



MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT-JULY 2013

For the Period of:	July 2013				
Name of the Grantee Organization:	Eastern Africa Grain Council (EAGC)				
Project Title:	Strengthening Institutional Coordination and Regional Structured Grain Trading System through Integrated Regional Market Information Systems, Policy and Reduced Barriers to Trade.				
Grant Agreement Number:	EAG-STA-012-029	Project Startup Date:	July.2013	Project end date:	Dec.2013
Project Location:	Countries: Kenya, Uganda , Tanzania , Rwanda and Burundi				

1. Introduction

This report from Eastern Africa Grain Council (EAGC) is for the period of July 2013 covering the activities implemented under USAID-EATH funding support under the extension period -July 1, 2013 to Dec. 30, 2013. The fund is aimed at supporting EAGC to execute the following activities:

- a) Design and produce marketing materials to capture success and strengths and present EAGC value proposition
- b) Maintain market and border monitors submitting daily price data to RATIC to support timely, relevant and timely Market Intelligence to EAGC members
- c) Strengthen the Real-time Warehouse Volume Tracking (RTVT) System and promote use of data to support EAGC Members in relevant and credible Market Intelligence.
- d) Lead the registration/training of private sector contributors to National Food Balance Sheets (NFBS), coordinate quarterly meetings and ensure data upload monthly/quarterly.
- e) Support the consistent national implementation of harmonized regional staple foods quality standards.

2. Summary of Activities accomplished in July 2013

a) Member visits in Tanzania

To ensure better quality service delivery to its members, EAGC commenced the members' need assessment in Tanzania. The ongoing assessment is basically focusing on:

- a) The priority areas that members feel that EAGC need to intervene.
- b) Gauge the level of satisfaction with EAGC services to members
- c) Find out what benefits from EAGC Membership
- d) Rating the understanding about EAGC role as a membership organization and members' expectations.

b) Preparation for the Training Workshops on the new EAC standards in 5 countries

EAGC has been preparing to hold training seminars on the new EAC standards. Dates for the

training workshops have been set as shown below:

- Uganda- 29th to 30th Aug 2013
- Rwanda- 19th to 20th Sep 2013
- Kenya- 26th to 27th Sep 2013
- Tanzania- 11th to 12th Oct 2013
- Burundi- 5th to 6th Nov 2013

The training workshops will be organized by EAGC in partnership with EA Trade Hub and National Bureau of Standards. The draft course content has been developed and the Uganda team is developing a list of potential trainees and trainers in readiness for the first training next month. A draft MOU with Uganda Bureau of Standards has been developed and it's under review.

c) EAGC holds National Food Balance Sheet Committee Meeting in Nairobi, Kenya

On 30th July 2013, EAGC and EATH co-hosted the Kenya Food Balance Sheet Committee meeting. The main participants in the meeting were EAGC members and Kenya Food Balance Sheet committee team. The aim of the meeting was to create awareness on the regional food balance sheet, and to update the team on the conclusions and way forward after the Arusha Regional Food Balance Sheet Meeting. The team implored EAGC to use the food Balance Sheet as a policy tool to advise the various regional governments to support trade within the East Africa Region.

d) Market Information Generation and Dissemination in RATIN

EAGC continue to collect data for RATIN at the internal markets and the border points through the Monitors. This has led to timely dissemination of market information to the stakeholders on a daily basis. EAGC team has continued to develop and disseminate Weekly Reports showing market trends and food security situation in the region. The data is also been used by partners to develop a regional price analysis tool where EAGC is the main private sector stakeholders. The data collected were transmitted to and disseminated through RATIN.

The web statistics indicate that RATIN hits increased by 20% in July compared to June 2013 as shown in the table below.

	Daily Avg			Monthly Totals						Hits
	Hits	Files	Pages	Visits	Sites	KBytes	Visits	Pages	Files	
Jul-13	11,788	10,210	3,313	341	4,057	8,934,869	10,582	102,731	316,515	365,458
Jun-13	10,169	8,539	3,294	358	3,771	6,262,272	10,756	98,847	256,170	305,083

3. Other Non-Grant activities completed

i) Launch of 5th African grain Trade Summit 2013

EAGC hosted the media launch of the 5th Africa grain trade summit to be held on 1-3rd October 2013. The event was held on 30th July 2013. During the Media launch EAGC and the summit were covered in the various media in Kenya.

ii) Budget Synopsis in Kenya.

EAGC held the annual Budget synopsis on 30th July 2013. EAGC hosts the budget synopsis in the five EAC countries to simplify the national budgets read across the region and the implication on the grain sector. During the meeting, EAGC members appreciated the key issues that may affect the sector and asked the secretariat to engage with the government on changes in the use of the national funds in support of their business.

iii) EAGC Meeting with Legislators from Lower Eastern

EAGC hosted the Members of parliament and legislators from the lower Eastern counties in Kenya. The aim of the meeting was to understand the structured trading process and the benefits to the citizens. The discussion centred on the various services that EAGC is providing for the grain stakeholders including warehouse and warehousing receipt system, the market information provision through RATIN and the RATIN SMS system, and the overall policy support required to grow and support the sector. Follow up meetings were agreed with the legislators to involve the county governance.

iv) EAGC Undertakes Grain Sector Scoping Survey in South Sudan

EAGC in partnership with, German International Cooperation (GIZ) undertook the Grain Sector Scoping Survey in South Sudan. The survey was meant to support the development of an operational plan that would guide the institutional development of EAGC South Sudan chapter. The survey entailed the following:

- Desk review to understand the policies and priorities of the Government of South Sudan and the priorities of development partners;
- Do a rapid assessment/scoping of the grain sector in South Sudan through consultation with key grain sector stakeholders including farmers, traders, processors and institutions supporting or regulating the grain sector including the Ministry of Agriculture Forestry Cooperatives and Rural Development. In total eighteen (18) participants representing 13 entities participated in the assessment.

Following the completion of the survey, EAGC held a stakeholders' workshop on 22nd July 2013 and it was attended by 22 representatives drawn from farmer's organization, traders, millers, input suppliers, equity bank, development programs and representatives of potential funders including USAID, DFID and World Bank. The participants provided input into the development of the operational plan that comprises of a concept of service delivery, financing strategy and organizational structure. A key output of the workshop was the formation of an interim committee cutting across the various stakeholder groups that will drive the process for the EAGC institutional development in South Sudan.

4. Major activities planned for the next month (August 2013):

- Hold training workshop on EAC standards in Uganda
- Hold meeting to validate the EAC Harmonized Standards Trainers Guide and Promotional materials for stakeholders ownership
- Participate in EAGC Agribusiness Expo in Kenya and disseminate EAC standards
- Represent MAS Group in the FSNWG meeting on 15th August.
- Coordinate data transmission from the border and market monitors into RATIN and develop RATIN user interactive interface to enable feedback from users and monitor utilization
- Compile Weekly Reports showing market trends and food security situation in the region
- Recruit 2 more monitors in Tanzania (1 in Dar es Salaam and 1 in Isebania)

- Coordinate transmission of real time data from 19 Warehouse into RATIN by Country teams
- Coordinate RFBS data submission by registered users and hold consultative meeting to review and validate the NRFBS data

5. Status of the Implementation of Activities to Date:

Results	Milestones	Achievement in July 2013
Activity # 1: EAGC Institutional Strengthening		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stakeholders kept aware of EAGC programs and services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A list of potential members developed by end of Aug.2013 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Country offices scoping for potential members. List to be availed in August.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EAGC membership development materials produced 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publication of materials due for August
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased EAGC membership 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20% increase in membership by end of Dec 2013 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three I members were recruited- East Africa Commodity exchange-Rwanda, Uplands Rice-Uganda • Member visits done in Tanzania
Activity # 2: Strengthening of Structured Trading Systems		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awareness materials for new EAC standards translated and printed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 translations done (Swahili & Kinyarwanda) by end of July 2013 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Translation to begin immediately after validation of promotion materials on 15th August.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awareness campaigns on harmonized EAC standards carried out • Stakeholders use harmonized EAC standards • Support national governments and regulatory authorities in the adoption and planning for roll out of standards. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 125 graders trained on new EAC standards by Dec 2013 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training scheduled to start in August 2013.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EAGC signs MOUs with National Bureaus of Standards on implementation of new standards by Dec 2013 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft MOU with Uganda Bureau of standards developed and it's under review.
Activity# 3: Strengthening of Generation, Dissemination and Coordination of Market Intelligence		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RATIN maintained to offer regional market and trade information • Regional Food Balance Sheet (RFBS) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20% increase in RATIN web & SMS hits by end of Dec 2013 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20% increase in RATIN hits in July compared to June 2013
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20% increase in RFBS data contributors by end of project extension period 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NFBS Committee Meeting held in Nairobi. Country office

<p>updated and maintained</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Real-time Warehouse Volume Tracking (RTVT) System strengthened	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All registered warehouses transmit real time volumes on regular basis	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To begin in August
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EAGC Secretariat