

Trade and Market Headlines East Darfur



Darfur Development and Reconstruction Agency

www.dra-sudan.org • mohamedgido@gmail.com



Gerald J. and Dorothy R. Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy



September to November 2015

- During this quarter (September to November 2015), **cereal prices** (millet and local sorghum in particular) showed an upward trend in most monitored markets in East Darfur State, such as Ed Daein, Abumtareg, Asalaya, Aneem, Abugabra and Selya. In some markets in areas of production where the harvest has been slightly better, prices were more stable or decreased slightly, for example Kelakel, Abusaeda and Alferdus. The overall upwards price trend mainly indicates the poor harvest in most production areas as a consequence of the poor rainy season which stopped early, and also East Darfur is known as a cash crop producing area rather than a cereal producing area. The highest quarterly average millet price in the area was reported in Abumtareg market (SDG 537) as a consumption area and the lowest quarterly average millet price was reported in Alferdus market (SDG 425) as a production area. See Figure 1. The price of locally produced sorghum followed the same trends as millet. It is used as livestock fodder in many areas including

Background and methodology

The goal of this community-based market monitoring initiative is to deepen analysis and understanding of the shifting patterns of trade and markets in Darfur, on an ongoing basis for key agricultural and livestock commodities, to identify how livelihoods and the economy can be supported through trade, and to identify peace-building opportunities through trade. Eleven CBOs/NGOs are monitoring 14 markets across East Darfur on a weekly basis. Quantitative data, for example the price of Darfur's main cereals, livestock, cash crops and fruits and vegetables are collected weekly as well as qualitative data, for example on sources of supply. Some data are collected on a monthly basis, for example transport costs, transport routes and the impact of the conflict on flows of commodities. DDRA holds quarterly analysis workshops with the CBO enumerators.

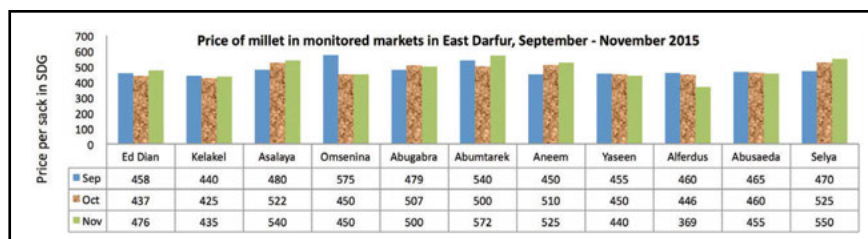


Figure 1: Price of millet in monitored markets in East Darfur State, September to November 2015

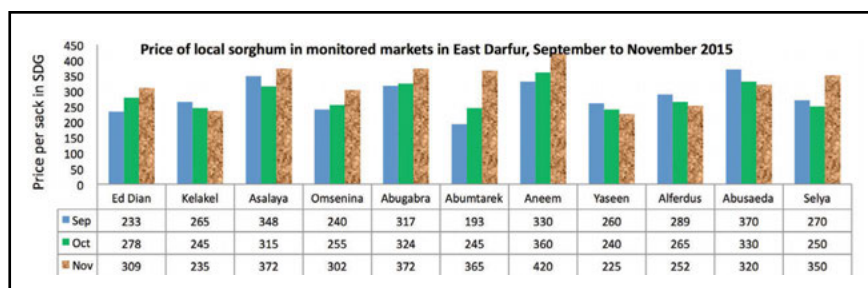


Figure 2: Price of local sorghum in monitored markets in East Darfur State, September to November 2015.

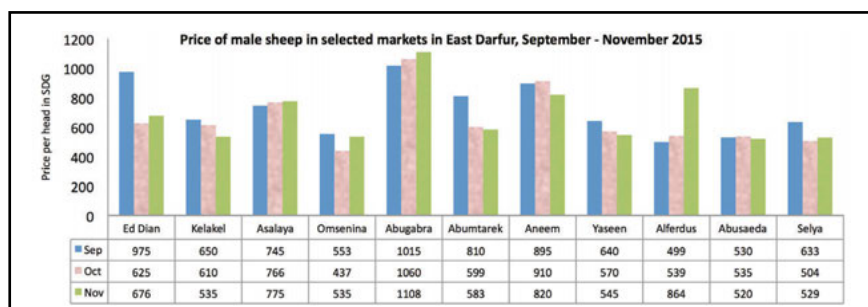


Figure 3: Price of male sheep in selected markets in East Darfur State, September - November 2015

List of participant CBOs/NGOs, monitoring markets and localities in East Darfur

Ed Daein — Global Aid Hand
 Aneem — White Hand Organization
 Kelakel and Yaseen — Al Dar Organisation
 for Development and Reconstruction
 Abumatarig — Altmaas Development
 Organization
 Alferdus — El Massar Organization for
 Nomad Development and Environment
 Conservation
 Asalaya — Massaye Organisation for
 Women's Development

Selya — Alshroog Organisation for Social
 and Cultural Development
 Abuseida — Massaye for Humanitarian Services
 Abugabra — AISHoaa Organisation
 Shearia, Khazangadeed and Muhagiria —
 Mercy Organisation for Peace and
 Development
 Omsenina — Banoon Charity

This project is funded by the EU



Ed Daein and Aneem markets, and is also exported to South Sudan. See Figure 2. There was no availability of food aid sorghum reported across the monitored markets in East Darfur State, reflecting that there are no food distribution activities in the state.

- The **price of livestock** fluctuated during the quarter, and varied from one market to another according to local conditions. The price of sheep was high in most markets during September, for example Ed Daein, Kelakel, Omsenina, Abumatarek, Yaseen and Selya, due to the high demand during Eid Aladha. Sheep prices also started increasing during November in Abugabra market, when the rainy season ended and traders transported sheep to Omdurman. Sheep prices were stable in other markets such as Asalaya and Abusaeda due to the steady availability of supply in the area. See Figure 3. The price of cattle also fluctuated according to the availability of supply around markets reflecting the normal movement of livestock looking for good pasture. See Figure 4. The price of local donkeys started decreasing in November in most monitored markets as the agricultural season phased out.

- Although this quarter (September to November) is the harvest period, the **price of cash crops** (groundnuts, dried tomato and dried okra in particular) unusually increased as a consequence of poor rainfall, early phasing out of the rainy season and therefore a poor harvest. The price of groundnuts decreased slightly in the main markets during the first two months of the quarter (September and October) because of increased availability during the harvest season, but increased again when the harvest ended, reflecting poor production this year. See Figure 5. Prices of dried tomato and dried okra increased in almost monitored markets, which is abnormal at this time of year and reflects the poor harvest in production areas. See Figures 6 & 7.

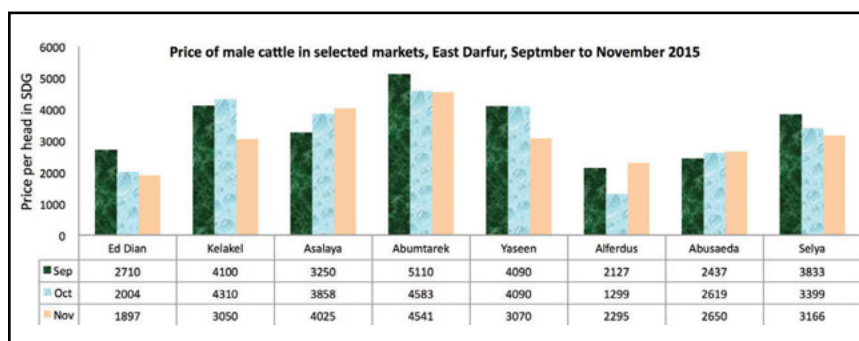


Figure 4: Price of male cattle in selected markets in East Darfur State, September - November 2015.

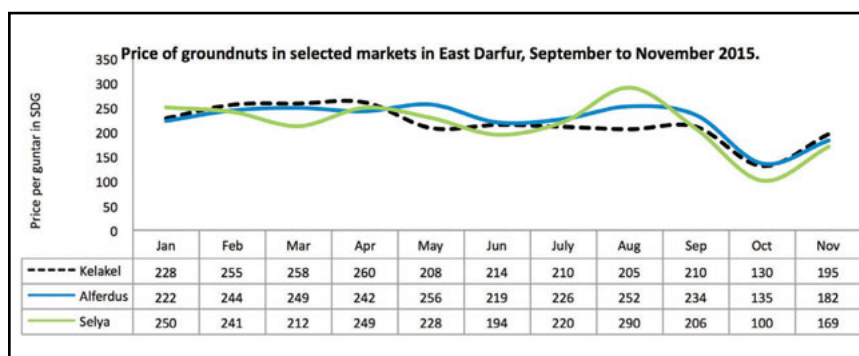


Figure 5: Price of groundnuts in selected markets in East Darfur State, January - November 2015

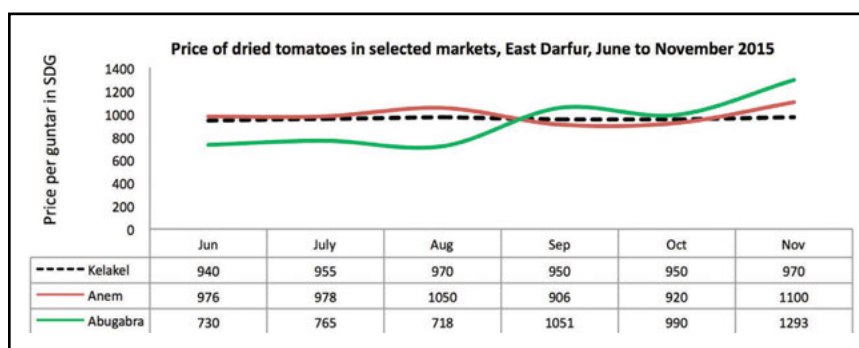


Figure 6: Price of dried tomatoes in selected markets in East Darfur State, January - November 2015



- As usual in this period of the year, the price of **fruit and vegetables** (onions and fresh tomatoes in particular) are affected by seasonality. The price of **onions** started increasing across East Darfur state during the quarter as this is the off-season. See Figure 8. The price of **fresh tomatoes** also increased across the State reflecting the off-season. In 4 out of 14 markets there was no availability of fresh tomatoes.
- Despite the poor rains and poor harvest (for groundnuts in particular), the main daily **labouring** opportunity this quarter was agricultural activities (harvesting).
- During the quarter there was improvement and stability in the security situation throughout East Darfur State. Accordingly most **trade routes** from East Darfur to other States, including the railway, or connecting markets and areas within the State, were stable, and there were no natural obstructions to trade routes although this quarter marked the end of the rainy season. The exception is the trade route connecting Ed Daein to Omdurman through Al Lait which is still closed due to the tribal conflict in the area.

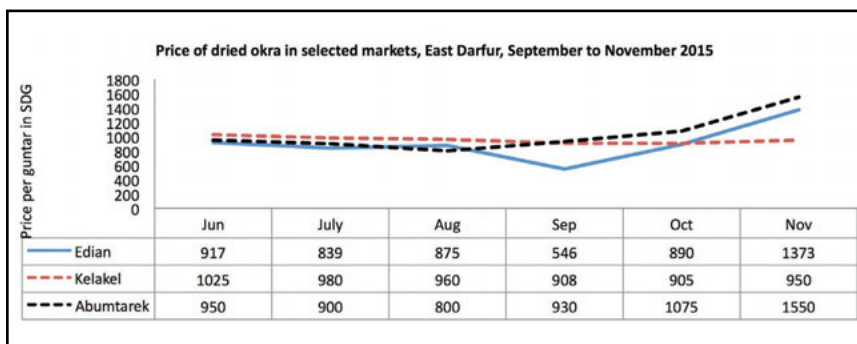


Figure 7: Price of dried okra in selected markets in East Darfur State, January - November 2015

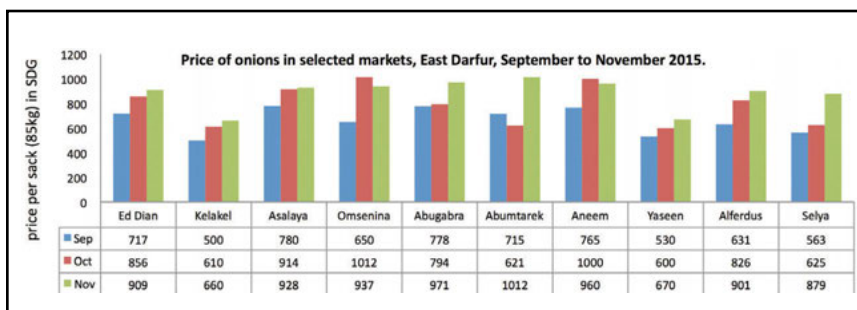


Figure 8: Price of onions in selected markets in East Darfur State, September - November 2015