

Trade and Market Bulletin Greater Darfur Region

Darfur Development and Reconstruction Agency



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Feinstein International Center

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Cereals

Now that the cereal harvest is over, cereal prices (millet in particular) stabilised or increased marginally during the quarter in most consumption areas or non-cereal producing areas throughout the Darfur region, a reflection of the good harvest. See Figures 1 and 2. Prices are lower than a year ago and the rate of increase during the quarter was lower than the same time last year: for example in El Fashir market, the price of millet increased by 1% this quarter (March to May 2015) while it increased by 20% in the same quarter of last year (March to May 2014). See Figure 3. In some markets, such as Nyala in South Darfur (an area of high consumption) the price of millet decreased during the quarter, mainly because cereal stocks have been released from production areas in South Darfur. South and East Darfur (cash crop producing states) reported higher cereal prices across most monitored markets, while West and Central Darfur (cereal producing states) reported lower prices across most monitored markets. Price trends in El Fashir market deserve further investigation as the millet price has gone from being the lowest of the Darfur state capitals in January 2015, to the highest in May 2015. The highest average price of millet across the monitored markets was reported in Muhagiria in East

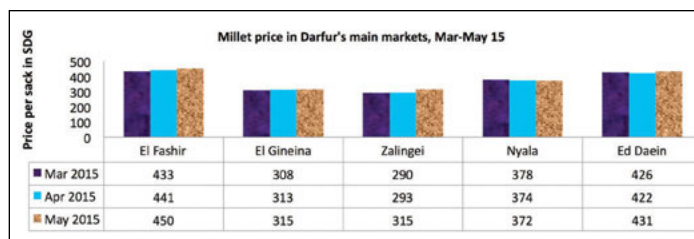


Figure 1: Millet price in Darfur's main markets, March to May 2015

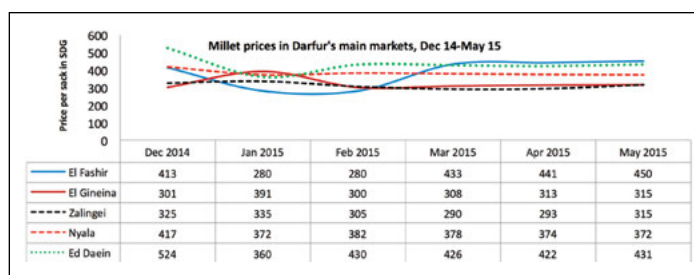


Figure 2: Millet prices in Darfur's main markets, December 2014 to May 2015

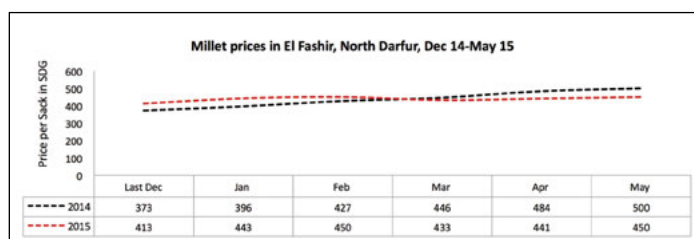


Figure 3: Millet prices in El Fashir, North Darfur, December 2014 to May 2015

Darfur (SDG 583), which is considered a consumption area. The lowest price was reported in Kulbus market in West Darfur (SDG 237), which is a cereal producing area.

Background and methodology

The goal of this community-based market monitoring project 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. Through a network of 46 national CBOs/ NGOs, DDRA is monitoring 73 markets across all five Darfur states. 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 in each state, and the findings are written up as quarterly 'Headline' documents for each state. This trade and market bulletin for the Greater Darfur Region is written and disseminated after the headline documents. It summarises the analysis at state-level and comments on inter-state trade.

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Livestock

During this quarter (March to May 2015) livestock prices, sheep and goats in particular, fluctuated a little across the monitored markets throughout Darfur. This was due to the seasonal movement of livestock across the region in search of water and/or pasture, which is normal at this time of year. Prices remained

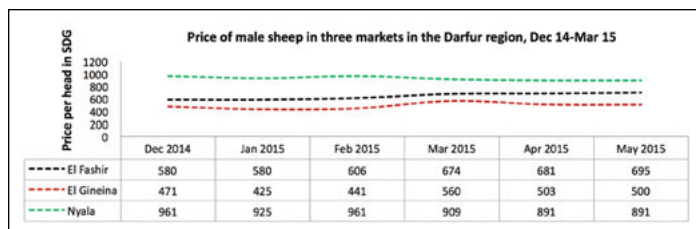


Figure 4: Price of male sheep in three markets in the Darfur region, December 2014 to March 2015

stable or decreased slightly in areas where livestock settled, such as Nyala in South Darfur, and increased slightly in areas livestock moved away from, such as El Fashir in North Darfur. See Figure 4. Generally speaking, however, livestock prices stabilised this quarter, reflecting stable market conditions and the relatively stable security situation across Darfur. The price of donkeys (local and improved) reported an upward trend in some areas as these animals were in demand for use in agricultural activities (land preparation in particular).



Cash Crops

In general during this quarter cash crop prices reported an upward trend as the harvest season phased out. Groundnut prices in particular increased gradually in almost all of the five main markets in the Darfur region but decreased or stabilised in

production areas, such as El Lait market in North Darfur. This is considered a normal seasonal trend as groundnuts are mainly used for local consumption. See Figure 5. The price of dried okra and dried tomatoes started decreasing this quarter, mainly in production areas, as a result of the good harvest (2014-2015).

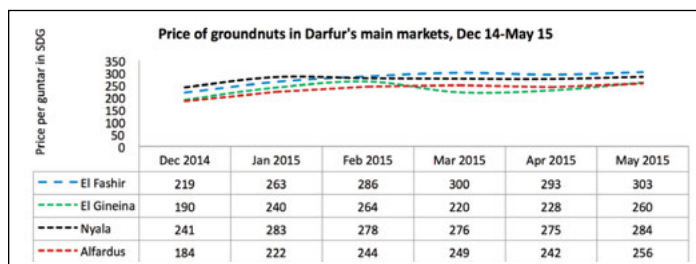


Figure 5: Price of groundnuts in Darfur's main markets, December 2014 to May 2015

Trade Routes

During this quarter most of the main trade routes remained open despite insecurity affecting some routes such as Omdurman to Mellit through Al Koma. This route was closed due to insecurity and a new trade route opened (Omdurman-Hamrat-Alshaihk-Mado-Sayah-Mellit). Also the trade route connecting Omdurman to Tina through Mellit changed to go through Malha: although this new route is longer, the checkpoint fees are lower, totalling SDG 1,000 to 2,500 per truck instead of SDG 6,000 to 7,000 per truck on the route passing through Al Koma. The fully paved El Ingaz trade route has had an impact on reducing the price of some commodities, such as cement and construction materials, especially in El Fashir (see the fruit and vegetables section



above for the impact on onion prices). There is also greater availability in El Fashir market of manufactured goods coming from Omdurman. Otherwise trade routes in other areas either within states or connecting states were calm and stable this quarter.

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Fruits and Vegetables

The price of onions fluctuated throughout the Darfur region, which is normal at this time of year. Prices started to increase during May in most consumption markets (e.g. El Fashir in North Darfur), continued to decrease in most production areas (e.g. Abata in Central Darfur) and stabilised in others. In addition, onion supplies are now coming from Omdurman along the fully paved El Ingaz trade route following its completion, which is replacing local production. El Fashir market in North Darfur has been particularly affected by this, with prices here, a consumption area, being lower than in Kutum, a production area in North Darfur (the average price of onions this quarter was SDG 282 in El Fashir compared to SDG 332 in Kutum). See Figure 6. The price of fresh tomatoes continued increasing throughout the Darfur region, reflecting the off-season, and some markets reported no availability at all of fresh tomatoes, which is very common at this time of year. See Figure 7 which shows prices in North Darfur.

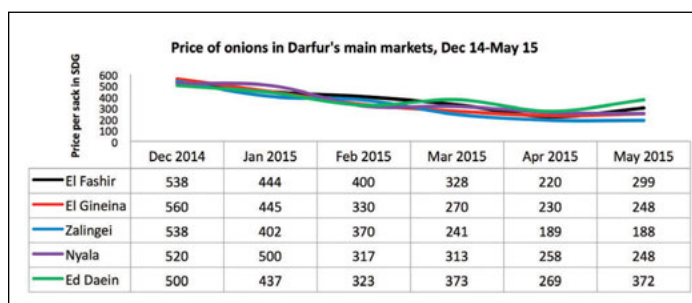


Figure 6: Price of onions in Darfur's main markets, December 2014 to May 2015

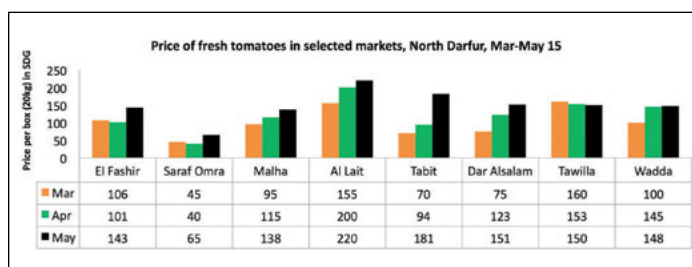


Figure 7: Price of fresh tomatoes in selected markets, North Darfur, March to May 2015

Daily Labouring

Agricultural activities (land preparation), brick-making and construction activities were the main daily labour opportunities this quarter throughout the Darfur region, as is normal at this

time of year. There were some additional but minor activities according to the local conditions in each state, for example domestic work and shepherding in East and South Darfur.



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DDRA has a technical agreement with a number of ministries in each Darfur state: North, West, Central, South and East



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