

This report shows market activities across the East Africa region's selected primary grain markets from **10th March to 17th March 2017**. The monitoring is carried out by Eastern Africa Grain Council (EAGC) monitors based in all the 5 EAC on a daily basis. Monitoring is also done in South Sudan and Malawi. In Malawi, we do monitoring through the partnership with Agricultural Commodity Exchange for Africa. The report helps stakeholders and users to have a general

overview of the market price trends across the region. This Bulletin is a service of EAGC primarily to its members and other interested stakeholders. The full market data of daily wholesale and Retail market prices is available at www.ratin.net

GRAIN NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

Africa: In 2050, when the population of Africa is two and a half times larger than now, the continent will scarcely be able to grow enough food for its own population.. Based on local data and model calculations, this was the conclusion of a study conducted by a team of researchers from Wageningen University & Research, several African institutes and the University of Nebraska.

Regional: Scientists in East Africa are pushing for the approval of genetically modified maize (BT), saying it can withstand the armyworm that has caused farmers massive losses.

Kenya: Officials on Wednesday remained mum as Ukraine announced that Kenya planned to import five million bags or 450,000 metric tonnes of yellow maize for the first time in five years at an estimated cost of over Sh10 billion. On Tuesday the former Soviet republic, one of the top global producers of corn, asked firms in the country to prepare bids for the maize expected to be for cattle feeds manufacturing.

Tanzania: The Tanzania Food and Drugs Authority (TFDA)

has ordered traders in Dar es Salaam to stop distributing over 9,000 sacks of imported rice which is being tested for edibility. TFDA spokesperson Gaudensia Semwanza told The Guardian yesterday that the rice impounded in three different warehouses within the commercial capital was reportedly brought in from Pakistan.

Rwanda: Prolonged shortage of foodstuff in local markets is to blame for the increase in prices of goods and services, analysts have said. They called on the Government and other stakeholders to step up efforts to boost agriculture output and production of other locally-made goods.

Malawi: Malawi government has disclosed plans to secure a pigeon peas market in India, the latter being the world's biggest buyer of the crop. Principle Secretary in the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Tourism, Cliff Chiunda brought the development to light in Lilongwe Monday during a media briefing on the forthcoming Malawi-India Business meet on Friday March 17, 2017 at Bingu International Convention Centre (BICC).

REGIONAL MARKET ANALYSIS

BURUNDI

Table 1: Summary of weekly grain prices in Burundi (USD/MT)

	Maize		Rice		Yellow Beans	
	Previous	Current	Previous	Current	Previous	Current
Bujumbura	780	777	1088	1094	1208	1195
Gitega	516	478	1187	1027	1187	1015
Ngozi			1259	1169	1259	931

Previous: Week ending 10th, March 2017 Current: Week ending 17th, March 2017.

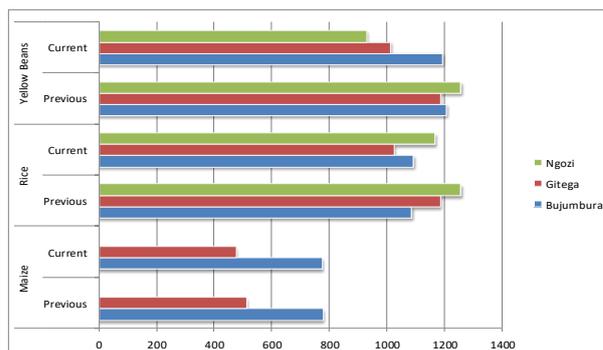
Reports from EAGC RATIN monitored markets for grains showed marginal drop in the prices of some staples in most markets in Burundi. For **Maize**, prices are on a downward trend. The prices have gone down seasonally since the beginning of the harvest of the 2016A crop. In Bujumbura, prices were down by 0.3% (\$3/MT) indicative of relative stability in the market. Gitega market registered a decrease of 7% (\$38/MT) from last week's closing average. Prices are expected to still go down in the coming week.

For **Yellow beans**, prices went down in the surveyed markets. In Bujumbura, there was a 1% (\$13/MT) decrease suggestive of relative stability. Gitega market had a 14% (\$172/MT) decrease from last week's closing average whereas, In Ngozi market, prices went down by 26% (\$328) making it the highest loser among the monitored markets. The stocks from *season A* crop are in adequate supply to meet the demand of the

commodity therefore, prices are expected to go in the coming weeks.

Rice: Reports from the monitored markets show a decrease in Gitega and Ngozi markets with a significant decline of 13% (\$160/MT) and a marginal decline of 0.07% (\$0/MT) respectively. In Bujumbura, prices were relatively stable with a slight increase \$6/MT realised from last week's closing average. Imports from the global market have led to stabilization of prices and decline of price in some of the monitored markets, a trend of decline will persist in the coming weeks.

Graph 1: Summary of wholesale prices in Burundi (USD/MT)



R W A N D A

Table 2: Summary Average wholesale Grain prices in Rwanda

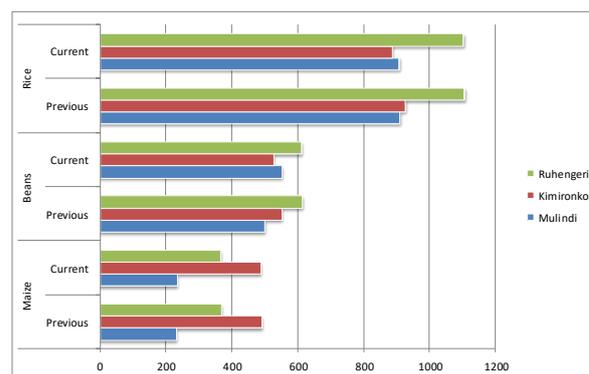
Weekly average wholesale grain prices in Rwanda(USD/MT)						
	Maize		Beans		Rice	
	Previous	Current	Previous	Current	Previous	Current
Mulindi	233	235	500	552	909	908
Kimironko	492	488	552	527	927	887
Ruhengeri	369	367	614	612	1106	1102

Previous: Week ending 10th March 2017 Current: Week ending 17th, March 2017.

Reports from EAGC RATIN monitored markets showed the price of **Maize** went down marginally in Kimironko and Ruhengeri markets by 0.8% (\$4/MT) and 0.5% (\$2/MT) respectively. In Mulindi market, prices were up by 0.8% (\$2/MT) indicative of increase in demand of the commodity. The supplies to the markets are sufficient and prices are expected to go down in the coming weeks.

For **Beans**, markets exhibited mixed outcomes. In Mulindi, there was a significant increase of 10.4% (\$52/MT) from last week's closing average. In Kimironko and Ruhengeri markets, there were marginal decline of 4.5% (\$25/MT) and 0.3% (\$2/MT) respectively indicative of relative stability in the markets. Prices are expected to go down in the coming weeks as supplies increase as reports indicate increase in supplies to the markets in the past two weeks.

Graph 2 Summary of average wholesale prices Rwanda (USD/MT)



For **rice**, prices have been relatively stable in some of the monitored markets. Kimironko recorded the greatest decline of 4% (\$40/MT) among the three markets. In Mulindi and Ruhengeri markets, prices went down marginally by 0.1% (\$8/MT) and 0.3% (\$4/MT) respectively. Among the surveyed markets, Ruhengeri still has the highest prices at \$1102/MT. Prices are expected to remain stable in the coming weeks as our monitors have reported increase in inflows of imported rice into the markets.

U G A N D A

Table 3: Summary of Monthly grain prices in Uganda for Beans Maize and Rice

Weekly average wholesale grain prices in Uganda (USD/MT)						
	Maize		Beans		Rice	
	Previous	Current	Previous	Current	Previous	Current
Kampala	379	422	817	817	958	958
Kabale	372	417	706	704	847	862
Mbale	392	415	727	704	1003	1070

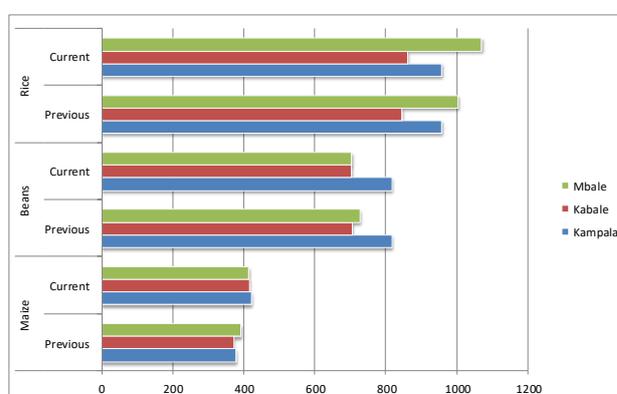
Previous: Week ending 10th, March 2017 Current: Week ending 17th, March 2017

Reports from EAGC RATIN monitored markets show the price of **Maize** prices increased considerably in Kampala and Kabale by 11% (\$43/MT) and 12% (\$45/MT) respectively. In Mbale, prices were up by 5.6% (\$23/MT). In all markets, the demand for the commodity increased due to tightened supplies to the markets and prices are expected to increase in the coming week.

The price of **beans** is still on downward trend in Kabale and Mbale markets with Kampala having an equilibrium. Prices went down seasonally as harvest from the second/south crop resulted to an increase in supply of the commodity. Prices are expected to go down marginally in the coming week.

Rice price was stable in Kampala suggestive of sufficient supply to the market. There was a marginal gain of 1.7% (\$15/MT) in Kabale market indicative of increase in supply of the commodity. Mbale market had 6% (\$67/MT) increase from last weeks closing average. Stocks from the December harvest are diminishing and prices are expected to increase marginally in the coming week.

Graph 3 Summary of average wholesale prices Uganda (USD/MT)



KENYA

Table 4: Summary of Average grain prices in Kenya

	Maize		Rice		Beans	
	Previous	Current	Previous	Current	Previous	Current
Mombasa	417	425	1389	1389	883	883
Nairobi	446	446	1140	1158		
Kisumu	496	496	1190	1190	863	893
Nakuru	364	382	714	713	646	661

Previous: Week ending 10th March 2017 Current: Week ending 17th, March 2017.

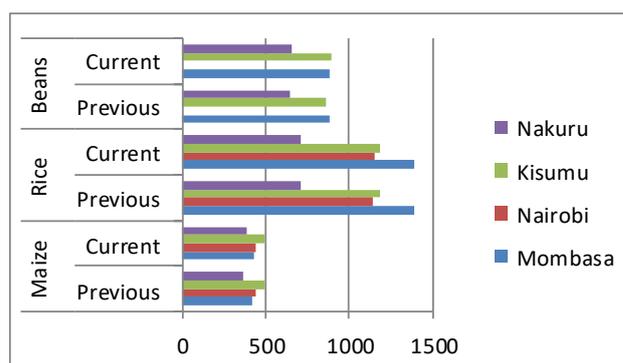
The price of **maize** remained relatively stable in the monitored markets. In Mombasa, prices went up marginally by 1.9% (\$8/MT) whereas, in Nairobi and Kisumu markets, prices remained stable. Nakuru market had a 5% (\$18/MT) gain from last weeks closing average. Maize deficits is still a major concern in the country with plans underway to import from global market. Regionally, the shortfall have been cushioned by imports from Ethiopia and prices are expected to stabilize in the shortrun with Nairobi recording the highest prices.

The price of **rice** was relatively stable in Mombasa and Kisumu markets however, prices are still high in the markets with both recording figures >\$1000/MT. In Nairobi markets, prices went up by 1.5% (\$18/MT) whereas, in Nakuru, the market was

relatively stable with a 0.14% (\$1/MT) decline registered from last week's average. The prices are expected to remain stable in the coming week considering the price of key staples have shown stability in some of the monitored markets.

Beans prices showed mixed outcome in the monitored markets. Mombasa market had stable prices with gains recorded in Kisumu and Nakuru markets. There was a 3.4% (\$30/MT) and 2.3% (\$25/MT) increase recorded in the two markets. Prices are still high in Mombasa and Kisumu markets compared to Nakuru and are expected to go up marginally in the coming weeks as supplies are still tightened.

Graph 4: Summary of weekly grain prices



TANZANIA

Table 5: Summary of weekly grain prices in Tanzania

Weekly Average Wholesale Grain Prices in Tanzania on (\$/MT)						
	Wheat		Beans		Maize	
	Previous	Current	Previous	Current	Previous	Current
Dar es Salaam	596	595	867	847	551	549
Mbeya	481	471			418	435
Iringa	687	687	825	824	458	458

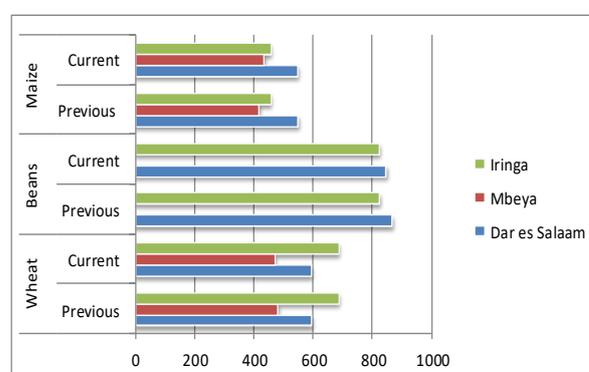
Previous: Week ending 10th, December 2017 Current: Week ending 17th, March 2017.

Maize, Beans, and Rice: Table 1 shows summary average wholesale prices of grain in three Tanzania markets in the past two weeks. The wholesale price for **Wheat** was relatively stable in Dar es Salaam market with a 0.6% (\$1/MT) decline registered from previous week's closing average. In Mbeya, prices increased by 2% (\$10/MT) and Iringa prices at equilibrium. This week, prices were stable and the situation is expected to persist as supplies from the international market is adequate.

The price of **Maize** in the monitored markets had mixed outcomes. In Iringa, the market was at equilibrium as supplies matched demand of the commodity. Mbeya market had a gain of 4% (\$17/MT) whereas, Dar es Salaam had a marginal decrease of 0.3% (\$2/MT). The markets have stabilized but reports indicate *vuli* crop performed below average leading to shortages of the commodity in the country. Prices are expected to go up as supplies have tightened.

For **Beans**, the price was relatively stable in Iringa with a marginal decrease of 0.3% (\$1/MT) registered from last week's closing average. In Dar es Salaam, prices went down by 2.3% (\$20/MT). The prices are expected to stabilise in the coming weeks.

Graph 5: Summary of weekly wholesale prices in (USD/MT)



CONCLUSION

From this week's report, markets in Burundi and Rwanda have continued to exhibit a decline in prices from last quarter's highs. The prices are going down seasonally as stocks from Season A have eased of demand of key staples. In Tanzania, the lean season coupled with below average performance of *vuli* crop has led to decrease in supply of key staples in the markets however, prices are relatively stable but still high for most commodities.

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