

Challenges farmers are facing today

On May 14, Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) released its monthly Food Security Monitor report, which is also available on the Internet for everyone to read. It came out this month but it is actually the April Food Security Monitor. It says global food commodity prices are edging higher mainly due to rising energy and transport costs linked to Middle East tensions.



Michael J. Seal

Farmer's Say

It also says fertiliser, fuel, and transport markets across Africa are showing mounting pressure from the crisis, translating into rising production and food security risks, particularly in import dependent countries.

"As the US/Israel-Iran conflict intensifies, global fertiliser markets are reflecting upward pressure, with urea prices up by 49.6 percent, followed by DAP (14.4 percent) and potash (5.1 percent), underscoring the cumulative impact of prolonged supply

risks and elevated energy costs," says the report.

Founded in 2006, AGRA is an African-led institution focused on scaling agricultural innovations that help smallholder farmers towards increased incomes, better livelihoods, and improved food security.

It endeavours to supply African solutions to the environmental and agricultural challenges that the smallholder farmers in Africa face, enabling them to sustainably boost production and gain access to rapidly growing agricultural markets.

The interesting news in the report for us in Uganda is that while the crisis has already begun to impact fertilizer, fuel, and transport costs across sub-Saharan Africa, Uganda stands out as an exception, recording sharp fertilizer price declines, easing supply conditions.

The interesting news in the report for us in Uganda is that while the crisis has already begun to impact fertilizer, fuel, and transport costs across sub-Saharan Africa, Uganda stands out as an exception, recording sharp fertilizer price declines, easing supply conditions.

Otherwise, according to the April Food Security Monitor, fertiliser prices have sharply increased in Rwanda, Malawi, Mozambique, and Nigeria compared to the past 1-12 months, with Rwanda's NPK up by 7.9 percent month-on-month and 33.5 percent year-on-year, and urea 26.3 percent higher than a year ago, while Malawi and Mozambique face the steepest escalation, as urea prices jumped 36-58 percent in one month and remain 88-90 percent above last year, alongside large NPK increases.

Nigeria has seen more moderate but sustained fertiliser inflation, with NPK up 17 percent year-on-year and urea up 12.6 percent month-on-month and 23.5 percent year-on-year.

In response Ethiopia, Kenya, and Malawi are emphasising organic and regenerative approaches such as compost, biochar blends, biological nitrogen fixation and soil health trials while also relying on existing inorganic fertiliser stocks and exploring local fertiliser production.

The risen fuel prices are already driving transport costs upwards and making it harder for farmers to transport their farm yields to markets. The high transport costs reduce farmers' profits and generally lead to higher food prices.



Seed companies

Digi farm

The Seed T (STTS) is a tracks seed farmer's ha

BY PROMISE T

At Ngetta Z al Research ment Inst northern of farmers hunc phones, punchin USSD code with Extension worke the group, guidi the steps to veri ty of their seeds.

For many of ti ered that day, it they had ever b the authenticity planting it. It wa research station far-reaching imp

Uganda's See Traceability Sy being introdu holder farmers long, planted o times harvested Uganda Seed T (USTA) has bee to introduce th communities.

The sessions t practical agro crop managen and variety sele on training on S

The STTS is a tal platform tha ty from produc hands. Every c carries a uniqu ber on its labe confirm authe required to dia