



## USAID-COMPETE PARTNER FUNDING SUPPORT TO EAGC

### MONTHLY REPORT APRIL 2012

#### A. INTRODUCTION

This report from Eastern Africa Grain Council (EAGC) is for the month of April 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) Regional and Country Operations**

Through the funding from USAID-COMPETE, the EAGC offices in Uganda, Tanzania and Kenya were operational through the month of April.

EAGC continued with its membership recruitment drive. In the month of April, two members were recruited:

- (i) Cereal Millers Association
- (ii) USAID COMPETE

EAGC also held its Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Arusha on 20<sup>th</sup> April 2012. During the AGM, the new Strategic Business Plan (2013-17) was launched. The East Africa Community Secretary General Dr. Richard Sezibera who was the Chief Guest was represented by his deputy (Productive & Social Sector) Jean Claude Nsengiyumva.

The new Strategic Business Plan (2013-17) presents its strategic focus and priorities for the next five years. The preparation of this strategic plan involved an analysis of the EAGC's external and internal environment, its competitive environment including the needs and expectations of its stakeholders. A review of its vision, mission, core values, goals and objectives; the development of an effective monitoring and evaluation system and forecasting of the resource requirements were also undertaken.

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

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

#### **STS ToT in Kasese, Uganda**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> STS TOT for Uganda took place on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> April.2012 in Kasese. Through the private-public partnership, EAGC and Ministry of Agriculture's NAADS program trained 31 field officers mainly extension officers in Kasese District. After the training workshop, the trainees visited Nyakatonzi warehouse which served as back up to knowledge and skills gained while at the same time have interactions with the operator. Nyakatonzi warehouse is a licensed warehouse that operates WRS.

All participants appreciated the opportunity to cooperate with other institutions offering similar services. The workshop provided an opportunity for sharing experiences since trainers came from different organizations and offered a wide range of knowledge and skills which gave maximum engagement with participants.



A section of participants at the Kasese TOT

### **STS ToT in Kayonza, Rwanda**

EAGC conducted the 2<sup>nd</sup> STS TOT workshop in Rwanda on 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> April 2012 in Kayonza. Rwanda Rural Rehabilitation Initiative (RWARRI) supported EAGC to get the right trainees who were mainly the agronomists and extension officers working with farmer cooperatives in Kayonza district.

The workshop was participatory and the attendees were encouraged to ask questions and interact with trainers in their own language. Where necessary, the transition of the content was done.

Introductory power-point sessions with clear learning principles of each component were provided

by trainers either in English or Kinyarwanda. The training manuals (French and English versions) were distributed to all trainees.

The opening session was presided over by Ms Lucia Zigiriza, a representative from the Ministry of Agriculture-Republic of Rwanda while the closing was done by Mr. John Bideri, the Executive Director of Rwanda Rural Rehabilitation Initiative (RWARRI).



Some trainees showing their participation certificates after the TOT workshop

## **b) Market Information Systems**

### **RATIN GIS Mapping and Field Demonstrations on Mobile Apps**

In line with a revamped Regional Agricultural Trade Intelligence Network (RATIN) website and to complete the development process of the New RATIN system, Eastern Africa Grain Council (EAGC) through its Market Information System department embarked on a GIS mapping exercise in major

internal grain markets and strategic border points currently monitored by the EAGC enumerators. The GIS mapping was a key component in the New RATIN development process.

The GIS mapping exercise was also accompanied by monitors training that involved practical field demonstration on the use of smart phones for the monitors in their work stations. The mapping and training exercise lasted 10 days between Thursday March 29, 2012 and Saturday April 7, 2012. It mainly focused on the Smartphone mobile applications and the data transmission procedures right from harmonized data collection methodologies, actual data collection process, data transmission, incident submission using the smart phones, weekly and monthly reporting as well as the important role the data collected plays in the provision of accurate market information.

During this exercise, all the monitors in all the Five (5) East African Community countries were trained on the use of the smart phones that they are using to transmit market information directly into RATIN database. Over 36 major internal grain markets and strategic border points were also mapped.



Field Officer, Nakuru trained on Warehouse data capture



Border Monitor for Rwakhakha trained on Data Capture



Eldoret Market Monitor trained on market data transmission



RATIN team visit one of the grains stores in Busia after training

At the end of the exercise, all the monitors were trained and 75% of the border points and market point were mapped. The monitors are currently using the smart phones to submit the data on a daily basis.

### Launch of New RATIN

EAGC launched its new RATIN which is regional mobile phone based; grain market information system during its AGM in Arusha on 20<sup>th</sup> April 2012. The new RATIN system will be a powerful tool in intelligence gathering as well as timely and accurate market information in the region. The users of the new system will now be able to benefit from the added features which will include: specific Data Analysis tools components that will help in the price conversions. Other components are: warehouses volume tracking system that will enable users to view volumes stored in various warehouses per country in real time. The revamped RATIN also has the interactive map with a list of all the markets, warehouses and border points EAGC monitors. The base maps, are changeable to suit users' preference. Further the information system will also afford subscribers access to data of food stocks held in 400 warehouses across the region, 126 of them being in Kenya, 101 in Uganda and 134 in Tanzania while the rest are shared between Rwanda and Burundi serving the regions' 133.5 million people with further 8.3 million soon to be added from Southern Sudan.

The system captures seven staple food crops, namely, maize, wheat, beans, rice, sorghum, cassava and millet.



### c) Annual Agribusiness Fairs

#### Publicity and Marketing of Agribusiness Fair in Tanzania and Uganda

In the month of April, EAGC team in Tanzania and Uganda focused on the marketing the fairs. This was aimed at mobilizing sponsors and exhibitors.

In Tanzania, the Agribusiness Expo adverts were run on Guardian and Mwananchi Newspapers. EAGC identified two newspapers-Guardian, and Mwananchi to advertise the event. Four insertions were made in April and it expected that four additional insertions will be made in May. We are also exploring the best radio stations to promote the event. The Agribusiness Expo is slated for 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> June 2012.

So far 25 exhibitors have confirmed participation with more expected to confirm in May. Two sponsors have come on board- Mijingu Fertilizer & Mining Ltd who donated fertilizer for the crops demo and East Africa Business Newspaper will be supporting the advertisement of the event through the newspaper throughout the month of May. The radio classifieds will start running in the first week of June.

In Uganda, we identified the newspapers with wide coverage and the advertisement will run throughout May and part of June. The designs for the adverts have been finalised.

To date, 26 exhibitors have confirmed participation in Uganda. EAGC team presented requests for sponsorship to various banks and seed companies and some have shown willingness to sponsor the event and are expected to give their feedback in the coming weeks.



incorporate the South Sudan market information system **CLIMIS** to be able to serve the South Sudan with regional market information.

### **Policy Advisory Forum Launched**

EAGC in partnership with the UN-FAO launched the **Agricultural Trade Policy Advisory Forum for Eastern and Southern Africa ATPAF-ESA** during an international meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2012 at the Hilton Hotel in Nairobi. ATPAF-ESA is a regional advisory body formed during the inaugural regional policy dialogue workshop held in Nairobi on 15<sup>th</sup> December 2011 convened by the Eastern Africa Grain Council and supported by the UN Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO). The meeting which was opened by the Kenyan Minister for East Africa Community Mr. Musa Sirma brought together key players including the UN- (FAO, WFP), COMESA, ACTESA, CGIAR institutions, regional farmers' organizations, academic and research institutions, private sector and government.

After the launch of ATPAF-ESA, participants proposed and agreed on a number of roles for the Forum spelt out under four general areas/pillars; Monitoring, Enhanced evidence gathering, Capacity building and enhanced Dialogue on matters relating to agricultural trade policy. The four pillars below would guide the responsibilities of the various players and form the basis for the terms of reference for the Advisory Forum:

1. **Improved Monitoring**
2. **Enhanced evidence gathering**
3. **Capacity Building**
4. **Enhance dialogue**

### **EAGC at AU's Africa Organic Conference in Lusaka**

EAGC was represented at the Africa Organic Conference under the theme **Mainstreaming Organic Agriculture in the African Development Agenda**, in Lusaka, Zambia from 30th to 5th May 2012. EAGC was invited by the Africa Union as the private sector institution to support Agriculture development in the continent under the CAADP process. One of the main outcomes of the meeting, is that the Africa Organic Network (AFRONET) was formed, which will work with the Africa Union Commission to ensure the implementation of the Organic Agriculture Action Plan under the CAADP.

The Pillars under the Agriculture Action Plan are Research and training, Information and communication, Value chain market development, networking and partnership, supportive policies and institutional capacity development. EAGC was therefore requested by the AUC to support in the pillars on training and research through the Eastern Africa Grain Institute, on Information and communication through the Regional Agricultural Trade Intelligence (RATIN), and in policy through the Agricultural Trade Policy Forum (ATPAF), launched in Nairobi last week. Other pillars on market development and institutional capacity development will be supported through other EAGC initiatives such as structured trading systems.