



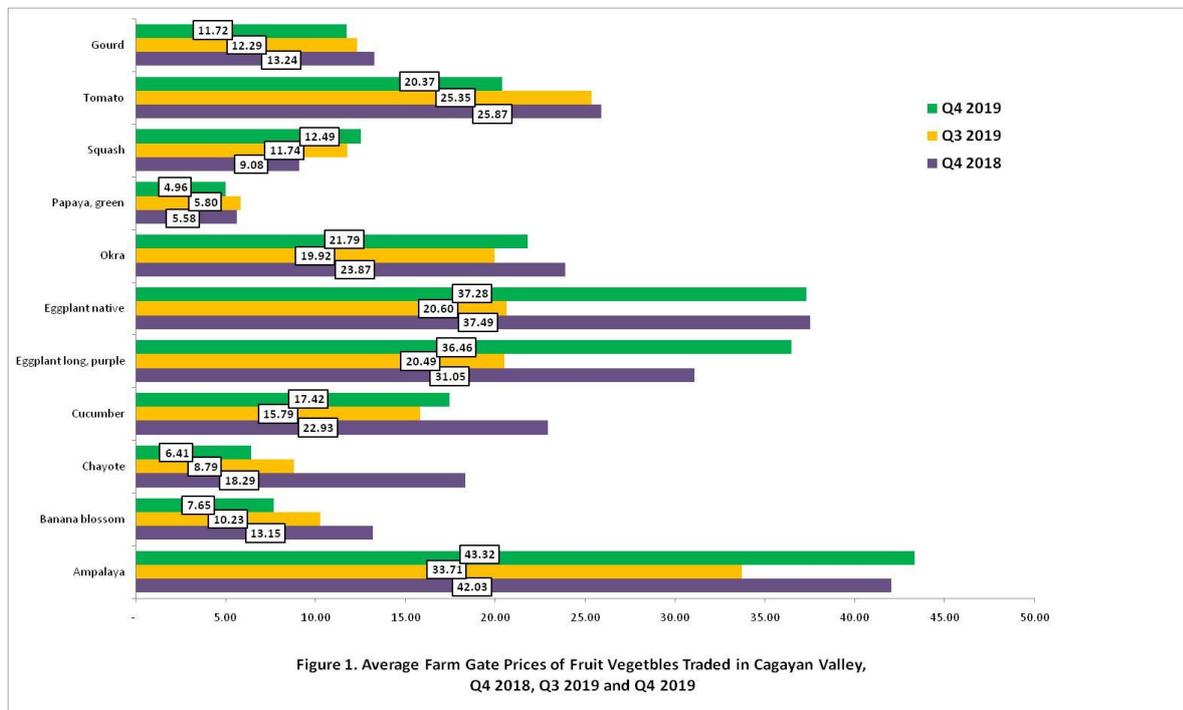
SPECIAL RELEASE

Prices of most fruit vegetables in the region down in Q4 2019

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Prices of most fruit vegetables traded at first point of sale during 4th quarter 2019 (Q4 2019) in the region weakened based on the collated reports of the different provinces via Monthly Farm Prices Survey (FPS) compared to price levels in same period of 2018 (Q4 2018). From among the eleven (11) fruit vegetables monitored in the region, eight commodities were bartered at a lower price than in 2018 level while three crops were sold at higher farm gate price this year. However, comparing to the 3rd quarter (Q3 2019) price quotation, six out of eleven commodities commanded higher farm gate prices with two commodities showing more than seventy five percent price increase.

Specifically, the commodity with the biggest price roll down by almost 65.0 percent is

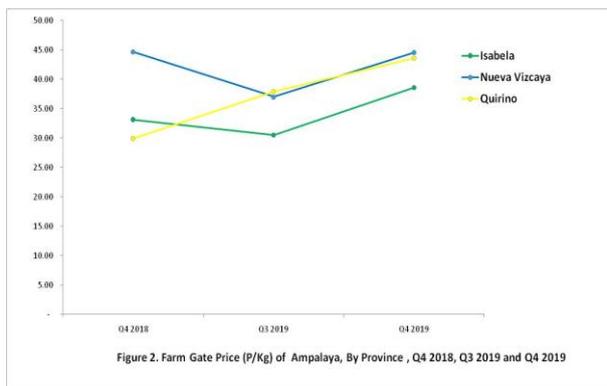


the price of chayote from P 18.29 per kilogram last year to only P6.41 per kilogram this year. The regional price for this commodity was captured in the province of Nueva Vizcaya only where production and trading is very significant. Five more commodities registered a double digit decrease in Q4 2019 from their farm gate price

level in the same period of 2018 to wit: banana blossom (41.85%), from P13.15 to P7.65), cucumber (24.0%, from P22.93 to P17.42), tomato (21.26%, from P25.87 to P20.37), green papaya (11.19%, from P5.58 to P4.96) and gourd (11.47% from P13.24 to P11.72). Moreover, slight decline in the prices received by farmers was noted for okra (8.72%) and eggplant (native) (0.56%). In contrast, collected prices in Q4 2019 for squash, eggplant (long purple) and ampalaya went up by 37.53 percent, 17.40 percent and 3.06 percent, respectively.

Compared with Q3 2019, the four commodities that commanded higher prices in Q4 2019 included eggplant (both variety) at 80.98 and 77.90 percent respectively, ampalaya with 28.48 percent increase and cucumber at 10.34 percent increase. Prices reported for okra and squash also inched up by 9.38 percent and 6.38 percent, respectively. On the other hand, fruit vegetable growers received less in Q4 2019 for trading their produce of banana blossom which was slapped by 25.23 percent decrease, chayote which was down by 27.05 percent, papaya green price reduced by 14.43 percent and gourd price trimmed down by 4.59 percent.

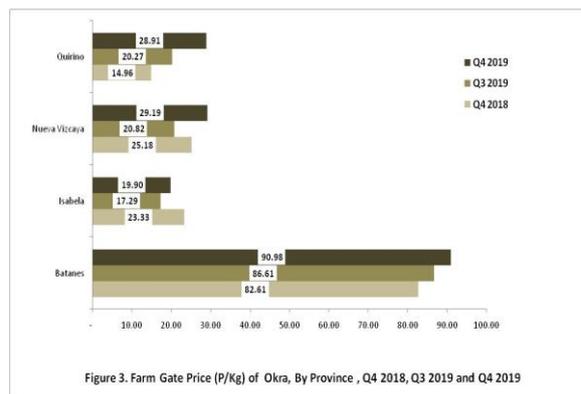
Meantime, six out of the eleven commodities included in the regional basket for monthly FPS price collections were monitored only in specific provinces where production and trading was significant. This includes cucumber, tomato and chayote where farm gate prices were gathered in the province of Nueva Vizcaya, papaya green and banana blossom where prices were captured in the province of Quirino and eggplant (native) where prices were reported only in the province of Isabela.



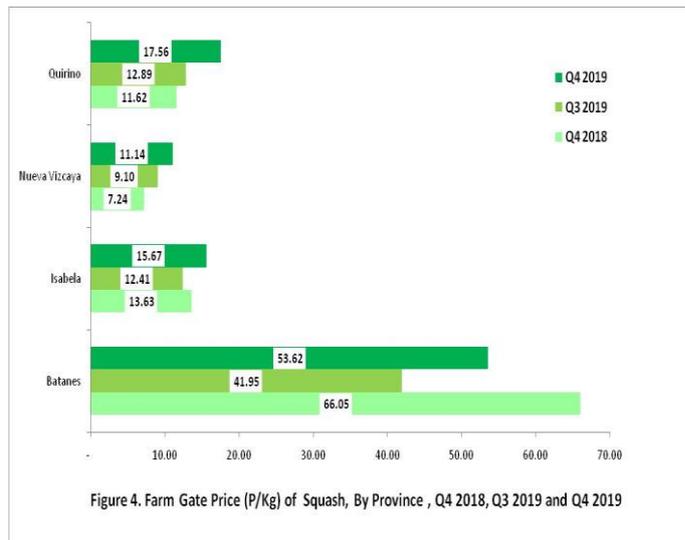
On the other note, the regional average farm gate prices of ampalaya were collated from the prices monitored in the provinces of Isabela, Nueva Vizcaya and Quirino where large production and significant trading was noted. As shown, all the provinces displayed increases in its prices collected in Q4 2019 compared in Q4 2018 and in Q3 2019. This justified the increase in prices in Q4 2019 versus last year of the same

period and against Q3 2019. Moreover, the same price trend was noted for the provinces of Nueva Vizcaya and Isabela while Quirino province showed increasing trend from Q3 2018 onwards. In addition, prices of the commodity in Q3 and Q4 of 2019 captured in the provinces of Nueva Vizcaya and Quirino showed slight difference while price captured in Isabela is much lower during the same period.

Further, production and trading of okra and price monitoring of the same were executed in four provinces of the region. As depicted in Figure 3 (for prices quoted in Q4 2019 over the same period of last year), growers in Batanes, Nueva Vizcaya and Quirino provinces received payment of their goods (okra) higher than last year's price at its 1st point of sale while



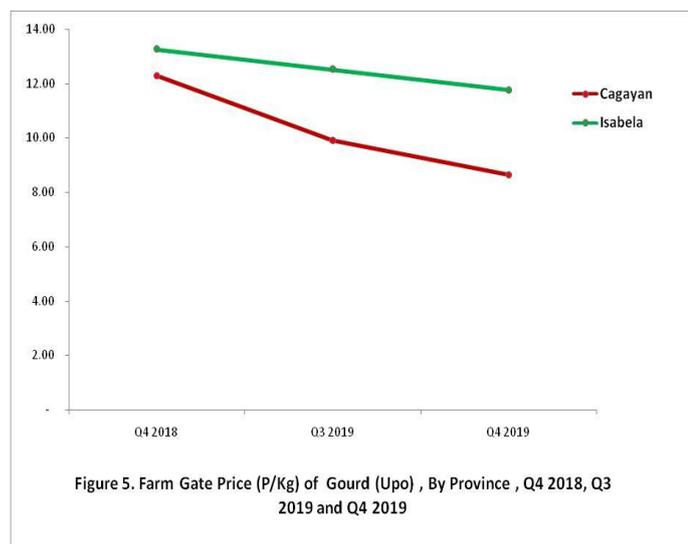
Isabela planters recently received payment 15.0 percent less than the price received last year of the same period. Analyzing prices quoted in Q4 2019 versus Q3 2019, all provinces reported price increment of the commodity. Notably, price paid to farmers of okra in Batanes is more than 4 times higher than the price received by farmers in Isabela while more than 3-folds higher than the price received by farmers of the same commodity in Nueva Vizcaya and Quirino, and this holds true across all reference periods cited.



Likewise, squash fruit which was also produced and traded in volume in the same provinces as above, farmers were able to bounced back from their loss last year owing to big mark up in the farm gate price in Q4 2019 except those squash traded in Batanes island. Over last quarter's (Q3 2019) price reference, all provinces displayed an increase bringing in higher income to okra farmers across provinces in the region. Remarkably, and showing the same picture with that of okra

commodity, farm gate prices of squash in Batanes was traded at a very high price compared with the other provinces prices' reported for the commodity. Generally, price received by Batanes famers for squash is four to five times higher than the price received by farmers in the mainland provinces across periods of reporting.

Then, in the case of farm gate prices captured for gourd (upo), the two largest provinces in the region made up the regional average during Q4 2018 until Q4 2019. The latest farm gate prices in both provinces showed decrement compared with the price collected a year ago and versus Q3 2019. In particular, Cagayan province displayed a remarkable down trend in its Q4 2019 price from the 2018 price report of more than twelve pesos to less than nine pesos in Q4 2019.



Prices of the same commodity in the province of Isabela at fourteen pesos in 2018 was monitored at less than 12 pesos in Q4 2019. Moreover, both provinces' farm gate prices in 2018 was reported at between twelve to fourteen pesos a kilo both provinces reported a decreasing trend, Cagayan province falling of its price in the commodity was more evident since Q3 2019.

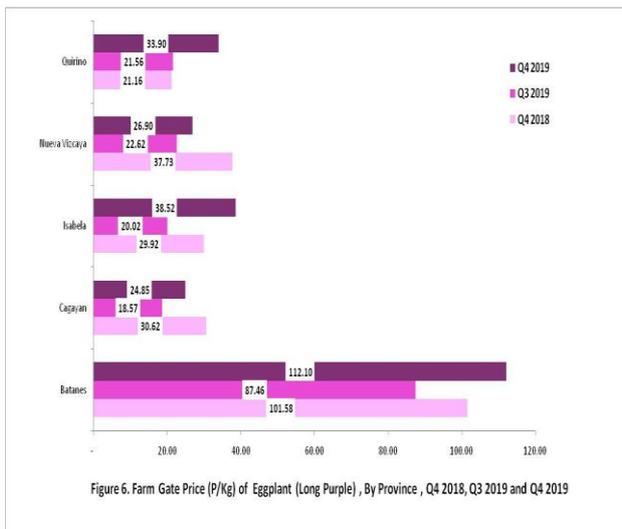


Figure 6. Farm Gate Price (P/Kg) of Eggplant (Long Purple), By Province, Q4 2018, Q3 2019 and Q4 2019

Furthermore, notable to all provinces in the region is the farm gate prices of long purple eggplant. As shown three provinces (Quirino, Isabela and Batanes) reported its Q4 2019 farm gate prices above the prices monitored a year ago while two provinces (Nueva Vizcaya and Cagayan) showed otherwise. However, the Q4 2019 report is above the Q3 2019 monitored prices across all provinces. The island province of Batanes (as expected due to its limited production competing with inflow of various vegetable commodities), reported the highest

farm gate prices for eggplant long purple variety. monitored price across periods is three to four times higher than the reported farm gate prices in the four mainland provinces of the region.

MARILYN T. ESTRADA
Regional Director

//GMB / JCB

TECHNICAL NOTES

The Farm Prices Survey (FPS) is a nationwide household-based survey designed to generate estimates of farm gate or producers' prices. It contains information on prices received by producers at the first point of sale.

The outputs of the Farm Prices Survey are used in the periodic valuation of the outputs produced by the agricultural sector. Similarly, these are inputs to the development of price indices to measure the purchasing power of growers of selected agricultural products. Maintenance of farm gate prices will likewise provide needed inputs a) to analyze trends and variations in prices; b) forecasting future supply, demand and prices of agricultural commodities; c) to assist policy makers in the formulation, implementation and administration of economic programs, and d) to guide farmers/raisers in their decision making relative to their agricultural activities geared towards improvement of their profitability.

The survey is conducted during the last 10 days of the month in all the provinces of the country covering days 1 to 30 of the reporting month. Each province has a basket of FPS commodities.

The following activities are undertaken to monitor and sustain quality of data collected for Farm Prices Survey (FPS):

- consistency check through review of entries relative to the provincial FPS basket and trading matrix; and
- non-sampling errors are monitored and minimized by reviewing PO forms/questionnaires.

Source: <https://psa.gov.ph>