

Monthly Report Template for COMPETE Grantees

Grantee: African Cotton & Textile Industry Federation (ACTIF)

Report for the month of: February 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	
<p>(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</p>	<p>ON GOING</p> <p>An implementation committee has been set up with ACTIF secretariat as the coordinating body.</p> <p>The committee comprises of representatives from Production, Ginning, Textile and Apparel sectors as well as development partners.</p> <p>The full list of committee members is attached herewith.</p> <p>This will be an Ongoing activity throughout the year with ACTIF taking a lead role in coordinating the activities of the COMESA implementation Committee.</p>
<p>(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</p>	<p>Initial planning meeting – COMPLETED</p> <p>An initial planning committee meeting for the COMESA implementation committee meeting was held on 27th and 28th February in Johannesburg, South Africa.</p> <p>A total of 11 committee members attended the two day meeting and the key outcomes included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review and Confirmation of Terms of Reference for committee members. • Formation of 3 technical subcommittees to oversee the implementation. • Prioritization of implementation activities.
<p>(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</p>	<p>COMPLETED</p> <p>ED Rajeev accompanied by Barry and Chris on behalf of COMPETE were able to meet with SATH and discuss the possibility of securing SATH support for key activities, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotion the Southern Africa industry with support of

<p>strategy)</p>	<p>SATH to fund key activities for building investment, trade and competitiveness.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishing a quality services standard for members. • Establish a code of conduct with the support of SATH by engaging third party consulting firm (linked to point 2) • Those companies ascribing to 2) and 3) would then be grouped into an alliance under ACTIF and National associations • Establishing a local presence in Southern Africa, with SATH support, to promote ACTIF & the Source Africa trade show • Ascription to and compliance with the quality service standards in 2) • Eventually to form the association or alliance • ACTIF, with the assistance of SATH, will engage in Southern Africa investment promotion in textile and apparel in Asia (ASEAN, Taiwan, Hong Kong) and the US • SATH and ACTIF will offer to SADC to harmonize their Cotton/Textile/Apparel (CTA) strategy with COMESA CtC regional strategy <p>In light of SATH's technical and financial support to ACTIF, SATH requests a board seat as an associate member, thus privileged to be able to discuss strategy and implementation except for voting rights</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. ACTIF was able to participate in one private sector meeting to provide input on behalf its members.</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>PENDING</p> <p>This activity is being supported by USAID COMPETE Trade Policy Component. A report will be circulated to members at a later stage.</p>
<p>Result #3: Institutional Capacity of ACTIF strengthened</p>	
<p>(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></p>	<p>POSTPONED</p> <p>This activity was rescheduled to April through mutual arrangement between COMPETE team and ACTIF.</p>

Result #4: Value Added products and services developed	
(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	PENDING This activity is being supported by USAID COMPETE Trade Policy Component. This activity is yet to be initiated with ACTIF.
(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	PENDING This activity is yet to be initiated
(4.4) Sustain the development and publication of the Cotton Africa Magazine on a quarterly basis, focusing on topical issues.	ONGOING Magazine outline for issue 3 developed and draft articles compiled. The magazine will be printed by First Week of April 2012
(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 Review meeting held and proposed upgrade report compiled.
(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 Data for East Africa directory handed over to supplier to compile Directory.
Result 5: Hold Origin Africa in Ethiopia in partnership with COMPETE, ECA Trade Hub and ETGAMA	
(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	ON GOING Planning meetings held in partnership with COMPETE Event Manager and coordinators engaged to support the planning committee Local partners established and MoUS drafted. Visit trip to Ethiopia held to meet with key stakeholders and to assess progress of the planning activities at the ground.
(5.2) A 'Seminar Series' covering six topic components including investment, knowledge transfer & capacity building, buyers/sellers platform, the link between industry and academic/vocational training institutions, integrating design and	ON GOING Draft Program developed and list of proposed experts to be invited developed. Proposals to development partners developed and submitted to support the cost of experts participation in the Seminar series.

marketing, and technology and innovation	
(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.	ON GOING Cooperation established with Clairvoyant Marketing to include Hub of Africa Fashion in origin Africa event in April.
(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	ON GOING In conjunction with USAID COMOETE, key US and EU buyers with interest in Africa identified and Invitation sent out towards the Origin Africa event.

PS: Other ACTIF activities outside the implementation plan will be featured in the Quarter 1 report

Attachments

- COMESA implementation committee ToR
- Discussion notes with SA Trade Hub
- Minutes of COMESA implementation committee meeting
- India Visit report
- EU-EPA Tripartite document with ACTIF comments
- Upgrade proposal report for CottonAfrica website
- Draft Layout of Cotton Africa Magazine
- Draft Origin Africa Program
- List of proposed Experts for seminar series