

FUGALEI MARKET SURVEY REPORT

JUNE 2008

Monthly Report No. 6/08*

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Central Bank of Samoa
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This report provides a monthly review of selected agricultural produce available at the Fugalei Market, based on the Central Bank's survey and price data sourced from the Statistical Division of the Ministry of Finance

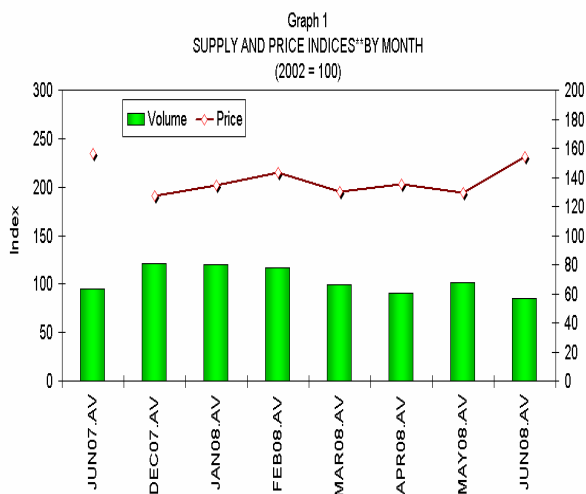
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OVERVIEW

The supply of agricultural produce to the Market in June 2008 fell 16 percent to a level that was also 10 percent lower than June 2007. The reduction in the overall volume during the month under review was due to decreased supplies of taro, banana, taamu, tomatoes, cucumber and pumpkin as farmers blamed the wet weather conditions for the poor supplies in the month under review.

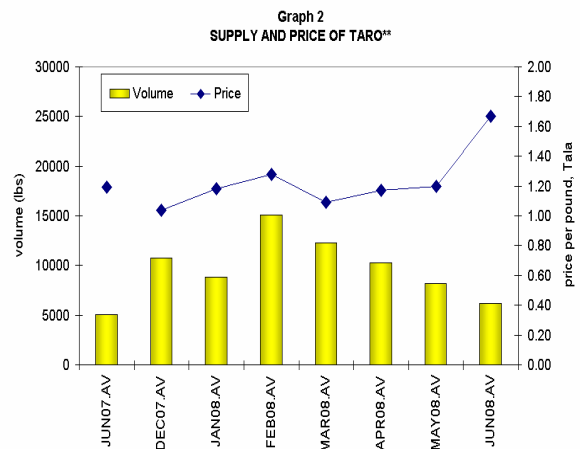
The overall price index at the Fugalei Market, on the other hand, jumped 19 percent in June 2008, but was 1 percent lower than in June 2007. The sharp rise in the price level clearly reflected the surge in demand for agricultural goods at the Market following the Independence celebrations. (See Graph 1 and Tables 4 & 5.)



Despite the drop in June 2008, the overall average availability of agricultural produce in the twelve months of the fiscal year 2007/2008 improved 11 percent from the same period of 2006/2007. However, due to strong domestic demand, the average price level jumped 6 percent in the period under review.

TARO

A sharp increase in yam supply to the market caused taro farmers to cut supplies by 25 percent to 6,156 pounds in June 2008. Consequently, the average price of taro rose 39 percent to \$1.67 per pound. When compared to June 2007, however, the supply of taro jumped 22 percent and its price leapt 40 percent as a result of increased demand. (See Graph 2 and Table 1 and 2.)

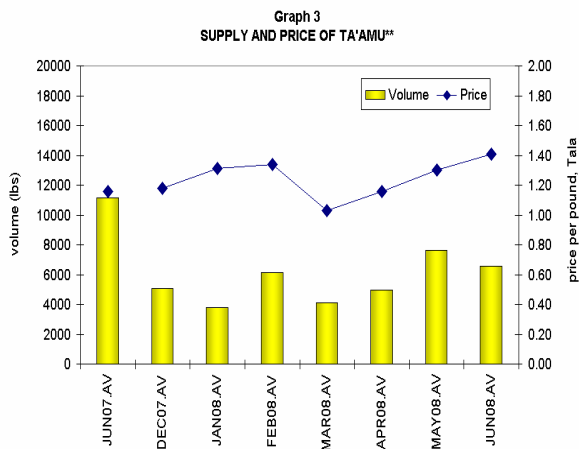


Despite its decline in the month under review, the average supply of taro in the twelve months ending June 2008 was 42 percent higher when compared to the same period ending June 2007. Its average price, however, was 16 percent higher due to robust demand for this agricultural produce in 2007/2008 fiscal year.

TA'AMU

The volume of ta'amu available at the Fugalei Market decreased 13 percent to 6,578 pounds in the month under review in response to gains in the supplies of its substitutes, taro palagi, yam and breadfruit.

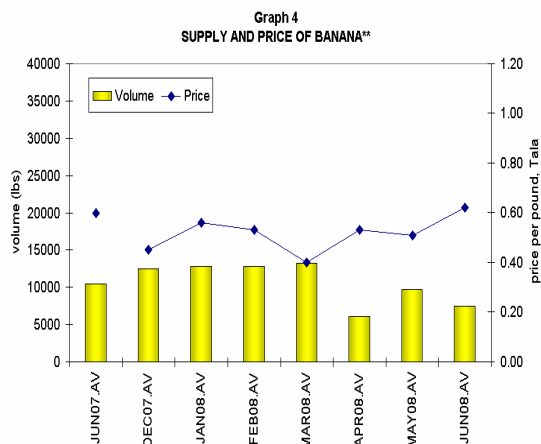
The price of ta'amu rose 8 percent to \$1.41 per pound, reflecting increased demand for this staple crop. Nevertheless, when compared with the same month of 2007, the availability of ta'amu was 41 percent lower and its price expanded 22 percent as a result. (See Graph 3 and Table 1 and 2.)



With the lower supply of taamu in June 2008, its average availability in the twelve months of 2007/2008 decreased 10 percent to 5,939 pounds per month. As a result, its average price leapt 21 percent to \$1.22 per pound.

BANANA

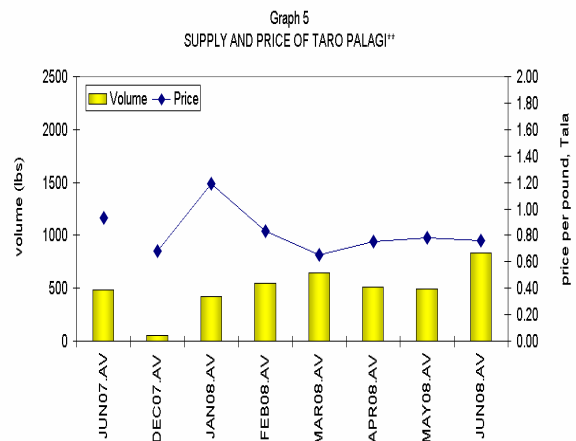
The average supply of banana, at 7,474 pounds, in the month under review was 23 percent lower compared to the previous month and was also 29 percent lower than June 2007. As a consequence, its price was 22 percent and 3 percent higher in that order. (See Graph 4 and Tables 1 and 2.)



Despite the lower supply in the month under review, the average volume of banana in the twelve months ending June 2008 (at 13,962 pound per month) was 1 percent higher than in the same period last year. And, as a result of strong demand for this product in the period under review, its average price was 13 percent higher than in the corresponding period of 2006/2007.

TARO PALAGI

At 834 pounds, the volume of taro palagi in June 2008 surged 69 percent, consequently pushing its price down 3 percent. Likewise, the average availability of taro palagi was 72 percent stronger than the level in the same month last year with its average price level, down 18 percent. (See Graph 5 and Tables 1 and 2.)

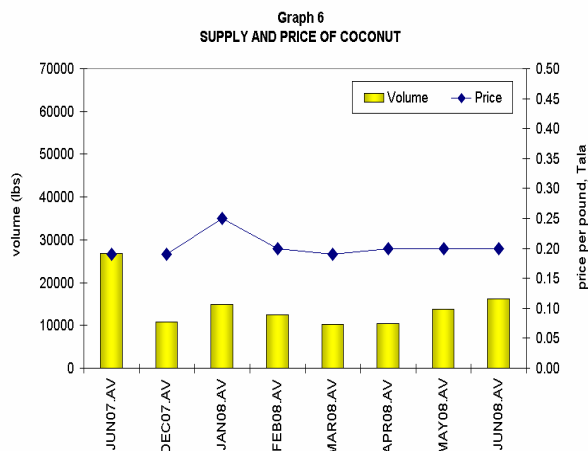


In the twelve months of 2007/2008, the average availability of taro palagi (at 413 pounds per month) was 30 percent lower than in the same period of 2006/2007, exerting upward pressure on its price, which rose 11 percent in the period under review. Also contributing to the higher price level over the year was increased demand, particularly from small home-based taro chips manufacturers, who were the main buyers.

COCONUT

The volume of coconut at the Market increased 18 percent to 16,211 pounds but its price remained unchanged at \$0.20 per pound in June 2008. When compared with the same month last year, however,

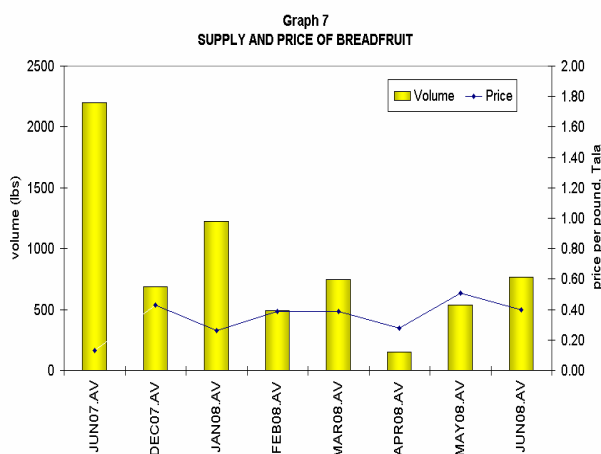
coconut supply dropped 40 percent and its price increased 5 percent over the year. (See Graph 6 and Table 1 and 2.)



Despite the increase in June 2008, the average availability of coconut in the twelve months of 2007/08 at 15,108 pounds per month dropped 17 percent when compared with 2006/2007. As a result its price rose 5 percent.

BREADFRUIT

Breadfruit supply rebounded in the month under review with a 42 percent jump to 764 pounds and its' price declined 22 percent as a result. However, its average availability declined 65 percent over the year and its price was more than three times higher as a result. (See Graph 7 and Table 1 and 3.)

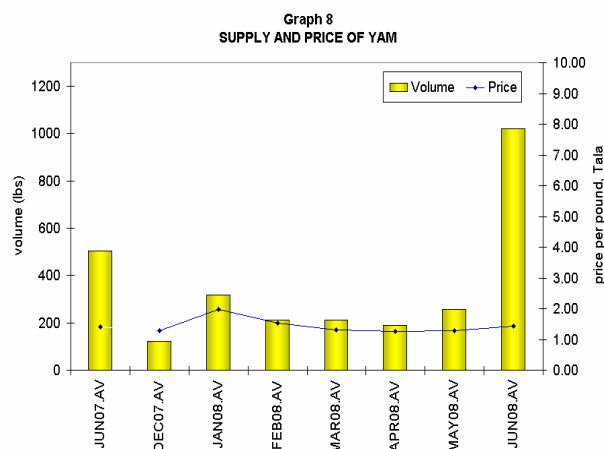


At 679 pounds per month, the average volume of breadfruit in 2007/2008 was 4 percent lower when compared to 2006/07. Its average price

(of \$0.38 per pound), however, remained unchanged.

YAM

The supply of yam in June 2008 jumped more than three fold from the previous month and more than doubled the level in June 2007. However, due to increased demand, its price rose 11 percent from May 2008 to a level 1 percent higher than in June 2007. (See Graph 8 and Table 1 and 2.)



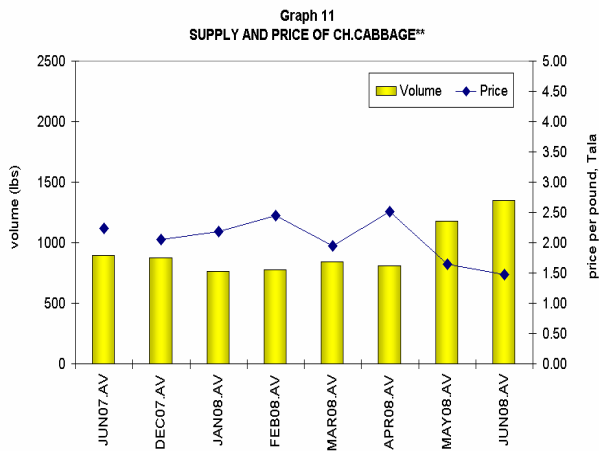
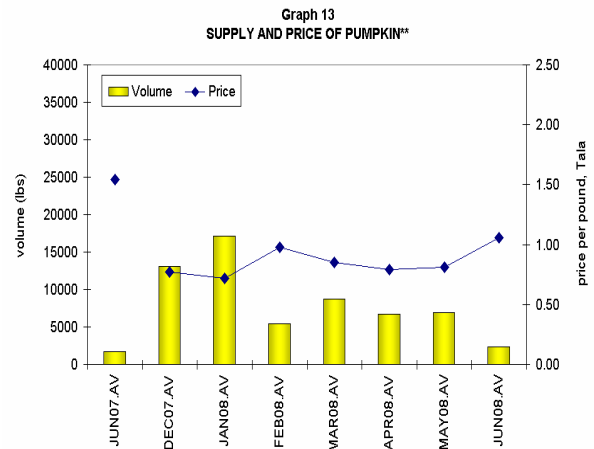
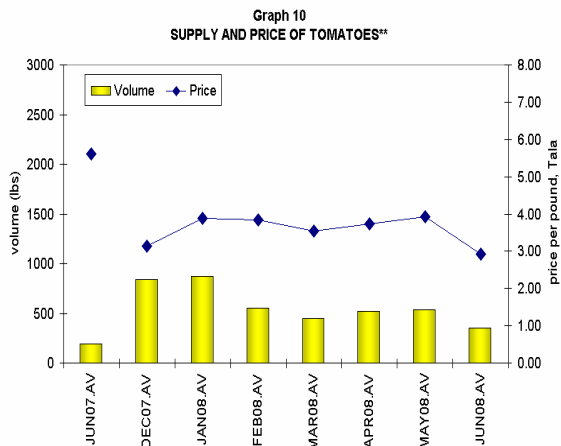
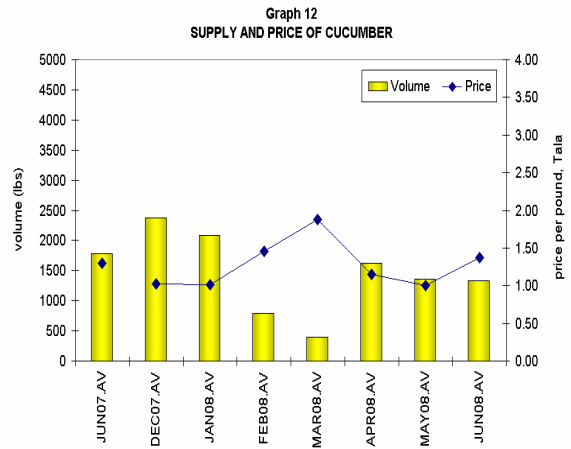
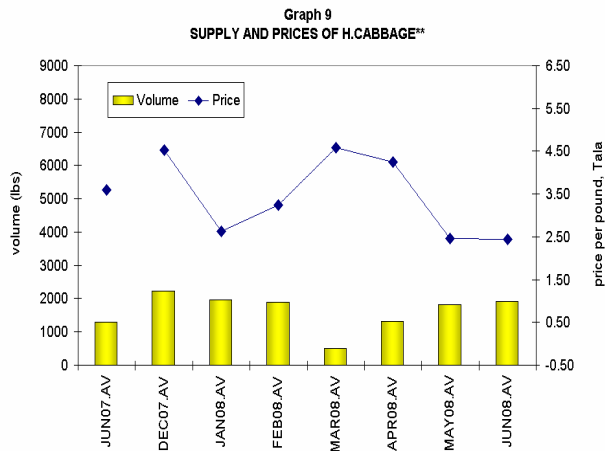
Despite the increase in June 2008, the monthly average availability of yam at the Market in the twelve months of 2007/2008 (at 302 pounds per month) fell 45 percent when compared with the same period of 2006/07. As a result, its price increased 2 percent.

VEGETABLE PRODUCE

Due to the heavy downpour in June 2008, the supplies of most perishable vegetables to the Fugalei Market were adversely affected. In particular, the availability of pumpkin and tomatoes contracted 66 percent and 35 percent respectively resulting in the price of pumpkin jumping 31 percent while that of tomatoes went down 26 percent. Similarly, the supply of cucumber declined 3 percent but its price rose 37 percent due to higher demand.

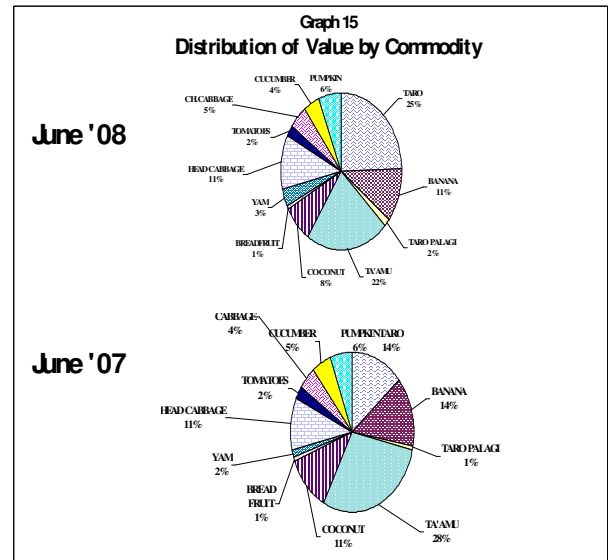
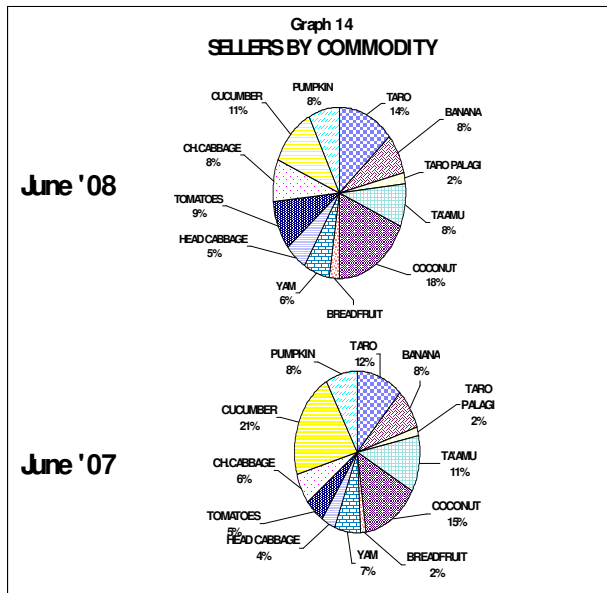
On the upside, the supplies of Chinese cabbage and head cabbage grew 14 percent and 4 percent respectively, exerting downward pressure on their prices,

which fell 10 percent and 1 percent in that order. (See Graphs 9 to 13 and Tables 1 and 2)



SELLERS

Corresponding to the drop in overall supply of agricultural produce to the Fugalei Market in June 2008, the number of sellers (at 222) on the days surveyed in the month under review was 13 percent lower than in May 2008. However, when compared to June 2007, the current number of sellers was 1 percent higher reflecting increased suppliers of most staple crops. (See Graph 14 and Table 6)



Coconut sellers were the largest group with its total surging to 41 from 35 in May 2008 and 32 in June 2007. Taro sellers followed with a total of 30, down from 41 in May 2008 but higher than 36 in June 2007. Cucumber sellers came third with a total of 24, down from 29 in May 2008 and 47 over a year ago. Tomatoes and Chinese cabbage sellers remained unchanged at 21 and 18 respectively, up from 11 and 14 in the same month last year. Yam and taamu sellers increased to 18 and 14 respectively from 17 and 6 in the previous month and 25 and 14 in June 2007 in that order. Taro palagi and breadfruit also increased to 5 from 6 in the previous month and 3 in June 2007. Head cabbage sellers likewise rose to 12 from 10 in the previous month and 8 in June 2007. On the other hand, banana and pumpkin sellers decreased to 17 each from 21 and 47 respectively in the previous month.

VALUE OF SUPPLIES

Reflecting the lower price levels in June 2008, the average value of selected produce supplied to the Market decreased 5 percent to \$41,800; a level that was 6 percent lower than the same month last year. (See Graph 15 and Table 3.)

Taro contributed the most to the total value of produce surveyed, with a share of 25 percent, up from 22 percent in the previous month and 14 percent in June 2007. Taamu followed with a 22 percent share; lower than its contribution in the previous month (23 percent share) and a year ago (28 percent share). Banana and head cabbage registered 11 percent each in the month under review with coconut (at 8 percent), pumpkin (at 6 percent), Chinese cabbage (at 5 percent), cucumber (at 4 percent), and yam (at 3 percent). Taro palagi and tomatoes contributed 2 percent each while that of breadfruit recorded a 1 percent share.

@ Weights for the selected produce have been revised using 2002 as the base period and have been incorporated starting from January 2003 report.

* The selected produces are: taro, banana, ta'amu, taro palagi, coconut, head cabbage, tomatoes, Chinese cabbage, cucumber and pumpkin. Breadfruit and yam were recently included in the composition of the overall Indices.

** Data shown reflects the average availability and prices of the selected produce at the Fugalei Market on each Friday (Thursday where Friday is a public holiday) in the months under reference.