



MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT-OCTOBER 2013

For the Period of:	October 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 October 2013 covering the activities implemented under USAID-EATH funding support. The EATH support to EAGC is aimed at achieving 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 RATIN 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 October 2013

1. Regional Food Balance Sheet.

EAGC has been very instrumental in the development of the EAC Food Balance Sheet. In the month of October, EAGC made the following strives towards maintenance of the RFBS:

o Private Sector data contribution to the Food Balance Sheet

During the period of reference, EAGC coordinated private sector data contribution towards the regional food balance sheet. This contributed to the growth of the number of contributors by end of October to 69 private sector companies. The companies cover the region with 11 in Kenya, 22 in Uganda, 17 in Tanzania, 10 in Rwanda and 9 in Burundi.

○ **Creating awareness on the Regional Food Balance Sheet**

EAGC team presented the results of the food balance sheet at various fora, to increase the utility of the food balance sheet in the region. Towards this end, EAGC had standing mandates to present the food balance sheet to:

- The EAGC Members on a monthly basis
- The monthly Food Security and Nutrition working group
- The Food Security working group under the Agricultural Sector Coordinating Unit (ASCU)
- The Association for strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa (ASARECA) in Entebbe.
- The Agricultural Trade Policy Advisory Forum in Eastern and Southern Africa (ATPAF –ESA) regional Meeting held in Nairobi on 29th October 2013 where RFBS has been endorsed as the Regional Policy Tool.
- Tanzania Grain Stakeholders' Forum held on 30th October 2013, a forum that was organized jointly by EAGC and EATH.

○ **Policy Paper on Food Situation to Office Of The President-Kenya**

EAGC submitted a paper on the food situation based on EAGC RATIN and the Regional Food Balance Sheet data analysis on 7th October, to the Office of the President. This was at the request from the President's office. EAGC prepared a policy brief to the Government of Kenya, on the current food balance sheet situation to guide on the steps to take to ensure food security in the country. After the report was presented, a follow up meeting was held with the EAGC management and the Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries Hon. Felix Koskei. During the meeting it was agreed, that EAGC will be presenting the food balance sheet on a quarterly basis.

2. EAGC Regional Agricultural Trade Intelligence Network (RATIN)

○ **Data Collection, Analysis and Dissemination**

EAGC Data Collection continued in Kenya, Rwanda, Burundi, Tanzania and Uganda. All the Monitors at the markets and border points continued supporting data collection. A new monitor, Anthony Kasonso was recruited as the new market monitor for Dar es salaam market. This has resulted to timely provision of relevant and accurate data for the grain stakeholders in the region.

During the month the following reports were produced and disseminated under RATIN.

- EAGC RATIN market data was analysed and the weekly reports produced in time and sent out to partners.
- The monthly cross border report was also developed and uploaded on the EAGC Site.
- The daily grain news monitoring was also done and sent out for members.
- EAGC also developed the fort night membership update, which captures all the updates on the activities in EAGC and sent to members every fort night.

○ **The East Africa Cross Border Trade Bulletin**

EAGC works in partnership with FEWSNET, FAO and WFP to produce the East Africa Cross border Trade Bulletin based on cross border trade monitoring and price data from EAGC RATIN and Early Warning Monitoring from FEWSNET. The report is developed under the Market Analysis Sub-group of the Food Security and Nutrition Working Group (FSNWG) which monitors cross-border trade of 88 food commodities and livestock in eastern Africa in order to quantify the contribution of informal cross-border trade to food security in the region. This Bulletin provides an overview of informal cross-border trade across selected border of Tanzania, Burundi, Rwanda, Uganda, Kenya, Somalia, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Sudan and South Sudan and DRC.

The October 2013 East Africa Cross Border Trade Bulletin was developed and posted on RATIN. See link below:

<http://ratin.net/index.php/ratin-tools/downloads/finish/3-trade-news/139-quarterly-gha-cross-border-trade-bulletin-october-2013>

○ **EAGC Co-Hosts the Market Access Sub – Group Of The FSNWG Data Analysis Meeting.**

EAGC and the Market Analysis Sub-Group (MAS) partners held a workshop at the Lenana Conference Centre on the 23rd and 24th October, 2013 to focus on market data management, analysis & dissemination to inform decision making and programmes. The MAS Group whose main responsibility is to support FSNWG member strategies, programmes, work through market analysis by informing humanitarian interventions, addressing crises, building resilience met with an aim of:

- Bringing together practitioners in the field of market analysis and programming to refine market information dissemination
- Identifying market analysis and information required for decision making and programme design
- Consolidating market data sources from different countries in the region and refine how this information is presented (content, timing & format) on a monthly basis through the FSNWG
- Feeding into other regional market initiatives relating to market based programming

At the end of the meeting, it was agreed that EAGC will present the status of the Regional Food Balance Sheet on quarterly basis and a monthly Market Price Outlook at the FSNWG meetings.

3. EAC Harmonized Standards for Staple Foods

EAGC and EATH jointly kick-started the awareness of the New EAC Harmonized Staple Foods Standards that were recently approved by the East Africa Standards Committee (EASC). In Tanzania, the awareness took place during the Standards/RFBS Awareness Road Show held from 28th Oct to 1st Nov.2013. Promotional materials on Standards were distributed to bilateral partners and key organization that were considered to have the potential in the implementation of the new standards for significant grassroots reach. During the same period, a Grain Stakeholders' Forum was organized in Dar es Salaam on 30th Nov.2013. At this forum, the new standards were shared and it was substantiated that harmonized standards are needed to enhance regional trade and integration while promoting fair trade and enhancing transparency for increased trade in staple foods. However, some concerns were noted that would impede implementation of the new standards:

- a) Failure to choose the right partners who have the grassroots reach

- b) Government agencies responsible for enforcing the new standards have limited capacity to carry out their mandate.
- c) Lack of knowledge among the value chain actors on the regionally harmonized standards and skills set to meet the standards.
- d) Limited facilities/equipment to carry out test on standards.

3. Other Non-Grant activities completed

i) 5th African Grain Trade Summit 2013

EAGC hosted the 5th African Grain Trade Summit in Mombasa in October, 1-3, 2013. The summit attracted approximately 200 delegates and media personalities from over 22 countries all over the world to talk about “Africa” as the emerging frontier for Global Investments in Grain Trade. Over 150 organizations were represented in the summit and this created very rich grounds for networking for the delegates. The diversity of the delegates and speakers brought out deep and meaningful discussions among the delegates, speakers and panellists which helped in the realization of the summit objectives.

The summit was graced by high ranking government and private sector executives who have reported to have learned a great deal and made good networking connections that promise to convert and produce business partnerships.

A good numbers of sponsors and partners who saw benefits and value for money supported EAGC to realize the success of the summit. A total of 16 sponsors and partners teamed up with EAGC in this venture.

ii) ATPAF-ESA Forum held in Nairobi

On October 29th 2013, a consultative meeting of the Agricultural Trade Policy Advisory Forum for Eastern and Southern Africa (ATPAF-ESA) was held. ATPAF-ESA is a forum coordinated by EAGC in partnership with various international organizations notably the UN-FAO, and with the objective of promoting an inclusive and participatory policy dialogue between private and public sector for improved regional agricultural trade in ESA.

The overall objective of the meeting was to cluster ATPAF – ESA, Core Member Organizations around the four pillars to contribute to countries’ & regions’ increased awareness of, and capacity to analyze developments in international agricultural markets, agricultural trade policies and trade rules, and to identify trade opportunities and to formulate appropriate & effective pro-poor trade policies and strategies, at both national and regional levels.

Clusters were strategically formed to ensure proper and balanced representation in each pillar to have the following representatives: the private sector organizations of Eastern & Southern Africa, the Public sector, the Regional Economic Communities, and the Development Partners & Other Regional Bodies. The clusters held discussions that resulted into a draft summary of recommendations of cluster activities for 2014. The summary is being reviewed internally by EAGC & UN-FAO before finalization.

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

- Printing of EAGC marketing materials
- EAC Standards/ RFBS Roadshow- November, 4-8, 2013- Uganda

- EAC Standards/ RFBS Roadshow- November, 19-22, 2013 Burundi & Rwanda

5. Status of the Implementation of Activities to Date:

Results	Milestones	Achievement as at October 2013
Activity # 1: EAGC Institutional Strengthening		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stakeholders kept aware of EAGC programs and services • Increased EAGC membership 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A list of potential members developed by end of Aug.2013 • EAGC membership development materials produced • 20% increase in membership by end of Dec 2013 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The scoping for potential members is ongoing. • Review of marketing materials was finalized and they are ready for publication. • Total EAGC Members stands at 131 to date. • 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 once the materials are reviewed and edited.
<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 • EAGC signs MOUs with National Bureaus of Standards on implementation of new standards by Dec 2013 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awareness forum held in Tanzania. • Other forums scheduled for November 2013. • MOU between EAGC and Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS) developed and submitted to UNBS for review. • MOU expected to be signed during the EAC Standards Meeting on 7th Nov.2013
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) updated and maintained • Real-time Warehouse Volume Tracking (RTVT) System strengthened 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20% increase in RATIN web & SMS hits by end of Dec 2013 • 20% increase in RFBS data contributors by end of project extension period • All registered warehouses transmit real time volumes on regular basis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 37% increase in RATIN visits in October compared to September. • Number of private sector contributors by end of October to 69. • Continuous

EAGC Secretariat

EAGC Monthly Report Oct 2013