

Situation Report on Nepal's Agrifood Systems

April 2024 | Bulletin Number 17

Key messages

In March 2024, Nepal witnessed moderate inflation. Overall consumer inflation reached 4.8 percent on a year-on-year basis, while food and beverage inflation stood at 5.9 percent. The year-on-year wage rate index for agricultural labor showed a significant increase, however, agricultural labor wages remained constant over February-March. Remittances increased with the rise in labor permits for foreign employment. Staple foods such as rice, wheat flour, lentils, and black beans remained stable in February 2024 compared to the previous month. Additionally, the prices of vegetables such as tomatoes, potatoes, and carrots decreased over the same period. Similarly, the prices of protein-rich sources like milk, eggs, meat, and fish moderately decreased in February compared to the earlier month, while the price of edible oil continued to fall during this period.

Macroeconomic trends and implications for household economic welfare

Key messages: In March 2024, consumer price inflation moderated and was at 4.8 percent in Nepal, coupled with a relatively higher increase in food and beverage prices compared to non-food and service categories, suggesting stability in monthly price changes. Additionally, varying rates of wage index growth across sectors such as agriculture (5.2 percent), industrial (11.2 percent), and construction (3.5 percent) shows disparities in labor market conditions. Despite a notable 18.4 percent decrease in new outmigrants and a 4.3 percent decline in labor permit renewals in comparison to July to March 2023, Nepal experienced a significant increase in remittances totaling NPR 961.2 billion (USD 7.2)¹ from July to March 2024, marking a 21.1 percent year-on-year rise. Although the fluctuations in the prices of certain food commodities were observed, the increase in the national wage rate index, the growth in remittance inflows, and the moderated increase in CPI have somewhat augmented the purchasing power of lower-income households.

Inflation: In March, the year-on-year consumer price inflation moderated to 4.8 percent. The food and beverage category inflation stood at 5.9 percent, which is higher than the non-food and service inflation of 4.0 percent. The consumer price index rose by 0.2 percent in March 2024 compared to the previous month, indicating stability in monthly price changes. During the same period, under the food and beverage category, year-on-year price index of spices, vegetables, cereals grain and milk products and eggs increased by 28.2 percent, 14.0 percent, 11.2 percent, 7.4 percent and 7.1 percent respectively. However, the year-on-year price index of ghee and oil decreased by 11.8 percent. A smaller increase in the CPI in Nepal would likely lead to reduced inflationary pressure on essential goods and services, potentially easing the financial burden on poor households by allowing them to maintain more stable purchasing power and affordability of necessities.

Salaries and wages: The year-on-year salary and wage index increased by 5.6 percent in March, higher than the overall inflation rate of 4.8 percent. However, the index was unchanged from the previous month. Among the different sub-sectors, the agricultural wage rate index increased by 5.2 percent, with females experiencing a higher rise at 5.4 percent compared to males at 5.1 percent. Also, the wage rate index of industrial labor grew by 11.2 percent year-on-year. Construction labor wages experienced a rise of 3.5 percent. The increase in the wage rate index for females exceeded

¹ Exchange rate as of 15 April 2024: USD 1 = NPR 133.77

that of males, indicating progress towards narrowing gender wage gaps and advancing gender equality in the workforce, potentially empowering women economically.

Spotlight: Status of Machinery Usage, Crop Patterns, and Labor Shortage

The household survey conducted in August 2023 across nine districts within the Feed the Future Zone of Influence (ZoI) clusters gathered valuable insights into various aspects of agricultural practices. It focused on factors like labor availability, machinery utilization, and associated costs. The sample size of 812 households, comprising 80 percent agricultural and 20 percent non-agricultural households. In the previous monsoon season of 2022, 93 percent of the agricultural households engaged in crop cultivation, with rice being the main crop for 73 percent of them, followed by maize at 19 percent. Although agricultural activities were less pronounced than in other seasons, significant percentages of households still reported cultivation. In winter 2022, 61.5 percent of agricultural households cultivated crops, with wheat, maize, and potato being the primary crops. Similarly, in summer 2023, 14.6 percent of agricultural households were engaged in crop production, mainly focusing on maize and potato.

Regarding machinery usage in the monsoon season, the survey found that 87.5 percent of agricultural households utilized at least one type of machinery, whether owned or hired. Threshers and various types of tractors were among the commonly used machinery items. The average costs of hiring the machinery were as follows: NPR 2,600 (USD 19.43) per hour for threshers, NPR 2,380 (USD 17.79) per hour for four-wheel tractors, NPR 800 (USD 5.98) per hour for two-wheel tractors, NPR 767 (USD 5.73) per hour for mini-tiller, and NPR 360 (USD 2.69) per hour for electric pump set.

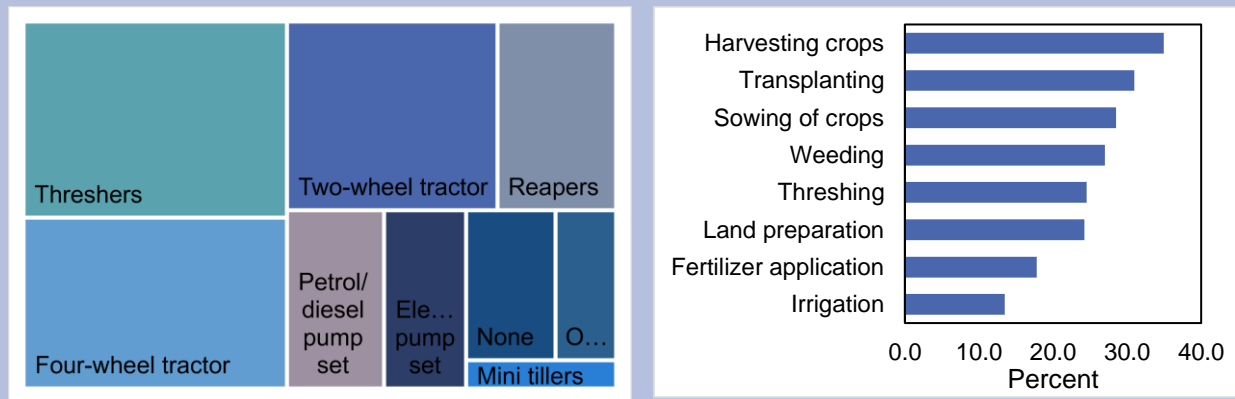


Figure 1: (left) Use of agri-machinery by households in monsoon season; (right) Households experiencing labor shortage by agricultural activities.

The survey also highlighted challenges faced by farmers, particularly regarding labor shortages during critical agricultural stages like harvest, transplantation, sowing, and weeding. Despite the potential productivity benefits of mechanization, agricultural wage laborers remained a costly option. Additionally, due to migration trends, there was an undersupply of agricultural wage laborers in the districts, with 44 percent of surveyed households having at least one migrant member. Among non-agricultural households, this figure was even higher at 54 percent.

Migration and remittances: Nepal received NPR 961.2 billion (USD 7.2 billion) of remittance in the period July-March 2024. This was 21.1 percent higher than the amount remitted in the same (eight-month) period last year. Similarly, in March 2024, Nepal received NPR 122.2 billion (USD 0.9 billion)

from international remittances, 15.5 percent more than the amount received in the previous month. Nevertheless, the number of new outmigrants decreased by 18.4 percent on a year-on-year basis in the eight months from July to March this fiscal year. Similarly, the renewal of labor permits also saw a 4.3 percent decline on a year-on-year basis during this period. However, there is a noticeable increment in the issuance of labor permits compared to the previous month, with new permits and renewals both increasing by 16.2 percent. An increase in labor permits for foreign employment in poor households in Nepal can provide economic opportunities through remittances but also poses risks of dependency and labor shortage for agricultural and development works.

Recent price fluctuation in food commodities and agricultural inputs

Key messages: Agricultural input data showed fluctuations in input costs and labor wages in Nepal's agricultural sector. Fertilizer prices varied by district, ranging from the lowest of NPR 19 (USD 0.1) per kilogram of urea in Kapilvastu district and the highest of NPR 23.3 (USD 0.2) in Bardia district, influencing farmers' production costs. Elevated diesel prices by 1.9 percent in April than a month before lead to higher operational costs such as machinery expenses, thus declining agricultural productivity. Seed prices differ, affecting crop selection and profitability.

Agricultural inputs

Fertilizers: According to data collected by USAID/Nepal's implementing partners in March 2024, urea fertilizer was priced at an average of NPR 21.5 (USD 0.2) per kilogram. However, this price varied across regions, with Kapilvastu district having the lowest price of NPR 19 (USD 0.1) and Bardia experiencing the highest price of NPR 23.3 (USD 0.2). The average cost of diammonium phosphate (DAP) fertilizer stood at NPR 51 (USD 0.4) per kilogram. Again, there were regional differences, with DAP prices ranging from NPR 47.5 (USD 0.4) in Kapilvastu district to NPR 54 (USD 0.4) in Bardia. Muriate of potash (MOP) was priced at NPR 38.9 (USD 0.3) per kilogram, with costs varying from NPR 38 (USD 0.3) in Kapilvastu district to NPR 40 (USD 0.3) in Dang. Notably, the average price of MOP has increased by 1.6 percent since the previous month, while the prices of other fertilizers remained relatively stable (as indicated in Annex 3).

Energy: This month, there was a decrease in the prices of diesel and kerosene, while the price of petrol increased, and the price of LPG remained stable compared to the previous month. In April 2024, petrol was priced at NPR 175 (USD 1.3) per liter, marking a 2.3 percent increase from the preceding month. Similarly, both diesel and kerosene were retailed at NPR 158 (USD 1.2) per liter in April 2024 with a slight increase in price of 1.9 percent in comparison to the earlier month. Furthermore, the price of an LPG cylinder remained constant at NPR 1,910 (USD 14.3). This marginal increase in prices of diesel and kerosene may lead to lower household expenses and increase operational costs for agricultural households in Nepal.

Seed: According to data collected by USAID FtF partners, in March 2024, the average cost of hybrid rice seeds was NPR 550 (USD 4.1) per kilogram, while open-pollinated rice seeds were priced at NPR 96.5 (USD 0.7) per kilogram. Compared to previous months, the price of open-pollinated rice seeds rose by 28.6 percent, while hybrid rice seeds saw a more modest increase of 2.4 percent. Hybrid maize seeds were priced at NPR 562.6 (USD 4.2) per kilogram, significantly higher than per kilogram price of open-pollinated maize seeds NPR 181.9 (USD 1.4). For vegetables, 10 grams of local tomato seeds were priced at NPR 1000 (USD 7.47), while hybrid tomato seeds cost NPR 1723.6 (USD 12.9). Similarly, there was a notable increase in the prices of lentil and onion seeds by 47.5 percent and 50.5 percent respectively in March 2024.

Labor: According to field data from USAID Nepal’s implementing partners, the wage rate for male agricultural laborers was NPR 638.1 (USD 4.77) per day and that for females was NPR 549 (USD 4.1) per day. The ratio of female-to-male wage rates in agriculture was 0.86. In Bardia and Dang districts, it was found that there was gender parity in agricultural wages. The agricultural wage rates were highest in Surkhet district at NPR 800 (USD 6) per day for males and NPR 710 (USD 5.3) per day for females.

Cereals

In March, there was a significant year-on-year increase in the prices of coarse rice and medium grain rice, witnessing a surge of 21.4 percent and 11.0 percent respectively at the national level. Similarly, national prices for wheat flour registered a slight increase of 1 percent. Although the prices for coarse and medium grain rice in the western provinces generally followed the national trends, there was a notable increase in the price of wheat flour (4.9 percent) in the western provinces. Although the increase in prices of cereals could benefit surplus farmers by potentially boosting their income, it could also create financial difficulties for net buying households, especially those with limited resources. These households might struggle to afford a diverse range of nutritious foods due to the higher expenses incurred on staple cereals.

Selected horticultural and fruit products

Vegetables: Prices for various horticultural crops experienced year-on-year increments at national level, such as tomatoes (4.8 percent), red potatoes (13.7 percent), and carrots (18.1 percent). While the price of pumpkin increased slightly by 0.4 percent, there was a 2.1 percent decline in the national price of cabbage. Although the pricing trends of most vegetables generally aligned with the national patterns, there was a significant decline in the price of cabbage (17.3 percent) in western provinces. These increases in vegetable prices may potentially raise the income of struggling farmers, promoting their motivations to engage in vegetable cultivation. However, for non-producing impoverished consumers the increase in vegetable prices could be disadvantageous, hindering them from incorporating vegetables into their diets.

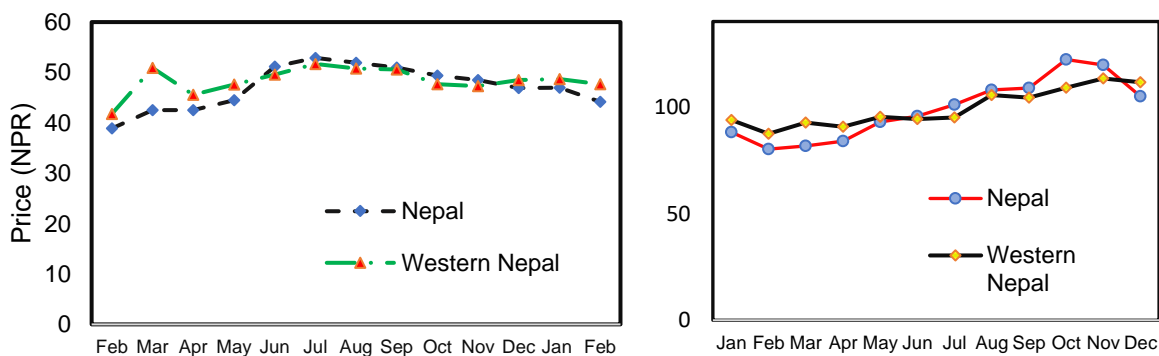


Figure 2: (left) Price trend of potatoes (Red) in Nepal (Feb 2023-Feb2024); (right) Seasonal price index of potatoes (Red) in Nepal (2002-2023).

The seasonal indices data for the price of potatoes in Nepal and western provinces indicated how potato prices fluctuate throughout the year relative to a base period. A value greater than 100 suggests higher prices compared to the base period, while a value less than 100 indicates lower prices. In Nepal, potato prices reach their peak in October and November, with indices exceeding 100. Conversely, prices are relatively lower during the earlier months of the year, with indices below

100. In Western Provinces, a similar pattern is observed, with peak prices occurring in November and December (see Figure 2 b). From January to April seasonal index of the price of potatoes in western Nepal is lower than that of Nepal. It is almost equal during May and June. Afterwards, the seasonal price index for Nepal became more than that of western Nepal till November.

Analyzing the trends in red potato prices and seasonal indices provides valuable insights into the dynamics of Nepal's vegetable market. Recognizing the seasonal fluctuations in prices can aid farmers, traders, and policymakers in anticipating market conditions, making well-informed choices regarding production and marketing approaches, and mitigating risks associated with price changes. The visual representations of pricing dynamics across regions indicate that elements such as production circumstances, market accessibility, and demand trends could impact price discrepancies among various areas in Nepal.

Fruits: The year-on-year growth in the prices of apples in February was 17.6 percent at the national level (NPR 293 per kg, USD 2.2) and 24.5 percent in the western provinces (NPR 315.4 per kg, USD 2.4). The price of apples in the western provinces was 7.6 percent higher than the national level. The national price of bananas increased marginally (1.4 percent) but declined by a minimum in the western provinces (1.4 percent). In the western provinces, there was a marginal decline in the year-on-year price of oranges while a decrease of 7.6 percent was observed at the national level. In rural areas, where communities depend on agriculture, higher fruit prices directly affect farmers' living expenses and may lead to reduced consumption of nutritious food. Similarly, urban poor facing financial constraints, may struggle to afford a varied and healthy diet, potentially resulting in nutritional deficiencies.

Milk and eggs

In February 2024, the price of milk increased significantly at a national level and Western provinces compared to a year ago. The annual increase in the milk price in Nepal was 4.7 percent, reaching NPR 115 (USD 0.9) per liter. In the Western Province, the rise in the price of milk (NPR 129.6, USD 1) was 5.2 percent during the same time. Despite the year-on-year increase, the price of milk reduced in both the Western Province and Nepal in February 2024 compared to the previous month. Conversely, the price of eggs increased by 10.2 percent nationally compared to the previous year, with a pronounced increment of 7.2 percent in the western provinces, where eggs cost NPR 20.6 (USD 0.2) per piece. However, per unit egg price in February 2024 has decreased by 4.2 percent and 3.9 percent in Nepal and the Western Province, respectively, compared to the previous month. Milk and eggs serve as vital sources of nutrition, particularly for children and elderly individuals within households. The year-on-year rise in milk and egg prices could restrict access to these crucial dietary elements, potentially resulting in nutritional deficiencies among vulnerable groups. Conversely, the decrease in prices compared to the previous month suggests a possible gradual improvement in affordability, offering a more accessible option for essential nutrients.

Meat and fish

Animal based foods: Meat and fish play a crucial role as primary protein sources, making their pricing dynamics significant for the overall food basket. In the national context, chicken meat prices increased 6.1 percent compared to the previous year, while an increase of 8.7 percent was observed in the Western provinces. In February 2024, the price of chicken meat increased moderately at a national level (2.0 percent) and in the Western Provinces (1.8 percent) compared to a month before.

In the western provinces, the year-on-year cost of fish increased by 22.5 percent above the national average. Nationally, the price of fish recorded a year-on-year increase of 8.9 percent in February

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2024. However, the price decreased of 4.3 percent and 3.4 percent at the national level and in the western provinces respectively in comparison to the previous month. The year-on-year increase in fish and chicken meat prices may strain rural and urban households, impacting their access to vital protein sources. However, the recent decrease in prices compared to earlier months provides temporary relief from high food costs, emphasizing the ongoing challenge of managing food budgets for these communities.

Edible oils

The prices of mustard and soybean oil have been dropping nationally and in the Western provinces of Nepal. Mustard oil prices fell by 13.2 percent, and soybean oil prices dropped by 20.1 percent compared to the same period of the previous year across the country. A similar trend was observed in soybean oil in the western provinces with a noteworthy decline of 10.4 percent for mustard oil and 17.5 percent for soybean oil, representing a lesser decline in price in the western provinces. Compared to the previous month, the prices of both edible oils decreased in a range of 2.0 -3.0 percent at both national level and western provinces in February 2024.

Acknowledgments

This work is supported by the USAID/Nepal-funded Cereal Systems Initiative for South Asia (CSISA) 'Building food system resilience to global supply chain and climate shocks in Nepal' Activity and CSISA Phase III supported by USAID-Washington. CSISA is also aligned with the One 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 primary data and field reports are provided and 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.

Suggested citation

Palikhe, A., Adhikari, M., Maharjan, N.K., Gupta, S., Kumar, A., Minot, N., Koirala, P., Krupnik, T.J. 2024. Situation Report on Nepal's Agrifood Systems (April 2024 Bulletin Number 17). The Cereal Systems Initiative for South Asia (CSISA) and Transforming Agrifood Systems in South Asia (TAFSSA). Kathmandu, Nepal.

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Annexes

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

Commodity	Western Provinces					Nepal				
	2023 Feb (NPR)	2024 Jan (NPR)	2024 Feb (NPR)	2023 Feb - 2024 Feb (Percent Change)	2024 Jan - 2024 Feb (Percent Change)	2023 Feb (NPR)	2024 Jan (NPR)	2024 Feb (NPR)	2023 Feb - 2024 Feb (% Change)	2024 Jan - 2024 Feb (% Change)
Rice (coarse)	61.7	74.8	74.7	21.1	-0.1	57.4	69.9	69.7	21.4	-0.3
Rice (medium grain)	89.2	102.3	101.7	14.1	-0.6	82.0	91.2	91.0	11.0	-0.2
Wheat flour	83.6	90.1	87.7	4.9	-2.6	85.0	86.8	85.9	1.0	-1.0
Apples	253.4	290.4	315.4	24.5	8.6	249.2	295.6	293.0	17.6	-0.9
Bananas*	157.6	164.6	155.4	-1.4	-5.6	135.7	133.5	136.0	0.2	1.8
Oranges	166.0	141.9	166.2	0.1	17.1	165.6	140.6	153.0	-7.6	8.8
Cabbage	58.2	51.2	48.1	-17.3	-6.0	46.7	44.8	45.7	-2.1	2.1
Carrots	81.2	116.5	93.5	15.2	-19.8	66.0	84.0	78.0	18.1	-7.2
Potatoes (red)	41.8	48.7	47.7	14.0	-2.1	38.9	47.0	44.2	13.7	-5.9
Pumpkin	69.8	60.8	67.7	-3.1	11.4	64.3	59.0	64.6	0.4	9.4
Tomatoes	80.2	86.9	85.4	6.5	-1.8	62.2	68.8	65.2	4.8	-5.2
Beans (black)	185.2	201.9	199.4	7.7	-1.3	176.8	204.0	203.2	15.0	-0.4
Chickpeas	154.8	155.5	153.1	-1.1	-1.6	142.2	143.5	140.2	-1.4	-2.3
Lentils (broken)	174.1	184.4	182.7	4.9	-0.9	165.9	168.5	167.7	1.1	-0.5
Oil (mustard)**	313.2	288.5	280.8	-10.4	-2.7	304.4	271.7	264.2	-13.2	-2.7
Oil (soybean)**	271.7	228.8	224.2	-17.5	-2.0	265.0	218.1	211.8	-20.1	-2.9
Milk**	123.2	131.2	129.6	5.2	-1.2	109.8	119.0	115.0	4.7	-3.3
Meat (chicken)	483.5	516.2	525.4	8.7	1.8	440.2	457.9	467.2	6.1	2.0
Eggs***	19.2	21.5	20.6	7.2	-3.9	18.0	20.7	19.8	10.2	-4.2
Fish	493.5	626.0	605.0	22.6	-3.4	444.6	506.0	484.1	8.9	-4.3
Peanut	451.0	438.9	442.8	-1.8	0.9	328.5	327.0	321.7	-2.1	-1.6

*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	
	Feb 2023	Jan 2024	Feb 2023	Jan 2024	Feb 2023	Jan 2024	Feb 2023	Jan 2024	Feb 2023	Jan 2024	Feb 2023	Jan 2024	Feb 2023	Jan 2024
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Feb 2024	Feb 2024	Feb 2024	Feb 2024	Feb 2024	Feb 2024	Feb 2024	Feb 2024	Feb 2024	Feb 2024	Feb 2024	Feb 2024	Feb 2024	Feb 2024
Rice (coarse)	27.5	0.0	13.9	2.9	27.6	-2.4	-3.0	12.0	21.5	-1.0	16.5	1.0	30.7	-1.5
Rice (medium grain)	13.8	2.3	7.1	11.9	2.5	-4.6	-2.8	8.0	16.6	-3.4	10.3	-0.1	20.3	0.3
Wheat flour	-1.9	0.0	0.0	4.4	-4.6	-1.6	2.9	-7.9	-27.5	-17.7	16.2	0.0	13.1	3.3
Apples	1.8	-4.9	7.4	-3.3	16.6	-28.0	3.4	15.4	46.9	9.5	34.8	13.8	-3.4	0.0
Bananas	0.0	6.7	17.4	28.6	-3.9	33.0	10.3	4.9	-0.3	1.4	-0.9	-4.9	-3.8	-12.8
Oranges	-36.6	-15.2	NA	-6.7	-14.7	-0.3	45.8	25.0	57.0	97.0	-4.6	3.4	-20.7	-8.0
Cabbage	-1.0	-9.5	46.7	10.0	35.3	15.8	50.0	50.0	-6.9	-24.0	-33.5	6.5	26.6	-13.0
Carrots	-13.8	0.0	25.0	-16.7	24.0	12.5	90.5	150.0	31.9	-7.3	16.4	-12.4	3.3	-36.4
Potatoes (red)	5.9	-13.8	-5.3	-18.2	19.6	-14.5	11.1	37.0	1.8	-8.0	9.7	-1.0	30.7	0.0
Pumpkin	5.9	5.9	7.1	-11.8	4.0	30.0	33.3	14.3	13.0	-7.1	-33.1	4.7	150.0	36.4
Tomatoes	11.1	-7.7	0.0	-21.4	0.0	-10.0	10.0	-4.3	4.3	4.3	7.4	3.5	5.0	-16.7
Beans (black)	19.0	0.8	25.5	0.8	28.5	4.5	-4.8	19.4	18.9	0.4	8.8	1.1	-1.7	-6.8
Chickpeas	-6.2	-7.1	16.1	2.9	2.0	-2.4	-1.9	-19.0	-9.5	-1.9	3.0	-0.5	-2.6	-3.4
Lentils (broken)	-13.0	-5.4	0.0	-0.5	0.3	-0.6	17.2	-0.9	-1.0	1.7	10.0	0.0	1.0	-4.2
Oil (mustard)	-10.4	4.7	-20.7	-3.0	-16.1	1.6	-14.3	-21.3	-21.4	-4.6	1.9	0.0	-22.1	-6.4
Oil (soybean)	-23.9	-6.2	-27.2	-8.3	-21.0	-1.2	4.8	-20.0	-13.8	-1.7	-18.3	0.0	-18.5	-5.4
Milk	2.1	-5.8	11.1	0.0	2.5	-8.0	-7.7	0.0	15.4	0.0	3.5	-2.0	2.6	0.0
Meat (chicken)	12.9	7.9	-3.7	2.0	-1.1	2.0	4.7	3.4	9.8	5.9	7.3	0.9	10.3	1.0
Eggs	21.6	0.0	12.5	0.0	6.1	-12.5	0.0	20.0	-5.7	-13.8	17.2	0.0	0.0	-3.8
Fish	-9.8	-5.7	-28.6	-29.9	17.1	4.1	17.6	19.0	2.0	-0.8	35.7	-3.2	-27.3	-12.5
Peanut	0.9	9.8	-3.0	-5.9	-3.4	-18.0	17.8	20.5	-5.5	1.7	-11.7	0.7	NA	NA

NA indicates data not available.

Source: World Food Programme (March 2024)

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

Inputs	Unit price (March)							Average Price Mar 2024	Average Price Feb 2024	% change (Feb-Mar 2024)
	Banke	Bardiya	Dang	Kailali	Kanchanpur	Kapilvastu	Surkhet			
Fertilizer										
Urea (Kg)	20.4	23.2	20	22.5	22.8	19	22.5	21.5	21.4	0.2
DAP (Kg)	49.4	54	49	52.5	52.5	47.5	52.3	51.0	50.7	0.6
MOP (Kg)	36.8	39.6	40	39	39.7	36	41.3	38.9	38.3	1.6
Seed										
Rice OP (Kg)	69.7	71.7	190.0	72.5	71.5	115.0	85.0	96.5	75.0	28.6
Rice hybrid (Kg)	525.0	575.0	525.0	500.0	575.0	600.0	550.0	550.0	537.1	2.4
Maize OP (Kg)	150.0	183.3	190.0	140.0	200.0	215.0	195.0	181.9	160.7	13.2
Maize hybrid (Kg)	850.0	583.3	425.0	650.0	300.0	655.0	475.0	562.6	526.0	7.0
Wheat Price (Kg)	77.5	75.0	105.0	75.0	85.0	83.0	75.0	82.2	78.9	4.3
Lentil Price (Kg)	200.0	325.0	500.0	250.0	233.0	252.5	250.0	287.2	194.6	47.6
Cauli OP (Kg)	6000	3275	7500	6500	7000	8500	11250	7146	7729	-7.5
Cauli hybrid (Kg)	50000	36300	57500	60000	62500	70500	42000	54114	64667	-16.3
Tomato OP (Kg)	6250	3540	16000	9000	9000	8250	18000	10006	10902	-8.2
Tomato hybrid (Kg)	53750	45275	265000	107500	285000	200000	250000	172361	145888	18.1
Onion seed (Kg)	2800.0	1100.0	1250.0	750.0	700.0	2090.0	1100.0	1398.6	929.0	50.5
Onion seed Nepali (Kg)	1000.0	925.0	2550.0	3750.0	3500.0	1400.0	3700.0	2403.6	2795.4	-14.0
Labor										
Agricultural Labor Male (day)	550.0	600.0	650.0	666.7	600.0	600.0	800.0	638.1	640.9	-0.4
Agricultural Labor Female (day)	325.0	600.0	625.0	533.3	500.0	550.0	710.0	549.0	555.9	-1.2
Non-Agricultural Labor Male (day)	550.0	566.7	700.0	900.0	1000.0	1200.0	800.0	816.7	729.9	11.9
Non-Agricultural Labor Female (day)	350.0	566.7	650.0	566.7	600.0	500.0	680.0	559.0	574.6	-2.7
Irrigation										
Irrigation (hour)	175	267	300	350	85	500	800	354	363.1	-2.6
Tractor										
Tractor (hour)	2500	3000	2750	2933	3350	2275	960	2538	2370.1	7.1
Fuel										
Deisel (liter)	155	164	158	156	161	157	168	160	158.1	0.9
Petrol (liter)	168	179	171	169	185	169	173	173	169.1	2.4

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

Source: CIMMYT-CSISA field data, March, 2024

Annex 4: National Consumer Price Index (March 2024)

Groups & Sub-Groups	Weight percent	2021/22	2022/23		2023/24 ^P		% Change			
		Feb/Mar	Jan/Feb	Feb/Mar	Jan/Feb	Feb/Mar	3 Over 1	3 Over 2	5 Over 3	5 Over 4
		1	2	3	4	5				
Overall Index	100	146.15	156.26	157.02	164.10	164.58	7.44	0.48	4.82	0.30
Food and Beverage	43.91	142.32	148.76	150.34	158.44	159.26	5.64	1.06	5.94	0.52
Cereal grains and their products	11.33	130.74	146.61	149.50	159.89	160.48	14.35	1.97	7.35	0.37
Pulses and Legumes	1.84	120.29	124.94	124.77	138.88	138.78	3.72	-0.14	11.22	-0.07
Vegetable	5.52	130.48	123.52	118.99	132.88	135.73	-8.80	-3.66	14.07	2.15
Meat and Fish	6.75	146.46	146.58	151.83	150.82	153.33	3.67	3.58	0.98	1.66
Milk products and Eggs	5.24	149.70	151.85	156.82	168.21	167.96	4.76	3.27	7.11	-0.15
Ghee and Oil	2.95	194.67	189.80	187.46	166.40	165.35	-3.71	-1.24	-11.79	-0.63
Fruit	2.08	153.02	161.34	165.16	169.23	168.91	7.93	2.36	2.27	-0.19
Sugar and Sugar products	1.74	138.17	146.73	146.39	156.24	155.03	5.95	-0.23	5.90	-0.77
Spices	1.21	127.79	138.59	141.69	183.09	181.61	10.88	2.24	28.17	-0.81
Non-alcoholic drinks	1.24	139.76	149.47	149.77	159.13	159.48	7.17	0.20	6.48	0.22
Alcoholic drinks	0.68	188.73	205.29	205.29	216.10	216.10	8.78	0.00	5.27	0.00
Tobacco products	0.41	173.25	192.01	192.01	193.73	193.73	10.83	0.00	0.90	0.00
Restaurant and Hotel	2.92	149.95	170.56	171.08	181.68	182.35	14.09	0.31	6.59	0.37

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