

Agricultural Exports Volume November 2015

Release date: 23 December 2015

	Nov 15	Oct 15	Sep 15	Aug 15
Total volume* (tonnes)	2,885.8	1,496.5	570.6	413.8

Squash continue to drive the rise in exports

Agricultural exports volume about doubled over the month due mostly to the squash season being in full swing. The volumes of squash exported in the month of November alone were higher than those exported during the whole 2014 calendar year. Better weather and awareness of weather conditions are the factors attributed for the higher exports. Taro and Coconuts contributed somewhat to the monthly increase, whilst all others declined.

In year-ended terms, however, total exports volume was 6.4% less in November 2015 despite the higher squash exports. This was due to a huge decline in root vegetable exports, particularly for Taro and Yam. This is due, however to a lagged effect of last year's adverse weather conditions, as harvests earlier in the year (for early yams and taro) and consequentially exports, were unusually low.

As 2015/16 has seen better weather conditions than that of the previous year, the NRBT maintains its forecast of a rebound in the agricultural sector for 2015/16 financial year. The higher squash exports during the squash season supports this projection. Additionally, the possibility of a new market for Tonga squash exports to China may boost total agricultural exports volumes which should also support NRBT's forecast. However, the latest revised media release by the Meteorology Division remains unchanged, advising of stronger El Niño conditions (drier than normal) for the upcoming three to six months. This poses a significant risk for the outlook of the agricultural sector.

Agricultural Export Volumes

Tonnes

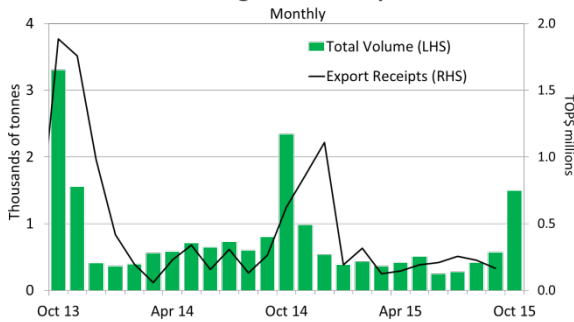
	Month Ended*				Year-ended		Memo: Share**
	Nov 15	Oct 15	Sep 15	Nov 14	Nov 15	Nov 14	
Total	2,885.8	1,496.5	570.6	980.6	8,530.6	9,114.3	100
Squash	2,484.0	1,009.0	78.3	413.1	3,608.1	2,170.3	42
Coconut	132.2	106.7	228.7	178.9	1,609.1	1,787.1	19
Cassava	156.1	171.1	164.8	136.6	252.0	281.7	18
Yam	12.1	24.4	40.5	42.8	729.8	1,399.9	9
Taro	30.7	14.5	14.4	163.9	320.7	1,911.0	4
Other	70.8	170.7	43.4	42.8	721.8	664.5	8
Vanilla	0.0	1.7	1.1	0.2	4.1	2.9	0

* Series is volatile due to seasonality of crops

** Based on the most recent 12 months data

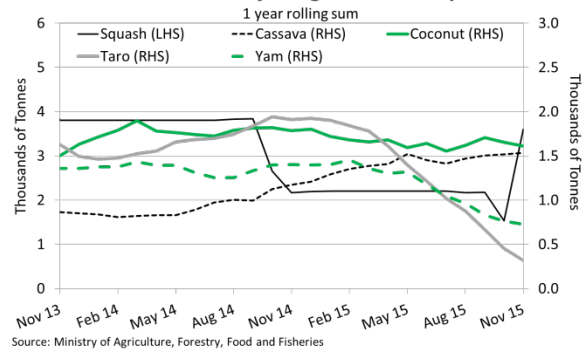
Source: Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Food, and Fisheries

Total Agricultural Exports



Source: NRBT; Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Food and Fisheries

Volumes of Major Agricultural Exports



Source: Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Food and Fisheries