



MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT

For the Period of:	April 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:	Nov.2012	Project end date:	June.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 April 2013 covering the activities implemented under USAID-COMPETE funding support. The Grant which was signed on 20th November 2012 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:

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

2. Summary of Activities accomplished in April 2013

a) EAGC held its Annual General Meeting and Member Luncheon

EAGC held its AGM and Members Luncheon on 18th April 2013. During the meeting, members received the EAGC progress report, the Chairman's report and the statement of accounts on EAGC. The auditors presented their findings during the meeting. During the AGM, the members also elected new board members.

During the Members Luncheon, the EAGC Staple Food Cook Book was launched. This is the first project of its kind to be unveiled in the region. The main idea behind the cook book was driven by the recognition by EAGC on the importance of quality & safe food towards improving the nutritional and

economic well being of all Kenyans and the EAC population, under which EAGC covers. The Chief Guest at the luncheon was Ms Gladys Mugambi, Deputy Director for Nutrition at the Ministry of Public Health.

b) Marketing materials that capture successes and highlights of EAGC

During the month of April, EAGC created draft promotional documents with successes and highlights on the EAGC's policy interventions, RATIN, RTVT and STS programs. The documents were reviewed and discussed by EAGC and COMPETE teams during a review meeting held at the COMPETE office on Tuesday 23rd April 2013.

c) Food Balance Sheet Data Review Meeting held in Rwanda and Burundi.

EAGC in partnership with USAID COMPETE held the FBS meeting in Burundi and Rwanda on 22nd and 25th April 2013 respectively. The main aim was to validate the data provided by the various stakeholders and to increase the capacity of the new EAGC staff in Burundi on the food balance sheet process. During the meeting the teams met with various data contributors from government and from the private sector. At the end of the meetings it was agreed that:

- ✓ Regular meetings are held to validate the data.
- ✓ The teams to engage in formal contracts with government institutions such as Rwanda Revenue Authority (RRA) and Rwanda Cooperatives Agency (RCA);
- ✓ More key public institutions which include; (MINAGRI, MINICOM, Central Bank, National Institute of Statistics, MINEAC, Ministry in charge of disaster management, Bureau of standards); should be involved and brought on board to be actively involved in the process;
- ✓ The Private Sector should be mobilized through the Chamber of Agriculture (PSF), Millers associations, farmers' organization and those in the ware housing and storage facilities;
- ✓ EAGC should work closely with districts' Mayors to ensure that the needed information is collected easily
- ✓ A technical working group should be created in all the participating stakeholders

d) EAGC continued with the recruitment of Food Balance Sheet Private Sector Contributors.

In Kenya, the recruitment exercise took place in Mombasa on 7th -12th April. The team visited EAGC members including Grain Bulk Handlers, Kitui Millers, Cargill, Mombasa Maize Millers, and Capital Reef. Moving forward a meeting with Cereals Millers Association is planned to streamline the process of data submission through the Association.

e) Conclusion of the Simplified Storage Guide

EAGC reviewed the draft Simplified Storage Guide and submitted its final edits to COMPETE. The Guide was therefore finalized. Once published, EAGC will use it for the farmer training events in Kenya scheduled to start in June 2013.

f) STS Handbook Finalized

The review and editing of the chapters for the STS handbook-2nd Edition was finalized in April. The

next step is to design the layout for publication. EAGC is planning to launch the book during the 5th Grain Summit in Mombasa in October.

3. Other Non-Grant activities completed

i) EAGC Meeting with members of the Market Access Sub- Group (MAS), of the Food Security and Nutrition working group (FSNWG).

EAGC hosted a meeting with members of the MAS group under the FSNWG to discuss issue of sustainability of RATIN through engagement of other MIS service providers. The members under the MAS group include FEWSNET, WFP, FAO and OXFAM. The team consist of MIS users and service providers, and the idea was to discuss strategies to support EAGC RATIN to be the main supplier of Market and Cross border information in the region, while the other institutions, and contribute subscription fees in order to use the data under RATIN. The team further agreed to jointly fundraise to support RATIN in provision of market information, as part of the exit strategy of the current system, currently been carried out under FEWSNET. The team agreed that EAGC should take over the process under FEWSNET after the current funding is complete by end of December.

ii) EAGC Participates in the Value Links Introductory Training Seminar.

EAGC participated in the Grain Value Links Training for 8th – 12th April 2013 at the Safari Park Hotel in Nairobi, Kenya. The training was hosted by GIZ Agribusiness Programme and ICRISAT. The objective of the training was to know how to apply value chain concept in development cooperation following the value links methodology. The training imparted methods and procedures for choosing a promising value chain for promotion, conducting value chain analysis and designing appropriate upgrading and facilitating strategies. EAGC Staff and members attended the training. A field visit to EAGC Members companies including Mama Millers and Mea Ltd, added on the practical aspects of the training. The Members and staff will use the training to improve the work of EAGC and support to EAGC Members in the region.

iii) EAGC at the Partnership for Aflatoxin Control in Africa.

EAGC was represented at the Partnership for Aflatoxin Control in Africa (PACA) Strategy developed forum in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania from 10th -12th April 2013. The meeting was hosted by the Africa Union Commission. Within the general framework of CAADP and its continent-wide and regional efforts on sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) issues, PACA provides consistent coordination and coherent leadership to the continental efforts on aflatoxin control. The PACA framework works in three key areas Agriculture, Nutrition and Food Security, Health and Trade & Markets. EAGC is a key stakeholder in the PACA aflatoxin control process especially on trade, and represented the trade and market issues at the strategy development process in order to ensure the private sector is well articulated in the strategy. The process was supported through the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, through the Meridian Institute.

iv) Support to Warehouses Receipt System in Kenya.

EAGC continued to support smallholder farmers to participate in WRS in Eastern Province. EAGC team held 2 meetings with farmers from 10th – 12th April, to strategize and prepare for the current harvesting

season. It's expected that farmers who produce small volumes of pulses would aggregate and store under WRS as soon as what was in store had been sold out. A total of 250MT of green grams was sold out recently under the system. So far there are two warehouses in Makueni with total capacity of 2500MT and they have been operating the system. The team explored the possibility of certifying additional warehouse in Makueni following requests by the farmers.

v) EAGC Agribusiness Expo 2013: Press Briefing & Stakeholders Meeting held in Arusha, Tanzania

The EAGC Agribusiness Expo 2013 for Tanzania was officially launched on Thursday, 25th April 2013 in Arusha. The event was launched during the Press Briefing & Stakeholders Meeting that took place at the Selian Agricultural Research Institute (SARI) and it was attended by potential exhibitors and representatives of various media houses. This year's Expo whose theme is "Future of Agribusiness; Pathways to Commercialization" will see over 30 exhibitors and approximately 5000 farmers take part, up from 14th to 15th June 2013. During the launch, SARI demonstrated to journalists and stakeholders a 2-wheel tractor and other appropriate small-scale machines which can improve farming practices (such as planting, harvesting, milling and transporting). The implements will be staged and operated at the machinery demo site during Expo and they will be available to smallholder farmers.

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

- i) Finalize the EAGC promotional documents with successes and successes
- ii) Development of trainer's guide for STS hand book.
- iii) Support COMPETE in the development of training and awareness/ promotional materials on standards
- iv) Organize and conduct one training workshop on EAC standards in Rwanda
- v) EAGC will work with COMPETE to mobilize private sector RFBS contributors in the 5 EAC countries/ presentation of Private Sector Data on the regional food balance sheet submitted and presented in Arusha
- vi) Support COMPETE in the development of training and awareness/ promotional materials on standards

5. Status of the Implementation of Activities to Date:

Project Activities	Expected Deliverables	Due Date	Achievements in April
Activity # 1.0 EAGC Institutional Strengthening			
Support COMPETE-hired consultant to develop EAGC stakeholder engagement & membership development strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed EAGC stakeholder engagement and membership development strategy 	Jan-Mar 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The strategy has not been developed however, two consultants were identified in April and their CVs submitted to COMPETE for further discussion on the engagement
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Membership development tracker to facilitate monitoring new members and member retention 	Jan-Mar 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Done in March

Design and produce EAGC marketing materials to capture success and strengths and present EAGC value proposition to members and potential EAGC Members.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a document that captures the “Top 5 reasons to join EAGC” 	March-May 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Done in March
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a document highlighting the EAGC’s policy interventions/successes 	March-May 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EAGC created draft promotional documents with successes and highlights on the EAGC’s policy interventions, RATIN, RTVT and STS programs. The documents were reviewed and discussed by EAGC and COMPETE teams during a review meeting held at the COMPETE office on Tuesday 23rd April 2013.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create EAGC RATIN promotional document 	March-May 2013	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create an RTVT promotional document 	March-May 2013	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a documenting EAGC’s STS programs, highlights and successes 	March-May 2013	
Activity # 2.0 Strengthening of Structured Trading Systems			
Finalize the revision of the Second Edition of the EAGC STS Handbook	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final document approved by COMPETE, EAGC and other partners before printing 	Feb.2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The review and editing of the chapters for the STS handbook-2nd Edition was finalized. The next step is to design the layout for publication. EAGC is planning to launch the book during the 5th Grain Summit in Mombasa in October.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 250-500 copies of approved STS Handbook printed 	Feb.2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pending awaiting the print version
Revise the STS Handbook to include participant testing material to ensure quality control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Testing materials developed for each training module 	Jan-Feb 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was proposed that a trainer’s guide be developed and not testing materials alone. The Scope of Work for the consultant to develop the guide will be done in May hoping the print version of the STS Handbook will be ready.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 250-500 copies of STS Testing Guide printed 	Jan-Feb 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pending
Conduct two trainings (one in each country) for warehouse operators and graders in Uganda and Tanzania	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete development of simplified storage and warehouse operators guide book 	March-May 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EAGC submitted final edits and the Simplified Storage Guide was finalized.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 250 copied of Simplified Warehouse operators guide book printed 	March-May 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pending
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit a roster of skilled trainers in each country to support the training effort and lists of in-country trainers and target participants 	March-May 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Done in Feb. 2013
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least 25 participants trained 	March-May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed in Feb. 2013

	in each country	2013	
Support the consistent national implementation of harmonized regional staple foods quality standards.			
Attend the regional EAC standards workshop scheduled for October in Entebbe and the meeting of the East African Standards Committee and Sectoral Council of Ministers scheduled for November 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation on the Private Sector's position on harmonized standards during the EAC Standards workshop in Entebbe. 	Feb-Mar 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed in Nov.2012
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit the position paper on for the private sector on Moisture Content to the East Africa Standards Committee in Entebbe. 	Feb-Mar 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed in Nov.2012
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver private sector opening remarks at the EAS Committee meeting and Sectoral Council of Ministers in November 	Feb-Mar 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Done in Nov.2012
Support COMPETE in the development of training and awareness/promotional materials on standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a list of local technical advisors willing to participate in the development of awareness materials 	Feb-Mar 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The communication material/posters on standards were developed by COMPETE and they are still under review. • EAC Grading Guide is being developed by COMPETE. It will be reviewed by EAGC once a draft is availed
Attend meetings to develop materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop country-specific lists of potential participants 	Feb-Mar 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pending- awaiting finalization of communication materials and EAC grading guide by COMPETE
Organize and conduct three trainings in Uganda, Rwanda and Tanzania	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct trainings for at least 90 private-sector graders representing producers, traders and processors trained in the EAC standards 	Feb-Mar 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pending- the trainings will be held once the grading manual and awareness materials are completed.
Provide country-level support to COMPETE to identify potential national implementing partners.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact lists for potential partners submitted to COMPETE. 	Feb-Mar 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submitted in March 2013
Participate in COMPETE-organized cross-border trade forums at Malaba, Busia, Isebania, Namanga and Oloitokitok	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate private sector (traders) participation. 	Feb-Mar 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pending
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit target/attendance lists to COMPETE. 	Feb-Mar 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pending
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participate in five cross-border trade forums and 	Feb-Mar 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pending

	present EAGC services		
Activity # 3.0: Strengthening of Generation, Dissemination and Coordination of Market Intelligence			
Expand the RATIN Network in Eastern Africa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RATIN upgraded to enable consolidate maps to be uploaded. 	Dec.12-Jan.2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Done in Dec.2012
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The GIS data for storage facilities in East Africa provided by USAID COMPETE and CARANA Corporation harmonized 	Dec.12-Jan.2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Done in Dec.2012
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data verification and validation of more than 700 locations across East Africa is completed and GIS mapping datasheets to fill the gaps reviewed. 	Dec.12-Jan.2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Done in Dec.2012
EAGC leads the registration/training of private sector contributors to National FBS, coordinate quarterly meetings and ensure data upload monthly /quarterly			
EAGC will work with COMPETE to identify, register and train new private sector RFBS contributors in the 5 EAC countries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and maintain a country-level tracker that shows all potential and existing private sector contributors and the status of their engagement 	Dec.12-Jun.2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Done in Dec.2012
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide monthly country reports showing status of targets and contributors 	Dec.12-Jun.2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reports submitted to COMPETE
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monthly follow-up with all registered contributors to ensure consistent data uploading 	Dec.12-Jun.2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The team visited EAGC members including Grain Bulk Handlers, Kitui Millers, Cargill, Mombasa Maize Millers, and Capital Reef in Mombasa on 7th -12th April 2013. A meeting with Cereals Millers Association is planned to streamline the process of data submission through the Association.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation of Private Sector Data on the regional food balance sheet submitted and presented in Arusha 	Dec.12-Jun.2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pending
EAGC country offices organize, facilitate and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> January 2013 NFBS meetings held in Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda 	Dec.12-Jun.2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Done

provide secretarial services for two quarterly National Food Balance Sheet Committee meetings in the 5 EAC countries	and Burundi to validate quarterly balance sheet. Meeting report with data summaries submitted to COMPETE.		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> March 2013 NFBS meetings in Kenya Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda and Burundi to validate quarterly balance sheet. Meeting report with data summaries submitted to COMPETE. 	Dec.12-Jun.2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FBS meetings held in Burundi and Rwanda on 22nd and 25th April 2013 respectively
Finalize the roll out of Real-time Warehouse Volume Tracking System and link to RATIN to support EAGC Members in relevant and credible Market Intelligence.			
RTVT rolled out to 12 warehouses/storage facilities, operators equipped with smart phones and trained in use of the application and uploaded to RATIN and pushed out to users.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finalize warehouse/storage facility evaluation form 	Dec.12-Jun.2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Done
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final RTVT enrolment form completed 	Dec.12-Jun.2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Done
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop tracker for potential and participating warehouses 	Dec.12-Jun.2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Done
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tracker updated monthly and submitted with monthly grant report` 	Dec.12-Jun.2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The updated Tracker as at April 2013 is attached below;  RTVT TRACKER.xls
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RTVT introductory letter sent to all target warehouses 	Dec.12-Jun.2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Done
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RTVT Users Manual for use by Warehouse Operators 	Dec.12-Jun.2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pending- the User Manual was a deliverable by the IT consultant engaged by COMPETE
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RTVT application and RATIN interface finalized and develop RTVT user manual- Dec 	Dec.12-Jun.2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pending- deliverable by IT Consultant;
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Country staff evaluate target warehouses and enrol successful facilities 	Dec.12-Jun.2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Done in Feb. 2013
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Equip and train 12 warehouses/storage facilities and monitor uploaded data 	Dec.12-Jun.2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed. In April 2013 , 11 warehouses in Uganda were equipped with phones

Improve EAGC Market Analysis, Capabilities , develop systems /templates for weekly reports for EAGC Members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finalize weekly market analysis report template 	Nov.12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Done
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finalize weekly report development process document that details the steps for country office submissions 	Nov.12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pending
Maintain 15 market and border monitors submitting daily price data to RATIN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submit list of 15 highest priority markets (to include border markets in the region –Oct 	Oct.12- Jun.2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Done
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hire, train and equip 7 additional market monitors (to complement the 8 existing monitors)-Nov-Dec 	Oct.12- Jun.2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Done
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Country staff provide spot checks/ supervision and reports on data quality 	Oct.12- Jun.2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuous exercise; ongoing.

EAGC Secretariat