1st May 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 are accessible here.

During the past week, the number of COVID-19 cases has continued to increase in Eastern Africa with a total of 1,980 cases recorded in the 10 EAGC mandate countries, with a total death toll of 71.

Tanzania has yet again reported a record high of 196 new cases of Covid-19 in the past few days, with the total cases soaring to 480, the highest in EAGC’s mandate countries. In the 10 EAGC mandate countries, DRC, Tanzania and Kenya and leading with the highest number of cases followed closely by Rwanda.

Governments are therefore continuously imposing new measures while upholding some of the pre-existing measures to contain the spread of the virus. The introduction of mass testing as a measure imposed to curb the spread of the virus across the regional borders has re-introduced previous challenges of a much slower movement of food supplies and other relief goods across the borders. However, normalcy is expected to resume as governments re-strategize on how to become more efficient in implementing COVID-19 mass testing protocols.

EAGC therefore, through this Communique, presents updates on:

A. New measures taken by governments in Eastern Africa
B. Updates on cross-border trade situation
C. EAGC support to grain trade
A. New Measures taken by Governments in Eastern Africa

Regional COVID-19 response

The East Africa Community (EAC) has introduced Covid-19 Administrative Guidelines for application during the pandemic period to facilitate movement of goods and services during the Covid-19 pandemic. The EAC has also released the 5th version of the East Africa Community Covid-19 Response Plan to provide public awareness to facilitate free movement of persons, goods and services in the community.

Kenya

Some new measures have been introduced in the past week, particularly on maritime movement of vessels as follows:

- Mandatory pre-arrival reporting of marine vessels at least 48 hours before arrival in Kenya territorial waters. This must include Maritime Declaration of Health form to the Port Health Officer. Port Health Officers should be informed of the crew’s health status by the Master.
- Vessels with confirmed cases of Covid-19 will not be granted shore passes with exception of Kenyans and foreigners with valid residence permits in condition of presenting Health Declaration forms and by the health Authorities. Communication of the precautionary measures should be made while on board.
- Ship crew change is temporarily suspended until further notice.
- Temporary suspension of bagging services at the quayside due to risk of exposure.

Stakeholders have also raised some concerns regarding the maize importation window opened by the government in response to tightened regional supplies, pointing that the approximately 40-day import window is too small and impractical to allow imports from international markets, and inconsistencies with national Standards on the quality specifications stipulated by the Gazette Notice.

The government is also set to reopen a few restaurants and eateries that show the highest levels of health regulation compliance, and the ability to arrange for employee testing, to undertake minimal operations while maintaining mitigation measures against Covid-19 spread. Protocols to be released later.

The government is providing a weekly stipend of Ksh.1,000 to vulnerable households in the country to cushion them from effects of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The cessation of movement in Nairobi, Mombasa, Kwale, Kilifi and Mandera Counties has been extended for a further 21 days. The countrywide night-time curfew from 19.00hrs to 05.00hrs has also been extended for a further 21 days.

Tanzania

- No new measures have been instituted in the past week. However, the government appeals to citizens to adhere to preventive measures recommended by experts to curb the spread.
- The indefinite extension of the closure of all learning institutions and cancellation of large public events remains in place.
Rwanda

- The government is set to re-open the economy from the ongoing lockdown in a phased exercise. The lockdown was set to end on 30th April 2020.
- All transit trucks will be escorted to borders in convoys. Drivers will only stop at designated points.
- Inland Container Depots will be availed for effective loading and transshipment exercises at the Customs entry point.
- Warehousing facilities to be availed for loading, offloading and warehousing of cargo at the entry points.
- Clearing of goods to be done using the pre-clearance mechanism currently in place (SCT Clearance framework and payment duties and taxes before the arrival of the goods for quick release at the entry border posts). Declaration documents are to be submitted electronically.
- Perishable and special consignments to proceed to destinations after change of crew in respect with the current health guidelines in place.
- The Government’s adopted measures to support businesses and minimize declining cash flows; both immediate and Near-term measures; and Medium to Long Term Measures to remain in place.

Malawi

- The President announced an emergency cash transfer programme for the people worst affected by Covid-19. Eligible households will receive a monthly payment of 35,000 Malawian Kwacha ($47; £38) through mobile cash transfer starting in May.
- 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.

Uganda

Following a rise in cases of COVID-19 caused by truck drivers, the government has tightened screening and testing at borders. Only one driver is allowed in a truck without additional crew. The driver will only be allowed to rest in designated places. The government is also monitoring movement of trucks and truck drivers.

The government is set to lift the lockdown in a phased manner where each sector of government will develop a plan for the phased reopening of the country. The current lockdown ends on 5th May 2020.

Essential services such as food markets, plantations and factories remain open but subjected to Standard Operating Procedures published by the Ministry of Health.
B. Updates on cross-border trade situation

Cross-border trade remains open along major trade corridors in East Africa. However, the tightening of Coronavirus-related testing and controls at borders has understandably significantly slowed down cross-border movement of goods and thus reversing improvements witnessed in recent weeks. Below is a highlight of situations at key borders in East Africa.

Uganda/Kenya borders
- Long queues of trucks observed as both countries embarked on mass-testing for COVID-19 on all trucks and crew.
- At the Malaba border, the queue of trucks entering Uganda stretched to Mayanja market in Bungoma, a distance of over 35 kilometers from the border post.
- Uganda has also restricted the number of crew per truck to only the driver. Previously, up to 3 crew were allowed (truck driver plus 2 assistants).
- Night-time curfew in Kenya means the borders do not operate for 24 hours.

Kenya/Tanzania borders
- Long queues of trucks have been observed for those entering Kenya through Tanzania at the Namanga border point, due to the strict testing done in Kenya.
- Police escort is still required for vehicles crossing from Tanzania into Kenya.

Tanzania/Uganda border
- Tighter controls have been instituted at Mutukula border as Uganda embarked on mass-testing for COVID-19 for all trucks entering Uganda from Tanzania.
- Only 1 crew member (the driver) is allowed per truck. Truck drivers entering Uganda will also be tracked as they are only allowed to rest in designated areas within Uganda.

Tanzania/Zambia border
- Zambia has tightened cross-border movement of vehicles at Tunduma/Nakonde border due to the rapid increase in COVID-19 cases in Tanzania.
- Movement of transit vehicles entering Zambia from Tanzania has been stopped from 20th April 2020
- Only the absolute essential cross-border movements will be permitted. Presumably, this includes food commodities but has yet to be clarified.

Tanzania/Rwanda border
- Tighter controls have been instituted at Rusumo border. For trucks crossing into Rwanda from Tanzania, Tanzanian drivers are required to hand over the trucks to a Rwandan driver for delivery to the destination in Rwanda.
- The cargo is also fumigated before hand-over and clearance to enter Rwanda.
C. Grain market highlights in East Africa

Food prices have been trending more-less seasonably in Nairobi, Kampala and to an extent Kigali where prices in April where generally higher than in March. Contrary to seasonal patterns, prices in Dar es Salaam have been declining slightly on a month-to-month basis due to an earlier-than-expected harvest coming into the market. This has also contributed to lower prices compared to 12 months prior.

On the other hand, food prices are generally currently higher than their 2019 levels in Nairobi, Kampala and Bujumbura. This is caused by a combination of COVID-19 movement restrictions, disruption of harvests by rainfall in Kenya in late 2019/early 2020 and increased exports to South Sudan from Uganda, thus tightening regional supplies. In Rwanda, prices are lower than 12 months ago because of increased Season A 2020 production compared to Season A 2019.

D. EAGC support to grain trade

EAGC continues to support grain trade in the region for the benefit of its Members and improving food supplies during the COVID-19 pandemic. On the policy front, EAGC continues to engage the Government of Kenya on operationalization of the recently-announced import window for yellow and white maize from international markets owing to limited stocks of maize within East Africa.

On the capacity building front, the EAGC-Grain Business Institute (GBI) has resumed this week with online training programs. This week, the GBI delivered an online training on structured grain trading systems to a group of more than 40 bankers and collateral managers in Pakistan. More online training courses are expected to be rolled out in the coming weeks.

On the trade front, EAGC is continues to receive facilitate trade in grains, farm inputs, equipment and services through the G-Soko and G-Hub systems as follows:

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

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

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

### Maize prices in selected markets in East Africa (USD/MT)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>Apr ‘20 vs Mar ‘20 change</th>
<th>Apr ‘20 vs Apr ‘19 change</th>
<th>Apr ‘19 vs Mar ‘19 change</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dar es Salaam</td>
<td>-2%</td>
<td>-9%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bujumbura</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>-27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kigali</td>
<td>0.35%</td>
<td>-3%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nairobi</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>19%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kampala</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>36%</td>
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Source: EAGC RATIN
EAGC encourages members to engage in the trade of the commodities offered in these latest grain trade catalogues showing offers and enquiries respectively.

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 1). 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: 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>
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