

Coriander – Rain damage to the Indian crop has added to supply concerns following a poor crop in Eastern Europe last year. Although the higher oil content of Eastern European coriander is often preferred, availability here has tightened, and, according to trade sources, buyers are looking towards south Asia. Prices in Europe are now around the US\$1900/tonne level, up from a more typical US\$1500/tonne.

Pepper – The New Year opened with a softer market for a short while, which then firmed up into the lunar New Year and the Tet holidays. Lately, the Vietnamese Pepper Association (VPA) has reportedly encouraged farmers to hold back pepper in order to maintain the steady tone in the market.

According to the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development in January Vietnam exported 19,000 tonnes of pepper worth US\$132 million, down 8% in volume and 5.5% in value versus the same period last year. The VPA is anticipating a current crop of some 120,000 – 125,000 tonnes while other observers suggest that annual production of the order of 150,000 tonnes is more likely.

The International Pepper Community (IPC) reported domestic prices in producing countries as follows:

Producer Prices in US\$ / tonne*

Items / sources	03-Mar	04-Mar	05-Mar	06-Mar	07-Mar	Average		% change
						This week	Last week	
<u>BLACK PEPPER</u>								
Brazil <i>Ex-Para</i> **)	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	-
India <i>Ex-Kochi</i>	8,325	8,319	8,326	8,398	n.a.	8,342	8,170	2%
Indonesia <i>Ex-Lampung</i> **)	6,726	6,697	6,736	6,751	6,845	6,751	6,772	0%
Malaysia <i>Ex-Kuching</i>	5,763	5,755	5,773	5,789	5,803	5,777	5,756	0%
Vietnam <i>Ex-HCMC</i>	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	5,848	-
Sri Lanka	6,305	6,305	6,305	6,305	6,305	6,305	6,194	2%
<u>WHITE PEPPER</u>								
Brazil <i>Ex-Para</i> **)	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	-
Indonesia <i>Ex-Pkl.Pinang</i> **)	10,262	10,217	10,276	10,299	10,443	10,300	10,030	3%
Malaysia <i>Ex-Kuching</i>	8,736	8,724	8,790	8,815	8,836	8,780	8,726	1%
Vietnam <i>Ex-HCMC</i>	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	7,978	-
China <i>Ex-Hainan</i>	12,459	12,459	12,459	12,459	12,459	12,459	n.a.	-

*) converted from local currency at prevailing exchange rate

**) unofficial source