17th April 2020

Dear EAGC Members and Stakeholders,

WEEKLY UPDATE ON THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC FOR THE GRAIN SECTOR IN EASTERN AFRICA

Greetings from the Secretariat.

This Communique is a continuation of our weekly updates to EAGC Members and Stakeholders on developments in the grain sector in Eastern Africa in the face of the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic. Previous editions of this Communique, issued weekly from 24th 2020 are accessible here.

The number of COVID-19 cases has continued to increase in Eastern Africa with Kenya, Rwanda and Tanzania recording the biggest jump in number of cases in the past week with approximately 15 fatalities. Consequently, new measures have been introduced by some governments and some pre-existing measures have been extended to clamp down on the spread of the disease, which naturally pose some challenges with respect to grain trade and access to food by consumers.

However, on a positive note, there are notable improvements in the cross-border trade situation as governments become more efficient in implementing COVID-19 screening protocols and businesses continue to adapt to the new realities of cross-border trade.

With this Communique, EAGC thus shares the following updates:

A. New measures taken by governments in Eastern Africa
B. Updates on cross-border trade situation
C. Market Developments – Regional and International
D. EAGC support to grain trade
A. New Measures taken by Governments in Eastern Africa

Regional COVID-19 response

There were no new regional measures instituted in the past week. The regional concerted effort to keep borders open for movement of goods is gradually bearing fruit with improvements in cross-border trade management as discussed later in this Communique.

Kenya

- No new measures introduced in the past week
- Nairobi Metropolitan Area, Mombasa, Kilifi and Kwale Counties remain sealed off from the rest of the country with only movements related to essential services such as food supply permitted into or out of these areas
- A countrywide night-time curfew from 19.00hrs to 05.00hrs remains in place.
- The Agricultural and Food Authority has established a process of issuing transport stickers and passes for registered fresh produce enterprises free of charges to facilitate movement of fresh produce within the country in order to smoothen food supply. This initiative complements the current Ministry of Agriculture guidelines to County Governments for managing food supply chains amidst the COVID-19 pandemic (available here for reference).
- Reduction of taxes on fuel is expected to reduce fuel prices by approximately KES 18 per litre for petrol and diesel. This will help reign in inflationary pressures as supply chains tighten during the pandemic.

Tanzania

- In the past week, the Government has indefinitely extended the closure of all learning institutions and cancelled large public events such as the commemoration of Union Day on 26th April 2020.
- All international passenger flights have been suspended internationally, effectively closing off the country for passenger travel for the foreseeable future.
- No strict social distancing measures instituted yet.
- Restrictions on movement of people have not been instituted. However, the Government continues to encourage social distancing and improved personal hygiene.
**Uganda**
- The government has extended its 2-week lockdown for a further 3 weeks up to 5th May 2020 as the number of COVID-19 cases continues to increase albeit more slowly.
- Essential services such as food markets, plantations and factories will remain open but subjected to Standard Operating Procedures published by the Ministry of Health.

**South Sudan**
- No new measures have been announced in the past week.
- Existing measures such as closure of the two countries’ airports and restriction on cross-border passenger travel remain in place.

**Burundi**
- No new measures have been announced in the country.
- The lockdown is due to expire on 19th April 2020 but there are some strong indications that this could be extended into May.
- The Government has put in place a social protection plan to deliver food to vulnerable households to protect their food security during the lockdown.

**Ethiopia**
- No new measures instituted in the past week.
- The State of Emergency, instituted on 8th April 2020, remains in place and will give the Government the powers to bypass Parliament to take appropriate measures to curb the spread of the virus.
- A lockdown has not yet been announced meaning that economic activities continue albeit at a lower level.
- The country’s borders also remain open to cross-border trade.

---

**Malawi**
- A 3-week lockdown has been announced from 19th April up to 9th May 2020 where all “non-essential” businesses and services will be suspended. Local government councils have also been mandated to identify and license persons for supply of essential goods and services.
- Central markets have been closed but smaller locality markets will remain open from 0500hrs to 1800hrs to serve consumers within their vicinity.
- Enforcement Officers appointed under the Public Health (Corona Virus Prevention, Containment and Management) Rules 2020 to ensure strict enforcement of COVID-19 mitigation measures.
- Cross-border trade in goods continues unaffected.
- The Reserve Bank of Malawi has disbursed MWK12 billion to commercial banks to cushion the effects of COVID-19 and subsequently commercial banks are restructuring their interest rates. Fees for electronic money transactions have also been reduced to encourage consumers to switch to e-payment solutions, while the Malawi Revenue Authority is instituting a 6-month window for moratorium on penalties on tax arrears.
- Fuel prices have been reduced by 13.75%, 16.13% and 9.71% for diesel, petrol and kerosene/paraffin respectively. Tax waivers have been granted on importation of essential goods for COVID-19 management such as personal protective equipment, hand sanitizers, etc.
B. Updates on cross-border trade situation

Cross-border trade continues to improve along major trade corridors in East Africa as East African borders remain open for cross-border trade. While COVID-19-related measures have previously hampered cross-border trade, there are signs that the situation is gradually improving as bottlenecks at the borders are being eased.

Kenya/Tanzania borders

- The transit time for movement of vehicles between Kenya and Tanzania has continued to decline from an average of 2-3 days reported last week to 1-2 days currently observed despite the borders not operating for 24 hours.

- However, police escort is still required for vehicles crossing from Tanzania into Kenya.

Uganda/Kenya borders

- The process of clearing trucks crossing Busia and Malaba borders has greatly improved as the screening process for drivers becomes more efficient.
- Short queues have been observed and clearance is relatively quick despite the borders operating for only half the day only because of the night-time curfew in Kenya.
- However, there is also a decline in traffic at the borders as business operations have generally slowed down particularly in sectors deemed non-essential. This may somewhat contribute to shorter queues and faster clearing times at the borders.

Tanzania borders with Rwanda, Burundi, Zambia and Malawi

- The situation at Kasumulu-Songwe (Tanzania-Malawi), Tunduma-Nakonde (Tanzania-Zambia), Rusumo (Tanzania-Rwanda) and Kabanga-Kobero (Tanzania-Burundi) borders remains unchanged from last week.

- Movement of trucks is relatively smooth despite COVID-19 screenings and some delays at customs at the borders in no small part due to less cargo traffic at the Port of Dar-es-Salaam.
C. Market Developments for Food Commodities – Regional and International Markets

There have not been major changes in staple food markets in Eastern Africa in the past week. Commodity prices are largely following seasonal patterns. A relatively early harvest of maize is expected in Tanzania with farmers in some parts of the Southern Highlands already harvesting. Good rains and farmers choosing to plant early maturing maize varieties expecting to take advantage of the relatively high prices enjoyed in 2019 have contributed to the early harvest. However, this early harvest coincides with the wet season which makes harvesting and post-harvest handling operations more difficult, which may exacerbate challenges around aflatoxin contamination and moulding.

Looking at international markets, the Eastern Africa is a net importer of wheat and rice. Supplies of these commodities remain unaffected; however, there is a slight concern regarding wheat as Romania, a key wheat exporter to Europe put in place an export ban which may somewhat tighten global wheat supplies and exert upward pressure on prices for deliveries to East Africa.

Eastern Africa is also a major exporter of pulses particularly to India. The Q1 export window of pulses was unaffected by COVID-19 as exporters from the region were able to deliver pulses to India in good time before tight COVID-19 restrictions were instituted in both Eastern Africa and India. India has since entered full lockdown which includes cessation of all international trade activities including closure of shipping ports. The lockdown, initially due to expire on 15th April, has been further extended by 3 weeks. This will not immediately affect pulses exports from Eastern Africa, but should it be extended to June and beyond then the late-Q2 and Q3 exports from the region to India will be severely affected.
D. EAGC support to grain trade

EAGC continues to support trade for its Members during the pandemic. In the past week, the Council has successfully arranged for deliveries of 13MT green grams and 90MT of maize to millers in Nairobi from farmers upcountry, and further encourages members to engage in the trade of the commodities offered in Annex 1.

EAGC further reminds Members and Stakeholders on its trade facilitation services as summarized below:

i. Support with securing supplies of grains, farm inputs, equipment and services through the G-Soko and G-Hub systems.

ii. Logistical support for grain trade using pre-qualified service providers.

iii. Emergency working capital arrangements with partner financial institutions ease liquidity constraints affecting the grain suppliers as a result of COVID-19.

iv. Continued monitoring and regular reporting to Members on developments regarding the COVID-19 pandemic to inform the business decisions.

EAGC reiterates its call to Members and Stakeholders to bring to its attention any disruptions they experience in either domestic or cross-border trade through Secretariat contacts at the end of this Communique (Annex 2). The Secretariat continues to closely monitor developments to update Members and remains at your disposal for any support that you may require during difficult period.

Thank you and God Bless you.

Gerald Makau Masila,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
EASTERN AFRICA GRAIN COUNCIL
Annex 1: Catalogue of EAGC grain commodities available for sale.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OFFER DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>QUANTITY ON OFFER</th>
<th>VARIETY</th>
<th>OFFER STATUS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Green Grams-GG 06/2603, Tharaka Nithi</td>
<td>15 MT</td>
<td>N26</td>
<td>Sold Out!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green Grams-GG 01/0304, Tharaka Nithi</td>
<td>27 MT</td>
<td>N26</td>
<td>Booked!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green Grams-GG 02/0304 Tharaka Nithi</td>
<td>130 MT</td>
<td>N26</td>
<td>Available</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green Grams-GG 03/0304 Tharaka Nithi</td>
<td>18 MT</td>
<td>N26</td>
<td>Available</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green Grams-GG 04/0304 Tharaka Nithi</td>
<td>18 MT</td>
<td>N26</td>
<td>Available</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green Grams-GG 05/0304 Tharaka Nithi</td>
<td>20 MT</td>
<td>N26</td>
<td>Available</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green Grams-GG 05/0304 Tharaka Nithi</td>
<td>135 MT</td>
<td>N26</td>
<td>Available</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green Grams-GG 06/0304 Makueni</td>
<td>18 MT</td>
<td>K520</td>
<td>Available</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green Grams-GG 07/0304 Makueni</td>
<td>2 MT</td>
<td>Makueni Variety</td>
<td>Available</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beans-BN01/0304 Eldoret</td>
<td>8 MT</td>
<td>Rose Coco</td>
<td>Available</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cow Peas-CP 01/0304 Machakos</td>
<td>9 MT</td>
<td>White with Black Eye</td>
<td>Available</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cow Peas-CP02/0304 Tharaka Nithi</td>
<td>23 MT</td>
<td>Red</td>
<td>Available</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maize-MZ01/0304 Eastern Uganda</td>
<td>50 MT</td>
<td>White</td>
<td>Available</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maize-MZ02/0304 Trans Nzika</td>
<td>63 MT</td>
<td>White</td>
<td>Available</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maize-MZ03/0304 Trans Nzika</td>
<td>107 MT</td>
<td>White</td>
<td>Available</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maize-MZ04/0304 Trans Nzika</td>
<td>270 MT</td>
<td>White</td>
<td>Available</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maize-EAGC/2020/5/16/051 Nakuru</td>
<td>40 MT</td>
<td>White</td>
<td>Sold Out!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maize-EAGC/2020/03/13/055 Nakuru</td>
<td>60 MT</td>
<td>White</td>
<td>Sold Out!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soybeans-SB01/0304 Western Uganda</td>
<td>30 MT</td>
<td>White</td>
<td>Available</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soybeans-SB02/0304 Northern Uganda</td>
<td>70 MT</td>
<td>White</td>
<td>Available</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Trading Instructions:
1. Suppliers with the listed commodities should send their sale offers to GSOKO Trade Desk via gsoko@eagc.org. You can also call our country offices to submit your offer.
2. GSoko Trade Contract will be drawn up upon negotiation and agreement of the terms of trade.
3. EAGC will charge a facilitation fee to be agreed by the trading parties.

Contact us for more information.

KENYA
Mbeuni Avenue, Off King’ara Road
P.O. Box 218 – 00206, NAIROBI
Tel: +254 (0) 20 395 5849
Cell: +254-733-444-035 / 730 607 333
E-mail: grains@eagc.org
www.eagc.org / www.radi.net
www.graininstitute.com
www.gsoko.com

TANZANIA
Plot No. 35, Mtakatani B, Serene Street Block A
P.O. Box 48268 DAR ES SALAAM
Tel: +255 754 354 582
C/o Tanzania Agriculture Research Institute, (TARI) Salam Centre,
Dodoma Road, Opposite Arusha Airport
P.O Box 6024, ARUSHA
Tel: +255 977 858 378

UGANDA
Muyenga, Gahangende Close, P.O. Box 34835 KAMPALA
Tel: +256 930 112 854
C/o Uganda Tobacco Board
P.O. Box 48268 DAR ES SALAAM
Tel: +255 754 354 582

Rwanda
Mairie, Gakakunde Close, P.O. Box 34835 KAMPALA
Tel: +256 930 112 854
C/o Rwanda Tobacco Board
P.O. Box 48268 DAR ES SALAAM
Tel: +255 754 354 582

Burundi
C/o EAGC Office
P.O. Box 7500, Bujumbura
Tel: +257 724 820 893
www.burundi.gov

Malawi
P.O. Box 3709, LILONGWE, MALAWI
Tel: +265 995 975 994 / 999 975 899

South Sudan
4th Floor, Commercial Bank of Africa Building,
P.O. Box 505 Juba
Tel: +251 955 481 384

Zambia
C/o Grain Traders Association of Zambia
P.O. Box 34863 INDUSTRIAL AREA, LUSAKA
Tel: +260 913 361 888
Annex 2: EAGC Contact Addresses for you to reach us for assistance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Contact Person</th>
<th>Contacts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Uganda</td>
<td>Justine Namubiru</td>
<td>+256 772577500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Country Program Officer</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jnamubiru@eagc.org">jnamubiru@eagc.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kenya</td>
<td>Emmanuella Atito</td>
<td>+254 712 652069 or call the office on +254 733, 444035</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Country Program Manager</td>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:eatito@eagc.org">eatito@eagc.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tanzania</td>
<td>Kimwaga Mhando</td>
<td>+255 712 453 493; +254 703 106 890</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Trade Policy Manager and in-charge Tanzania Country Program</td>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:kmhando@eagc.org">kmhando@eagc.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rwanda</td>
<td>Epiphanie Karekezi</td>
<td>+250788750766</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Country Program Officer</td>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:ekarekezi@eagc.org">ekarekezi@eagc.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malawi</td>
<td>Kohani Uzamba</td>
<td>Mobile: +265 999 227 697</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Country Program Officer</td>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:ukohani@eagc.org">ukohani@eagc.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EAGC GSoko Trade Desk</td>
<td>Martha Njogu Trade Facilitation Officer</td>
<td>+ 254 712651928</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:mnjogu@eagc.org">mnjogu@eagc.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional office,</td>
<td>Gerald Makau Masila, Executive Director/CEO</td>
<td>+254 733 444055/ 0722 516250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DR Congo Burundi</td>
<td>Janet Ngombalu Regional Programs Coordinator</td>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:gmasila@eagc.org">gmasila@eagc.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zambia Ethiopia</td>
<td>Samwel Rutto Regional Structured Trade Manager</td>
<td>+254 722 804104</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:ingombalu@eagc.org">ingombalu@eagc.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>+254 712155751</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:srutto@eagc.org">srutto@eagc.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>The Regional Office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>+254 733 444035, Email - <a href="mailto:grains@eagc.org">grains@eagc.org</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Regional Office, DR Congo, Burundi, Zambia, Ethiopia

- Gerald Makau Masila, Executive Director/CEO
- Janet Ngombalu, Regional Programs Coordinator
- Samwel Rutto, Regional Structured Trade Manager

Emails:
- gmasila@eagc.org
- ingombalu@eagc.org
- srutto@eagc.org
- grains@eagc.org

Emails for Regional Programs Coordinator:
- +254 722 804104
- +254 712155751
- +254 733 444035

Emails for Regional Structured Trade Manager:
- +254 733 444055
- +254 712651928

For more information, visit:
- www.gsoko.com
- www.ratin.net – daily news updates
- www.grain.institute
- www.eagc.org/services/atpaf-esa