

Monthly Report Template for COMPETE Grantees

Grantee: African Cotton & Textile Industry Federation (ACTIF)

Report for the month of: Aug 2012

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

Activities <i>Activities should be directly in-line with your grant agreement</i>	Activity Status <i>If the activity has been accomplished, please give results. If the activity has not been accomplished, please provide an explanation.</i>
Result #1: Leadership provided in the implementation of the COMESA CTC strategy	
(1.1) To lead, develop, coordinate and monitor progress of key implementation activities of the COMESA regional CtC strategy Develop an implementation roadmap to guide the implementation process for the regional strategy	ON GOING <i>An implementation committee has been set up with ACTIF secretariat as the coordinating body.</i> <i>An appointment has been secured to meet with the Secretary General of COMESA on 13th Sep 2012 to discuss the proposed support towards strategic activities under COMESA CtC Strategy</i> <i>A Copy of the request to COMESA is herewith attached.</i>
(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	First Committee meeting was held in February and terms of reference adopted. <i>The second implementation committee has now been rescheduled to 16th and 17th October 2012</i> <i>Draft minutes of the first committee meeting are herewith attached.</i>
(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)	ON GOING A Memorandum of understanding between ACTIF and SATH was successfully signed on 16 th July 2012 in South Africa, paving way for collaboration and partnership with between the two institutions mainly for the benefit of ACTIF members in the Southern African region. A meeting was held with a representative of SATH, Cosmas Mamhumize in Ghana on 3 rd Aug 2012 including participation in ACTIF AGM as observer to build on the linkages. <i>A copy of the signed MoU with SATH is herewith attached</i>
(1.4) Develop an information pack on best practices for managing fiber contamination in seed cotton, to improve the regions' reputation as a supplier and (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	ON GOING <i>Following language barrier with West African consultant, it was decided at the task be conducted using local consultants in Kenya from Kenya Agricultural Research Institute and Cotton Development Authority to undertake the task with the support if ACTIF during the month of Sep and Oct. Kenya will be used as the primary focus but with the objective of developing regional best practices on pre ginning cotton classification and</i>

	<p>cotton contamination.</p> <p>This activity is expected to kick off in early September.</p>
<p>(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</p>	<p>ON GOING</p> <p>The primary research on Kenyan institutions and secondary research on regional institutions has been completed. The draft report is herewith attached.</p>
<p>(1.7) Convene a regional forum of training institutions to initiate the matching of existing curricula with current industry needs across the value chain</p>	<p>PENDING</p> <p>A stakeholder's workshop to review and endorse the report from activity (1.6) has been scheduled to take place in November at Moi University.</p>
<p>Result #2: Improved regional business environment, improved trade policies and enhanced opportunities</p>	
<p>(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</p>	<p>ON GOING</p> <p>This activity is being supported by USAID COMPETE Trade Policy Component. The report will be disseminated to our members through our website.</p>
<p>(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</p>	<p>ON GOING</p> <p>This activity is being supported by USAID COMPETE Trade Policy Component. A draft report is herewith attached</p>
<p>(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</p>	<p>DATE & VENUE PROPOSED</p> <p>The date for the Technical committee meeting has been proposed to be held on 13th and 14th Nov 2012 in Nairobi, Kenya.</p>
<p>(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</p>	<p>PENDING</p> <p>Dissemination to follow after the technical committee meeting</p>
<p>Result #3: Institutional Capacity of ACTIF strengthened</p>	
<p>(3.3) Represent ACTIF members at three key events the AGOA Forum, the International Cotton Advisory Committee (ICAC) and the International Textile Manufacturers Federation (ITMF), of which ACTIF is a member, to strengthen the organizations profile, build</p>	<p>Report on AGOA was presented in the last quarter report. ICAC and ITMF yet to be held</p>

international networks and develop associate membership	
Result #4: Value Added products and services developed	
(4.4) Sustain the development and publication of the Cotton Africa Magazine on a quarterly basis, focusing on topical issues.	ONGOING <i>Issue 5 of the magazine currently under development</i>
(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	ONGOING Improved website can be accessed on this link: http://cottonafrica.demo.co.ke/ Final website to be launched in Sep 2012
(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	ON GOING Draft Directory generated. Data will be input into the website once the upgrade is completed.

PS: Other ACTIF activities outside the implementation plan during the month of July include

1. Key meetings and discussions

a. ACTIF annual General Meeting held on 1st Aug 2012 in Accra Ghana

ACTIF successfully held its annual general meeting on 1st Aug 2012 in Accra Ghana. The meeting was held at the back drop of a regional stakeholders meeting that was supported by African Trade Policy Center, ATPC under the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa.

Among the key outcomes of the AGM included the reelection of the board directors, and changes in structure of membership that will see ACTIF allowing individual companies joining as corporate members but with a limited mandate in the governance of ACTIF. ACTIF business plan was also presented and the partnership with South Africa Trade Hub was also discussed.

The draft AGM minutes are herewith attached.

b. Regional Stakeholders forum for Eastern, Southern and Western African region, 2-3 Aug 2012

This was an important meeting organized by ACTIF and supported by Africa Trade Policy Center (ATPC) with an aim of initiating dialogue for developing trade linkages

and cooperation between the Eastern, Southern & West African regions, of which the existing potential has not been fully explored.

The key issues covered included: Profiling of all the key players in each region; Sourcing and marketing potentials for each region; Success stories of cooperation between East, South and West; Existing trade and non trade barriers; Synergy of key issues under COMESA CTA strategy & recommendations for enhancing trade and cooperation.

The meeting provided an opportunity to share/discuss regional trade development and how to develop synergies in program/activities to build a strong base for co-operation and collaboration. 16 National Associations participated in the meetings as well six support agencies. ACTIF was also able to develop membership in West Africa with at least 3 associations expressing interest. ACTIF will continue to pursue this interest to develop the membership.

Copy of the report is herewith attached.

c. Signing of MoU between ACTIF and EPZA on 15th Aug 2012

ACTIF established a partnership with the Export Processing Zone Authority – Kenya to work closely together towards a feasibility study, application for funding and successful establishment of a proposed Regional Textile and Apparel Centre of Excellence following the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the two institutions. The MoU was signed on 15th August 2012, at the Export Processing Zone Authority, in Athi River, Kenya.

ACTIF looks forward to work with EPZA and other partners across the region towards the set objectives considering that a center of excellence is a key need for the industry and is also highlighted in the COMESA CtC regional strategy.

d. BAF Training on Project and Resource Mobilization on 15th and 16th Aug 2012

ACTIF participated in training on Project Management and Resource Mobilization that was held on 15th and 16th Aug in Nairobi Kenya along with other Business Membership organizations. The objective of the training was to strengthen the capacities of business management organizations in resource mobilization and managing its projects in a structured and sustainable manner. The training seminar included detailed interactions among BMOs on best practices for tapping into internal resources and how to build lasting relationships with members and development partners.

e. Meeting with Business Advocacy Fund 23rd August 2012

This meeting was held between Clive Davis (BAF), Kariuki Waweru (BAF) Rajeev Arora (ACTIF) and Joseph Nyagari (ACTIF).

During the meeting the possible support of an advocacy activity for the Textile Industry in Kenya was discussed. In the end it was agreed that there is a need to conduct a comprehensive review of the policy environment affecting the Textile sector in Kenya as the first activity before launching a series of advocacy activities as the second activity. A concept was subsequently developed and submitted to BAF.

f. Participation of ACTIF in Shanghai Home Textile Conference in China on 28th Aug 2012

ACTIF Chairman, Mr. Jaswinder Bedi attended the Shanghai Home Textile Conference in China on 28th Aug following invitation by China National Textile and Apparel Council.

Mr. Bedi was given a platform to deliver a key presentation on ACTIF showing the status of the industry in Africa and highlighting the massive potential that exists in the Industry. The presentation also focused on attracting investors and linkages with Africa in order to build our home textile industry and also to build our exports into key markets such as EU and US where trade with Africa is at a very low level.

g. Visit to Denmark under Textile East Africa Project – 27th – 30th Aug 2012

This visit was planned as part of the IPD Textile East Africa Project which is collaboration between ACTIF, KAM and Danish Associations including Danish Fashion and Textile and Danish Federation of Small and Medium Sized Enterprises. The objective of the visit was to build the capacity of ACTIF and KAM (KAMEA) as the apex associations in Kenya by meeting with the associations in Denmark to understand how they run.

27th August 2012

Visit to TEKO (Textile School)

TEKO Textile school is a top design school in Denmark that has strong linkages with the industry. It has 1000 students in the design department with 300 international students. The School has been continuously evolving to cope with the changes in the sector especially in Europe. The school has also been able to diversify into leather and furniture designs.

One of its key factors of success is its creative business center which acts as an active wing that facilitates interaction with the industry. The center interacts with the industry on a regular basis and releases regular reports and insights on the current and future of the industry and it is highly valued by the industry players.

28th Aug 2012

Visit to Kemotextil (Dying Company)

This was a high quality dyeing and finishing companies that is among the few production units that has remained in Denmark. It was interesting to see the company using 30 year old machines that have been upgraded and optimized to give top quality production and finishing especially for smart textiles and technical textiles.

The owner of the factory is participating as a consultant in the Textile East Africa project and he has already recommended a number of solutions for optimizing some of the textile mills currently in Kenya.

Visit to Dansk Fashion and textile, Headquarters

It was great to see the headquarters of Danish Fashion and Textile and meet with some of its staff to understand how they support the over 300 members that they have in Denmark from the Fashion and Design companies. Advocacy and Value added services such labor advice, legal advice, international trade, fashion shows, trade directory and research were the main services offered to their members.

It was also interesting to note the level transparency with all the members sharing their financial reports with the associations on an annual basis.

Visit to Ege tæpper (Carpet Production Company)

It was great to visit a Hi tech a company with barely 250 employees boasting of a production of over 2 million Euros comparable to a company in China with over 3,000 employees.

The company is fully modernized and employs the latest technologies in its operations. The company also places a high value on design and innovation as differentiators for its business.

29th Aug 2012

Visit to IC Company's (Fashion Company)

This is a company that focuses on high end fashion items. The company has outsourced all its production and retaining only its logistics, accounting and marketing departments. The company's production is over 12 million pieces a year which come in over 10,000 different styles. It has 2,344 employees in all its subsidiaries mainly in Hong Kong, China, India and Romania

Quality, price and delivery are its key factors of success.

Meeting with Modint (Dutch Textile and Fashion organization)

This is a Dutch based association that represents its members drawn from Textile, Apparel and Trading companies in Netherlands. The association has a strong collaboration with Danish Fashion and Textile and often shares information that facilitate trade.

Visit to Dansk Fashion and textile, Copenhagen office)

This was a second visit to the DFT offices after having visited the main branch in Herning.

30th Aug 2012

Visit to Danish Design School (Design School)

The Danish design school has a history dating back to 150 years and has been supporting the industry since then. It has also evolved with the industry maintaining a strong focus on design, innovation and quality. The school has merged with the Royal school of architecture

Meeting with Industrial Fund for Developing Countries, IFU

IFU is an investment fund that was created by the Danish Government and exists to support Danish companies that invest in developing countries. It operates on commercial terms and a Danish investor must be involved for them to participate. 60% of its investment projects are small and medium enterprises. Their support is a maximum of 30% of the total investment.

They are open to consider any projects provided it has a strong business case and evidence of solid management systems in place. The institution also coordinates with other agencies to support Danish investors.

h. Meeting with European Commission on 31st Aug 2012, Brussels

This was a meeting between Mr. Viwanou (Expert in protocols and commodities under ACP programs), Aude (Director General for development and cooperation under Europe Aid) and Rajeev Arora (ACTIF), Joseph Nyagari (ACTIF).

The meeting provided an opportunity for ACTIF to share information on its activities including proposed interventions that we would like to tap into the next EU development fund for cotton. During the meeting we were advised of the procedures of applying and how the system works under EU. The next EU fund is expected to be launched by end of 2012/ early 2013 after which specific details of application would be advised.

i. Meeting with CDE on 31st Aug 2012, Brussels

This was a meeting between Dr. Meite Head of Operations at CDE in Brussels and Rajeev Arora (ACTIF) together with Joseph Nyagari (ACTIF).

The meeting provided an opportunity for ACTIF to share information on its activities including proposed interventions in the future. The objective was to seek the support of CDE for some of the interventions. Dr. Meite was happy to learn of the progress of ACTIF and was happy to learn about some of the future activities. Following the meeting he requested for a summary of the proposed activities to be sent to him for further discussion with their technical team.

Attachments

- ACTIF request to COMESA
- Draft minutes of ACTIF AGM
- Report on regional meeting for eastern, Southern and West African Stakeholders held in Accra Ghana
- Draft minutes of 1st COMESA implementation committee meeting
- Concept note to BAF to support the Kenya Textile Industry
- Strategic applications / concepts under COMESA regional strategy
- Copy of MoU between ACTIF and EPZA