ZAMBIA

mVAM Market Bulletin 6: November 2016

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Groundnut prices increase in all monitored districts

Key points:

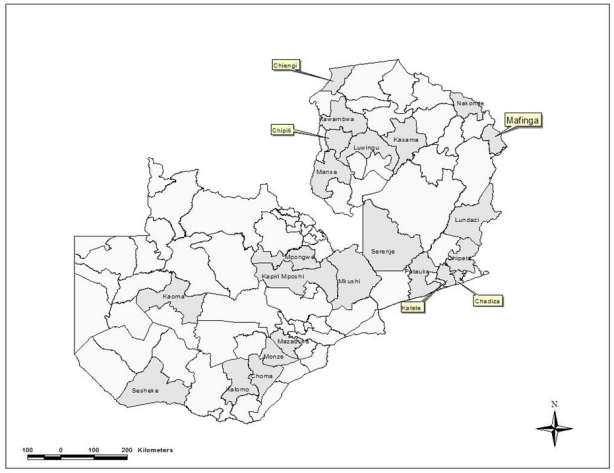
- Maize was 14 percent more expensive in Choma in November than in October
- Bean prices have increased in Mkushi (Central province) and in all districts in Luapula, Muchinga, Southern and Western provinces
- Groundnut prices have risen in all monitored districts

WFP/Evin Joyce

Methodology

WFP Zambia's in-house call centre has been operational since May 2016 as a part of WFP's mobile Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (mVAM) initiative. The in-house call centre conducts telephone interviews with key informants to collect weekly information on the prices of foods including maize, rice, groundnuts, cassava and beans, as well as information on general food availability and market accessibility. The surveys are carried out with a sample of 51 traders across 24 districts. The call centre collected 180 responses in October and 171 responses in November 2016. Phone surveys contain inherent response biases; therefore, the bulletin reports patterns and trends rather than precise estimates.

Map 1: Districts surveyed in November 2016



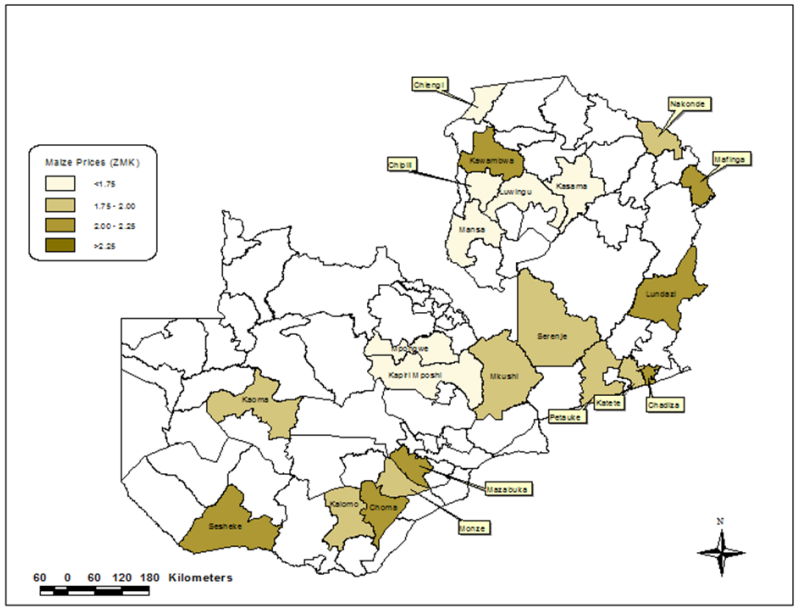
Source: mVAM November 2016

Maize prices fluctuate in monitored districts

Maize prices have been fluctuating in monitored districts, with some reductions and/or minimal increases **(Figures 1a and 1b)**. Prices fell between 4 percent and 14 percent in Sesheke (Western), Monze (Southern) and Nakonde (Mafinga). Prices rose by an average of 14 percent in Choma (Southern), 6 percent in Lundazi (Eastern) and 4 percent in Kaoma and Sesheke (Western). Some districts recorded no price change from October to November, especially those in Eastern province.

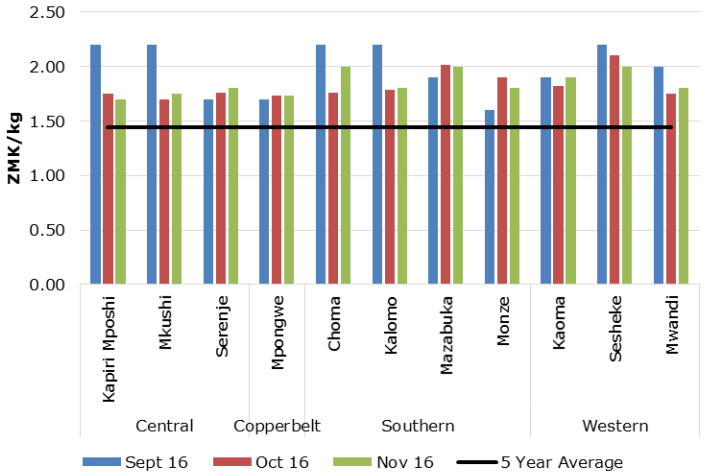
The price fluctuations are attributed to differences in market response to the start of the lean season. Maize prices also continue to be suppressed by the ongoing export ban. That said, the average maize price for the 24 monitored districts (ZMK1.83/kg) remains higher than the national five-year average (November 2010–November 2015) of ZMK1.44/kg (source: FAO GIEWS).

Map 2: Maize prices by district (ZMK/kg)



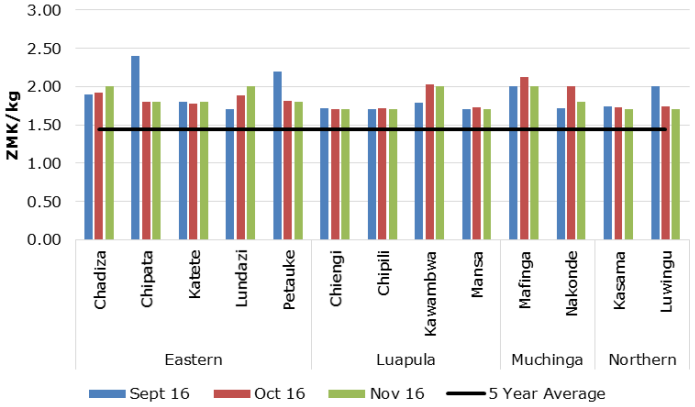
Source: mVAM November 2016

Figure 1a: Maize prices (ZMK/kg) for monitored districts in Central, Copperbelt, Southern and Western provinces



Source: mVAM November 2016

Fig. 1b: Maize prices (ZMK/kg) for monitored districts in Eastern, Luapula, Muchinga and Northern provinces



Source: mVAM November 2016

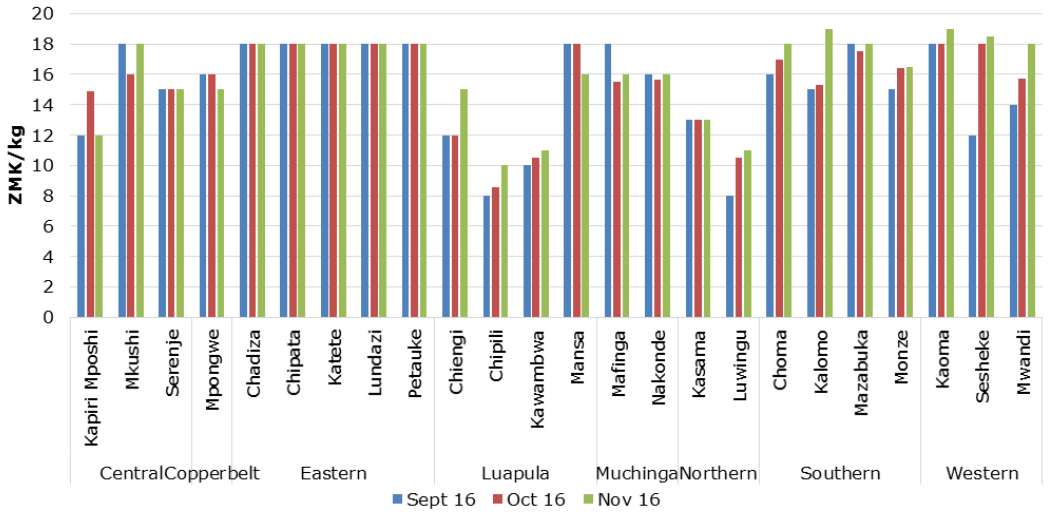
Bean prices fluctuate and groundnut prices rise in most districts

In November, bean prices were stable in some monitored districts. Prices increased in Mkushi in Central province and in all districts in Luapula, Muchinga, Southern and Western provinces compared to September and October. The highest percentage price increases were in Chiengi in Luapula (25 percent), Kalomo in Southern (24 percent), Chipili in Luapula (17 percent), Mwandi in Western (14 percent) and Mkushi in Central (13 percent). Kapiri Mposhi (Central), Mpongwe (Copperbelt) and Mansa (Luapula) were the only districts to see a fall in bean prices in November.

Groundnut prices increased in all monitored districts compared to September and October. As seen in Figure 3, groundnuts became 88 percent more expensive in Chadiza (Eastern), 66 percent more expensive in Chiengi (Luapula), and 60 percent more expensive in Chipili (Luapula) and Mkushi (Central).

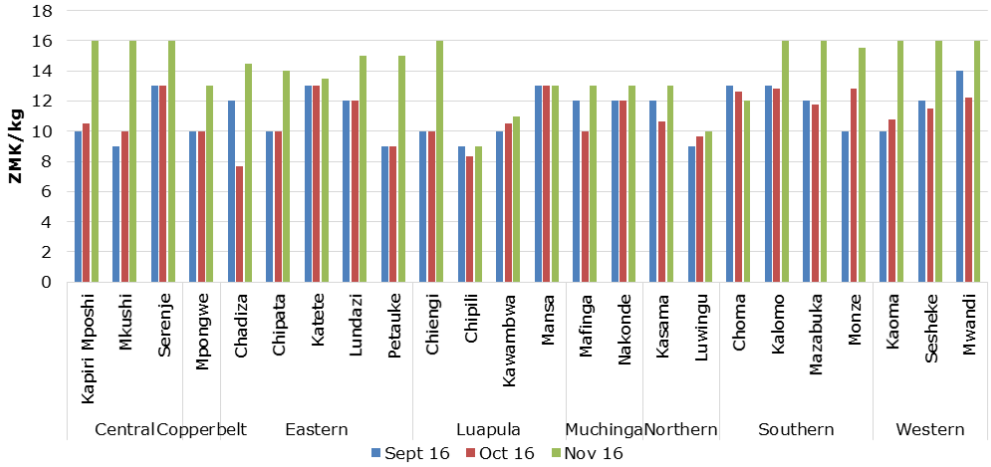
The factor underlying these price increases in most districts is scarcity in the wake of increased demand, a seasonal phenomenon in the approach to the lean period.

Fig.2: Bean prices by district (ZMK/kg)



Source: mVAM November 2016

Fig. 3: Groundnut prices by district (ZMK/kg)



Source: mVAM November 2016

Export control preventing traders from selling to neighbouring countries

Most of the interviewed traders are also farmers who sell the produce they grow themselves. 31 percent of them continue to regard the high transportation costs resulting from high fuel prices and poor road infrastructure as one of the main constraints to their business. 5 percent of the farmer-traders also consider the lack of access to improved and diversified inputs as an important business constraint. 9 percent indicated the poor performance of the previous rainfall season (2015/16), which led to lower harvests for most crops, and limited access to input loans due to high lending rates as other constraints affecting traders. However, the majority of traders said that their biggest constraint is the ongoing maize export ban that is preventing them from accessing markets with good prices, such as those in the neighbouring countries of Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe.

Fig. 4: Word cloud of open-ended responses

Source: mVAM November 2016

WFP/ Evin Joyce

Table 1: Food Prices Across Surveyed Districts (ZMK/kg)

Districts	Beans			Maize			Groundnuts		
	Current	October	% Change	Current	October	% Change	Current	October	% Change
Kaoma	19.00	18.00	5.56	1.90	1.82	4.40	17.00	10.80	57.41
Sesheke	18.50	18.00	2.78	2.00	2.10	-4.76	16.00	11.50	39.13
Kapiri Mposhi	12.00	14.88	-19.33	1.70	1.75	-2.86	16.00	10.50	52.38
Mkushi	18.00	16.00	12.50	1.75	1.70	2.94	16.00	10.00	60.00
Serenje	15.00	15.00	0.00	1.80	1.76	2.44	16.00	13.00	23.08
Chadiza	18.00	18.00	0.00	2.00	1.92	4.17	14.50	7.68	88.80
Chipata	18.00	18.00	0.00	1.80	1.80	0.00	14.00	10.00	40.00
Katete	18.00	18.00	0.00	1.80	1.78	1.12	13.50	13.00	3.85
Lundazi	18.00	18.00	0.00	2.00	1.88	6.16	15.00	12.00	25.00
Petauke	18.00	18.00	0.00	1.80	1.81	-0.44	15.00	9.00	66.67
Chiengi	15.00	12.00	25.00	1.70	1.70	0.00	16.00	10.00	60.00
Chipili	10.00	8.56	16.88	1.70	1.71	-0.65	9.00	8.33	8.00
Kawambwa	11.00	10.50	4.76	2.00	2.03	-1.48	11.00	10.50	4.76
Mansa	16.00	18.00	-11.11	1.70	1.73	-1.73	13.00	13.00	0.00
Kasama	13.00	13.00	0.00	1.70	1.73	-1.92	13.00	10.67	21.88
Luwingu	11.00	10.53	4.50	1.70	1.74	-2.12	10.00	9.63	3.83
Choma	18.00	17.00	5.88	2.00	1.76	13.48	12.00	12.63	-4.95
Kalomo	19.00	15.30	24.18	1.80	1.79	0.56	16.00	12.80	25.00
Mazabuka	18.00	17.50	2.86	2.00	2.02	-0.74	16.00	11.75	36.17
Monze	16.50	16.40	0.61	1.80	1.90	-5.26	15.50	12.80	21.09
Mpongwe	15.00	16.00	-6.25	1.73	1.73	0.00	13.00	10.00	30.00
Mafinga	16.00	15.50	3.23	2.00	2.13	-5.88	13.00	10.00	30.00
Nakonde	16.00	15.67	2.11	1.80	2.00	-10.00	13.00	12.00	8.33
Mwandi	18.00	15.75	14.29	1.80	1.75	2.86	16.00	12.25	30.61

Source: mVAM November 2016

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mVAM Resources:

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