



Food Quality & Safety Services Ltd.

Tel: +254 (0) 733 780963 / 711 152250
maina@foodqualityandsafety.com /
mainakaruru@yahoo.com
www.foodqualityandsafety.com
P.O. Box 8620 - 00300 Nairobi

Maina Karuru

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**Facilitating Intra-Africa Trade through
Competent Testing Solutions.**

ROLE OF TESTING LABORATORIES

- ❑ Laboratories are a key component and are necessary for proving the compliance of products and services with regulations and conformity with market requirements. ISO/IEC 17025
- ❑ Laboratory Infrastructure comprises the laboratories (public and private), together with the scientific principles, practices and supportive laboratory quality control systems, i.e. Proficiency Testing, Certified and other Reference Materials, that are required to quantify, underpin and enhance quality competitiveness, innovation, productivity, safety, health and environmental soundness and sustainability of goods, services and processes.
- ❑ Globally accepted overarching standard for demonstrating the competence of laboratories and their laboratory management system is ISO/IEC 17025

Busia Border Post



Trucks wait in a queue at the Ugandan side of the Busia border

ROLE OF TESTING LABORATORIES

CONTEXT	CONTRIBUTION OF LABORATORY INFRASTRUCTURE
Market access to export markets (for products or subcomponents)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="728 262 2517 439">❑ Ensures accurate and comparable results by making test and measurement units traceable, through the use of appropriate calibration and reference materials.<li data-bbox="728 448 2517 568">❑ Ensures a testing laboratory (or laboratories) are available at a reasonable distance and cost, while also delivering trusted and accepted results.<li data-bbox="728 576 2517 696">❑ Allows exporters to receive results in a cost-effective and timely way, related to the testing and measurement requirements of target markets.<li data-bbox="728 705 2517 825">❑ Underpins other conformity assessment activities product certification, such as inspection and product certification.
Participation in global value chains	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="728 868 2517 916">❑ Ensures the accuracy and comparability of calibration and test results.<li data-bbox="728 925 2517 1102">❑ Assists domestic suppliers in building trust with the other participants in the global value chain, particularly related to the reliability and trustworthiness of the Laboratory Infrastructure in which they operate.
Citizen, consumer and environmental protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="728 1142 2517 1262">❑ Gives the ability to test and measure the properties and impact of materials and products, particularly those related to aspects of health and safety.<li data-bbox="728 1270 2517 1428">❑ Provides important data to law enforcement authorities based on scientific evidence. (Ref: UNIDO Department of Digitalization, Technology and Innovation (DTI) 2021)

KEBS ACCREDITED LABS

- Nairobi
- Kisumu
- Eldoret
- Mombasa



- KEBS also has satellite Labs** at the border points for testing aflatoxin and moisture at Namanga ,Oloitokitok, Lungalunga , Busia,Isebania, Garissa, Meru,Malaba,and Moyale.
- Private Laboratories

CHALLENGES



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- ❑ High costs for testing of samples and time taken to get results.
- ❑ In accurate test results for same sample in different laboratories.
- ❑ Samples mix up, mislabeling, inappropriate sampling methods and improper storage or transportation.
- ❑ Passing goods through illegal “Panya” routes at the border evading inspections.

REDUCING TIME AND COST OF TESTING TO FACILITATE IN-COUNTRY AND CROSS-BORDER TRADE

- Put up more laboratories in different countries to reduce costs and increase turn around time for results and cost reduction.
- EAC countries to accept confirmation of analysis(COA) from member countries without have to retest the samples.
- EAC to create framework for conformity assessments accepted across the borders.
- Increase availability of rapid testing kits for aflatoxin and moisture at border points.
- Increase number of inspectors at border points to cope with increased trade.

Q & A

