

## El Niño in Ethiopia Pulses Price Trends – September 2016

### Introduction

In this September 2016 Food Price Brief, the AKLDP analyzes nominal Ethiopia Grain Trade Enterprise (EGTE) price data for pulses from September 2014 to September 2016. As mentioned in previous Food Price Briefs, pulses provide an important source of protein for poorer households that cannot afford animal protein. Consequently, pulse price trends serve as a useful proxy indicator for the quality of household diet for poorer households – when pulse prices are high, poorer households typically eat fewer pulses and therefore daily protein intake is reduced.

### Pulse prices

With the exception of haricot bean, price trends for pulses have been moving upward since September 2014. In the period September 2015 to September 2016, nominal average year-on-year pulse prices increased by 13%.

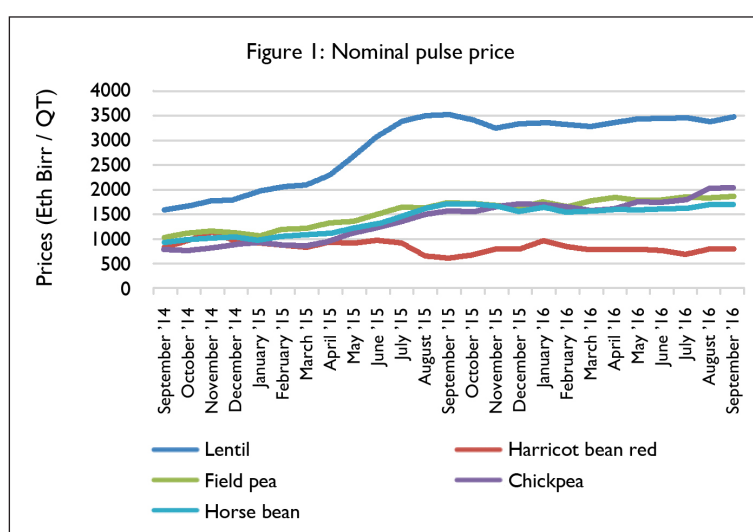
Disaggregated by crop, year-on-year prices for chick pea and haricot bean have increased by 30% to September 2016, while the prices of field pea and horse bean have increased by 7% and 1% respectively. In contrast, the year-on-year price of lentil has declined by 1%. Haricot bean remains the cheapest pulse in Ethiopia at half the price of chickpea, with lentils more than 3.5 times the price of haricot bean (see Figure 1).

Continuing the upward price trend, month-on-month average aggregate nominal pulse prices to September 2016 increased by 1%. Disaggregated by the type of pulse, month-on-month prices rose by 2.1%, 1.4%, 0.7%, 0.5%, and 0.2% for lentil, haricot bean, field pea, horse bean, and chickpea respectively.

As mentioned in previous price briefs, the long-term pulse price trend is driven by a combination of domestic and international factors. On the domestic front, a trend in reduced pulse planting – as more land is taken into cereal production – has restricted supply. Farmers are also still waiting for the 2016 harvest following failed spring belg and erratic and poor summer kiremt rains, which resulted in poorer-than-normal 2015 belg and meher harvests. Internationally, the level of demand drives pulse price trends, specifically if India – typically the largest pulse importer in the world – is purchasing on international markets.

### Conclusion

Continued high and rising pulse prices typically result in reduced protein intake in poorer households in Ethiopia. From a nutritional perspective, therefore, the continued high price of pulses remains problematic.



### Disclaimer

The views expressed in this Food Price Brief are those of the AKLDP project and do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or the United States government.

