

# Quarterly Market Report

## Report No. 1 for Selected Legumes, Roots, Tubers, and Other Cereals, October to December 2020

*This quarterly market report was developed by researchers at IFPRI Malawi with the goal of providing clear and accurate information on the variation of weekly and monthly retail prices of selected agricultural commodities that are important for food security and nutrition in Malawi. The reports are intended as a resource for those interested in agricultural markets in Malawi.*

### Highlights

- Average retail prices of common bean and soybean increased by 1 to 4 percent. Groundnut prices increased by 2 to 10 percent except in the South where prices declined marginally. Pigeon pea prices increased by 12 percent in the South but remained constant in the North.
- Average retail prices of cassava increased by 50 percent in the South but significantly declined by 21 percent in the Center while remaining constant in the North. Sweet potato prices marginally increased by 1 percent in the South.
- Rice retail prices were higher in the South than in other regions.

### Legumes

Table 1 presents the average retail prices of legumes during the last quarter of 2020. Retail prices (MWK/kg) of common bean increased by 1 to 3 percent. The highest price increase was recorded in the Central region (3 percent). In contrast, pigeon pea prices remained constant in the North and increased by 12 percent in the South. Pigeon pea exports have significantly declined since import restrictions were imposed by India in 2016. Unlike in the Northern and Central regions where soybean prices increased by 4 percent, in response to consistent demand from processors, prices in the South increased marginally by 1 percent. Groundnut prices increased by 10 percent and 2 percent in the North and the Center respectively but declined marginally by 1 percent in the South.

**Table 1.** Legume retail prices (MWK/kg) by region

	Oct	Nov	Dec	Percentage change (Oct–Dec)	
<b>Common bean</b>					
North	778	783	786	↑	1%
Center	888	893	915	↑	3%
South	1005	1028	1030	↑	2%
<b>Pigeon pea</b>					
North	500	500	500	→	0%
Center	-	-	-	-	-
South	490	525	551	↑	12%
<b>Soybean</b>					
North	400	408	417	↑	4%
Center	393	393	408	↑	4%
South	450	450	454	↑	1%
<b>Groundnut</b>					
North	911	1006	1000	↑	10%
Center	944	946	963	↑	2%
South	1150	1142	1141	↓	-1%

**Note:** Number of markets monitored: common bean = 9; pigeon pea = 5; soybean = 9; groundnut = 9; - = commodity not monitored.

## Roots and Tubers

Table 2 presents the average retail prices for roots and tubers. During the last quarter of 2020, cassava prices remained constant in the North, declined by 21 percent in the Center, and increased by 50 percent in the South.

Irish potato prices increased by 4 percent and 9 percent in the Center and the South respectively while remaining constant in the North.

Sweet potato prices marginally increased by 1 percent between October and December in the Southern region.

**Table 2.** Root and tuber prices (MWK/unit) by region

	Oct	Nov	Dec	Percentage change (Oct–Dec)	
<b>Cassava</b>					
North	272	272	272	→	0%
Center	272	257	216	↓	-21%
South	149	160	224	↑	50%
<b>Irish potato</b>					
North	400	400	400	→	0%
Center	333	333	346	↑	4%
South	387	404	420	↑	9%
<b>Sweet potato</b>					
South	267	269	269	↑	1%

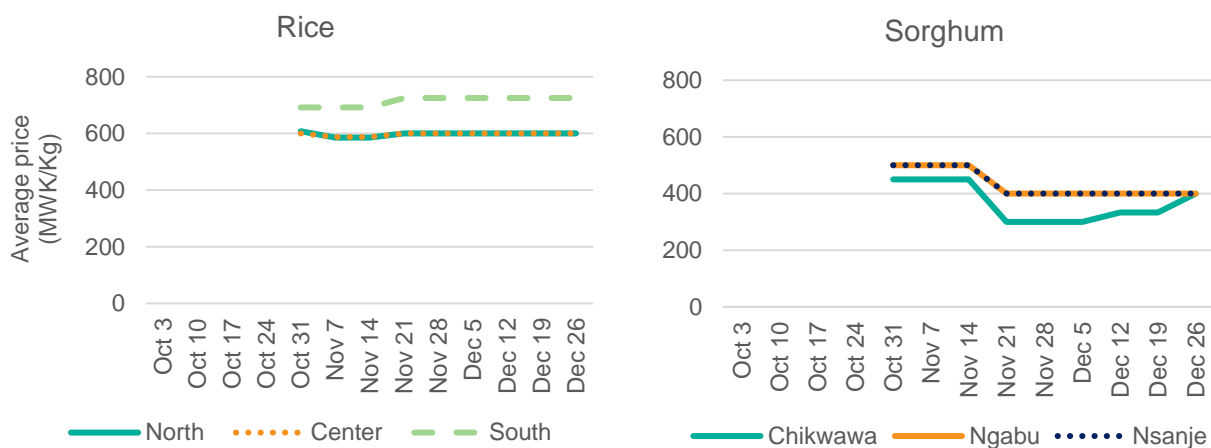
**Note:** Cassava and Irish potatoes are priced per kilogram; sweet potatoes are priced per heap; number of markets monitored: cassava = 6; Irish potato = 6; sweet potato = 5.

## Other Cereals

Figure 1 shows that retail rice prices were higher in the South than in the other two regions of Malawi. From November 21st, prices in southern markets increased slightly from MWK 692 to MWK 725 /kg and remained constant for the rest of the period. Rice prices remained stable at about MWK 600/kg in the North and in the Center.

Sorghum prices were higher in Ngabu and Nsanje markets than in Chikwawa during the last quarter of 2020. Ngabu and Nsanje prices declined sharply between November 7 and 14 but remained stable at MWK 400/kg thereafter. Similarly, Chikwawa prices declined more than in other markets during the same period but rose gradually to level off with other markets by December 26.

**Figure 1.** Average retail prices (MWK/kg) of rice and sorghum



### ***How data were collected***

With financial support from the European Union, IFPRI Malawi began monitoring retail prices of selected legumes, roots and tubers, and non-maize cereals\* in selected markets in October 2020. Currently, prices are collected from 44 markets across the country, with monitoring occurring once per week. Three monitors report prices from each market. Data is collected by means of automated short message service (SMS) with follow-ups made by telephone the next day if needed. The commodities monitored are being phased-in, starting with legumes, root crops and other cereals, and then expanding to include livestock products and fish by the end of March 2021. Note that the number of markets monitored vary by commodity because major markets are targeted in areas where these commodities are widely produced.

\* daily retail prices for maize are available from our [monthly maize market reports](#)



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