

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

1. What do the letters FRA stand for?

The letters FRA stand for the Food Reserve Agency.

2. Is FRA a private or public organisation?

FRA is a public organisation established by an Act of Parliament Chapter 225 of the laws of Zambia.

3. What are the functions of FRA?

The functions of FRA as stipulated in the FRA Act Chapter 225 are as follows:

- a) Administer the national food reserves;
- b) Establish a market information system of stocks of designated commodities for the national strategic food reserve;
- c) Promote the use of approved standards of weighing and grading for designated agricultural commodities in accordance with the Weights and Measures Act and the Standards Act;
- d) Establish and conduct a programme under which storage facilities and equipment owned by the Government may be leased or sold;
- e) To assess storage requirements for marketing a designated agricultural commodity and plan for their establishment as needed;
- f) Undertake such other functions as the Minister responsible for agriculture may assign to the Agency;
- g) The Agency shall, in addition to such other actions as maybe necessary to administer the national strategic food reserve, purchase, import, sell, or trade in any agricultural commodity; and
- h) Notwithstanding any provision of any other law, the Agency may enter into a contract with any person for the purpose of performing any of its functions under the Act.

4. What is the FRA recommended moisture content for maize?

The recommended maize moisture content for FRA is a maximum of 12.5%.

5. What other crops does FRA buy during the crop marketing season?

The other crops that FRA has been buying during various crop marketing seasons include Maize, soya beans, paddy rice and cassava.

6. What are some of the programmes that FRA conducts?

FRA conducts the following programmes:

- Millers program (market price stabilisation);
- Community Sales, (commodity access);
- Exports (forex earnings);
- School feeding program (MoGE learning support);
- Disaster management (DMMU relief & emergencies);
- Schools and health facilities, (commodity access); and
- Undergrade sales (disposal of deteriorated stocks).

7. What is the current price (2018/2019) of a 50 kg bag of white maize under Community Sales programme?

The price of a 50 kg bag of white maize is K111.00.

8. Where does the Agency take the funds/money raised from the sales of designated crops from its strategic reserves?

The Agency being a public service institution remits or deposits all the funds raised to the Central Government.

9. Is FRA a profit making organisation?

FRA is a purely government institution and is not a profit making organisation. It is established by an Act of Parliament and is intended to provide a service to the country and other countries in the region.

10. What types of storage facilities are used by FRA?

There are three (3) types of storage facilities used namely: Sheds, slabs and silos.

11. Under what circumstances can designated commodities be released from FRA's national strategic food reserves?

The Food Reserve Act Chapter 225 of the laws of Zambia prescribes the following circumstances under which designated commodities may be released from national strategic reserves:

1. To stabilise food prices during periods of nationwide food insecurity and food scarcity;
2. To mitigate effects of hunger on targeted vulnerable communities through relief food distribution;
3. For purposes of commodity trading on export market during surplus seasons; and
4. During special Government programmes such as donations to other countries and food relief operations.

12. What is the mission and vision statement of FRA?

The **mission statement** for FRA as indicated in the 2019-2021 Balanced Scorecard is as follows: *“To manage strategic food reserves for national food security”* while the **vision statement** is *“a reliable Agency for sustainable strategic food reserves for the nation.”*