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To: Directors, Advisors, Coordinators and selected State Agribusiness Council Executives interested in the Agribusiness Council (ABC) Counterpart Association Network and related program progress

Fm: Nicholas E. Hollis, President
The Agribusiness Council (ABC)

Re: Progress Update: New Affiliate Launched in East Africa

Dear Sir/Madam:

We are pleased to report continued program progress reflected in a most successful East African regional workshop conducted November 24-25 at the Kampala Sheraton Hotel in Uganda. The workshop, coinciding with the inaugural meeting of the Agri-Energy Roundtable Uganda (AER/U) was officially opened by H.E. Dr. Samson Kisekka, the Vice President of Uganda, and included a number of ministers, ranking officials and leading agribusiness executives (including Hon. Dr. S. Wandira-Kazibwe Minister of Women's Affairs, Youth & Culture - who is Chairperson of the AER/U, and Hon. Victoria Ssekitooleko, Minister of Agriculture and Animal Industries). The full agenda also included panel sessions on animal health/privatization of veterinary services, renewable energy, non-traditional crops and the role of non-governmental organizations in Africa's drive for food security and economic growth through greater self-reliance.

Agribusiness Council Delegates Attend

ABC organized a U.S. delegation which participated in the conference led by Dr. Chris Grocock, Animal Health specialist USDA/APHIS and Nicholas Hollis, president ABC. Dr. Al Sollod, Director, International Programs Tufts University School of Veterinary Medicine, and Dr. Marinus van den Ende (also Tufts University) rounded out the group. Congratulatory messages were also received from other AER/ABC counterpart association organizers in Kenya, Nigeria, Gambia, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Botswana, and India expressing strong interest in convening a larger conference in 1992.

Ugandans Build Self-Reliance

The Uganda agro-enterprise workshop was self-financed and the occasion was utilized to raise additional funding for the newly created association. More than 2 million U/schillings were raised during the event - which also saw the formation of several specialized subcommittees as a part of a broader membership development drive. One subcommittee, emphasizing animal agriculture/health issues is expected to form the hub for an African information exchange network focused on animal/livestock development and related issues such as eco-game ranching, veterinary privatization and many others. Other AER/ABC counterpart groups in Africa are expected to join.

The Agribusiness Council is a private and nonprofit/tax-exempt organization dedicated to strengthening trade and development between the United States and lesser developed countries with emphasis on production, processing and marketing of agro-food and allied industries



Uganda as a symbol of Africa's New Appeal

Uganda's East Africa leadership in "Agri-Energy" reflects the country's growing agribusiness potential and positive investment climate sparked by democratic pluralism, as well as its cooperative relationship with the international AER/ABC network of counterpart associations. Once named the "Pearl of Africa" by Winston Churchill, Uganda's lush agriculture and economic revival has generated considerable interest in the country's breadbasket potential for the troubled region. At the same time, Uganda's commitment to finding ecological balance in its development (which includes environmental protection and the development of renewable energy) makes the country ideal for the AER concept - of bringing enlightened agribusiness into a responsible dialogue on "food systems" issues with the public sector.

Follow-On African Visits: Botswana, Republic of South Africa and Swaziland

Following the Kampala workshop, ABC President Hollis made exploratory visits to Southern Africa (Botswana, Republic of South Africa and Swaziland) holding discussions with donor agency officials, government and private agribusiness leaders. In all three countries, the AER/ABC concept for indigenous agro-industry associations appears to hold good potential. The visit was particularly well timed in Botswana - a country which has vast mineral wealth and is experiencing an economic boom. Botswana is receptive to building a strong private sector and is interested in diversifying its agro-industry sector (primarily beef exports). South African investors are active in both Botswana and Swaziland. Trip reports are available for a nominal charge by contacting the ABC secretariat.

Animal Industry/Health Network for Africa Gains

In Nairobi, Kenya interest in the AER/ABC proposed animal agriculture/eco-ranching subgroup network (to be formed in cooperation with individual national AER groups and state agribusiness councils) was given a boost by Dr. Chris Grocock, Animal Plant/Health Specialist for Africa at the U.S. Embassy. Recognizing the importance of animal/livestock development at all levels of Africa's agriculture - and dismal donor agency experience with animal agriculture projects - AER/ABC's focus on these issues in Africa makes sense. As demonstrated at AER/Uganda's inaugural workshop, animal health/veterinary privatization issues, along with eco-game ranching and man's compatibility with animals -both wild and domestic in the eco-system form important thematic issues and project opportunities which could serve to link up various AER national counterpart programs and eventually yield some productive project information and Pan African business contact/exchanges. Ideas would be welcomed by the ABC secretariat.

Russian Delegation Visits ABC in Washington

Following the AER/ABC historic workshop in Moscow (September 1990) considerable interest has mounted with various former soviet republics on the idea of forming agro-industry councils modelled after the AER/ABC and linked to the

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international network. On November 18, 1991, Russian agro-business leader and renown entrepreneur, Vakhtang V. Makharadze (General Manager/Director of Interferma- a Moscow-based agribusiness/dairy company) led a delegation to Washington and briefed the Agribusiness Council (ABC) local members on the deteriorating situation in the former USSR. AER participated earlier this year (June 1991) in an agro-privatization conference in Tallin, Estonia where a local AER formation committee has reportedly been established under the Deputy Minister of Agriculture. Other formation committees are expected in response to AER's proposal and mounting concern over food distribution and the pace of privatization in the newly independent states.

ABC/AER Assistance to Indigenous African Agro-Industry Organizers

AER/Uganda has become the first African counterpart program to receive ABC assistance in developing a strategic development plan and membership brochure. During the Kampala meeting, ABC president Hollis outlined steps toward achieving association self-sufficiency for the AER/Uganda and provided background material to assist in the development of a comprehensive strategy paper on the AER/U's aims and program approaches for eventual consideration by donors and private sector members. The AER/U had provided AER/ABC a modest subscription earlier in recognition of the international network benefits and support in establishing the Ugandan program. For additional information on establishing an AER/ABC counterpart association for agro-industry contact the secretariat. ABC will be visiting a number of countries in 1992 to initiate discussions on the formation of similar indigenous groups and your suggestions/recommendations would be welcomed.

NOTE TO ABC COORDINATORS/STATE AGRIBUSINESS COUNCILS

Coordinators and executives interested in accessing ABC's international network for additional information are encouraged to forward their news and information for possible inclusion in the annual review and/or newsletters which will receive wide distribution - inside and outside the U.S. Assistance is also available for select state agribusiness council organizers interested in broadening membership services to include international market information, trade missions and related activities.

For further information contact the ABC secretariat, Attention Chris Sirko (202) 887-9178 Telefax.

1992 figures to be a banner year for the Agribusiness Council - our 25th! It will also be an important milestone for world agro-food trade and development. With growing economic difficulties, there will be a premium placed on good information/business contact networks - both for national food security and international economic peacekeeping. We wish all of you a joyous Season and hope you will contribute to our joint efforts to make 1992 a prosperous year for agro-industry everywhere!

Dr. Kisekka inaugurates Agri-energy Round Table

By Etengu Nathan

THE Vice President, Dr Samson Kisekka has called for the development of ethanol from surplus molasses and biogas from animal droppings and crop garbage in order to save natural forests which are being depleted.

Inaugurating the Agri-

Energy Round Table, Uganda (AER) at the Sheraton Hotel on Monday, November 25, 1991, Dr Kisekka said the cutting down of trees for fuel and other purpose had paved way for desertification. He said he was happy to note that AER was concentrating its efforts on negotiations between the developed and Third World

countries.

Kisekka urged the AER network to facilitate the exchange of expertise for the processing of fruits and vegetables which can be exported to consumers with added value. This, he said, would give the workshop on Uganda-Agri-Business special importance. He added that agri-business as a concept

which not only concentrated on crop development but also embraced other issues related to wider food chain including areas such as the privatisation of the veterinary services, which he said government had already instituted.

In her preliminary speech to the workshop, the minister of Women in Development, Youth and Culture, Mrs Specioza Wandira Kazibwe, who is also the interim chairwoman of Agri Energy Round Table, Uganda, outlined the numerous objectives of the organisation.

She told the participants that Agri-Energy Round Table, was an indigenous membership association dedicated to the strengthening of Uganda's agro-industry sector. This, she said, was being pursued through the association's participation and dialogue in the nation's drive for balanced agro-food security. AER, she added, was highlighting international trade and domestic policy issues using the "food systems" approach.

A number of papers were presented at the workshop on subjects related to agro-industry, prospects and constraints of privatisation of veterinary services in the country, new crops for African economies, renewable energy and eco-tourism.

In his paper on the privatisation of veterinary services, Prof George Mondo Kagonyira said there was growing need for veterinary services to be privatised due to a number of factors. He cited evidences where government had failed to perform well in certain areas.

Dr Simon Katumisi who is EEC technical assistant said that there was growing sentiment on the funding of livestock projects. He added that although this was partly due to the non-realisation of

short time plough-back from the investment, there was also growing concern over some unresearched government policies which he said lacked technical support and backing.



The Minister of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries, Mrs Victoria Sekitoleko (centre) closing a one-day workshop on Agri-Energy round-table at the Sheraton Hotel on November 25, 1991. With her are the Minister of Women Development, Youth and Culture, Mrs Specioza Wandira Kazibwe and the Executive Director of Agri-Energy round-table, Washington, Mr Nicholas Hollis. Photo by Etengu Nathan.