

This report shows market activities across the East Africa region's selected primary grain markets from **27th March to 31st 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

Regional: This week Kenya played host to the All Africa Post-Harvest Congress where experts in agriculture and food security focused on coming up with sustainable ways to reduce post harvest losses. The first All Africa Post-Harvest Congress ended with the theme, "Reducing Food Losses and Waste: Sustainable Solutions for Africa".

Zambia: President Edgar Lungu has said that plans are underway to give the mandate to the Food Reserve Agency to be exporting surplus maize. Mr Lungu said once the law was changed, the FRA would become a procuring agency on behalf other countries that wanted to buy maize in Zambia, and it would use the upfront payment to pay farmers that supplied the commodity on cash basis.

Tanzania: More than 3,000 hectares of different crops have been destroyed by armyworms which hit eight wards in Chalinze council in Bagamoyo District, Coast Region. Chalinze council executive director, Edes Lukoa confirmed on the invasion, saying: "These pests stormed the area since February and now they have destroyed a number of hectares of farms which were planted with various cereal crops.

Uganda: Uganda teeters on the brink of having a new bill to regulate genetically modified goods after President Yoweri Museveni cleared the air about which side he supports. The pressure to pass the Biotechnology and Biosafety Bill 2012 has started building up in recent weeks after some parts of the country experienced food shortages due to the prolonged drought.

Kenya: Farmers in the South Rift and North Rift will soon get hybrid seeds that are resistant to the Maize Lethal Necrosis Disease (MLND), researchers have said. The crossbreed seeds will be a major boost to maize farmers who had abandoned the crop for others following an outbreak of the disease three years ago.

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	734	717	991	997	1194	997
Gitega	513	561	1015	879	1015	977
Ngozi			1135	860	845	912

Previous: Week ending 24th, March 2017 Current: Week ending 31st, March 2017.

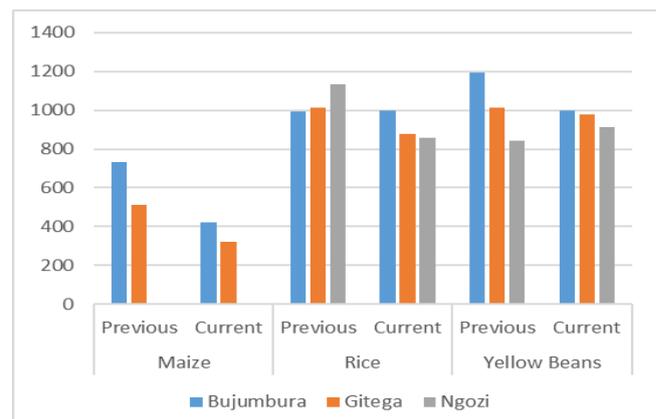
Reports from EAGC RATIN monitored markets showed mixed outcomes in the prices of the monitored commodities. For **Maize**, prices went down marginally by 2.3% (\$17/MT) in Bujumbura market. Gitega market had a 9.6% (\$48/MT) increase from last week closing average with market reports indicating a decrease in supply of the commodity. Prices are expected to still go down in the coming week as tax on food staples has been removed at border points, traders will take advantage of the directive.

For **Yellow beans**, prices went down significantly in Bujumbura market by 16% (\$197/MT) as reports indicated increase in supply of the commodity. In Gitega, prices went down by 3.7% (\$37/MT) whereas, Ngozi market had an increase of 8% (\$67/MT). Market reports from our monitors indicate there was increase in demand of the commodity. Prices are expected to increase marginally in the coming week

as tightened supplies have been reported in the previous week.

Rice: In Bujumbura, prices were relatively stable with a marginal gain of \$6/MT registered from last week's average. In Gitega market prices went down by 13% (\$136/MT) as supply increased and in Ngozi, there was a significant drop of 24% (\$275/MT). Field reports indicate there has been a sustained supply from imports from Pakistan therefore, prices are expected to go down marginally.

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

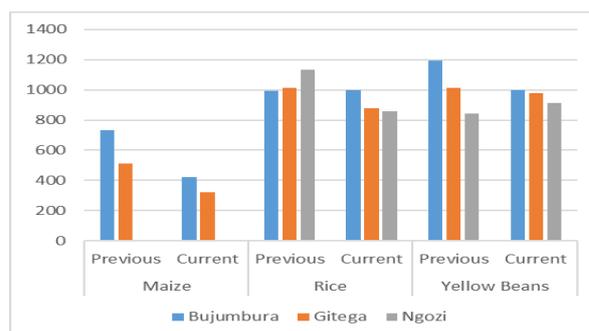
Weekly average wholesale grain prices in Rwanda(USD/MT)						
	Maize		Beans		Rice	
	Previous	Current	Previous	Current	Previous	Current
Mulindi	274	334	551	550	909	904
Kimironko	485	472	549	529	901	967
Ruhengeri	367	367	612	612	1102	1102

Previous: Week ending 24th March 2017 Current: Week ending 31st, March 2017.

Reports from EAGC RATIN monitored markets showed the price of **Maize** went up significantly in Mulindi by 24% (\$60/MT). In Ruhengeri there were no changes observed indicative equilibrium. Kimironko market had decrease of 2.6% (\$13/MT) as reports form the field show there was a increase in supply. In Mulindi prices are expected to go up due to scarcity of the commodity.

For **Beans**, prices went down seasonally in Mulindi and Kimironko with reports indicating increased supply to the markets. In Ruhengeri, prices remained unchanged with supplies adequately meeting the demand of the commodity. Prices are expected to go down in the coming week as there is sufficient supplies.

Graph 2: Average wholesale prices Rwanda (USD/MT)



For **rice**, there was mixed outcomes in the markets with Kimironko having a gain of 7% (\$24/MT) from last week's average and this was attributed to limited supplies. Mulindi and Ruhengeri markets were relatively stable. Mulindi had a marginal decrease of 0.5% (\$5/MT) and Ruhengeri market had no change in prices. The supplies to the markets have been sufficient with stocks being source externally therefore, prices are expected to go down marginally in the coming weeks.

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	445	439	910	949	1037	1011
Kabale	463	447	758	878	946	994
Masindi	422	402	911	809	1033	983

Previous: Week ending 24th, March 2017 Current: Week ending 31st, March 2017

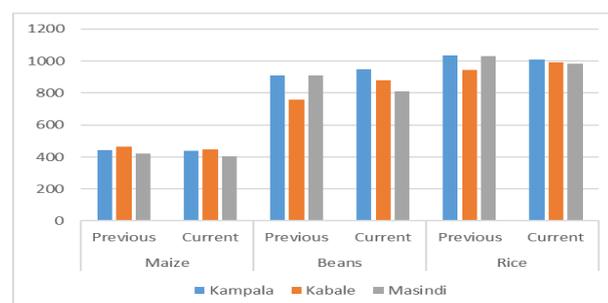
This week has been characterized by increase in prices in all EAGC RATIN monitored markets. For **Maize**, prices have registered a downward trend for the first time since February. In Kampala, prices were down marginally by 1.3% (\$6/MT) from last weeks average. Kabale and Masindi markets had a decline of 3.4% (\$16/MT) and 4.7 (\$20/MT) respectively. Reports from the market indicate there has been an increase in supply of the commodity as traders are releasing hoarded stocks in Kabale and Kampala markets, therefore prices are expected to go down in the coming week. In Masindi, reports indicate increase in demand as stocks have diminished as a result of poor harvest in the region.

The price of **beans** went up in some of the surveyed markets. In Kampala, prices were up by 2.8% (\$97/MT) with reports indicating tightened supplies to the market. In Kabale, prices

went up by 16% (\$120/MT) indicative of increase in demand of the commodity. Masindi market registered a significant decline of 11% (\$98/MT) from last week's closing average. Prices are expected to increase in the coming week as the country is heading towards the planting season, therefore demand will increase.

Rice prices decreased in Kampala and Masindi markets by 2.5% (\$26/MT) and 4.8% (\$50/MT) respectively indicative of increase supply to the markets. In Kabale, prices went up by 5% (\$48/MT). Informal trade of rice has eased off demand of the commodity as rice from Tanzania is still finding its way into the markets despite an export ban. Local rice from Hoima district is in adequate supply in Masindi and prices are expected to go down 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	447	495	1394	1436	921	991
Nairobi	445	446	1167	1188		
Kisumu	494	495	1068	1088	890	890
Nakuru	410	461	711	732	642	659

Previous: Week ending 24th March 2017 Current: Week ending 31st, March 2017.

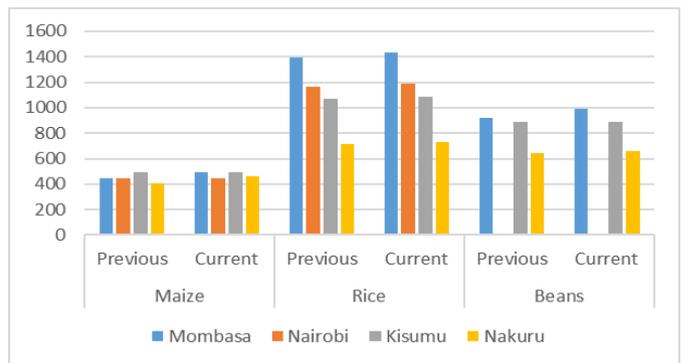
The price of **maize** remained relatively stable in Nairobi and Kisumu markets, with a marginal gain of \$1/MT in Kisumu and in Nairobi, there was a decline of a similar margin. In Mombasa, prices went up significantly by 10% (\$58/MT) whereas, in Nakuru there was a 12% (\$51/MT) gain from previous week's average. In the short run, prices are expected to remain still high as supplies are still tightened in all the major grain markets.

The price of **rice** increased in all the monitored markets. Kisumu and Nairobi had marginal gains of about 1.8%. In Nairobi, prices went up by \$21/MT whereas, Kisumu had a \$20/MT increase as stable supplies have been noted in the markets. Nakuru and Mombasa had a 3% increase from last week's

average. In Nakuru, prices went up by \$21/MT and in Mombasa, there was a \$42/MT increase. Field reports indicate adequate supplies of the imported rice varieties. The prices are expected to remain relatively stable in the coming week.

Beans prices showed mixed outcome in the monitored markets. Mombasa market had an increase of 7.6% (\$70/MT) indicative of increase in demand. In Kisumu, prices remained stable but prices are still high as stocks are running low. In Nakuru market, prices increased by 2.6% (\$17/MT). Prices are expected to remain high but stable in the coming weeks due to tightened supplies to the markets.

Graph 4 Summary of average wholesale prices Kenya (USD/MT)



TANZANIA

Table 5: Summary of weekly grain prices in Tanzania

Weekly Average Wholesale Grain Prices in Tanzania on (\$/MT)						
	Mbeya rice		Yellow beans		Maize	
	Previous	Current	Previous	Current	Previous	Current
Dar es Salaam	942	914	1097	959	549	548
Mbeya	870	869	755	754	435	434
Iringa	915	914	954	824	458	457

Previous: Week ending 24th, December 2017 Current: Week ending 31st, March 2017.

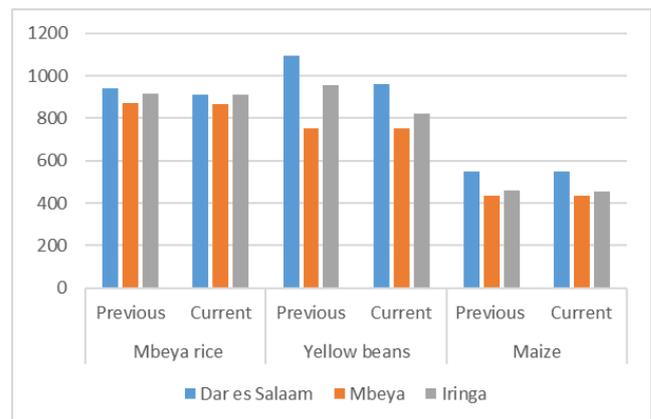
Maize, Beans, and Rice: Table 5 shows summary average wholesale prices of grain in three Tanzania markets in the past two weeks. The wholesale price for **Mbeya rice** remained relatively stable in the monitored markets. In Dar es Salaam, there was a 3% (\$28/MT) decrease from last week's average. In Mbeya and Iringa markets, prices remained relatively stable with a 0.1% (\$1/MT). Prices are expected to remain stable in the coming week as stock are still sufficient to meet demand.

Prices of **Yellow beans** went down in the monitored markets. In Dar es Salaam, prices were down by 12% (\$138/MT) indicative of increase in supply. In Mbeya, the prices were relatively stable with a 0.1% (\$1/MT) decrease from last weeks closing average. Iringa market had a significant decline of 13% (\$130/MT) from previous week's average and prices are expected to remain relatively stable in the coming week.

For **Maize**, the markets showed relative stability. In Dar es Salaam market, prices went down marginally by 0.2% (\$1/MT)

indicative of increase in supplies of the commodity. In Iringa, prices went down by \$1/MT and the same margin was also realised in Mbeya. Supply of the commodity is low in the markets therefore, prices are expected to remain high in the coming week.

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



CONCLUSION

- Prices of staples are still on a downward trend in Burundi and Rwanda markets due to increase in supply from season A crop. In Burundi, taxes on food imports has been removed and this will lead to further reduction in prices in the coming weeks. Tanzania is still in the lean season and prices of key commodities are still high.
- In Kenya and Uganda, the demand for beans is on the rise with the approaching Long rains in Kenya and the North season in Uganda, subsistence farmers are buying seeds in preparation for the rains.

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