MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
TANZANIA TOBACCO BOARD
Shule Street, P.O Box 61, Tabora,
Tel/Fax: 0262604417,
E-mail: info@tobaccoboard.go.tz, dg@tobaccoboard.go.tz,

TO ALL STAKEHOLDERS AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC

PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES TO UNDERTAKE AGAINST SPREAD OF COVID -19 DURING 2020/2021 TOBACCO MARKET SEASON

1. INTRODUCTION
Tobacco markets all over the country are intended to commence early May 2020. However, due to the outbreak of Corona Virus disease (Covid -19), which is a pandemic disease spreading swiftly through air and direct contact to persons or affected objects; it might affect and hinder the marketing operations from happening as planned before. As a result of the outbreak of Covid – 19, the Board has prepared procedures to be followed during the markets to avoid further infections. The reasons for these procedures lies on:-

1) Ensuring growers sell their tobacco before quality deterioration
2) Enabling growers recover bank loans and avoid penalties
3) Empowering growers economically through tobacco sales, but also
4) To meet customers’ deadlines as competing countries like Zambia have also started the season

Therefore, Tanzania Tobacco Board has prepared guidelines to be adhered to by all stakeholders who will attend tobacco markets.

2. KEEPING DISTANCE BETWEEN ONE ANOTHER
In every tobacco market center, not more than 50 attendants from all groups of participants will be allowed to enter and participate in the market processes. The composition list will be as follows:-

i. Tanzania Tobacco Board Classifiers – 3
ii. Growers who are selling their tobacco - 5-10
iii. Tobacco Cooperative Unions Leaf men – 2
iv. Company's Leaf Buyers – 3
v. Company's Leaf Checkers – 10
vi. Market Clerks – 10- 15
vii. Invited Guests or Supervisors if any– 4 (By permission from TTB)

3. SUPERVISION AND MONITORING AT THE CENTRAL MARKET MAIN ENTRANCE

In every market center, the following be adhered to :

i. There will be only one entrance in order to control every person entering the market.

ii. Every tobacco buying company must establish a register of all persons attending any market center, including buying teams, growers and any invitee(s). The register should include names, age, village/street/ Primary Society, District and individuals’ mobile numbers.

iii. Temperature screening using non-contact temperature thermometer shall be carried and records taken for every person entering the market at the entry points in both Central and Primary Society market centers.

iv. Enough hand washing equipment’s with running water, sanitizers/soaps, must be installed and accessible to all persons at every market center.

v. Every tobacco buying company should construct a waiting shed at the central market center for growers and other persons waiting to enter the market.

vi. Any person with the following criteria and or symptoms should not attend tobacco markets and instead should remain at home for his or her safety: -

➢ Any person aged 60 years and above;
Any person who is diabetic, pregnant, under medication/treatment, High blood pressure, common flu/cough, HIV, asthma, malaria, typhoid and any other disease.

vii. Companies and Unions will prepare and display posters on hygienic measures as directed by the government to avoid spread of the disease. Further to that, posters should express what to do when someone is feeling like having Corona virus symptoms; and

viii. Any other measure as may be deemed fit, just and appropriate including any other precautions to be prescribed by the Government.

4. SAFETY ON THE ENTRANCE OF THE MARKET CENTER

➢ Every person entering the tobacco market should maintain social distancing, by distancing himself at about one and a half to two meters from one another.

➢ Buying teams, markets clerks, Primary and Union representatives must wear protective gears like face masks at all the times while in the market centers. Classifiers, leaf checkers, clerks, should not wear plastic hand gloves to avoid NTRM.

5. MARKET PREPARATIONS

➢ Tobacco sales preparations at Central Markets shall be prepared by companies’ Clerks, Primary Societies and Union representatives whose total number shall not exceed 30 persons at a time.

➢ Tobacco sales preparations at Primary Society market centers shall be prepared by Primary Society Market Clerks in collaboration with Company’s clerks whose number should not exceed 10.

6. TOBACCO BALE STRAPPING/TYING

➢ Company’s market Clerks in all Market Centers, shall be responsible on unstrapping and strapping up all tobacco bales before and after buying operations.
7. MARKET PROCEDURES

➢ For all Primary Society’s Market Centers, a total number of 10 growers shall be responsible to un-strapping and strapping their tobacco bales to be sold on that day.

➢ Tobacco Classifiers, Buyers, Leaf Men, Clerks, Markers and all other responsible persons, must distance themselves at 1.5–2.0 meters from each other, which is equal to 3 bales between one person to another.

➢ After buying operations, Union and Primary Cooperative representatives shall take a copy of the PCN and bale tickets for their records, whereby, growers will access their sales reports at their Primary Societies, where also the social distancing should be observed.

8. IMPLEMENTATION AND OBSERVATION OF THESE GUIDELINES

Supervision on status of Implementation and observation of all of the above guidelines shall be under Tobacco Board in the assistance with Primary Cooperatives, Cooperatives Unions and the Tobacco Buying Companies.

9. TRANSPORTATION OF GROWERS TO WITNESS MARKETING OPERATIONS AT THE CENTRAL MARKETS

➢ Grower’s temperature will be screened using non-contact temperature thermometers, before boarding the bus.

➢ Growers and any person intending to get in the bus should wash and sanitize her/his hands before boarding the bus.

➢ The bus or vehicles to be used must be sprayed by recommended sanitizers before growers get in the vehicle.

➢ Growers must be monitored and restricted to attend congested places before and after the market.

➢ After the market, all growers must be returned back to their village safely.
10. COSTS FOR BUYING THE ABOVE PROTECTION EQUIPMENTS
   ➢ Required sanitary equipments in all Central Markets shall be borne by the tobacco buying companies.
   ➢ In all Primary Society market centers, all sanitary equipment costs shall be borne by Unions and Primary Cooperative Societies.
   ➢ Buying Companies shall prepare posters and distribute to all markets of their contracted Primary Societies, displaying Covid-19 symptoms and what growers should do if she/he feels any of such symptoms;

11. TRAINING ON MARKET PROCEDURES, TOBACCO STANDARD SETTING AND HOW TO TAKE PRECAUTIONS ON CORONA VIRUS
   ➢ Seminar/training on market procedures, tobacco standard settings and how to take precautions against Covid-19 will be conducted before commencement of tobacco markets on 02/05/2020
   ➢ Trainings will be conducted for two days in every tobacco region starting from 29-30/04/2020;
   ➢ Training will involve only few persons who will be involved in the market operations;
   ➢ Training will carry all the appreciation themes as it used to be all the years.

The Board wishes every stakeholder a safe market season, believing that everyone will adhere to these protection measures. It is the Board’s duty to ensure that everyone is safe and operates in safe environment. You are welcome for any improvement if any

WE CARE FOR YOU ALL

Issued by:-
Stanley N. Mhozya
ACTING DIRECTOR GENERAL
Date: 21st April 2020