



# Market food price monitoring and visualization

December 8, 2020

# Agenda:



Emily short welcome and introduction



Robert Lutulele – Market for Village Farmers: overview of activities contributing to the prices database program



Glen Hayoge – Explanation of FPDA data collection and data



Emily – Overview of December food price bulletin.



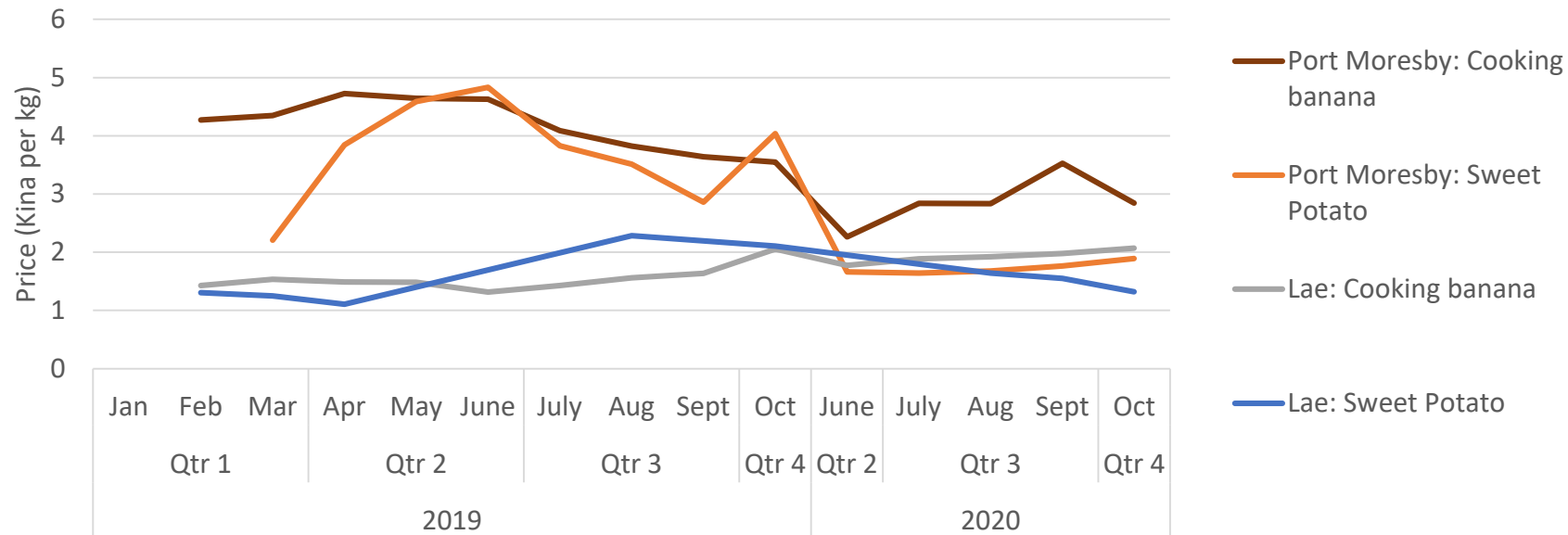
Mekamu – Price data visualization and database construction

# Summary

- Prices of major food staples in Kokopo, Lae and Port Moresby have remained broadly stable over 2019 and 2020.
  - The exceptions are prices of sweet potatoes and cooking bananas in Port Moresby, which have declined between mid-2019 and the third quarter of 2020.
- Per kilogram prices of vitamin-dense foods such as broccoli, carrot and karakap are typically considerably higher than prices of starchy staples.
  - Prices of both carrots and broccoli in Lae rose in mid-2020, but have declined in the last quarter of 2020 and October prices were close to their price levels of late 2019.
- Price data reported in this bulletin by crop and market is limited to 10 observations (at most) out of a possible of 24 fortnights in 2019. The rate of price data reporting has been lower in 2020, in part due to Covid-19 related disruptions.

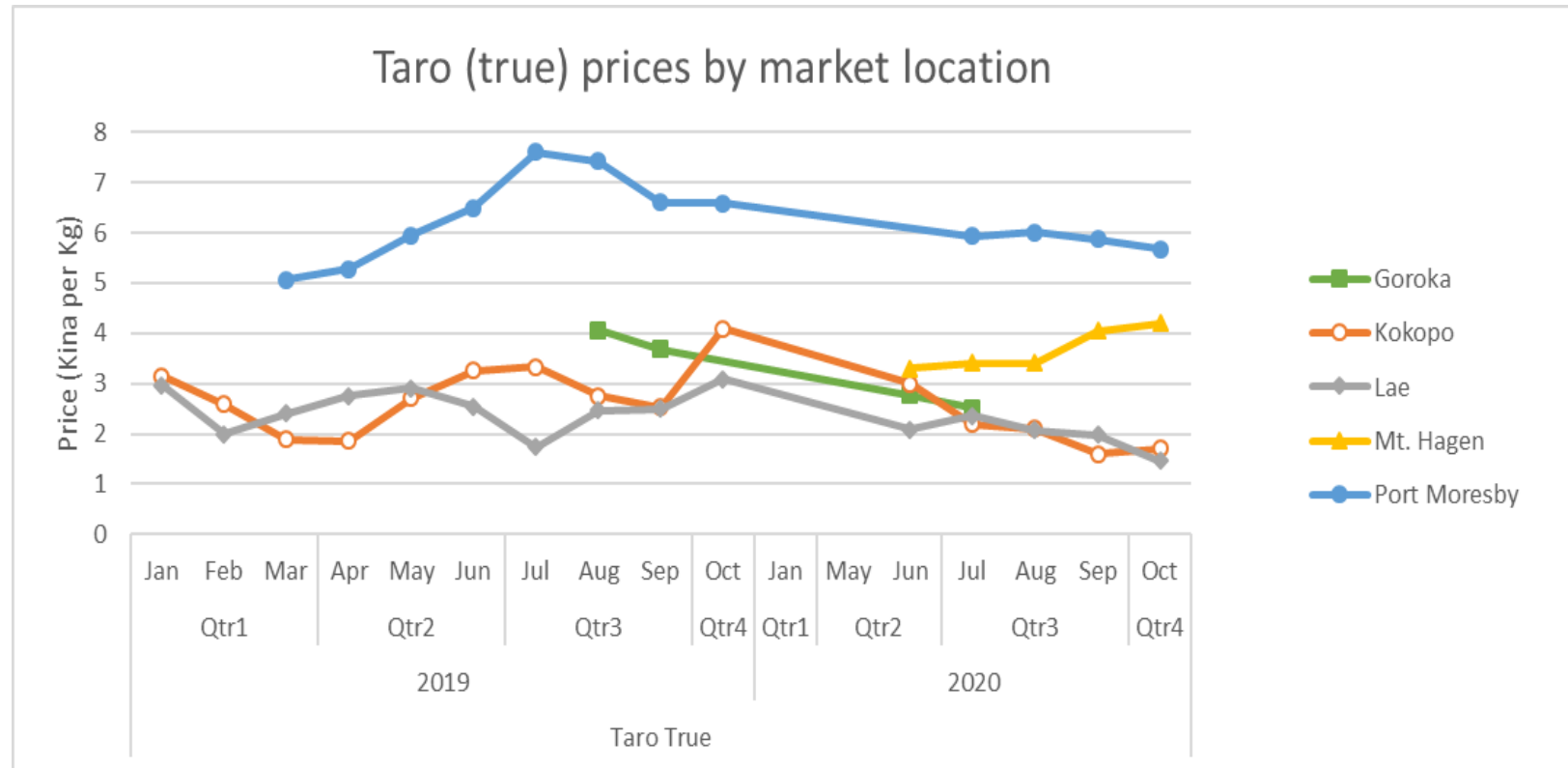
# Evaluating staple crop prices over time

Port Moresby and Lae staple crop prices: Sweet potato and cooking banana



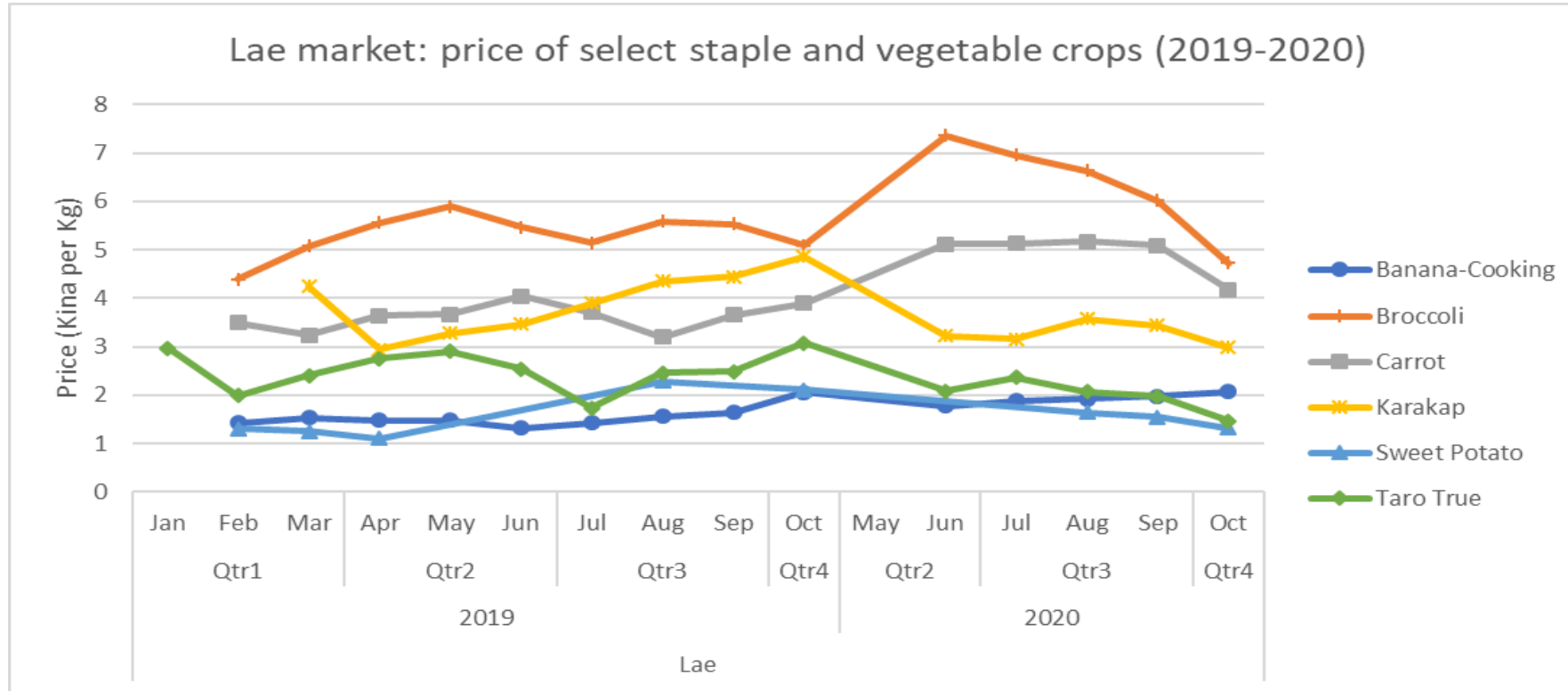
- Port Moresby shows increased transport cost of shipping goods to the Port Moresby food markets.
- Cooking banana and sweet potato in Lae averaged 1-2 kina per kg over all months in 2019-2020, prices in Port Moresby of the same staple crops fluctuated between 3-4 kina for the last two quarters of 2019.
- Sweet potato and cooking banana prices significantly dropped in Port Moresby in June 2020 - freight transport subsidy aimed at easing food freight costs to the capital – prices have held stable since second quarter 2020??
- Any reason for small increase in cooking banana?

# Evaluating staple crop prices over time (2)



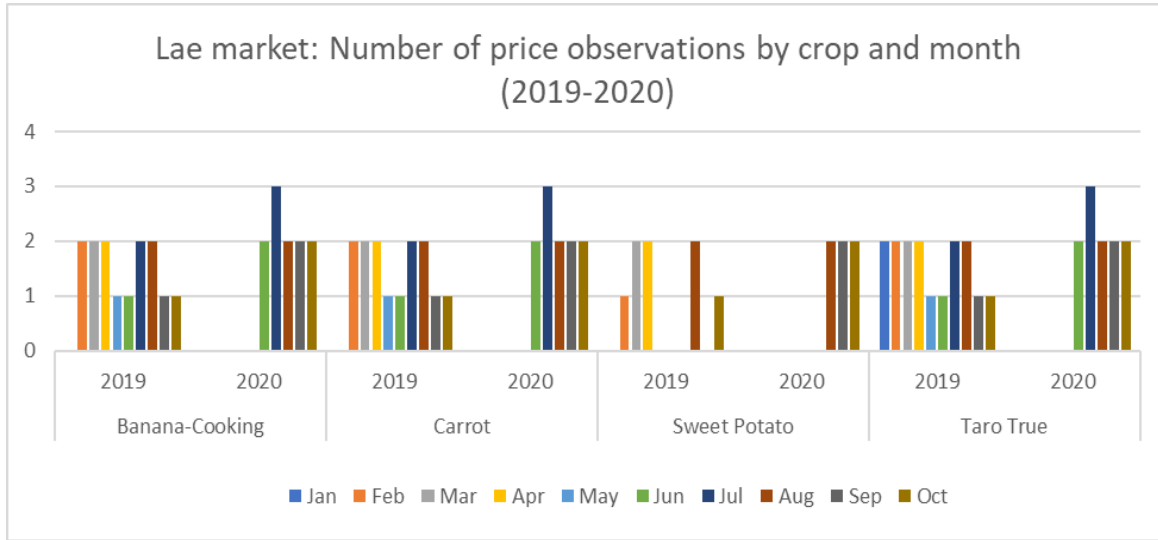
- While sweet potato prices significantly declined after the freight transport subsidy, taro prices have remained relatively stable across all markets
- The freight subsidy may still have had an effect on taro prices via avoiding a major price spike in Port Moresby, where prices have remained stable around 6 kina / kg. Price per kilogram of taro is lowest in Kokopo and Lae markets, averaging between 1-2 kina per kg during the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2020??
- Why is Taro so expensive in Port Moresby?

# Comparing staple food prices with vitamin-dense food prices



- Vitamin dense foods are more expensive compared to staple foods
- Comparing broccoli, carrot and karakap (a dark leafy green vegetable) with staple foods:
  - price per kilogram of broccoli and ; price per kg of carrot are 2-3 times more expensive than staple crops
- For poor urban households or those that have faced income declines due to COVID-19 measures, the current difference in price of vitamin-dense foods versus staple foods may make a nutritious meal cost prohibitive.
- Imported rice prices in Vietnam and Thailand have increased due to social distancing and trade protectionist policies, which may also be affecting urban household food budgets significantly. Can we get data on this?

# Number of price observations by crop and year in 2019-2020 in FPDA markets



|              | Karakap<br>(Dark leafy<br>green) | Pawpaw<br>(Papaya) | Carrot | Potato | Sweet<br>Potato | Taro<br>True | Cooking<br>banana |
|--------------|----------------------------------|--------------------|--------|--------|-----------------|--------------|-------------------|
| <b>2019</b>  |                                  |                    |        |        |                 |              |                   |
| Goroka       | 3                                | 3                  | 8      | 5      | 6               | 3            | 3                 |
| Kokopo       | 10                               | 10                 | 0      | 0      | 10              | 10           | 10                |
| Lae          | 9                                | 10                 | 10     | 10     | 7               | 10           | 10                |
| Hagen        | 0                                | 0                  | 1      | 6      | 5               | 0            | 0                 |
| Port Moresby | 4                                | 10                 | 9      | 9      | 10              | 9            | 10                |
| <b>2020</b>  |                                  |                    |        |        |                 |              |                   |
| Goroka       | 5                                | 4                  | 6      | 6      | 6               | 3            | 6                 |
| Kokopo       | 6                                | 6                  | 0      | 0      | 6               | 6            | 6                 |
| Lae          | 6                                | 6                  | 6      | 6      | 5               | 6            | 6                 |
| Hagen        | 6                                | 6                  | 6      | 6      | 6               | 6            | 6                 |
| Port Moresby | 2                                | 5                  | 6      | 6      | 6               | 6            | 6                 |

- Assuming that data collection happens on a fortnightly basis, each food item should have at least 24 observations per market per year (2 data points per month per market).
- However, at times, certain food items may not be present in the market or data collection wasn't comprehensively recorded.
- In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in food market closures as well as non-essential services and employment pauses to slow potential disease spread.