1st June 2020

Dear EAGC Members and Stakeholders,

WEEKLY UPDATE ON THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC FOR THE GRAIN SECTOR IN EASTERN AFRICA – WEEK 10

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 9917 in the last one week, a 51% rise, indicating a reduction of increasing cases compared to last week.

Despite the various measures that have been put in place, projection of the current trends indicate that virus is likely to spread further and likely to have significant impact on the economy, food security and livelihoods. Countries have shifted their perceptive of the pandemic and are gradually adjusting to reboot their economies as they acclimatize with the virus.

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

Source: WHO database as of 1st June 2020
A. New Measures taken by Governments in Eastern Africa

Regional COVID-19 response

The EAC Secretariat has commenced the capacity building of staff at the eight international airports in the region as part of its implementation of the EAC Regional COVID-19 Response Plan, facilitated by the German Government. The first training of trainers (TOT) has started at the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport in Nairobi, Kenya. The training exercise is focusing on the prevention of and response to the spread of COVID-19 ahead of Partner States resuming their flight schedules. The two 2-day courses will follow in Mombasa, Juba, Entebbe, Bujumbura, Dar es Salaam, Kilimanjaro and Kigali, and are organized and coordinated by the Civil Aviation Safety and Security Oversight Agency (EAC CASSOA) and implemented by AMREF Flying Doctors. The training targets a total of 240 key airport personnel who are expected to spearhead the development and conduction of targeted training sessions for the rest of the airport personnel.

**Tanzania**

- No new measures have been instituted in the week.
- According to the Media reports, the Prime Minister said that only a handful of Coronavirus patients remained in Dar es Salaam, Kilibaha and Dodoma.
- Secondary schools, universities and sports events are expected to resume in June.

**Uganda**

- Following the directives to allow Private Vehicles to begin operating while observing MOH guidelines, there has been a significant increase in the number of vehicles in the Kampala Metropolitan Area.
- Stickers that were previously issued to Essential Workers are no longer in use, but motorists are advised to keep them for future purposes. Therefore, the Traffic Rules and Regulations are applicable to every motorist.

**Rwanda**

The government has reviewed and upheld the existing measures effective 2nd June, 2020, which will be further reviewed after 15 days upon a health assessment, as follows:

- Public and private businesses to continue with essential staff while other employees work from home
- Non-contact outdoor sports are permitted. The Ministry of sports will share detailed guidelines.
- Mottos are permitted to carry passengers except in Rusizi and Rubavu Districts
- Public and private transport between provinces shall resume except movement to and from Rusizi and Rubavu Districts. Transport of goods and cargo will continue with no more than two people on board.
- Borders will remain closed, except for goods and cargo, as well as returning Rwandan citizens and legal residents. All returnees will be subjected to mandatory at their own cost.

**Malawi**

No new developments have taken place in the past week. Previous measures remain in place

- The wearing of masks is now compulsory for vendors and buyers in all markets in Lilongwe effective 18th May, 2020.
Kenya

In the past week, the 47 County Governments have addressed the following:
• Mapped 1.9 Million Households that require food support due to livelihood challenges related to COVID 19, out of which 742,038 homes have been prioritized for food aid through cash transfer, e-voucher and in-kind food distribution. Nine (9) County Governments have mobilized 1.087 Billion to support this initiative. The National Government has supported 250,000 households in 10 counties
• Supporting farmers whose crops have been washed away by ongoing floods through provision of seeds for replanting and funds to reclaim their farms. Over 100,000 acres of land have washed away
• Commitment not to charge cess for the transportation of food stuff across the country

The Council of Governments has in the previous week noted the following:
• Adequate availability of cereals, pulses and fresh foods in the market and prices for most commodities remained stable.
• Prices of maize grain, wheat flour, rice and sugar recorded slight increase, due to increased sales during preparation for Bisulfite celebrations. Traders have sufficient stocks to meet the demand during this period.
• The supply of beans in the markets is still low and therefore the low availability in the markets is driving prices up by about 18% compared to the previous week.

B. Updates on cross-border trade situation

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

Kenya/Tanzania borders
No new developments have been instituted in the past week.

Measures put in place by the ministerial bilateral meeting on free movement of goods at border posts between Kenya and Tanzania remain in place

Kenya

In the past week, the 47 County Governments have addressed the following:

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 for all trucks entering Uganda from Tanzania is still ongoing.

Tanzania/Rwanda border
• No new developments in the past week. EAGC continues to monitor the cross-border situation at the border point.
EAGC support to structured grain trade

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

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

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.

EAGC encourages members to engage in the trade of the commodities offered in these latest grain trade catalogues showing offers and enquiries respectively.
EAGC has held a G-SOKO online training and a subsequent G-Soko installation for one of her members; a Malawi based grain trading company, following a partnership to implement structured trading systems in Malawi. The training entailed an overview of G-SOKO as a trade solution by EAGC, G-SOKO operations, and virtual installation of G-SOKO onto the members’ trade systems.

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>
<thead>
<tr>
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