



The Food Price Monitor: Kenya is a monthly report developed for the Food Security Portal (FSP), facilitated by IFPRI, with the goal of providing clear and accurate information on commodity price trends and variations in selected markets throughout Kenya. The reports are intended as a resource for those interested in agricultural commodity markets in Kenya, namely producers, traders, consumers, or other agricultural stakeholders.

Highlights

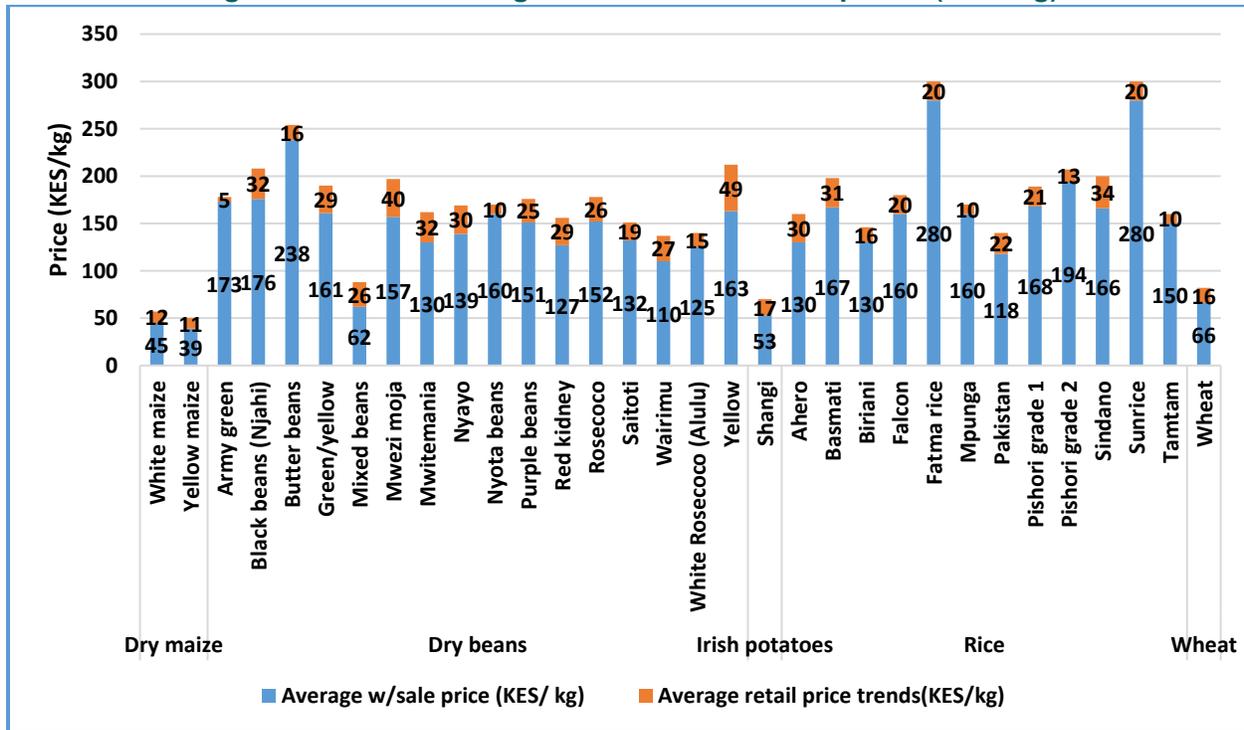
- ▶ Fluctuations in wholesale and retail prices were influenced by seasonal changes, the role of intermediaries, and increasing local demand.
- ▶ Irish potato prices declined in many regions due to increased supply in the markets.
- ▶ Price increases for some bean varieties and maize in Kisumu can be attributed to high transportation costs caused by heavy rains in major production areas, the involvement of middlemen, and market dynamics, including high demand and low supply.
- ▶ Despite rice being the third most consumed cereal in Kenya, it is the least cultivated, leading to a significant reliance on international markets and higher prices due to importation costs.

Overall Wholesale and Retail Prices for July

Figure 1 shows the average wholesale and retail prices of maize, beans, potatoes, rice, and wheat across major Kenyan markets for July 2024. Several commodities saw price differentials ranging from 3% to 15%, including dry beans [Army green (3%), butter beans (7%), Nyota (6%), Saitoti (14%), and White Rosecoco (12%)] and rice [Biriani (7%), Falcon (13%), Fatma (7%), Mpunga (6%), Sunrice (7%), and Sindano (7%)]. Dry wheat, dry beans (Njahi, green yellow, mwezi moja, Mwitemania, Nyayo, Purple, Red

Kidney, Rosecoco, and Wairimu), and rice (Ahero, Basmati, Pakistan, and Sindano) recorded price differentials ranging from 16% to 26%. Conversely, dry maize (white and yellow), mixed beans, yellow beans, and Shangi Irish potatoes experienced significantly higher price differentials, ranging from 27% to 42%. The observed fluctuations in wholesale and retail prices can be attributed to various factors, including seasonal variations, the involvement of intermediaries, and escalating local demand.

Figure 1: Overall average wholesale and retail prices (KES/Kg)



Source: Daily Market Survey for the month of July 2024

Wholesale and Retail Commodity Prices

Eldoret and Nakuru regions reported the highest availability of bean varieties, reflecting their prominence as major producing regions. Notably, retail prices for all bean varieties exceeded wholesale prices. Wholesale and retail prices for most bean varieties were higher in the Eldoret and Mombasa regions than the national average. Conversely, Nakuru and Nyeri regions recorded lower wholesale prices compared to the national averages for all available bean varieties, while Nakuru recorded lower retail prices for all available bean varieties compared to the national averages. These price variations can be attributed to market dynamics such as supply and demand, as well as the involvement of intermediaries.

In the Kisumu region, both dry white and yellow maize were reported, whereas all other regions only reported dry white maize. Compared to the national average wholesale price of 45 KES/kg and retail price of 57 KES/kg for dry white maize, Eldoret and Mombasa displayed higher prices. Eldoret's wholesale price was 50 KES/kg with a retail price of 60 KES/kg, while Mombasa had both wholesale and retail prices at 75 KES/kg. Factors such as high transportation costs due to heavy rains in major producing areas, the involvement of middlemen, and market dynamics like high demand and low supply contributed to these elevated prices.

Irish potatoes exhibited higher wholesale prices in Eldoret, Mombasa, and Nairobi, reaching 63 KES/kg, 56 KES/kg, and 79 KES/kg, respectively, compared to the national average of 53 KES/kg. Similarly, retail prices were notably higher in Mombasa, Nairobi, and Kisumu, at 75 KES/kg, 99 KES/kg, and 73 KES/kg, respectively, against the national average of 70 KES/kg. These price increases in densely populated areas can be attributed to factors such as increased demand, the perishable nature of the commodity, and the involvement of middlemen. However, according to a report from The Star Farmer Magazine in July 2024, prices in other regions recently decreased due to increased supply in the market.

Eldoret and Kisumu recorded higher retail and wholesale prices for Basmati rice, with wholesale prices at 200 KES/kg and 189 KES/kg, respectively, compared to the national average of 67 KES/kg, and retail prices at 220 KES/kg and 258 KES/kg compared to the national retail price of 198 KES/kg. Additionally, Pishori grade 1 rice recorded higher wholesale prices in Eldoret, Kisumu, and other regions at 200 KES/kg, 200 KES/kg, 177 KES/kg, and 173 KES/kg, respectively, compared to the national average of 168 KES/kg. Although rice is the third most consumed cereal in Kenya, following maize and wheat, it is the least cultivated crop. This imbalance results in a heavy reliance on the international market to meet consumption demands, leading to elevated prices due to importation expenses.

Wheat prices in Eldoret, Kisumu, and Nairobi were higher than national averages in July, with wholesale prices at 90 KES/kg, 67 KES/kg, and 69 KES/kg, respectively, compared to the national average of 66 KES/kg. Retail

prices reached 100 KES/kg in Eldoret, 88 KES/kg in Kisumu, and 87 KES/kg in Nairobi, against the national average of 82 KES/kg. Most regions experienced lower

wholesale and retail prices for wheat due to increased supply from producing regions.

Table 1: Average wholesale and retail prices (kes/kg) by region for July 2024

Product	Variety	Average wholesale price (KES/ kg)						Average retail price (KES/ kg)						Total average wholesale price (KES / kg)	Total average retail price per kg
		Eldoret	Kisumu	Mombasa	Nairobi	Nakuru	Nyeri	Eldoret	Kisumu	Mombasa	Nairobi	Nakuru	Nyeri		
Dry beans	Army green	180		180		158		190		185		160		173	178
	Black beans (Njahi)	250	158	160	174	161	151	275	249	170	188	165	203	176	208
	Butter beans	300			217	198		325			239	200		238	254
	Green/yellow	200	165	165	162	117	154	225	229	170	183	132	199	161	190
	Mwezi moja	170	141		161			180	230		180			157	197
	Mwitmania	170	153	140	149	74	92	180	228	150	170	75	171	130	162
	Nyayo	170	138	165	151	107	101	180	190	170	172	119	180	139	169
	Purple beans		157	145					202	150				151	176
	Red kidney		151				103		204			107		127	156
	Rosecoco	175	149	170	161	104		200	209	180	180	121		152	178
	Sailoti	170		125	153	80		180		150	172	102		132	151
	Wairimu	116	130	135	94	93	92	144	161	140	120	100	155	110	137
White Rosecoco (Akuku)	175		75				200		80				125	140	
Yellow	175	150					200	224					163	212	
Dry maize	White maize	50	38	75	42	35	33	60	42	75	59	40	68	45	57
	Yellow maize		39						50					39	50
Irish potatoes	Shangi	63	51	56	79	22	46	66	73	75	99	55	54	53	70
Rice	Ahero		130						160					130	160
	Basmati	200	189		144	156	146	220	250		160	180	182	167	198
	Birani	155	130	130	108	134	120	175	150	140	129	150	132	130	146
	Falcon	160						180						160	180
	Fatma rice			280						300				280	300
	Mpunga			160						170				160	170
	Pakistan		130				106		150				130	118	140
	Pishori grade 1	200		200	177	129	173	230		220	194	148	193	168	189
	Pishori grade 2	200	188					220	194					194	207
	Sindano	200	187	160		156	136	250	231	170		182	180	166	200
	Sunnee			280						300				280	300
Tamam			150						160				150	160	
Wheat	Wheat	90	67	60	69	52	57	100	88	75	89	69	74	66	82

Source: Daily Market Survey for the month of July 2024

Wholesale and Retail Price Trends by Region

From week one to weeks two through four, various regions saw weekly price fluctuations. In the Eldoret region, most food commodities maintained stable wholesale and retail prices, except for Wairimu dry beans and Shangi Irish potatoes, which saw a 20% increase in wholesale and retail prices and a 10% increase in wholesale and retail prices, respectively. These steady prices can be attributed to the seasonal supply of food in the region and its neighboring areas.

Comparing prices in Kisumu from week one to week four revealed varying trends in wholesale and retail prices. Retail prices for most dry beans declined between 0.5% and 8%, with the exceptions of Rosecoco beans, Black beans (Njahi), and Mwitmania beans, which saw slight increases of 1%, 1%, and 4%, respectively. Dry maize retail prices decreased by 8%, while most rice varieties remained stable and wheat prices increased by 2.3%. Stable and declining prices, particularly maize, beans, and Ahero rice, can be attributed to the seasonal supply of food products in the area, neighboring counties, and in the East Africa region.

In the Mombasa region, a comparison of prices from week one to week four revealed that all available commodities maintained stable wholesale and retail prices. This stability is largely due to the seasonality of food commodities in the region and in neighboring counties and in the East Africa countries.

A comparison of wholesale and retail prices between week one and week four showed that most food commodities had stable prices, with a few experiencing price decreases and Irish potatoes seeing price increases. For retail prices, all dry beans remained stable except for butter beans and green tallow beans, which saw decreases of 1.4% and 2.7%, respectively. Other commodities with decreasing retail prices included dry maize (5.6%), wheat (4%), and most rice varieties, which decreased between 3% and 5%. Notably, Irish potatoes recorded a 9% increase in wholesale prices and a 7% increase in retail prices, attributable to high demand. The stable prices in the populous, non-producing city can be attributed to the seasonality and surplus of produce in producing regions across the country and neighboring East African countries.

Comparing prices between week four and week one in Nakuru revealed that most food commodities experienced declining wholesale and retail prices, with a few remaining steady. Wholesale prices for all dry beans decreased between 1.5% and 24%, except for black beans (Njahi), Mwitmania, and Saitoti beans, which remained stable. Dry maize and dry wheat prices dropped by 5% and 14.5%, respectively, while most available rice varieties saw stable prices. Stability and declining prices for most food commodities in Nakuru can be attributed to seasonality and surplus, leading to market flooding and lower prices.

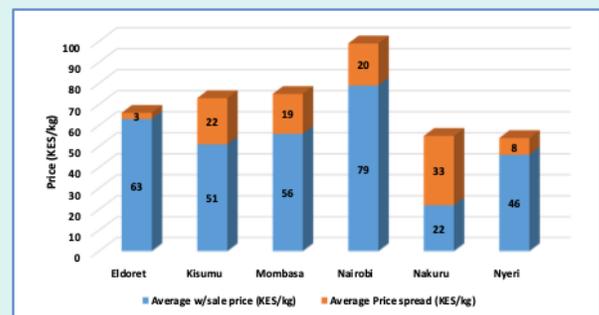
FOCUS ON MAIZE ACROSS SELECTED REGIONS

Potato farming in Kenya is one of the most lucrative agricultural businesses in the country. Potatoes are the second most important food crop after maize and serve as both a staple food and a cash crop. Their production has been growing rapidly due to increased urbanization and the expansion of the fast food industry. The demand for potatoes is expected to continue rising with urbanization because they are easy to cook and affordable. Irish potatoes can be mashed, made into French fries, or baked, making them versatile complements to a wide range of meals.

The major potato-growing regions in Kenya include Nyandarua, Nakuru, Elgeyo Marakwet, Meru, Nyeri, Kiambu, Taita Taveta, Narok, Bomet, Trans Nzoia, Bungoma, Uasin Gishu, West Pokot, Kisii, Nyamira, Kirinyaga, Murang'a, Baringo, Nandi, Laikipia, and Kericho. Potatoes are favored for their ease of cooking and affordability, making them a popular choice in fast-food establishments, particularly among the middle class. Kenya boasts various types of potatoes, with the white variety commonly used for making French fries due to its sweeter taste and shorter shelf life compared to the red variety. Unlike many other vegetables, Irish potatoes in Kenya are grown from tubers rather than seeds.

In July 2024, the prices of Irish potatoes varied across regions. Nairobi recorded higher wholesale and retail prices at 79 KES/kg and 99 KES/kg, respectively. In contrast, Nakuru saw significantly lower wholesale prices at 22 KES/kg. The low prices in Nakuru can be attributed to factors such as seasonality, as most farmers in the region and nearby producing areas like Nyandarua County harvested potatoes in July, leading to a surplus.

Figure 1: Average wholesale and retail prices of potatoes (KES/kg) in selected regions



Source: Daily Market Survey for the month of July 2024.

Comparing wholesale and retail prices in the Nyeri region between weeks one and four revealed that most items experienced price decreases, while a few saw increases. Wholesale prices for most dry beans declined between 3% and 16%, except for Mwiternania and Nyayo beans, which increased by 4% and 2%, respectively. Dry maize and Irish potatoes saw wholesale price increases of 8% and 2.5%, respectively. All available rice varieties saw declining wholesale prices ranging from 3% to 13%, except for Sindano rice, which increased by 8%. Wheat also recorded a 7% decline. Stability and decrease in commodity prices are due to the availability of produce in the region and nearby producing counties.

Comparison of National Average Prices between June and July

When comparing the national average prices for all commodities between June and July 2024, it becomes clear that most wholesale and retail prices either remained stable or decreased (see Table 2). Most commodities experienced slight fluctuations in retail and wholesale prices, ranging from a 2% increase to a 2% decrease. A few commodities saw more noticeable price reductions, between 3% and 5%, with some, particularly Irish potatoes, showing significant declines of 10% to 15%, primarily due to seasonality and regional surpluses. This trend likely reflects the abundant availability of food commodities from various producing regions, augmented by imports from neighboring East African countries and beyond, as well as the strengthening of the Kenyan Shilling.

Table 2: Comparison of June and July prices

Product	Variety	Average Wholesale Price (Kes/Kg)		Percentage change	Average Retail Price (Kes/ Kg)		Percentage change
		June	July		June	July	
Dry maize	White maize	45	45	0%	57	57	0%
	Yellow maize	39	39	0%	50	50	0%
Dry beans	Army green	171	173	1%	180	178	-1%
	Black beans (Njahi)	177	176	-1%	208	208	0%
	Butter beans	238	238	0%	249	254	2%
	Green/yellow	162	161	-1%	190	190	0%
	Mixed beans	70	62	-13%	90	88	-2%
	Mwezi moja	158	157	-1%	196	197	1%
	Mwiternania	128	130	2%	158	162	2%
	Nyayo	138	139	1%	169	169	0%
	Nyota beans	160	160	0%	170	170	0%
	Pinto beans	153	152	-1%	220	225	2%
	Purple beans	151	151	0%	176	176	0%
	Red kidney	129	127	-2%	161	156	-3%
	Rosecoco	153	152	-1%	179	178	-1%
	Saitoti	133	132	-1%	153	151	-1%
	Wairimu	110	110	0%	135	137	1%
White Rosecoco (Alulu)	125	125	0%	139	140	1%	
Yellow	163	163	0%	212	212	0%	
Irish potatoes	Shangi	55	53	-4%	77	70	-10%
Rice	Ahero	128	130	2%	160	160	0%
	Basmati	165	167	1%	196	198	1%
	Biriani	129	130	1%	144	146	1%
	Falcon	160	160	0%	180	180	0%
	Fatma rice	280	280	0%	300	300	0%
	Mpunga	160	160	0%	170	170	0%
	Pakistan	123	118	-4%	143	140	-2%
	Pishori grade 1	170	168	-1%	191	189	-1%
	Pishori grade 2	191	194	2%	208	207	0%
	Sindano	162	166	2%	197	200	2%
	Sunrice	280	280	0%	300	300	0%
Tamtam	150	150	0%	160	160	0%	
Wheat	Wheat	68	66	-3%	83	82	-1%

Key

<2 but >2	Stable
>2 but >5	Decrease
>10 but >15	Significant decrease

Source: Daily Market Survey for the month of July 2024

Outlook for the Month of August

In August 2024, the following changes are anticipated:

- With the long rains season typically ending in June, maize harvested in July and early August is expected to enter the market, which could stabilize or slightly lower prices, assuming a good harvest.
- Beans are typically planted during the long rains and harvested around July, making them readily available in August. Although heavy rains in May and June may have negatively affected some regions, the areas with favorable weather conditions have contributed to well-supplied markets.
- Rice prices may rise due to local production potentially falling short of demand, leading to increased reliance on imports. Any delays or additional import costs could further drive-up prices.
- Wheat prices are likely to remain stable or increase slightly, influenced by global wheat prices and import costs. Since local production often cannot meet demand, international market factors like shipping costs and currency exchange rates will be critical in determining price trends.
- Irish potato prices may continue to decrease in August due to a surplus from regions that harvest during the long rains. This seasonal abundance could lead to significant price reductions, especially if storage and transportation are efficient.

FOCUS ON MOMBASA REGION

Mombasa County, covering an area of 229.7 km² along the Kenyan coast, is one of the five counties bordering the Indian Ocean and includes 665 km² of water. It is the second-largest city in Kenya after the capital, Nairobi, and has the second-largest metropolitan area in the nation. Mombasa is a key commercial center and a major tourist destination in Kenya. The city hosts Kilindini Harbor, the most important seaport in East Africa, which also serves the import and export needs of neighboring countries such as Tanzania and Uganda.

Commodity prices are tracked at Kongowea market, the largest wholesale market in East and Central Africa. Many adjacent sub-counties and counties in the Coast region rely on Kongowea for their fresh vegetables and other agricultural products. The market features both wholesale and retail sections offering a wide range of agricultural goods. Although primarily a wholesale market, Kongowea also has a retail area for selling agricultural products. It is the main supplier for Mombasa County's retail markets. Managed by the county government of Mombasa, Kongowea market is open to the public for commerce for a fee and operates every day of the week, starting at 4:00 am. Most traders in Kongowea are Kenyans, with some having connections with traders from Tanzania and Uganda. Beans are sourced from Uganda and Loitoktok, while rice comes from Mwea, Tanzania, and Pakistan. Irish potatoes are sourced from Nakuru (Molo and Mau Narok) and Nyandarua (Kinare and Ol-Kalau), and wheat is sourced from the Rift Valley (Narok, Uasin-Gishu, and Nakuru Counties).

In Mombasa region, all commodities in July 2024 saw steady retail and wholesale prices from week one to week four. This is due to the availability of food commodities in the region, the nearby Counties and the neighboring East Africa Countries

Table 3: Average Wholesale and Retail Prices, Mombasa Region

Product	Variety	Average w/sale price (KES/kg)				Average retail price (KES/kg)				Total average w/sale price (KES/kg)	Total average retail price (KES/kg)
		Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4		
Dry beans	Army green	180	180	180	180	185	185	185	185	180	185
	Black beans (Njahi)	160	160	160	160	170	170	170	170	160	170
	Green/yellow	165	165	165	165	170	170	170	170	165	170
	Mwittemania	140	140	140	140	150	150	150	150	140	150
	Nyayo	165	165	165	165	170	170	170	170	165	170
	Purple beans	145	145	145	145	150	150	150	150	145	150
	Rosecoco	170	170	170	170	180	180	180	180	170	180
	Saitoti	125	125	125	125	150	150	150	150	125	150
	Wairimu	135	135	135	135	140	140	140	140	135	140
	White Rosecoco (Akuku)	75	75	75	75	80	80	80	80	75	80
Dry maize	White maize	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75
Irish potatoes	Shangi	56	56	56	56	75	75	75	75	56	75
	Biriani	130	130	130	130	140	140	140	140	130	140
Rice	Fatma rice	280	280	280	280	300	300	300	300	280	300
	Mpunga	160	160	160	160	170	170	170	170	160	170
	Pishori grade 1	200	200	200	200	220	220	220	220	200	220
	Sindano	160	160	160	160	170	170	170	170	160	170
	Sunrice	280	280	280	280	300	300	300	300	280	300
	Tamtam	150	150	150	150	160	160	160	160	150	160
Wheat	Wheat	60	60	60	60	75	75	75	75	60	75

Source: Daily Market Survey for the month of July 2024.

ABOUT THIS SERIES

The Food Security Portal (FSP), facilitated by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), aims to improve food security for the world's poor and increase the resilience of global food systems against food and financial crisis. The project brings together international, regional, and country-level data, news, and research aimed at meeting countries' immediate food security needs and building long-term global food security. The FSP is designed to pool information in structured ways to ensure high-quality, timely, and relevant data and to provide the opportunity for collaboration among policymakers, development professionals, and researchers.

This report is part of the FSP's efforts to monitor country-level food prices in order to improve the governments' ability to respond to and prevent food crises. It presents monthly price trends and movements for key food commodities, including dry beans, dry maize, rice, wheat, and Irish potatoes, in selected major regions and markets in Kenya.

DATA COLLECTION AND METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted in the Mombasa, Nairobi, Nakuru, Eldoret, Kisumu, and Nyeri regions of Kenya. These regions comprise the key markets in major urban centers. The five selected commodities comprise the major staple foods in Kenya¹.

Data assistants, some of whom were traders, collected average daily wholesale and retail prices from the main markets of the selected regions. Data was collected daily for six days (Mondays to Saturdays) from stockists/wholesalers and traders in the morning hours.

During the last week of the month, the following qualitative data were captured:

- General observations on food prices during the month, including price variations and the lowest, highest, and prevailing wholesale and retail prices
- The source of food commodities and their availability throughout the month
- The effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as government restrictions including curfews and cessation of movement, on food prices and availability (both supply and demand)
- Traders' adaptation strategies to the COVID-19 pandemic, including sourcing and selling

Additional secondary data was obtained from the Ministry of Agriculture, Kenya Government Food Security War Room (FSWR), Ministry of Agriculture Livestock and Fisheries (MoALF), and Regional Agriculture Trade Intelligence Network (RATIN).

¹ NB: While the report covers wheat, consumption of that commodity in Kenya is comprised mainly of wheat products (flours, pastries, and highly processed foods) rather than raw wheat itself.

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About the authors

Ruth T Chepchirchir: African Research and Economic Development Consultants Limited (AFREDEC), Nairobi, Kenya

Maina B.J.K: African Research and Economic Development Consultants Limited (AFREDEC), Nairobi, Kenya

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1201 Eye Street, NW, Washington, DC 20005 USA | T. +1-202-862-5600 | F. +1-202-862-5606 | Email: ifpri@cgiar.org | www.ifpri.org | www.ifpri.info

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