

LIBERIA Price Bulletin

March 2015

The Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) monitors trends in staple food prices in countries vulnerable to food insecurity. For each FEWS NET country and region, the Price Bulletin provides a set of charts showing monthly prices in the current marketing year in selected urban centers and allowing users to compare current trends with both five-year average prices, indicative of seasonal trends, and prices in the previous year.



FEWS NET gratefully acknowledges WFP VAM in providing price data.

Rice is the most important staple food consumed in Liberia. Local rice is harvested in August in the south-eastern counties and in October in other areas. Local rice production satisfies only one third of annual consumption requirements, making Liberia highly dependent on rice imports from the international market. Cassava, the second most important staple food, is planted across the country and harvested throughout the year. Cassava is a substitute for rice, particularly during the lean season and in rural areas. Palm nuts and oil are important cash crops; the latter also makes important dietary contributions to many households. Monrovia, the capital, hosts one third of the national population and represents the biggest consumer market for staple foods like cassava sourced from other regions. The Red Light Market in Monrovia is also the main entry point for imported rice which then supplies inland markets. Gbarnga, in Bong County, is located in country's second largest rice surplus-producing area (after Lofa) and is an important source of supply for Monrovia. Zwedru and Pleebo markets in the south-east and Foya in the north are less integrated to the national marketing system as road access is poor. Foya in Lofa county and Ganta in Nimba County are the major palm



