



# EASTERN AFRICA GRAIN MARKETS AND TRADE

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## Highlights

In Kenya and Uganda, prices were on an upward trend since the beginning of the year as domestic supply declined markedly. In Rwanda and Burundi, there was a marginal increase in demand with notable price gains as stocks realized from the first season harvest diminished. May prices of Maize, Beans, Rice and Sorghum were below the five-year average with variable gains observed compared to the previous month. The May to August harvest season in Tanzania is expected to improve Maize, Rice and Beans supply to the region in the near term.

**Maize:** In Uganda, price gains were unusually fast in most markets due to a decline in supply. Supply remained somewhat stable in the Southern DRC with prices stability observed in the past three months whereas in Kenya, diminishing domestic supply increased demand pressure with prices gaining significantly in most markets. In Burundi and Rwanda, slight gains were observed as stocks diminished.

**Beans:** Supply remained stable in Rwanda and Burundi in May with marginal price gains observed in the monitored markets. Trade between Uganda and Rwanda was low following the closure of key trade routes. In Kenya, there are concerns over the poor performance of the 2019 crop as crop failure was observed in the eastern and coastal agricultural regions. Prices of beans have been on an upward trend in the past two months. In Tanzania, the msimu harvest is expected to intensify in June with prices projected to decline significantly.

## Kenya

### Maize

Prices were on an upward trend since the beginning of the year as domestic and regional supply tightened (See fig. 1). In Nairobi, maize traded at USD 348/MT, a 12 percent increase from the previous month. In the maize production region of central rift valley, prices averaged USD 352/MT in Nakuru town, a 21 percent gain month-on-month whereas, in the Uasin Gishu, prices leveled at USD 333/MT in Eldoret marking a 31 percent month-on-month increase as prices increased unusually faster at this time of the year. The recent price gains were also underpinned by the poor *long-rains* season outlook which dampened expectations on supply from the current crop later in the year. Crop development earlier in the season was affected by rainfall deficits with forecasts at below average production in the southeastern part of the country, however, some recovery in production is expected southwestern production region following improved rains between mid-April and late May ([Crop Monitor](#)). Concerns over the spiralling maize meal prices and potential decline in production led to the government releasing stocks from the strategic food reserve with plans underway to import from the international market in case domestic and regional supply remains low in the coming months.

**Table 1: Average Quarterly wholesale prices of Grains in Eastern Africa (USD/MT).**

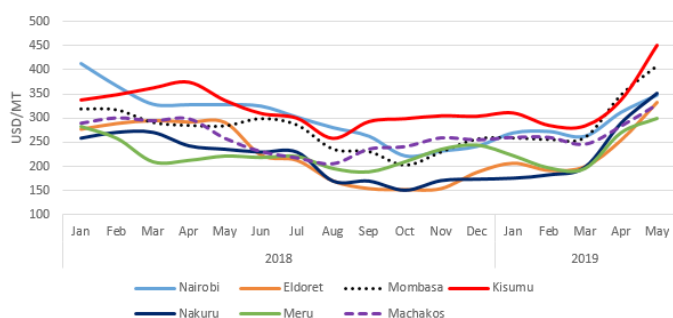
Market	Apr 2019	May 2019	Percentage Change		
			Previous Month	Same Month last year	Five-year Average
<b>Dry Beans (USD/MT)</b>					
Kigali (Rwanda)	491	481	-2 ▸	-10 ▼	-5 ▸
Nairobi (Kenya)	505	592	17 ▲	0 ▸	-30 ▼
Kampala (Uganda)	649	707	9 ▲	56 ▲	-16 ▼
Dar es Salaam (TZ)	642	693	8 ▲	-8 ▼	-23 ▼
Juba (South Sudan)	1,359	1,415	4 ▲	-24 ▼	-
Lubumbashi (DRC)	988	1,057	7 ▲	-	-
Goma (DRC)	509	537	6 ▲	-	-
Bujumbura (Burundi)	657	636	-3 ▸	28 ▲	-13 ▼
<b>Maize (USD/MT)</b>					
Kigali (Rwanda)	207	251	21 ▲	32 ▲	-27 ▼
Nairobi (Kenya)	312	348	12 ▲	6 ▲	-12 ▼
Kampala (Uganda)	292	309	6 ▲	67 ▲	-2 ▸
Dar es Salaam (TZ)	273	245	-10 ▼	-28 ▼	-34 ▼
Juba (South Sudan)	427	461	18 ▲	-27 ▼	-
Lubumbashi (DRC)	445	446	0 ▸	-	-
Goma (DRC)	307	338	10 ▲	-	-
Bujumbura (Burundi)	280	304	9 ▲	-29 ▼	-40 ▼
<b>Rice (USD/MT)</b>					
Kigali (Rwanda)	762	844	11 ▼	-8 ▼	-6 ▼
Nairobi (Kenya)	1,372	1,391	1 ▸	20 ▲	12 ▲
Kampala (Uganda)	950	986	4 ▸	-7 ▼	-3 ▸
Dar es Salaam (TZ)	840	938	12 ▲	4 ▸	3 ▸
Juba (South Sudan)	1,373	1,399	2 ▸	26 ▲	-
Goma (DRC)	917	86	-2 ▸	-	-
Bujumbura (Burundi)	941	885	-6 ▼	5 ▸	-12 ▼
<b>Red Sorghum (USD/MT)</b>					
Kigali (Rwanda)	344	408	3 ▸	19 ▲	7 ▲
Nairobi (Kenya)	457	462	-8 ▼	1 ▼	-10 ▼
Kampala (Uganda)	272	411	82 ▲	51 ▲	18 ▼
Dar es Salaam (TZ)	306	334	-2 ▸	9 ▲	-36 ▼
Juba (South Sudan)	426	445	-10 ▼	4 ▸	-
Goma	360	403	-	12 ▲	-
Bujumbura (Burundi)	492	470	-9 ▼	-5 ▼	-

The red upward-facing arrow (▲) denotes an increase of five percent or greater. The blue horizontal arrow denotes no change or changes that are smaller than five percent, and the green downward-facing arrow denotes price decreases that are five percent or greater. The three arrows respectively correspond to the percent change in prices this month compared to last month, last year, and the five-year average. The "-" symbol indicates that data are not available.

\*All crop performance information reference herein retrieved from ICPAC Crop monitor

Prices are forecasted to trend near average to above average levels in the coming months (See figure 3). Imports from Tanzania are expected to shore up supplies especially in the eastern and south-eastern regions of the country where production is projected at below average.

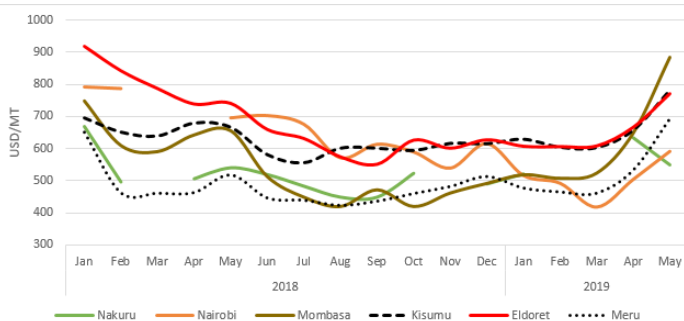
**Figure 1: Maize price trends in selected markets in Kenya, Source: EAGC RATIN.**



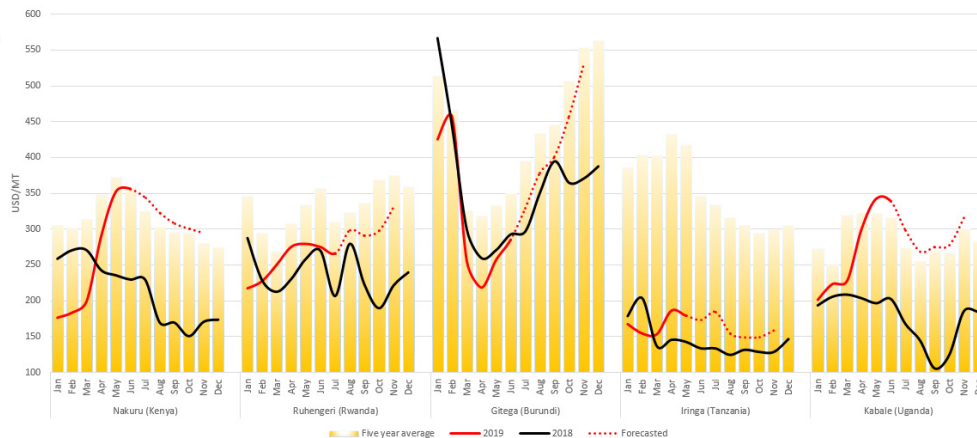
## Beans

The price of beans were well above the seasonal average and maintained an upward trend since March in the monitored markets (See fig.2). Field reports indicate that stocks were low in most markets because of low domestic supply as the harvest from short-rains season late last year was very low. In addition, imports from the region decreased significantly. Prices gained precipitously in the markets with a 17, 36, 19, 16 and 30 percent in Nairobi, Mombasa, Kisumu, Eldoret, and Meru respectively compared to the previous month. Compared to the previous year, prices were significantly higher. In central rift, the commodity averaged USD 550/MT in Nakuru and the highest price was in Kisumu (USD 885/MT). Similar to maize, imports from Tanzania and Uganda are expected to ease demand pressure in the coming months, however, prices are likely to remain elevated following shortfalls in domestic production especially in the major production region in upper eastern and most of lower eastern.

**Figure 2: Dry beans price trends in selected markets in Kenya, Source: EAGC RATIN.**



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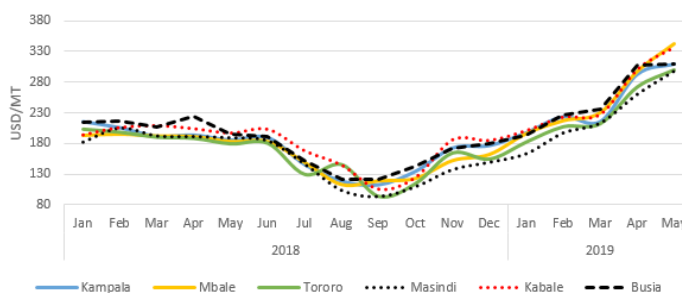


## Uganda

### Maize

Uganda's exports to the region fell to unprecedented levels with about 416.23 MT traded through the monitored trade routes. This was 98 and 97 percent lower compared to year-earlier levels and the five-year average respectively. Field reports indicate that commodity availability in the markets was low in May however, a 10 percent month-on-month decline was recorded in Kampala. Traders attributed the decrease to lower offtakes by Millers as the demand of maize meal declined following the closure of schools for holidays. Maize was trading at USD 336/MT and USD 342/MT in Kabale and Mbale, this was 12 and 15 percent increase month-on-month. In Kasese, field reports indicate that traders were operating at least storage capacity with prices leveling above the five year average by 57 percent. With potential drop in harvest resulting from delayed rains that seriously affected planting and establishment of the first season crop, there are concerns that supply will remain depressed leading to an increase in demand both domestically and regionally. With higher demand pressure, prices are expected trend above than earlier-year and the five-year average through the end of the year.

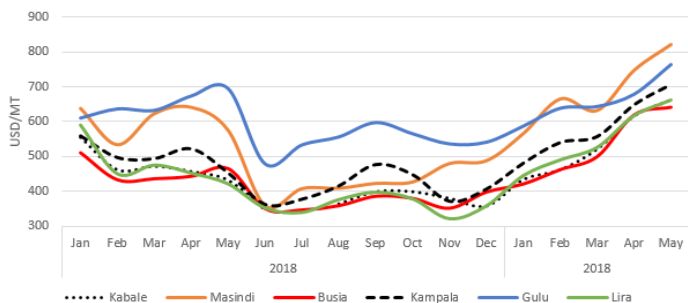
**Figure 4: Maize price trends in selected markets in Uganda, Source: EAGC RATIN.**



### Beans

Similar to maize, dry beans exports declined by 26 percent month-on-month as stocks tightened in the monitored markets. A look at the prices trends (See figure 5) shows an uncharacteristic increase in prices from the beginning of the year with the delay in harvest of the 2019 crop expected to exert more pressure on demand. In May, prices were higher than the year-earlier levels and above the five-year average in the monitored markets. Prices are expected to remain elevated in the third quarter compared to last year levels however, seasonable decline is expected as a result of inbound stocks from the first season harvest in June.

Figure 5: Beans price trends in selected markets in Uganda, Source: RATIN.



## Tanzania

### Maize

Tanzania had mixed outcomes in the maize markets. In Dar es Salaam, the commodity traded at USD 245/MT, a 10 percent decrease month-on-month with field reports indicating that traders were releasing old stocks in anticipation of new socks from the main season in the coming month. On the contrary, in the Lake region, the supply of the commodity was low resulting in an 18 percent gain month-on-month. The commodity averaged USD 231/MT, the highest amongst the northern monitored markets, however, harvest from Kagera, Geita, and Shinyanga is expected to shore up supplies later in the third quarter with production expected to be favorable. In the Southern region, reports indicated that harvest has commenced with above average output expected therefore, demand is expected to ease. In Iringa, prices increased unseasonably by 13 percent however, a downward trend is expected in the coming months following improved availability. Prices are forecasted to trend way below the five year average in the southern production markets. , Tanzania is expected to play a pivotal role in plugging eminent supply shortfalls in deficit producer countries in the region.

### Beans

According to field reports, beans prices increased marginally by 8 percent month-on-month in Dar es Salaam due to a surge in consumption during the Ramadhan festivities. In the southern region prices trended downwards with harvest pressure from the imminent *msimu* season harvest expected to significantly improve supply in the markets. In Mbeya, the commodity averaged USD 511/MT, an 11 percent decline from the previous month. In the frontier market of Tunduma, there was a marginal gain of 4 percent. In Arusha, prices increased unseasonably with 10 percent gain recorded compared to the previous month, however, the decline in prices is expected in the near term following improved availabilities from the first season crop. Prices are forecasted to trend seasonally and below the five-year average until the of year.

Figure 6: Maize price trends in selected markets in Tanzania, Source: RATIN.

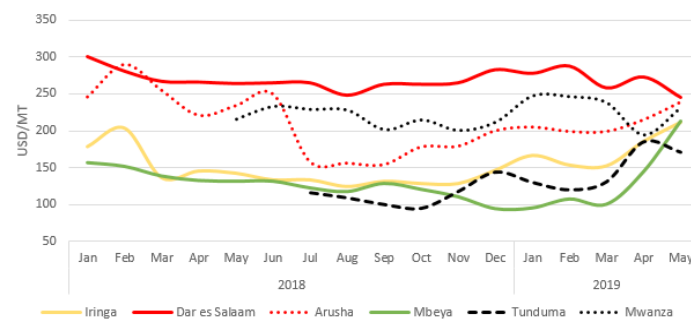
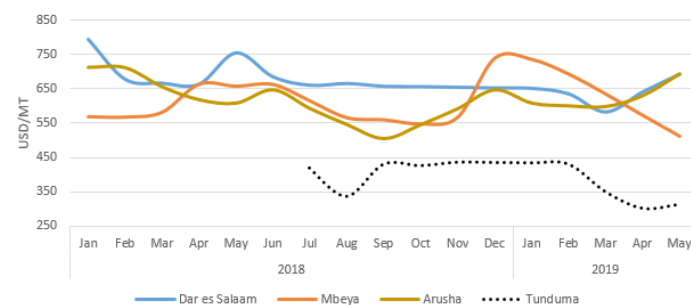


Figure 7: Beans price trends in selected markets in Tanzania, Source: RATIN.



## Rwanda

### Maize

Maize imports from the region declined significantly as trade with Uganda, the foremost trade partner interms of grain trade was affected by the restrictions in movement of people and goods since March. In May about 271.6MT was imported, marking a 90 percent decline from the five-year average. The impact of the border closure on maize markets was majorly felt in the northern markets due to the close proximity and fairly intergration with southern markets of Uganda. In Ruhengeri and Byumba, prices increased marginally as supplies through Cynika and Gatuna borders declined significantly. In Kigali's Mulindi market, prices leveled above the previous month's average by 21 percent and were above the earlier-year levels by 32 percent. Prices are expected to ease in June and July following the second season harvest which is expected to improve market supply.

Figure 8: Observed and forecated prices of Beans in selectected markets in East Africa, Source: RATIN

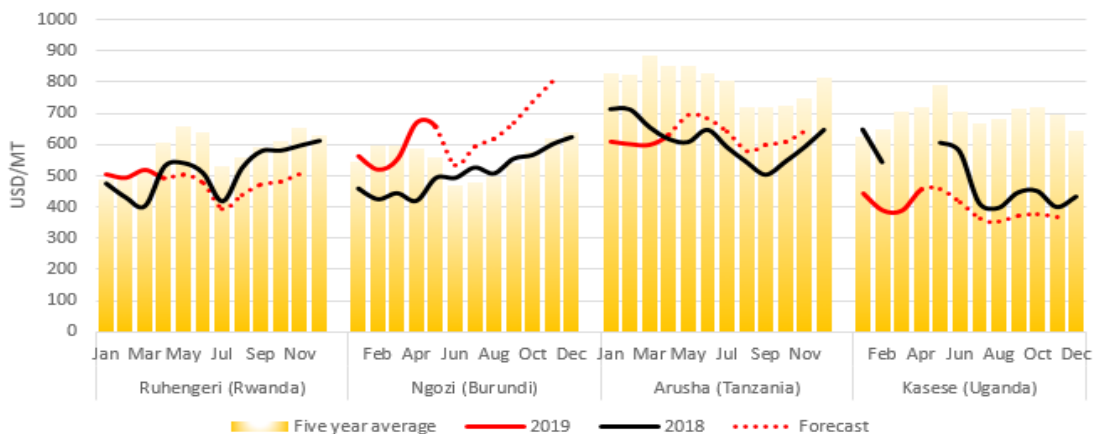
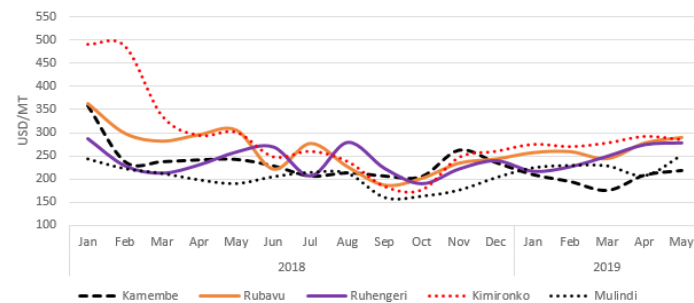


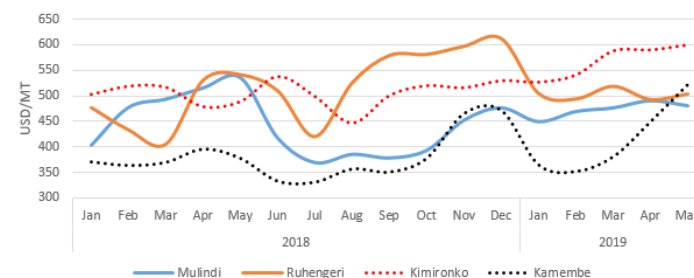
Figure 9: Maize price trends in selected markets in Rwanda, Source: RATIN.



## Beans

In the rural areas, most households were purchasing from the markets as much of the domestic stocks were used for sowing in February and March. In the northern market of Gicumbi, curtailed exports to Uganda led to depressed conditions for the better part of April and early May as Uganda imports significant quantities from the market. Prices are forecasted to trend below the five year average in the coming months following improved availabilities from the season B crop.

Figure 10: Beans price trends in selected markets in Rwanda, Source: RATIN.

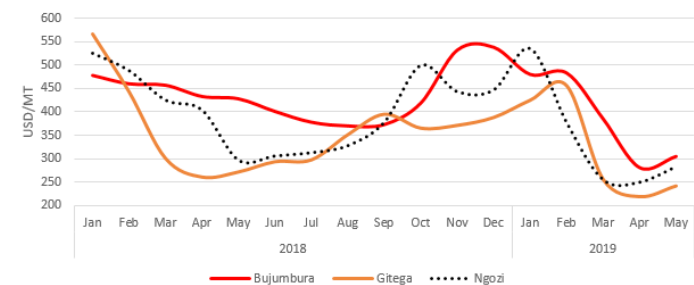


## Burundi

### Maize

Prices were generally lower than the earlier-year levels in the monitored markets indicative of better availabilities this year. Prices increased due to increased demand pressure and are expected to maintain the pace until June. The prospects for the second season looks favourable therefore prices are expected to trend below the five year average in the third quarter.

Figure 11: Maize price trends in selected markets in Burundi, Source: RATIN.

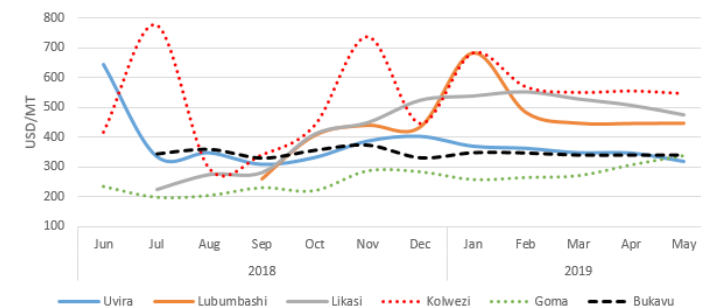


## Democratic Republic of Congo

### Maize

Prices were relatively stable in South Kivu; in Uvira, the commodity was averaged USD 318/MT, an 8 percent decline month-on-month with supply reported to be ample. In Bukavu, recently gathered harvest eased demand with prices remaining stable for the third consecutive month. Prices are expected to gain seasonally as stocks tighten. Inbouding harvest from the first season in August is expected to improve supply with production estimated at near average due to average rains throughout the season. In the South, prices remained stable since February averaging about USD 446/MT in Lubumbashi however there are concerns over a slowdown in imports from Zambia following the export ban on maize. Therefore, prices may gain in the coming months due to low supply.

Figure 12: Maize price trends in selected markets in DRC, Source: RATIN.



**APPENDIX 1: Informal Cross Border trade by source and destination country in MT. Source EAGC RATIN.**

Commodity	Trade Flow	Apr 2019	May 2019	Percentage Change		
				Same Month last year	Previous Month	Five year average
Maize	Uganda-Rwanda	3	4.43	-99 ▼	48 ▲	-99 ▼
	Uganda-Kenya	4,138	411.8	-98 ▼	-90 ▼	-97 ▼
	Tanzania-Kenya	1,108	1,349	-26 ▼	22 ▲	-
	Rwanda-DRC	2,149	2,491.8	50 ▲	16 ▲	-
	Zambia-DRC	266	219	-	-18 ▼	-
Dry Beans	Tanzania-Kenya	1,615	921	159 ▲	-22 ▼	-
	Tanzania-Zambia	2,479	1,939	-	-22 ▼	-
	Uganda-Rwanda	0.6	0.2	-99 ▼	-67 ▼	-99 ▼
	Uganda-Kenya	2,157	1,238.82	-90 ▼	-43 ▼	-81 ▼
	Uganda-DRC	156	235.03	-78 ▼	51 ▲	-
	Rwanda-DRC	894	1,198.85	-49 ▼	34 ▲	-
	Rwanda-Uganda	11	9.53	-99 ▼	-13 ▼	-99 ▼
Rice	Tanzania-Zambia	529	513	-	-3 ►	-
	Tanzania-DRC	1,540	176	-	-88 ▼	-
	Tanzania-Uganda	7,400	10.791	-6.3 ▼	46 ▲	377 ▲
Sorghum	DRC-Rwanda	501	556.6	-10 ▼	11 ▲	-
	Uganda-Kenya	1,108	134.7	-91 ▼	-88 ▼	-91 ▼

The red upward-facing arrow (▲) denotes an increase of five percent or greater. The blue horizontal arrow denotes no change or changes that are smaller than 5 percent, and the green downward-facing arrow denotes price decreases that are five percent or greater. The three arrows respectively correspond to the percent change in prices this month compared to last month, last year, and the five-year average. The "-" symbol indicates that data are not available.

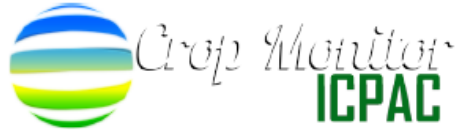
APPENDIX 2: EAGC RATIN monitored borders and markets



## Partnerships



**ICPAC**  
IGAD Climate Prediction  
& Applications Centre



Prepared by members of the **GEOGLAM Community of Practice**, Coordinated by the **IGAD Climate Prediction and Application Center**



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