# THE GRAIN NEWS


The Grain Council of Uganda and Africa Mega Agri Corp (AMAC) at the signing of the landmark Grain deal in Kampala on March 27, 2026 at the Kampala Serena Hotel. Chairman Mr. Robert Mwanje (seated left) signed on behalf of TGCU and Vice President Mr. Abraham Ng'etich for AMAC

## Editorial Summary

In this edition of the *Grain Magazine*, we present a detailed overview of significant developments within the sector and the broader economic landscape notably;

- **The Historic AMAC–TGCU deal**: Landmark agreement reshaping grain trading and market dynamics.
- **Maize price trends**: Tracking fluctuations and analyzing pricing pressures in the market.
- **2026 MAM weather outlook**: Projections to guide agricultural planning for the upcoming cycle.
- **Economic initiatives**: Government and stakeholder recommendations toward achieving a US$500bn economy by 2040.
- **Kenya–Uganda agreement**: Review of its significance for regional trade and cooperation.
- **Call for Community contributions**: Invitation for articles and insights to enrich dialogue, knowledge and experiences sharing within the grain community.

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## Chairman's Message

Dear Members and Stakeholders,
As we move into the second quarter of the year, I would like to extend my sincere appreciation for your continued commitment to strengthening Uganda's grain sector. Your resilience, collaboration, and dedication remain the backbone of our collective progress.
I am pleased to inform you that an important sector-wide intervention is on the horizon, one that has been developed through the AMAC–Grain Council partnership. This initiative marks a significant step forward in addressing key market challenges while unlocking new opportunities for efficiency, transparency, and growth across the value chain.
In the coming weeks, we will be introducing a commodity exchange platform designed to enhance structured trade, improve price discovery, and expand market access for all stakeholders, from producers to traders and processors. This intervention is expected to play a transformative role in modernizing our grain ecosystem and positioning it for regional and global competitiveness.
I strongly encourage all members to stay informed and actively engage with this upcoming development. Your participation and support will be crucial to ensuring its success and maximizing its impact across the sector.
Together, let us embrace this opportunity to drive sustainable growth, strengthen market systems, and secure a more prosperous future for Uganda's grain industry.
Thank you for your continued partnership.
Warm regards,

**Robert Mwanje**
**Chairman**

## TGCU, AMAC Ink Landmark Grain Exchange Deal

Uganda's agricultural sector is set for a major transformation following a landmark agreement between the Grain Council of Uganda (TGCU) and Kenya's Africa Mega Agri Corp (AMAC).

Signed Thursday March 27, 2026 at the Kampala Serena Hotel, the deal integrates Ugandan farmers into AMAC's commodity exchange platform, opening access to domestic, regional, and international markets.


***TGCU Board Chairman Robert Mwanje (seated left) and AMAC vice president Abraham Ng'etich (right) signing MOU documents at Serena Hotel Kampala.***

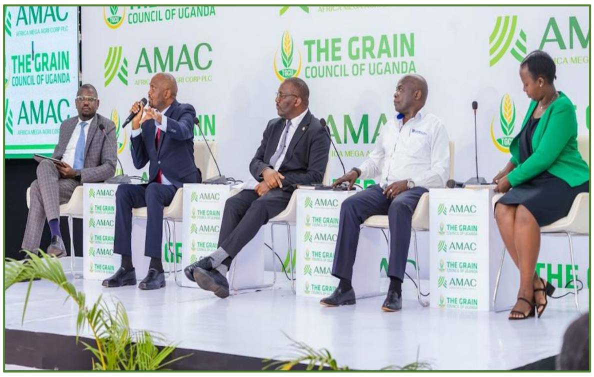
Under the partnership, TGCU members and millions of Ugandan farmers will trade grains, maize, nuts, fruits, vegetables, coffee, tea, herbs, and animal feeds through AMAC's digital marketplace. The platform promises secure, transparent transactions with global buyers, positioning Uganda's produce on a competitive international stage.

AMAC Group Chairman Moses Kuria hailed the agreement as a turning point for East Africa, calling it "a holy trinity between production, technology, and finance" that could boost jobs, incomes, and regional trade.

TGCU Chairman Robert Mwanje emphasized that the deal would enable a shift in Uganda's grain sector from informal trading to a regulated exchange, citing benefits such as warehouse receipt regulation and the use of grain stock as collateral for financing.

The agreement also introduces quick credit facilities against stored produce, reducing reliance on middlemen and curbing distress sales. Certified warehouses will preserve harvest quality, allowing farmers to sell when market conditions are favorable. Transparent pricing mechanisms are expected to strengthen bargaining power and reduce exploitation by brokers.

Analysts say the partnership could modernize Uganda's grain sector, stabilize farmer incomes, and enhance regional food security. By aligning local agriculture with international trading standards, the deal signals a new era of efficiency and competitiveness for Uganda's agricultural economy.




***L-R Timothy Okanya, Head of Corporate Banking Kenya Commercial Bank, Moses Kuria, Group Chairman AMAC, Narcis Tumushabe Chairpesron Uganda Seed Traders Association, Amos Tumwesigye, Country Manager ACE Global and Deborah Kyarisiime, Commissioner, Warehouse Receipt System Department present at a panel***

### Upcoming Events:

- **23rd July 2026: Annual General Meeting.**
- **July 2026: Meet-the-Buyer Symposium.**
- **19th -23rd October 2026: 13th International Working Conference on Stored Product Protection.**
- **4th December 2026: Members' Dinner.**

## About the Mutual Recognition Agreement signed between Uganda and Kenya.

One of the objectives and functions of Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) SPS (Sanitary and Phytosanitary) and TBT (Technical Barriers to Trade) Provisions is to promote Mutual Recognition Agreements (MRAs) through a Mutual Recognition Framework (MRF) on Conformity Assessment and Grading Procedures. A Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA) is therefore a binding international treaty between two or more countries or economic unions—to recognize each other's conformity assessments against the following pillars: inspection, sampling, testing, grading, proficiency testing and grading proficiency. This is done to eliminate the need to re-test or re-certify goods, services, or professionals already approved in their home country.

Grain trade between Uganda and Kenya has been characterized by persistent friction, largely stemming from disputes over quality standards and conformity assessments. Ugandan grain exports particularly maize have frequently faced rejection at the Kenyan border on grounds of alleged non-compliance with quality requirements. Ironically, similar concerns are rarely raised when Kenyan traders source grain directly from Ugandan markets, exposing inconsistencies in enforcement and raising questions about fairness in regional trade practices. These recurring challenges have disrupted trade flows, undermined trust among traders and regulators, and imposed significant costs on exporters, ultimately limiting the full potential of regional agricultural markets.

It is against this backdrop that the Uganda–Kenya Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA) on agricultural produce was signed on 4th December 2025, during the Council of Ministers meeting in Lusaka.

By committing to this strategic intervention, both countries agree to recognize each other's conformity assessments including inspection, grading proficiency, testing proficiency, and certification systems, the agreement seeks to eliminate duplicative processes, reduce non-tariff barriers, and harmonize the application of standards.

``The process was facilitated by the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) in collaboration with AGRA, with support from the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO).

### Implementation milestones

Following the signing of the MRA, COMESA, supported by AGRA convened two events in Uganda; (i) Development of a joint implementation plan by the two national Technical Working groups, and (ii) Training of quality officers on Proficiency Grading.

From 17–19 February 2026, the MRA Technical Working Groups from Kenya and Uganda convened in Entebbe to advance readiness for the MRA.


***Uganda and Kenya MRA Technical Working groups developing a joint implementation plan***

The workshop focused on developing a joint implementation plan for maize, groundnuts, beans, rice, soybeans, and sorghum. Participants reviewed trade flows, conformity assessment costs, and applicable standards, while also identifying capacity-building needs for each member

State. The meeting concluded with recommendations for members of the MRA Joint Committee, marking a significant step toward harmonized


***The Uganda and Kenya MRA Technical Working Groups in Entebbe***

standards and smoother cross-border trade in staple crops.

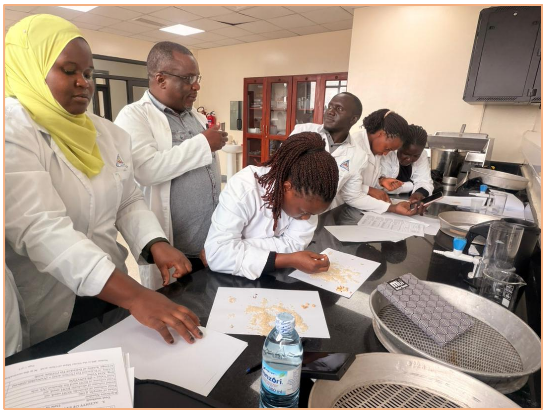
In addition, a two-day National Proficiency Grading workshop was held to strengthen grading capacity within the region and support harmonized standards. Facilitated by Dr. Ndungu John of the Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization (KALRO), the training involved the following:

1. Technical skills in grading cereals and pulses
2. Knowledge of regional and international grading standards
3. Competence in sampling and laboratory analysis.

***L-R: Dr. Musaruwa Mukayi```` (COMESA TBT expert), Insp. Namakajjo Jonathan Richard (UNBS), Mariam (UNBS), Brenda Sunday (Engaano Millers), Insp. Namasa John (MAAIF), Rachael Nahwera (New Kakinga Millers), Dr. Ndungu John (KALRO), Fredric Aganirwa (TGCU), Okwir Emmanuel (Numa Feeds), Peace (Warehouse Receipt System), Clessy Nuwagaba (Birya***

4. Understanding of the Proficiency Grading Scheme

Sessions covered grain quality principles, post-harvest loss factors, pest management, mycotoxins, and sampling techniques. Practical exercises in grain grading and laboratory analysis allowed participants to apply theory to real-world scenarios, enhancing confidence in quality



***Participants in a grading session***

assurance.

## Other activities conducted by TGCU

***Training Cooperative leaders of Sebei region on governance and collective marketing, under an AGRA-funded EAMIAT project in February 2026.***

***After Validation of the climate-resilient food loss reduction (FL-RS) training manuals for beans and maize in Busoga sub region under the AGRA-funded REGAIN project in March 2026***

## Stakeholders chart trade reforms towards accelerated $500bn economy


***UK High Commissioner Lisa Chesney (second left), Trade Minister Francis Mwebesa (third from left) flanked by Minister of State for Trade Gen. Wilson Mbadi TradeMark Africa Country Director Ms. Anna Nambooze extreme right at the Conference***

The Ministry of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives (MTIC) and key partners have adopted a raft of recommendations to accelerate a US$500bn trade-led economy growth by 2040.

The recommendations proposed at the National Trade Review Conference 2026, brought together government, private sector, academia, civil society, and international partners at Speke Resort Munyonyo on 4-5 March 2026.

Delegates at the gathering emphasized the need to navigate an increasingly fragmented global trading system by implementing a revised trade policy with clear timelines, responsibilities, and measurable outcomes. They highlighted the importance of reducing border trading costs, diversifying exports, and leveraging the African Continental Free Trade Area as a central driver of the Tenfold Growth Strategy.

Agriculture was recognized as a cornerstone of industrialization, with commitments to strengthen agro-industrial value chains through investment in quality infrastructure, logistics, and cold chains, while empowering smallholder farmers, cooperatives, and MSMEs. Services-led growth was also prioritized, with reforms aimed at simplifying licensing, strengthening digital trade readiness, and supporting MSMEs in tourism, ICT, logistics, and finance.

Minerals-based industrialization emerged as another strategic pathway, moving beyond raw extraction to domestic value addition. The conference resolved to prioritize beneficiation of gold, iron ore, phosphates, among others, while investing in energy, transport, and skills for downstream industries, alongside enforcing responsible mining standards.

Science, technology, and innovation were identified as essential for advancing high-value manufacturing. Delegates called for stronger collaboration between government, research institutions, and the private sector to promote technology transfer, commercialization of research, and the development of industry-linked skills. Cooperatives were recognized as engines of export growth, with emphasis on professionalizing governance, standardizing quality, and expanding warehouse receipt systems to improve market access.

The implementation of Uganda's trade policy was seen as pivotal in enhancing trade order, production efficiency, and product quality. Measures will include joint frameworks linking ministries and local governments, improved market infrastructure, and annual trade order scorecards to track progress. Finally, the conference underscored the importance of coordination, monitoring, and accountability, calling for increased resources for the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives, stronger inter-institutional collaboration, and structured public-private dialogue platforms.

## ITC, DHL collaborate in building MSME cross-border E-Commerce capacity

***Participants from the MSME sector pause for a group photograph at the Workshop***

The International Trade Centre (ITC), in partnership with DHL Uganda, hosted a workshop on Marh 12, 2026 designed to enhance the capacity of micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in cross-border e-commerce.

This inaugural session marked the beginning of a series of engagements aimed at equipping Ugandan businesses with the tools and knowledge needed to thrive in the digital economy.

The workshop introduced participants to practical strategies for exporting to the European Union and East African Community markets. It provided insights into international logistics procedures, import and export requirements, and the opportunities that digital trade presents for small businesses. Leveraging DHL's global GoTrade programme and ITC's expertise, the event emphasized the importance of readiness and adaptability in navigating international e-commerce.

DHL highlighted its tailored solutions designed to simplify global trade for SMEs, including digital shipping tools, fast and reliable delivery networks, and personalized advisory services. Participants learned how express shipping can significantly boost sales, increase basket values, and improve customer satisfaction.

The session also underscored the importance of optimizing websites for international sales, with clear communication on shipping options proving to be a key driver of customer retention.

The rise of social commerce was another focal point, with discussions on how platforms are reshaping consumer behavior. With three out of four consumers now shopping through social media and live shopping projected to drive substantial growth by 2026, MSMEs were encouraged to embrace these channels to expand their reach.

The workshop concluded by showcasing DHL Express Commerce, a solution that integrates seamlessly with major e-commerce platforms to streamline order fulfillment and logistics. By reducing operational complexity, SMEs can focus on scaling their businesses while ensuring reliable delivery experiences for customers worldwide.

This collaborative effort between ITC and DHL sets a strong foundation for Ugandan MSMEs to compete in global markets. With future workshops planned, the initiative promises to continue building capacity, empowering small businesses to seize opportunities in the rapidly evolving digital trade landscape.

## New members of The Grain Council of Uganda in Quarter 1 2026

| | Member | Category | Location |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Aciro Flora Akot Enterprise | Silver | Kitgum |
| 2 | Sina Makosa Farming Village Ltd | Silver | Kiryandongo |
| 3 | Nexus Green Renewables Ltd | Silver | Ntinda Ind. Area |
| 4 | M9 Group Ltd | Bronze | Fort Portal |
| 5 | Manifold Commodities Ltd | Bronze | Kampala |

## Warmer weather disrupts grain harvest

Erratic 2025 Season B weather disrupted grain harvests across multiple regions, leading to reduced yields and price volatility.

Normally spanning August–December, Season B provides the country's longest rains. However, rainfall was shorter, inconsistent, and poorly distributed; arriving late and ending prematurely.

This left crops exposed and vulnerable, resulting in uneven harvest timing and unusually low volumes.

### A comparative analysis of performance of Maize in Quarter 1 of 2025 & 2026


### Highlights

- Prices in 2026 started higher in January and February compared to 2025 reflecting stronger demand and tighter/low supply from limited harvests
- By March, both years aligned at **1,230**, suggesting market balance
- Farmers and traders benefited from higher prices in the first two months, but the stabilization in March may signal a ceiling effect or increased supply catching up.
- Grain price movements in the first quarter were primarily shaped by; stocking behavior, Food and feed demand, Seed requirements for sowing and both domestic and international trade flows

## A near-normal March-May Climate Outlook - DMS

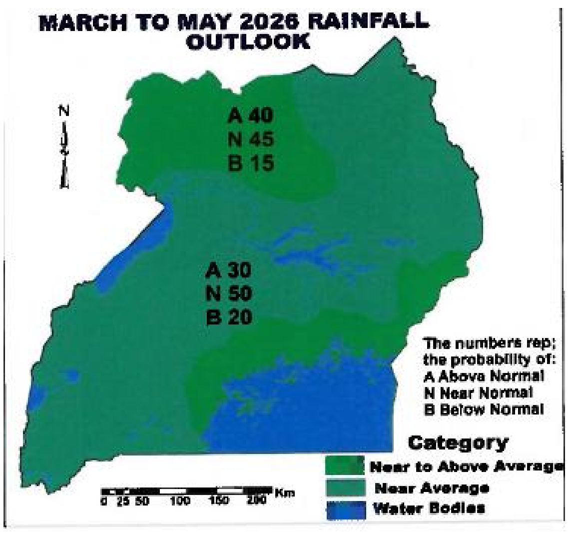
The Department of Meteorological Services (DMS) of the Ministry of Water and Environment predicts near-normal to above-normal rainfall alongside warmer-than-average temperatures.

According to the forecast, the onset of the rains would vary by region but most regions would have rainfall from early to mid-March, peak between April and May, and taper off by late May to early June.

Near normal rainfall typically ranges between 75% and 125% of the long-term average.

**Regional Highlights**

- **Western & Mid-Western:** Near-normal to above-normal rainfall
- **Central & Lake Victoria Basin:** Near-normal rainfall, with high chances of above-normal conditions.
- **Eastern (Kyoga, Mt. Elgon, Lake Victoria):** Near-normal to slightly above-normal rainfall.
- **Northern Regions:** Near-normal rainfall, with some areas tending above-normal.




The forecast suggests favorable conditions for agriculture, livestock, and fisheries, but also warns of risks such as crop diseases, waterborne illnesses and possible flooding and landslides.