

BEANS MARKET BRIEFS (BMB)

Introduction

Issue 1

Bean Enterprises and Structured Trade in the East Africa Community (BEST- EAC) is a project being implemented by Kilimo Trust and supported by FoodTrade Eastern and Southern Africa (ESA) a five-year trade enhancement and promotion programme funded by the UK Government with a focus on staple food crops. The project which aims at structuring bean trade in the EAC, is keen on providing market information to beans value chain actors to support them make informed decisions and trade in beans in an efficient manner. Quarterly bean market briefs will be shared with partners for this purpose.

This first issue of the Beans Market Briefs (BMB) contains information on beans production and harvesting schedules in EA to guide different service providers on business opportunities and allow them make projections, and the factors which affected cross-border trade in beans within EAC for the period of August- September, 2016.

1. Beans production schedule in EA

Country	Jan	Feb	March	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Kenya												
Uganda												
Tanzania												
Rwanda												
Burundi												
S.A. & Zambia												
India												
Key			Planting time for the main (Long) rain season									
			Planting time for the secondary (Short)rain season									

- ✓ Companies selling farm input for beans should target the shaded periods in various countries.
- ✓ The planting season provides a business window for financial service providers.
- ✓ Traders are able to make their projections.

2. Beans harvesting schedule in East Africa, South Africa and India

Country	Jan	Feb	March	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Kenya												
Uganda												
Tanzania												
Rwanda												
Burundi												
S.A. & Zambia												
India												
Key			Harvesting period for the main (long) rain season									
			Harvesting period for the secondary (short) rain season									

- ✓ The long rains/main season harvesting period is between the months of May to August while the harvesting of the short rains/minor season is in December to March.
- ✓ Tanzania harvests in May hence has a whole month market window to trade with Rwanda and Uganda before they harvest in June and two months to Kenya before the July harvest.
- ✓ Rwanda and Uganda have one-month opportunity in June to trade with Kenya.
- ✓ Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda have an opportunity to trade with South Africa and Zambia from July.
- ✓ EAC Countries have a longer time period that they can export their beans to India starting from January to August every year

3. Factors which affected beans trade in EAC within the period of August- September, 2016

1. Unfavorable rainfall which contributed to reduced quantities of beans produced.
2. A 36 % increase in price from last year as a result of low production.
3. Reduced cross-border trade as a result of high prices of beans which were not competitive enough in the world market.