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| **COMMON MARKET FOR EASTERN****AND SOUTHERN AFRICA****DRAFT****COMESA GUIDELINE TO EXPORT TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA** |

**ACRONYMS**

**ABI Automated Broker Interface**

**AGOA African Growth and Opportunity Act**

**AMS Automated Manifest System**

**APHIS Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service**

**APHIS-VS APHIS Veterinary Services**

**ASF African Swine Fever**

**BSE Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy**

**CAADP Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme**

**CBP Customs and Border Protection**

**CBP–AS CBP Agriculture Specialists**

**CFR Code of Federal Regulations**

**CGMPs Current Good Manufacturing Practices**

**CITES Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora**

**COMESA Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa**

**CSF Classical Swine Fever**

**DO Development Objective**

**EAC East African Community**

**EPA Environmental Protection Agency**

**FAO Food and Agriculture Organization**

**FAS** **Foreign Agriculture Services**

**FAVIR Fruits and Vegetables Import Requirements (Database)**

**FCE Food Canning Establishment**

**FDA Food and Drug Administration**

**FD&C Act Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act**

**FMD Foot-and-Mouth Disease**

**FPLA Fair Packaging and Labeling Act**

**FR Federal Register**

**FSIS Food Safety and Inspection Service**

**FSMA Food Safety Modernization Act**

**FSVP Foreign Supplier Verification programs**

**FTAs Free Trade Agreements**

**GAIN Global Agricultural Information Network**

**GAP Good Agricultural Practices**

**GATS Global Agricultural Trade System**

**GSP Generalised System of Preferences**

**HACCP Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point**

**HPAI Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza**

**HTSUS Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States**

**IPPC International Plant Protection Convention**

**ISPM International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures**

**LACF Low-acid canned foods**

**NCIE National Center for Import and Export**

**ND Newcastle Disease**

**NLEA Nutrition Labeling and Education Act**

**NPPO National Plant Protection Organisation**

**OIE World Organisation for Animal Health**

**PCAF Preventive Controls for Animal Food**

**PCHF Preventive Controls for Human Food**

**PCQI Preventive Controls Qualified Individual**

**PEQ Post Entry Quarantine**

**PPQ Plant Protection and Quarantine**

**PRA Pest Risk Analysis**

**RDCS Regional Development Cooperation Strategy**

**RDOAG Regional Development Objective Agreement**

**SADC Southern African Development Community**

**SID Submission Identifier**

**SPS Sanitary and Phytosanitary**

**SSA Sub-Saharan African**

**SVD Swine Vesicular Disease**

**TBT Technical Barriers to Trade**

**US Unites States (of America)**

**USAID US Agency for International Development**

**USDA United States Department of Agriculture**

**VQIP Voluntary Qualified Importer Program**

**WHO World Health Organisation**

**WTO World Trade Organisation**

**WTO SPS Agreement World Trade Organisation Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures**

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1. **Introduction**

One of the objectives of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) is “to attain sustainable growth and development of the Member States by promoting a more balanced and harmonious development of its production and marketing structures”. The COMESA Treaty, as well as at the continental level in the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), recognizes that agriculture is key to the economies of most COMESA countries. The African Union Malabo Declaration on accelerated agricultural growth and transformation reiterates the need to expand Africa’s agricultural trade and made a commitment to “harness markets and trade opportunities locally, regionally and internationally”.

The COMESA Free Trade Area Treaty concerns amongst others, co-operation in the export of agricultural commodities, and Member States agree to “harmonise their policies and regulations relating to sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) measures without impeding the export of crops, plants, seeds, livestock, livestock products, fish and fish-products”. The COMESA Sanitary and Phytosanitary Strategy for the period 2016-2020, complements COMESA’s Medium-Term Strategic Plan for the same period and supports the implementation of COMESA’s SPS regulations as well as the Tripartite Free Trade Area’s SPS Annex, both of which are anchored in the WTO SPS Agreement.

Nations adopt SPS measures that are mandatory technical requirements to protect the health and lives of humans, animals, and plants from risks associated with disease, pests, and contamination of foodstuffs, and to prevent damage to agriculture and the environment caused by the establishment or spread of such pests. The World Trade Organisation Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (WTO SPS Agreement) applies to SPS measures which may, directly or indirectly, affect international trade and outlines the provisions according to which such measures shall be developed and applied. Sanitary measures apply to human or animal health protection, whereas phytosanitary measures apply to plant health protection. SPS measures may take many forms, including laws, decrees, regulations, requirements and procedures, and they may involve the application of specific standards.

The WTO SPS Agreement requires that measures conform to international standards, guidelines or recommendations, as promulgated by the relevant international standard-setting bodies namely Codex Alimentarius Commission, World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC). If a country measure results in a level of protection higher than would be achieved by a relevant international standard, or if no such standard exists, the measure must be based on a risk assessment appropriate to the circumstances, reflect a consistent approach to risk management, and be the least trade-restrictive means of achieving the importing member’s level of protection.

Agricultural producers, exporters and regulatory authorities share the responsibility for ensuring conformity and compliance with importing countries’ SPS requirements. Producers and exporters are typically responsible for ensuring that requirements are met, and governments monitor compliance, applying restrictions where necessary. The relevant SPS authorities of an exporting country provide official certification that the requirements of an importing country have been met for agricultural products in international trade. These certification activities require amongst others, suitable SPS legal frameworks and enforcement mechanisms, technical support in the form of surveillance and monitoring systems, testing laboratories, official inspection services, as well as maintaining pest and disease databases.

1. **Development Objectives shared by the US and COMESA**

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) adopted a five-year East Africa Regional Development Cooperation Strategy (2016 – 2020) (RDCS) in May 2016, with an overall goal of “enhancing East African-led sustainable economic growth and resilience.” It focuses on three complementary and synergistic development objectives (DOs), namely: DO 1: Sustainable regional economic integration advanced; DO 2: Improved management of risks that transcend borders; and DO 3: East African institutions’ leadership and learning strengthened. The RDCS strategy was developed in consultation with stakeholders and partners across the East African region, including COMESA, and is aligned with regional Strategic Objectives to achieve shared goals.

A Regional Development Objective Agreement (RDOAG) was then developed with three programs to be implemented under the RDOAG:

* Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) and Standards
* Agriculture inputs and value chains, including livestock markets
* Market linkages under the COMESA Business Council (CBC) .

The COMESA SPS program works across COMESA and the tripartite region of COMESA, East African Community (EAC) and Southern African Development Community (SADC), to promote a harmonized risk based regulatory environment and strengthened biosecurity systems that enhance food and nutrition security and facilitate agricultural trade, exports and investments. The proposed SPS Programme initiatives will improve compliance in the public and private sectors to enhance market access, as well as encourage local and foreign investments in agro-processing and agri-businesses. Amongst these initiatives, COMESA will support existing and new exporters to respond to changes to US SPS regulatory requirements, the required investments to train personnel, upgrade of food production facilities and to establish systems that meet FDA requirements to enhance trade and investment opportunities under African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA).

The African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) is a United States Trade Act, enacted on 18 May 2000 as Public Law 106 of the 200th Congress, and has since been renewed to 2025. It aims to enhance market access to the US for qualifying Sub-Saharan African (SSA) countries and builds on existing US trade programs by expanding the duty-free benefits previously available only under the country’s Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) program. Duty-free access to the US market under the combined AGOA/GSP program stands at approximately 6,500 product tariff lines and include items such as apparel and footwear, wine, certain motor vehicle components, a variety of agricultural products, chemicals, steel and many others. Qualification for AGOA preferences is based on a set of conditions contained in the AGOA legislation.

1. **Exporting to the United States of America**
	1. **United States Customs and Border Protection (CBP)**

The US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) agency of the Department of Homeland Security provides the functions of the former Customs Service, Immigration and Naturalization Service, Border Patrol, and Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. It is the responsibility of the exporter to verify the US import requirements and confirm compliance before export takes place. Ports of entry are the level at which CBP enforces import and export laws and regulations, implements immigration policies and programs and perform agricultural inspections. The CBP operates through a field-office structure that provide managerial oversight and operational assistance to 324 US ports of entry. The latest information on the various laws, regulations or procedures that may affect export of agricultural products to the US are available on the CBP website (https://www.cbp.gov/).

An importer or exporter transacting with CBP on his/her own account is not required to be licensed. A broker conducting customs business on behalf of the importer must hold a valid Customs Broker license. The importer must assure that imported product complies with other agencies requirements (e.g., FDA, Agriculture, etc.) and obtained licenses or permits, if required, from them. The exporter must confirm with the importer trade partner that the necessary US licenses and permits are obtained. The exporter must register with the relevant Customs authority in the exporting country.

The CBP website contains the “Importing into the United States’’ guide for commercial importers with detailed information about the importing process and import requirements. The document provides the following general tips for exporters to the US to consider for faster clearance of consignments:

* Include all information required on customs invoices.
* Prepare invoices carefully and type them clearly. Allow enough space between lines. Keep the data within each column.
* Ensure that invoices contain the information that would be shown on a well-prepared packing list.
* Mark and number each package so it can be identified with the corresponding marks and numbers appearing on the consignment invoice.
* Provide a detailed description on the invoice of each item of merchandise contained in each individual package.
* Mark goods legibly and conspicuously with the country of origin unless they are specifically exempted from country-of-origin marking requirements, and with such other marking as is required by the marking laws of the US.
* Comply with the provisions of any special laws of the United States that may apply to your goods, such as laws relating to food, drugs, cosmetics, alcoholic beverages, radioactive materials, and others.
* Observe the instructions closely with respect to invoicing, packaging, marking, labeling, etc., provided by your customer in the US.
* Work with CBP to develop packing standards for your commodities.
* Establish sound security procedures at your facility and while transporting your goods for shipment. Do not give narcotics smugglers the opportunity to introduce narcotics into your shipment.
* Consider shipping on a carrier participating in the Automated Manifest System (AMS).
* If you use a licensed customs broker for your transaction, consider using a firm that participates in the Automated Broker Interface (ABI).
	+ 1. **The US Customs Modernization Act**

The Customs Modernization Act became effective on 8 December 1993. It is the legal responsibility of the importer to accurately and in a timely manner declare the value, classification, and rate of duty applicable to entered merchandise. An importer or exporter may consult with an US CBP Import Specialist at the US port of entry through which the product will be imported for assistance.

* + 1. **Tariffs and Quotas**

The Office of Tariff Affairs and Trade Agreements (USITC) publishes the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States Annotated (HTSA). The HTSA provides the applicable tariff rates and statistical categories for all merchandise imported into the United States and is based on the international Harmonized System (HS) that is used to describe most world trade in goods. The latest HTSA is available on the USITC website (https://www.usitc.gov/).

Import quotas that control the amount or volume of various commodities that can be imported into the US during a specified period are explained on the CBP website. Various agricultural commodities such as cotton, tobacco, beef, animal feed and peanuts tariff-rate quota limits. Quotas are announced in specific legislation or may be provided for in the manual for Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTSUS).

* 1. **Exporting food, food additives, veterinary products and tobacco products**
		1. **The US regulatory agency and products**

The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulates amongst others food, food additives, veterinary products and tobacco products. All FDA-regulated products imported into the US are required to meet the same laws and regulations as domestic goods. Imported foods must be pure, wholesome, safe to eat and produced under sanitary conditions; tobacco products must meet US requirements, and all products must contain informative and truthful labeling in English. The DFA website (<https://www.fda.gov>) contains detailed information on the specific requirements, labelling and marking as well as enforcement and compliance information.

The Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FD&C Act) provides, among other provisions, the law that authorized the FDA to demand evidence of safety for new drugs, issue standards for food, and conduct factory inspections.

The FDA regulates the safety of substances added to food, and how most food is processed, packaged, and labeled. Honey must undergo a number of tests according to US regulations to enter the country according to FDA regulations.

Foods that are regulated by the FDA, includes:

* dietary supplements
* bottled water
* food additives
* infant formulas
* other food products for human consumption (note the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) plays a lead role in regulating aspects of some meat, poultry, and egg products)

Veterinary Products that are regulated by the FDA, includes:

* livestock feeds
* pet foods
* veterinary drugs and devices

Tobacco Products that are regulated by the FDA, includes:

* cigarettes
* cigarette tobacco
* roll-your-own tobacco
* smokeless tobacco
	+ 1. **Inspections on arrival**

FDA-regulated products are subject to inspection when imported into the USA. During the entry review process, the imported products are held and may not be distributed into US commerce until the FDA has determined their admissibility. Products may be refused entry if they appear, from examination or otherwise, to violate FDA requirements. Rejected products must be destroyed or exported from the US within 90 days. Some products are subject to certification and/or testing requirements due to a history of violations which are identified in import alerts and in certain international cooperative arrangements.

The US agent for FDA communications serves as a point of contact for any matters related to FDA controls including the scheduling of inspections, complications in the port of entry or other regulatory matters. This agent is different than a commercial or customs agent.

* + 1. **Foreign Supplier Verification Programs**

The FDA is increasing the number of routine inspections of foreign food facilities (processors/manufacturers, packers/re-packers, and holders of foods) that export to the US as mandated and based on new requirements included in the US Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) of 2011.

Foreign food facility inspections are designed to:

* + Identify potential food safety problems before products arrive in the US
	+ Determine the compliance status of facilities to the FDA’s requirements and food safety standards
	+ Assist the FDA to make admissibility decisions when food products are offered for importation into the US
	+ Help ensure that food products under FDA’s jurisdiction meet US requirements under the FD&C Act

The FSMA provides the basis for the new FDA Rule on Foreign Supplier Verification Programs (FSVP) for importers of food for human and animals that came into effect May 30, 2017. This Rule requires that importers perform certain risk-based activities to verify that food imported into the US has been produced in a manner that meets applicable safety standards. This implies that US importers will only source food and raw materials from COMESA exporters who meet FDA requirements.

The following categories of food are not covered by FSVP Rule:

* Juice, fish, and fishery products subject to and in compliance with FDA’s Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) regulations for those products, and certain ingredients for use in juice and fish and fishery products subject to the HACCP regulations.
* Food for research or evaluation
* Food for personal consumption
* Alcoholic beverages and certain ingredients for use in alcoholic beverages
* Food that is imported for processing and future export
* Low-acid canned foods (LACF), such as canned vegetables, but only with respect to microbiological hazards covered by other regulations, as well as certain ingredients for use in LACF products (but only with respect to microbiological hazards)
* Certain meat, poultry and egg products regulated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture at the time of importation

Based on the RSVP Rule, US importers have the responsibility to:

* Determine known or reasonably foreseeable hazards with each food imported
* Evaluate the risk posed by a food, based on the hazard analysis, and the foreign supplier’s performance
* Use that evaluation of the risk posed by an imported food and the supplier’s performance to approve suppliers and determine appropriate supplier verification activities
* Conduct supplier verification activities
* Conduct corrective action when necessary

Importers must conduct an evaluation of the risk posed by the imported food and the supplier’s performance and develop and follow written procedures to ensure that they food are imported only from foreign suppliers approved based on the outcome of the risk evaluation. An FSVP must be developed, maintained and followed for each food category brought into the US and the foreign supplier of that food. The risk posed by the imported food and the supplier’s performance must be re-evaluated at least every three years, or when new information comes to light about a potential hazard or the foreign supplier’s performance. Importers of certain small foreign suppliers are subject to modified FSVP requirements.

The US importer must also conduct appropriate food supplier verification activities that may be tailored to unique food risks and supplier characteristics and options include, annual on-site audits of the supplier’s facility, sampling and testing and a review of the supplier’s relevant food safety records.

Detailed guidelines are available on the FDA website (<https://www.fda.gov/food/food-safety-modernization-act-fsma/fsma-rules-guidance-industry#Guidance>) to assist industry and small entities in the application of the FSVPs for the importation of food for humans and animals, grain raw agricultural commodities, and live animals.

* + 1. **Registration of Foreign Supplier Food Facilities**

The FSMA amended section 415 of the FD&C Act which requires domestic and foreign facilities that manufacture, process, pack or hold food for human or animal consumption in the US to register with the FDA. Registration is required unless food from that facility undergoes further processing (including packaging) by another foreign facility before the food is exported to the US. However, if the subsequent foreign facility performs only a minimal activity, such as putting on a label, both facilities are required to register. This means that food product shipped to the US from COMESA facilities that have not been registered with the FDA will be DENIED ENTRY.

COMESA facilities that handle any of the following food products must be registered with the FDA and renew their registrations between October 1 and December 31 of each even-numbered year.:

* Dietary supplements and dietary ingredients
* Infant formula
* Beverages (including alcoholic beverages and bottled water)
* Fruits and vegetables
* Fish and seafood
* Dairy products and shell eggs
* Raw agricultural commodities for use as food or components of food
* Canned and frozen foods
* Bakery goods, snack food, and candy (including chewing gum)
* Live animals
* Food for animals

Registered COMESA facilities must submit Prior Notice to FDA for every shipment of food to the US. The Prior Notice may be submitted by anyone with knowledge of a shipment and includes information about the exporter, the importer, the product, and the method of shipment.

The FDA requires companies that produce and export certain shelf-stable, hermetically-sealed acidified or low-acid foods to the US to obtain a Food Canning Establishment (FCE) registration. Manufacturers must submit documentation for each process used in the production of foods subject to these requirements. These submissions are known as a “Process Filing” and each is assigned a unique Submission Identifier (SID).

* + 1. **Current Good Manufacturing Practice, Hazard Analysis, and Risk-Based Preventive Controls for Human Food (PCHF rule) requirements for COMESA facilities**

The Current Good Manufacturing Practice, Hazard Analysis, and Risk-Based Preventive Controls for Human Food (PCHF rule) was published on September 17, 2015. The requirements of the PCHF rule apply to COMESA businesses that are required to register with FDA as food facilities because they manufacture/process, pack, or hold food for human consumption in the US.

The Rule requires food facilities in COMESA to have a food safety plan in place that includes an analysis of hazards and risk-based preventive controls to minimize or prevent the identified hazards. The COMESA Secretariat in collaboration with the USAID, supports food export facilities in the region to develop and implement compliant food safety plans. National laboratories are supported to align with FSMA requirements.

The written food safety plan must be prepared by (or its preparation overseen by) a “preventive controls qualified individual” (PCQI), who has successfully completed training in the development and application of risk based preventive controls. The Preventive Controls for Human Food Course train individuals to become a PCQI and to be able to:

* develop the food safety plan
* validate preventive controls
* review records
* conduct a re-analysis of the food safety plan, among others.

The food safety plan must include:

* Hazard analysis (biological, chemical, and physical hazards)
* Preventive controls (e.g. process controls, food allergen controls, sanitation controls, other controls)
* Oversight and management of preventive controls (monitoring, corrections, corrective actions, verification)
* A risk-based supply chain program, if its hazard analysis identifies a hazard that requires a preventive control and the control will be applied in the facility’s supply chain.
* A recall plan, if there are any hazards associated with the food
* Procedures for monitoring the implementation of the preventive controls
* Procedures for verifying that the preventive controls are consistently implemented and are effectively minimizing or preventing the identified hazards

Certain manufacturing, processing, packing and holding activities are exempted from the requirements for hazard analysis and risk-based preventive controls when they are conducted on-farm by small or very small businesses, provided that these are the only activities they conduct that would be subject to the requirements for hazard analysis and risk-based preventive controls. This exemption only applies to the low-risk activity/food combinations listed in the regulation. There are also packing and holding activities that are within the “farm” definition and subsequently not subject to the requirements for hazard analysis and preventive controls when performed on a farm or a farm mixed–type facility. The requirements for hazard analysis and risk-based preventive controls do not apply to on-farm packing or holding of food by a small or very small business if the packing and holding activities are limited to packing (or re-packing), sorting, culling, or grading that are incidental to packing or storing, and storing of certain foods listed in the regulation.

Manufacturing/processing activities that are within the “farm” definition and therefore not subject to the requirements for hazard analysis and preventive controls when performed on a farm or a farm mixed–type facility, include

* Drying/dehydrating raw agricultural commodities to create a distinct commodity and packaging and labeling such commodities, without additional manufacturing/processing
* Treatment to manipulate ripening of raw agricultural commodities and packaging and labeling the treated raw agricultural commodities, without additional manufacturing/processing
* Packaging and labeling raw agricultural commodities without additional manufacturing/processing

The requirements for hazard analysis and risk-based preventive controls do not apply to on-farm manufacturing/processing of food by a small or very small business if the manufacturing/processing activities are limited to the low-risk manufacturing/processing activity/food combination listed in the regulation.

Current Good Manufacturing Practice (CGMP) provide for systems that assure proper design, monitoring, and control of manufacturing/processing processes and facilities.

The FDA has developed several resources and guidance documents to assist industry in implementation of the PCHF Rule that are available on the FDA website (<https://www.fda.gov/food/food-safety-modernization-act-fsma/fsma-final-rule-preventive-controls-human-food>) and include:

* Draft Guidance for Industry on Hazard analysis and preventive controls
* Draft Guidance for Industry on Control of *Listeria monocytogenes* in Ready-To-Eat Foods
* Small Entity Compliance Guide that explains the actions a small or very small business must take to comply with the PCHF rule
* Draft Guidance for Industry: Hazard Analysis and Risk-Based Preventive Controls for Human; Chapter 15: Supply-Chain Program for Human Food Products
	+ 1. **Current Good Manufacturing Practice and Hazard Analysis and Risk-Based Preventive Controls for Animal Food** (**PCAF) requirements for COMESA facilities**

The Current Good Manufacturing Practice and Hazard Analysis and Risk-Based Preventive Controls for Animal Food (PCAF) Rule regulation creates new CGMP requirements for animal food facilities. It requires animal food facilities to have a food safety plan in place that includes an analysis of hazards to determine which ones need control and risk-based preventive controls to minimize or prevent those hazards. The requirements of this rule apply to foreign and domestic establishments that are required to register with FDA as food facilities under section 415 of the FD&C Act because they manufacture, process, pack, or hold food for animal consumption in the US.

Manufacturing/ processing facilities that are already implementing human food safety requirements and are just holding by-product for use as animal food, do not need to implement additional preventive controls or CGMP regulations when supplying a by-product for animal food, except to prevent contamination. The by-product must however be processed in compliance with CGMPs to help ensure the animal food’s safety. The facility can choose to follow either the human food or animal food CGMPs when further processing the by-product.

The Rule requires animal food facilities in COMESA to have a food safety plan in place that includes an analysis of hazards and risk-based preventive controls to minimize or prevent the identified hazards. The food safety plan must include:

* Hazard analysis (biological, chemical, and physical hazards)
* Preventive controls (e.g. process controls, sanitation controls, other controls)
* Oversight and management of preventive controls (monitoring, corrections, corrective actions, verification)
* A risk-based supply chain program, if its hazard analysis identifies a hazard that requires a preventive control and the control will be applied in the facility’s supply chain.
* A recall plan, if there are any hazards associated with the food

The definition of a ‘farm’ describes two types of farm operations: (1) Primary Production Farm is location devoted to the growing of crops, the harvesting of crops, the raising of animals (including seafood), or any combination of these activities, and (2) Secondary Activities Farm is an operation not located on a Primary Production Farm that is devoted to harvesting, packing, and/or holding raw agricultural commodities. Operations meeting the definition of ‘farm’ are not subject to the Preventive Controls for Animal Food Rule. Feed mills that are part of farms (vertically integrated operations) are not covered by the Preventive Controls for Animal Food rule.

The FDA has developed several resources and guidance documents to assist industry in implementation of the PCHF Rule that are available on the FDA website (<https://www.fda.gov/food/food-safety-modernization-act-fsma/fsma-final-rule-preventive-controls-animal-food>) and include:

* Guidance for Industry #245: Hazard Analysis and Risk-Based Preventive Controls for Food for Animals
* Draft Guidance for Industry: Human Food By-Products for Use as Animal Food
* Guidance for Industry: Policy Regarding Certain Entities Subject to the Current Good Manufacturing Practice and Preventive Controls, Produce Safety, and/or Foreign Supplier Verification Programs
	+ 1. **Rule on Accredited Third-Party Certification**

This FSMA rule establishes a voluntary program for the accreditation of third-party certification bodies/ auditors, to conduct food safety audits and issue certifications of foreign entities and the foods for humans and animals they produce. An accreditation body recognized by FDA under this program could be a foreign government/agency or a private third party.

The FDA can in specific circumstances require that a food product offered for import be accompanied by a certification from an accredited third-party certification body or such certifications may be used by importers to help establish eligibility for participation in the Voluntary Qualified Importer Program (VQIP), for expedited review entry of food.

Importers participating VQIP in the will be able to import their products with greater speed and predictability, avoiding unexpected delays at the point/port of entry.

* 1. **Exporting plants and plant products**
		1. **The US Regulatory agency and products**

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) regulates the importation of plants and plant products under the authority of the Plant Protection Act. The APHIS PPQ Plant health import program is maintained to safeguard US agriculture and natural resources from the risks associated with the entry, establishment, or spread of plant pests and noxious weeds. Detailed information regarding market access procedures, plant health import requirements, policies, regulations and inspections pertaining to plant and plant products imported into the US are available on the USDA APHIS Web site (<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/planthealth>).

To obtain market access to the US for plants and plant products that are not yet an approved, a commodity import request must be initiated with APHIS. The following steps must be followed:

* Determine if the commodity is an approved commodity or currently undergoing a pest risk analysis (PRA)
* If it is not approved or currently undergoing a pest risk analysis, submit a commodity import request
* APHIS conducts a pest risk analysis and an environmental review to determine potential pests likely to remain on the commodity upon importation and potential mitigations that may be required to avoid, reduce, or eliminate the risk of pest introduction.
* APHIS will initiate the regulatory administrative process to seek public comment if APHIS determines that the commodity can be safely imported into the United States,

The USDA APHIS-PPQ regulates importation of the following plants and plant products:

* plants for planting (e.g. nursery stock, small lots of seed)
* plant products (e.g. fruits and vegetable, timber, cotton and cut flowers)
* protected plants and plant products(e.g. orchids)
* threatened and endangered plant species
* plant materials for research
* plant pests such as arthropods and mollusks (insects and snails)
* plant pathogens such as fungi, bacteria, nematodes, mycoplasma, viroids and viruses
* biological control agents
* bees
* weeds and parasitic plants
	+ 1. **US Regulated plant pests and diseases**

All plants and plant products are regulated in terms of the US Regulated plant pests list that is available on the USDA APHIS Web site.

The PRA process examines the plant pests and diseases that are known to be associated with a commodity, identifies those pests that are likely to remain on the commodity upon importation from a specific exporting country into the US, and evaluates the mitigations that may be required to avoid, reduce, or eliminate the risk of pest introduction into the US. Import requirements are developed based on the outcome of the PRA and in consultation with the National Plant Protection Organisation (NPPO) of the exporting country.

* + 1. **US import requirements and permits for plants and plant products**

The USDA APHIS PPQ issue all permits related to the import of plants and plant products.

Plant and Plant Product Permits are required for plants for planting (e.g. nursery stock, small lots of seed), plant products (e.g. fruits and vegetable, timber, cotton and cut flowers), protected plants and plant products (e.g. orchids), threatened and endangered plant species

Controlled Import Permits are required to import prohibited plant materials for research.

Organism and Soil Permits are required for plant pests such as arthropods and mollusks (insects and snails); plant pathogens such as fungi, bacteria, nematodes, mycoplasma, viroids and viruses; biological control agents, bees, Plant Pest Diagnostic Laboratories, Soil Microbe Isolation Laboratories, Federal Noxious Weeds and Parasitic Plants.

Transit Permits to ship regulated articles into, though, and out of the US are required by APHIS in advance of arrival for the unloading, landing or other movement of plants, plant products, plant pests, or soil in cargo through the United States.

Import requirements and links for permit applications are available on the APHIS Web site. Importers that USDA *eAuthentication* account may apply online for *ePermits*.

The following import requirements and permit application links are available on the USDA APHIS-PPQ Web site:

* Permit to import Timber or Timber Products (logs and lumber)
* Permit to import Plants or Plant Products
	+ Plants for planting (including seeds). All articles covered under the plants for planting regulations must be accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate of inspection issued by the NPPO of the exporting country
	+ Fruit and Vegetable. Basic requirements for imported fruits and vegetables is available on the Fruits and Vegetables Import Requirements (FAVIR) Database.
	+ Rice
	+ Indian Corn or Maize, Broomcorn, and Related Plants
	+ Miscellaneous Products Associated with Khapra Beetle
	+ Sugarcane Products and By-Products
	+ Cotton, cotton products, seeds, and covers
	+ Cut Flowers
* Permit to import Propagative Plants that Require Post Entry Quarantine (PEQ)
* Controlled Import Permits to Import Plants or Plant Products for Experimental, Therapeutic, or Developmental Purposes
* Protected Plant Permit to Engage in the Business of Importing, Exporting, or Re-exporting Protected Plants (CITES)
* Permit to Transit Plants and/or Plant Products, Plant Pests, and/or Associated Soil Through the US
	+ 1. **Port of entry inspections**

Most imported plants and seeds enter the US through certain ports of entry where the USDA APHIS PPQ operates plant inspection stations for the inspection and clearance of those consignments. PPQ also enforces the rules and regulations that apply to the import, export and re-export of plant species protected by CITES.

All requirements for post entry quarantine are detailed in the Plants for Planting Manual that is available on the USDA APHIS Web site.

* + 1. **Certification and phytosanitary treatments for plants and plant products exported to the US**

An exporter must apply Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs) and procedures for specific plant pests in order to be able to export to the US. These phytosanitary GAP documents relate to the quarantine of pests of concern to the US and listed in the relevant bilateral export protocol. Producers that are approved and registered to participate in the relevant export programme must apply the required GAPs.

US import requirements may require phytosanitary procedures or treatments to prevent the movement of agricultural pests with the exported commodity. These procedures and treatment schedules are listed in the USDA Treatment Manual and cover treatments for quarantine significant plant pests for commodities exported to the US. In cases where specialized treatments such as cold sterilization or fumigation treatments

Phytosanitary inspections are conducted by NPPO inspectors of the Member State exporting to the US and are mandatory and depend on the nature of the US import permit conditions. Phytosanitary field inspections are conducted during the growing season for pest monitoring and detection purposes if the import permit requires that mother plants be inspected. Consignment inspections to confirm compliance with the US import requirements as stated on the import permit are conducted by exporting country NPPO inspectors at designated SPS inspection points and/or ports of exit.

If the US import permit requires registration of approved facilities based on pest free status requirements, all facilities must go through the process of phytosanitary inspection and verification for compliance by NPPO and confirmation of the approved facilities is then sent to the USDA APHIS for final approval.

A phytosanitary certificate is an official document issued by the exporting Member State NPPO to certify that the plants or plant products described in the phytosanitary certificate has been inspected and/or tested according to appropriate official procedures and are considered to be free from quarantine pests specified by the US import permit.

* + 1. **Pesticides and Maximum Residue Levels**

General permits for the importation of Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)-registered biopesticides manufactured overseas and imported by domestic pesticide producers, are issued by APHIS. The EPA regulates many aspects of pesticides and sets limits on how much of a pesticide may be used on food during growing and processing, and how much can remain on the food sold in the US.

The US laws, regulations and Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) for pesticides are available on the EPA Web site (<https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-tolerances>)

* 1. **Exporting animals and animal products**
		1. **The US regulatory authority and products**

The US Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) facilitates international trade, monitors the health of animals presented at the border and regulates the import and export of animals, animal products, and biologics. The APHIS website contains detail information on all aspects related to the import of animals, animal products and biologics into the US. The ‘’Animal Product Manual’’ provides background, procedures, and regulatory actions to enforce the regulations governing the import and export of animals, animal products, and animal by-products is available on the USDA APHIS Web site (<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/import_export/plants/manuals/ports/downloads/apm.pdf>).

The USDA APHIS-VS regulated animals and animal products that include, but are not limited to:

Live Animals

* Livestock animals, including ruminants (e.g., cows, sheep, goats), swine, horses, and poultry
* Birds, including game birds and pet birds
* Hatching eggs
* Wild ruminants, swine, and horses
* Semen and embryos of livestock, birds, and wild ruminants, swine, and horses
* Certain species of fish (those susceptible to spring viremia of carp disease)
* Animals that can carry exotic ticks, including elephants, rhinos, hippos, tapirs, and certain species of turtles

Animal Products

* Eggs and egg products (from poultry, game birds, or other birds)
* Milk and milk products
* Meat and meat products (from horses, poultry, birds, cattle, sheep, goats, deer, and swine)

Animal Byproducts

* Animal manure, urine, blood, bones, glands, organs, and related byproducts
* Casings
* Hides, skins, wool, bones, bird capes, and related byproducts
* Products that contain animal-derived ingredients (such as gelatins used in pharmaceuticals and dietary supplements)
* Animal-derived ingredients used in pet food and livestock, poultry, or aquaculture feed
* Trophies

The USDA APHIS Center for Veterinary Biologics regulates aspects of veterinary vaccines and other types of veterinary biologics.

* + 1. **US regulated foreign animal diseases**

APHIS restricts some animals and animal products from entering the US based on the APHIS-recognized animal health status of the region that are issued through the regulatory process. Exporting countries wanting to export animal or animal products to the US must be free from these listed diseases that are associated with certain animals and animal products and approved for importation.

A ‘’region’’ can mean (a) a national entity (country); (b) part of a national entity (zone, county, province, State, etc.); (c) parts of several national entities combined into an area; or (d) a group of national entities (countries) combined into a single area.

The CBP is involved in controlling the following foreign animal diseases listed in the APHIS-VS regulations:

- African Swine Fever (ASF)

- Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE)

- Classical Swine Fever (CSF)

- Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD)

- Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI)

- Newcastle Disease (ND)

- Swine Vesicular Disease (SVD)

The APHIS website provides a list of the USDA-recognized animal health status of countries and regions, organized by specific livestock or poultry diseases.

* + 1. **US temporary restrictions on imports of animals, animal products and biologics**

APHIS may impose trade restrictions on the importation of animals and animal products from regions when control zones are established due to disease detection. A list of regions with temporary restrictions on importation of some animals and animal products to the US is published on the USDA APHIS Web site.

* + 1. **US import requirements and permits for animals, animal products and biologics**

The APHIS Veterinary Services (APHIS-VS) regulations control domestic and foreign commerce of live animals, live poultry, and their products. These regulations and policies are implemented, enforced, and administered by APHIS-VS and CBP to prevent the introduction of foreign animal diseases. Regulations, excluding the introduction of foreign animal diseases, are enforced by APHIS-VS and CBP is responsible for inspecting animal products and related materials that are imported from foreign countries. Import requirements and links to apply for permits for animals and animal products, can be found on the USDA APHIS Web site at (<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-and-animal-product-import-information/animal-health-permits>) under “Animal and Animal Product Import Information.”

Permits from APHIS-VS are normally required for animals and animal products, including dairy products and meat products (e.g. meat meal and bone meal) from countries with livestock diseases that are exotic to the US and take precedence over any entry requirement listed in the Animal Product Manual. The USDA APHIS-VS National Center for Import and Export (NCIE) *ePermits* system is a web-based system that allows users to submit permit applications, track applications, apply for renewals and amendments, and receive a copy of the permit online.

* + 1. **Port of entry inspections**

The CBP Agriculture Specialists (CBP–AS) regulate the import of commercial and non-commercial consignments of animal products and by-products at the ports of entry on behalf of APHIS. Entry of livestock and poultry is restricted to certain ports. CBP-AS are responsible for identifying and classifying the importation of animal or animal product consignments, determining if entry requirements are met, identifying and validating the accompanying documents, and taking final regulatory action according to APHIS regulations. The consignment will be placed on hold to verify that it meets specific entry requirements listed in Animal Product manual or be inspected for contamination or pests or to verify the contents. The hold is not removed until final action is taken.

Entry is refused when the consignment is not eligible for entry according to APHIS agricultural requirements and/or when the consignment is not accompanied by a VS import permit.

* + 1. **Certification requirements for animals and animal products exported to the US**

The following principles apply to export of animals and animal products:

* The US (importing country) establishes the import requirements
* The COMESA Member States (exporting country) and exporter must comply to the US import requirements
* The legal parameters for veterinary export certification are set by national legislation of the exporting country
* Veterinary certification must be accurate

The following requirements must be met to be able to export to the US:

* It is the responsibility of the individual exporter to confirm eligibility, and if eligible, to engage with trade partners in the US to obtain the correct import requirements (APHIS-VS permit) for the commodity that must be certified for export. This is usually in the form of an import permit.
* All production facilities in the chain (including cold stores) must be registered to export
* Product must be traceable through all production facilities in the production chain
* Where required by the US, the animals from which the product is derived must be traceable to and originate from approved farms
* The products should be identified accurately enough to prevent the export of product with an unknown origin using the same documentation
* Certain commodities need to be inspected by Members State veterinary officials before an export certificate can be signed. This is usually determined by the commodity and can be a requirement of the certificate.
	1. **Exporting meat and meat products, poultry and processed poultry products**

The USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) is responsible for assuring that U.S. imported meat, poultry (except wild ruminant and wild fowl) and processed egg products for human consumption are safe, wholesome, unadulterated, and properly labeled and packaged. Import requirements can be accessed on the FSIS Web site (<https://www.fsis.usda.gov/wps/portal/fsis/topics/international-affairs/importing-products>).

The APHIS restricts some products from entering the United States because of animal disease conditions in the country of origin. Products must originate from FSIS certified countries and establishments eligible to export to the US. There are no countries in the COMESA region currently eligible for export of meat and meat products, poultry and processed poultry products to the US.

* 1. **Packaging, Marking and Labelling**
		1. **Traceability**

It is imperative to have quality control and traceability measures in place for successful export of agricultural produce. Local, regional and international laws, regulations and protocols require all farms that handle agricultural products for human consumption to follow certain basic practices in the form of GAP (Good Agricultural Practices). These and other controls help to provide guarantees for US trade partners that the products that they are importing are safe and traceable.

A good traceability system links a food safety problem to a specific country, pack house, producer orchard or vineyard. This is important for several reasons:

* A problem can be traced to one specific producer rather than a whole group
* It is a fast and accurate way to get to the source of the problem, which limits risks relating to pests and diseases
* It limits unnecessary costs
* It limits public concerns and fears
	+ 1. **Marking and labelling**

The US Fair Packaging and Labeling Act (FPLA) directs the Federal Trade Commission and the Food and Drug Administration to issue regulations requiring that all "consumer commodities" be labeled to disclose net contents, identity of commodity, and name and place of business of the product's manufacturer, packer, or distributor.

The US Nutrition Labeling and Education Act (NLEA), which amended the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FD&C Act), requires most foods to bear nutrition labeling and requires food labels that bear nutrient content claims and certain health messages to comply with specific requirements. All new regulations are published in the Federal Register (FR) prior to their effective date and compiled annually in Title 21 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR).

The FDA Food Labeling web pages (https://www.fda.gov/food/food-labeling-nutrition) address the labeling requirements for foods under the FD&C Act and its amendments. Food labeling is required for most prepared foods, such as breads, cereals, canned and frozen foods, snacks, desserts, drinks, etc. Nutrition labeling for raw produce (fruits and vegetables) and fish is voluntary.

FDA finalized significant changes to food, beverage, and supplement labeling, including updates to daily values, serving sizes, the Nutrition Facts chart, and more. These new regulations on labelling are strict and include everything from the placement of the Nutrition Facts Chart to the font sizes used. The FDA’s compliance deadline for these rules is 1st January 2020 (or 1st January 2021 for manufacturers with less than 10 million in annual sales).

* + 1. **Wood packaging material**

Wood packaging material is regulated in international trade to reduce the risk of introduction and/or spread of associated quarantine pests. All regulated wood packaging material (e.g. wooden pallets) must be debarked, treated with methyl bromide or heat treated and marked with relevant IPPC symbol to indicate that it complies with the International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures No. 15 (ISPM 15): Regulation of wood packaging material in international trade. The IPPC mark should be legible, permanent and not transferable, placed in a visible location, preferably on at least two opposite sides of the pallet.

All wood packaging material entering or transiting the US, except wood of Canadian origin entering from Canada, must be heat-treated or fumigated in accordance with ISPM 15 and shipments containing non-compliant wood packaging material will not be allowed to enter the US.

1. **PRIVATE STANDARDS**

The Codex Alimentarius of the World Health Organisation’s (WHO) is recognized by the WTO as the international standard-setting organization for food safety. These standards are adopted by national governments and implemented by private companies and remain voluntary until they are adopted by a national government, who then determines how they will be enforced. Once the standards are adopted as the national food safety legislation, it becomes a mandatory regulation with public conformity assessment and enforcement.

In addition to these statutory standards for food safety and quality, various private standards relating to food safety, good agricultural and environmental practices and social accountability exist that are set by individual retailers that may in many cases exclude small-scale producers from export supply chains for high-value agricultural products. Currently, there is proliferation of private standards worldwide.

To demonstrate proof of compliance with their specific standards, the relevant retailers require that their producers or suppliers be audited by third-party certification bodies e.g. GlobalGAP. These audits are usually paid for by the producer. The producer must therefore analyse the compliance costs of the different market segments available to him to determine the benefits of supplying that market segment.

**ANNEXURE A**

**ONLINE RESOURCES** **FOR COMESA EXPORTERS TO THE US**

1. **United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)** <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/importexport>

Animals, animal products and biologics

* The APHIS website contains information and links to information related to the import of animals, animal products and biologics, including a detailed Animal Product Manual that can be accessed at <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-and-animal-product-import-information>
* Information about animal health import requirements and permit applications can be accessed at [www.aphis.usda.gov/animal\_health/permits](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/permits) under “Animal and Animal Product Import Information”
* Stakeholder alerts are published on the APHIS website and can be accessed at <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-and-animal-product-import-information>
* A list of US ports of entry through which live animals may be imported are available on the APHIS website and can be accessed at <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/contacts/field-operations-port-services.pdf>

Plants and plant products

* USDA APHIS Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) information on market access, plant health import requirements, regulations and procedures are available on the APHIS Web site and can be accessed at <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/planthealth>
* USDA APHIS regulated pest list is available and can be accessed at <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/planthealth/import-information/rppl/rppl-table>
* US import requirements for fruit and vegetables (per country) are available on the USDA APHIS Fruits and Vegetables Import Requirements (FAVIR) Web site and can be accessed at <https://epermits.aphis.usda.gov/manual/index.cfm?CFID=767846&CFTOKEN=f27d7ca4ba62e5e-A81CE2AF-C611-AA8C-4E2A39473BEC0E85&ACTION=pubHome>
* Phytosanitary treatments are detailed in the USDA Treatment Manual and can be accessed at <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/import_export/plants/manuals/ports/downloads/treatment.pdf>
* PEQ are detailed in the USDA APHIS PPQ Plants for Planting Manual that can be accessed at <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/import_export/plants/manuals/ports/downloads/plants_for_planting.pdf>
1. **USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS)**

Official website of FSIS provides detailed information on the regulations, procedures and requirements pertaining to the export of meat, poultry and processed egg products and can be accessed at <https://www.fsis.usda.gov/wps/portal/fsis/topics/international-affairs/importing-products>

* FSIS Guidance for Importing Meat, Poultry, and Egg Products into the US can be accessed at <https://www.fsis.usda.gov/wps/wcm/connect/415278f6-9c67-4641-bf92-8aafb90e2ac0/Guidance-for-Importing-Meat-Poultry-Egg-Products-into-US.pdf?MOD=AJPERES>
1. **US Customs and Border Protection (CBP)**

Official website of the Department of Homeland Security provides information on Customs Service, Immigration and Naturalization Service, Border Patrol, and Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service can be accessed at <https://www.cbp.gov/>

* List of U.S. Ports of entry - <http://www.cbp.gov/xp/cgov/toolbox/ports/>
* Importing into the US: A Guide for commercial importers - <https://www.cbp.gov/sites/default/files/documents/Importing%20into%20the%20U.S.pd>
1. **US Food and Drug Administration (FDA)**

The official website of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration provides information on various SPS issues related to agricultural exports to the US, including:

* Rules and Guidance for Industry related to the FDA Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) are available on the FDA website (<https://www.fda.gov/food/food-safety-modernization-act-fsma/fsma-rules-guidance-industry#Guidance>
* The FDA Current Good Manufacturing Practice, Hazard Analysis, and Risk-Based Preventive Controls for Human Food Guide (PCHF) for Industry can be accessed at <https://www.fda.gov/media/100921/download>
* FDA Food labelling Guide can be accessed at <https://www.fda.gov/media/81606/download>
1. **US Department of Commerce and AGOA**

The International Trade Administration of the US department of Commerce website provides information on AGOA that can be accessed at <https://www.trade.gov/agoa/>

The Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) has prepared an African Growth and Opportunity Act Implementation Guide that is available on the AGOA Website at [www.agoa.gov](http://www.agoa.gov). This website also provides links to USAID Trade and Investment Hubs in the African region.

Detailed information on AGOA, including trade profiles, statistics, national strategies and various toolkits and fact sheets for COMESA exporters can be accessed at <https://agoa.info/>

1. **Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR)**

The USTR's Office of Agricultural Affairs has overall responsibility for US government trade negotiations and policy development and coordination regarding agriculture. Specific responsibilities include negotiation and implementation of the agricultural provisions of Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) and the WTO Doha Development Agenda, operation of the WTO Committees on Agriculture and SPS Measures, agricultural regulatory issues (e.g., biotechnology, cloning, BSE, nanotechnology, other bilateral food safety, animal and plant health issues, and customs issues affecting agriculture), monitoring and enforcement of existing WTO and FTA commitments for agriculture and SPS issues, and WTO accession negotiations on agriculture market access, domestic support, export competition, and SPS matters. The official website (<https://www.ustr.gov>) provides information on agricultural trade issues, SPS and Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) reports and agricultural information pertaining to FTAs.

Additional information on Generalised System of Preferences is available on the USTR Website at <https://www.ustr.gov>

1. **United States Department of Agriculture Foreign Agriculture Services (FAS)**

The Foreign Agriculture Services (FAS) of the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) administers food assistance programs that benefit people in need around the world and leads USDA’s efforts to help developing countries improve their agricultural systems and build their trade capacity.

The official website of the Unites States Department of Agriculture Foreign Agriculture Services (FAS) provides information on various aspects of exporting agricultural products to the US and can be accessed at <https://www.fas.usda.gov>

The website also offers links to valuable trade related data including:

* Global Agricultural Information Network (GAIN) that provides insight and analysis from FAS's overseas offices on issues affecting agricultural production and trade
* Global Agricultural Trade System (GATS) that provides current and historical data on international trade in agricultural, fish, forest and textile products
* Production, Supply and Distribution Data of agricultural commodities for the U.S. and key producing and consuming countries
* MRL database
1. **United States Agency for International Development (USAID)**

The US Agency for International Development (USAID) carries out US foreign policy by promoting broad-scale human progress at the same time it aids to expand stable, free societies, creates markets and trade partners for the United States, and fosters good will abroad. Information on the different focus areas and work of the Agency can be found on the official USAID website (<https://www.usaid.gov>).

The USAID Trade and Investment Hubs in East, Southern and Western Africa engage with partners across the region to deepen regional economic integration, promote two-way trade with the US under the AGOA and attract investments that drive commercial expansion within the region and to global markets. These Hubs develop and tailor trade enhancing activities, in collaboration with key institutions, to specific countries and sectors, according to national AGOA strategies. They also identify and work with private sector associations and companies to foster trade and investment in the region.

The website of the East Africa Trade and Investment Hub contains exporter directories of export-ready firms in Kenya, Madagascar, Rwanda, Uganda and Tanzania that the Hub worked with and that have products that qualify for export to the US under AGOA.

The ‘’Feed the Future’’ initiative is led by USAID and brings partners together to address the root causes of hunger and poverty by boosting agriculture-led growth, resilience and nutrition in countries with great need and opportunity for improvement. One of the specific focus areas of the initiative is to assist target countries to “Improve agricultural production and markets and create new opportunities”.

Other relevant sources that relates to USAID work include:

* SADC Trade and Investment Hub: <http://www.satradehub.org/>
* USAID SADC Trade Hub checklist for exporting Food and Beverages to the USA: <http://www.satradehub.org/resources/agoa/241-checklist-exporting-food-and-beverages-to-the-usa-usaid>
* East Africa Trade and Investment Hub <https://www.eatradehub.org/>
* West Africa Trade and Investment Hub <https://www.watradehub.com>
* Feed the future: <https://www.feedthefuture.gov>
1. **COMESA**

The Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) Web site contains information and statistics on regional initiatives and trade, including SPS related projects and ca be accessed at <https://www.comesa.int>

1. **WORLD TRADE ORGANISATION (WTO)**

The WTO Web site contains information global trade rules and agreements, including SPS and Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT), Agriculture and Tariffs and can be accessed at <https://www.wto.org>

1. **International Plant Protection Convention**

The IPPS is the international standard setting body for plant health and overseen by the Food and Agriculture Organization. It aims to secure coordinated, effective action to prevent and to control the introduction and spread of pests of plants and plant products. The IPPC Web site can be accessed at <https://www.ippc.int>

1. **World Organisation for Animal Health**

The OIE is an intergovernmental organization coordinating, supporting and promoting animal disease control. The OIE Web site can be accessed at <https://www.oie.int>

1. **CODEX ALIMENTARIUS** **COMMISSION**

The Codex Alimentarius (established by the FAO) is a collection of internationally recognized standards, codes of practice, guidelines, and other recommendations relating to foods, food production, and food safety. The Web site of CODEX can be accessed at [www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius](http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius)

1. **Websites for Trade Statistics**
* COMSTAT - <http://comstat.comesa.int/>
* Trademap – http://www.trademap.org/
* Market Access Map – http://www.macmap.org/
* Product Map – http://www.p-maps.org/
* World trade atlas (WTA) – http://www.gtis.com/english/GTIS\_WTA.html ....