



USAID-COMPETE PARTNER FUNDING SUPPORT TO EAGC

MONTHLY REPORT

FEBRUARY 2012

A. INTRODUCTION

This report from Eastern Africa Grain Council (EAGC) is for the month of February 2012 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:

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. To engage directly with national governments in the EAC to ensure full adoption and institutionalization of the EAC's harmonized grains standards.

B. INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING

a) Development of EAGC 5-Year Strategic Plan (2013-2017)

Through the funding from USAID-COMPETE, EAGC is in the process of developing its 5-Year Strategic Business Plan (2013-17). In November 2011, EAGC Board of Directors and Management held a Strategic Business Planning Retreat in Mombasa to address the following:

- A review EAGC's successes and challenges to date in comparison with the current strategic business plan.
- A refresh of the EAGC's Vision, Mission, Values, Mandate, Strategic Goals and Strategic Imperatives for the next five years;

The outputs of second issue above formed the basis of the writing and development of the new strategic business plan which was completed in January 2012.

A draft new EAGC strategic business plan was discussed and validated in Tanzania in January 2012 and in Kenya and Uganda in February 2012 in readiness to be launched to the members at the Annual General Meeting of 2012 in Arusha in April.



EAGC Tanzania members during the SBP validation workshop



EAGC Kenyan Members during the SBP Validation Workshop

C. PROGRAM ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

1. Structured Trading Systems (STS)

1.1. Consultative Meeting in Tanzania

In March 2011, during a Warehouse Receipt System (WRS) Multi-Stakeholder Workshop organized by Eastern Africa Grain Council (EAGC) in partnership with FAO-Southern Highland Food Systems (SHFS) and other institutions. EAGC formed four (4) Working Groups in Tanzania that were tasked with identifying and formulating resolutions to address different constraints towards Structured Trading in Tanzania. The working groups and their tasks as listed below:

Group	Task
Farmers Mobilization and Capacity Building Working Group,	Strengthening of the capacity of farmers' organizations through trainings and awareness campaigns is required and the marketing and the Cooperative Act needs to be looked at in detail and amended to streamline grain marketing.
Policy Advocacy Working Group	Promotion of policy advocacy dialogue with government in order to lobby the government on

	taxation on equipment, existing laws such as Commodity & other Produce Act, review and amendment of WRS Act, lifting of export ban e.t.c
Commodity Exchange Working Group	Develop a road map for establishment of a suitable Commodity Exchange that reflect the realities in Tanzania.
Warehouse Receipt System Working Group	Strengthening of the capacity of regulatory body, warehouse operators and inspectors to operationalize WRS.

The Working Groups supported by the main conveners of the institutions have since then been conducting meetings. In order to collate all the resolutions made by the working groups into one instrument, EAGC in conjunction with FAO-SHS organized a one-day workshop which was held on Friday, 10th February 2012 at Peacock Hotel. The workshop was aimed at receiving the working groups' reports, reviewing progress and agreeing on the way forward.

The workshop was attended by 62 participants who included the members of the working groups and other relevant stakeholders.

All the four working groups presented their progress reports. Thereafter, the groups drew their work plans for this year. It's expected that through EAGC Dar es Salaam office, EAGC will take responsible of coordinating the working groups. The groups need to meeting regularly and show deliverables based on their TORs. EAGC will also identify the support required by the working groups to ensure that they are effective.

Note: A comprehensive workshop report will be availed to the STS specialist in COMPETE who was in attendance.



Mr. Ian Goggin of USAID COMPETE facilitating the Commodity Exchange Working Group Session

1.2. STS Training of Trainers (TOT) Program

1.2.1. Training workshops

EAGC with the support and USAID-COMPETE has been implementing the STS Training of Trainers program. The objective of the program is to equip officers working for different producer associations with knowledge and training skills in STS components so that they can support EAGC to reach farmers. So far EAGC has trained 175 officers through the program.

- Rwanda -30th May 2011(35 trainees)
- Tanzania-28th June 2011(41 trainees) and 24th-25th Nov. 2011 (31 trainees)
- Uganda-9th August 2011 (41 trainees)
- Kenya -12th ,13th Jan.2012 (27 trainees)

EAGC is preparation to conduct the second TOT workshops in Rwanda and in Uganda in March and April respectively. The two training workshops will be under the Eastern Africa Grain Institute, a training division of EAGC that was recently established.

1.2.2. Development of STS Materials

Through the support from USAID COMPETE, the translation of the STS Handbook/ Training Manual and STS Farmers Brochure into Swahili, French and Kinyarwanda versions is now done pending printing. This was done purposely to facilitate the training of farmers at the lower level.

2. Market Information Systems (MIS)

2.1.1. RATIN overhaul

The RATIN overhaul process has been done. The Android phone trials have also been finalised and the SMS facility for Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania developed. The beta release of the system can now be viewed on http://ratin.eagc.org/RATIN_CMS/index.php. The System has addressed most of the issues raised in the MTR document, Membership survey, RATIN technical team recommendations and issues to address membership and user needs. Pre-testing of the system will go on for one month, till the launch which will be done on 20th April during the AGM in Arusha.

2.1.2. RATIN user Survey

The RATIN user survey that was being conducted by Synnovate group has now ended. The survey was carried out and targeted 30 members in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania. The report will be ready from the consultant in a weeks' time for review. Recommendations from members will advise final review on the new RATIN.

2.1.3. Border Monitors Training

EAGC has recruited new monitors over the time, and the council has also reviewed and harmonised the methodology for Data Collection. The New RATIN process has also reviewed and developed new data collection processes. These new processes have called for training of the Borders and Market Monitors which will be done on 11th -13th March 2012.

2.1.4. Regional Food Balance Sheet

The Food Balance Sheet process is on-going. Meetings at National level were held in Tanzania, Uganda and Kenya in February. The next meeting will be held in Rwanda. Through these national meetings, clear strategies were developed to support the process moving forward.

In Kenya, a report was done to the ASCU taskforce on food security, and the food balance sheet will be a standing agenda in the National food security taskforce quarterly. EAGC was tasked to present the balance sheet to the team.

A comprehensive work plan for all the countries is being developed to guide the process. Furthermore, training on Food Balance Sheet pooling of data will be held on 27th March -30th March 2012.

3. Annual Agribusiness Fairs

3.1. Progress on Agribusiness Fair in Tanzania

3.1.1. Date, Venue and Theme

The preparation for the EAGC Annual Agribusiness Fair 2012 themed, **“Promoting Agribusiness for economic development prosperity”** is on high gear. The Fair will be organized jointly by EAGC and

Selian Agricultural Research Institute (SARI) and is scheduled to take place in Arusha, Tanzania on 8th and 9th June 2012.

3.1.2. Sourcing for Exhibitors and Sponsors

The notification letters to exhibitors and sponsors were done. So far 151 exhibitors have been contacted. One sponsor has confirmed to support the supply of fertilizers for the set up of the crops demo plots. The fliers and banners for this event have also been printed and circulated.

3.1.3. Stakeholders Briefing and Media launch

The Stakeholders Briefing and media launch took place at Kibo Palace hotel on 13th February 2012. A total of 50 stakeholders including press attended the Launch. The event was broadcasted by some media houses that were represented.

3.1.4. Setting the Crops Demonstration plots

The land for setting up the crops demo has been tilled and plots demarcated. The drip irrigation system is yet to be installed to ensure that water supply is sufficient at the demo site. Planting will be done in early March.

3.2. Progress on the Agribusiness Expo in Uganda

3.2.1. Dates, Venue and Theme

The dates have been confirmed as 21st and 22nd June 2012, venue being the Ngetta Zonal Agricultural Research & Development Institute (NGEZARDI) premises. The theme has been agreed as "Improving livelihoods through enhancing access to markets" and two committees are in place; one in Kampala and the other in Lira. Proposals for the Events Manager were sent out to potential organizers and three have been selected to make presentations to a panel selected from the organizing committee. A draft budget and checklist are in place and notification to stakeholders has begun, especially for the seed companies in Uganda.

3.2.2. Sourcing for Exhibitors and Sponsors

The notification to exhibitors and sponsors has been done. EAGC and NGEZARDI are prepared to market and promote the event and mobilize exhibitors and sponsors to participate. Banners and fliers were designed and printed.

3.2.3. Stakeholders Briefing and Media launch

The Stakeholders Briefing and Media launch took place at Silver Springs Hotel in Kampala on 16th February 2012. A total of 68 stakeholders including press attended. It was during this event when EAGC and NGEZARDI formalized the partnership to organize upcoming fair through the signing of the MOU.



EAGC and NGEZARDI signing the MOU

3.2.4. Setting the Crops Demonstration plots

A meeting was held on 1st and 2nd Feb.2012 at NGEZARDI to discuss plans to set up the crops demo. The institute has continually been setting up crops demonstration plots for horticultural crops, maize, rice, fruits trees and so forth. NGEZARDI has availed 10 acre land for crops demonstration. So far 2 seed companies have booked plots.

3.3. Progress on Agribusiness Expo in Kenya

3.3.1. Date, Venue and Theme

The event is confirmed to take place on 8th and 9th August 2012. The event is themed, *“Integrating innovations and technologies for sustainable agribusiness”*. The Fair will be organized jointly by EAGC, RVIST and CGA.

A Steering Committee is in place and it held 2 meetings in January and February. Under this committee, 5 sub-committees were formed as below:

- a) Event management and hospitality sub-committee
- b) Crops Demonstration sub-committee
- c) Farmer Mobilization sub-committee

- d) Livestock Unit sub-committee
- e) Sponsorship and Exhibition sub-committee

3.3.2. Setting the Crops Demonstration plots

The tillage of land is expected soon to start planting in early March. The seed companies and other agro-dealers have been approached by CGA to participate in the demo.

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EAGC Secretariat
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