

FOREX Rates

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
US Dollar	3596	3616
Euro	4123	4212
Pound	4656	4765
Nyenya	34.45	34.9
Tr Sh	1.595	1.65
S.A Rand	265	295
Japanese Yen	31.35	32.65
Shiram	963	991
Rwandese Franc	4.1	4.35
Dollar small sold bills	3575	3616

RATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY MAIZE, SOYA FARMERS EDGE OUT MIDDLEMEN

By Prossy Nandudu

The Eastern Africa Farmers Federation (EAFF) has entered into partnership with the Export Trading Company to secure markets for soya beans and maize farmers.

Under the contract, farmers will supply the company 100,000 tonnes of maize per year and 50,000 metric tonnes of soya beans for the next five years.

This was revealed by Stephen Muchiri, the chief executive officer of EAFF, during the launch of an E-granary platform in partnership with the Uganda National Farmers Federation at the body's offices in Kampala on Thursday.

Muchiri said the parties will operate through a platform called E-granary, which will connect farmers, service providers, like insurers, financiers, agro input suppliers, extension services and buyers, excluding middle men.

"Fragmentation of farmers is still the biggest challenge the are facing and as a result they do not access quality inputs, markets, extension, credit, transport, mechanisation," Muchiri said.

With a click of a button on their phone, they will not only register themselves, but also know how much they should plant and the amount of fertiliser to be used among other things.

The initiative which is aimed at building capacity of farmers to become agro-entrepreneurs will, in Uganda, be implemented by the Uganda National Farmers Federation and the Uganda Co-operative Alliance. The other countries will also implement it through their respective farmers bodies.

Business NEWS

FTSE

Down at 7440.01

CAC

Down at 5186.46

DAX

Down at 12226.68

DOW JONES

Up at 21774.95

EAC needs sh6b e-waste implementation strategy

By Jeff Andrew Lule and Sarah Mazirwe

Uganda and the rest of East African states need a collective \$1.680m (about sh6b) for the implementation of the regional electronic waste management strategy. This translates into an average of sh1.2b annually.

The finances are expected to be used to set up the e-waste management framework which will include the harmonisation of policies, regulations and guidelines, capacity building of the human resource and infrastructure as well as resource mobilisation and research, monitoring and evaluation.

The strategy is supposed to be implemented in five years from 2017 to 2022. The chairperson, East Africa Communications Organisation (EACO) working group on environment and e-waste, Juma Ooro said part of the money will be used to construct a regional e-waste recycling facility which recycle and safely dispose of all e-waste.

"We plan to set up a regional facility or upgrade the one of the facilities in Kenya or Rwanda depending on the finances because an independent plant might be costly. We also want the individual states to have recycling facilities," he said.

East African Community (EAC) is composed of Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda, Burundi and South Sudan. Ooro said only two countries; Kenya and Rwanda have e-waste recycling plants.

He was speaking at a regional meeting on sustainable e-waste management at the Uganda Communications Commission (UCC) offices in Bugolobi, a city suburb.



The CEO of Digital Pipeline Africa, Peter Gitau, interacting with Mugimba at UCC headquarters in Kampala. Photo by Godiver Asege

BETWEEN THE LINES:

■ Juma Ooro, the EA communications Organisation chairperson said they plan to set up a regional facility or upgrade one of the facilities in Kenya.



Ooro

Ooro said the increasing volumes of e-waste in the region poses a big threat to the environment and health.

E-waste, (electronic waste), is waste from all sorts of electronics ranging from computers and mobile phones, to household electronics such

as food processors, pressure, cookers, fridges etc.

The improper disposal of these electronic wastes affect the soil, air, and water thus causing a danger to human life.

Currently, there is no recorded data on the volumes on the generated e-waste in the region.

The strategy is to be sent to the EAC council for ministers which will present it to the heads of state summit.

Christine Mugimba, the head of strategy and research at UCC, said there is need to restrict licence to general requirements related to electronics, if the region is to effectively address the problem of e-waste.

Nicholas Twijukye an engineering student at Makerere University said the region should institute strict laws on the importation of electronic gadgets to avoid e-waste.