

Technical Notes on Weekly Survey of Prices for Cereals

1. BACKGROUND

Prices of cereals are monitored regularly through the conduct of the Weekly Cereals and Fertilizers Price Monitoring (WCFPM). This price survey started in 1989 by the former Bureau of Agricultural Statistics (BAS), now part of the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA). The survey is conducted in response to the need of the Department of Agriculture (DA) to have a more frequent monitoring of prices of palay, rice and corn. Prices collected from this survey are also used by the National Food Authority and Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

In addition, the survey also collects prices of fertilizers which serves as the source of the monthly report on dealers' prices of fertilizers.

2. DATA COLLECTION

2.1 Types of Prices Monitored

2.1.1 Farmgate Prices

Farmgate Prices are prices received by farmers for the sale of their produce at their first point of sale during their last transaction within the reference period.

- **Coverage**

The WCFPM covers all provinces. Below are the commodities included in the survey:

1. Palay
 - Fancy, fresh & dry
 - Other Variety, fresh & dry
2. Corngrains
 - Corngrain, Yellow
 - Corngrain, White

- **Frequency and Schedule of Collection**

Prices are collected weekly **every Monday or Tuesday** within the reference period that is, Wednesday of the previous week to Tuesday of the current week. The price for the **last transaction** within the reference period is reported. Transmission of prices to the Central Office is on **Tuesday, until 12:00 pm**.

- **Types and Sources of Information**

Farm prices under the WCFPM are the selling prices of palay and/or corn farmers and/or buying prices of traders and grains warehouses from farmers less any freight or transport cost incurred during procurement of the product.

The target sample respondents are farming households who sold their palay/corn and/or from traders and grains warehouses (with or without mills) who bought palay/corn from farmers during the reference period.

- **Number of Sample Respondents**

Samples are chosen purposively within the province. Respondents are at most 5 farming households, traders and/or grains warehouses for each type of cereal.

2.1.2 Wholesale Selling and Retail Selling Prices

Wholesale Selling Prices (WSP) are prices at which traders or distributors sell their commodities to other distributors and to retailers.

Retail Selling Prices (RSP) on the other hand, are the prices at which retailers sell commodities to consumers.

- **Coverage**

The survey covers all provinces. The commodities included in the survey are the following:

1. Rice
 - Rice Special
 - Rice Premium
 - Well Milled Rice
 - Regular Milled Rice
2. Corngrain
 - Corngrain yellow
 - Corngrain white
3. Corngrits
 - Corngrits yellow
 - Corngrits white

- **Schedule of Price Collection**

The WCFPM is conducted simultaneously with the wholesale and retail price surveys of selected agricultural commodities. Collection of prices vary from province to province and during peak trading day/hour or from 7:00 to 9:00 am.

- **Number of Sample Respondents**

For each province, a maximum of five (5) respondents per market per price type (wholesale selling/retail) are being interviewed. Five (5) sacks at wholesale and five (5) boxes at retail are considered for each respondent. Although the price collection form reflects a maximum of seven (7) boxes, this applies more to relatively large markets as in the case of the National Capital Region (NCR).

3. DATA PROCESSING

Processing and consolidation of data collected are done at the Central Office using Excel-based worksheets.

4. INFORMATION DISSEMINATION

Prices gathered for the week are disseminated every Friday at the PSA website (www.psa.gov.ph) in the form of Special Release on Weekly Updates of Palay, Rice and Corn Prices (see attached latest copy of the report). This special release contains the prevailing prices of palay/rice and corn for the week from the reporting provinces including NCR. These prices are also compared to the previous week's and the same period of previous year's price levels.

Note:

Farm, wholesale and retail prices generated from the WCFPM serve only as indicators of prices for cereals. The data obtained from the regular farm, wholesale and retail prices surveys remain as the official prices on cereals.

Monthly and annual farm, wholesale and retail prices of cereals are available for download from the OpenSTAT link of the PSA website ([http:// openstat.psa.gov.ph/](http://openstat.psa.gov.ph/)).