

Situation Report on Nepal's Agrifood Systems

March 2024 | Bulletin Number 16

Key messages

In February 2024, Nepal saw moderate inflation with year-on-year figures for overall consumer inflation at 5.0 percent and food and beverage inflation at 6.5 percent. Prices for cereals, pulses, and legumes rose, with spices surging by 32.1 percent. Staple food prices such as rice, wheat flour, lentils, and black beans stayed stable in January 2024. Seasonal price trend analysis from 2002 to 2023 showed that national coarse rice prices in Nepal and its Western provinces were below yearly averages in the first half. However, medium grain rice prices in Western provinces exceeded the yearly average in the first quarter, contrary to typical trends. Labor migration declined by 21.5 percent from July to February, signaling a reduction in out-migration from Nepal. 11.8 percent of this drop occurred in February 2024 compared to the previous month.

Macroeconomic trends and implications for household economic welfare

Key messages: In February 2024, inflation in Nepal was moderate, with the annual rise in consumer prices at 5.0 percent and food and beverage prices at 6.5 percent. The costs of cereals, pulses, and legumes went up, with spices seeing the steepest rise at 32.1 percent. In contrast, the ghee and oil category saw a 12.3 percent price reduction. Salary and wage rates increased by 5.7 percent on a year-on-year basis, with the agriculture and industry sectors witnessing substantial growth. However, there was an 11.8 percent fall in the number of international labor migrants from Nepal in February 2024 compared to the previous month. This pattern may challenge food security for households, especially rural and impoverished ones that depend on remittances.

Inflation: In February, the overall year-on-year consumer inflation and food and beverage inflation were at 5.0 percent and 6.5 percent, respectively. The consumer price index (CPI) rose by a moderate 0.4 percent compared to the previous month, signaling stability in monthly price changes. During the same period, the year-on-year change for cereal grains, pulses, legumes, and milk products increased by 9.1 percent, 11.2 percent, and 10.9 percent, respectively, as detailed in Annex 4. The spices category saw the period's highest increase at 32.1 percent, while the ghee and oil category experienced a decrease of 12.3 percent. The moderation of monthly food price inflation may suggest positive trends for consumers, potentially making nutritious diets more accessible to a larger segment of the population, particularly the poor.

Salaries and wages: In February 2024, the overall salary and wage rate index rose by 5.7 percent on a year-on-year basis, exceeding the overall inflation rate of 5.0 percent. The index showed no change from the previous month. Within the sub-sectors, the agricultural wage rate index saw a 5.3 percent increase, while industrial labor wages grew by 11.2 percent year-on-year. The construction labor wage rate index experienced a moderate rise of 3.5 percent on a year-on-year basis, a modest gain compared to other sub-sectors. Increases in household income can positively influence access to quality food.

Migration and remittances: The number of outmigrants from Nepal is on the decline. Recent statistics indicate that the number of new outmigrants decreased by 21.5 percent on a year-on-year basis in the seven months from July to February this fiscal year. Similarly, the renewal of labor permits also saw a 5.5 percent decline on a year-on-year basis during this period. Among the major

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destination countries, the number of new migrants to the UAE and Saudi Arabia surged by 130 percent and 42.4 percent, respectively, while the number to Malaysia declined by 73.0 percent in this period. In February 2024, Nepal received NPR 105.8 billion (USD 0.8 billion) from international remittances, 11.8 percent less than the amount received in the previous month. As income from remittances constitutes a significant portion of household incomes for rural and poor families, these declines could threaten household food security in Nepal.

Spotlight: Social Security Coverage in Western Nepal

The first and second rounds of CSISA's household surveys conducted and gathered social security allowance data from 763 HHs in the USAID's FtF ZoI, spanning five provinces: Madhesh, Bagmati, Lumbini, Karnali and Sudurpashchim. The survey results provide insights on percent coverages and effectiveness of each social security allowance.

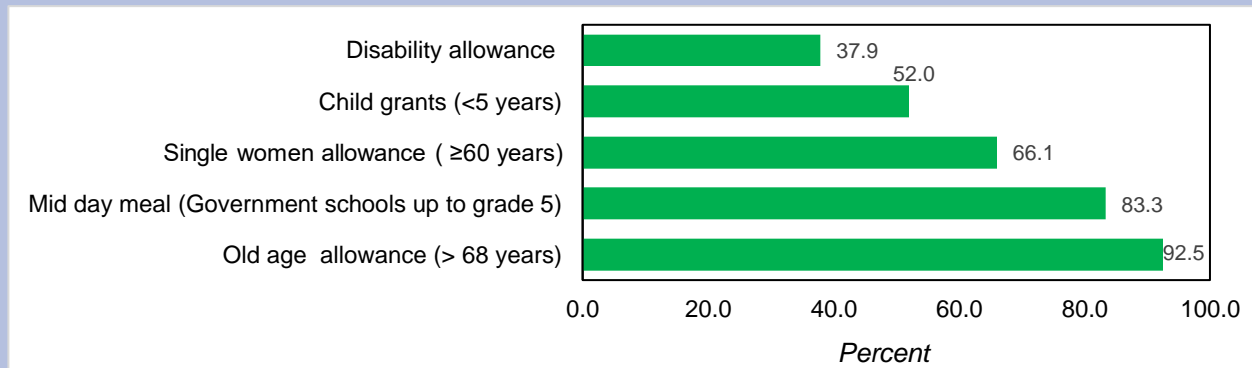


Figure 1: Percentage of eligible individuals receiving social security allowances.

Figure 1 illustrates the percent coverage of social security allowances across demographics, highlighting successes and areas for improvement. As shown, old-age allowance has covered about 93 percent of individuals equal or above 68 years. Similarly, mid-day meal targeted to government school students (Dalits for all districts, non-Dalit in selected 25 districts) has covered about 83 percent children. Similarly, about 66 percent of single women (i.e., widow, unmarried and divorced) equal to above than 60 years have been benefited by single-women allowance. However, there are gaps since respective disability and child grant allowances only covered 37.9 and 52 percent of their target beneficiaries. The percentage coverage in 2023-24 is higher in comparison to 2020-22, as reported by ILO (2023)¹. Social security allowances influence food security outcomes². Certain demographic groups, such as children benefiting from mid-day meal allowances, exhibit improved access to nutritious food due to high coverage rates³.

¹ International Labor Organization, 2023. Extending social protection for all in Nepal – An analysis of protection gaps. Available at: https://ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---asia/---ro-bangkok/---ilo-kathmandu/documents/publication/wcms_882394.pdf. [Accessed 29 March 2024].

² Devereux, S., Eide, W.B., Hoddinott, J., Lustig, N. and Subbarao, K., 2012 Social protection for food security. A zero draft consultation paper. Committee on World Food Security-High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition, pp. 1-99.

³ United Nations Development Program, 2011. Issue brief. Exploring the role of social protection in enhancing food security in Africa. Available at: <https://www.undp.org/sites/g/files/zskgke326/files/migration/africa/Exploring-the-Role-of-Social-Protection-in-Enhancing-Food-Security-in-Africa.pdf>. [Accessed 29 March 2024].

Recent price fluctuation in food commodities and agricultural inputs

Key messages: Agricultural input data reveals fluctuations in input costs and labor wages in Nepal's agricultural sector. Fertilizer prices vary by district, influencing farmers' production costs. Elevated diesel prices lead to higher machinery expenses, impacting agricultural operations. Seed prices differ, affecting crop selection and profitability. Despite some areas achieving gender parity, disparities in agricultural wages based on gender continue.

Agricultural inputs

Fertilizers: According to field data from USAID/Nepal's implementing partners, in February 2024 among fertilizer urea was being sold at NPR 21.3 per kg on average and ranged from NPR 18.8 in Kapilvastu district to NPR 23.0 in Surkhet. The average price of diammonium phosphate (DAP) fertilizer was recorded to be NPR 50.5 per kg, and that of muriate of potash (MOP) was NPR 38.2 per kg. The average price of MOP has decreased by 2.2 percent since the previous month while the prices of other fertilizers remained stable (Annex 3).

Energy: According to Nepal Oil Corporation, the price of a liter of petrol was NPR 171 (USD 1.29), and that of diesel and kerosene was NPR 158 (USD 1.19) in March 2024. Nominal reduction of NPR 1 and NPR 2 were observed in these prices respectively compared to the previous month. The price of a cylinder of LPG was stable at NPR 1910 (USD 14.36). High prices of diesel are also seen in increasing costs for use of machinery; the price of per hour use of tractor was NPR 2370.2 (USD 17.82) on average in February 2024 (see Annex 3). In Kanchanpur district, the reported price of hiring a tractor was the highest at NPR 3300 (USD 24.82) per hour in Nepal's Western Provinces.

Seed: Field data show that the average price of wheat seeds per kg was reported to be NPR 78.8 (USD 0.59) in February 2024. Dang district had the highest price for wheat seeds at NPR 100 (0.75) per kg. Wheat is a major winter crop in Nepal. Similarly, vegetables are also produced during the winter season. Among vegetables, the price for open-pollinated cauliflower seeds was NPR 7728.6 (USD 58) per kg, and that for hybrid seeds was NPR 64,666 (USD 485) per kg. Usually, vegetable seeds are sold in 10 g packages in retail shops and agrovets (Annex 3).

Labor: According to field data from USAID/Nepal's implementing partners, the wage rate for male agricultural laborers was NPR 640.7 (USD 4.82) per day and that for females was NPR 555.8 (USD 4.18) per day. The ratio of female-to-male wage rates in agriculture was 0.86. In Bardia and Kapilvastu districts, it was found that there was gender parity in the agricultural wages. The agricultural wage rates were highest in Surkhet district at NPR 790 (USD 5.94) per day for males and NPR 700 (USD 5.26) per day for females.

Cereals

According to the World Food Programme (WFP) statistics, the monthly prices of rice (coarse and medium grain), wheat flour, lentils as well as black beans have remained stable in January 2024 as compared to the previous month (see Annex 1). While the price of coarse rice is 6-7 percent higher in Western provinces compared to the national average, there is a wedge of almost 11.0 percent in the price of medium-grain rice with the prices being higher in the Western provinces in January (see Figure 2a).

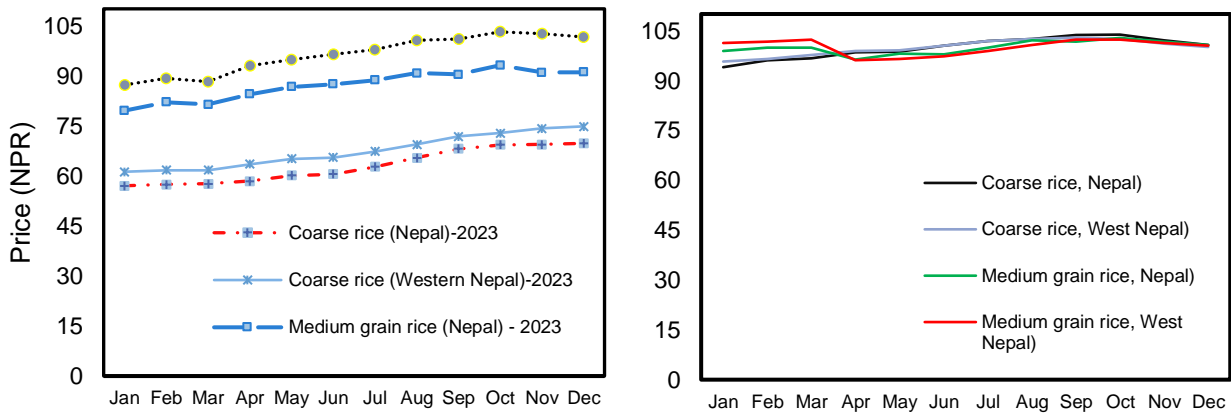


Figure 2: (a) Trend of price of rice in 2023; (b) Seasonal price index of rice in Nepal (2002-2023)

Similarly, when assessing the seasonality in the price trends for coarse rice for Nepal and Western provinces (2002-2023), it was observed that the prices were usually lower than their yearly average in the first six months (January-June). In the case of medium grain rice, the prices converge to their yearly average toward July-August and shoot a few points higher in the later months. In Western provinces, the price of medium grain rice is higher than its average yearly price even in the months of January through March which is unlike other cases (see Figure 2b).

The analysis of rice price trends and seasonal indices offers valuable insights into Nepal's rice market dynamics. Understanding seasonal variations in prices can assist farmers, traders, and policymakers in predicting market conditions, making informed decisions on production and marketing strategies, and managing risks related to price fluctuations. The graphs depicting regional disparities in pricing dynamics suggest that factors like production conditions, market access, and demand patterns may influence price variations across different regions of Nepal.

Selected horticultural and fruit products

Vegetables: Vegetables have shown a decline in prices overall with the highest decline being observed in the price of cabbages (18.8 percent) and pumpkins (15.1 percent) year-on-year at the national level. Similarly, compared to the previous month, the price of carrots has reduced by 14.2 percent in January 2024. In the case of tomatoes, the prices in Western provinces usually show a trend to be higher than the national average prices (see Figure 3a). The months of July and August 2023 saw peak periods in prices of tomatoes.

The seasonal price index of tomatoes (2002-2023, Figure 3b) also indicates changes in tomato prices over different months in the year. The July-November period usually sees higher prices of tomatoes while from January through April, the prices of tomatoes remain 15-30 percent below their yearly average.

The higher tomato prices observed in Western provinces compared to the national average can offer both opportunities and challenges for farmers in Western provinces of Nepal. While they may benefit from increased revenue during peak periods, the large variation in prices throughout the year can affect income stability and planning. Efforts are needed to assist farmers to adapt strategies and navigate these fluctuations.

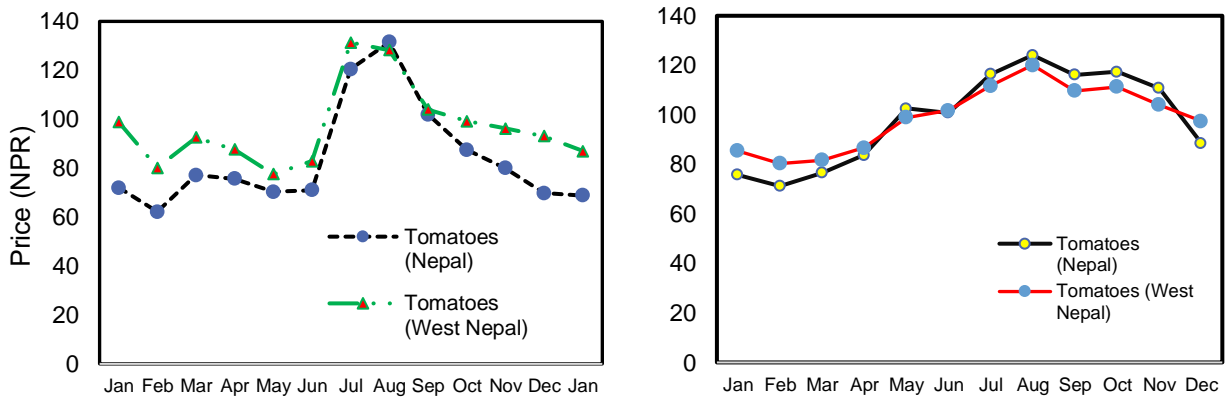


Figure 3: (a) Price trend of tomatoes in Nepal (Jan 2023-Jan2024); (b) Seasonal price index of tomatoes in Nepal (2002-2023).

Fruits: In the fruits category, the price for bananas declined by 7.2 percent and the prices of oranges surged by 7.0 percent compared to the previous month at the national level. The prices of apples have increased moderately by 3.2 percent at the national level. Compared to January 2023, the prices of oranges declined significantly by almost 18.0 percent in January 2024. In the case of apples, we can observe a 15.7 percent increase in prices compared to the previous year.

Milk and eggs

Milk prices were higher in the Western provinces than the national average with a difference of NPR 12 per liter. Slight movements toward an increasing trend in the prices of eggs can also be observed. Similarly, the monthly milk price has decreased by 1 percent compared to the previous month in Western provinces, whereas the national average price has increased by 0.6 percent. At this time, prices can be considered stable and thus are unlikely to have a major consequence for consumers.

Meat and fish

The price of chicken meat has been on an increasing trend compared to last year. At the national level, its price increased 7.6 percent year-on-year in January 2024. Similarly, the price of fish increased 27.3 percent in the Western provinces compared to the previous year. Such increments in prices could be detrimental to the health of poor households whose access to these sources of nutrition can be curtailed because of higher prices.

Edible oils

The year-on-year reduction in the prices of edible oil was 18-20 percent at the national level. The prices of these oils increased slightly when compared to the previous month. In January 2024, Western provinces recorded the price of mustard oil to be higher than the national average by NPR 16.8 and the price of soybean oil to be higher by NPR 10.7 when compared to the national average. Such reductions in prices of these essential commodities can mean relief to the food budgets of Nepali poor households.

Spotlight: Demand and Supply of Milk in Nepal

Livestock is one of the prominent enterprises in Nepal, including poultry, cattle, sheep, and pigs. A field survey conducted in December 2023 shows that 73.2 percent of the farmers are engaged in livestock rearing. Among them, the majority have raised goats (70.6 percent) followed by poultry (53.6 percent), while only 23.8 and 15.7 percent of farmers raise and own milking buffalo and cow. By doing so, each household sells on average 6.2 liters of milk per day after keeping some for their own consumption.

The majority (62.6 percent) of households from the surveyed districts are generally found to sell their raw milk to the local collection centers, while about 25.2 percent supply them to households' doors. The collected milk at centers is then procured by private sectors and the Dairy Development Corporation (DDC). Most milk producers expressed dissatisfaction and considered as a significant challenge with this process because they need to wait a long time to get their payments.

At the national level, it is estimated that approximately NPR 6 billion (USD 45.1 million) remains unpaid by the private sector, while NPR 0.9 billion (USD 6.7 million) is unpaid by a government-owned organization DDC, to milk producers. The surplus of powdered milk and butter, even with the import ban of milk, in Nepal has further exacerbated the situation, impacting both producers and consumers. Similarly, the daily purchase of DDC is 140,000 liters but the 90,000 liters of milk is only sold in the market. The surplus milk from DDC is processed into other dairy products like curd, ice cream, sweets, ghee, butter, and dairy whitener. Moreover, DDC is compelled to collect the excess milk from the market due to the private sector, which has reduced the collection. Such challenges could further motivate milk producers to shift towards informal channels.

Following the protests of the milk farmers, the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development (MoALD) and the Central Dairy Cooperative Association Limited Nepal (CDCAN) have reached to a 5-point agreement. According to the agreement, the due amount will be disbursed by April 3, 2024. It also ensured continued purchase by the dairy industry and looks forward to the export of milk and dairy products. Additionally, the Ministry of Finance has announced a subsidized loan of NPR 30 crores (USD 2.25 million) to facilitate payments to the producers.

According to the report⁴ of Commercial Agriculture for Smallholders and Agribusiness (CASA), the consumption requirement for milk in Nepal is 92 liters per person annually, and the country produces 72 liters per person, fulfilling 80 percent of its requirements. The average current deficit is around 550,000 liters of fluid milk per day with 10–20 percent variability during the lean season (March–July) and the flush season (August–February). The current situation highlights the government and private sectors' inability to provide a secure market for milk producers which will discourage milk farmers in surplus milk production leading to further deficit in the supply.

Acknowledgments

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⁴ CASA NEPAL COUNTRY TEAM. (2020). Dairy Sector Strategy – Nepal. Kathmandu: Commercial Agriculture for Smallholders and Agribusiness.

CGIAR Regional Integrated Initiative Transforming Agrifood Systems in South Asia (TAFSSA). CSISA is led by CIMMYT and implemented jointly with IFPRI, IIDS, IRRI, and IWMI in Nepal. International Development Enterprises (iDE) is another partner of CSISA in Nepal and Bangladesh.

Data sources

Data sources for this brief include the World Food Program for food prices, Nepal Oil Corporation (noc.org.np) for fuel prices, the Nepal Rastra Bank for the CPI, budget shares from the Ministry of Finance, remittance flows, and other macroeconomic data. The field reports provided by USAID/Nepal's Nepal Seed and Fertilizer (NSAF) and KISAN II Activities. Data from primary household survey undertaken by CSISA across nine districts in USAID Feed the Future Zone of Influence in August 2023 (first wave) and December 2023 (second wave), and a bi-weekly market survey in the same areas including Kathmandu is used.

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Annexes

Annex 1: Percentage change in food commodity price (NPR/Kg) in Nepal

Commodity	Western provinces					Nepal				
	2023	2023	2024	2023 Jan	2023 Dec	2023	2023	2024	2023 Jan	2023 Dec
	Jan (NPR)	Dec (NPR)	Jan (NPR)	- 2024 Jan (Percent change)	- 2024 Jan (Percent change)	Jan (NPR)	Dec (NPR)	Jan (NPR)	- 2024 Jan (Percent change)	- 2024 Jan (Percent change)
Rice (coarse)	61.2	74.8	74.8	22.3	0.0	57.0	69.7	69.9	22.5	0.3
Rice (medium grain)	87.2	101.6	102.3	17.3	0.7	79.5	91.0	91.2	14.7	0.2
Wheat flour	81.5	90.0	90.1	10.5	0.1	82.1	87.4	86.5	5.4	-1.0
Apples	267.8	293.8	290.4	8.4	-1.2	255.5	286.5	295.6	15.7	3.2
Bananas*	162.8	176.2	164.6	1.1	-6.6	129.8	144.0	133.5	2.9	-7.2
Oranges	167.8	136.9	141.9	-15.4	3.7	171.3	131.5	140.6	-17.9	7.0
Tomatoes	98.8	93.1	86.9	-12.1	-6.6	71.9	69.8	68.8	-4.3	-1.5
Potatoes (red)	51.9	48.5	48.7	-6.2	0.5	49.0	46.9	47.0	-4.0	0.3
Cabbage	68.4	50.4	51.2	-25.2	1.5	55.2	48.0	44.8	-18.8	-6.6
Carrots	107.2	116.2	116.5	8.7	0.3	86.1	97.9	84.0	-2.4	-14.2
Pumpkin	79.2	55.0	60.8	-23.2	10.5	69.5	56.0	59.0	-15.1	5.4
Chickpeas	154.7	151.2	155.5	0.5	2.9	143.5	142.9	143.5	0.0	0.4
Lentils (broken)	176.1	183.3	184.4	4.7	0.6	166.1	170.9	168.5	1.4	-1.4
Beans (black)	180.6	206.2	201.9	11.8	-2.1	171.4	204.0	204.0	19.0	0.0
Oil (mustard)**	337.7	284.6	288.5	-14.6	1.4	330.8	268.3	271.7	-17.9	1.2
Oil (soybean)**	286.5	222.3	228.8	-20.1	2.9	273.1	214.4	218.1	-20.1	1.7
Milk**	123.1	132.5	131.2	6.6	-1.0	110.0	118.3	119.0	8.1	0.6
Meat (chicken)	484.5	502.7	516.2	6.5	2.7	425.8	444.2	457.9	7.6	3.1
Eggs**	19.0	20.7	21.5	13.0	3.7	18.3	19.9	20.7	13.5	4.2
Fish	491.7	638.0	626.0	27.3	-1.9	449.1	505.7	506.0	12.7	0.0
Peanut	329.3	455.0	438.9	33.3	-3.5	257.8	333.0	327.0	26.9	-1.8

*Denotes unit price per dozen, ** denotes unit price per liter and *** denotes unit price per piece. Western Province includes Lumbini, Karnali and Sudurpashchim provinces.
 Source: World Food Programme (March 2024)

Annex 2: Percentage change in food commodity prices (NPR) across provinces of Nepal

Commodity	Koshi		Madhesh		Bagmati		Gandaki		Lumbini		Karnali		Sudurpashchim	
	Jan 2023	Dec 2023	Jan 2023	Dec 2023	Jan 2023	Dec 2023	Jan 2023	Dec 2023	Jan 2023	Dec 2023	Jan 2023	Dec 2023	Jan 2023	Dec 2023
	Jan 2024	Jan 2024	Jan 2024	Jan 2024	Jan 2024	Jan 2024	Jan 2024	Jan 2024	Jan 2024	Jan 2024	Jan 2024	Jan 2024	Jan 2024	Jan 2024
Rice (coarse)	27.5	0.0	8.0	-2.8	38.5	5.1	17.4	3.8	22.8	2.1	17.0	0.4	33.3	-2.2
Rice (medium grain)	12.4	-0.5	11.7	-6.5	8.8	4.4	11.1	0.0	31.6	1.3	12.3	-0.8	19.2	3.3
Wheat flour	-1.1	0.0	-4.3	-2.2	-2.0	-2.0	6.2	-5.6	-5.3	2.7	17.2	-0.8	11.1	0.0
Apples	2.5	7.3	27.7	11.1	48.7	13.2	34.9	0.9	10.5	0.0	22.0	0.3	-8.3	-4.3
Bananas	3.4	3.4	23.5	-19.2	-11.7	-23.2	20.8	7.4	-6.8	0.0	-0.8	-13.1	14.6	11.9
Oranges	0.0	7.0	-19.6	20.0	-25.5	18.7	-40.0	-4.0	-26.7	3.1	-10.3	1.5	-16.7	8.7
Tomatoes	23.8	0.0	27.3	16.7	30.4	25.0	-9.1	5.3	-30.3	-41.0	-11.7	-1.4	-3.2	3.4
Potatoes (red)	-12.1	7.4	4.8	-21.4	3.4	25.0	5.9	-10.0	4.2	4.2	-15.6	-0.6	5.3	0.0
Cabbage	10.5	-8.7	11.1	-16.7	-10.7	-0.8	-27.3	-40.7	-7.4	-35.9	-44.5	0.0	17.9	53.3
Carrots	0.0	-23.9	0.0	-25.0	-33.3	-28.2	-19.2	-40.0	0.0	-16.3	7.5	-5.0	13.8	18.9
Pumpkin	6.2	13.3	6.2	13.3	-16.7	-11.8	-14.3	-25.0	7.7	-3.4	-37.6	2.4	4.8	46.7
Chickpeas	5.5	0.0	9.4	-2.8	-0.5	-5.4	-18.8	-3.7	-5.7	3.3	3.3	0.5	0.0	7.4
Lentils (broken)	-5.7	-2.1	4.0	-1.8	3.4	0.4	-15.9	-15.9	-5.1	1.5	9.3	-0.2	4.3	1.4
Beans (black)	23.3	6.7	22.1	2.4	41.5	1.8	31.2	-2.3	10.1	2.8	13.3	0.8	10.4	-9.8
Oil (mustard)	-12.8	7.6	-19.3	-1.5	-33.7	0.7	-20.6	-4.3	-20.2	6.6	-8.0	0.5	-21.6	0.0
Oil (soybean)	-15.8	3.2	-18.9	3.4	-22.6	-3.2	-24.3	-3.4	-23.9	0.8	-22.0	0.7	-14.3	8.1
Milk	10.6	4.0	11.1	0.0	10.0	6.5	10.6	2.0	15.4	0.0	5.7	-1.7	2.6	0.0
Meat (chicken)	9.5	-5.9	9.8	17.4	1.8	2.2	19.4	7.5	5.4	6.3	5.8	1.0	8.6	3.6
Eggs	12.7	3.3	12.5	10.2	15.4	5.3	16.7	0.0	5.5	9.4	22.2	1.4	4.0	4.0
Fish	6.1	1.7	-7.0	1.9	2.1	14.0	-11.5	-7.1	-5.1	-1.6	37.8	-2.1	-4.0	0.0
Peanut	-0.7	3.6	6.3	0.0	101.4	16.4	15.4	-18.9	7.5	0.9	7.2	-4.3	NA	NA

NA indicates data not available.

Source: World Food Programme (March 2024)

Annex 3: Unit prices of key agricultural inputs in February of 2024 (in NPR) and percent change compared to January 2024.

Inputs	Unit price (February)							% change (Feb-Jan 2024)
	Banke	Bardiya	Dang	Kailali	Kanchanpur	Kapilvastu	Surkhet	
Fertilizer								
Urea (Kg)	20	22	20	23	23	19	23	0.2
DAP (Kg)	49	51	50	53	53	46	53	0.2
MOP (Kg)	39	33	38	39	40	38	41	-2.2
Seed								
Rice OP (Kg)	62	72	100	73	72	80	66	7.6
Rice hybrid (Kg)	550	487	510	500	575	575	563	-0.6
Maize OP (Kg)	NA	193	195	140	155	179	263	4.8
Maize hybrid (Kg)	800	388	468	650	300	613	463	-1.5
Wheat Price (Kg)	74	71	100	75	85	72	75	4.7
Lentil Price (Kg)	233	217	NA	250	232	180	250	-2.7
Cauli OP (Kg)	6667	4533	10000	6500	7000	6900	12500	-2.5
Cauli hybrid (Kg)	55000	76667	70000	60000	62500	85000	43500	0.9
Tomato OP (Kg)	6000	14333	13000	9000	9000	8980	16000	1.8
Tomato hybrid (Kg)	57143	91667	202404	107500	285000	187500	90000	9.8
Onion seed (Kg)	1436	1067	750	750	700	700	1100	-8.3
Onion seed Nepali (Kg)	4000	983	825	3750	3500	1510	5000	-25.5
Labor								
Agricultural Labor Male (day)	575	591	663	667	600	600	790	1.4
Agricultural Labor Female (day)	350	595	613	533	500	600	700	0.8
Non-Agricultural Labor Male (day)	475	579	675	917	1000	633	830	0.1
Non-Agricultural Labor Female (day)	300	579	613	567	600	633	730	-1.2
Irrigation								
Irrigation (hour)	180	342	340	350	80	300	950	-2.7
Tractor								
Tractor (hour)	2000	2514	2554	2933	3300	2280	1010	-2.5
Fuel								
Deisel (liter)	159	158	157	157	162	152	162	-1
Petrol (liter)	170	166	168	167	181	163	169	-1.1

NA denotes item is not sold in any nearby shop, agrovet or cooperative.

Source: CSISA field data, February 2024

Annex 4: National Consumer Price Index (March 2024)

Groups & Sub-Groups	Weight %t	2021/22		2022/23		2023/24 ^P		% Change			
		Jan/Feb	Dec/Jan	Jan/Feb	Dec/Jan	Jan/Feb	Dec/Jan	3 Over 1	3 Over 2	5 Over 3	5 Over 4
		1	2	3	4	5					
Overall Index	100	144.85	155.36	156.26	163.52	164.10					
Food and Beverage	43.91	140.08	149.24	148.76	157.86	158.44	7.88	0.58	5.01	0.35	
Cereal grains and their products	11.33	130.45	143.09	146.61	159.37	159.89	12.39	2.46	9.06	0.33	
Pulses and Legumes	1.84	119.40	124.54	124.94	138.41	138.88	4.64	0.32	11.15	0.34	
Vegetable	5.52	131.06	134.42	123.52	133.02	132.88	-5.75	-8.11	7.58	-0.1	
Meat and Fish	6.75	142.46	146.79	146.58	146.70	150.82	2.9	-0.14	2.89	2.81	
Milk products and Eggs	5.24	144.13	151.91	151.85	167.55	168.21	5.36	-0.04	10.78	0.4	
Ghee and Oil	2.95	181.74	193.15	189.80	167.90	166.40	4.44	-1.73	-12.33	-0.89	
Fruit	2.08	149.57	154.76	161.34	170.47	169.23	7.87	4.25	4.89	-0.73	
Sugar and Sugar products	1.74	137.35	147.42	146.73	158.17	156.24	6.83	-0.47	6.48	-1.22	
Spices	1.21	128.28	137.78	138.59	186.83	183.09	8.04	0.59	32.11	-2	
Non-alcoholic drinks	1.24	139.60	148.67	149.47	159.15	159.13	7.07	0.54	6.46	-0.01	
Alcoholic drinks	0.68	188.73	204.12	205.29	215.27	216.10	8.78	0.57	5.27	0.39	
Tobacco products	0.41	173.25	191.88	192.01	194.28	193.73	10.83	0.07	0.9	-0.28	
Restaurant and Hotel	2.92	148.00	169.99	170.56	181.57	181.68	15.24	0.33	6.52	0.06	

P = Provisional. Source: Current Macroeconomic and Financial Situation (Based on Seven months Data Ending Mid-February 2023/24), Nepal Rastra Bank