



USAID-COMPETE PARTNER FUNDING SUPPORT TO EAGC

Monthly Report-June 2011

Introduction

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

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.

1. INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING

1.1 EAGC Board

On 20th June 2011, board committees representing Programs & projects and Corporate Affairs & membership held meetings to deliberate on progress in their respective components. EAGC Tanzania Directors also held a meeting in Arusha with an objective of reviewing the status of EAGC Tanzania programme and giving it new strategic direction.

1.2 Regional and Country Operations

Through the USAID COMPETE Grant, the three country offices in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania were fully operational. In this regard, EAGC continued to deliver services to its members and stakeholders across the region.

2. PROGRAM ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

2.1.1 Market Institutions Established and Strengthened

2.1.2 Support to Warehouse Receipt System

- a) In Kenya, the WRS task Force through the Legal and Policy team concentrated on the WRS bill which is expected to go through the Parliamentary process for enactment. The team reviewed the appropriate clauses/sections and content in the WRS bill. Pending in the process is the review Legal section of Draft Policy report and recommendations.
- EAGC in Uganda has continued to play the role of promoting the WRS since Uganda Commodity Exchange (UCE) is mandated to license warehouses in Uganda. EAGC has been working with MASSGA warehouse in Masindi. EAGC Uganda office has been building the capacity of farmers on post-harvest handling and storage, bulking and collective marketing and use EAC grain quality standards in Masindi district. It's expected that the grain volumes under WRS in MASSGA warehouse will increase following EAGC's intervention.
- In Tanzania, EAGC continued to play the role of promoting the WRS since Tanzania Warehousing Licensing Board is mandated to license warehouses. EAGC is partnering with TWLB to support harmonization of rules and protocols for Warehouse operation in Tanzania. EAGC facilitated monthly WRS working group meeting on 29th June 2011 in TWLB offices where ToR for a consultant to review policies affecting WRS in Tanzania were formulated.

2.2 Agricultural Information Generation, Dissemination and Networking Systems Strengthened

2.2.1 Update of RATIN and EGT Africa websites

EAGC continued to provide market information through RATIN. The site was kept updated with daily price information for maize, sorghum, millet, beans and rice commodities throughout the period. A total of 18 markets (8 in Tanzania, 6 in Kenya, 4 in Uganda and 4 in Rwanda) were monitored.

Cross-border flow data for 5 border points as monitored by border monitors was also uploaded on RATIN website on monthly basis.

Both EGT Africa and RATIN websites were kept active with daily updates on prices and cross border volumes. Other information dissemination channels including SMS facility, weekly bulletin and emails were used to distribute information to the stakeholders.

2.2.2 Harmonization of Data Collection Methodology

The Terms of Reference (TOR) for the MIS Consultant were developed and the Consultant has been engaged to carry out the task of data collection methodology harmonization using the two manuals developed by UBOS and Market Analysis group as basis. A draft report will be presented to MIS

stakeholders at the workshop expected on 20th July 2011. A final report is expected beginning of August 2011.

2.2.3 Formalize Relationship with National Data Service Providers

Talks are ongoing to formalize relationships with national data service providers. A meeting has been held between EAGC and the Ministry of Agriculture-Rwanda and a formal MoU is being drafted to define the scope of collaboration with ESOKO. MoUs will be fast tracked to guide data and information sharing and dissemination. A draft MoU with the MAS (FAO, WFP and FewsNet) group defining the terms of collaboration among the partners has been developed, is being shared among stakeholders and will soon be signed to expand the coverage of Market data collection activities.

2.2.4 Identify and contact MIS national partners to integrate into RATIN

A number of partners in Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Malawi and Zambia have been identified and will be documented in the upcoming MIS report by the consultant. Draft MoU with Farm-Gain Uganda has been drafted and is under review. MoUs will be signed through July and August.

2.2.5 Hire IT Consultant to integrate and expand MAS Database and overhaul RATIN website

The IT consultant was retained by EAGC through the last two months for the purpose of carrying out an extensive systems audit. A comprehensive report has been submitted and is forming the basis of systems' development and integration. A meeting has since been held between EAGC, COMPETE and the FAO IT consultant to refine IT systems expectations and the roles of the database developer. The partners will continue to engage on a monthly basis to keep track of progress.

2.2.6 Develop a strategy for the most effective distribution of RATIN information

List of RATIN information users is being developed to drive market intelligence utilization. Current recipients of weekly RATIN report have increased to 1500 person weekly.

2.2.7 Develop regional (EAC) Food Balance Sheet

National consultative meetings have been held and reports submitted. The meeting in Tanzania was done on 24th May 2011. In this meeting, members of National Food Balance Sheet Committee were identified. The Committee was scheduled to meet on 21th June 2011 at the Ministry of Agriculture to finalise the Tanzania NFBS template. The other meetings were done on 7th, 16th, 28th June in Kenya, Burundi, and Uganda respectively. The Rwanda national meeting is scheduled for 6th July ahead of the regional meeting in Arusha. National standing committees in Kenya, Burundi, and Uganda have been proposed and await launch by respective Permanent Secretaries of Ministries of Agriculture.



A section of the participants at the FBS meeting in Nairobi

2.3. Grain Value Chain Stakeholder Capacity Built

2.3.1 Development of the STS Hand Book

EAGC published a new version of the STS hand book for training purposes. The book contains six(6) main modules:

- (i) Post-harvest Management & Storage
- (ii) Grades & Standards
- (iii) Warehouse Receipt System
- (iv) Commodity exchange
- (v) Trade contracts
- (vi) Market Information

The hand book was used during the TOT workshop in Dar es Salaam.

2.3.2 Training of Trainers (TOT) workshops on STS

EAGC Tanzania teamed up with FAO SHFS to organize TOT on STS on 28th June, 2011 at Peacock Hotel in Dar es Salaam Tanzania. A total of 40 trainees representing Southern Highlands, Western, Eastern, Lake, Central and Northern Zones of Tanzania attended. The workshop was quite encouraging since attendance was good in terms of number and type of participants being the people involved in training others and this guarantees replication of the training to the next level.



Cross section of participants during the TOT workshop

All five zones were asked to prepare their ToT plan showing how and what they will train where and when. They were also asked to indicate the kind of support they will require from EAGC. Most indicated that they will require backstopping from EAGC when conducting ToT.



Participants from Central and Coastal Zone presenting their action plans during the workshop

2.3.3 Annual Agribusiness Fair

The preparation for the 9th Annual Agribusiness Fair 2011 in Kenya is on its final stages. A total 120 exhibitors have been invited to the Fair and 50% have confirmed participation. More than 50 companies have been invited to sponsor. Follow ups are ongoing and 12 companies have shown willingness to sponsor. The Mobilization of farmers and exhibitors is ongoing and EAGC has identified institutions to work with and bring farmers to the fair.



A section of the demonstration plot at RVIST

In Tanzania, the selection of the Venue at Selian Agricultural Research Institute has been finalized. The selection of the event organizer is ongoing with TOR developed and sent out with a deadline of 20th June 2011. The event has been moved to June 2012 so that the organizers can prepare enough to conduct a successful Fair.

The preparation for the Uganda TOT workshop has started. Nomination forms have been sent to potential trainees prior to the selection of the right trainees who can later work with farmers and traders at the lower level.

2.3.4 Biannual African Grain Trade Summit

The 4th Biannual African Grain Trade Summit will be held on 14th-15th October 2011 at Munyonyo Speke Resort in Kampala, Uganda. The following activities were accomplished in June:

- The event organizer contracted.
- Technical Committee and Host Country Committee formed
- The TOR for the Technical Committee developed
- Dummy website created ready for uploading
- List of potential delegates developed