25th May 2020

Dear EAGC Members and Stakeholders,

WEEKLY UPDATE ON THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC FOR THE GRAIN SECTOR IN EASTERN AFRICA – WEEK 9

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). Previous editions of this Communique are accessible here.

The number of Covid-19 confirmed cases in EAGC mandate countries has risen to 6,580 in the last one week, representing a 68% rise.

The pandemic is continually causing significant adverse impact on the economies following the various lockdown measures that have been previously instituted, with some of the governments resulting to implementation of fiscal measures to mitigate the effects and provide relief for businesses and households. Within the ten EAGC mandate countries, the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic are being felt differently as the measures taken by the respective governments have also differed on the areas of focus and comprehensiveness.

Figure 1: Weekly progression of Covid-19 Cases in Eastern Africa

Source: WHO database as of 25th May 2020

Source: WHO database as of 25th May 2020
A. New Measures taken by Governments in Eastern Africa

Regional COVID-19 response

Following the virtual meeting by Heads of States of Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda and South Sudan on 12th May 2020, the Ministers of Transport agreed to introduce the following directives, among others, effective from 1st June 2020:

✓ Deployment of the staff to the Inland Container Depot (ICD) at Naivasha is expected to be finalized to ensure smooth clearance of the cargo
✓ All transit cargo destined for Uganda, Rwanda and South Sudan will be transported either on Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) for clearance at the ICD at Naivasha or Metre Gauge Railway to Tororo/Kampala. All transit cargo railed to the ICD at Naivasha will be collected by trucks to the Partner States via Busia or Malaba border. Fuel products will be transported by pipeline to Kisumu and thereafter by Lake Victoria to Port Bell or Jinja
✓ All the transit cargo/containers transported on SGR will be armed only at the ICD at Naivasha to be tracked through the Regional Electronic Cargo Tracking System.
✓ All exports (both full and empty exports) not railed on metre gauge railway will be delivered to the ICD at Naivasha for ralge to the Port of Mombasa.

The EAC secretariat through the EAC Network of Public Health Reference Laboratories for Communicable Diseases (Mobile Lab Project), has handed over 2 Mobile Laboratories to Kenya to strengthen the laboratory capacity for COVID-19 response in the country as one of the Partner States. The labs which are set to be stationed at Namanga on the Kenya-Tanzania border and the other at the Naivasha dry port on the Nairobi-Malaba Highway, have a combined capacity to support 2,000 tests per day.

Tanzania

The government has reviewed the travel advisory note dated 4th April, 2020 to accommodate measures related to International travel following what the government describes as a declining trend of admitted Covid-19 cases in the country, as follows:

✓ Enhanced screening for all travellers, without a 14-days mandatory quarantine upon arrival
✓ All international travellers to observe adherence to Infection Prevention and Control measures
✓ All arriving/departing conveyances must provide Advance Passenger Information to allow for scrutiny of possible high-risk passengers.
✓ Pilot/Captain/Driver in command of conveyance should prior to arrival fill and submit health declaration forms to Pont Health Authority
✓ All Conveyances operators to observe adherence to Infection Prevention and Control measures
✓ Conveyances will be subjected to decontamination if deemed necessary
Kenya

- The government continues to dispatch a total of KS 250 Million on a weekly basis to vulnerable families and has announced the rolling out of Ksh 53.7 Billion 8-point economic stimulus programme to stimulate growth and cushion citizens and businesses.
  - The Agricultural sector has been allocated Ksh 3 billion for farm inputs supply through e-vouchers, targeting 200,000 small scale farmers; to cushion them from adverse weather and to secure food supply chains
  - Small and Medium Enterprises have been allocated Ksh10 Billion to fast-track payment of outstanding VAT refunds and other pending payments; while Ksh3 Billion has been allocated as seed capital for the SME Credit Guarantee Schemes to provide affordable credit to small and micro enterprises
- The government published a new Gazette Notice extending the maize importation window to 31st July, 2020. The Notice has also rectified the quality and standards issues raised in the initial Gazette Notice, and has removed directives to take all yellow maize to the factory on arrival from international markets.

Uganda

- New measures have been put in place in the past week as follows:
  - The government announced that public or private transport shall not be allowed in border districts.
  - Private cars will be allowed to move on the 26th of May.
  - All truck drivers will be required to wait for their test results in order to enter Uganda
- Previous measures instituted in the previous weeks remain in place.

Malawi

- No new developments have taken place in the past week
  - The wearing of masks is now compulsory for vendors and buyers in all markets in Lilongwe effective 18th May, 2020.
- Previous measures remain in place a per the effective dates
B. Updates on cross-border trade situation

Below is a highlight of situations at key borders in East Africa.

Tanzania/Rwanda border

No new developments in the past week. EAGC continues to monitor the cross-border situation at the border point.

- Truck drivers have resumed ferrying goods across the border following an agreement by the two governments, with over 500 trucks estimated to have crossed the Rusuma border as of 22nd May, 2020. This follows a bilateral meeting to resolve cross-border trade challenges between the two governments.

Tanzania/Uganda border

No new measures have been instituted in the past week.

- However, tighter controls remain in place at the Mutukula border as mass-testing for COVID-19 on all trucks and crew.

Uganda/Kenya borders

No new measures have been put in place in the past week.

- Long queues of trucks observed as both countries continue with mass-testing for COVID-19 on all trucks and crew.
Kenya/Tanzania borders

The government of Tanzania imposed a ban on all Kenyan cargo trucks from entering Tanzania in what appeared to be retaliatory border closure, following Kenya’s announcement of the closure of her borders with Somalia and Tanzania. The two presidents upon negotiation, directed transport ministers and border regional commissioners to convene and resolve the COVID-19 testing and cargo truck barring disputes. A ministerial bilateral meeting on free movement of goods at the border posts was then held on 22nd May, 2020 at the Namanga One Stop Border Post. The Ministers agreed that:

✓ Each vehicle to be allowed to have up to three crew members
✓ Truck crew to be tested at the point of origin using WHO Standards and be issued a 14-day COVID-19 free certificate by competent authority which shall be mutually recognized.
✓ Each Partner State shall be allowed to gazette a conducive place where truck drivers can stop for a rest. Such places should be equipped with necessary amenities.
✓ Partners States shall undertake random screening in the designated/gazetted resting points, in a transparent manner and allow the owner to replace all crew if found to be at high risk of COVID19
✓ Cargo and conveyors to be offloaded at the point of destination unless there is a different agreement with the owner of the cargo. Vehicles shall not be compelled to offload at the border.
✓ Both states agreed to release the public data of the status of the COVID-19 tests without revealing the nationality of the infected, and data submitted to authorities through diplomatic channels
✓ Both states committed to revive and operationalize the Ujirani Mwema Cross border meetings
✓ Farmers on either border side, be allowed to access their farms, upon identification by local leaders

Zambia reopened its Nakonde border with Tanzania on the 15th May, 2020 paving the way for movement of cargo after a five-day closure of the transit point.
C. EAGC support to grain trade

EAGC continues to 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.

EAGC encourages members to engage in the trade of the commodities offered in these latest grain trade catalogues showing offers and enquiries respectively.

Noting the current restrictions to movement into or out of Nairobi Metropolitan Area, Mombasa, Kwale and Kilifi Counties, EAGC continues to support its Members in Kenya to obtain travel authorization to or from these places. Members requiring this service are encouraged to contact the Secretariat through the contacts provided in Annex 1 below.

EAGC reminds its Members and Stakeholders to make use of its trade facilitation services and 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).

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>
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