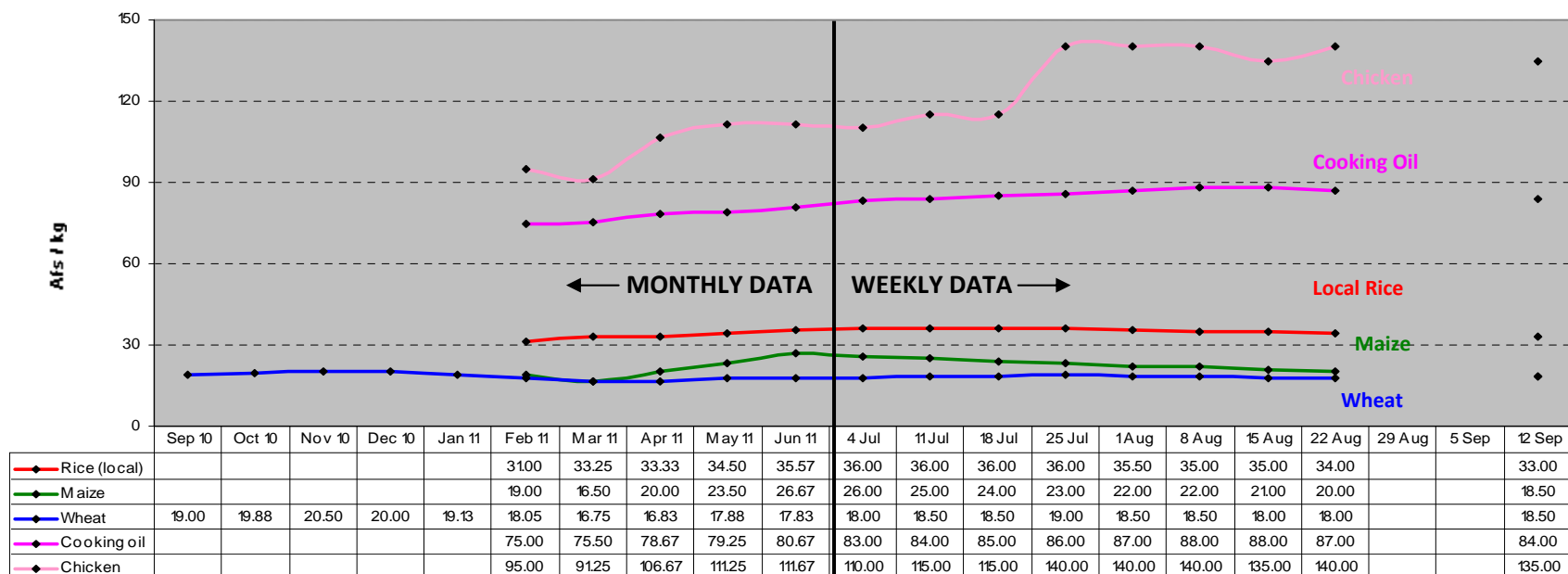


# Retail Staple Food Prices

## AFGHANISTAN, Kabul

### Highlights (as of 12 September 2011)

- Prices of local rice decreased by 2.9 percent over the past few weeks, and have progressively declined over the past month.
- After reaching its highest peak in early June, maize prices have continued to decline, dropping by 7.5 percent in three weeks.
- Wheat prices increased during the past weeks by nearly 3 percent, and are 10 percent higher than in January 2011
- Following a peak in mid August that persisted for a month, cooking oil prices have started to decline
- Following a 22 percent surge in the last week of July, chicken prices dropped by 3.6 percent over the past weeks. Still, they are 42 percent higher than in February 2011.



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

### Additional Information

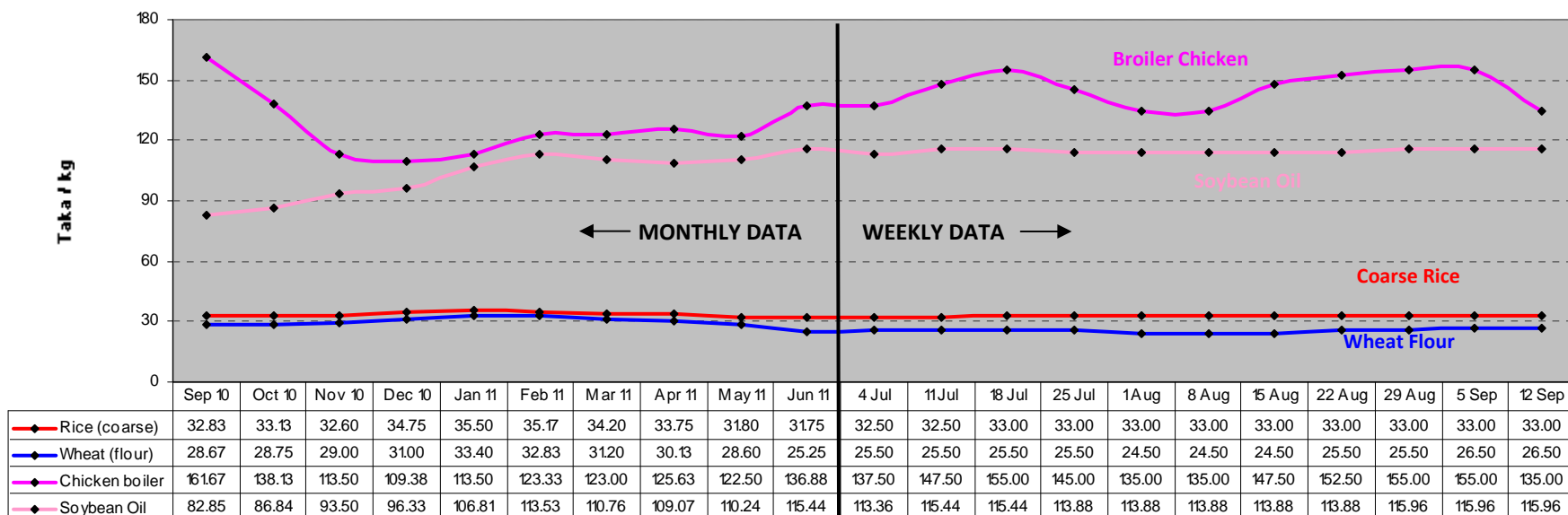
- Food items were distributed to about 3,000 families affected by recent floods in Ghogyani (Bakhtar News, 7 September 2011).
- According to USAID, in anticipation of a poor harvest, wheat market prices in northern Afghanistan increased by 32 percent between March and May which further exacerbate food inaccessibility. While wheat prices have remained stable after the first price spike that occurred in May 2011 because of reliable regional wheat supply from Kazakhstan, prices are expected to remain high as households demand for wheat increases to stock pile before winter, as normal (Food Security Outlook Update, August 2011).

# Retail Staple Food Prices

## BANGLADESH, Dhaka

### Highlights (as of 12 September 2011)

- Prices of coarse rice remained unchanged over the past week and were 2.4 percent above the levels observed a year ago at the same time.
- Wheat flour prices remained stable since last week, and remain 20.6 percent below the peak in January 2011.
- Chicken prices dropped sharply over the past week, decreasing by 12.9 percent, but remain 18.9 percent higher than January 2011.
- Soybean oil prices remained stable during the previous week, yet they are nearly 40 percent higher than a year earlier at the same time.



SOURCE: Ministry of Food and Disaster Management

### Additional Information

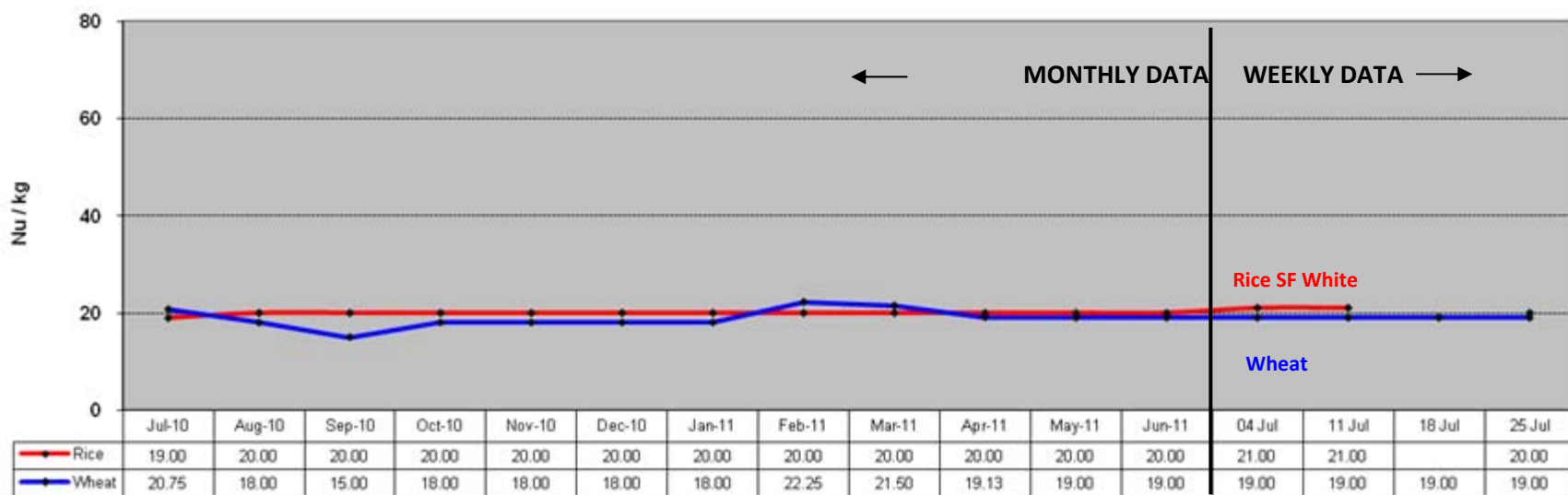
- The central bank of Bangladesh increased its policy interest rates by fifty basis points, in order to curb inflationary pressures on the economy. (Bangladesh Business News, 5 September 2011).
- The upward trend of inflation is likely to continue in the coming months, mainly due to higher food prices. Food price inflation rose to 13.4 percent in July, while non-food items reached 6.5 percent, according to the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) data (Financial Express, 23 August 2011).

# Retail Staple Food Prices

## BHUTAN, Tashigang

### Highlights (as of 25 July 2011)

- Rice prices (SF White) were largely stable for the past year. They are nearly 6 percent higher than the level observed a year earlier (July 2010).
- Wheat prices remain unchanged from last week, and are 8.4 percent below prices observed last year in July 2010.



SOURCE: Department of Agricultural Marketing

### Additional Information

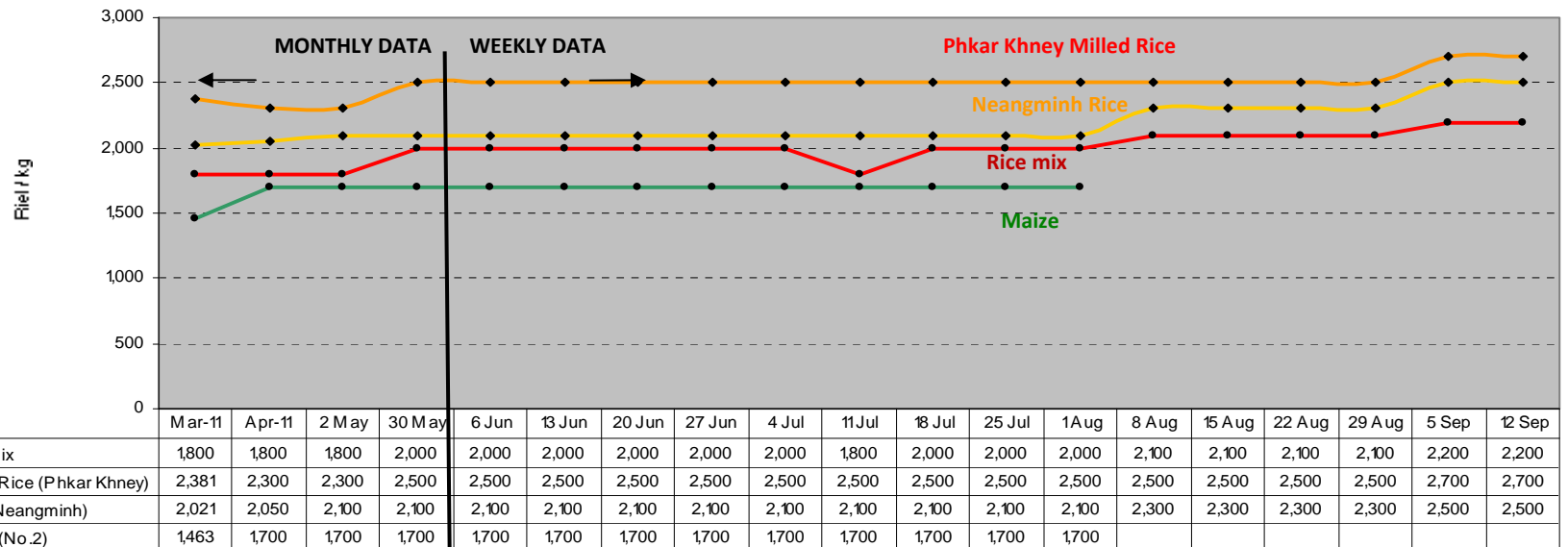
- The government imposed a ban on imports of poultry and poultry products from India, in response to the confirmation of avian influenza H5N1 in the neighbouring Indian state of Assam. The ban is expected to continue until India declares itself Bird Flu free (Ministry of Agriculture and Forests, 12 September 2011).
- A crop insurance scheme was introduced against crop damage by wildlife to help reduce losses of farmers, which will contribute a certain amount of premium against the seed money of Nu 300,000 provided by the government. The scheme was a welcome proposal and more than 100 farmers unanimously agreed to insure crops such as maize and paddy against elephant and wild boar damage. The scheme is supported by the Wildlife Conservation Division, Department of Forests & Park Services, with financial support from the Bhutan Trust Fund for Environmental Conservation (Bhutan Today, 17 August 2011).

# Retail Staple Food Prices

## CAMBODIA, Phnom Penh

### Highlights (as of 12 September 2011)

- Rice prices (mix type) have been relatively stable over the past month, and are 29.4 percent above the prices observed in September 2010.
- Phkar Khney milled rice prices remain steady over the past week, and were 13.4 percent above the prices observed in March 2011.
- After a 9.5 percent jump in early August, Neangminh rice prices followed an upward trend, unchanged during the second week of September. They were nearly 24 percent above the prices observed in March 2011.
- Maize prices have remained stable for the past four months.



SOURCE: Agricultural Marketing Office

### Additional Information

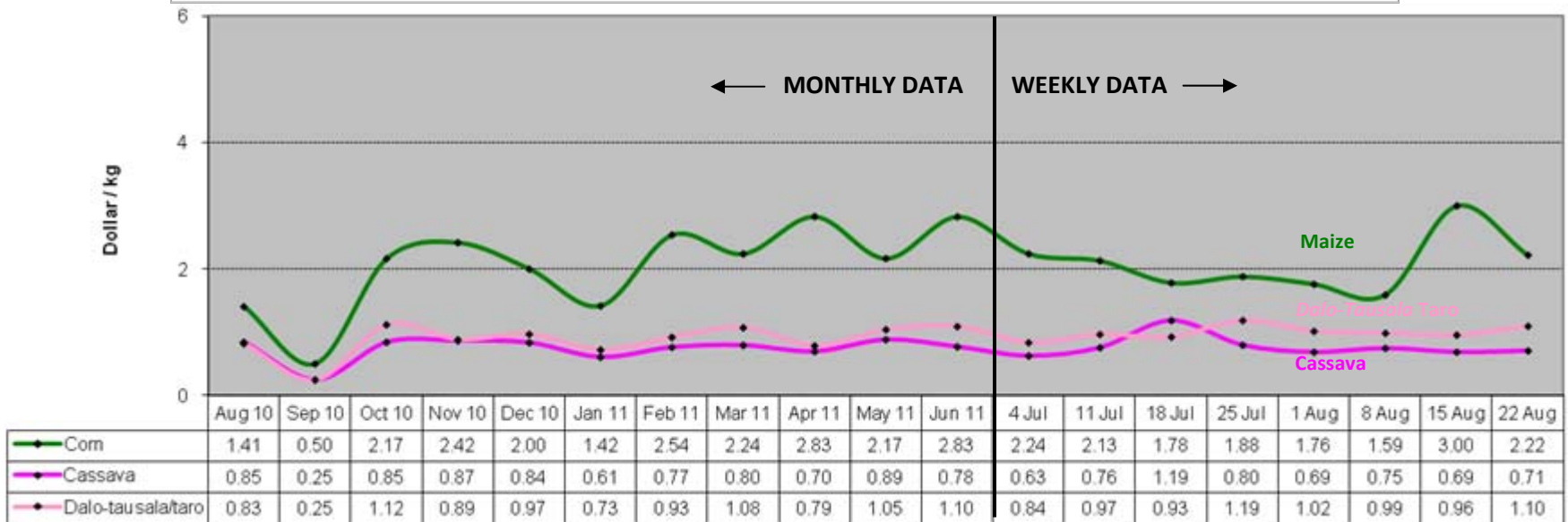
- Rice exports in the past 8 months have reached nearly 100,000 tons, which is twice the amount exported last year over the same period (Agence Kampuchea Press, 8 September 2011).
- Cambodia's total food and beverage imports jumped 28 percent year-on-year through June totaling US\$74 million (Phnom Penh Post, 23 August 2011).
- The 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 for commercial banks from 12 per cent on deposits in foreign currencies to 16 per cent or higher (Phnom Penh Post, 2 August 2011).

# Retail Staple Food Prices

## Fiji, Suva

### Highlights (as of 22 Aug 2011)

- Overall prices for reported staple food commodities have been volatile over the past year.
- Corn prices dropped by 26 percent from the previous week, and were 57 percent higher than last year (August 2010).
- Cassava prices increased by 2.9 percent from last week, and were 16 percent below the prices observed last year (August 2010).
- Prices of Dalo tausala taro increased by 14.6 percent from the previous week, but remained 32.5 percent above last year's price (August 2010).



SOURCE: Department of Agriculture

### Additional Information

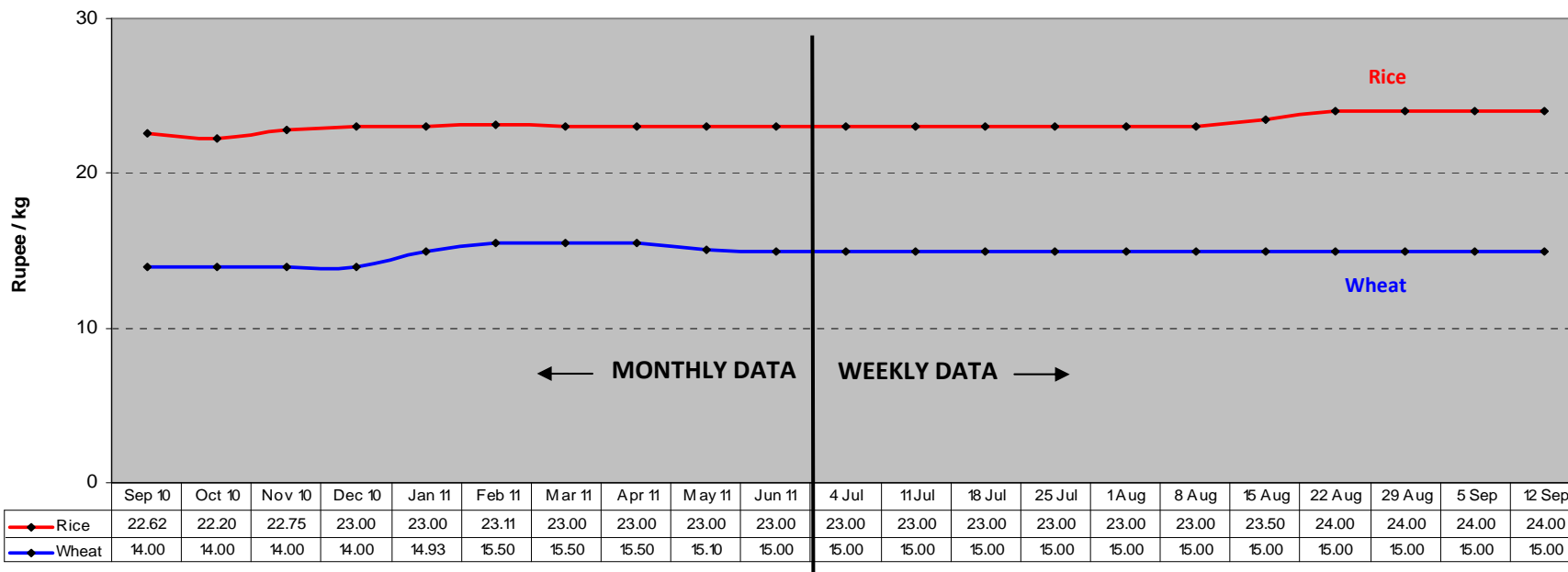
- The Fiji Sugar Corporation reduced the price of molasses sold to the Fiji Cooperative Dairy Company Limited, from \$36.08 to \$30 per 200 litres (44 gallon). Since molasses is a major feed for cows, this new pricing aims to encourage dairy production, through reducing production costs (Government of Fiji, 8 September 2011).
- The Department of Agriculture is carrying out verification process trials and diverse storage methods for different potato varieties, aiming to reduce dependency on imports. Presently, Fiji's potato import bill totals \$ 20 million annually. (Government of Fiji, 6 September 2011).
- A memorandum of understanding on mushroom farming is being finalised with the Government of China to provide financial and technical assistance to grow new mushroom varieties, technology, and farmer's training. (Government of Fiji, 2 September 2011).

# Retail Staple Food Prices

## INDIA, Delhi

### Highlights (as of 12 September 2011)

- Rice prices remained unchanged during the past week, and were 6.1 percent higher than a year ago (September 2010).
- Wheat prices remained stable over the past week and were 7.1 percent than a year ago (September 2011).



Source: Ministry of Consumer Affairs

### Additional Information

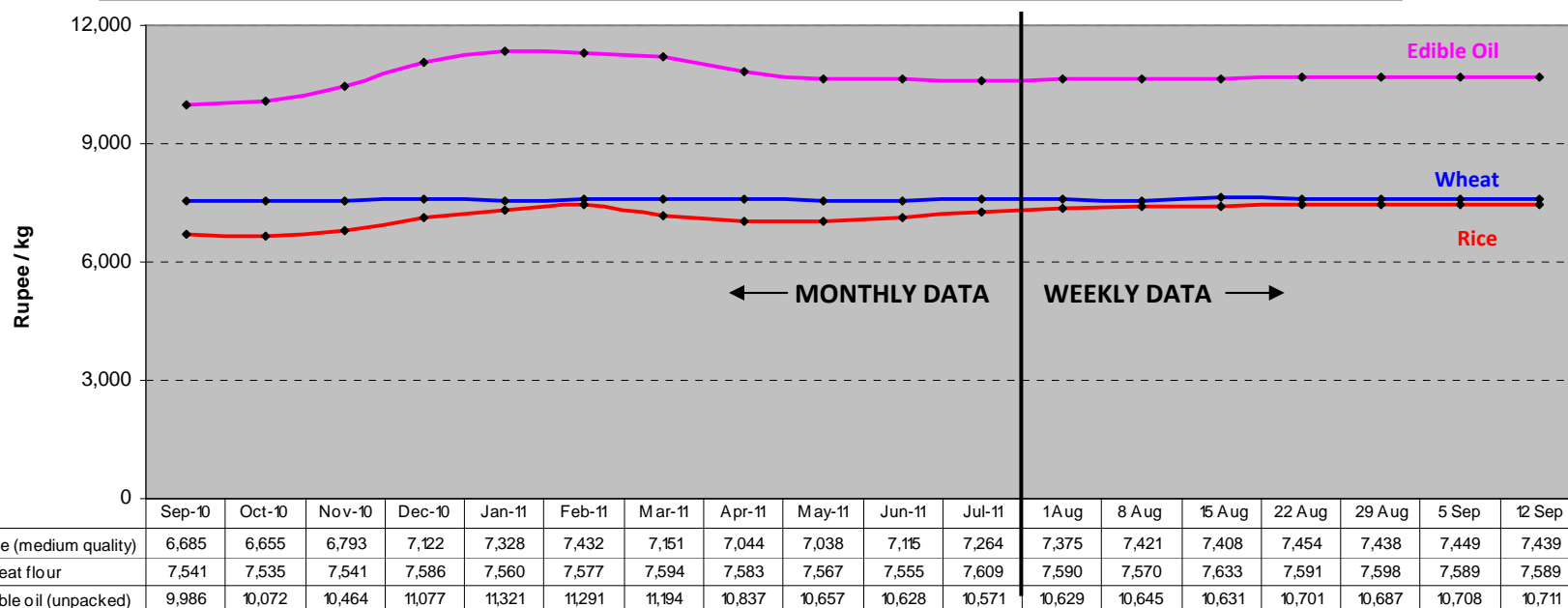
- The government lifted the ban on wheat and rice exports and authorized exports of up to 2 million tons of wheat and 2 million tons of non-Basmati rice. This decision is expected to help prevent a further decline in domestic retail prices (Economic Times and GIEWS Global Food Price Monitor, 8 September 2011).
- The government banned onion exports following a steep rise in the vegetables' price. This recent rise is due to heavy monsoon rains that damaged crops and caused supply disruptions in some areas in India (Reuters and GIEWS Global Food Price Monitor, 8 September 2011)
- The government introduced the Rainfed Area Development Programme aiming to support productivity, and increase household incomes in rainfed areas, through the development of alternate production systems (Ministry of Agriculture, 6 September 2011).
- Land Acquisition Bill in Parliament was recently cleared by the cabinet and it is scheduled to be introduced in Parliament later this week. The final bill will allow acquiring multi-crop irrigated land for both public and private purposes (National TV, 7 September 2011).

# Retail Staple Food Prices

## INDONESIA, national average

### Highlights (as of 12 September 2011)

- Overall, rice retail prices remained largely stable during the second week of September.
- Wheat flour prices are unchanged since the past week and remain nearly the same for a year.
- Edible oil prices remain steady, and are 7.2 percent higher than last year at the same time.



SOURCE: Ministry of Trade

### Additional Information

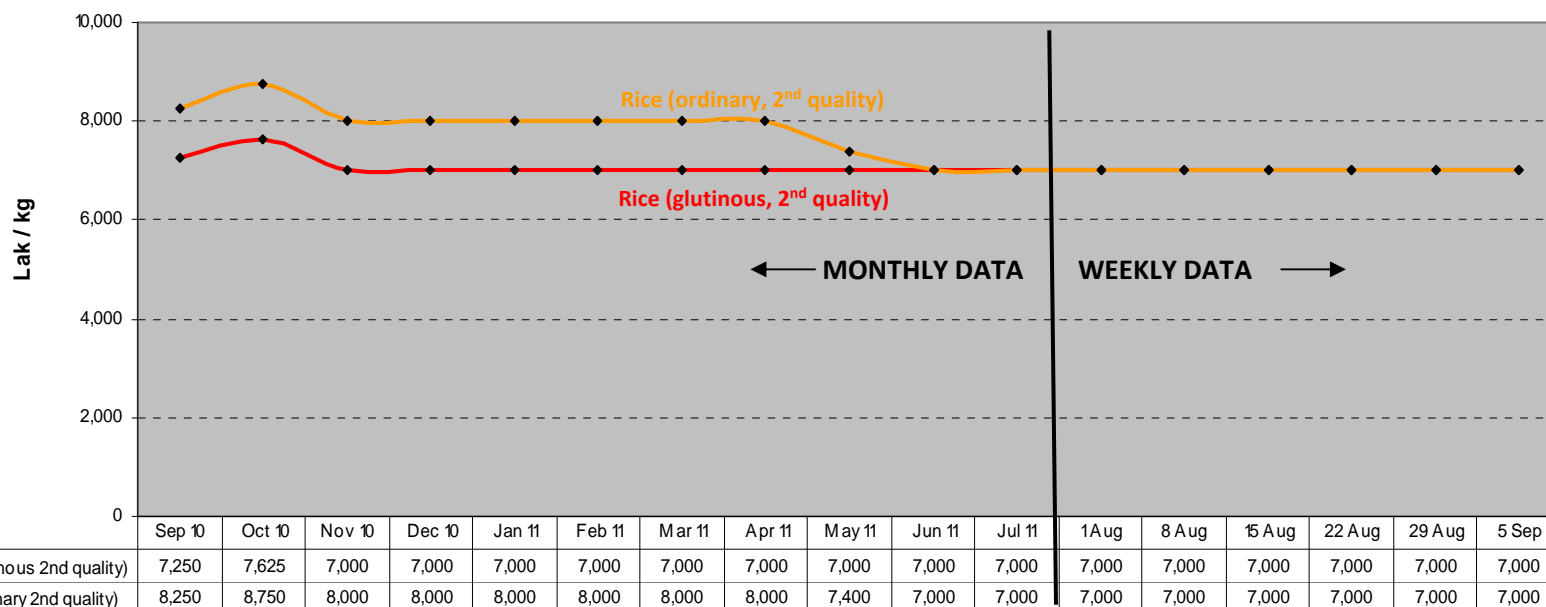
- According to a media report, the government has earmarked Rp 4.5 trillion (\$526 million) to anticipate and mitigate the impacts of natural disasters in the proposed state budget for 2012 (Jakarta Post, 9 September 2011).
- Rice Imports are forecasted at 1.7 million tons in 2011, the highest level in recent years, as the government aims to maintain public reserves at adequate levels (GIEWS Global Food Price Monitor, 8 September 2011).

# Retail Staple Food Prices

## LAO PDR, Vientiane

### Highlights (as of 5 September 2011)

- The price of ordinary second quality rice converged with the price of glutinous rice at 7,000 Lak per kilo in May 2011 and have remained stable since then.



SOURCE: Ministry of Industry and Commerce

### Additional Information

- The government amended the Law on Investment Promotion, allowing foreign investors to own residential land rights. From now, any foreign national who invests US\$500,000 or more in Laos will be able to buy land from the state as part of the government's new investment incentives (Vientiane Times, 13 September 2011).
- According to a media report, the government is considering providing emergency funding of more than 100 billion kip for the repair of irrigation systems damaged in recent flooding, so farmers can plant their dry season crops (Vientiane Times, 13 September 2011).

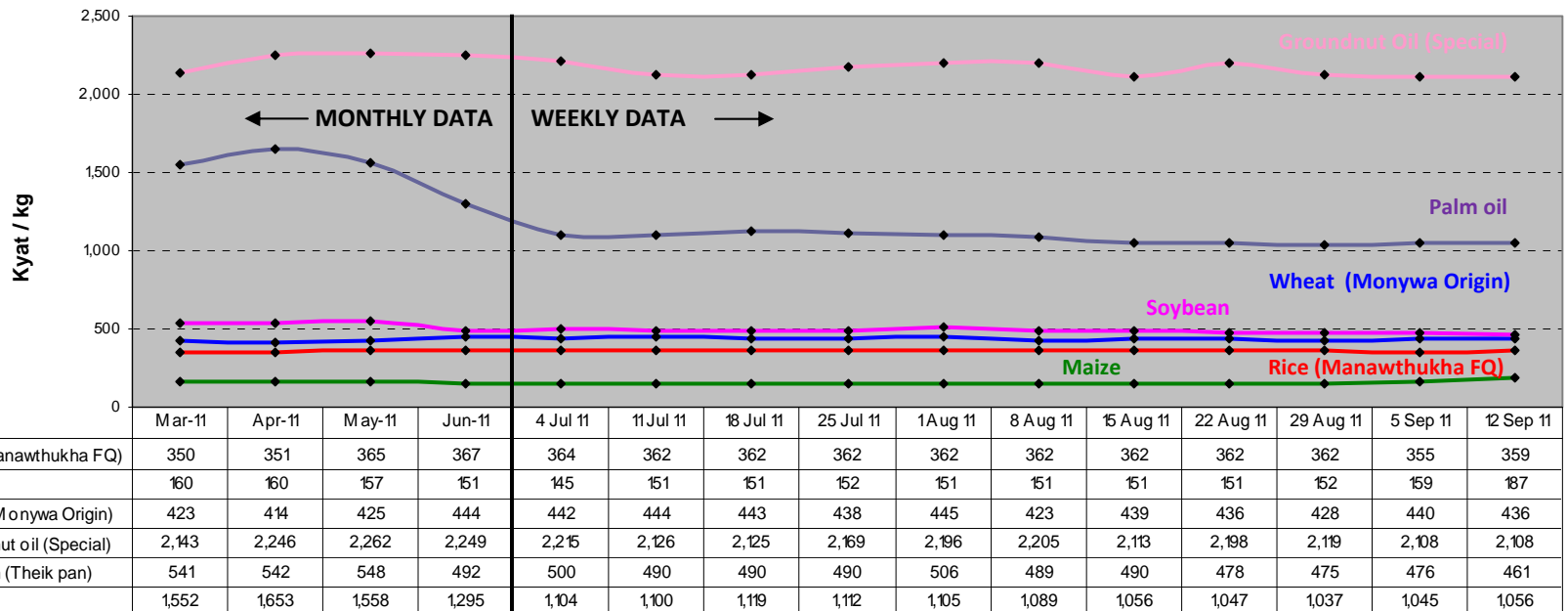


# Wholesale Staple Food Prices

## MYANMAR, Yangon and Mandalay

### Highlights (as of 12 September 2011)

- Rice, wheat, and edible oil prices (ground nut and palm oil) remained relatively stable during the past week.
- Maize prices increased sharply, rising by 17.61 percent over the past week.
- Soybean prices dropped by 3.15 percent from the previous week, and were 14.79 percent above the levels observed in March 2011.



SOURCE: E-Trade Myanmar

### Additional Information

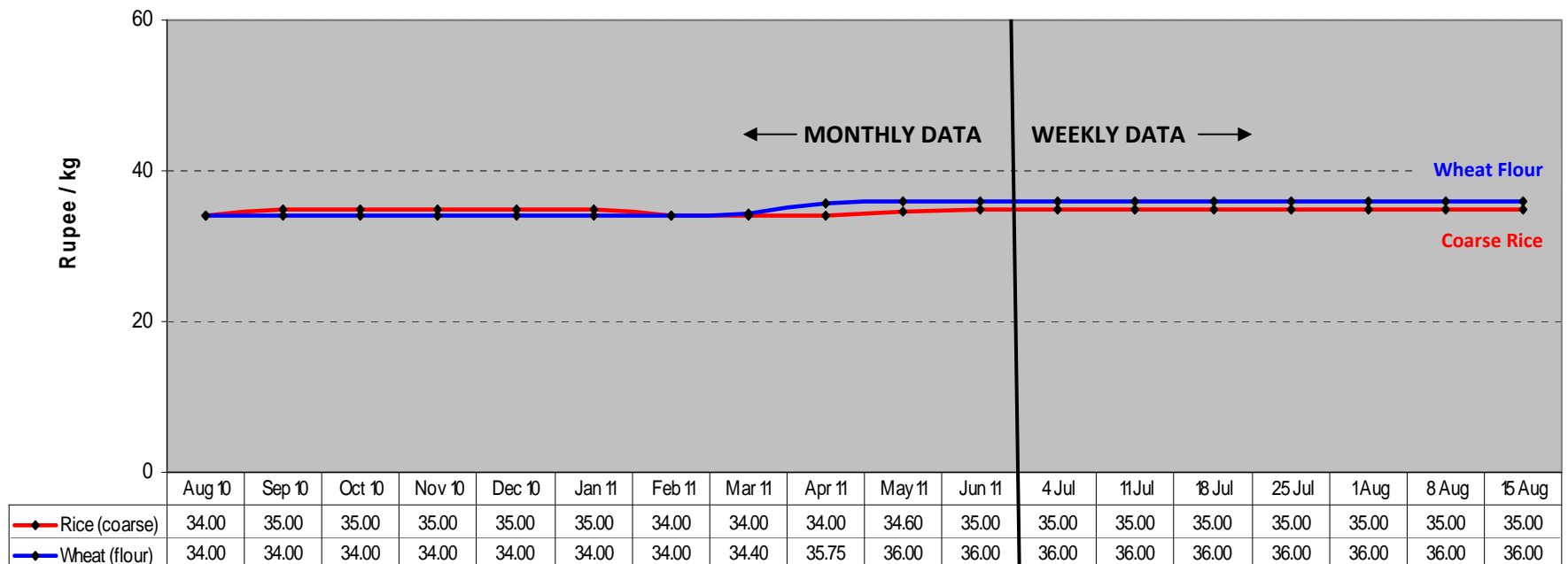
- A new bill has been proposed to give farmers the right to sell, mortgage, inherit and rent out farmland. This proposed bill would help to facilitate issues faced by the country regarding ownership of agricultural land (Myanmar Times, 5 September 2011).
- According to a media report, the national government is discussing modifications in the country's exchange rate system, in order to further stabilize exchange rate and encourage international trade (Myanmar Business, 31 August 2011).
- The Government of Myanmar provided food assistance to flood victim households in Ayeyarwady Region (Government of Myanmar, 8 September 2011).

# Retail Staple Food Prices

## NEPAL, Kathmandu

### Highlights (as of 15 Aug 2011)

- Since June 2011, rice and wheat prices have been stable. They are up 2.9 and 5.8 percent respectively from a year earlier (August 2010).



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

### Additional Information

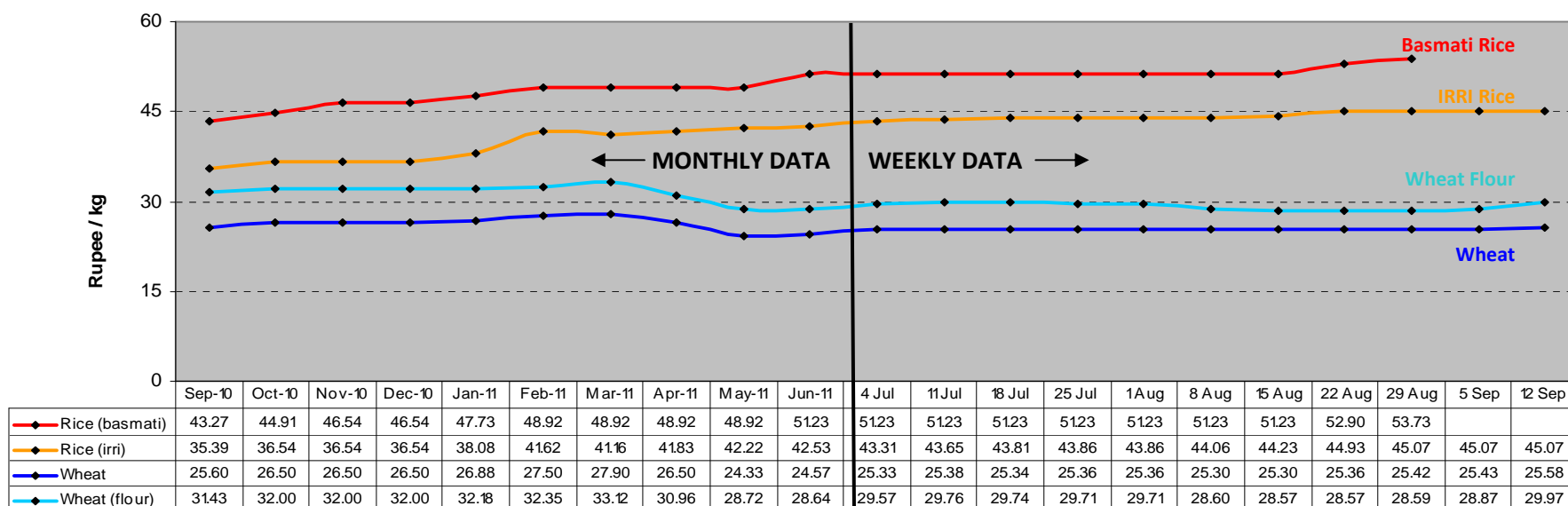
- According to the Nepal Central Bank, the year-on-year consumer price inflation increased by 8.8 percent in mid June 2011 compared to 8.2 percent last year. The price index of food and beverage rose by 14.3 percent, while the index of cereal grains remained at 10.4 percent in the same period (Government of Nepal, 12 September 2011).
- The national production of maize is not sufficient to fulfill half of the aggregate demand in the country. Maize worth around Rs. 200 million has been imported to cater to the annual demand of the grain (The Himalayan, 13 September 2011).

# Retail Staple Food Prices

## PAKISTAN, Karachi

### Highlights (as of 12 September 2011)

- Overall, basmati rice and wheat prices remained reasonably stable (+1.5% and 0.59% respectively) over the past week, but were 24 percent higher than a year ago.
- Prices of rice (IRRI) remained unchanged from the previous week, and were 27 percent higher than a year ago.
- Wheat flour prices increased by 3.8 percent over the past week, and were nearly 5 percent less than they were a year ago.



SOURCE: Bureau of Statistics

### Additional Information

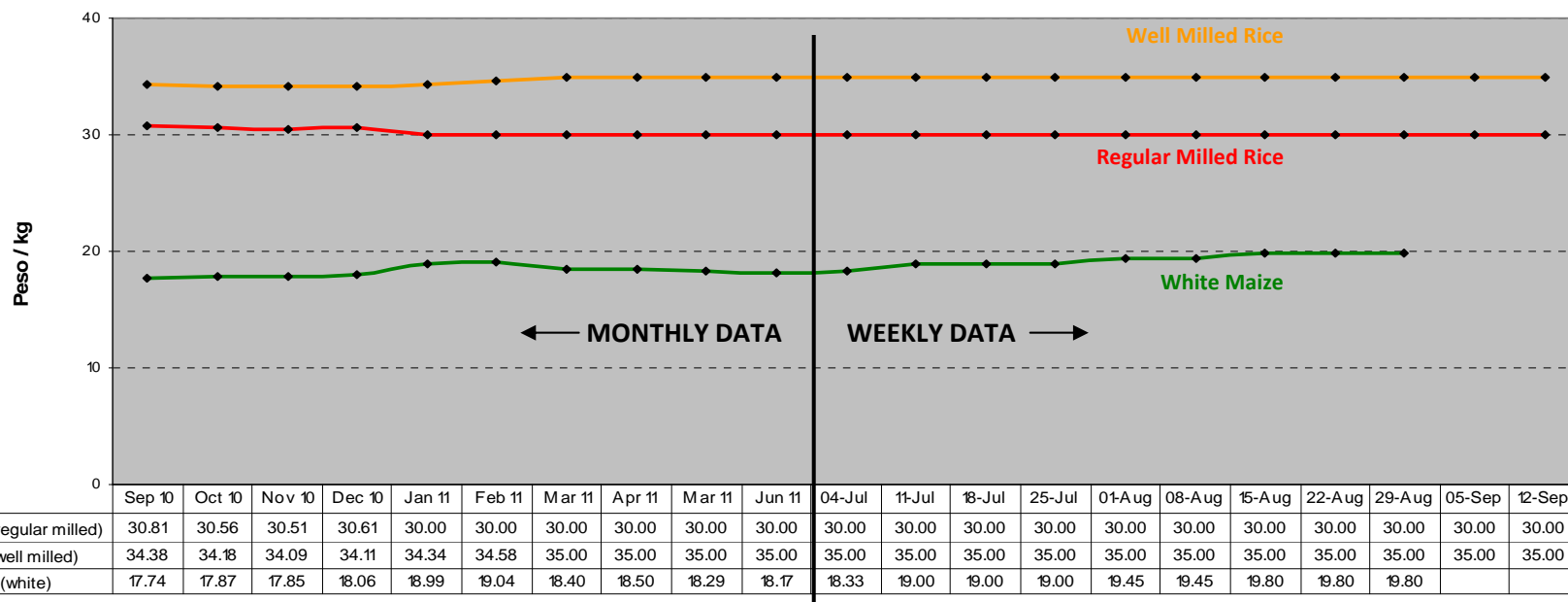
- According to OCHA, torrential monsoon rains have been affecting Sindh province, affecting more than 5 million people and flooding 4.2 million acres of land (OCHA Situation Report, 12 September 2011).
- The government has established the “Prime Minister’s Relief Fund-2011” for the flood affected regions of the country, to receive both domestic and international donations (Ministry of Information, 12 September 2011).
- According to a media report, the security situation in Karachi could be responsible for an important slow down in rice exports. Basmati exports were at \$88 million in July this year against \$104 million in the same month last year. Similarly, non-basmati exports fell to \$70 million from \$80 million (The Nation, 4 September 2011).

# Retail Staple Food Prices

## PHILIPPINES, Metro Manila

### Highlights (as of 12 September 2011)

- Rice prices in the Philippines remained unchanged over the past week.
- Maize prices remained unchanged from last week, and were 11.6 percent below the prices observed in September 2010.



SOURCE: Bureau of Agricultural Statistics

### Additional Information

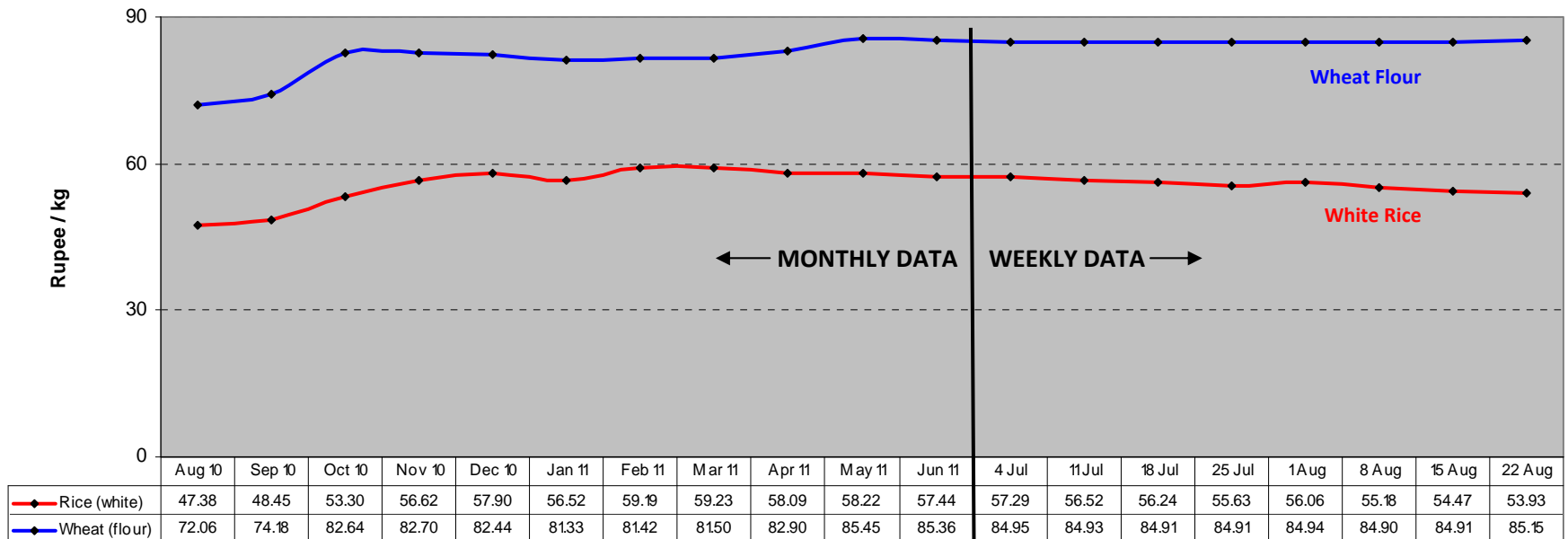
- The government reduced the fish export fees to merely 0,2 percent for all fish species caught in Philippines waters, in order to boost fish production, catch and exports that have been decreasing in the past few years. This decision amends the Fisheries Administrative Order issued in 2010 fixing fish exports fees at 3 percent of the export value (Official Gazette, 11 September 2011).
- Food exporters are asking the government to set aside for them 2% of annual sugar output at prices on a par with those in neighboring Southeast Asian countries to help them cope with the appreciation of the peso, which has already cut into their revenues. (Business Mirror, 8 September 2011).
- In response to the Typhoon Juaning that affected more than 17,000 hectares of farmlands; the government has distributed seeds within the rehabilitation project extended in the Bicolandia region (Department of Agriculture, 2 September 2011).

# Retail Staple Food Prices

## SRI LANKA, Colombo

### Highlights (as of 22 Aug 2011)

- Rice prices were relatively stable during the first half of August, and were 16.5 percent above the prices observed a year ago (August 2010).
- Wheat prices remained essentially unchanged from the last week of July, and were almost 18 percent above prices a year ago (August 2010).



SOURCE: Department of Census and Statistics

### Additional Information

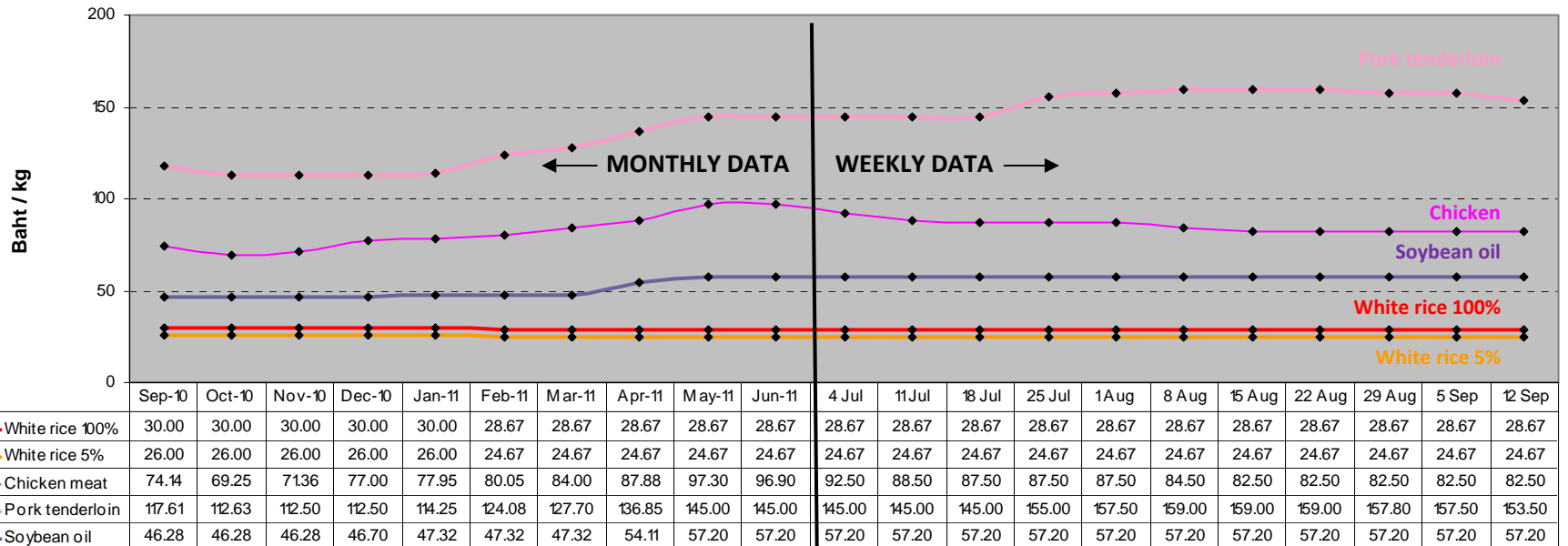
- The Hada Bima Authority has taken measures to increase the production of seeds of indigenous food crops, which are more immune to pest attacks and have high nutritional value (Government of Sri Lanka, 12 September 2011).
- This year, 500 hectares of land have been cleared of landmines and used for the cultivation of paddy and other crops by farmers in the North, making a total of 17,000 hectares of land reused for agricultural purposes. In the meantime, measures are underway to release land which was once used as high security zones to its owners (Government of Sri Lanka, 7 September 2011).

# Retail Staple Food Prices

THAILAND, Bangkok

## Highlights (as of 12 September 2011)

- Rice, chicken and soybean prices remained unchanged over the past week.
- Pork prices decreased by 2.54 percent, and were 30.5 percent above the price a year earlier in September 2010.



SOURCE: Department of Internal Trade (DIT)

### Additional Information

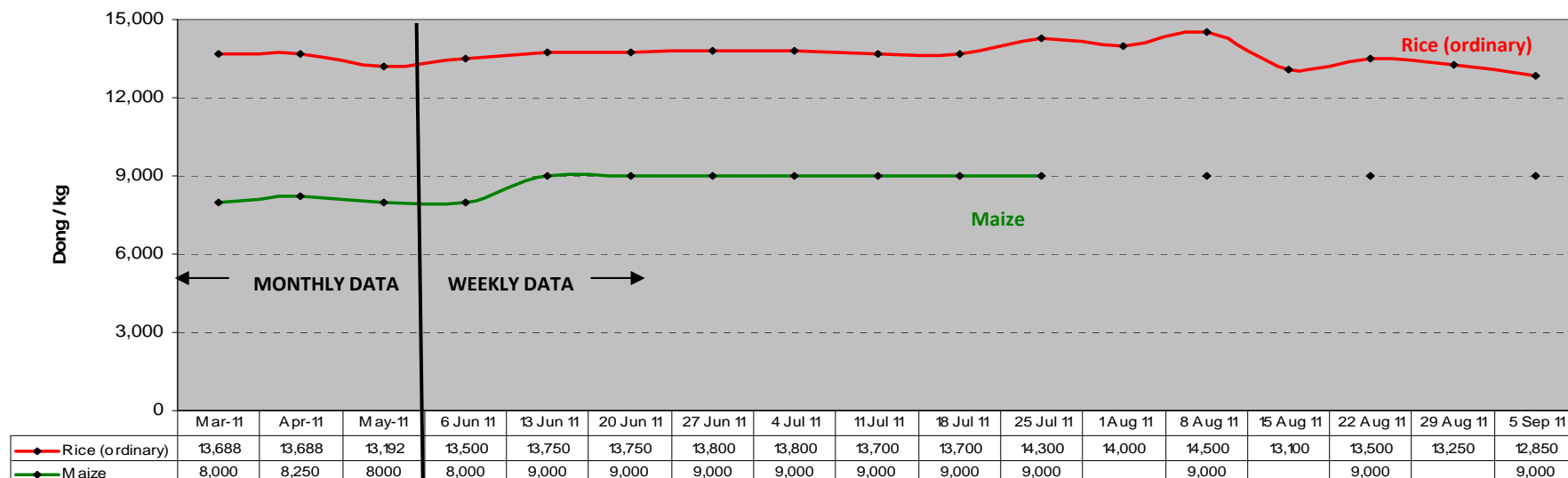
- The National Rice Policy Committee has approved the new rice mortgage scheme which will ensure rice prices for farmers of about 5,000 baht a tonne above the current market price. The scheme will be implemented from 7 October 2011 to 29 February 2012 (Bangkok Post, 13 September 2011).
- The price for fragrant Hom Mali paddy rice was set at 20,000 baht per ton, while premium white paddy rice will fetch 15,000 baht per tonne, while the current market price for Hom Mali rice is about 15,000 baht per ton and white paddy is between 9,500 and 11,500 baht per ton (Thai Rice Exporters Association, 12 September 2011).

# Retail Staple Food Prices

## VIETNAM, Hanoi

### Highlights (as of 5 September 2011)

- Following a fairly sharp drop in mid-August, rice prices still remain nearly 6 percent below the level in March 2011.
- Prices of maize have been stable since mid-June, and were 12.5 percent above the prices observed in March 2011.



SOURCE: AgrolInfo, IPSARD

### Additional Information

- Central level enterprises launched the “Buy Vietnamese” campaign which provides customers with updated information about quality of goods and their supply and demand to facilitate domestic production (Government of Vietnam, 4 September 2011).
- In the first eight months of the year, imports of material for production and processing of farming, forestry, and seafood finished products increased by 22.6 percent to \$10.4 billion. Moreover, fertilisers saw the highest increase in import volume rising by 31.1 per cent to 2.6 million tonnes, and value during the period, rising by 64 per cent in value to \$1 billion (Vietnam News, 6 September 2011).