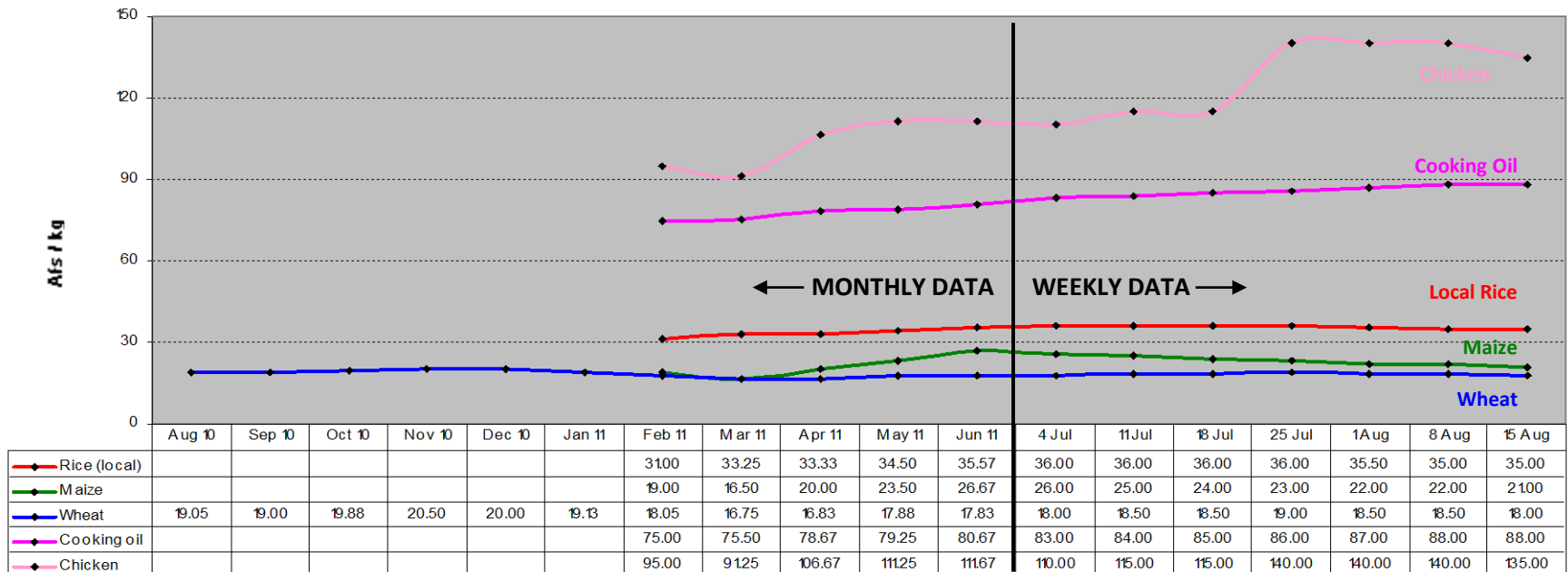


Retail Staple Food Prices

AFGHANISTAN, Kabul

Highlights (as of 15 August 2011)

- The price of local rice remained stable from the previous week, and has remained largely stable over the past month.
- Wheat declined by 2.7 percent during the past week. However still prices remain nearly 7 percent higher than in January 2011.; and they are currently 5 percent below a year earlier, in August 2010.
- After reaching the highest peak in early June, maize prices had started to decline slowly. During the past week prices dropped by 4.5 percent.
- Following a 21.7 jump during the last week of July, chicken prices declined by 3.6 over the past week. Still, they are 42.1 percent higher than February 2011.



SOURCE: Statistics and Marketing Information Office, Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock; and WFP Afghanistan

Additional Information

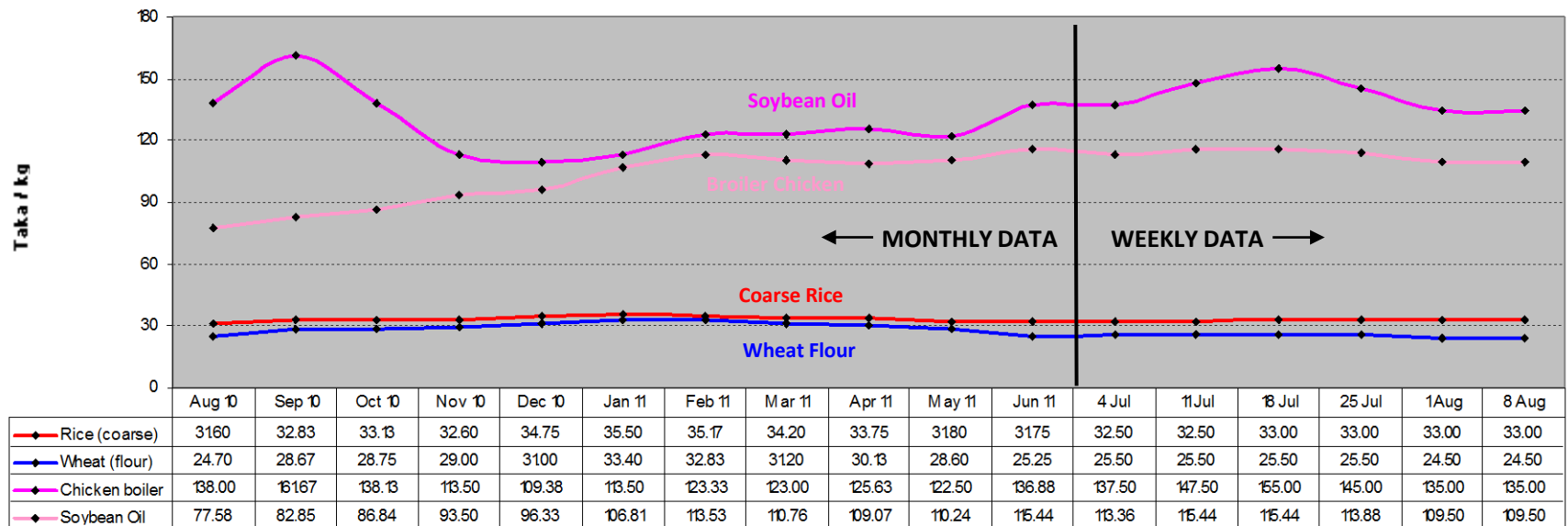
- According to the Vulnerability Mapping Unit of WFP, during July 2011 wheat grain retail price increased compared to the last month, mainly due to the increasing trend of wheat prices on the global markets. It is estimated that it can get further high in Afghanistan due to the poor 2011 wheat harvest as a result of the drought situation in the country. Wheat flour prices increased to 55.9% above pre-food price crisis (Jan-Oct 2007) level. All cereals together are 60.3% higher than the pre-crisis levels. The difference between wheat and wheat flour prices is worrisome. Cooking oil price increased by 54% in July 2011 when compared to the same time one year ago (WFP, 9 August 2011).

Retail Staple Food Prices

BANGLADESH, Dhaka

Highlights (as of 8 August 2011)

- Prices of coarse rice have been unchanged over last week, and are 4.4 percent above the levels observed a year earlier (August 2010).
- After a 3.9 percent drop, wheat flour prices remained unchanged from last week. Still, prices are 33.4 percent below the peak reached in January 2011.
- After a two consecutive price falls (6.9% each) during the past two weeks; chicken prices remained stable over the past week. However chicken prices are 18.9 percent higher than those prices observed at the beginning of 2011.
- Soybean oil prices show no change during the previous week; yet they are nearly 40 percent higher than a year earlier (August 2010).



SOURCE: Ministry of Food and Disaster Management

Additional Information

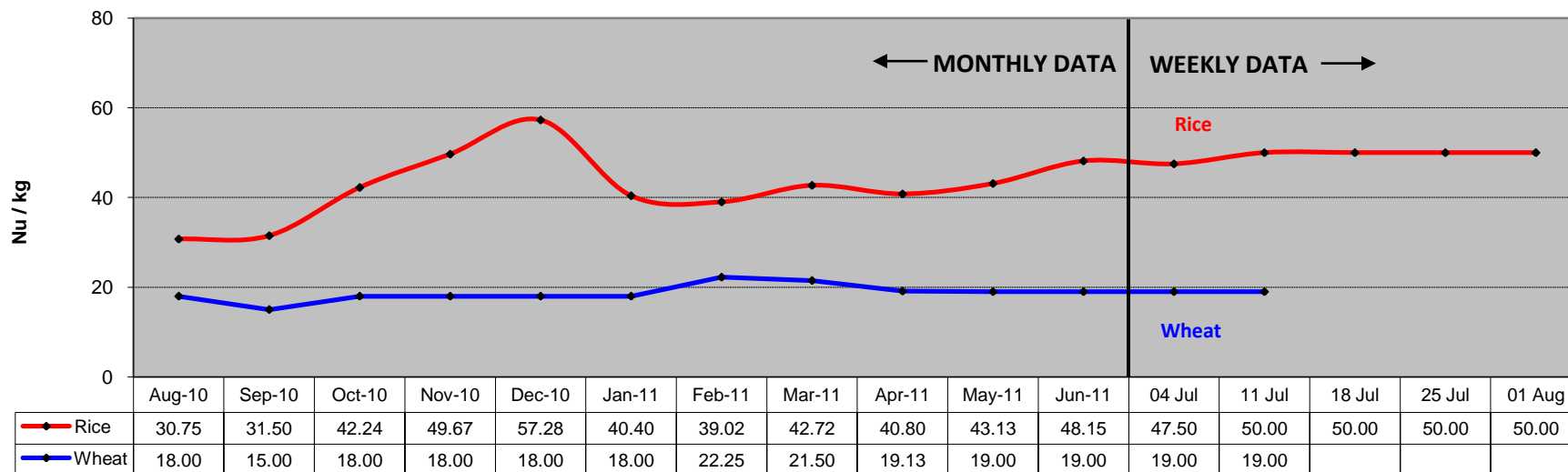
- According to media reports, trade deficit expands due to soaring commodity prices. Food grain imports stood a record 5.309 million tonnes in the FY11 compared to 3.452 million tonnes in the previous fiscal. Thanks to massive food-grain import, the country's food stock stood at 889,000 tonnes at the end of June 2011, compared to 531,000 tonnes at the end of June 2010 (Financial Times, 17 August 2011).
- Public agencies will be purchasing 600 000 tonnes of rice between June and September in a bid to replenish government reserves and supply public welfare schemes. In their effort to raise production, officials have also announced an accelerated seed distribution plan through 2015, while promoting use of local hybrid rice seeds. Assuming no major setbacks are incurred, these initiatives are expected to boost production from an estimated 50.9 million in 2010 to 51.6 million tonnes ~34.4 million tonnes, milled basis in 2011 (FAO Rice Market Monitor, July 2011).

Retail Staple Food Prices

BHUTAN

Highlights (as of 1 August 2011)

- Rice prices have been fairly volatile since the beginning of 2011. Following a 5.3 percent increase in the first week of July, they had remained unchanged over the past month (July). Rice prices are currently 62.6 percent higher than the prices observed a year earlier (August 2010).
- Wheat prices have also been fairly volatile since the beginning of 2011. In the second week of July, they were 5.5 percent above the levels observed at the beginning of the year (January 2011).



SOURCE: Department of Agricultural Marketing

Additional Information

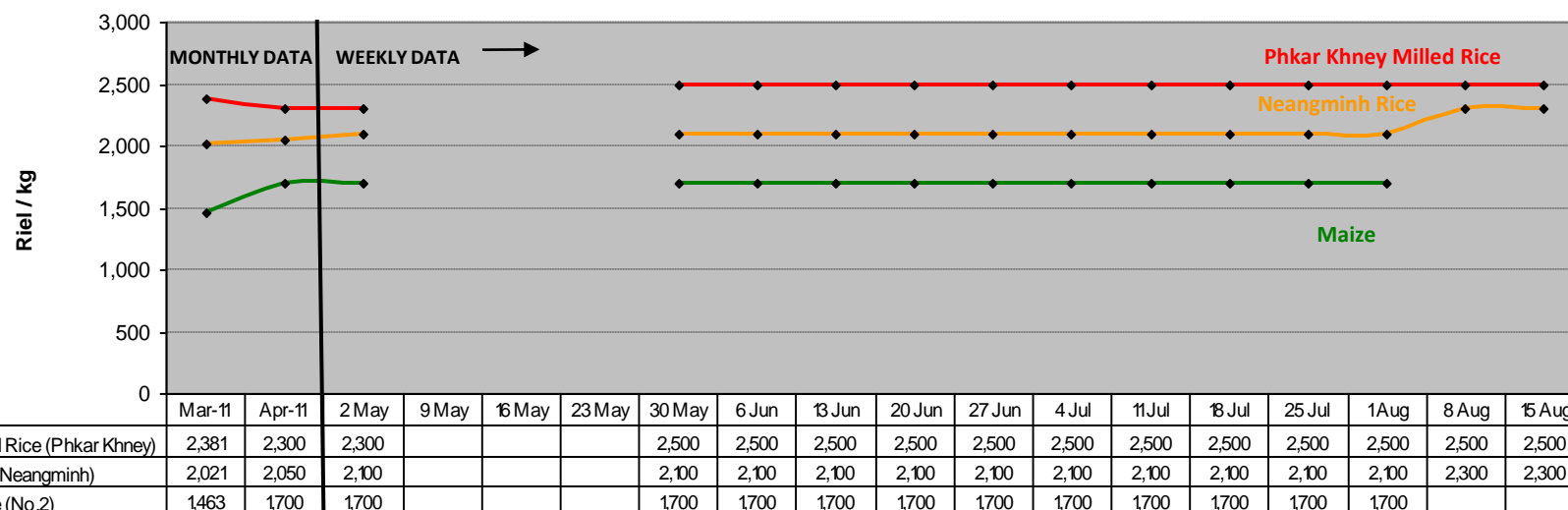
- According to media reports, there is a comprehensive development strategy for farmers' groups and cooperatives (such as livestock, agriculture and forestry departments promoting these farmers) in order to implement Cooperative Act of Bhutan 2009. It is expected that the strategy will help to promote sustainable and economically viable farmers' groups and cooperatives through a standardized capacity building programmes (Bhutan Observer, 3 August 2011).
- The Department of Livestock (DoL), Ministry of Agriculture and Forests (MoAF) is promoting goat and poultry farming (eggs and meat purposes) in villages under the "One Geog Three Products (OGTP)". This approach has been recently adopted by two additional villages: Sektana and Fentana (Ministry of Agriculture and Forests, 21 July 2011).

Retail Staple Food Prices

CAMBODIA, Phnom Penh

Highlights (as of 15 August 2011)

- Maize prices have remained stable for the past two months.
- After a 9.5 jump, Rice type Neangminh showed no change over the past week.
- Rice -Phkar Khney has remained stable over the past two months. However in the beginning of May 2011 prices went up by nearly 9 percent .



SOURCE: Agricultural Marketing Office

Additional Information

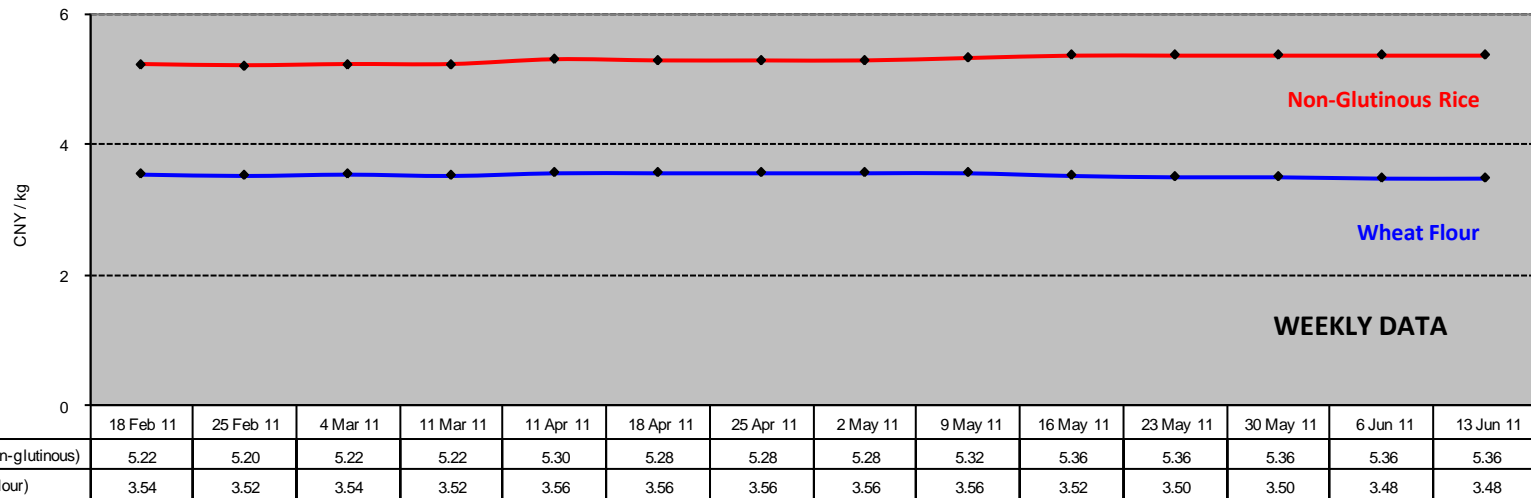
- According to media reports, National Bank of Cambodia (NBC) is looking to tighten monetary policy to slow an inflation rate that could hit 8 to 9 percent this year. NBC will hold a meeting this month to consider whether to raise the reserve requirement rate for commercial banks from 12 per cent on deposits in foreign currencies to 16 per cent or higher (Phnom Penh Post, 2 August 2011).
- According to media reports, a new draft law on agricultural cooperatives will be ready to submit to the National Assembly this year, to enhance protection of farmers' interests (Agence Kampuchea Press, 26 July 2011).

Retail Staple Food Prices

CHINA, Beijing

Highlights (as of 13 June 2011)

- No change in rice and wheat prices was reported for this week.



SOURCE: Beijing Municipal Bureau of Grain

Additional Information

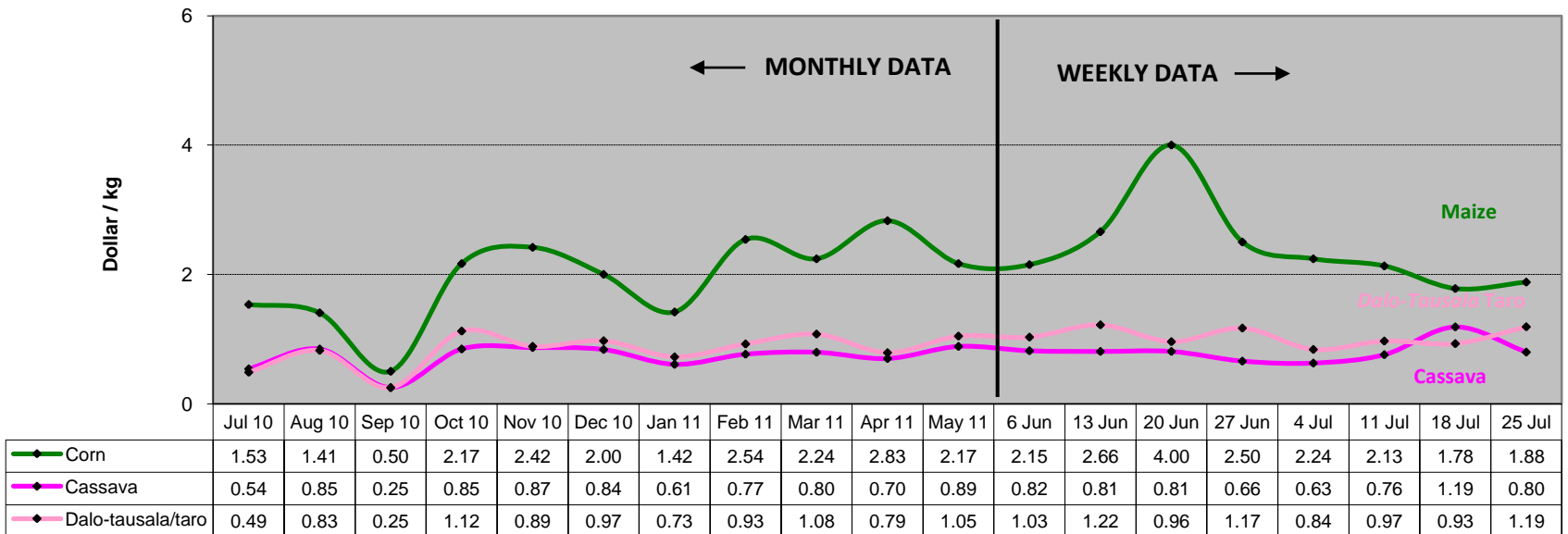
- China's first information management system for rural markets has been developed. It comprehends market information (goods and trading), and news & messages. The system is useful for rural market managers, proprietors and consumers owing to its easy set-up, low maintenance and update cost, low hardware requirements, and connection with value-added services including SMS. It is estimated that if this system could be used by more than 10,000 rural markets nationwide, it would make positive impact on market information management in more than 2000 counties, further enhance rural market management (Ministry of Agriculture, 3 August 2011).
- The government has announced plans to release supplies of pork into the market in an attempt to reduce prices that are nearly 60 percent up compared to the same period in the previous year. Higher pork prices have been a major factor behind the accelerating rate of food inflation in the last few months (Global Food Price Monitor, 9 August 2011).
- A circular issued by the State Council, China's Cabinet, indicates the intention to set up and implement a subsidy and reward programme for grassland protection and to combine the ecology protection with the efforts to increase herdsmen's income. (Government of China and Xinhua, 9 August 2011).

Retail Staple Food Prices

Fiji, Suva

Highlights (as of 25 Jul 2011)

- Overall prices for reported staple food commodities have been volatile over the past year.
- Corn prices increased by 5.7 percent from the previous week. Prices are 22.8 percent higher compared to one year earlier (July 2010).
- Prices of Dalo tausala taro, rose nearly by 28 percent over the past week. Prices are 143 percent above the levels observed a year ago (July 2010).
- Following a 20.6 percent jump during the second week of July, cassava prices declined by 33 percent during the previous week. Still, prices remain 48 percent higher than last year (July 2010).



SOURCE: Department of Agriculture

Additional Information

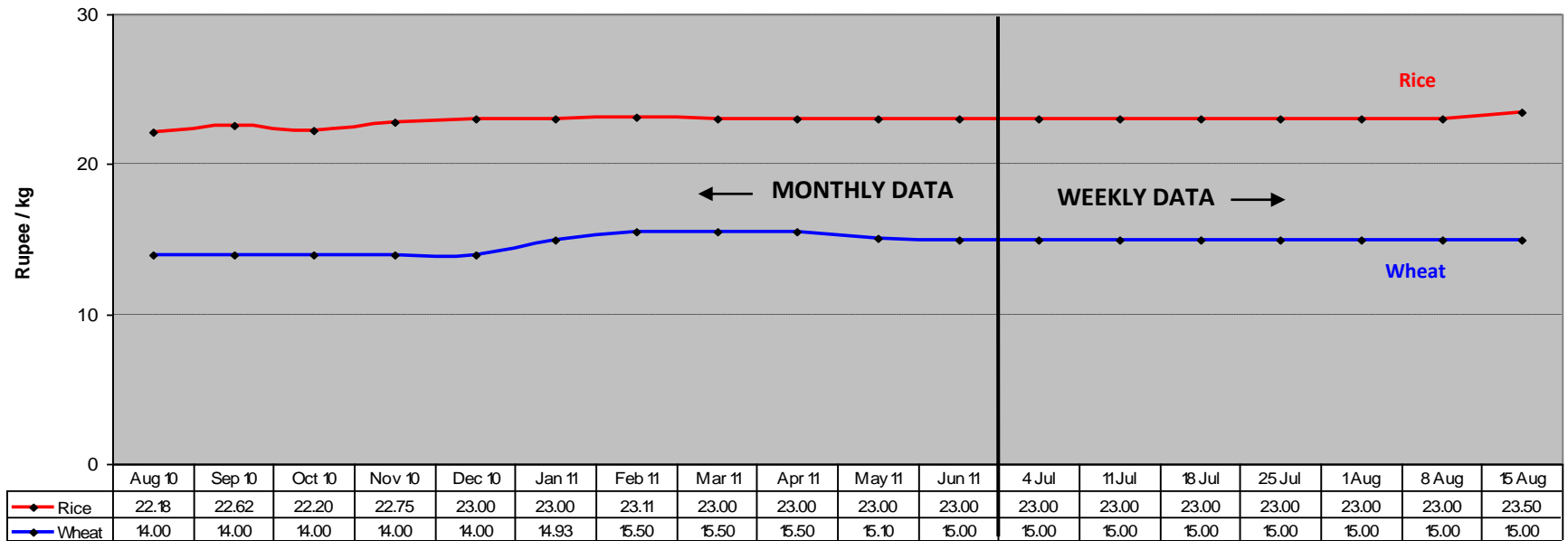
- Price of sugar has decreased by 13 per cent from August 1. A two kilogram bag of sugar now cost about \$3.80 or \$3.90, compare to \$4.35 for the same bag since early this year (The Fiji Times, 16 August 2011).
- Fiji will formalise a partnership with the Indian Government for assistance to further develop the Indian coconut industry. A memorandum of understanding outlining the commitments of the Indian Government in providing technical assistance to Fiji is currently being finalised (Government of Fiji, 8 August 2011).
- Fiji Commerce Commission published the price list for basic food items with amendments on 30 July 2011.
<http://www.commcomm.gov.fj/docs/Master%20price%20List%20with%20Amendments%20as%20at%2030.07.2011>

Retail Staple Food Prices

INDIA, Delhi

Highlights (as of 15 August 2011)

- Rice and wheat prices remained stable over the past week. However wheat prices are 7.1 percent above the prices in January 2011
- For the first time during the past 5 months, rice prices show a 2.1 percent increase during the past week. They remain 5.9 percent higher from the prices observed a year ago (August 2010).



Source: Ministry of Consumer Affairs

Additional Information

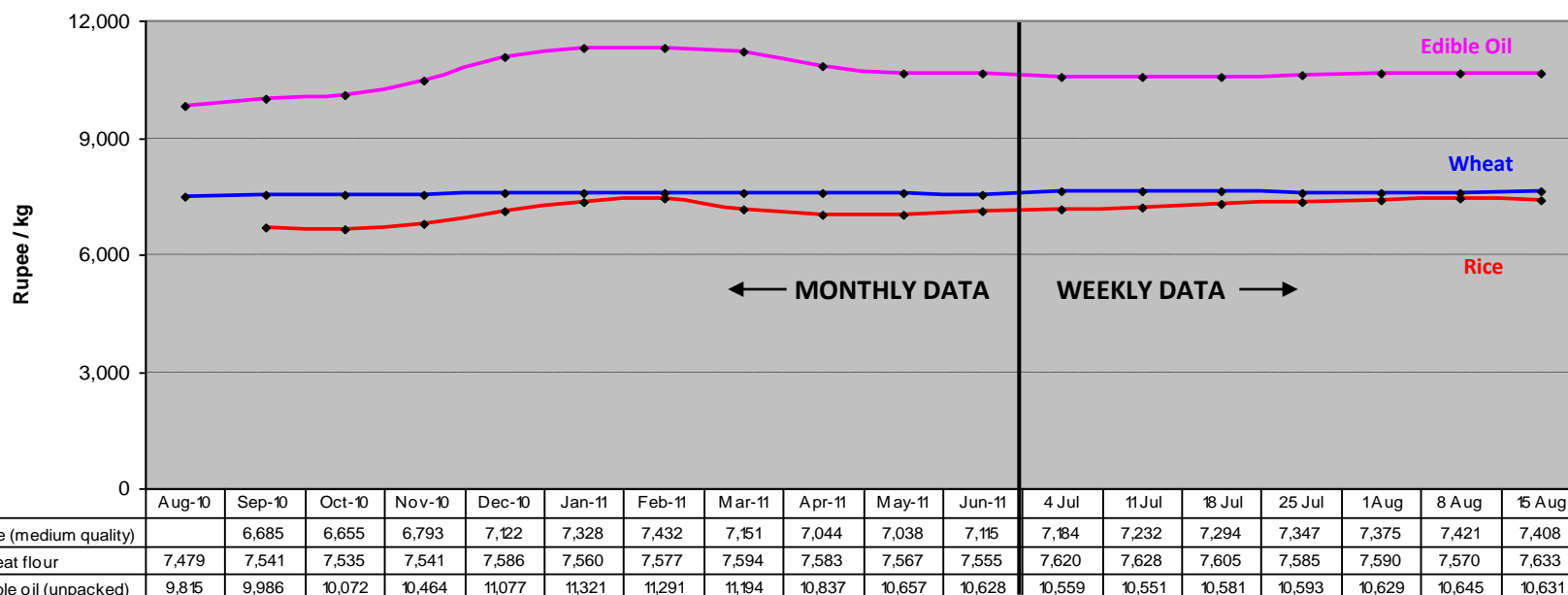
- According to the RBI, the headline wholesale price index (WPI) inflation averaged 9.6 per cent in 2010-11 as compared with 5.3 per cent per annum in the previous decade. In response to inflationary pressures, the Reserve Bank has raised the policy repo rate 11 times bringing it up from a low of 4.75 per cent in March 2010 to 8.00 per cent by July 2011. It is expected that inflation should come down towards the later part of this year. Although spikes in food prices normally subside as they are transitory, empirical analysis suggests that inflation in protein items has become persistent. This suggests that protein inflation has assumed a structural character and is partly driven by demand factors. Within the protein group, persistence was lower for pulses as well as 'egg, meat and fish', but it was markedly higher for milk (Reserve Bank of India, 13 August 2011).
- India's monsoon rains were 14 percent above normal over the past week (8-12 August), improving sharply from 22 percent below average the previous week, boosting the production outlook for summer crops such as cane and cotton. India's June to September monsoon rains are crucial to crop output in 60 percent of the country that does not have adequate irrigation (India Environment Portal, 12 August 2011)

Retail Staple Food Prices

INDONESIA, national average

Highlights (as of 15 August 2011)

- Overall staple food retail prices remained largely stable during the past week.
- Rice prices are 10.8 percent higher than September 2010 (lowest level observed during 2010).
- Wheat flour prices are 2 percent above the prices observed a year earlier (August 2010).
- Edible oil prices are 8.3 percent above the prices observed a year ago (August 2010).



SOURCE: Ministry of Trade

Additional Information

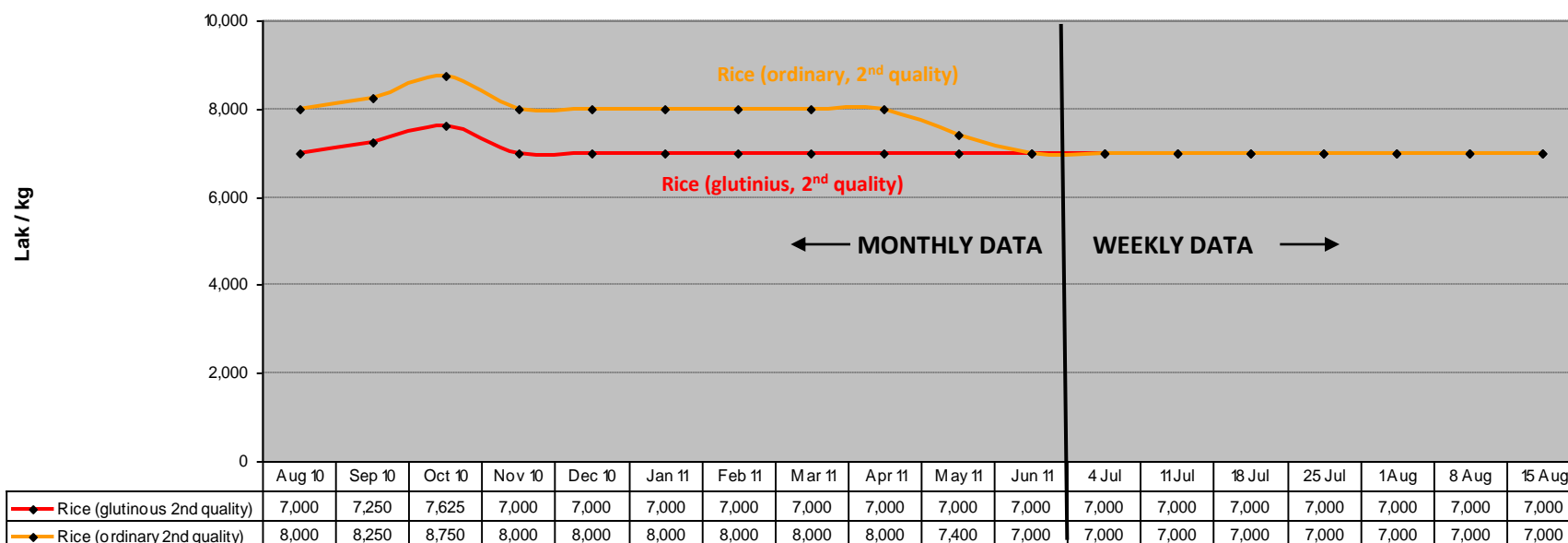
- Government announced that imports restrictions on beef. Imports can only be done to meet the shortage of domestic supply alone. In 2010, import quotas of meat reaches 120 thousand tons, is currently limited to a maximum 90 thousand tons or less 30 thousand tons. The Government will continue to reduce the import quota was gradually (Ministry of Commerce, 15 August 2011).
- Although the Government has secured vegetable and fruit supply until Lebaran (celebration at the end of Ramadhan), horticultural commodities are of particular concern such as the chili and onion as prices are often volatile with increasing public demand. To that end, the government has encouraged farmers to plant onion that can be harvested in the period from July to August and November - December as happened in Brebes who is a supplier of 20% of the national red onions (Bureau of the Public and Public Relations, 10 August 2011)

Retail Staple Food Prices

LAO PDR, Vientiane

Highlights (as of 15 August 2011)

• Since early June rice glutinous and ordinary (both second quality) converged towards 7,000 Lak per kilo. On one hand, second quality glutinous rice prices have remained unchanged since November 2010. On the other hand, following nine months of stable prices, the price of ordinary second quality rice dropped by 7.5 percent from April 2011 to May 2011. During the end of May 2011 the prices of rice (ordinary second quality) dropped by 12.5 percent and have remained unchanged since then.



SOURCE: Ministry of Industry and Commerce

Additional Information

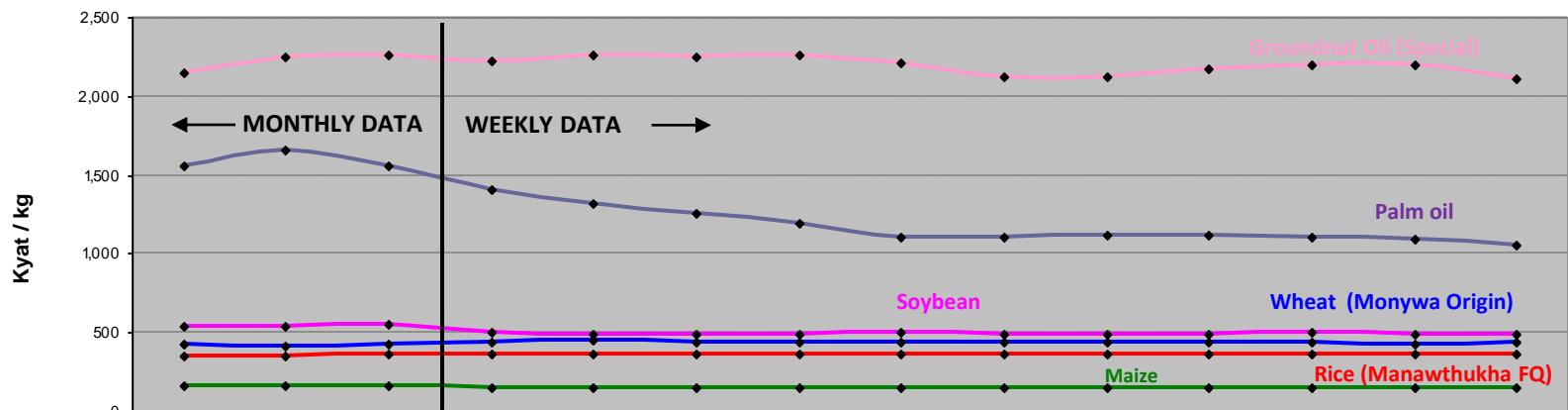
- According to media reports, the damage from tropical storm Haima has reached about 700 billion kip. The storm destroyed more than 6,000 hectares of farmland throughout the country, and devastated critical infrastructure including roads, bridges, schools and hospitals. (Vientiane Times, 25 July 2011)
- Floods, as a result of Typhoon Haima, affected up to six provinces in Lao PDR in late June, destroying crops and infrastructure and affecting over 37,000 people. (International Federation of Red Cross, 18 July 2011)
- The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry has prepared 5,000 tonnes of rice seeds, in addition to livestock vaccines and other medications for farmers as a response to the recent flooding situation. (Vientiane Times, 5 July 2011)

Wholesale Staple Food Prices

MYANMAR, Yangon and Mandalay

Highlights (as of 15 August 2011)

- Prices for rice remained unchanged during the past week. Maize prices are stable in respect to the previous week.
- Prices of wheat increased by 3.78 over the past week.
- Overall, palm oil prices have shown a downward trend since April 2011. After dropping for four consecutive weeks since early June, palm oil prices fall again by 3 percent. Presently palm oil prices are 32 percent below the prices observed early this year (March 2011).
- Groundnut oil prices declined by 4.1 percent over the past week.



	Mar-11	Apr-11	May-11	6 Jun 11	13 Jun 11	20 Jun 11	27 Jun 11	4 Jul 11	11 Jul 11	18 Jul 11	25 Jul 11	1 Aug 11	8 Aug 11	15 Aug 11
—●— Rice (Manawthukha FQ)	350	351	365	367	367	367	367	364	362	362	362	362	362	362
—●— Maize	160	160	157	153	153	151	148	145	151	151	152	151	151	151
—●— Wheat (Monywa Origin)	423	414	425	439	449	445	445	442	444	443	438	445	423	439
—●— Groundnut oil (Special)	2,143	2,246	2,262	2,220	2,261	2,250	2,266	2,215	2,126	2,125	2,169	2,196	2,205	2,113
—●— Soybean (Theik pan)	541	542	548	498	489	490	490	500	490	490	490	506	489	490
—●— Palm oil	1,552	1,653	1,558	1,411	1,318	1,253	1,197	1,104	1,100	1,119	1,112	1,105	1,089	1,056

SOURCE: E-Trade Myanmar

Additional Information

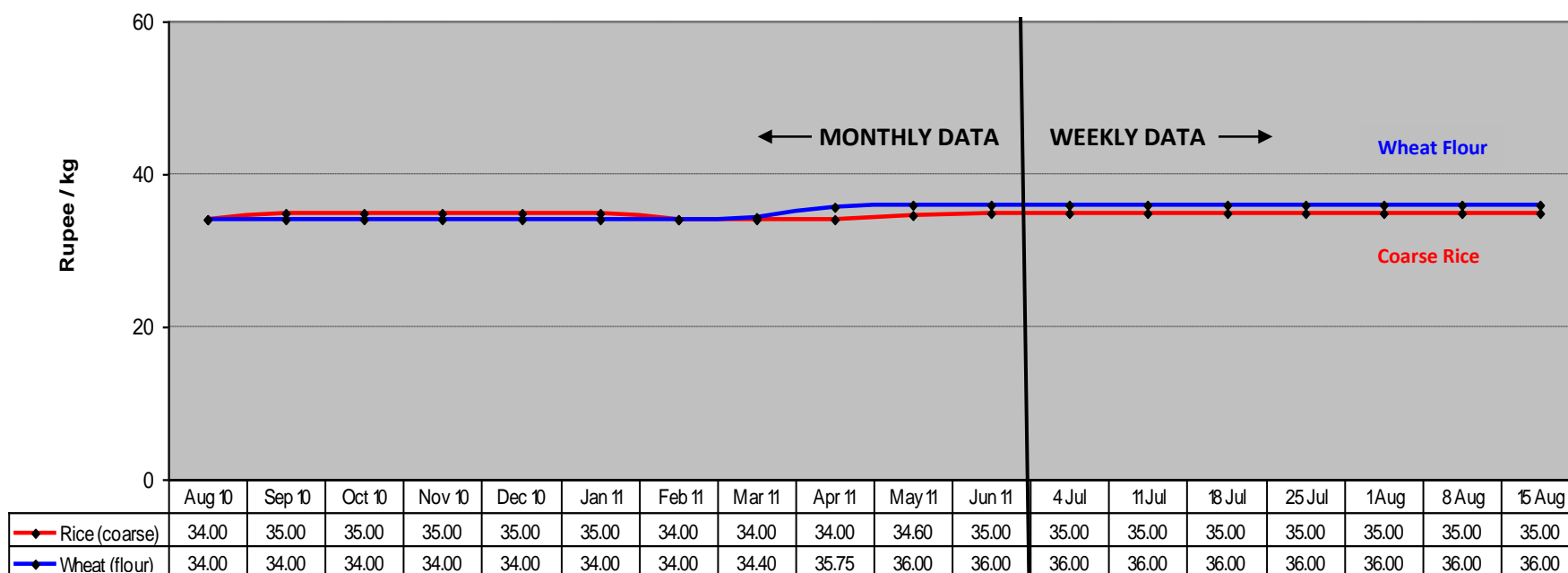
- The government has granted tax exemption from export of rice, beans and pulses, corn, sesame, freshwater and saltwater production and animal products (except prohibited ones) with the aim of boosting productivity and export of goods at the national level and encouraging competition in terms of prices in the international market (New Light of Myanmar, 15 August 2011).
- According to a media report, the Ministry of Commerce lifted the import ban on of 15 different foodstuffs (originally imposed in 1995, but never enforced). The 15 items include alcoholic drinks, beer, juices, biscuits, cake, seasoning powder, waffles, chewing gum, tinned foods, chocolate, instant noodles and coffee mix. (Myanmar Times, 11 July 2011)

Retail Staple Food Prices

NEPAL, Kathmandu

Highlights (as of 15 Aug 2011)

- Since June 2011, rice and wheat prices maintain the same prices. They have increased by 2.9 and 5.8 percent respectively from a year earlier (August 2010).



SOURCE: Market Watch (WFP, MoAC, FNCCI, CIPF)

Additional Information

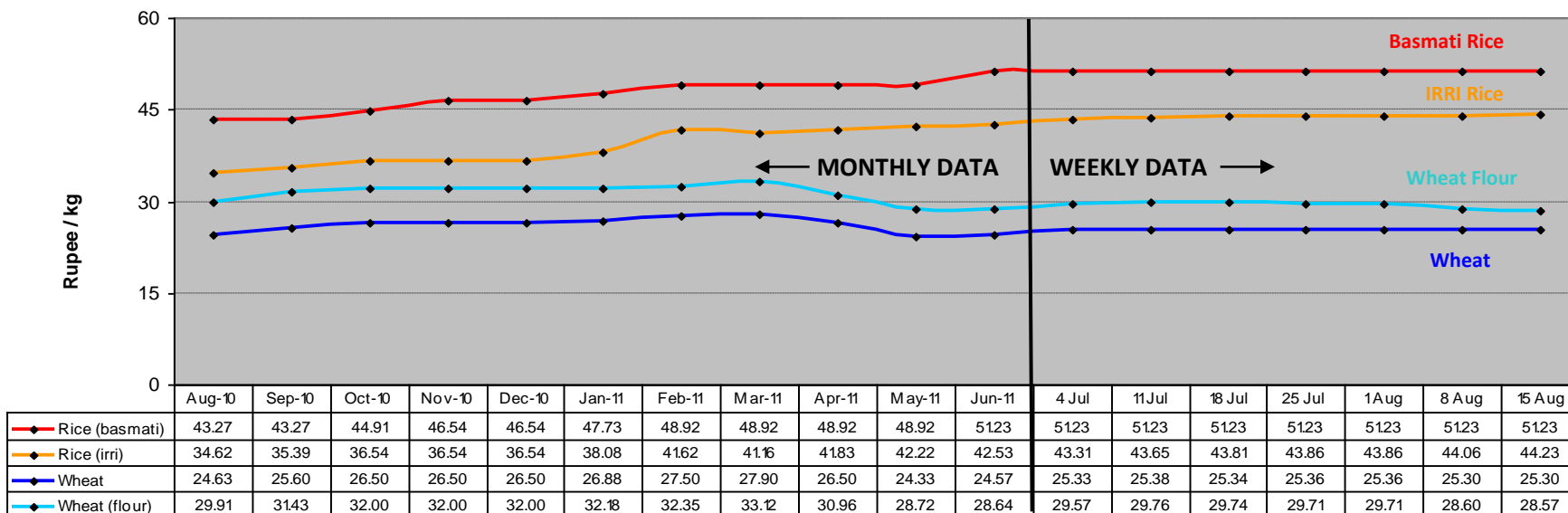
- According to a WFP Market Report, the supply situation across the country is good due to a good winter crop production. However, the hill and mountain districts which have only fair weather road access are likely to be affected by the monsoon rain. The Karnali highway has been blocked in many parts due to landslides. Such a disruption is likely to affect the supply situation in the region. The impact of Karnali highway obstruction on food supply and on price situation in the region needs to be monitored closely (WFP Market Watch, 31 July 2011).

Retail Staple Food Prices

PAKISTAN, Karachi

Highlights (as of 15 Aug 2011)

- Staple commodity prices have remained largely stable since the beginning of July 2011.
- After a 26.5 percent jump during the last week of July, prices of rice (IRRI) remained largely stable (0.4%) from the previous week. They are 27.7 percent above the prices observed over the past year (August 2010).
- Wheat flour have been largely stable (-0.10%) during the past week. They remain 4.5 percent below the prices observed a year ago (August 2010).



SOURCE: Bureau of Statistics

Additional Information

• According to media reports, the passage of the 18th and 19th Constitutional Amendments, provinces were given administrative and economic autonomy. Some experts argue that a food security and research division at national level is required to replace the ministry to fulfill constitutional obligations of food security, reduction of inter-provincial disparities and ensuring the role of rural people in national activities; while others say that a ministry at federal level is not needed anymore (Dawn and Business Recorder, 8 August 2011).

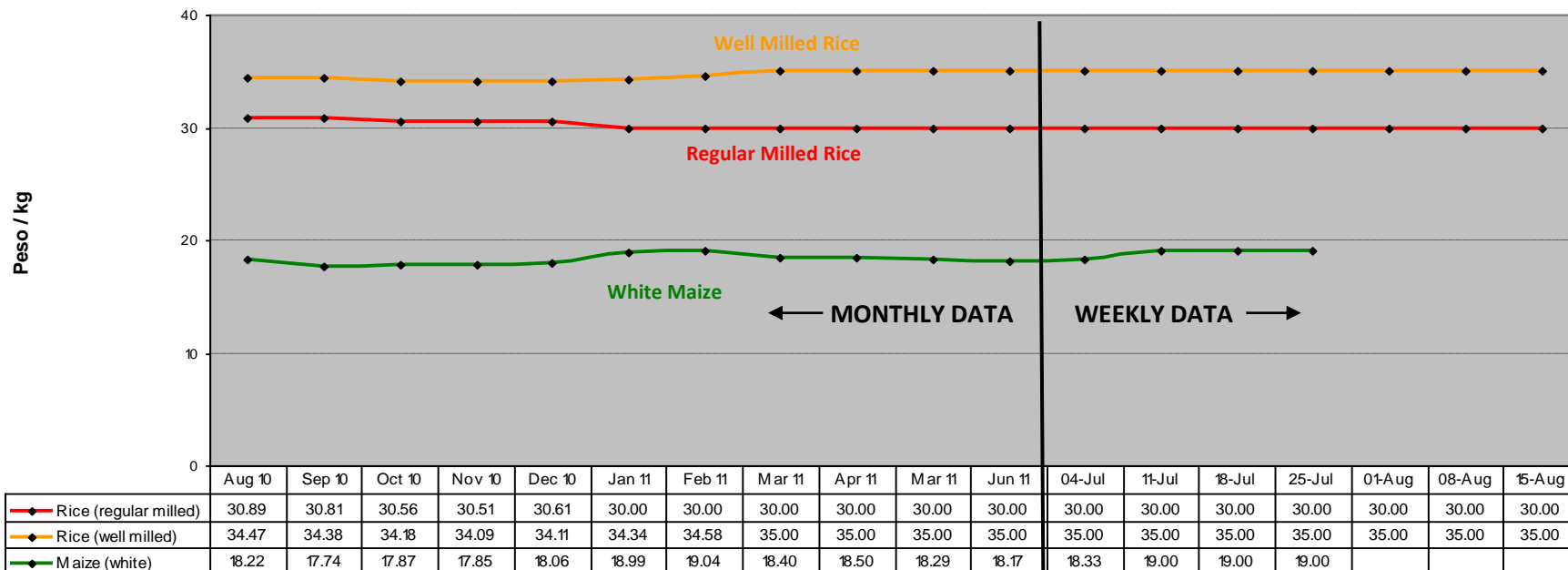
• Despite unfavorable circumstances, wheat production during 2010-11 reached 24,214 MMT, increasing by 3.9 percent when compared to the production of 23,310 MMT in 2009-10. The wheat production during the current fiscal year (2011-12) is targeted to increase by 3.24 percent over the production of last fiscal year (2010-11) (The Nation, 6 August 2011).

Retail Staple Food Prices

PHILIPPINES, Metro Manila

Highlights (as of 15 August 2011)

- Rice prices in the Philippines remained largely stable over the past week.
- Maize prices remained stable form the last week, and are 4.28 percent above the prices observed in August 2010.



SOURCE: Bureau of Agricultural Statistics

Additional Information

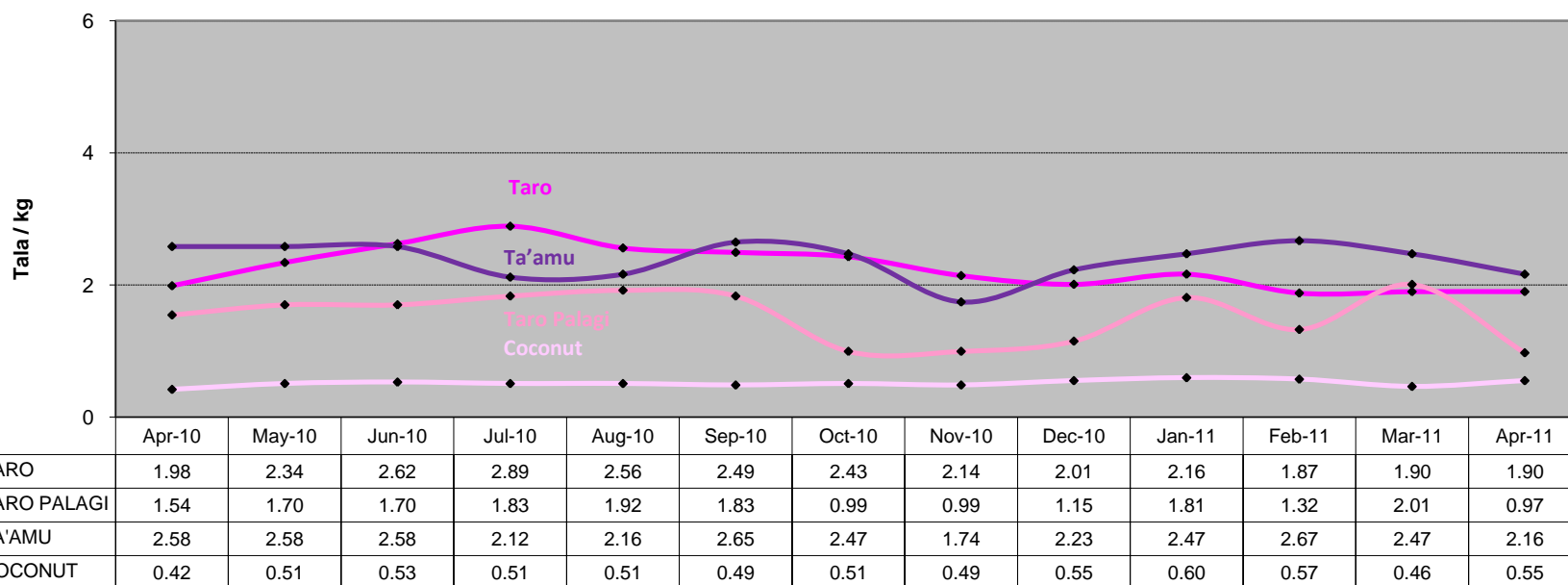
- On August 5th, the Department of Agriculture in partnership with the Province of Negros Occidental launched a P180-million ~ US 4.25 million crop insurance programme that is expected to benefit 10,000 rice farmers. The joint initiative, called the Negros First Universal Crop Insurance Programme (NFUCIP). Under the programme, the provincial government of Negros Occidental agreed to shoulder 60 percent or P500 of the insurance premium worth P840 per hectare per cropping. The balance of P340 is paid by the farmer. The PCIC indemnifies the farmer of up to P17,680 when his rice crop is totally damages by pests, diseases or flood (Department of Agriculture, 15 August 2011).
- The Philippines has achieved record-breaking harvests of paddy (unmilled rice) and corn for the first six months of 2011. Palay production for the first semester of 2011 topped 7.577 MMT, which is 14.4 percent more than last year's volume of 6.621 MMT for the same six-month period. First semester corn harvest is also the highest in the country's history, at 3.309 MMT, which is 37% more than last year's output of 2.415 MMT. The DA's continuing promotion of higher quality hybrid corn seed has contributed much to higher yields (Department of Agriculture, 10 August 2011) .

Retail Staple Food Prices

SAMOA, national average

Highlights (as of April 2011)

- Taro prices reached a peak in July 2010 and have shown a downward movement since then up until April 2011, when prices were 34.3 percent lower than the peak.
- Taro Palagi prices dropped sharply from September to October 2010. Prices have been volatile since the beginning of 2011, and dropped by more than 50 percent from March to April 2011.
- Ta'amu prices have been volatile since June 2010. Following a peak in February 2011, they dropped nearly 20 percent in the subsequent two months.



SOURCE: FAO Representative

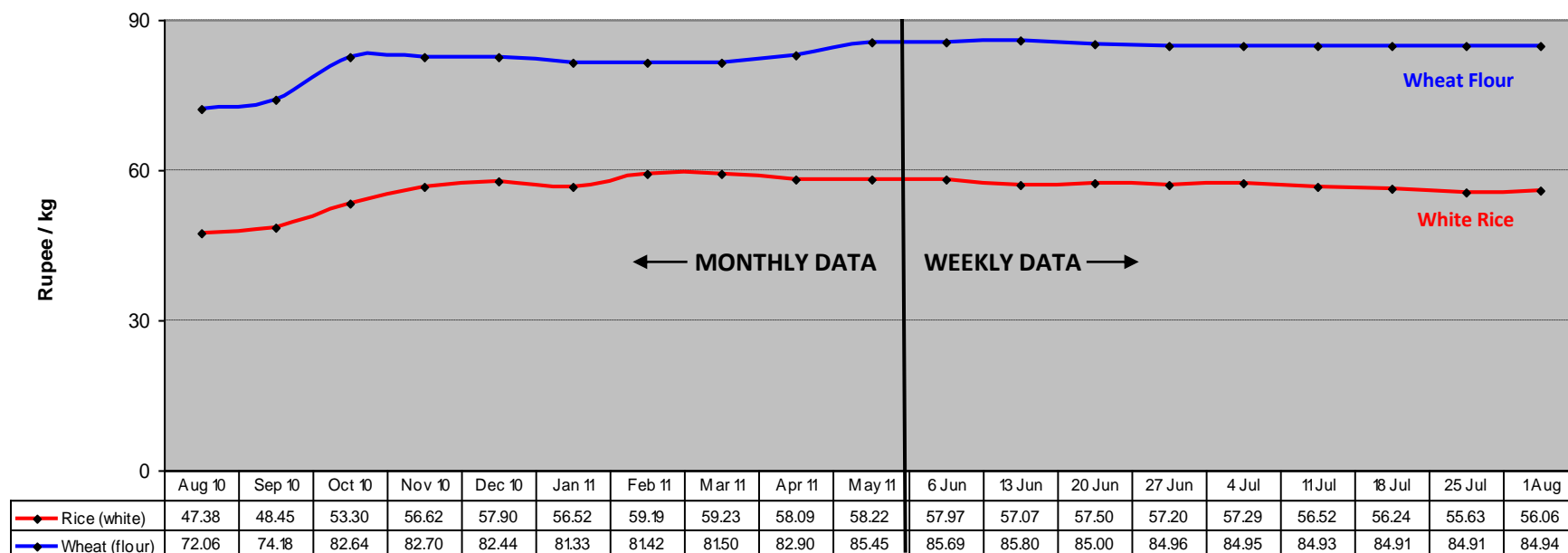
Additional Information

Retail Staple Food Prices

SRI LANKA, Colombo

Highlights (as of 1 Aug 2011)

- Rice prices remained relatively stable (-1.3%) during the previous week. They are 14.3 percent above the prices observed a year earlier (July 2010).
- Wheat prices remained unchanged during the last week of July. However they are 17.4 percent above the prices registered a year ago (July 2010).



SOURCE: Department of Census and Statistics

Additional Information

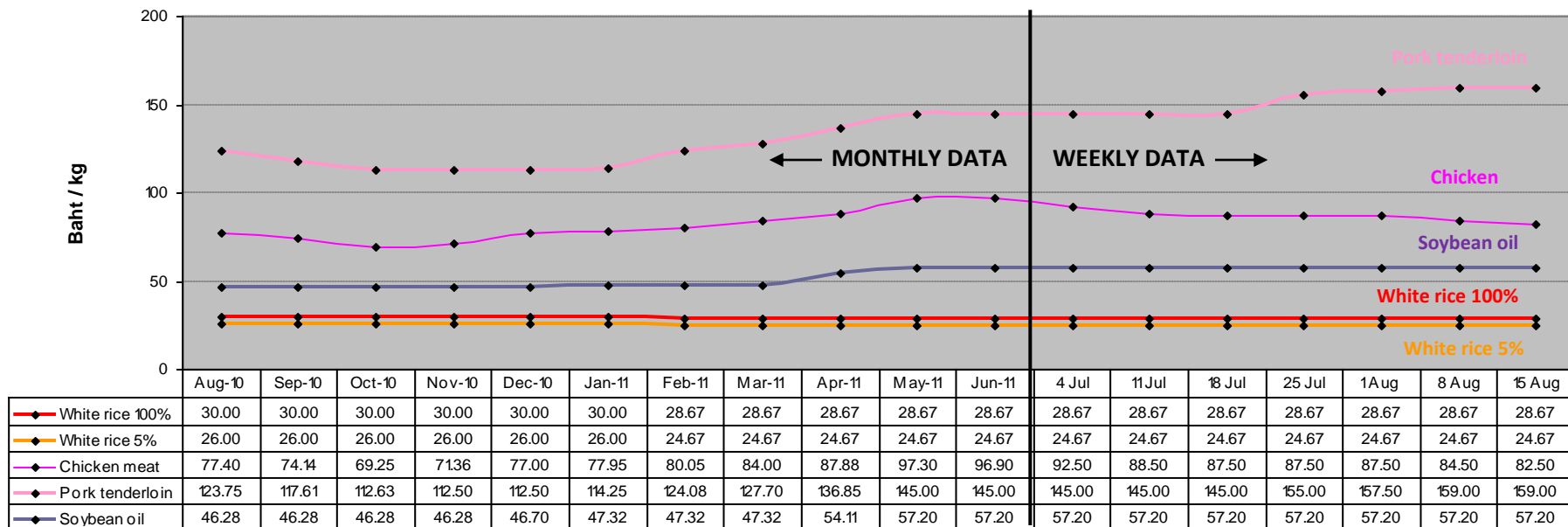
- The Ministry of Minor Crop Exports, along with the Sugar Cane Research Institute, has taken steps to revive sugar cane cultivation in Kilinochchi district. Under this project the ministry is planning to give one acre each to 100 farmers and they are expected to earn Rs. 60,000 per year as profit from their cultivations (Government of Sri Lanka, 11 August 2011).
- The Central Bank released statement indicating the allocation of Rs. 3 billion ~ US 27 million in a separate credit line named "Awakening North" exclusively designed for conflict affected businesses and Income Generating Activities in the Northern Province. The Bank has also introduced a special Credit Guarantee Scheme to promote development credit through Participating Financial Institutions (PFIs). Credit facilities have been made available for eligible persons under different activities in the Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries, Small and Medium Sector Enterprises (SMEs) and micro businesses sectors (Central Bank of Sri Lanka, 18 July 2011).

Retail Staple Food Prices

THAILAND, Bangkok

Highlights (as of 15 Aug 2011)

- Rice prices have remained largely stable in Thailand since April 2011. White rice 100% and white rice 5% are nearly 4.4 and 5 percent below the levels observed last year (August 2010).
- Chicken prices dropped by 2.4 percent, however, they have shown an upward trend since November 2010 (+16%) after declining in the summer of 2010.
- Pork prices remained largely stable (+0.9%). However, they have increased by 40 percent since the beginning of January 2011.
- Soybean oil prices have been stable after rising sharply in early April. They are 23.6 percent above the price a year earlier.



SOURCE: Department of Internal Trade (DIT)

Additional Information

•The Bank for Agriculture and Agricultural Cooperatives budgets up to 100 billion baht to buy paddy rice under the mortgage scheme of the new government (Bangkok Post, 5 August 2011).

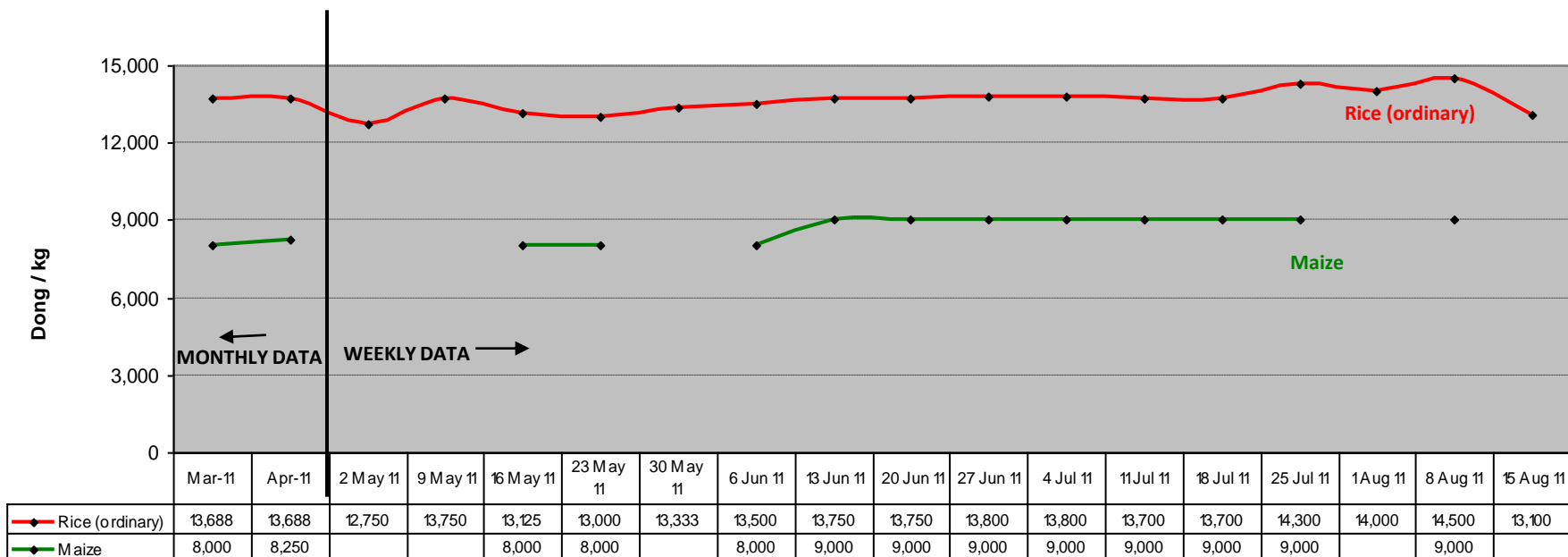
•According to media reports, For the seven-month period, core inflation was up by 2 percent, within the target range of 0.5 and 3 percent set by the Bank of Thailand. Core inflation, which strips out volatile food and energy prices, stood at 106.35 points, up by 2.59 percent year-on-year (Bangkok Post, 2 August 2011).

Retail Staple Food Prices

VIETNAM, Hanoi

Highlights (as of 15 Aug 2011)

- Prices of maize remain stable from last week.
- After a 3.6 percent jump on the second week of August, prices of rice declined by 9.6 percent. Overall, they had remained fairly stable since May 2010.



SOURCE: AgrolInfo, IPSARD

Additional Information

- According to media reports, an increase in rice prices in Thailand caused by political developments has forced some exporters to turn to Vietnam to source grain for shipping to China, a trend that has also helped support Vietnamese prices. For now the Thai move involves only a small volume of premium rice, while a recent Indonesian purchase of 500,000 tonnes of white rice was the main factor behind the rise in the Vietnamese market (Business Recorder, 7 August 2011).
- Despite the ongoing 2011 summer-autumn rice crop harvest and the postponement of the government's decision to procure 1 million tons of rice, quotations went up following the rising trend of export prices (Global Food Price Monitor, 9 August 2011).