

# katale



ANIMAL FEEDS



VETERINARY SERVICES



FERTILISER



SEEDS



TRANSPORT



EQUIPMENT



**market place**  
**GROUNDNUT DEMAND,  
 PRICES SURGE**

Wholesale and retail traders attribute the price increase of groundnuts to high demand and poor harvests. writes **CHRISTINE KATENDE**.

The taking off of the second planting season in many parts of the country has hit groundnuts supplies hard, pushing the prices up. Retailers who are pivotal industry players have now opted to mark up own prices.

Most traders have disclosed that normally as farmers draw closer to the planting season, there is scarcity on the market.

The uncontrollable hike in price is always experienced during the months of August to November.

Frank Kidega, one of the traders of groundnuts at Nakawa market, says usually the prices drop with high supplies that come with bumper harvests, that is in; December, June and July.

He says that most traders are instead stocking what is going to take them through the period.

"In most cases, groundnuts prices are determined according to the weather, during the dry season, farmers harvest less and it is sold to us expensively. It also happens towards the planting season," he reveals.

According to traders, at Nakawa market, the price of the groundnuts is Shs6,000, per kilogramme.

"Grained groundnuts cost between Shs6,000 to Shs12,000 depending on the type," said Kidega a middleman who procures his groundnuts from Lira and Masindi.

# 5,000

**AVERAGE COST PER KILOGRAMME  
 IN SEVERAL MARKETS**

However, at St Balikudembe (Owino) market, the prices vary from wholesalers to retailers. Wholesale price range between Shs3,400 - Shs4,700 while retail prices range between Shs4,800 - Shs5,000.

Carolyn Mugisha is a wholesale trader who buys the produce from several districts.

She attributes the price increase to current low supply on the market.

Mugisha buys a 100 kilogramme sack of groundnuts between Shs330,000 - Shs420,000 depending on the type and

**PRICES**

\*A 100 kilogramme of Malawi groundnuts costs between Shs380,000 - Shs450,000.

\*A 100 kilogramme sack of Soroti white groundnuts costs between Shs340,000 - Shs350,000.

\*A 100 kilogramme sack of Tanzania small white groundnuts costs between Shs400,000 - Shs450,000.

\*The cost of groundnut paste at most wholesale shops at St Balikudembe Market ranges between Shs4,000 - Shs5,000 a kilogramme.

\*Retail price for the same paste goes for Shs5,500 and Shs6,000 a kilogramme.

region of origin. She then sells a 100 kilogramme sack between Shs350,000 - Shs500,000 depending on the type.

"I supply several retailers at St Balikudembe and nearby markets as well as individual customers. My earnings improve by the day as compared to when the prices are low," Mugisha says.

Our survey also indicates that the price of sorted or clean groundnuts is slightly higher as compared to the unsorted groundnuts.

In most markets, the prices have increased by Shs500 to Shs1,000, according to Richard Pakwata, a farmer and trader in Masindi.

"Traders from different big market are buying bulk and in the way, most farmers end up exaggerating the prices," Pakwata discloses, adding, "Including other costs, Kampala traders are also forced to increase the prices to meet the required profits."

Pakwata says the current retail price of groundnuts in Masindi is Shs4,000 rising from Shs3,500 two months ago.

Unlike traders from most surveyed markets who only attribute the price increase to the scarcity, Moses Galiwango, a groundnuts trader at Koboko market attributes hiking prices to unpredictable weather besides poor transportation.

The prices have shot from Shs3,500 a kilogramme in March to Shs4,000 - Shs5,000 a kilogramme.

Other markets like in Mbarara, the high producers of small red groundnuts, a kilogramme costs Shs4,200.

Alex Mugisha, one of the traders that deal in imported groundnuts sells a kilogramme of Malawi variety between Shs38,000 - Shs45,000.

Producing districts  
 The major producing districts of the crop that takes three to five months to mature include; Masindi, Kasese, Mbarara, Kabarole, Soroti, Koboko, Masaka, Mubende, and Lira.

**reliefline**  
 emergency relief suppliers

**Submersible Pumps**  
 Simplifies Pumping  
 Aids quick rotation.

**Complete Stainless steel & Standard pumps**

**Borehole Handpump**      **Solar lighting**

- Has got Heavier Handle which gives less pumping effort.
- User friendly.