

15 MAY 2020 – BULLETIN NO. 3 (ISSUED BI-WEEKLY)

# COVID-19 FERTILIZER WATCH

PROVIDING INFORMATION ON THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON THE EAST & SOUTHERN AFRICA FERTILIZER MARKET

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Lockdown Status:** The lockdown status of countries in the region largely remains unchanged with most countries continuing to balance isolation and social distancing measures with economic survival. South Africa reduced its alert from total lockdown (Level 5) to level 4, but the implementation has been marred by confusion resulting in much of the goodwill achieved in the initial weeks being eroded. Tanzania and Burundi have limited restrictions in place. Tanzania is facing border closures from neighbouring countries (Zambia being the most recent to enact, and Kenya considering measures, though with none taken at present), due to concern over the potential spread of COVID-19 by truck drivers crossing the border. Many countries have received aid from various sources such as international donors like the World Bank through grants, or loans from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to help with both medical staff and equipment, including testing capacity.
- Fertilizer Availability:** There have been no reported shortages of fertilizer supply, barring some minor issues with containerised product. Currently it is not the major fertilizer-use season in the region. There has been minor impact in Uganda on the demand-side because of the shutdown of public transport.
- Ports:** Ports are still requiring isolation periods and restrictions on crew changes but have seen easing of quarantine requirements in some ports (e.g. South Africa) through multiple port discharges from COVID-19 "clean" countries in Africa. Ports continue to operate on reduced shifts (1/3 operational on a 15-day cycle) with modified operations. Quayside bagging has been banned at Mombasa, but this has improved port efficiency.
- Container Freight:** Still some issues with availability, mainly associated with cancelled ships and container availability.
- Road Freight:** Reduced copper freight continues to impact viability of back freight out of copper export ports (e.g. Durban and Dar es Salaam). Kenya is undertaking driver testing prior to dispatch at Mombasa port. Kenya is also undertaking mandatory testing at designated truck stops within country.
- Border Crossing:** There is heightened concern and actions in countries wishing to address/prevent new source contamination, that truck driver testing be more rigorous. Actions range from preventing entry of drivers (e.g. where Rwanda requires "relay drivers" to transport goods internally; or Zambia closing its border with Tanzania). Testing at border crossings is increasing, but with measures ranging depending on the country where goods are originating from—from isolation at border post, to escorted mandatory isolation, to only temperature testing.
- Fertilizer Sector Response:** In most countries fertilizer associations and private sector companies continue working closely with ministry officials to ensure efficiency via distribution channels but within the demands of COVID-19 restrictions.

## STATS

COUNTRY	COVID-19 CASES	PUBLIC MEASURES		MEASURES AFFECTING FERTILIZER SECTOR							
		CONFIRMED # COVID-19 CASES	COVID-19 NEW CASES PERCENT INCREASE	HEALTH MEASURES	ECONOMIC MEASURES	PORT OPERATIONS	DOMESTIC TRANSPORT	TRANSIT & BORDERS	AGRO INPUT RETAIL SHOPS	FERTILIZER SECTOR RESPONSE	FERTILIZER STOCKS AVAILABILITY
BURUNDI	27										
ETHIOPIA	261										
KENYA	715										
MALAWI	58										
MOZAMBIQUE	104										
RWANDA	286										
SOUTH AFRICA	11,350										
TANZANIA	509										
UGANDA	126										
ZAMBIA	441										
ZIMBABWE	37										

PANDEMIC INDICATORS:

LOGISTICS INDICATORS:

CONFIRMED # COVID-19 CASES

COVID-19 NEW CASES PERCENT INCREASE

HEALTH MEASURES

ECONOMIC MEASURES

PORT OPERATIONS

DOMESTIC TRANSPORT

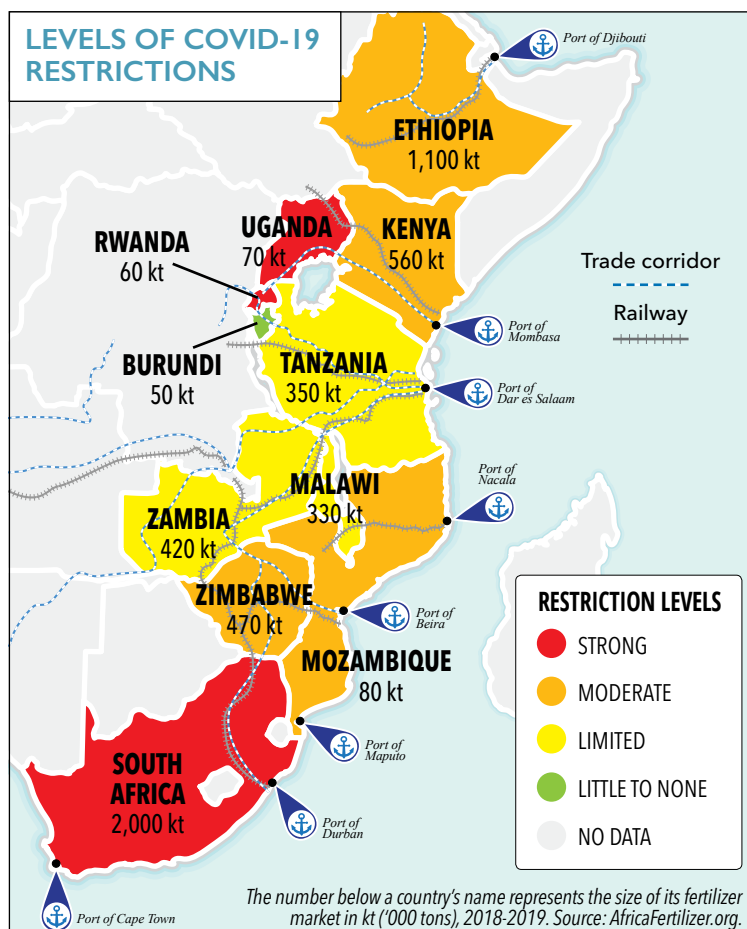
TRANSIT & BORDERS

AGRO INPUT RETAIL SHOPS

FERTILIZER SECTOR RESPONSE

FERTILIZER STOCKS AVAILABILITY

## LEVELS OF COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS



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