

Quarterly Newsletter



THE GRAIN COUNCIL OF UGANDA

The Grain News



Participating in the first Grain Millers' Summit at UMA Multipurpose Hall May 20, 2025. (L-R) Dr. Dick Kamuganga, President Uganda National Farmers Federation, The Grain Council of Uganda Executive Director Mr. Henry Musisi and Chairman Mr. Robert Mwanje, Mr. Stephen Asimwe Executive Director Private Sector Foundation Uganda, Hon. Evelyn Anite, State Minister of Finance for Investment and Privatization, Mr. David Wozemba (Cream suit) Country Director AGRA, China Huangpai Food Machines duo Mr. Nelson Ojwiya, General Manager and Mr. Li Qiang Managing Director, and Mr. Humphrey Mutaasa-Technical Advisor TGCU.

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Chairman's Message



Dear Esteemed Readers,

It is with great pride and heartfelt appreciation that I welcome you to this edition of the TGPU Quarterly Newsletter.

First and foremost, I extend my sincere gratitude to all our members for their unwavering loyalty and continued support to the Council. Your commitment is the foundation upon which TGPU continues to grow and thrive. We are truly honoured to serve a community that believes in the shared vision of advancing Uganda's grain sector.

I would also like to take this opportunity to appreciate all stakeholders and sector players, local and international, whose contributions have been instrumental in driving the sector forward. Your collaboration, innovation, and dedication continue to inspire progress across the value chain.

Special congratulations in order for everyone who contributed to the resounding success of the first-ever National Grain Millers' Summit, which brought together over 300 millers from across the country. This landmark event marked a significant milestone in our sector's history, creating a dynamic platform for dialogue, collaboration, and strategic growth. Your energy, ideas, and

commitment made it possible and we celebrate this achievement together.

Building on this momentum, I am pleased to announce that the Grain Millers' Summit will now become an annual event, held in alignment with the International Flour Day on March 20th each year. We warmly welcome and encourage participation from all players; both within Uganda and beyond to continue shaping the future of grain in East Africa and across the continent.

Finally, to you our cherished readers, thank you for always embracing this newsletter. Your engagement and feedback continue to motivate us to share knowledge, celebrate milestones, and highlight the progress of our sector.

With gratitude and warm regards,

Mwanje Robert
Chairman, TGPU

Coming up!

DEC 5, 2025

The Annual Members' Dinner for:

Recognition

Achievement

Learning

Networking

Wining and Dining

Executive Director's Message



Hello members and readers,

Greetings from The Grain Council of Uganda.

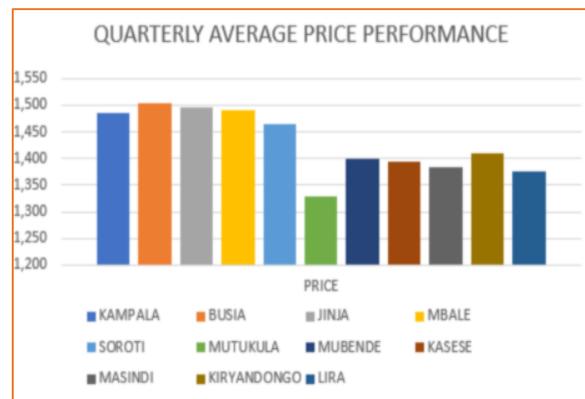
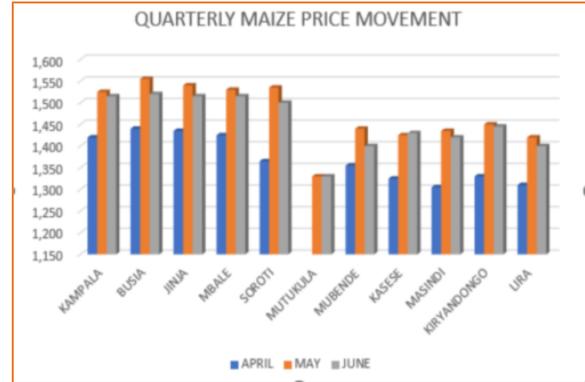
I do wish once again to invite you to enjoy, yet another edition of The Grain News. This is a publication which we plan to send out every last week of the quarter to capture and relay key issues affecting the Ugandan and regional grains and pulses sub sector. The editorial team will continue working towards making the publication more topical and interesting. We do request that you send in your comments on how best we can make the Newsletter more useful and interesting to our readers.

We request that you send through your articles highlighting your experiences as well as your challenges doing business in the grain sector.

I once again welcome you to this edition of The Grain News and wish you good reading.

Henry K. Musisi

Maize price movements Quarter 2, 2025



Review of the quarter

- Busia, Kampala, Soroti, Mbale and Jinja registered the highest prices, trading above Shs. 1,500 per Kilogramme of unprocessed Maize in May. Mutukula market, trading in cheap maize from Tanzania had the lowest price at an average of Shs, 1,250.
- Cheap Tanzania Maize at Kenya/Tanzania border markets meant low appetite for Uganda Maize in Kenya, the biggest foreign market for Uganda Maize.
- Cheap Tanzania Maize on the local Market ensured some stability of stocks and prices
- Availability of a range of other affordable staples

TGCU Grain Millers' Summit a huge success



Hon. Evelyn Anite addresses The Grain Millers Summit on May 20, 2025

The Grain Council of Uganda's (TGCU) efforts to kick start the organization of the milling sector got off to a flying start with key government pronouncements at the first ever nation-wide Millers' Summit on May 20, 2025 at Lugogo UMA Show grounds.

The Summit, whose major sponsors were AGRA and China HuangPai Food Machines, sought to plug sector challenges including gaps in innovation, collaboration, miller profiling, inclusivity, financing and modern milling technologies.

State Minister of Finance for Investment and Privatization, Hon. Evelyn Anite, who was the guest of honor pledged to tackle the issue of high power tariffs, one of the key sub-sector challenges.

"The issue of electricity tariffs will be sorted; qualifying millers will be charged 5 US cents which is the same tariff paid by large manufacturers. These, she said, are not political promises, but rather, actions and transformative promises that I

have made for the growth and the support for creation of jobs by the sector", she said.

Once realized, millers would be paying UGX 184.6/Kwh, a significant drop from the current very high rates.

The summit's keynote address was delivered by Mr. Bwambale Bernard, Head of Programs at CONSENT. He provided a comprehensive overview of critical food safety gaps along Uganda's grain value chain, highlighting unsafe grain handling practices such as drying grains on bare ground, tarmac roads, and rusted iron sheets, the use of chemicals like glyphosate by farmers during drying among others.

He also emphasized the health risks posed by these practices to consumers, citing aflatoxin contamination which is linked to liver cancer, stunted growth in children, and adverse pregnancy outcomes.

TGCU Executive Director Mr. Henry Musisi proposed a grain supply model to millers, where grain would be purchased, processed and stored by aggregators, and would then be supplied to millers, which would address price volatility while ensuring stock consistency to millers at affordable rates. This model would be anchored by a commercial bank providing the required financing.

Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS) outlined ongoing efforts to support compliance with national food safety standards, while the Uganda Electricity Distribution Company Limited (UEDCL) addressed power supply issues.

China HuangPai Food Machines showcased modern milling technologies designed to improve efficiency, safety, and product quality.

For TGCU, the Millers Summit is planned to be an annual activity to coincide with the World Flour Day every March 20.

Non-tariff barriers a thorn in regional trade and integration of the East African Community

NTBs (Non-Tariff barriers) are measures, other than tariffs, that are tightly connected with state (administrative) activity and influence prices, quantity, structure and/or direction of international flows of goods and services, as well as resources used to produce these goods and services (Movchan and Eremenko 2003). Removing these would foster a vibrant and barrier-free trading environment across the East African Community (EAC).

In recent years, the EAC) has instituted several changes in regional trade policy. These include the introduction of a common market, the One Stop Border Post (OSBP) procedures, and the single-window policy, a simplified trade regime clearance procedure for small traders.

These reforms are generally targeted at simplifying the process of clearing the border, with a goal of reducing non-tariff barriers (NTBs) and facilitating greater trade within the region. NTBs may be particularly prohibitive to traders, as the hassle and costs of clearing the border may not be worth the profit they would make from trading small volumes of goods. This can have two effects. First, it may unintentionally concentrate market power at the border, which can influence the degree of competition in domestic markets within each country. Second, it encourages traders to engage in informal or illegal border trade, which not only reduces formal customs revenues, but also requires traders themselves to incur the additional costs and risk of informal trade.

The Current State of Elimination of NTBs to trade in East Africa:

The East African Community Partner States under the Customs Union protocol which entered into effect on January 1, 2005 – and in Article 13 of the East African Community Customs Union committed to “remove, with immediate effect, all the existing non-tariff barriers to the Trade and thereafter, not to impose any new non-tariff barriers. The Partner States also committed to “formulate a mechanism for identifying and monitoring the removal of non-tariff barriers.” Since then, Partner States have been negotiating to develop a wide range of protocols for implementing the Customs Union. Studies have been undertaken by Partner States, private sector and other civil society organizations, all aimed at identifying and classifying non-tariff barriers and ensuring an effective monitoring mechanism.

In 2008, the EAC Secretariat developed the EAC Time-Bound Program for Elimination of reported Non-tariff Barriers (NTBs) for use by all Partner States. Indeed, the EAC NTB Monitoring Committee was established at EAC level comprising the National Monitoring Committees (NMCs) of each of the five EAC Partner States. In Uganda, the NMC is hosted and coordinated in by MTIC. However this committee is challenged by enforcement and Implementation gaps. And despite measures and response strategies at national and regional levels to eliminate NTBs, they still plague the EAC, which is against the spirit of integration and the legal obligations enshrined in the legal instruments of the Community which was to ensure a barrier free trading Environment.

For instance, the existence and nature of NTBs along Uganda’s principal trade route (Kampala-Malaba-Nairobi-Mombasa) are of three broad categories of NTBs; ‘administrative/institutional’, ‘legal and regulatory’, and ‘infrastructural’. Ironically, even when these NTBs have been mentioned at the EAC level and commitment made to remove them, they still persist. This implies that the current mechanism falls short in

some aspects, and thus needed to be made stronger and 'delivery-oriented'. Although the elements of a monitoring NTB mechanism have been established, the information and dialogue, in these structures, while necessary, remain insufficient in achieving compliance on the elimination of NTBs and preventing the emergence of new ones which often requires the threat of legal sanction with penalties for non-compliance.

The EAC Secretariat currently lacks the mandate (and capacity) to investigate and make rulings on reported NTBs. Further there is no provision for sanctions against any member that fails to comply with commitments to reduce and remove them.

Existent Challenges causing NTBs:

- i) Customs Formalities (limited and non-harmonised office hours, too many customs documentations
- ii) Very slow response times to complaints from partner states for those NTBs that have been identified;
 - (i) Weak Capacity and shortage of personnel and resources to effectively resolve the NTBs;
 - (ii) National Monitoring Committees are weak and largely ineffective. They receive, discuss complaints but are not able to resolve them
- (iii) Intra country institutional coordination of government agencies often with conflicting operational procedures and mandates.
- (iv) The capacity and interest of businesses and the private sector associations in advocating NTB removal is still inadequate and largely limited to grumbling with no definite systematic channels
- (v) Many standards; some un-harmonized
- (vi) Some goods do not/said not to meet required standards;

- (vii) Inspection capacity of national standards bureaus is limited and focuses on finding faults
- (viii) Standards/codes for some goods are not available
- (ix) Quality control is weak in Uganda e.g. No animal feed policy, regulation and compliance
- (x) Lack of equipment for testing and examination at the border
- (xi) Bribery/corruption at weighbridges
- (xii) Takes time especially during peak hours due to jams
- (xiii) Internet Failures at all Border Points Visited Except Nemba (Rwanda/Burundi) which is not Computerized
- xv) Lack of Security in Kenya and where drivers park on the way
- xvi) Manpower gap at Uganda Revenue Authority (Malaba)
- xvii) Delays at the airport for perishables
- xviii) Poor infrastructure – roads, railways, energy, etc.
- xix) Fluctuations and unpredictability in exchange rates in Uganda

Way forward:

- 1) Develop an EAC enforcement and dispute resolution mechanism
- 2) Roll out the mobile app for the East African Community (EAC) – a useful tool for identifying, removing, and monitoring Non-Tariff Barriers (NTBs) to trade within the regional Community. It would prioritize policy harmonization and coordination, aiming to eliminate obstacles that hinder intra/inter-regional trade, thus reducing the high cost of doing business in the region.

Humphrey Mutaasa

Technical Advisor- TGCU

EPRC roots for infrastructural development for food security



Elizabeth Birabwa Aliro, Programme Manager EPRC presenting a statement on behalf of Executive Director Dr. Sarah Sewanyana.

The Economic Policy Research Centre (EPRC) has highlighted targeted infrastructure planning among key strategic recommendations foundational to Uganda's development.

EPRC, an economic management and development policy think tank with solid outreach and policy networks, highlighted a raft of recommendations at the 13th National Forum on Agriculture and Food security on June 26, 2025 at Protea Hotel, Kololo, under the theme, "Connecting Communities: Leveraging Road and Market Infrastructure for Household Food Security in Uganda".

In a statement, EPRC Executive Director Dr. Sarah Sewanyana said roads and market

infrastructure are the vital arteries of Uganda's food system; noting that where they are strong, food flows, but where they are weak, communities suffer.

"Our journey to a hunger-free Uganda begins on the very roads that connect our farms to our dinner tables. To achieve this, we must confront the realities of our roads and markets, learn from evidence, and commit to bold action", reads part of the statement.

Sewanyana also said there is need to unpack the pathways linking infrastructure to food security as well as addressing regional disparities by highlighting Uganda's diverse food security status and socio-economic contexts.

She emphasized the need to move from fragmented efforts to deliberate integration of infrastructure and food systems policy. This would involve; prioritizing feeder road rehabilitation, increasing and ring-fencing road maintenance regularly, investing in Climate-Resilient Roads and strengthening Market Infrastructure

In a statement by the Minister of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF) Hon Frank Tumwebaze, the Ministry is particularly focused on increasing production and productivity across all agro-ecological zones while ensuring that food systems remain sustainable, equitable, and resilient to shocks such as climate change and price volatility.

The Forum drew representatives from government Ministries, departments and agencies, farmer organisations, Civil Society Organisations and the private sector, among others.

MAAIF efforts to end the export of uncertified grain



Trucks parked at the Busia border on March 8 following a maize ban by the Kenyan government. Uganda now wants an end to cross border trade in uncertified grain.

Photo credit: Daily Monitor

The Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF) through the Department of Crop Inspection and Certification (DCIC), plans to start certifying the quality of exportable plants and plant products, as well as grain, particularly maize.

DCIC's work is crucial for MAAIF's broader goal of promoting agricultural exports and ensuring compliance with international trade regulations

As such, the DCIC in collaboration with Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS), The Grain Council of Uganda (TGCU), the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives (MTIC), and National Coordination Forum (NCF) comprising multi-sectoral stakeholders, with support from the International Finance Corporation (IFC), are spearheading initiatives to ensure that exported grain is compliant with regional and international Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) requirements.

According to Dr. Alexander Samula, a senior crop protection and certification officer at MAAIF, standard operating procedures have been developed and awareness creation is underway. Awareness will target key stakeholders at exit

points including Busia, Malaba, Lwakhaka and Elegu Border trading areas and District Local Governments.

The new enforcement policy is expected to take effect in the first quarter of this financial year 2025/26 and will require grain exports to carry the UNBS Quality Mark (Q Mark) as well as the SPS permit.

TGCU has continuously complained about the unregulated cross-border trade in raw quality grain, arguing the practice limits job creation, reduces potential revenue, and potentially compromises quality control.



Traders smuggling tonnes of Maize into Kenya across the border near Busia April, 2021

Photo credit: Daily Monitor

TGCU Membership at a glance

MEMBERSHIP	199
CATEGORIES	
PLATINUM	8
GOLD	12
SILVER	10
BRONZE	169

Government targets Maize contribution to 10-fold growth strategy



Cornflakes and Corn Oil, some of the potential products from increased Maize value addition. Such production would cause job creation, grow the export profile and ultimately foreign earnings

The 10-fold economic growth strategy, outlined in the National Development Programme IV (NDP IV), includes a focus on agro-industrialization, aimed at increasing the value and volume of maize grain production and its related products.

Also known as the "ATMS" strategy, it prioritizes Agro-industrialization, Tourism, Mineral development, and Science, technology, and innovation. The strategy aims to transform the economy by growing it from \$50 billion to \$500 billion by 2040, doubling every five years.

While maize isn't explicitly listed as a separate pillar, it is implicitly included within agro-industrialization, as processing and value addition to agricultural products is a key component of this strategy.

This strategy aims to move from subsistence to commercialized farming and value addition, boosting exports and enhancing food security. Key initiatives include establishing agro-processing facilities, improving post-harvest

handling and storage, and promoting value-addition infrastructure.

June-July-August (JJA) Weather forecast

The June to August 2025 (JJA) seasonal climate outlook for Uganda provides comprehensive predictions for the dry season across the Southern parts of the country, particularly in the South western, central, Lake Victoria basin and some parts of eastern region. It signifies the end of the first rainy season and serves as the main harvesting period for many seasonal crops in several areas.

The forecast indicates varying rainfall patterns across different regions, with most areas expected to experience below-normal to near-normal rainfall conditions. Northern and eastern regions may receive slightly above-normal rainfall in isolated areas, an extension of the March-April-May rains. Temperature patterns suggest warmer-than-average conditions across most parts of the country. Key climate drivers include El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) conditions and regional atmospheric circulation patterns. The outlook highlights potential impacts on agricultural activities, water resources, and energy production. Farmers are advised to implement water conservation measures and consider drought-resistant crop varieties. The forecast also emphasizes the importance of early warning systems and preparedness for potential climate-related challenges during this period.

Credit: climateresearch.go.ug

NUMA Feeds Ltd Celebrates 30th Anniversary

On 20th June 2025, all roads led to Kabwohe in Sheema District to Numa Feeds Ltd, celebrating 30 years of existence.



Col. Edith Nakalema was Chief Guest at the colorful event.

Numa Feeds is an active member of the Council and has consistently “held the mantle for quality products” over the years. From humble beginnings, Numa has become a trusted name in households and beyond. The company has had its products certified by UNBS and with continuous capacity building programs engaged in, has made great efforts to have its products reach the international market.



TGCU was ably represented at the event.

“A domestic investor who has earned a reputation for high quality nutritious grain products, contributing value to locally sourced grains,” Col Edith Nakalema, Head of State House Investors Protection Unit and Chief Guest at the event commented.

We are proud of you, Mr. Robert Matsiko and your team because you have maintained the language of Quality in all your products. We urge you to keep the flag up as together we strive to make continuous improvements in the sector.

Congratulations Numa Feeds Ltd!!

Inspections on the TGCU Code of Conduct

The Grain Council of Uganda (TGCU), with support from the International Finance Cooperation of the World Bank Group reviewed and launched the TGCU Code of Conduct in 2023. The Code of Conduct is an all-inclusive framework that outlines the expected and practices of all TGCU members (along the grain value chain). The code also speaks to the emerging needs for warehousing requirements for bulk purchase of quality grain for domestic and export markets. An inspection tool was developed to assess the level of compliance by members but also



Inspections at Biryta United (left) and Rwenzori Agro Processing (Right)

to guide on appropriate corrective measures.

During the quarter, the following members were visited: Numa Feeds Ltd, Biryta United Agencies Ltd, Kamwenge Community Development Project Ltd,

New Kakinga Millers Ltd and Rwenzori Agro Processing Ltd. This activity is continuous and all members who handle grain will be visited accordingly.

Visiting RIELA Uganda

TGCU staff and the AGRA Country Director made a courtesy visit at RIELA Uganda offices to discuss ways in which members and other grain processors can purchase some of their equipment. See picture below:



Mr. Klaus Kunkemöller (RIELA), Mr. David Wozemba (AGRA), Mr. Karl-Heinz Knoop eK (RIELA), Harriet Nabirye and Frederic Aganirwa (TGCU) and Mr. Godfrey Marange (RIELA)

The Uganda -Tanzania Trade Mission 2025

The Uganda-Tanzania Trade Mission 2025, which focused on boosting trade and investment between the two countries was hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at the Four Points by Sheraton, Kampala. The TGCU secretariat as well as its members attended the event. The major activities were as follows: ,

B2B Sessions: Business representatives from both countries participated in Business-to-Business (B2B) meetings to explore potential collaborations and deals.

Industrial Park Visits: Delegates visited industrial parks like Liaoshen Industrial Park in Kapeeka but also visited other businesses like Grain Pulse Ltd, a TGCU member in Mukono.



Ambassador to Tanzania is H.E. Col. (Rtd) Fred Mwesigye led by Grain Pulse staff.



Explanations in the Grain Pulse Control room

AGRA–Supported Project: Enhancing Access to Markets for an Inclusive Agricultural Transformation in Eastern Uganda (Busoga, Bugisu and Sebei):

During the quarter, under the project, TGCU built capacity of 12 Cooperatives in governance issues and aggregation for collective marketing., helped formation of 4 new ones and conducted 2 market-linkage meetings in the region.



Market Linkage meeting for Bugisu – La Sharom Hotel, Mbale 26th June 2025