



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

### **MONTHLY REPORT NOVEMBER 2011**

#### **A. INTRODUCTION**

This report from Eastern Africa Grain Council (EAGC) is for the month of November 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.

#### **B. INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING**

##### **a) Regional and Country Operations**

Through the funding from USAID-COMPETE, the EAGC offices in Uganda, Tanzania and Kenya were operational. Through the support, EAGC intensified its membership recruitment drive. East Africa Malting Ltd joined EAGC in the month of November. This pushes the EAGC membership to 89. A total of 12 members were recruited in 2011 with 4 new members in Kenya 5 in Uganda and 3 in Tanzania.

## **C. PROGRAM ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS**

### **a) Structured Trading Systems (STS)**

#### **STS TOT workshop in Arusha, Tanzania**

The 2nd Training of Trainers (ToT) program on STS for Northern Tanzania was held in Arusha on the 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> November 2011. This was a follow up to the Dar es Salaam TOT held on 28<sup>th</sup> June 2011, which resulted to formation of five (5) training clusters representing Southern Highlands, Western, Eastern, Lake, Central and Northern Zones of Tanzania. The Northern Zone training Cluster was very supporting in identifying the officers from different organizations mainly from the Ministry of Agriculture and Famer Organizations. The trainees were from Arusha, Kilimanjaro and Tanga regions of the Tanzania Northern Zone.

This TOT workshop was conducted in a different way. The training program stretched for 2 days and the trainees were examined to assess the understanding. A study tour was also part of the program where the trainees visited a milling plant and they were taken through the practical aspects of grain receiving procedures, sampling and testing for quality check, storage, processing, distribution and the challenges in grain trade. A total of 31 officers were trained and examined. Out of 31 trainees, 18 passed to the next level of training (Intermediate Course) having scored 40% pass mark or above.

During the workshop, 3 training were formed clusters according to regions (Arusha, Kilimanjaro and Tanga). To ensure that the knowledge is cascaded to the lower level and reach the farmers, each training cluster developed the actions plans. The plans focused on three key issues that support the farmers:

- (i) Establish aggregation centres for farmers ,mobilize group marketing and create market linkages
- (ii) Strengthening /forming farmer groups
- (iii) Training on Structured training Systems

The EAGC office in Arusha will be responsible for monitoring the execution of actions plans and providing the backstopping.

### **b) Market Information Systems**

#### **MIS Validation Workshop in Nairobi, Kenya**

The workshop was the fifth forum aimed at coming with the harmonized data collection methodologies that can be uniformly used across the Eastern African region. The two day workshop took place in Nairobi and brought together representative from various organizations across the region. The workshop took place on November 14 and 15, 2011.

The workshop led to participants' a validation of Data Collection Methodology Protocol that will be used across the region.

#### **Monitors' Recruitment in Burundi**

The recruitment of monitors took place between November 25 and 30, 2011. Two additional markets -Kayanza and Ngozi in Burundi will be monitored. With the recruitment, Burundi's monitoring team is now more strengthened with all the four leading markets now covered.

### c) Annual Agribusiness Fairs

#### Agribusiness Fair Tanzania

The preparations for the EAGC Annual Agribusiness Fair 2012 in Tanzania have started. The Fair will be organized jointly by EAGC and Selian Agricultural Research Institute (SARI) on **8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> June 2012** in Arusha.

In the month of November, a Host Country Committee for the Agribusiness Fair was constituted and its TOR drafted. The Event Manager was also identified and was set to begin working as from 1st Dec.2011.

The theme of the fair is- *"Promoting Agribusiness for economic development prosperity"* *"Kuimarisha kilimo biashara kwa ufanisi na maendeleo"*. This was discussed and confirmed during the ABF committee on 23<sup>rd</sup> Nov.2011.

#### Agribusiness Fair Uganda

EAGC visited the Ngetta Zonal Agricultural Research & Development Institute (NGEZARDI) for survey of possible venue for the Agribusiness Fair in Lira. The institute has a good venue for hosting the event. They have an area (about 2 acres) suitable for exhibition. The institute has continually been setting up crops demonstration plots for horticultural crops, maize, rice, fruits trees and so forth.

NGEZARDI welcomed the idea of conducting the Fair together since they had already prepared to conduct the annual farmers' field day in July 2011 where farmers and exhibitors participated.

Proposed dates for the event are; **22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2012**. The theme for the Fair is yet to be confirmed.

It has been proposed that two (2) host country committees be formed in Lira and Kampala. A Request for Proposal (RFP) for Event Management has been developed ready for circulation.

A draft MOU has been drafted and sent to NGEZARDI for review.

#### Planned Activities in 2012

- Conduct STS TOT workshop in Rwanda in January 2012
- Conduct STS TOT workshop in Uganda in February 2012
- Roll out the promotion of EAC harmonised grain standards in February through June 2012
- RATIN overhaul and launch of new RATIN in March 2012
- Conduct Agribusiness Fair in Tanzania on 8<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> June 2012
- Conduct Agribusiness Fair in Uganda on 22<sup>nd</sup> -23<sup>rd</sup> June 2012

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