



# MARKUP

EU-EAC MARKET ACCESS UPGRADE PROGRAMME

## Status of Standards Harmonisation for Selected Agricultural Export Products

EU-EAC MARKUP Policy Brief No. 1



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MARKUP is a regional trade development initiative funded by the European Union with support from the Federal Government of Germany, which aims at addressing both the supply side and market access constraints of selected key export-oriented sectors in Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda. The priority value chains are coffee, tea, cocoa, avocado, and selected horticultural products. The overall objective of the programme is to contribute to the economic development of the EAC region by increasing the value of both extra- and intra-regional agricultural exports, with the main focus on exports towards the European Union.

[www.eacmarkup.org](http://www.eacmarkup.org)

## 1. Background

The East African Community (EAC), through the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) and under the EU-EAC Market Access Upgrade Programme (MARKUP), is implementing an initiative to improve harmonisation of standards for coffee, tea, cocoa, avocados and other priority horticultural products, oilseeds and spices. Taking the value chain approach, the harmonisation covers not only the primary crops in the priority sectors, but also products from these crops that have demonstrable export potential.

The harmonisation of EA standards is governed by the EAC Standardisation, Quality Assurance, Metrology and Testing (SQMT) Act of 2006. The objective of this Act is to harmonise national and East African Standards with international standards in order to reduce costs, enhance compliance, develop trade opportunities and facilitate regional and international trade. A standard is a document approved by a recognised body that provides for common and repeated use, rules, guidelines or characteristics of products and their related processes or production methods. It may cover terminology, symbols, packaging, marking or labelling requirements. Although compliance with standards is voluntary, most of the EA food standards are mandatory.

The principles for the development, publication, adoption and maintenance of EA Standards are set out in the '*EAC Principles and Procedures for the Development of East African Standards*' formulated under the SQMT Act. The principles include openness, transparency, impartiality, consensus, effectiveness, coherence and development dimension which means having mechanisms for facilitation of the participation of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and all the Partner States. In line with these principles, the standards harmonisation process includes an enquiry stage at which draft EA standards are notified to the World Trade Organization (WTO). These wide consultations ensure that EA standards are in harmony with international standards.

Harmonised EAC standards are a practical demonstration of deepening regional integration. They are a signal to standards enforcement agencies as well as buyers and consumers that exports bearing the EAC standards certification marks conform to common technical barriers to trade (TBT) and sanitary & phytosanitary (SPS) requirements, regardless of the EAC Partner State of origin. Therefore, in defining the priority products for which improved harmonisation was required, MARKUP undertook a standards gap assessment in the 5 beneficiary Partner States; Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda. This Policy Brief outlines the key findings of the assessment. It summarises the status and gaps in harmonisation of EA standards for coffee, tea, cocoa, horticultural produce, oilseeds and spices and related products, and makes recommendations to strengthen the process of development and harmonisation of standards in line with the SQMT Act.

## 2. The scope and status of harmonization

The gap assessment established that the standards of 40% of the 46 products under the main MARKUP priority value chains have already been harmonised. While some of the harmonised standards date back to 1999, most took effect in 2017 and 2018. The harmonised East African standards are shown in Table 1.

**Table 1: MARKUP priority commodities with Harmonized East African Standards**

Value Chain	Product Name	EAS Reference
Coffee	1. Green coffee beans	EAS 130:1999
	2. Roasted and ground coffee	EAS 105:2008
Tea	3. Green tea	EAS 921:2018,
	4. Instant tea	EAS 923:2018
	5. Flavoured black Tea,	EAS 922:2018
Horticultural products	6. Mango Fruit	EAS 329:2017
	7. Passion Fruit	EAS 91:2017
	8. Juice and Nectar	EAS 948:2019
	9. Avocado Fresh Fruit	EAS 19:2017
	10. Avocado Crude Oil	EAS 837:2017; EAS 321:2018
	11. Refined Avocado Oil	EAS729:2012
	12. Snow peas	EAS 759:2013
Oil seeds	13. Sesame seeds	EAS 86:2017
	14. Groundnuts	EAS 888:2018
	15. Edible groundnut oil	EAS 889:2018
Herbs and Spices	16. Cloves	FDEAS 918:2019
	17. Turmeric	FDEAS 917:2019
	18. Ginger	FDEAS 916:2019

### 3. Existing East African standards of MARKUP priority commodities and status of adoption by Partner States

Article 15(1) of the SQMT Act requires each Partner State to adopt and publish EA Standards as national standards within six months after approval by the EAC Council of Ministers. Of the 18 harmonised standards above (Table 1), 10 have been adopted by all the Partner States, while the remaining 8 have not been adopted by some Partner States. Table 2 shows Partner States that have not adopted the relevant EA standards.

**Table 2: Partner States that have not adopted the given harmonised EA standards**

Product Name	EAS Reference	Country
1. Green coffee beans	EAS 130:1999	Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda
2. Roasted ground coffee	EAS 105:2008	Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda
3. Passion fruit	EAS 91:2017	Rwanda
4. Avocado crude oil	EAS 837:2017	Tanzania, Uganda
5. Refined Avocado Oil	EAS729:2012	Burundi, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda
6. Snow peas	EAS 759:2013	Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania
7. Sesame	EAS 86:2017	Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda
8. Groundnuts	EAS 888:2018	Tanzania

#### 4. MARKUP priority commodities with national standards

Thirteen (13) of the 46 commodities falling under the MARKUP priority value chains have national standards in at least one of the EAC Partner States. The national standards of these 13 commodities (as listed in Table 3) require harmonisation at the EAC level.

**Table 3: MARKUP priority commodities with national standards that require harmonisation**

Value Chain	Product name	National Reference	Standard	Country
Coffee	1. Instant Coffee	US 907:2011 TZS 414:2009 KS 175: 2017		Uganda Tanzania Kenya
	2. Herbal tea	KS 2676:2017 US 980:2013		Kenya Uganda
Horticultural produce	3. Mango Juice and Pulp	KS 2640:2016 TZS 303: 2017 US 62:2011 US 818:2019		Kenya Tanzania Uganda
	4. Passion Juice and Pulp	KS 2640:2016 TZS 388: 2018		Kenya Tanzania
	5. Fresh Garden Peas	US CODEX STAN 41: 2014 KS 1169		Uganda Kenya
Cocoa	6. Cocoa Beans	KS ISO 2451:2017 US ISO 2451: 1973		Kenya Uganda
	7. Cocoa Butter	KS CODEX STAN 147: 1985		Kenya
	8. Cocoa Powder	KS 436-1: 2013 US CODEX STAN 105:1981		Kenya Uganda
	9. Chocolates	KS CODEX STAN 141: 2014 US 1541:2013		Kenya Uganda
Spices	10. Cinnamon	KS ISO 6539:2014 US ISO6539: 2016		Kenya Uganda
	11. Pepper (Black and White)	KS ISO 959-1:1998 US ISO 959-1&2		Kenya Uganda
Oilseeds	12. Macadamia Nuts	KS 868:2014 US 1702:2017 US 1703: 2017		Kenya Uganda
	13. Cashew Nuts	KS 227-2: 2014 US 1704:2017 US 1705: 2017 TZS 1535: 2012 TZS 739:2010		Kenya Uganda Tanzania

#### 5. MARKUP priority commodities that require development and harmonisation of standards

Fifteen (15) of the 46 commodities falling under the MARKUP priority value chains have neither EA standards, nor national standards. These products are shown in Table 4 by value chain.

**Table 4: MARKUP priority commodities recommended for development of standards**

<b>Coffee</b>	1. Coffee mixtures-premix 2. Flavoured/Spiced coffee 3. Liquid coffee (Ready-to-drink coffee)
<b>Cocoa</b>	4. Cocoa-sugar mixtures 5. Malt-based cocoa products 6. Granulated products 7. Unsweetened cocoa powder 8. Code of practice for the cocoa industry 9. Drinking chocolate
<b>Tea</b>	10. Flavoured tea
<b>Horticultural produce</b>	11. Fresh snow peas 12. French beans 13. Avocado powder
<b>Spices</b>	14. Chilli oil 15. Fresh chilli

## **6. Policy recommendations**

The following recommendations are made to fast-track the harmonisation of standards for the MARKUP priority products:

1. Partner States adopt the existing EA standards as national standards according to the SQMT Act of 2006;
2. Partner States strengthen research and data generation to inform setting or amending parameters of given standards;
3. The EA Standards Management Committee requests the relevant technical committee to initiate the work of developing and harmonising standards for the 28 commodities for which new standards are required;
4. EAC advocates for more resources to ensure that the harmonisation process is more inclusive;
5. EAC explores the development of horizontal standards for selected parameters (such as maximum limits of contaminants, pesticide residues and food additives) that are common to several products.