

## AIPG Information on Current Supply Situation of Gum Arabic

### Update (5): 11<sup>th</sup> March, 2025

The AIPG and its members unequivocally condemn any form of smuggling of acacia gum. Illegal practices have no place in an industry founded on transparency, ethics, and the fair compensation of everyone involved in the production chain. AIPG members act in line with the AIPG Code of Practice and apply the AIPG Good Practices for Gums.

Sudan remains the world's leading producer of acacia gum, through traditional channels that comply with international export regulations despite the ongoing civil war and its consequences.

In 2024, the country exported over 70,000 tons of acacia gum globally, including 50,000 tons to Europe.

Despite the challenges of an unstable environment, traceability and the legitimacy of exports remain ensured, notably thanks to the relocation of activities to safe areas such as Port Sudan and the establishment of secure corridors.

While the conflict in Sudan has led to increased production and exports from other countries in the Gum Belt, these nations have long been producers of acacia gum and continue to supply the global market.

The AIPG reaffirms its commitment to supporting a responsible and transparent sector, vital to the populations of all producing countries and in full compliance with international legislation.

As stakeholders in the acacia gum industry who have worked for decades alongside numerous Sudanese partners, the members of the AIPG express their profound regret at the devastating backlash of the ongoing conflict, which has been the deadliest in the world over the past two years.

The AIPG strongly advocates for a lasting peace, in the interest of the Sudanese people's safety and well being.

### Update (4): 27<sup>th</sup> January, 2025

AIPG members are deeply aware of the challenging and critical situation unfolding in Sudan and sincerely hope for a peaceful resolution soon.

AIPG members are actively monitoring the situation and maintaining close communication with their local contacts. Drawing on decades of experience in the Sudanese market and as producers, importers, and manufacturers of natural gums worldwide, AIPG members are confident that the supply of gum Arabic (aka

gum acacia) to end users remains secure and they work continuously to mitigate potential supply disruptions.

Acacia gum represents less than 3% of Sudan's export since 2019 but it is one of the few Sudanese exports that has been sustained throughout the devastating conflict in the country due to the lack of alternative livelihood options. 6 million people, about 15% of the population of Sudan, depend on the revenue generated from the production of this unique natural resource. This sector is crucial for the local communities, as it allows them to earn revenues and make a living, especially in difficult times. Today, acacia gum is one of the last sources of revenue available for millions of Sudanese people, many of them affected by the conflict. AIPG members are committed to supporting them, as well as the local communities they work with, during this period of civil unrest in Sudan.

In addition, AIPG does not see any evidence of links between acacia gum supply chain and the competing forces. 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. This product category is of neglectable financial interest to the conflicting parties.

### Update (3): 4<sup>th</sup> 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 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 organizations.

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): 7<sup>th</sup> 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): 12<sup>th</sup> 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.

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## Initial Statement - Status: 28<sup>th</sup> 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.

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Status: 28<sup>th</sup> April, 2023

Updated (1): 12<sup>th</sup> June, 2023

Updated (2): 7<sup>th</sup> March, 2024

Updated (3), 4<sup>th</sup> June, 2024

Updated (4), 27<sup>th</sup> January, 2025

Updated (5), 11<sup>th</sup> March, 2025