

## Monthly Report Template for COMPETE Grantees

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

**Report for the month of:** July 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> <b>Develop an implementation roadmap to guide the implementation process for the regional strategy</b>	<b>ON GOING</b>  <i>An implementation committee has been set up with ACTIF secretariat as the coordinating body.</i>  <i>A request has been sent to the Secretary General of COMESA outlining key issues and seeking for an appointment to meet and discuss on the possible support of COMESA.</i>  <i>A Copy of the request to COMESA is herewith attached.</i>
<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.  <i>The second implementation committee has now been rescheduled to 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> October 2012</i>
<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>  A Memorandum of understanding between ACTIF and SATH was successfully signed on 16 <sup>th</sup> 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.  The MoU was signed by Mr. Rajeev Arora on behalf of ACTIF and Ms Maxine Kennet, the chief of Party of SATH.  One of the immediate outcomes was the linkage of ACTIF with LTE a south African firm that will be hosting a regional Source Africa Trade Show in April 2013. Discussions are currently on going on the modalities of partnership.  <i>A copy of the signed MoU with SATH is herewith attached</i>
<b>(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</b>	<b>ON GOING</b>  <i>Following recommendations by the International Cotton Advisory Committee, a consultant based in Mali, West Africa was recommended for the task. The consultant was contacted and expressed interest but also sought to understand the depth of the study before he could commit. A discussion was subsequently held to clarify the task and his confirmation is</i>

standards	currently awaited to issue a contract for the task.
(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>ON GOING</b>  <i>The primary research on Kenyan institutions and secondary research on regional institutions has been completed. The draft report is expected in Mid August.</i>
(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>PENDING</b>  <i>A stakeholder's workshop to review and endorse the report from activity (1.6) has been scheduled to take place in October / November at Moi University.</i>
<b>Result #2: Improved regional business environment, improved trade policies and enhanced opportunities</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>ON GOING</b>  This activity is being supported by USAID COMPETE Trade Policy Component. The report will be disseminated to our members through our website.
(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>ON GOING</b>  This activity is being supported by USAID COMPETE Trade Policy Component.
(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>DATE &amp; VENUE PROPOSED</b>  <i>The date for the Technical committee meeting has been proposed to be held on 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> Nov 2012 in Nairobi, Kenya.</i>  <i>Information from COMPETE's trade policy component on the current status of various trade policies is pending ahead of holding the Technical committee meeting.</i>
(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>  <i>Dissemination to follow after the technical committee meeting</i>
<b>Result #3: Institutional Capacity of ACTIF strengthened</b>	
(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 international networks and develop	<b>COMPLETED</b>  <i>This activity was conducted in the last week of June 2012 and the first week of July 2012. It involved travel to the US by ACTIF Chairman Mr. Jaswinder Bedi and ACTIF ED Rajeev Arora where they were able to engage with key representatives of US Government and Private sector to present ACTIF position on the need to extend the</i>

<p>associate membership</p>	<p><i>third Country fabric provision under AGOA.</i></p> <p><i>The Chairman, Mr Bedi was invited to testify at the US Congressional hearing on 3<sup>rd</sup> Country fabric provision as recognition of ACTIF's.</i></p> <p><i>In the course of July, several follow ups were made including formal appeals from ACTIF to key senators requesting for their support.</i></p> <p><i>Assurances of support were secured from key organs of the US Government culminating to the extension of 3<sup>rd</sup> Country fabric provision which was officially announced in early August.</i></p> <p><i>Attached is a copy of the ACTIF report on AGOA advocacy</i></p>
<p><b>Result #4: Value Added products and services developed</b></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>Online French version of magazine developed for Issue 3 (Jan – March period).</i></p> <p><i>Issue 4 of cotton Africa was also completed and launched for distribution</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>Development stage of the website upgrade has been completed. It currently under review before being launched</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>

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

### **1. Development of Business Plan for ACTIF**

This activity was supported directly by USAID COMPETE. This involved a review of ACTIF strategic plan to develop a 4 year business plan for ACTIF sustainability.

During the month of July, Edgar Kamar, a consultant hired by COMPETE met with ACTIF secretariat as well as ACTIF chairman Mr. Jaswinder Bedi and Director Barry Fisher, to collect input on the current and future activities towards development of the business plan.

A draft business was finally developed to be presented to ACTIF board for their review during a scheduled meeting in early Aug 2012.

*The draft business plan is herewith attached.*

## **2. Meeting with BAF to discuss possible interventions**

ACTIF ED, Mr. Rajeev Arora and Trade Policy Manager Joseph Nyagari met with Mary Kiragu and Mr. Kariuki of Business Advocacy Fund to discuss on the progress that ACTIF has made over the years and possible areas of interventions with BAF to be taken within their programs.

BAF undertook to include ACTIF in some of their capacity building programs as well as to consider new concept notes along the areas discussed.

*Attached is a copy of the discussion note.*

## **3. Business Lunch on 26<sup>th</sup> July to launch German Office and Upcoming Kenyan-German Business Forum**

ACTIF ED, Mr. Rajeev Arora attended a business luncheon organized on 26<sup>th</sup> July 2012 hosted by Mr. Ingo Badoreck from the Delegation of German Industry and Commerce (AHK Kenya). During the luncheon the office of the Delegation of German Industry and Commerce (AHK Kenya) was officially launched.

Also launched was the 1st Kenyan-German Business Forum that is scheduled to take place on 27/09/2012.

### **Attachments**

- ACTIF request to COMESA
- Copy of Issue 4 of Cotton Africa Magazine
- Copy of Signed MoU with South Africa Trade Hub
- *ACTIF report on AGOA advocacy*
- *Discussion note with BAF*