



EAGC MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT

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Title of Activity:	Strengthening Institutional Coordination and Regional Structured Grain Trading System through Integrated Regional Market Information Systems, Policy and Reduced Barriers to Trade.
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1. Introduction

This report from Eastern Africa Grain Council (EAGC) is for the period of February 2013 covering the activities implemented under USAID-COMPETE funding support. The COMPETE grant is aimed at building the capacity of grain stakeholders to participate in structured grain trade in the region while working towards attaining the following specific objectives:

- i). Facilitate institutional strengthening to enable EAGC to deliver services to its stakeholders across the region
- ii). Build the capacities of grain warehouse keepers and graders to improving the efficiency of grain handling and marketing operations.
- iii). Support the implementation of harmonized regional staple foods quality standards at national levels
- iv). Build sustainability of RATIN by engaging with other MIS service providers
- v). Maintain the development of the regional Food Balance Sheet

2. EAGC Institutional Strengthening

a) Representing members in various forums

During the period of February 2012, EAGC participated in the following meetings:

o **AGMEMOD Price Forecasting Model training.**

EAGC participated in the Regional Price Forecasting Model Training held at Safari Park Hotel, in Nairobi. The main aim of the Workshop, whose title was Roadmap for integrating African countries agricultural markets into the AGMEMOD model, was to introduce the Project partners to the AGMEMOD model so that could be able aware of how the models works and the various data needs for the model to be able to work effectively.

All the partner institutions; including: Economic and Social Research Foundation, National University of Rwanda, Economic Policy Research Centre, University of Nairobi, Ethiopia Development Research Institute, EAGC and ReSAKSS-East and Central Africa were represented at the meeting. The training had over 20 participants drawn mainly from Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda and Ethiopia.

This model will assist EAGC members in forecasting the price trends within the region. This system will go a long way in providing different scenarios and trends which will assist members make informed decisions on investments and transactions within the grain sector in Africa.

o **Post Harvest Losses workshop on February 6th, 2013**

AGRA in partnership with the Bill & Melinda Gates (BMGF) commissioned a study to establish levels of post-harvest losses along the value chain, specifically targeting focus crops i.e. maize, rice, cassava, sweet potatoes, sorghum/millet and grain legumes (cowpeas, soybeans, groundnuts, beans) in 11 countries (Burkina Faso, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Tanzania, Zambia Ethiopia, Uganda, Nigeria and Mali.

Hence, this workshop was intended to bring together various stakeholders interested in the subject matter to discuss a report prepared by the consultants on post harvest losses from existing secondary data.

- **Policy Roundtable Meeting on Challenges facing Smallholder Farmers in Kenya organized by CUTS-Africa Resource Centre on 28th February, 2013 at Nairobi Safari Club.**

CUTS-Africa Resource Centre organized a Policy Roundtable meeting on Challenges facing Smallholder Farmers in Kenya. The idea of the meeting arose from the findings of a study dubbed “Kenya Agricultural Production and Market Access Development for Small-Scale Farmers (KAPMAD)” conducted by CUTS-ARC and Kenya Small-Scale Farmers’ Forum (KESSFF).

The meeting brought together agricultural stakeholders from various organizations/institutions including: government ministries, non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, private sector organizations and development partners.

The main objective of the Policy Roundtable meeting was

- a) To extract relevant recommendations emanating from the KAPMAD report.
- b) To discuss the institutional and policy challenges affecting smallholder farmers in Kenya
- c) To propose solutions to the challenges facing smallholder farmers in Kenya and debate on their feasibility
- d) To deliberate on the way forward for smallholder farming in Kenya in a way that would enhance its contribution to Kenya’s economy and achievement of Vision 2030

The participants identified key policy areas ranging from access to factors of production; land issues; input supply systems; marketing structures and market access.

- **ASARECA Price Trends in Food project review in Kigali, Rwanda**

EAGC was represented at the ASARECA mid-term review workshop held in Kigali, Rwanda. The main objectives of the Price Trends analysis and Price are to enhance the collection, standardization and use of regional databases for food and input prices in Eastern Africa, strengthen the use of forecasting frameworks for price changes in Eastern Africa, to enhance the capacity of gender disaggregated analysts to undertake policy formulation and analysis and to strengthen gender disaggregated stakeholder engagement in policy dialogue in the region.

- **Development of the ACTESA Charter**

EAGC was also participated in the development of the Alliance for Commodity Trade in Eastern and Southern Africa (ACTESA), charter. The charter aims to provide the guidelines and framework for the operations of ACTESA. EAGC was selected as a commodity group in the region, to provide thought leadership and direction to private sector and stakeholder’s engagement in eastern and southern Africa region.

3. Structured Trading Systems

i). Training of warehouse operators and graders in Uganda and Tanzania

Eastern Africa Grain Institute (EAGI) under the support of USAID COMPETE trained a total of 56 warehouse operators and grain aggregators in Tanzania and Uganda. The training on Grain Warehouse Operations took place on 12th-15th February 2013 in Dar es Salaam Tanzania and 19th-22nd February 2013 in Jinja, Uganda.

The training which focused on both tutorial and practical applications of proper grain warehousing techniques was ideal as it imparted skills and knowledge of basic facets of grain warehouse operations that would lessen storage losses.

Important topics such as grading, grain quality management, grain commodity care, inventory management, Food Safety Systems, Risk Management among others were thoroughly covered by experts in the subject matter. Practicals were carried out at S.S Bakhresa Storage Plant in Tanzania and Agroways Ltd in Uganda.

The trainings provided a good opportunity for EAGI to assess participants' knowledge of warehouse operations and collect details about critical points in warehousing that requires further capacity building.

The next training by EAGI is on **The Safe & Effective Use of Fumigants** which will take place in Kenya (Mombasa), Tanzania (Dar es Salaam), Uganda (Kampala) and Rwanda (Kigali). All members are requested to participate.



Tanzania participants during the pest control practical session at SS Bakhresa



Trainees in Uganda carrying out a grading practical at Agroways Ltd

ii). The Kenya WRS Steering Committee meets on WRS Bill

On Feb 19th 2013, the WRS steering committee had a workshop and discussed the draft WRS bill extensively. This process was supported by IFC who brought in a team of experts on WRS and involved the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), State law Office and the private sector i.e Millers represented by Cereal Miller Association; Farmers represented by Cereal Growers Association; Warehouse Operators; Development agencies such as AGRA, Government agencies mainly NCPB.

The WRS Policy and Legal Sub-Committee together with MoA, EAGC & IFC had deliberated on the draft bill before this meeting and came up with the several issues that they wanted discussed further during the steering committee meeting . They issues were discussed and a consensus was reached during the WRS steering committee meeting.

The IFC team of WRS experts together with the State Law Office were to make the necessary amendments on the draft bill inputting the deliberations from the WRS steering Committee Meeting and circulate the revised draft bill.

The Stakeholders Forum will be held to present the draft bill to the stakeholders, get their buy in after which through the MoA sent it to the National assembly for discussion and passing as a WRS Act. A cabinet memo is also been drafted to further emphasize the various issues on the Bill that we would like the National Assembly to action on especially the linkage between the WRS Bill and the Commodity Exchange bill to be established under the Ministry of Finance.

4. Strengthening of Generation, Dissemination and Coordination of Market Intelligence

a. Monitors' Recruitment & Training

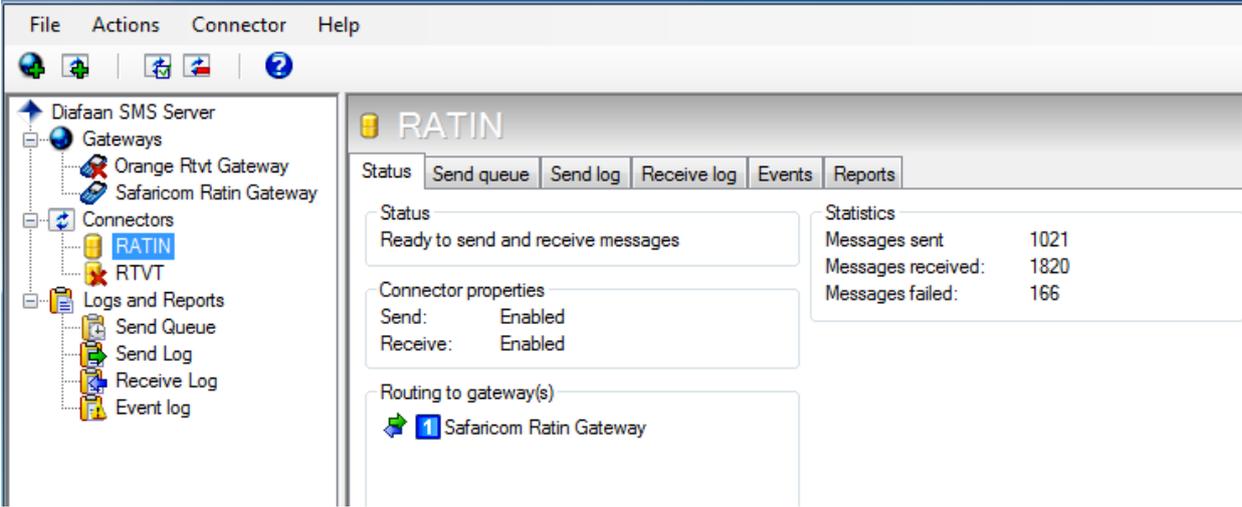
In order to strengthen the Regional Agricultural Intelligence Network monitoring capacity, Eastern Africa Grain Council recruited one monitor in Mombasa, Kenya and replaced one monitor who was covering three markets in Kigali with 2 monitors that are now placed next to the three markets. The recruitment and training was current out in Rwanda by Marie Claire and Janet Ngombalu while the recruitment and training in Mombasa was carried out by Erickson Oduya. The training monitors were eventually trained and equipped with the Smartphone and they started work immediately and have been sending data consistently.

b. Real Time Volume Tracking Volume (RTVT)

The plan to roll out the RTVT project remained on course with the procurement of smartphones. Even though the procurement process took longer than expected, the process is almost complete and the phones will be delivered on the Monday and the mapping, training and equipping of the operators with Smartphone is set to begin on February 12, 2013.

c. EAGC-SMS Facility

The RATIN SMS was activated in Rwanda and Uganda in February. The systems remained operational throughout the month of February 2013. Below is the statistics for the Kenyan SMS facility since its activation in September 2012. On average, the facility receives between 20 – 30 SMS queries per day and the trend is on the rise.



The SMS facility for Tanzania is set to be operational within the month of March 2013.

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