

## Monthly Report Template for COMPETE Grantees

**Grantee:** African Cotton & Textile Industry Federation (ACTIF)

**Report for the month of:** April 2012

Based on your grant agreement implementation timeline, please highlight the activities you have accomplished over the past month.

<b>Activities</b> <i>Activities should be directly in-line with your grant agreement</i>	<b>Activity Status</b> <i>If the activity has been accomplished, please give results. If the activity has not been accomplished, please provide an explanation.</i>
<b>Result #1: Leadership provided in the implementation of the COMESA CTC strategy</b>	
<b>(1.1) To lead, develop, coordinate and monitor progress of key implementation activities of the COMESA regional CtC strategy</b> Develop an implementation roadmap to guide the implementation process for the regional strategy	<b>ON GOING</b>  An implementation committee has been set up with ACTIF secretariat as the coordinating body.  <b>ACTIF will be following up with committee ad key agencies throughout the year</b>
<b>(1.2) Build the capacity of the COMESA strategy implementation committee and in conjunction with COMPETE, hold an initial planning meeting, followed by two implementation progress update meetings</b>	First Committee meeting was held in February and terms of reference adopted.  The date for the second committee meeting to assess progress is yet to be confirmed.
<b>(1.3) Engage with the Southern Africa Trade Hub (SATH) to align the regional strategy focus areas and actions, and seek support and ownership for key strategy initiatives in the southern Africa region for implementing the COMESA CTC strategy)</b>	<b>ON GOING</b>  First meeting was held in February and a raft of proposals for collaboration generated.  ED tabled proposals during the ACTIF Board meeting held in April during Origin Africa event. Feedback from SA Trade Hub is pending.
(1.4) Develop an information pack on best practices for managing fiber contamination in seed cotton, to improve the regions' reputation as a supplier	<b><i>This activity was pushed to start in May owing to Origin Africa event</i></b>
(1.5) Develop a pre-ginning classification guide on best practices to improve uniformity of fiber characteristics and to inform national seed cotton grade standards	<b><i>This activity was pushed to start in May owing to Origin Africa event</i></b>
(1.6) Develop an inventory of regional textile and apparel educational institutions including Universities and vocational training centers, and assess their capacities to train relative to leading international institutions	<b><i>This activity was pushed to start in May owing to Origin Africa event</i></b>
(1.7) Convene a regional forum of training institutions to initiate the matching of existing curricula with current industry needs across the value chain	<b><i>This activity was pushed to start in May owing to Origin Africa event</i></b>

<b>Result #2: Improved regional business environment, improved trade policies and enhanced opportunities</b>	
<b>(2.1) Conduct an analysis of the revised rules of origin under the EU EPA, and the proposed market access and rules of origin under the Tripartite agreement, and develop an ACTIF / Industry negotiation and advocacy position</b>	<b>ON GOING</b>  This activity is being supported by USAID COMPETE Trade Policy Component. There was no update in the month of April.
<b>(2.2) Prepare a statistical trade report on EAC regional trade potential and review EAC FTA rules of origin to establish industry recommendations to improve the free flow of trade in the EAC</b>	<b>PENDING</b>  This activity is being supported by USAID COMPETE Trade Policy Component. There was no update in the month of April.
(2.3) Hold a technical committee meeting to review and establish private sector industry positions on the various trade policy issues impacting market access and trade, specifically covering arrangements under the EU EPA's, the EAC rules of origin and FTA, and the Tripartite	<b>PENDING</b> <b><i>The date for the committee meeting to be set in May</i></b>
(2.4) Disseminate information on the various trade policy positions reached, the regulatory requirements, and factors impacting market access through regional workshops, posting on cottonafrica.com website, and through the ACTIF quarterly magazine	<b>PENDING</b> <b><i>Dissemination to follow after the technical committee meeting</i></b>
<b>Result #3: Institutional Capacity of ACTIF strengthened</b>	
<b>(3.1) In conjunction with COMPETE, assess the results of the external institutional assessment of ACTIF's technical and operational capacity and to strengthen its capability of directly sourcing and managing funds from USAID and other donors – <i>this activity will have no budget implication</i></b>	<b>POSTPONED</b>  <i>Had been reschedule to April but again to postponed to first week of June following the Origin Africa event</i>
<b>(3.2) Hold an ACTIF Board meeting to review and approve actions and the way forward for the sustainability of ACTIF, and to provide guidance and direction on other key activities such as implementation of the COMESA regional strategy</b>	<b>COMPLETED</b>  <b><i>Was held alongside the Origin Africa event in April. A presentation was made by ED on status of activities and various recommendations were adopted.</i></b>  <b><i>The minutes to be included in the Quarter report.</i></b>
<b>Result #4: Value Added products and services developed</b>	
<b>(4.2) Expand market access and trade opportunities for our members under AGOA by collaborating with ECA Trade Hub to track policy interventions under AGOA, identify possible firm level interventions, broaden firm-level networks and connect businesses across the region</b>	<b>PENDING</b>  This activity is being supported by USAID COMPETE Trade Policy Component. This activity is yet to be initiated with ACTIF.

<p><b>(4.3) Collaborate with COMPETE to conduct an EU end-market analysis to establish an alternative market option and to spread market risk. Disseminate information to stakeholders and members through cottonafrica.com website, regional workshops and Trade Hub networks</b></p>	<p><b>PENDING</b></p> <p>This activity is to be conducted by COMPETE Trade Policy team but information is yet to be received by ACTIF.</p>
<p><b>(4.4) Sustain the development and publication of the Cotton Africa Magazine on a quarterly basis, focusing on topical issues.</b></p>	<p><b>ONGOING</b></p> <p><i>Issue 3 (Jan – March period) was successfully published.</i></p>
<p><b>(4.5) Improve ACTIF’s market information system to increase revenues by upgrading the cottonafrica.com website to include new features that allow greater flexibility to the registered traders</b></p>	<p><b>ONGOING</b></p> <p>Review meeting held and an updated upgrade report compiled.</p>
<p><b>(4.6) Establish an on-line textile directory, incorporating HS code classification features, to be the catalyst for increased inter-regional trade, and as a manufacturing information source for regional and global retailers and brand</b></p>	<p><b>ON GOING</b></p> <p>Draft Directory generated. Data will be input into the website once the upgrade is completed.</p>
<p><b>Result 5: Hold Origin Africa in Ethiopia in partnership with COMPETE, ECA Trade Hub and ETGAMA</b></p>	
<p><b>(5.1) An Origin Africa Trade Expo, in cooperation with Mess Frankfurt, covering the fashion, textile and apparel supply chain, targeting at least 70 exhibitors from over 20 countries. A buyers and sourcing delegation of 20 firms from the US, and around 10 from the EU, are targeted to participate</b></p>	<p><b>COMPLETED</b></p> <p>Trade Expo was successfully held between April 24<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> 2012 in Ethiopia, with 62 booths being taken up to showcase a variety of products and supplies available regionally and internationally.</p> <p>The Trade Expo was officially opened by the Prime Minister of Ethiopia, H.E Meles Zenawi.</p> 
<p><b>(5.2) A ‘Seminar Series’ covering six topic components including investment, knowledge transfer &amp; capacity building, buyers/sellers platform, the link between industry and academic/vocational training institutions, integrating design and marketing, and technology and innovation</b></p>	<p><b>COMPELTED</b></p> <p>This was successfully held between April 24<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> 2012 in Ethiopia, under 9 sessions:</p> <p><b><i>Session 1: Effect of Technology and Machinery on production</i></b>  <b><i>Session 2: Bridging the Gap between Academia and Industry to Build Competiveness</i></b>  <b><i>Session 3: Good Agricultural Practices and Reducing Contamination</i></b>  <b><i>Session 4: Interactive Session with Buyers and Manufacturers</i></b>  <b><i>Session 5: Building Value, Brands and Export Strategies</i></b>  <b><i>Session 6: Investors Interactive Session</i></b>  <b><i>Session 7: Niche Markets - Africa’s Potential</i></b>  <b><i>Session 8: Exploiting Value of Unique Designs and Accessories</i></b>  <b><i>Session 9: Designers seminar</i></b></p>

<b>(5.3) Two designer Showcase events, held in partnership with Clairvoyant Marketing Agency, an Ethiopian company that runs the Ethiopian Hub of Africa Fashion Week.</b>	<b>COMPLETED</b>  Successfully partnered with Hub of Africa to host an eco fashion during the Origin Africa event held between April 24 <sup>th</sup> – 27 <sup>th</sup> 2012 in Ethiopia
<b>(5.4) Structure a platform for business, linking US and EU buyers with regional industry with 20 firms from the US, and 10 from the EU</b>	<b>COMPLETED</b>  In conjunction with USAID COMPETE, key US and EU buyers with interest in Africa participated in the Origin Africa event, in all the components (See attached report)

**PS:** Other ACTIF activities outside the implementation plan will be featured in the Quarter 2 report

#### **Attachments**

- Final Cotton Africa Magazine - Issue 3
- Online Magazine link: <http://magazine.cottonafrica.com/magazine/>
- Board Meeting Agenda
- ED Report / proposals to Board
- Origin Africa media report
- Origin Africa – Final program
- Origin Africa main report