

Highlights

In the third quarter of 2021, the Eastern Africa region saw grain prices generally decrease seasonably due to the May to August and July and August harvests in Tanzania, Uganda and Burundi.

In Kenya, prices remained stable in most markets mainly attributable to increased imports from Uganda and Tanzania to bridge the demand gap. In Uganda, staple food prices decreased seasonably due to increased domestic supply from the July to August harvest and ease of Covid-19 measures which a return to normalcy in the country.

In Tanzania, Staple grain prices declined seasonably across most markets due to increased supplies from the May-to-August harvest in both the unimodal and bimodal rainfall areas. In Burundi, Staple food prices increased seasonably as supplies started to tighten, but the increase was moderated by a ban on exports of major food crops that increased domestic availability. However, dry bean prices declined atypically due to an above-average July-August harvest.

Table of Contents

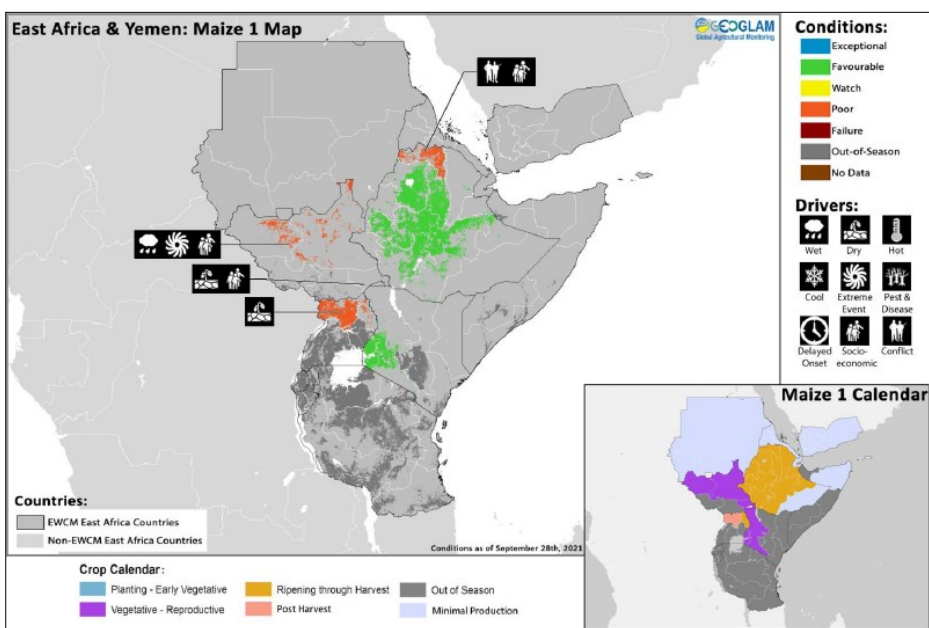
1. East Africa Crop Season..... 1
2. Weather Conditions and Outlook.....2
3. Grain Markets and Trade.....3
4. Regional Agricultural Trade Policy Developments.....6

East Africa Crop Season

In **Uganda**, harvesting of main season cereals is complete or nearing completion with below-average yields expected in the North and Karamoja due to persistent dryness throughout the season. In Karamoja region, the April to September rainy season began with a delayed onset, negatively impacting planting and germination. Heavy rains in early May resulted in flooding and waterlogging and were followed by below-average precipitation in late May through June. Despite a slight improvement in vegetation conditions in July with above-average rainfall, rainfall was again below-average in August. Due to the impacts of erratic rainfall and

flooding, planted area is below-average, and harvests are delayed by a month and are expected to be below-average. Similarly, in the northwest, overall production is estimated at below-average levels as delayed onset and erratic March to June rains resulted in abnormal dryness in some areas, significantly affecting yields. Conversely, torrential rains in July resulted in the overflow of Lake Kyoga, resulting in damaged infrastructure and localized crop loss. Throughout the country, planting and development of second season maize crops is underway for harvest from October, and overall conditions are favorable. However, from early September, heavy rain caused the Nyamwamba river to break its banks, and flooding has occurred in Kasese District in the southwest. Also, from mid-September, severe flooding and landslides impacted Sironko, Kapchorwa, Mbale, and Kween districts of the Eastern region ([Crop Monitor](#)).

In **Kenya**, harvesting of main season crops finalized in August in the marginal producing east, coast, and northeast with failure conditions for maize due to below-average and erratic rainfall. Conversely, favorable conditions resulted for sorghum crops as they are more resilient to drought stress. Current conditions are favorable for the ongoing development

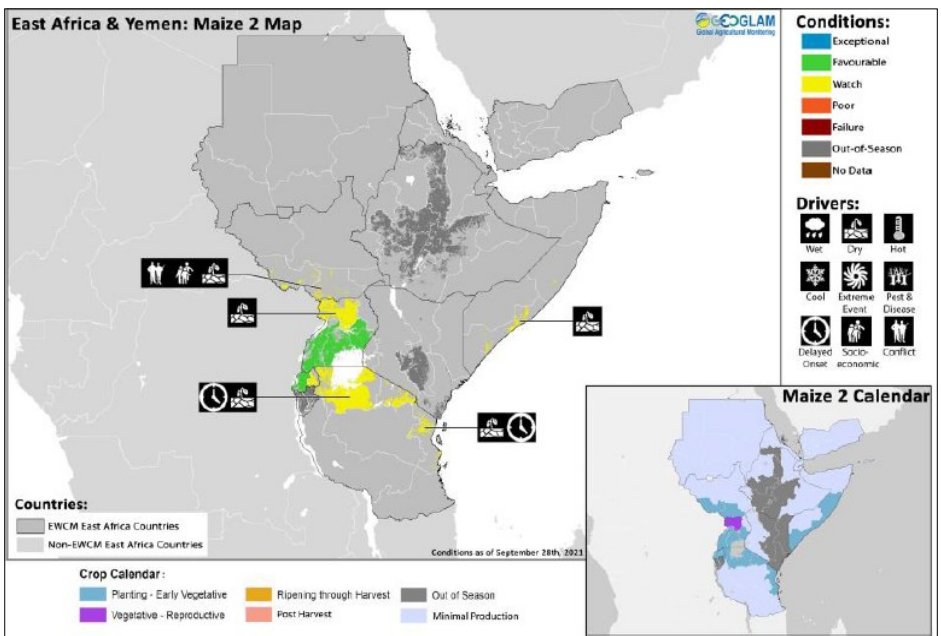


Crop condition map synthesizing Maize 1 crop conditions as of September 28th. Crop conditions over the main growing areas are based on a combination of inputs including remotely sensed data, ground observations, field reports, national, and regional experts. Conditions that are other than favorable are labeled on the map with their driver.

of Long Rains cereals in the main producing unimodal central, Rift Valley, and west regions. However, at the beginning of September, the country declared a state of disaster due to worsening drought conditions, and October to December rains are expected at below-normal levels.

In **Burundi**, harvesting of main season rice crops finalized in the northeast under favorable conditions. Land preparation is underway for second Season A maize crops, and planting will begin next month. In Rwanda, planting of second Season A maize crops is underway, and there is concern in the east as below-average rainfall is impacting planting activities.

In the **United Republic of Tanzania**, planting of *Vuli* season maize crops is underway in northern bimodal rainfall areas, and there is concern as delayed rainfall onset and dry conditions are impacting planting activities. Rainfall amounts are expected to be below-average between October to December, which may have a negative impact on *Vuli* season crop development as well as planting and development of 2022 *Msimu* crops.

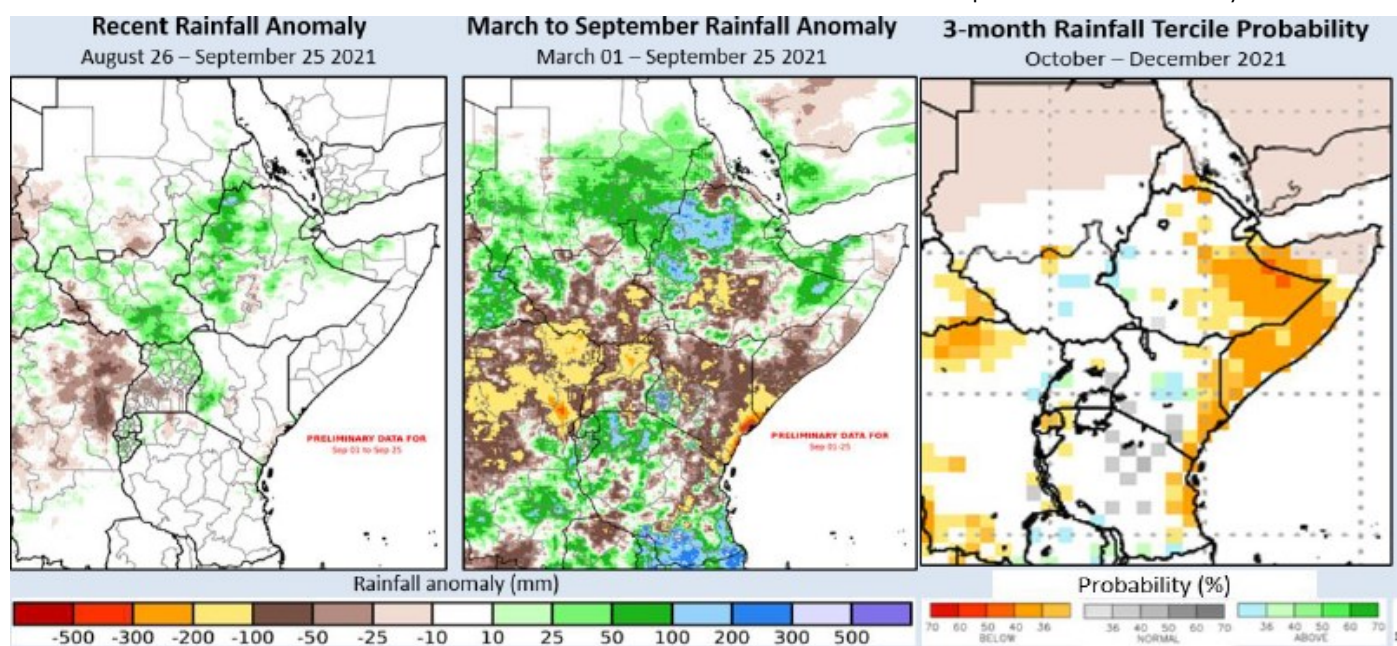


Crop condition map synthesizing Maize 2 conditions as of September 28th. Crop conditions over the main growing areas are based on a combination of inputs including remotely sensed data, ground observations, field reports, national, and regional experts. Conditions that are other than favorable are labeled on the map with their driver (Source: Crop Monitor)

northwestern Somalia. Periodic heavy rains led to oversaturated ground conditions and elevated river levels in South Sudan and eastern Sudan, and there is a continued risk for flooding that has already caused widespread population displacement in recent months. Areas in Sudan, northern South Sudan, and northwestern Ethiopia received above-average rainfall through much of the March-to-September and June-to-September seasons, while drier-than-average conditions affected many central and southern areas of the region. In northern Uganda, the recent wet conditions came after persistently below-average rainfall during the March-April and in June-July-August periods. Similarly, poorly distributed seasonal rains and historically very low amounts affected areas in Ethiopia's central Rift Valley and eastern

Weather Conditions and Outlook

In recent weeks, wetter-than-average conditions affected Ethiopia, South Sudan, northern Uganda, and western Kenya, as well as portions of eastern and southwestern Sudan and



These show the rainfall anomaly, in mm, for August 26th to September 25th (left) and March 1st to September 25th (right). The bottom-left panel shows the NMME probabilistic forecast for October-November-December (OND) 2021 precipitation, based on September initial conditions. Colors indicate the dominant tercile category forecast across models; white indicates no dominant category. The forecast is based on statistically-calibrated tercile category forecasts from three SubX models. Image from the IRI Sub seasonal Forecasts Map room. Source: UCSB Climate Hazards Center

Oromia region, and the latest assessment for Ethiopia's March-to-November season.

Importantly, a series of poor rainfall seasons recently impacted the eastern Horn, and there are presently elevated chances for this to transpire again during the October-November-December (OND) 2021 and March-April-May 2022 seasons. For the OND season, below-normal rainfall and above-normal temperatures are forecast in eastern areas of the region, including in eastern Kenya, southeastern Ethiopia, and southern Somalia. Climate models show some differences in the geographical extent of the elevated chances for below-normal rainfall.

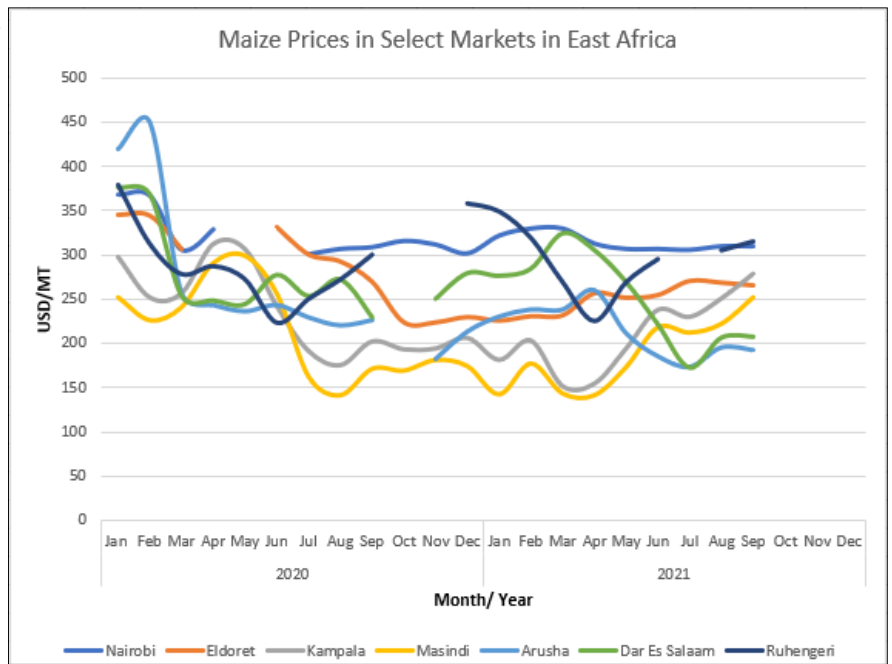
Given that current sea surface temperature forecasts are very similar to those from last

year, it appears likely that there could be a repeat occurrence of last year's consecutive poor rainfall seasons in eastern East Africa during the October-November-December (OND) 2021 season and the March-April-May (MAM) 2022 season. These concerns are founded upon short and long-range model forecasts, prior research, and outcomes during previous analogous seasons. Climate models indicate elevated chances of large-scale climate conditions that are conducive to suppressed rainfall during OND and MAM seasons.

The pessimistic OND 2021 rainfall forecasts, from multiple international and regional forecasting centers, are consistent with below-average outcomes during previous similar OND seasons with La Niña-like and negative Indian Ocean Dipole conditions. Based on recent atmospheric and ocean conditions and model forecasts, the Indian Ocean Dipole may be in a weak negative state, and La Niña conditions are predicted to emerge. Similar to last year, this La Niña event will likely be accompanied by exceptionally warm west Pacific Ocean conditions. In cases when the eastern Pacific (e.g. the Niño3.4 region) is only modestly cool, western Pacific sea surface temperatures (SSTs) can still help produce a strong tropical-extratropical Pacific SST gradient and La Niña-like rainfall impacts in Eastern Africa ([Crop Monitor](#)).

Maize Markets and Trade

In the third quarter, maize prices had mixed outcomes in the region. Prices in **Kenya** remained relatively stable due to supplies from the July to September harvest supplemented by imports from the United Republic of Tanzania. In Nairobi, a major consumer market, maize was at an



average of USD 308/MT while in Eldoret, a major producer market maize sold at approximately USD 268/MT, which were similar compared to prices during the same period last year. Prices are expected to remain stable with upcoming domestic harvests which will maintain domestic supplies easing upward pressure on prices.

Prices in **Tanzania** remained stable owing to the May to August harvest with a slight increase in prices which was driven up with increased regional demand from Kenya and Southern Africa countries. In Dar es salaam, maize retailed at an average price of USD 196/MT while in Arusha, maize sold at USD 186/ MT. In the southern highlands, maize in Mbeya market sold at an average of USD 154/ MT. Comparing to the previous quarter, prices in Dar es Salaam 35% while in Arusha, prices dropped by 17% approximately. Prices are expected to increase in the fourth quarter as supplies decrease owing to depleting stocks and demand pressure from the region.

In **Uganda**, prices increased in the third quarter owing to depleting stocks from the previous harvest, which was below average due to poor rainfall. In Kampala, a major consumer market, maize retailed at USD 253/MT while in Masindi, maize

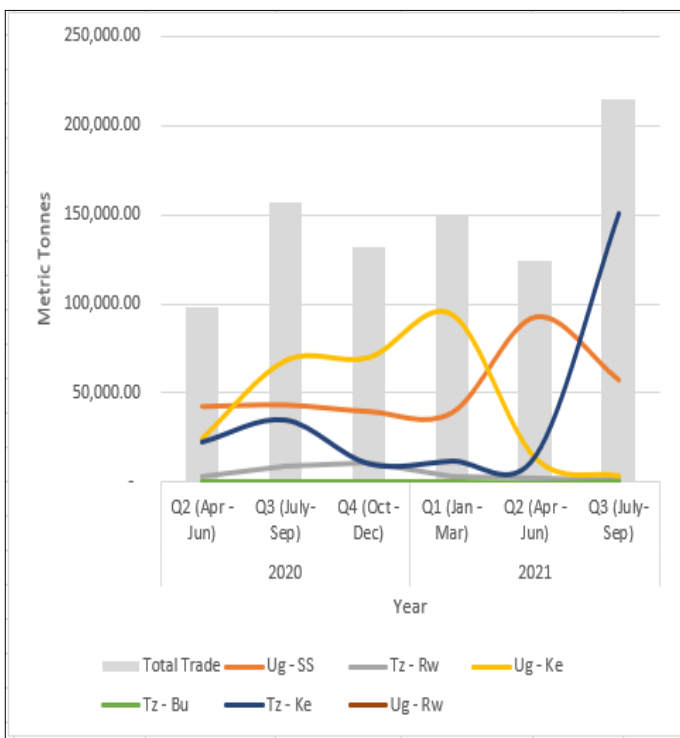


Maize conditions as at 10th October in Northern Uganda. Source: EAGC

retailed at USD 229/MT. This represents a 30% and 29% increase respectively from the previous quarter and a 33% and 23% increase respectively from a similar period in the previous year. Prices in Uganda are expected to stabilize and further decrease towards the end of the year as harvest September-October season will increase supplies putting downward pressure on prices.

In **Rwanda** and **Burundi**, maize prices increased seasonably in the 3rd quarter due to depleting stocks. Despite increased supplies from the June-to-July harvest, food prices in Burundi remain above five-year averages due to persistently high inflation and import bans from Tanzania and Uganda. However the price increase was moderated by a ban on exports of major food crops that increased domestic availability. In Rwanda, maize in Ruhengeri retailed at USD 310/MT while in Rubavu, maize retailed at USD 326/MT.

Quarterly Sum of Formal and Informal Cross border Trade of Maize Grain in Main Trade Corridors in Eastern Africa. Source: EAGC RATIN and FEWSNET

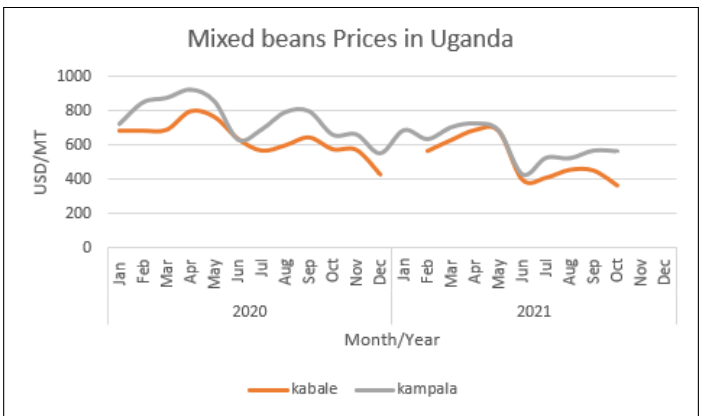


In the third quarter, total maize grain in the region increased by approximately 73% compared to the previous quarter, closing at 215,115.83 MT. This was mainly attributable to increased trade between Kenya and Tanzania where Kenya imported 151,051.67 MT as maize trade between Kenya and Uganda drastically reduced from the previous quarter and similar quarter last year by 72% and 94% respectively. Field reports indicate foul play at the border due to issues of Aflatoxin contamination. Traders are now discouraged to carry out maize trade as it no longer makes financial sense. On the other hand, maize trade between Uganda and South Sudan decreased by 38% compared to the previous quarter, totaling

to 57,270.05 MT, due to depleting stocks in Uganda from the previous season. Rwanda imports from Tanzania reduced by 31% to 1702 MT while Burundi imports from Tanzania increased to 276 MT.

Dry Beans Market and Trade

Dry beans prices in the region were generally dropped due to supplies from the delayed May-August harvest slowly trickling into the markets. Mixed beans prices in the producer regions of **Uganda** in Kabale market dropped by 14% compared to the previous quarter and decreased by 30% compared to the similar quarter last year. In the Kampala, a major consumer market, prices remained stable with negligible movements in prices compared to the previous quarter.



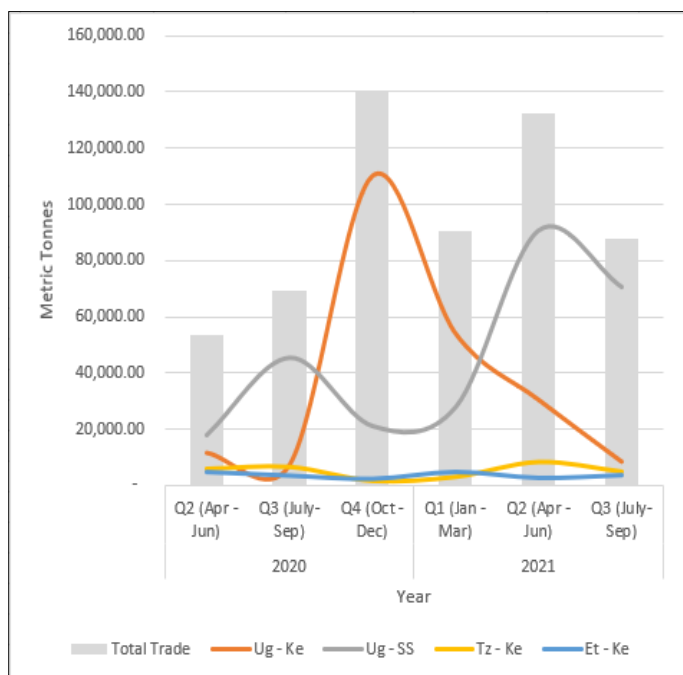
Yellow beans prices were notably stable with a slight increase compared to the previous quarter. In the **Nairobi** market, yellow beans retailed at USD 830/MT, an 8% drop from the previous quarter. In Kampala, yellow beans retailed at USD 693/MT while in Arusha, yellow beans retailed at USD 743/MT.

Dry beans prices are expected to remain stable in the 4th quarter and slightly increase towards the end of the year as



Dry beans being loaded into a truck bound for Kenya at the Busia Border in Uganda (Photo taken during EAGC field activities in Uganda)

Quarterly Sum of Formal and Informal Cross border Trade of Dry beans in Main Trade Corridors in Eastern Africa. Source: EAGC RATIN and FEWSNET

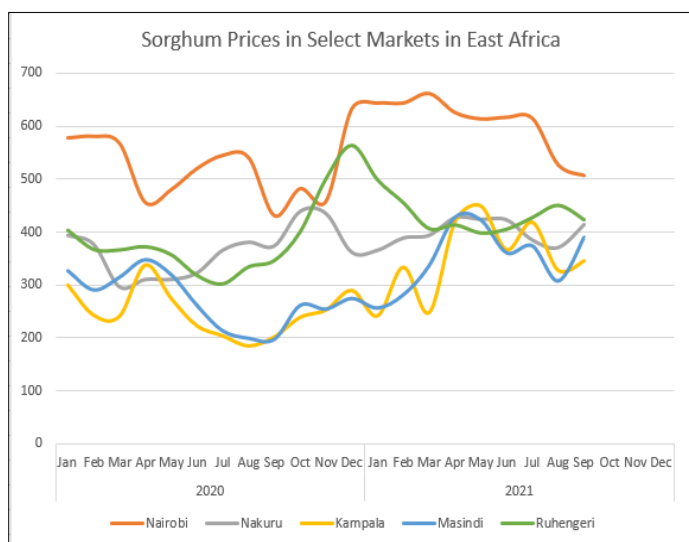


stocks start to deplete awaiting the next harvest.

Dry beans trade in the region dropped by 33% compared to the previous quarter but an increase of 26% compared to the similar quarter last year, at 87,835 MT. Kenya imported a total of 8,615 MT from Uganda, a drop of 71% compared to the last year mostly owing to increased availability of domestic supplies in Kenya. Uganda exports to South Sudan slightly dropped to 70,827 MT compared to 90,968MT in the previous quarter.

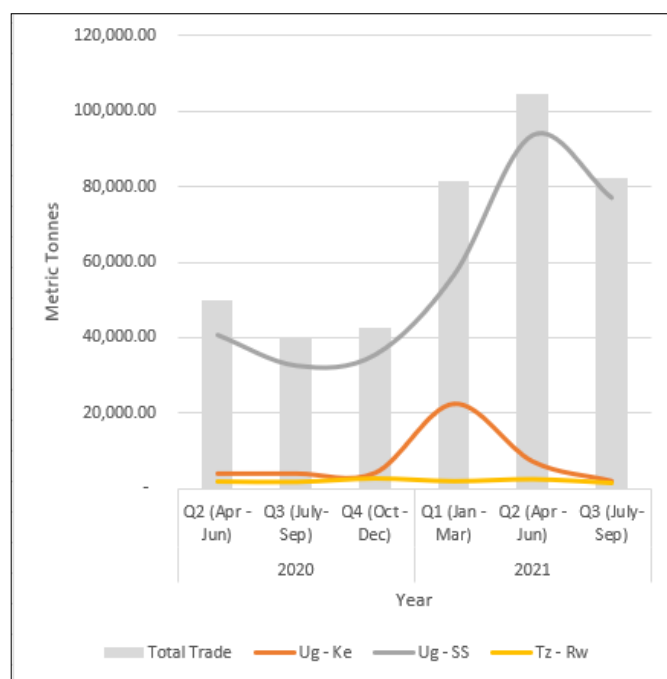
Sorghum Markets and Trade

Red sorghum prices generally decreased in the third quarter owing to increase in supplies to the markets due to the May-August harvest. In Kenya, red sorghum prices dropped by 11%



and 8% in Nairobi and Nakuru markets respectively, to retail at USD 549/MT and USD 389/MT. similar scenario in Uganda where prices in Kampala and Masindi dropped by approximately 11% for both markets to retail at USD 363/MT in Kampala and USD 356/MT in Masindi. In Rwanda, prices dropped by 6% in Ruhengeri compared to the previous quarter.

Quarterly Sum of Formal and Informal Cross border Trade of Sorghum in Main Trade Corridors in Eastern Africa. Source: EAGC RATIN and FEWSNET



Sorghum trade slightly decreased by 21% to close at 82,209 MT traded across the major trade corridors in the region.

Rice Markets and Trade

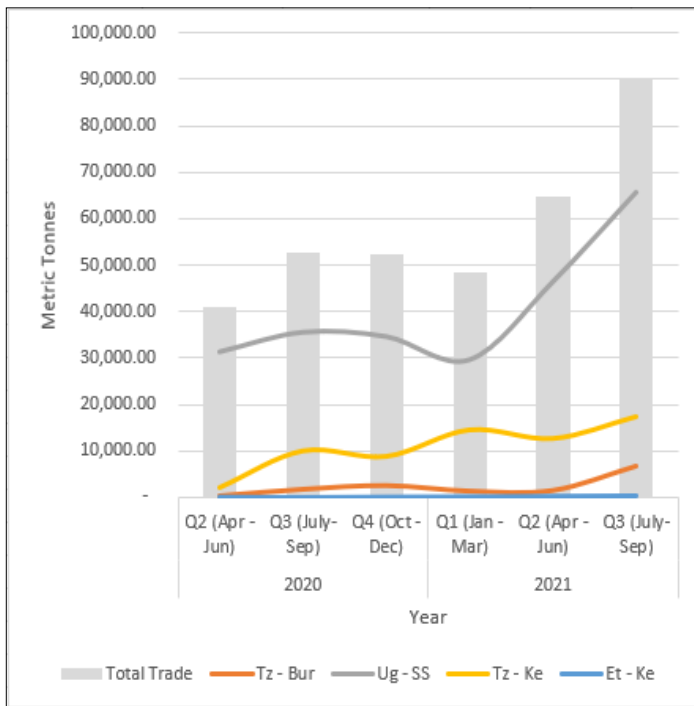
Rice prices remained relatively stable in the third quarter, with slight increases noted in the Tanzania markets of Arusha and Dar es salaam towards the end of the quarter where prices closed at USD 650/MT and USD 730/MT respectively, mainly attributable to increase regional demand.

In Kenya, Nairobi market had the highest prices amongst the urban markets averaging USD 1,306/MT. Supply from the international market was ample however, locally produced variety 'pishori' was in high demand due to its superior qualities. In Mombasa, supply remained ample but prices of 'pishori' were elevated as the commodity averaged USD 1,277/MT in the third quarter.

In Rwanda, prices remained relatively stable due to supplies from the second wet season as paddy supply was consistent in the monitored markets.

In Uganda, demand was majorly met by imports from the regional and international markets. Therefore, prices remained stable with slight increases noted in some of the

Quarterly Sum of Formal and Informal Cross border Trade of Rice in Main Trade Corridors in Eastern Africa. Source: EAGC RATIN and FEWSNET



Rice trade in the third quarter increased to 89,950 MT, an increase of 39% compared to the previous quarter. Imports into South Sudan from Uganda increased by 41% compared to the previous quarter. Tanzania exports to Kenya and Burundi generally increased in the third quarter, same to Ethiopia exports to Kenya as shown in the graph above.

Regional Agricultural Trade Policy Developments

1. African Green Revolution Forum (AGRF) 2021 Summit

The Africa Green Revolution Alliance (AGRA) hosted the AGRF 2021 summit which brought together various heads of states, government officials, high level policy delegations and development institutions to discuss and deliberate on the theme, "Pathways to Recovery and Resilient Food Systems".

One of the major highlights of the summit was the unveiling of the Africa Agriculture Status Report (AASR) was unveiled, on Tuesday, 7th September 2021 with a focus on how to build sustainable and resilient agri-food systems, technology, job creation, market opportunities, global sustainability, enhancing the nutritional quality of food products and greening Africa through ecosystem restoration.

Topics discussed during the summit include innovation in the agricultural sector, the role of women in the invention and innovation of appropriate technologies in the continent, challenges posed by the pandemic, climate change, diseases and pests among many others.

2. Tanzania Vows to Enhance Food Security

During the AGRF 2021 summit, the vice president of the

Republic of Tanzania, Dr. Philip Mpango, reaffirmed Tanzania's commitment to improve the agricultural sector and boost food security for socio-economic prosperity. In realizing agricultural sector transformation and growth, the government of Tanzania has been taking various measures, notably improvement of the National Agriculture Policy, 2013 and the Zanzibar Agricultural Sector Development Programme (ZASDP 2019-2029). With the country now implementing its third National Five-Year Development Plan (FYDP III), Agriculture is seen as central to industrialization and a source of livelihood for approximately 65 percent of the Tanzanian population. The agricultural sector employs 66,3 percent of the country's workforce.

Dr. Mpango further added that for the duration of FYDP III, efforts are directed to consolidate and further scale up the achievements, so far recorded and explore opportunities afforded by the adoption of Climate Smart Agriculture approaches (CSA).

3. African states urged to base food security policies on data

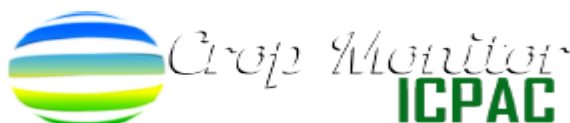
During the African Green Revolution Forum (AGRF) 2021 Summit, African leaders were urged to improve food security policies by basing decisions on data science. Decisions based on adequate research can help sustain food security even in times of uncertain weather due to the effects of climate change. Armed with relevant and precise data, African countries will be better placed to make targeted interventions that address issues like water scarcity, climate change, land pressure and the competition between subsistence food crops and export cash crops.

About the Eastern Africa Grain Council

The Eastern Africa Grain Council (EAGC) is a membership-based organization representing the grain sector in Eastern and Southern Africa. The Council exists to facilitate efficient, structured, profitable and inclusive grain trade in its 10 mandate countries, namely Kenya (Regional Headquarters), Uganda, Tanzania, South Sudan, Ethiopia, Burundi, Rwanda, Zambia, Malawi and the Democratic Republic of Congo. EAGC draws its membership from grain sector value chain actors in its Member States, which include farmers, traders and processors. Support service providers and complimentary sectors such as agro-input suppliers, financial services and animal feed manufacturers also form part of the Membership. In facilitating structured grain trade in the Eastern Africa region, EAGC provides trade facilitation services through the EAGC G-Soko Grain Trading System; market and cross-border trade information through the Regional Agricultural Trade Intelligence Network (RATIN – www.ratin.net); pursuing appropriate policy reforms to support growth of structured grain trade through the Agricultural Trade Policy Advisory Forum for Eastern and Southern Africa (ATPAFESA); and capacity building of grain industry stakeholders through the Grain Business Institute (GBI).



Partners



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



EARTH DATA FOR INFORMED AGRICULTURAL DECISIONS

EASTERN AFRICA GRAIN COUNCIL

REGIONAL OFFICE

Mbaazi Avenue, off Kingara Road, Lavington, P.O. Box 218-00606, NAIROBI, KENYA

Tel: +254 20 374 5840/733 444 035/710 607 313

Email: grains@eagc.org Web: www.eagc.org/www.ratin.net