

This report shows market activities across the East Africa region's selected primary grain markets from **27th February to 3rd 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: African countries are yet to agree on the liberalisation of markets as proposed in a draft for the formation of Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA). Trade, Customs and Monetary Affairs at Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) director Francis Mangani warned that the delay to resolve the contentious issues will see countries fail to meet the October 2017 deadline.

Kenya: Expensive food and fuel lifted Inflation to a four year high last month as the cost of living measure rose above the government's target for the first time since January last year. Inflation jumped to 9.04 per cent in February from 6.99 per cent a month earlier, data from the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) shows.

Rwanda: The process of revising standards for nine staple foods in the region will be completed and gazetted by October, standards bodies and experts from the five East African Community member states said. It was announced during a regional meeting aimed at gathering public views on standards on the newly proposed standards. The move is

aimed to promote structured trading systems of the selected foods to ensure consumer safety. The five-day meeting is hosted by Rwanda Standards Board and was convened by EAC Secretariat with support from East Africa Grain Council (EAGC) and other partners.

Uganda: At least 10.9 million Ugandans are facing acute food insecurity with the country risking real disaster should the first planting season rains fail, reveals a new report. The National Food Security Assessment Report for January 2017, compiled by an Inter-ministerial team, says the number of food-insecure Ugandans may rise to 11.4 million by this month.

Tanzania: Tanzania Agricultural Development Bank (TADB) committed to allocate 600m for empowering women through CAWAT. "The inputs that include tractors will be provided to women groups interested and ready to practise modern farming through CAWAT. Further, the beneficiaries will be assured of reliable markets for their produce," said Mr Ole Nasha who contributed 2m at the event. On his part, the TADB's Acting Managing Director, Francis Assenga,

BURUNDI

	Maize		Rice		Yellow Beans	
	Previous	Current	Previous	Current	Previous	Current
Bujumbura	953	818	1230	1092	1305	1157
Gitega	720	719	1380	1346	1140	1187
Ngozi			1305	1147	1200	1067

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

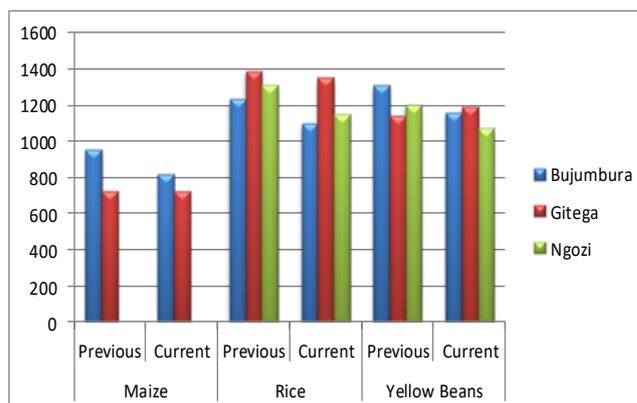
Previous: Week ending 24th, February 2017 Current: Week ending 3rd, March 2017.

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 went down significantly by 14 (\$135/MT) suggestive of increase in supply of the commodity to the market. In Gitega market, there was a marginal drop of \$1/MT from previous week's closing average. Supplies to the markets have increased considerably from stocks realised from season A crop.

For **Yellow beans**, prices went down in Bujumbura significantly by 11% (\$148/MT) and in Gitega, there was marginal gain of 4% (\$47/MT) from last week's closing average. Ngozi market lost value by 11% (\$133/MT) and field reports indicate increase in supply from production areas such as Kirundo and Muyinga. Prices are expected to go down in the coming weeks.

Rice: Reports from the monitored markets show the price of rice has decreased in the markets. In Bujumbura, prices went down 11% (\$138/MT) and in Ngozi, there was a 12% (\$158/MT) loss from the previous week's closing average. Gitega market recorded a marginal decline of 2% (\$34/MT). Reports from our monitor have noted increase in supply of the commodity especially from imports., therefore, prices are expected to go down going forward.

EAGC RATIN Market monitor noted low demand for grains was prevalent last week in Gitega market and it affected the prices negatively.



R W A N D A

Table 2: Summary Average wholesale Grain prices in Rwanda

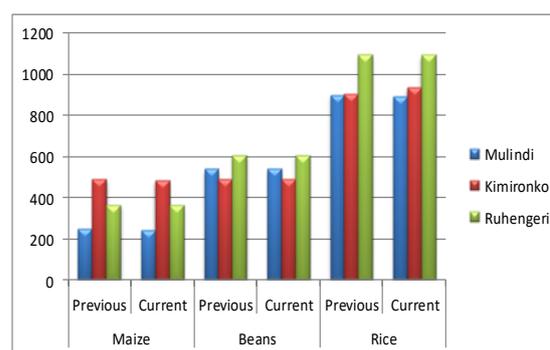
Weekly average wholesale grain prices in Rwanda(USD/MT)						
	Maize		Beans		Rice	
	Previous	Current	Previous	Current	Previous	Current
Mulindi	252	242	540	540	900	892
Kimironko	490	484	491	491	903	935
Ruhengeri	365	365	608	607	1095	1093

Previous: Week ending 24th, February 2017 Current: Week ending 3rd, March 2017.

Reports from EAGC RATIN monitored markets showed the price of **beans** remained stable in Mulindi market and in Ruhengeri , a marginal decline of \$1/MT was realised from last week's closing average. Kimironko market remained stable over the past two weeks indicative of equilibrium. The supplies to the markets are sufficient and prices are expected to go down in the coming weeks.

For **rice**, prices have gone down marginally in Mulindi and Ruhengeri markets. In Mulindi, prices went down by 0.8% (\$8/MT) whereas, in Ruhengeri, prices increased marginally by 0.4% (\$4/MT). Ruhengeri still has the highest prices among the monitored markets. Prices are expected to go down as supplies are anticipated to increase.

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



For **Maize**, prices remained unchanged in Ruhengeri with an equilibrium observed in the past two weeks. Other markets recorded decline, in Kimironko prices went down marginally by 1% (\$6/MT) whereas, in Mulindi there was a 6% (\$10/MT) loss from last week's closing prices. The prices have gone down in the markets seasonably due to harvests realised from Season A crop.

U G A N D A

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

Previous: Week ending 24th, February 2017 Current: Week ending 3rd, March 2017.

Reports from EAGC RATIN monitored markets show the

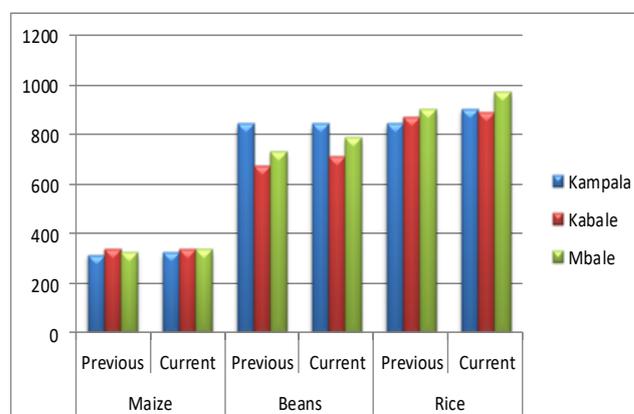
Weekly average wholesale grain prices in Uganda (USD/MT)						
	Maize		Beans		Rice	
	Previous	Current	Previous	Current	Previous	Current
Kampala	324	341	846	858	902	956
Kabale	338	345	712	718	885	845
Mbale	336	371	788	759	973	985

price of **Maize** prices increased considerably in Kampala and Mbale by 5% (\$17/MT) and 10.4% (\$35/MT) respectively. In Kabale, the market was relatively stable with a marginal increase of 2% (\$7/MT) noted from last week's closing average. Prices are still expected to increase due to tightened supplies to the markets .

The price of **beans** was relatively stable in Kampala as a marginal gain of 1.4% (\$12/MT) realised from last week's closing average. Kabale market also recorded slight gain from previous week's average at 0.8% (\$6/MT). Mbale market lost 3.6% (\$29/MT) suggestive of increased supplies to the markets. Prices are expected prices are expected to be relatively stable in the coming weeks.

Rice showed relative gains from previous week's closing averages in Kampala and Mbale markets. Kampala had a 5.9% (\$54/MT) increase whereas, Mbale had a slight gain of 1.2% (\$12/MT). In Kabale, prices went down by 4.5% (\$40/MT). Stocks from the December harvest are diminishing and prices expected to increase marginally in the coming weeks.

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	413	413	1377	1379	846	852
Nairobi	423	435	1131	1134		
Kisumu	430	492	1094	1132	762	837
Nakuru	349	360	700	697	639	639

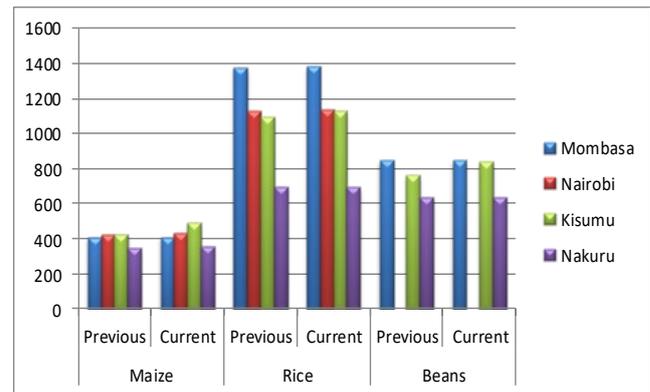
Previous: Week ending 24th, February 2017 Current: Week ending 3rd, March 2017.

The price of **maize** remained stable in Mombasa. Other markets recorded gains with Kisumu having the highest increase at 14.4% (\$62/MT). Nairobi and Kisumu had marginal gains of 2.8% (\$12/MT) and 3.1% (\$11/MT) respectively. The country is in a dire situation as deficits have been reported. Some market in Northern Kenya are not functional as a result of lack of the commodity. Prices are expected to go up in the coming weeks.

The price of **beans** is still stable in Nakuru market whereas, other markets recorded gains. In Kisumu, prices went up by 9.8% (\$75/MT) and in Mombasa, a marginal gain of 0.7% (\$6/MT) was recorded. The demand could be attributed to tightening supplies as stocks from the main season have diminished.

For the second week running, **Rice** prices increased marginally in Mombasa, Nairobi and Kisumu. Mombasa still has the highest prices among the monitored markets. Kisumu had a marginal gain of 3.4% (\$28/MT) whereas, Nairobi and Mombasa markets had 0.2% (\$2/MT) and 0.1% (\$2/MT) respectively. Prices will increase in the coming weeks as deficits of key commodities were realised in the 2016/17 crop calendar.

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	593	593	821	820	524	524
Mbeya	480	479			365	364
Iringa	697	692	912	912	457	456

Previous: Week ending 24th, December 2017 Current: Week ending 3rd, March 2017.

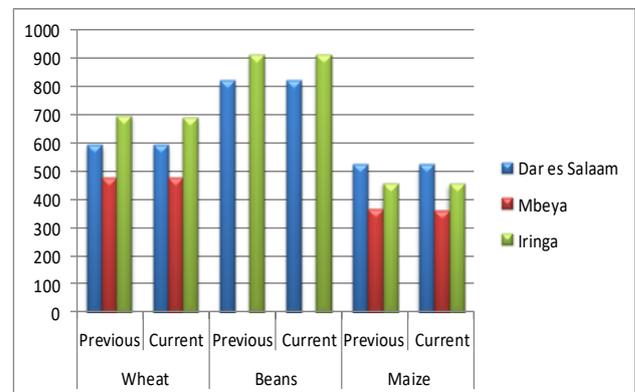
Maize, Beans, and Rice: Table 1 shows summary average wholesale prices of grain in three Tanzania markets in the past two weeks.

The wholesale price for **Maize** was at equilibrium in Dar es Salaam market and recorded the highest prices at \$524/MT among the monitored markets. In Mbeya there was a marginal drop of 0.2% (\$1/MT) from last week's closing average. Iringa also recorded a drop of \$1/MT. The market was relatively stable indicative of adequate supplies to the markets.

The price of **Beans** remained unchanged in Iringa and in Dar es Salaam, prices were relatively stable with a decrease of 0.1% (\$1/MT) realised from last week's closing average. The price of the product is expected to go up in the coming weeks following tightened supplies as a result of below average production of the *vuli* crop the country is in the lean period of production.

For **Wheat**, the price has been stable in Dar es Salaam and Mbeya markets. In Iringa market, prices decreased marginally by 0.7% (\$5/MT) and Mbeya market had a \$1/MT loss from last week's closing average. The prices are expected to go down in the coming weeks.

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



CONCLUSION

- From this week's report, markets in Rwanda and Burundi are experiencing increased supplies of the food staples as a result, prices have gone down. Prices are expected to go down in the coming week.
- In Uganda and Kenya, prices have increased considerably for maize, there is need to import from the global market as surplus producing countries such as Tanzania have projected shortfalls in the 2016/17 crop season.

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