



AGRICULTURE AND FOOD AUTHORITY

NOTICE TO ALL AVOCADO AND MANGO EXPORTERS

CLOSING OF AVOCADO EXPORT SEASON IN KENYA

Agriculture and Food Authority – Horticultural Crops Directorate (AFA-HCD) established under the Agriculture and Food Authority Act of 2013 is mandated to develop, regulate and promote the horticulture industry. The Directorate enforces sector Regulations to ensure that quality produce is marketed locally and internationally. This includes ensuring that mature Avocado is harvested and exported, in a bid to sustain and grow Kenya's international markets, minimize interruption of the crop cycle occasioned by harvesting of immature Avocado, resulting in reduction of projected volumes in subsequent harvests.

The Directorate has been monitoring harvesting trends and recently undertook a countrywide survey in the major Avocado production zones to determine current production trends and forecast future production for the main season next year. The findings of the survey indicate there is currently insufficient volumes of main season crop to warrant sea shipment.

This therefore is to notify you that;

1. The closing of Hass, Pinkerton, Fuerte and Jumbo harvesting season for sea shipment for the 2024/2025 fiscal year will come into force with effect from **Friday 25th October 2024**.
2. The export of **Hass, Fuerte, Pinkerton** and **Jumbo** varieties will continue by **air shipment**
3. Export clearance shall be granted subject to inspection by the Directorate. Traceability information will be required for all consignments.
4. The notice applies to all exporters, importers and processors of avocado fruit

The Directorate shall continue to closely monitor Avocado maturity trends and patterns, and review the notice in the first week of December 2024 and guide appropriately.

MANGO EXPORTS

Kenya exports fresh Mango mainly to the Middle East market, with small quantities of processed fruit (dried) to The Netherlands, UK and Italy amongst others. The end of Avocado harvesting season coincides with the onset of the Mango harvesting season.

It has come to our attention that following the closure of the Avocado harvesting season and export by sea, some exporters mix consignments of Mango with Avocado for sea shipment. This is against the provisions of the **Crops (Horticultural Crops) Regulations, 2020 Section 20(5)**.

All produce for export are required to undergo inspection by the Directorate before an Export Certificate is issued, as provided in the **Crops (Horticultural Crops) Regulations, 2020 Section 29 (1 & 2)**. In view of the above, all Mango exporters are therefore notified that they are required to:

1. Ensure that the quantity of Mango being exported for which the permit is being sought, fully constitutes Mango fruits in the consignment.
2. Apply for physical inspection of Mango consignments through **directorhcd@afa.go.ke** (copy to **hcdtechnical@gmail.com**). The application should clearly state the location of the pack house to facilitate inspection.

Subsequently, Mango exporters are required to demonstrate compliance to the above guidelines, without which an export permit for the consignment shall not be issued.