



## Project Status Report for Month Ending March 2014

### A. Basic Information

Name of the Grantee Organization:	Eastern Africa Grain Council (EAGC)			
Project Title:	Promoting an Integrated and Structured Grain Markets in Eastern Africa			
Grant Agreement Number:	EAG-STA-014-032			
Project Period	Startup Date:	March 2014	End date:	July 2014
Project Location:	Countries: Kenya, Uganda , Tanzania , Rwanda and Burundi			

### B. Summary

This monthly report is submitted to USAID EA Trade Hub with the intention to highlight the project performance in relation to the objectives and expected results under the grant agreement. The report therefore covers achievements made during the period of March 2014. This being the project inception month, EAGC focused on key foundational activities that ensure a solid head start to achieving the project objectives. To start with, EAGC constructed an action plan for the entire project based on the work plan. The action plan contains detailed task and deliverables that are to be completed on weekly basis.

In the project, the EAGC's services and products are expected to be reviewed and strategies on how to design, market and deliver them to target members established. These strategies will also help in generating revenues to continue delivering excellent services. Prior to the process of developing the strategies, a scope of work for the consultant was developed by EATH and its being reviewed by EAGC. Once finalized, the scope of work will guide in contracting business planning experts. In addition to the preparatory tasks was the development of concept note for regional forum on the harmonized sampling and grading methodology. The concept note was developed by EAGC and shared with EATH for review and input.

Furthermore, continuous internal and border market monitoring and maintaining RATIN site was done. EAGC also continually marshaled the private sector data for the Regional Food Balance Sheet. Despite the above mentioned tasks, the tracking of grain stocks in warehouses and enrollment of new warehouses under Real Time Volume Tracking (RTVT) system and increasing the participation of the private sector contributors and coordinating National Food Balance Sheet (NFBS) committee meetings didn't take place as scheduled due to the delay in disbursement of March funds to EAGC.

## C. Project Achievements-March 2014

### **1. Development of Project Action Plan**

EAGC developed an action plan for the entire project based on the work plan. The action plan contains detailed task and deliverables that are to be completed on weekly basis. Below is a copy of the EAGC project action plan.



EAGC-EATH Work  
Plans v1 Mar Jul 2014

### **2. Preparation for the EAGC Business Plan Meeting**

EAGC plans to transform its service delivery by creating business services that are specifically associated with its membership needs. This process will involve developing strategies for sustainable quality service delivery. A workshop has been scheduled to take place in June 2014 where the Business Plan will be developed by a team of consultants and EAGC team. During the month of March 2014, EAGC teamed up with USAID EATH to develop the scope of work for the development of the EAGC Business Plan. This process is still ongoing and the SOW will facilitate in the contracting of the consultant who will work with EAGC to develop the Business Plan.

### **3. Market and Border Monitoring**

EAGC continued collecting, collating and disseminating data through the EAGC - Regional Agricultural Trade Intelligence Network ([www.ratin.net](http://www.ratin.net)). The data was uploaded timely on RATIN to support in real time provision of market information. Following the analyses of the RATIN data, the EAGC RATIN weekly reports and monthly cross border report were produced and disseminated to grain stakeholders and uploaded on RATIN site.

The RATIN website has been used by various grain stakeholders across the region. EAGC has been tracking the amount of traffic on the website and it shows that RATIN recorded 13,118 visitors in the

month of March which is higher than 10,242 visits recorded last year same period. Attached below is a table of EAGC RATIN web statistics for Jan-March 2014.



RATIN Stats -  
Jan-March 2014.xls

#### **4. Support and Maintain Regional Food Balance Sheet (RFBS)**

To maintain RFBS, EAGC continued to support the RFBS. The following tasks were accomplished during the month of March:

- a) Engaged the private sector to contribute data for the regional food balance sheet within the region. Through the country offices, phone calls were made to marshal data from the private contributors. A total of 58 contributors were recorded to have submitted data. However there has been a challenge of uploading of data by country teams and there is need to support them in the next phase. Attached below is the detailed EAGC RFBS report for March 2014.



Final EAGC  
REGIONAL FOOD BAL

- b) Conducted the baseline assessment of the capacities and locations of warehouses submitting data to RFBS. Attached is the March report with analysis of the capacities of RFBS contributors. The next analysis of other warehouses will take place in the coming months.



RFBS Private Sector  
Baseline-contributors

- c) Developed harmonized agenda for National Food Balance Sheet Committee meetings.



Proposed Agenda for  
the NFBS Committee

#### **5. Maintain Real Time Volume Tracking (RTVT) System**

Under RTVT, new warehouses were to be identified, recruited and trained. Field trips were scheduled but they didn't place due to delayed disbursement of the funds to EAGC. Attached here with is a schedule of RFBS/ RTVT trips.



EAGC MIS Schedule  
March - July 2014.xls

**6. Preparation to Conduct Regional Workshop on Sampling & Grading Methods**

EAGC and EATH plans to jointly host a three-day regional workshop on harmonized sampling and grading methods. These are the methods that were approved and gazetted. Grain actors need to adopt the testing methods for uniform grading procedures. To facilitate this process, stakeholders including the Bureaus of Standards, private sector representatives among other will be brought together to develop a harmonized implementation methodology on sampling and grading. To prepare for this forum, EAGC developed a Concept Note (attached below) that was submitted to EATH for review and input before the Bureaus of Standards are formally invited to be part of the process. A scope of work to assess the existing practice on sampling and grading methods and disparities was also developed jointly by EATH and EAGC.



08 04 2014 Concept  
Note for the Regional

**D. Projected Milestones for March 2014**

**EAGC Action Plan (Mar-Jul) 2014- USAID EATH GRANT**

KEY		EAGC					
		Consultant					
		EAGC & EATH					
		EATH					
Activity	Actions	Deliverables	March				Status Review
			Wk 1	Wk 2	Wk 3	Wk 4	
<b>Conduct EAGC Business Plan Meeting in Naivasha</b>	Develop SOW for the development of Business Plan	Scope of Work					SOW developed by EATH and reviewed by EAGC. The process is ongoing to be finalized in April.
<b>Support &amp; maintain RFBS for the 5 EAC countries</b>	RFBS Follows and Private sector recruitment	RFBS Data					Private sector contributors contacted for data submission. Data for March received.

<b>Maintain market/border monitors submitting daily price data to RATIN</b>	Maintain Market Monitors	Timely data					Market/border monitors engaged to collect and relay data to maintain RATIN
<b>Maintain the RTVT system</b>	National Travels to recruit RTVT Contributors	RTVT Data					This activity was not done due to delayed disbursement of March funds
<b>Conduct Regional Workshop Sampling/ Grading Methods in Entebbe</b>	Develop Concept Note for the Regional Stakeholders' Meeting	Concept Note					Concept Note for Regional Stakeholders' Forum developed
	Develop SOW for review and package the new EAS 2013 Staple Foods Standards sampling, testing and grading procedures and methods as per the referenced ISO standards.	Scope of Work					EAGC & EATH developed SOW for the consultant to assess the existing practice on sampling and grading methods and disparities.

#### Next activities planned for April 2014

- Engage Consultant to develop EAGC Business Plan
- RFBS follow ups and Private sector recruitment
- Conduct national and regional MIS Travels on RFBS/ RTVT in UG, RW, TZ, BRD
- Hold national Food Balance Sheet Committee Meetings
- Continuous market/border monitoring and maintaining RATIN
- Engage consultant to work on RATIN Business model
- Engage consultants to assess the current practice on sampling and grading methods and to finalize the promotional materials for EAC standards

EAGC Secretariat