

Monthly Report Template for COMPETE Grantees

Grantee: African Cotton & Textile Industry Federation (ACTIF)

Report for the month of: Oct 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><i>Following the meeting between ACTIF Chairman, Jaswinder Bedi and ED Rajeev Arora held with COMESA SG in Lusaka, to seek for COMESA support towards strategic activities under COMESA CtC Strategy, a formal application was prepared and submitted to the SG's office by Joseph Nyagari during a regional CAADP meeting.</i></p> <p><i>ACTIF has also generated a concept to establish a regional center of excellence in Kenya which is directly linked to COMESA ctc implementation strategy (key result area 1 - To develop the industry's technical and human resource capacity with the primary objective of Develop capacity of training institutions to provide current training programs.</i></p> <p><i>The activity is also linked to one of the outcomes of the International CTA Conference that was supported by a host of partners including: COMPETE, CDE, DANIDA & World Bank.).</i></p> <p><i>Copy of the ACTIF application is herewith attached.</i></p> <p><i>ACTIF Concept on Regional center of excellence</i></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><i>The 1st COMESA Implementation committee meeting is scheduled for 26th and 27th Nov 2012, in Jo Berg, South Africa.</i></p> <p><i>.A template has been generated for capturing COMESA implementation Committee reports from all partners.</i></p> <p><i>A draft Agenda has already been developed and circulated Copy attached</i></p>
<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 strategy)</p>	<p>ON GOING</p> <p><i>Following discussions between ACTIF, SATH and COMPETE, it was agreed that the two hubs would support a common Go to event in South Africa in April 2013. ACTIF and COMPETE have started promoting the event at various forums.</i></p> <p><i>ACTIF also developed and submitted a request for SATH support for strategic activities in SA region. Copy is herewith attached and response is still pending from SATH.</i></p>

<p>(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</p>	<p>ON GOING</p> <p><i>Local consulting firm was engaged to undertake the task.</i></p> <p><i>A draft report has already been developed. The report should be finalized in November and the stakeholders meeting to validate the report will take place in early December.</i></p> <p><i>Copy of the contract and 1st draft report is herewith attached 2nd draft is expected by mid November.</i></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><i>The study was completed by ACTIF consultant and a draft report generated highlighting the gaps and recommendations for improving curriculums and industry / academia partnerships.</i></p> <p><i>Attached is a copy of the final draft report.</i></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><i>Stakeholders' meeting was held at Moi University on 26th Oct 2012 bringing together representatives of local universities and industry associations where the detailed report was presented and had been validated with some improvements.</i></p> <p><i>Copy of the presentation is herewith attached along with ACTIF trip report to Moi University</i></p>
<p>Result #2: Improved regional business environment, improved trade policies and enhanced opportunities</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><i>The meeting is scheduled to be held on 3rd and 4th December at Sankara Hotel Nairobi. The meeting will focus on EAC Trade Policy issues, mainly on EPA RoO impacting on CTA Products. The meeting will also cover standards related to Textile Products.</i></p> <p><i>Attached is the list of participants, Proposed Agenda and Industry briefs on the two subjects sent out in advance.</i></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>ONGOING</p> <p><i>Industry brief have been prepared and shared with the members. Dissemination of industry position to follow after the technical committee meeting</i></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 international networks and develop associate membership</p>	<p>ACTIF Chairman to represent ACTIF at the ICAC & ITMF meeting in Switzerland & Vietnam</p> <p>Report to be included in the November monthly report.</p>

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.	<p>ONGOING</p> <p><i>Issue 5 was completed and print copies are being circulated. Link for the soft copy: www.cottonafrica.com/magazine</i></p>
(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	<p>ONGOING</p> <p>Improved website can be accessed on this link. Currently in the test phase and migration targeted for Early Dec</p> <p>http://cottonafrica.demo.co.ke/</p> <p>Final website to be launched in Dec 2012</p>
(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	<p>ON GOING</p> <p>Draft Directory generated. Data will be input into the website once the upgrade is completed. A copy has been submitted generating a soft copy for printing.</p>

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

1. Key meetings and discussions

a. CAADP Regional Partners Meeting on 4th– 5th Oct 2012 in Lusaka, Zambia

The Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) is the agricultural programme of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), which in turn is a programme of the African Union (AU).

The objective of the meeting was to deliberate on the roadmap towards finalization of the CAADP regional policy & Investment Framework in COMESA. 4 main groups were represented in the meeting:

1. Donor Partners (World Bank, GTZ, USAID, DFID, ECDPM (European Center for Development Policy Management))
2. Regional Economic Communities – COMESA (Including the Secretariat, CBC, CAADP & ACTESA) & AUC
3. Regional Associations – ACTIF, SACAU, ASARECA (Association for strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa) & EAFF (East African Farmers Federation)
4. COMESA Member States representatives (Reps from Ministries of Agriculture from COMESA region)

Attached is a copy of the Trip report

b. Trip report to UNIDO headquarters in Vienna, Austria on 13th Oct 2012

The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations. Its mandate is to promote and accelerate sustainable industrial development in developing countries and economies in transition, and work towards improving living conditions in the world's poorest countries by drawing on its combined global resources and expertise.

The purpose of this meeting was a follow-up on our discussion held in Nairobi with the Regional Representative of UNIDO in Kenya, who later assisted in securing the appointment. Specific objectives were to:

1. Introduce ACTIF to the UNIDO project coordinator for Africa
2. Seek for UNIDO support towards development of a regional Center of Excellence
3. Seek for UNIDO support for Optimization of Existing Textile Mills in East Africa region
4. To promote the Cotton Africa Magazine

Attached is a copy of the trip report to meet with UNIDO

c. ACTIF participation in Sourcing meeting in Dusseldorf, on 16th – 17th Oct 2012 organized by IAF/DTB/MODINT

The Dialogue Textile Garments (DTB) is a consortium of industry. During the sourcing meeting, Companies from the entire textile chain come together in working groups to handle questions and problems and create solutions to the chain's textile and clothing industry.

ACTIF was invited to participate in this meeting, in order to:

- Introduce ACTIF to DTB and its members;
- Brand SSA as a sourcing region;
- Develop interest of sourcing managers and agents to participate in Source Africa Trade Expo;
- Exchange information and trade data between ACTIF & DTB;
- Meet and discuss with International Apparel Federation;

Attached is the trip report to the sourcing meeting

d. Meeting with CBI in Netherlands, on 16th Oct 2012

CBI (Centre for the Promotion of Imports from developing countries) is the agency of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands. CBI's mission is to contribute to sustainable economic development in developing countries through the expansion of exports from these countries.

The objective of the meeting with CBI was to introduce ACTIF and advise the current support of USAID COMPETE to cover its operational costs and implement some key grant activities.

Attached is the trip report to meet with CBI

e. Meeting with International Apparel Federation (IAF) on 17th October 2012, Netherlands

The IAF is the world's leading federation for apparel manufacturers, their associations, apparel retailers and the supporting industry.

ACTIF's mission to IAF was to develop business contacts to foster dialogue and knowledge exchange between individuals and institutions that are active in the global apparel value chain.

More specifically, the contacts would assist generating industry value for:

- Betterment of business practices
- Promotion of the international image of the apparel business
- Advancement of technology and the promotion of its' use
- Encouragement of innovation and new ways of thinking
- Growth of apparel trade worldwide
- Improvement of social, health and safety, and environmental conditions relating to the apparel chain worldwide
- Advancement of apparel related education and training

Attached is the Trip report to IAF meeting

Attachments

- COMESA Implementation Committee Agenda
- List of Committee Members to attend the COMESA implementation committee meeting
- ACTIF status Report on of COMESA CTC Strategy implementation.
- ACTIF request to SATH to support strategic activities in SA region.
- Copy of contract for task on contamination and pre ginning classification
- Copy of draft report on contamination and pre ginning classification
- Draft report on review of CTA curriculums and recommendations
- Concept note on proposed Regional center of excellence
- Copy of Report Presentation made at stakeholders forum in Eldoret
- Trip report to Moi University, Eldoret
- List of Participants at Stakeholders forum in Moi University, Eldoret
- List of participants for Technical Committee meeting on 3-4 Dec
- Agenda for the Technical Committee meeting to be held on 3-4 Dec 2012
- Industry brief on EPA rules of Origin
- Industry brief on Standards impacting on Textile Products
- Trip report to IAF Meeting in Zeist, Netherlands
- Trip report to CAADP meeting in Lusaka, Zambia
- Trip report to meet with CBI
- Trip report to the Sourcing meeting in Dusseldorf