

# **USAID-COMPETE PARTNER FUNDING SUPPORT TO EAGC**

## **MONTHLY REPORT-AUGUST 2011**

### **Introduction**

This report from Eastern Africa Grain Council (EAGC) is for the month of August 2011 covering the achievements under USAID-COMPETE funding support to EAGC. The Grant is aimed at strengthening institutional coordination and regional structured grain trading system through integrated regional market information systems, policy and reduced barriers to trade. The objectives of the entire Grant are as follows:

- a) To facilitate institutional strengthening to enable EAGC to deliver services to its stakeholders across the region with a particular emphasis on strengthening the capacity of satellite offices in Uganda and Tanzania.
- b) To formalize regional agricultural markets and structured trade systems in the Eastern and Southern Africa region through training of trainers in harmonized grains standards, rules of trade (tariffs, simplified certificate of origin (SCO), Sanitary and Phytosanitary Standards (SPS), WRS/Commodities Exchanges and dispute resolution.
- c) To expand RATIN into a truly regional market information platform that integrates national MIS providers and provides timely and accurate data and analysis to all value chain participants and is the region's preferred source of market information.
- d) To hold a successful Grain Trade Summit in Uganda in October 2011 to discuss the systems required to formalize, strengthen and integrate the regional staple foods value chain, increase stakeholder participation in structured trading systems and promote regional trade and food security.
- e) To organize Agribusiness Fairs in Kenya and Tanzania to bring small-scale farmers and FBOs together with leading regional traders and processors to build linkages across the value chain.
- f) To engage directly with national governments in the EAC to ensure full adoption and institutionalization of the EAC's harmonized grains standards.

### **1. Institutional Strengthening**

Under this component, EAGC focused on registration of EAGC Rwanda Chapter. So far the registration of EAGC Rwanda has been finalized and a registration certificate has been issued. EAGC will now embark on the membership drive prior to the launch of the EAGC Rwanda.

### **2. Strengthening of Structured Trading Systems**

#### **• Support to Warehouse Receipt System**

- a) In Kenya, the WRS Task Force mandated to drive the process of establishing a WRS legal and regulatory framework has finally submitted its deliverables. Through its co-chairs, Victor Gitobu (representing EAGC) and Anne Onyango (Ministry of Agriculture), the WRS draft bill,

draft Rules & Regulations and summary of the Transitional Issues were submitted to the Permanent Secretary- Ministry of Agriculture on 29<sup>th</sup> August 2011.

- b) In Uganda, EAGC held a meeting with UCE was convened on 10th August 2011. This was meant to explore ways of supporting UCE in promoting WRS and COMEX in Uganda. EAGC plans to build the capacity of Warehouse operators and brokers attached to UCE. EAGC will boost the UCE's M market information particularly the offers and bids on the trading floor.

### **3. Agricultural Information Generation, Dissemination and Networking Systems Strengthened**

- **Formalize Partnership with the MAS Group.**

The draft MOU on the Partnership with MAS and EAGC has been done and circulated for review by the members. A draft Letter of agreement guiding the areas of engagement has also been finalised. Both documents will be signed after the MAS meeting scheduled for September.

- **Hire IT Consultant to integrate and Expand MAS Database and overhaul [www.ratin.net](http://www.ratin.net)**

The concept note on the NEW RATIN process has been finalized. The draft TORs and the process map have also been developed internally for discussion with the partners and the MAS group. The hiring process of the consultant will commence in September.

- **Formalize relationship between EAGC and National Food Balance Sheet Working Groups.**

The National food security working groups in the 5 countries- Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Rwanda and Burundi have been formed. Draft MOUs have also been developed and will be signed by the working groups. Representatives from public and private sectors were nominated to collate and submit data for the Food Balance Sheet. The data is expected to come from government ministries, traders, millers, UN agencies, Commodity Exchanges, FBOs and NGOs.

- **Harmonization of Data Collection Methodology**

The TORs for the consultant to expand cross border data collection methodology was done, and the consultant hired. The draft report is expected by end of September.

- **Hiring of Market Monitors**

Interviews to hire market Monitors in Uganda and Tanzania were held in the month of August. The monitors will begin engagement from 1<sup>st</sup> September and will cover more markets in Uganda and Tanzania. Currently, only one market was monitored in Uganda i.e. the Kampala market, but the new

monitor will widen the scope to cover more markets across Uganda. The Market Monitor in Tanzania is also expected to cover more markets.

- **Budget Synopsis and stakeholders meeting**

EAGC held the budget synopsis and stakeholders meeting in Tanzania on 26<sup>th</sup> August 2011. The aim of the meeting was to create awareness on the policy and budgetary implications of the budgeting process in the various countries. A process of engagement in the budgetary process was developed.



Section of participants during the Tanzania budget synopsis in Dar es Salaam

#### **4. Grain Value Chain Stakeholder Capacity Built**

- **Training of Trainers (TOT) workshops on STS**

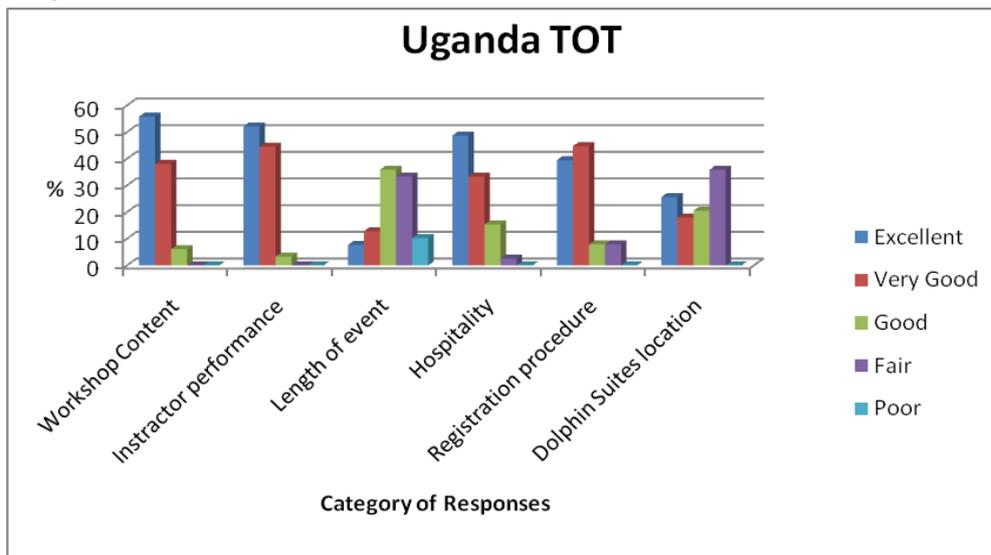
EAGC conducted a one-day Training of Trainers (TOT) workshop on STS in Uganda on 10th August 2011 at the Dolphine Suites, Bugolobi-Kampala. It attracted 41 participants from Northern, Western, Central, Eastern, North Eastern and South Western Uganda. The selection process for the right participants was done. The main criterion for selection was the capability to interact greatly with farmers at the grass root level. The participants were prepared as trainers of trainers and with training skills in;

- Post Harvest Management and Storage
- Standards and grading (EAC Maize standards)
- Trading contracts and arbitration procedures for trade dispute resolutions
- Market information sourcing and disseminate for trade purposes
- WRS and Commodity Exchange



Mr. Ian Goggin-USAID-COMPETE presenting certificates to some of the workshop participants, with him is Uganda Country Director, Mr. Baker Beehamya

At the end the workshop, the trainees were allowed to evaluate the event and the following is the analysis:



### • Biannual African Grain Trade Summit

The preparations for the 4th Biannual African Grain Trade Summit slated for 14<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> October 2011 at Speke Resort, Munyonyo in Kampala, Uganda are ongoing. The following activities were accomplished in the month of August:

- **Guest of Honor**-His Excellency, President Yoweri Museveni was invited and has confirmed attendance.
- **Call for presentations**- So far 15 abstracts for presentations have been submitted to EAGC for evaluation.
- **Sourcing for sponsorships**- sponsorship packages were developed, potential sponsors were also identified and approached.

- **Summit promotion**
  - Summit fliers were designed, printed and circulated
  - Advertisements placed on the East African weekly newspaper
  - Press Briefing done in Kampala on 29<sup>th</sup> August 2011
  - Summit website was kept updated
  
- **Meetings**
  - Host Country Committee meetings(3) held in Kampala
  - Weekly meetings held by secretariat in Nairobi
  - Technical committee meeting planned for early September 2011
  
- **Registration of delegates**
  - Database of grain stakeholders developed
  - Potential delegates invited
  - Registration is ongoing

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*Prepared by: EAGC Management*