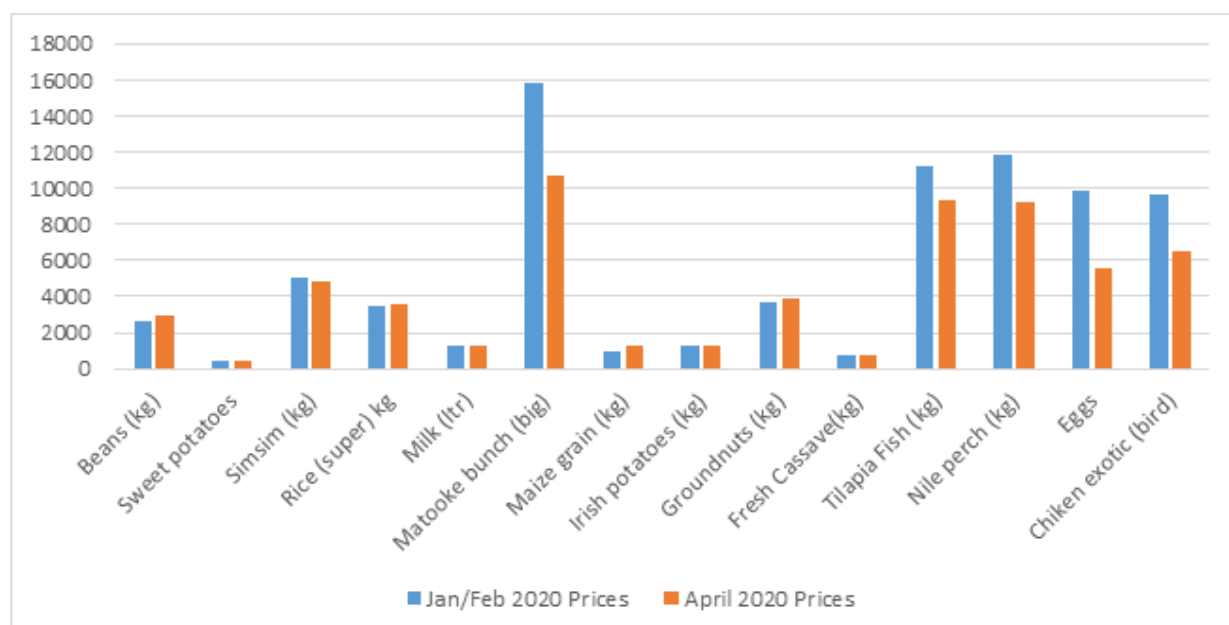
MP: Market Price

FGP: Farm Gate Price

WSP: Wholesale price

ANALYSIS

Bar graph showing comparison of January-February 2020 and the April 2020 Farm gate prices



April prices of the above selected commodities registered a general fall in Farm-gate prices of up to 20.9%. The only produce that registered a sustained increase in prices in the month of April include beans (14.9%), maize grain (34.0%), rice (2.4%) and groundnuts (6.4%). The rest registered decreases with poultry products (eggs -43.0%, chicken-32.7%), bananas (-32.7%) and fish (Tilapia -16.4% and Nile perch -22.0%) being the worst hit. The prices of fresh produce is generally continuing to get lower and lower.

THE LONG VIEW

The pressure of the COVID-19 pandemic will be felt even after the pandemic has been contained. Economists have already predicted a global economic downturn in 2020. Availability and affordability of food will remain a top priority for many in the country. There is no doubt that overcrowding will continue to be avoided and the markets will continue to be affected with or without the lifting of the lockdown.

However, small holder farmers should put measures up to enable them continue producing. When the lockdown starts to be lifted, small holder farmers must carry out advocacy stronger than before asking government to put in place adequate safety nets for small holder farmers that will be devastated economically (as projected for poultry farmers). The question of how long this shutdown will last, the answer at this point is anyone's guess. Therefore, all small holder farmers are advised to take calculated risks and if possible, opt for growing of crops like cereals and legumes (like maize and beans) that have become the main food for people in the lockdown period.

References

<http://www.agromarketday.com/markets>

<https://infotradeuganda.com/market-updates/>

<https://farmgainafrica.org/market-data/uganda-market-prices>

Contact;



+256772463220 / +256414670400



acsa.ug@gmail.com / info@acsaug.org



1496 Plot 3 Zzimbe Road, Nsambya



www.acsa-ug.org

Follow;



ACSA Uganda



@AcsaUganda



ACSA Uganda