

**AIPG Information
on
Current Supply Situation of Gum Arabic**

Update (3): 4th June, 2024

Against the background of recent publications and other media coverage, we would like to emphasize – once again – that all AIPG members have internal processes in place which involve careful verification of the economic links of all their suppliers. Furthermore, our Sudanese AIPG members are used to verifying that all Sudanese partners have no connection with the army or the militias.

Moreover, it should be noted that the acacia gum, particularly in terms of harvesting and collecting this raw material and forwarding it in the logistic chain is a very complex issue which requires specific knowledge and experience, also with a view to the mandatory compliance with international food and feed standards. Due to the expertise required, acacia gum can only be handled by specialized entities and is not of interest for non-specialized organisations.

For the reasons mentioned above, acacia gum is not of interest for procurement activities of any military and/or paramilitary organizations or individuals. Thus, gum acacia is far beyond from financially contributing to any party involved in the conflict.

Update (2): 7th March, 2024

AIPG members sincerely hope that a peaceful solution will soon be found regarding the situation in Sudan.

The AIPG Board is monitoring the development of this situation and keeps contact with all the members, including those present on site. Based on decades of experience in the Sudan business and generally as producers, importers, and manufacturers of natural products from all over the world, AIPG members are confident that at this stage, the supply is not at risk.

The AIPG has been made aware of allegations of links between stakeholders of the gum Arabic industry and the Sudanese army or militias. The AIPG does not see any evidence of links between its member companies and the Sudanese army or militias. In particular, there is no reason to assume that there might be any financial links between the AIPG members and the political forces, armies and militias involved in the current situation.

Update (1): 12th June, 2023

The current situation remains highly problematic in Sudan, particularly in Khartoum, while other regions such as Port Sudan seem less affected by the ongoing conflict.

AIPG members are closely monitoring developments with their local partners, and hope that a peaceful solution can soon be found, so that the acacia gum market, which is an essential source of income for the rural population, can return to normal in this country.

Acacia gum, which is used in multiple food & beverage applications as a natural/organic food additive and as a source of prebiotic fibre, is collected in abt. a dozen of African countries from West Africa to East Africa – the so-called “Gum belt”. These producing countries are currently supplying the global acacia gum market with substantial raw material stocks available both from the 2023 crop and surplus from prior years, without an expected disruption of the supply.

However, AIPG members are working to re-establish a Sudanese supply chain, under identical conditions of safety, conformity and compliance to those in place before the beginning of the conflict. It is hoped that the economical and - beyond all – the humanitarian stability can be fully restored for the whole country.

Furthermore, we would like to inform that acacia gum does neither figure amongst the top 10 contributors to the Sudanese GDP nor does it significantly contribute to the Sudanese export statistics. This product category is of neglectable financial interest to the conflicting parties.

Initial Statement - Status: 28th April

AIPG members are aware of the extremely problematic situation in Sudan and sincerely hope that a peaceful solution will soon be found.

Our members are monitoring the development of the situation and keep in touch with their local contacts.

Based on decades of experience in the Sudan business and generally as producers, importers, and manufacturers of natural products from all over the world, AIPG members do not believe that the supply situation of end users of gum Arabic is at risk.

Like many other importers, our member companies keep sufficient stocks of gum Arabic imported from Sudan and other countries in their warehouses, so that possible interruptions in supply – for whatever reason that might occur – can be absorbed.

Further on, it must also be considered that Sudan is not the only supplier country for gum Arabic, as also countries like Chad and Nigeria significantly contribute to the supply continuity of the market. Thus, in AIPG's estimation, immediate supply bottlenecks are not to be expected because of the current events in Sudan.

Status: 28th April, 2023

Updated (1): 12th June, 2023

Updated (2): 7th March, 2024

Updated (3), 4th June, 2024