



EAST AFRICA GRAIN MARKETS AND TRADE

January Report, Issued on 15th February 2018. Issue no. 0002

Highlights

Burundi: Carry forward stocks from 2017C crop and inbound 2018A harvest has eased the pressure of demand on the grains. Currently, the country has minimal household food stress with increased availability of commodity and prices are expected to decrease in February.

Kenya: Wholesale staple food prices have dropped seasonally with the long season harvests and imports from the neighboring countries. There was increased cross-border trade through the western trade corridor with cheaper maize sources from the eastern markets of Uganda.

Tanzania: The country is in the lean season however, prices remain atypically stable as traders are releasing grains to farmers in preparation of Msimu season in the Southern region. In the Northern zone, wholesale prices of staples are expected to go down in February with inbound harvest from the Vuli season.

Uganda: Staple food prices have decreased significantly with second season harvest. January wholesale prices are below last year's but above the three-year average for most commodities. With improved stocks, prices are expected to remain relatively stable in the coming month.

Rwanda: Staple grain prices have declined seasonally heading into the 2018A harvest. However, prices are above the three-year average, however, expected to go down in February as stocks realized this season are above-average.

Contents

1.0 Regional Markets Overview.....	1
1.1 Informal Cross Border Trade.....	1
2.0 East African Grain Markets....	2
2.1 Kenya.....	2
2.2 Rwanda.....	3
2.3 Uganda.....	4
2.4 Tanzania.....	5
2.5 Burundi.....	6

1.0 Regional Markets Overview

Generally, prices have dropped in the urban markets. This seasonal decline was occasioned by new stocks realized from Uganda, Rwanda, and Burundi who are currently in the harvest phase. In January, most of the outflows from Uganda were attracted by relatively higher prices in Kenya resulting from low opening stocks from previous year below average production, end of duty-free international maize imports and the associated increase in flour prices in December 2017. Bujumbura offered the highest price in maize with the diminishing value of the local currency against the dollar coupled with an unfavorable macroeconomic environment. Kampala offered the lowest price at 193 USD/MT. Rice prices dropped in the markets with sufficient stocks in the global market. Beans prices went up in selected urban markets as schools opened for the 1st term.

Table 1: Wholesale prices in East Africa (USD/MT).

Commodity	Location	Dec 2017	Jan 2018	% change	
Maize	Nairobi	399	394	-5(-1.3%)	▼
	Kampala	197	193	-5(-2.0%)	▼
	Dar es Sal.	315	301	-14(-4.4%)	▼
	Kigali	283	242	-41(-14.5%)	▼
	Bujumbura	577	457	-20(-20.8%)	▼
Rice	Nairobi	1820	1726	-94(-5.2%)	▼
	Kampala	981	926	-55(-5.6%)	▼
	Mulindi-Kigali	895	895	0(0.0%)	—
	Bujumbura	1154	1139	-15(-1.3%)	▼
Red Sorghum	Nairobi	738	710	-28(-3.8%)	▼
	Kampala	300	247	-53(-17.7%)	▼
	Dar es Sal.	360	358	-2(-0.6%)	▼
	Mulindi-Kigali	447	386	-61(-13.6%)	▼
	Bujumbura	696	638	-58(-8.3%)	▼
Wheat	Nairobi	647	650	3(0.5%)	▲
	Dar es Sal.	540	551	11(2.0%)	▲
	Mulindi-Kigali	560	552	-8(-1.4%)	▼
	Bujumbura	921	894	27(2.9%)	▲
Mixed beans	Nairobi	825	720	-105(-12.7%)	▼
	Kampala	451	555	104(23.1%)	▲
	Dar es Sal.	714	778	64(9%)	▲
	Mulindi-Kigali	509	404	-105(-20.6%)	▼
	Bujumbura	573	429	-144(-25.1%)	▼

1.1 Informal Cross-Border Trade


Kenya was the main destination for maize and Beans. Maize trade in the Kenyan Western trade corridors from Uganda was on a precipitous ascend. Exports from Uganda increased by 78%; a 13% increase from the three-year average. This increase was due to the average 2nd rain season harvest coupled with the attractive prices offered in the Kenyan Urban markets. There was an increase in Maize trade from Tanzania in Kenya. Uganda was the main destination for beans from Rwanda with the ongoing 2018A harvest. Tanzania was the principal rice exporter in January. A general increase in trade was observed in the trade corridors with most countries harvesting hence sufficient tradeable surplus in the region.

Table 2: Informal Cross Border trade by source and destination country in MT from EAGC RATIN monitored Borders


Commodity	Source	Destination	Dec 2017	Jan 2018	% Change
Maize	Uganda	Rwanda	5483.6	6931.1	26.4% ▲
	Uganda	Kenya	25,779.56	46,010.03	78.5% ▲
	Tanzania	Kenya	1106	6294	469% ▲
	Uganda	Tanzania	540	80	-85.2% ▼
	Rwanda	DRC	1240.8	1437.5	15.9% ▲
	Zambia	Tanzania	3987	2501	-37.3% ▼
Mixed Beans	Uganda	DRC	2602.77	403.6	-84.5% ▼
	Rwanda	Uganda	1042.5	4855.2	365.7% ▲
	Uganda	Rwanda	375.6	-	-
	Uganda	Kenya	13010.41	9037.81	-30.5% ▼
Millet	Uganda	Kenya	8890.76	6568.62	-26.1% ▼
	Tanzania	Kenya	97	34	-64.9% ▼
	Zambia	Tanzania	116	66	-43.1% ▼
	Uganda	Rwanda	0.8	1.2	50% ▲
Wheat	Rwanda	DRC	906.5	-	-
	DRC	Rwanda	21.58	48.3	123.8% ▲
	Kenya	Rwanda	2874	2420.8	-15.8% ▼
Rice	Tanzania	Rwanda	3838.3	3612.4	-5.9% ▼
	Tanzania	Uganda	123.3	1.8	-98.5% ▼
	Rwanda	DRC	1350	1234	-8.6% ▼
	Tanzania	Zambia	1339	348	-74% ▼
	Tanzania	Kenya	126	87	-31% ▼
	DRC	Uganda	146.3	28.81	-80.3% ▼
Red Sorg.	Uganda	Kenya	3019.05	3173.68	5.1% ▲
	Uganda	Rwanda	4050.3	4428.3	9.3% ▲
	Tanzania	Uganda	1339	474	-69.6% ▼
	Tanzania	Kenya	48	140	191.7% ▲
G.Nuts	Uganda	Rwanda	927.5	0	-
	Rwanda	DRC	9.04	0	-
	Tanzania	Uganda	779	237.2	-69.6% ▼
	Tanzania	Kenya	60	33	-45% ▼


2.0 East African Grain Markets

2.1 Kenya

 Most markets eased in price with adequate stocks from the concluded long rains harvest and sustained supply from imports within the region. Imports through the western corridor increased by 44% (46,010.03MT in January) due to better prices offered by Ugandan markets. In Nairobi's Nyamakima market, prices averaged Kes 35/kg in January, a 14.3% decrease from December's prices. Traders reported adequate stocks with maize from Narok attracting higher prices (Kes 41/Kg) and maize from Uganda trading at Kes 30/Kg. In Mombasa, there was a significant gain of 15.2% as supplies from Tanzania and Kwale County tightened. It was noted that since the cessation of the maize subsidy program, the demand for maize had increased atypically in Kongowea market but expected to go down in the coming

month as traders are sourcing the commodity from Uganda. In Eldoret town, farmers offloaded stocks to the Cereal Board and private millers to address immediate financial needs such as school fees and schools were opening. In January, the National Cereals and Produce Board was purchasing a 90kg bag at Kes 3,200, whereas at the market, the commodity was trading at Kes 2610/90Kg in the Eldoret's central market. In the North and Central rift, stocks were reported to be adequate; farmgate prices were as low as Kes 1800/Kg with farmers preferring to sell to intermediaries who are paying in cash upfront. In February, supply is expected to be adequate in the markets, therefore, prices are forecasted to decline marginally.

 In January, the price of red beans increased significantly in Eldoret (12.4% from previous month). Demand was sustained by learning institutions opening for the new academic year; in January, the commodity was imported from Uganda and locally, it was procured from Marakwet county. Prices were generally on a decline in the other monitored markets; in Mombasa's Kongowea market, traders reported demand to have slightly gone down, therefore prices eased marginally. In Kibuye market, supply from Busia and Malaba was reported to have decreased, and this was reflective by a 44% decrease in informal cross-border trade volumes. Prices in upper eastern were on a decline as harvest from short rains eased pressure on demand however, supply is expected to decline as bean crop did not perform owing to lack of rain in December when most pulses were at flowering stage.

 Sorghum: The demand for sorghum was reported to be high in Nyamakima market; the commodity is processed for porridge flour, which usually has high demand among the health conscious urban dwellers. Prices were favorable in Uganda's eastern markets (about Kes 20-25/kg) therefore attracting traders as manifested by a 4.9% (3,173.68MT in Jan) increase in informal trade from Uganda. In Kisumu, prices stabilized at Kes 35/Kg with field reports indicating supply through Busia and Malaba borders increasing, therefore stocks remain sufficient. Prices are expected to remain stable in the monitored markets as regional supply is adequate.



 Rice: The price of the commodity was on declined in Nairobi, Kisumu, and Eldoret. Last month's peak in prices was as a result of Christmas festivities and in January. In Nairobi, prices of local rice (*Pishori*) was trading at about Kes 176/Kg in January, a 35.6% increase compared to last year's prices. In Mombasa stocks were reported to have tightened for local *pishori* variety with supply from Mwea decreasing seasonally as the region harvested 35,000MT last year, a 41% decrease from 2016 production. With stocks of local variety decreasing, demand for the local variety was substituted by aromatic basmati rice from Thailand and Pakistan. The supply of imported variety was reported to be adequate with the commodity trading at almost half the price of the local variety. In Eldoret, prices slumped by 15.3% as demand eased, a similar trend was noted in Kisumu. In Kibuye market, rice imports are primarily from Tanzania through Isebania border; in January, 87MT passed informally through the border point, and this was a 31% decline from December's volumes. Prices of imported variety are expected to remain relatively in the coming month with supply is reported to be adequate in the markets.


Table 3: Wholesale prices of grains in selected markets in Kenya (Kes/Kg).

	Nairobi		Mombasa		Eldoret		Nakuru	
	Jan Prices	% change from Dec.	Jan Prices	% change from Dec.	Jan Prices	% change from Dec.	Jan Prices	% change from Dec.
Maize	35	-5(-14.3%) ▼	33	5(15.2%) ▲	29	1(-3.4%) ▼	27	-1(-3.7%) ▼
Imp. rice	79	-1(-1.3%) ▼	80	6(7.5%) ▲	124	-9(-15.3%) ▼	71	0(0.0%) ▬
Red Beans	82	-5(-6.1%) ▼	59	-1(-1.7%) ▼	89	11(12.4%) ▲	67	8(9.0%) ▲
Red Sorghum	74	1(1.4%) ▲	42	-3(-7.1%) ▼	47	0(0.0%) ▬	43	0(0.0%) ▬
Millet	66	-8(-12.1%) ▼	100	0(0.0%) ▬	109	7(6.4%) ▲	86	-3(-3.5%) ▼
Green Grams	98	0(0.0%) ▬	80	0(0.0%) ▬	130	6(4.6%) ▲	103	6(5.8%) ▲


	Kisumu		Meru		Makueni	
	Jan Prices	% change from Dec.	Jan Prices	% change	Jan Prices	% change from Dec.
Maize	35	0(0.0%) ▬	27	-1(-3.7%) ▼	29	-2(6.9%) ▼
Imp. Rice	104	15(14.4%) ▲				
Red beans	70	2(2.9%) ▲	60	-4(6.7%) ▼	76	1(1.3%) ▲
Red Sorghum	35	0(0.0%) ▬	49	-1(2.0%) ▼		
Millet	89	1(-1.1%) ▼	73	-2(-2.7%) ▼		
Green Grams	86	8(9.3%) ▲	66	1(1.5%) ▲	75	-25(33.3%) ▼

2.2 Rwanda

 Early 2018A harvest in the Eastern and Northern province has eased pressure on demand as prices have gone down in the production zones. In Ruhengeri, though supply was reported to be low however, a 52.3% decline recorded from previous month's averages. The decline was occasioned by improvement in stocks of Irish potatoes in the region which is the preferred by many households compared to maize. In the border market of Rubavu, volatility of the Rwf to the dollar led to price movements as traders were sourcing the commodity from Goma market in the DRC. With improving supply from DRC, prices declined by 4.8% as the commodity was trading at Rwf 289/kg. In Ruhuha market, prices had gone down by 25.9% with adequate supply supported by the ongoing harvest; therefore, prices are expected to go down in the coming month. In Kigali's Mulindi market, quality was noted to influence prices with maize from Nyagatare being cheaper compared to Ngoma and Koyanza as the former, had higher moisture content. In Byumba district, field reports from Gicumbi showed supply improved with early harvest from the region; about 20% of maize has been harvested with 40% at maturity stage with the rest yet to mature. Therefore, significant volumes are expected from the district in February hence, prices will go down.

 Harvest of rice has already commenced in the northern district and expected to intensify in February. Price of the short grain (*Kigoli*) variety has dropped marginally in most of the monitored markets but expected to decrease precipitously in February with inbound stocks from Kirehe and Bugarama regions. Harvested rice from Byumba district is already trading in Kigali's Mulindi market with prices observed to be relatively stable. Informal flows from Tanzania have decreased by 6.3% (3,612.4 MT in January) in-

dicative of improving prospects in supply in the markets. Imported varieties fetched higher prices in the markets with basmati from Pakistan trading at about Rwf 930/kg in the monitored markets. It was noted that *buryohe* aromatic variety from the eastern province attracted higher prices in the markets and prices are projected to decrease in February with harvest easing demand pressure.

 Supply increased with the 2018A season harvest. Red beans recorded a decline of about 19% in Mulindi and Kamembe as stocks remained sufficient. In Musanze district, prices remained high with the commodity trading at Rwf 860/Kg in Ruhengeri market, a 8.3% decrease from the previous month's average. Demand for the commodity is high in Uganda as traders were stocking and this was reflected by an increase of 78.5% of volumes crossing through Cyanika and Gatuna border. In Kigali's Kimironko market, supply from Rwamagana, Kayonza, and Kumi remained steady all through the month though demand was reported to be slightly low. Prices are expected to decrease marginally in the coming month as supplies are reported to be adequate.



 The production of sorghum has declined significantly over the past five years as it is not considered as a strategic staple in the crop intensification program implemented by the government. Therefore, it is grown on small-scale with significant quantities imported from Uganda. Increase in supply from the second south harvest in Uganda has pushed prices downwards. In Ruhengeri, prices went down by 43.1% in January, about 2,289 MT of red sorghum crossed over through the northern district into the markets. Prices will plunge at the peak of harvest.


Table 4: Wholesale Prices of Grain in selected markets in Rwanda (Rwf/Kg)

	Ruhengeri		Ruhuha		Kamembe		Mulindi	
	Jan Prices	% change from Dec.	Jan Prices	% change from Dec.	Jan Prices	% change from Dec.	Jan Prices	% change from Dec.
Maize	241	-126(-52.3%) ▼	270	-70(-25.9%) ▼	288	-79(-27.4%) ▼	203	-34(-16.7%) ▼
Rice (Kigoli)	860	-42(-4.9%) ▼	721	-2(-0.3%) ▼	738	12(1.6%) ▲	750	-1(0.1%) ▼
Red Beans	555	-56(-8.3%) ▼	369	-32(-8.7%) ▼	368	-73(-19.8%) ▼	348	-67(-19.3%) ▼
Red Sorghum	315	136(43.2%) ▲	387	-23(-5.9%) ▼	403	-10(-2.5%) ▼	324	-51(-15.7%) ▼
Millet	645	44(6.8%) ▲	647	36(5.6%) ▲			460	-6(-1.3%) ▼
Wheat							463	-7(-1.5%) ▼


	Kimironko		Rubavu	
	Jan Prices	% change from Dec.	Jan Prices	% change from Dec.
Maize	411	11(2.7%) ▲	289	-14(-4.8%) ▼
Rice (Kigoli)	817	15(1.8%) ▲		
Red Beans	622	6(1.0%) ▲		
Red Sorghum	448	4(0.9%) ▲	389	-0(0.0%) ▬
Millet	875	-3(-0.3%) ▼	570	-20(-3.5%) ▼
Wheat	549	-1(-0.2%) ▼	688	-42(-6.1%) ▼

2.3 Uganda

 Prices have remained relatively stable in Kampala, Lira, and Busia with variance of -2.3% and 1% from December's prices. The commodity was above the three-year average (2014-2016) in Kampala by 12%, however lower by Ugx 432/kg compared to last year's prices. This year, grain quality was reported to have improved in the markets though prices are low. A daily turnover of about 1,500MT was recorded at the Busia border market whereas, in Kampala's Kisenyi millers market, offloads averaged 1200MT daily. Maize from Kiboga, Busoga, and Mbale was of good quality, therefore, trading averagely at Ugx.700/kg however; stocks sourced from Sebei was sold at Ugx 650/Kg. In Kampala, steady supply of the commodity pushed prices down marginally by 2%. On the contrary, northern markets had tightened supply with a gain of 13.7% recorded in Gulu. In the west, Kasese market had a 14.1% increase with local supply reported to be on the decline; this was attributed to abandonment of maize for cotton crop by smallholder farmers in the region. In Masindi, farm gate prices range between Ugx 500-620/Kg and most seed companies had not purchased maize from farmers; with adequate supply, prices remained relatively stable at 1.4%. Prices are expected to increase marginally in the coming month.

 The price of all beans varieties increased considerably in the monitored markets. Supply from the production areas has tightened as the last season crop development was adversely affected by depressed rainfall at the critical flowering stage. As a result, low quality of the yellow and nambale beans was a concern to traders and consumers in the markets. Among the monitored markets, Kampala had the highest gain of 26.6% (Ugx 2616/Kg in Jan) with the shortfall complemented by supply from the eastern region and imports from Rwanda. In Masindi, prices of mixed beans went up by 17.3% due to diminishing stocks with reports indicating yellow and nabe beans supplies were favorable com-

pared to other varieties. In January, the southern and western markets benefitted from Rwanda's 2018A season harvest of beans as a 78.5% (4855.2MT in Jan) increase in volumes was recorded through EAGC RATIN monitored borders. In February, prices are expected to remain high as schools are opening for the first term. Therefore demand will increase as the commodity is consumed a lot by institutions.

 Relative stability was observed with demand reported to have eased compared to last month's peak during Christmas festivities. Tororo market had a significant drop of 29.6% with adequate stocks reported in the market. Last year, traders increased stocks in November in anticipation of an increase in demand; however, the turnover in December was low; with a decline in demand in January, prices plunged southwards in Tororo market. In Kampala, the price of Kaiso (Sindani) variety had a marginal drop of 0.8% with stocks reported to be adequate. In Kasese, imports from Kisangani region in the DRC decreased significantly indicative of low demand in the western markets. The same scenario was observed in Mutukula border as imports from Tanzania shrunk considerably. Prices are expected to remain relatively stable as supply from international market is adequate. Price change will be influenced by the strength of the Ugx to the dollar.


 Supply has tightened in most producing areas with demand increasing from Kenyan and Rwandan. Consequently, prices have increased in the eastern markets. In Busia, sorghum prices in January were at Ugx 1826/Kg compared to December's Ugx 1771/Kg. Since sorghum is not grown extensively in Rwanda, the demand for red sorghum from Uganda has increased and its primarily used to prepare local brew (*ikigage*). In the central markets, demand was reported to be low in Lira, Owino, and Kisenyi with prices expected to remain relatively stable in the coming month.


Table 5: Wholesale Prices of Grains in selected markets in Uganda (Ugx/Kg)

	Kampala			Lira			Busia		Gulu			
	Jan Prices	% change from Dec.		Jan Prices	% change from Dec.		Jan Prices	% change from Dec.	Jan Prices	% change from Dec.		
Maize	701	-16(-2.3%)	▼	696	7(1.0%)	▲	773	-12(-1.6%)	▼	695	95(13.7%)	▲
Rice	3542	-27(-0.8%)	▼	3555	213(6.0%)	▲				2514	479(18.3%)	▲
Mixed Beans	2616	696(26.6%)	▲	2123	186(8.8%)	▲	1826	55(3.0%)	▲			
Sorghum	896	164(-18.3%)	▲	649	-126(-19.4%)	▼	863	103(11.9%)	▲	735	128(17.4%)	▲
Millet	1800	-180(-10.0%)	▼	1579	32(2.0%)	▲	1835	47(2.6%)	▲	1657	108(5.9%)	▲
Soya Beans	1330	43(3.2%)	▲	1295	269(20.8%)	▲	1401	84(6.0%)	▲	1099	-8(-0.7%)	▼

	Tororo			Kasese			Masindi		
	Jan Prices	% change from Dec.		Jan Prices	% change from Dec.		Jan Prices	% change from Prices	
Maize	729	62(8.5%)	▲	885	125(14.1%)	▲	659	9(1.4%)	▲
Rice	2671	791(-29.6%)	▼	3673	369(10.0%)	▲	2937	-287(-9.8%)	▼
Mixed Beans	1871	116(6.2%)	▲	2318	123(5.3%)	▲	2283	394(17.3%)	▲
Red Sorghum	849	45(5.3%)	▲	1360	-367(-27.0%)	▼	1382	-235(-17.0)	▼
Millet	1694	104(6.1%)	▲	2214	89(4.0%)	▲	2119	-348(-16.4)	▼
Soya Beans	1303	35(2.7%)	▲	2632	83(3.2%)	▲	1436	-244(-17.0%)	▼

2.4 Tanzania

 In the northern markets of Arusha, the price of maize was at Tsh 549/kg, this was a 49% decrease from last year's prices; however, higher by 13% from the three-year average. Similarly, Dar es Salaam's Tandale market recorded a decline from last year's prices, a 40% lower compared to last year's prices. In January however, prices went up significantly by 33.8% with the commodity trading at Tsh 672/Kg. In Iringa, prices remained relatively stable with field reports indicating adequate stocks in the markets. Households in the region are food secure as much of their produce was not offloaded to the markets last year due to the ban on exports, however, with increasing need for agricultural inputs for the Msimu season, farmers are selling their produce to traders. Trade from Zambia through Tunduma border has eased by 59% as a result of diminishing supplies from the country. In the central region, prices were reported to be relatively stable with 0.7% decrease from last month's averages recorded in Kibaigwa market. Vuli crop has not had a significant impact on markets prices; therefore, a marginal increase is expected in the coming month, as the country will be in the lean period.

 In the southern markets, traders released hoarded stocks to enable farmers to prepare for the msimu season; in Iringa market, there was a 2.1% decrease in prices of yellow beans. However, soya beans had low demand with adequate stock reported in the market. In Dar es Salaam, prices remained stable with field reports indicating weak demand for the commodity in the markets. Prices are above the three-year average by 10.3% and 8.4% from 2017 January's average. In Mbeya, the demand for the commodity pushed prices upwards by 16.5%. In the coming month, prices are expected to go up marginally.



 In January, prices were stable in Dar es Salaam and Iringa. A look at the informal cross-border trade shows a decline in volumes traded with neighboring countries indicative of low regional demand. In Dar es Salaam, rice from Mbeya region attracted better prices at about Tshs 1800- 2500/Kg whereas, rice from Morogoro was trading at Tsh 1800-2000/Kg. Late last year, supply was reported to be high as farmers and traders were releasing stocks to maximize returns from the surge in demand during Christmas festivities, however, there was a down trend in demand in January. Iringa market being a significant source of the commodity for markets in the north, demand saw prices increase marginally by 1.06% with traders reporting stocks were still adequate. Prices are expected to go up in January with sustained demand from neighboring countries.

Table 6: Wholesale Prices of Grains in selected markets in Tanzania(Tsh/Kg)

	Dar es Salaam			Iringa			Mbeya		Dodoma	
	Jan Prices	% change from Dec.		Jan Prices	% change from Dec.		Jan Prices	% change from Dec.	Jan Prices	% change from Dec.
Maize	672	227(33.8%) ▲	400	-77(-19.3%) ▼	350	0(0.0%) ▬	422	-3(-0.7%) ▼		
Mbeya Rice	2200	0(0.0%) ▬	1983	-17(-0.9%) ▼	1887	81(4.3%) ▲				
Soya Beans	1800	239(-13.3%) ▲	1801	1(0.1%) ▲	1534	166(%) ▲				
Red Sorghum	800	0(0.0%) ▬			563	13(2.3%) ▲	433	31(7.2%) ▲		
Yellow Beans	2200	0(0.0%) ▬	1928	-40(-2.1%) ▼	1800	297(16.5%) ▲				
Wheat	1231	31(2.5%) ▲	1328	9(-0.7%) ▲	850	1(-0.1%) ▼				

2.5 Burundi

 Prices in January have declined seasonally in the three monitored markets. The ongoing 2018A season harvest has replenished stocks easing the upward pressure on demand. In Bujumbura, prices went down by 8.3% (Bif 914/Kg in January) though still above the three average by 14%. In Gitega, prices were highest amongst the monitored markets with the commodity trading at Bif 959/Kg, a 28% increase from the three-year average. Compared to January last year, the food security situation has improved as January's prices are lower by 22.7%. It was reported that prices decreased with steady supply of stocks coming from Ngozi and other neighboring provinces with imports from Tanzania and Zambia. Bujumbura had a decline of 21.4 (Rwf 829/Kg in Jan) occasioned by sufficient supply and a reduction in demand for the commodity. Prices are higher by 84% from the three-year however, lower by 63% compared to last year's prices. Prices are expected to remain stable in the coming month.


 Prices declined across the three monitored markets. Red and yellow beans stocks were reported to have improved with in-bounding 2018A harvest. In Gitega markets, stocks were sourced from Kirundo Province with consumer demand reported to be strong. Prices went down in Bujumbura by 8.9% with adequate stocks reported. In the country's markets, commodities were sourced from Gashikanwa, Buye, Mivo and Ngozi. Prices of soya beans are on the rise with supply noted to have tightened in the monitored markets and expected to increase in the coming month.

Table 7: Wholesale Prices of Grains in selected markets in Burundi (Bif/Kg)

	Ngozi		Gitega		Bujumbura	
	Jan Prices	% change from Dec.	Jan Prices	% change from Dec.	Jan Prices	% change from Dec.
Maize	914	-76(-8.3%) ▼	959	41(-4.3%) ▼	829	-177(-21.4%) ▼
Rice	1361	-559(-41.1%) ▼	1855	80(4.3%) ▲	1989	-23(-1.2%) ▼
Red Sorghum	1127	17(1.5%) ▲	1014	51(-3.1%) ▼	1114	-99(-8.9%) ▼
Wheat	1849	404(21.8%) ▲	1838	243(13.2%) ▲	1997	392(19.6%) ▲
Yellow Beans	1489	114(7.7%) ▲	1878	368(19.6%) ▲	1800	325(16.5%) ▲
Soya Beans	1442	272(18.9%) ▲	1669	294(17.6%) ▲	2070	475(22.9%) ▲


 Prices decreased significantly in Ngozi by 14.1%, local rice from Karusi had lower prices compared to Cankuzo with quality being the determinant factor. This year, supply was strained and this was reflected by prices increasing by 14.5% compared to last year prices. In Gitega, rice from Tanzania gained by 4.3% with traders reporting weak consumer demand. Tanzanian rice was preferred due to its aromatic property though prices were pushed up by higher fuel cost. In Bujumbura, prices were up by 30.8% from the three-year average and in January, there was a marginal drop of 1.2% (Bif 1989/Kg in Jan) with supply remaining stable in the market. Prices are expected to go up in the coming month as Tanzania, a key source of the commodity is in a lean season.

Figure 1: Markets and Borders monitored by EAGC RATIN

