EAGC MEMBERS UPDATE: JANUARY 2016

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Stakeholders Come Together to Promote Staple Food Markets

Stakeholders especially The Department for International Development (DFID) -UK partners, that are involved in supporting the staple food markets in Eastern Africa convened in Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania to engage in discussion that would enhance staple food markets. Partners present included EAGC, Farm Africa, VECO, RUDI, AGRA, BRN, SAPPHIRE, and World Food Programme.

The EAGC’s Executive Director, Gerald Masila, accompanied by STS Manager, Samwel Rutto, Trade Facilitation Program Assistant, Martha Njogu and EAGC Tanzania staff participated in the meeting.

The meeting was ideal for sharing knowledge and resources in order to reduce duplication of efforts by partners who use different approaches and business models in structuring of markets in the region.

EAGC was keen on G-Soko which elicited interest from partners especially how grading is done at the village aggregation centres (VAC) level.

Suggestions were made that the system should be tailored to have alternatives for grains that have been rejected due to the quality. From this meeting, EAGC was tasked to organize a workshop for Trainers of Trainers (TOT) for partners under its arm of capacity building and training-EAGI to equip them with skills for training farmers on post harvest handling techniques.

The Meeting sort to continue supporting EAGC Members Engagement in facilitating an efficient, structured and profitable grain sector. As part of this Food Trade East and Southern Africa will continue to support EAGC Members over the next three years to structure grain Trade in the region.

EAGC Stakeholders during the Consultative meeting in Dar Es Salaam -Tanzania.
The EAGC Communication Strategy implementation is finally in place. For almost 5 year now, the EAGC has been in the process of developing a communication strategy aimed at improving on service delivery to the stakeholders and members. During the immersion meeting with Impact Africa who were the main consultants, the Executive Director, Gerald Masila acknowledged the efforts made by MIS Regional Manager, Janet Ngombalu, and the whole team for ensuring that the results were actualized.

Gerald called upon all Members to gear up towards implementation of the strategy towards realizing the mandate of EAGC. This comes at an ideal time, in the year when EAGC is celebrating milestones of 10 years of its existence.

With the new developments in the EAGC, members will be assured of the committed towards providing efficient, structured and profitable grain trade. This year, EAGC will run a campaign to celebrate 10 years of operation concurrently with the communication strategy implementation. This will culminate with a grain festival on the week of 5th to 9th December 2016.

Seven (7) Farmer Based Organizations (FBOs) Receives efficient Post Harvesting Equipment

The Eastern Kenya region is one the major focus by EAGC for the farmer mobilization to aggregate their produce. The region is expecting a bumper harvest especially pulses. The Country Manager, Davine Minayo accompanied by Field Officer, Timothy Muli visited 7 FBOs in the lower eastern region of Kenya from 26th to 27th January 2016 to mobilize famers to aggregate their produce. The FBOs which included, Yatta CBO, Muungano CBO, Kithuki CBO, Muvau Farmers, Amka CBO, Yi-Kiuuku S.H.G were issued with post harvesting handling equipments.

The team also conducted PH Handling training to Muvau Farmers. A total of 11 members of the group were trained on how to handle the PH handling equipments to increase capacity of the farmers in handling modern farm equipments. Volumes aggregated for this season are expected to be way up compared to last year’s.

Field Officer, Timothy Muli represented EAGC at the Makueni ATC field day which was organized by the county government of Makueni, department of agriculture in conjunction with ADS -eastern. 45 farmers (18=M 27=F) were enlightened on EAGC’s activities especially STS and WRS. From this 2 FBOs Iia Itune cluster and Tutini S.H.G expressed interest to aggregate their produce and try the Warehouse Receipt System.
A Stitch In Time’ Project is one the latest innovation by Shalem Investment Limited, a grain marketing company which finalizing membership process with EAGC. The project was launched on 28th January 2016 at Kianjai Grounds in Meru County-Kenya with funding from DFID. The event brought together about 1000 farmers, Ministry of Agriculture, Meru county, County Executive for Agriculture and graced was by FoodTrade ESA, Global Communities and EAGC.

EAGC was represented by country manager, Monitoring and Evaluation Manager and MIS Program Officer.

Shalem Investment Ltd received funding from DFID -FoodTrade to a tune of Ksh 50,0000 that will be used in post harvest technology and giving incentives to small scale farmers to encourage them clean and grade their produce.

Shalem focuses majorly in marketing Sorghum, Maize, Beans, Green grams and Soya beans for the farmers and operates a warehouse of a capacity of about 5,000MT. Working with 7000 farmers across the county and with the support of DFID, they aim at reaching 14,000 famers in the next 2 years.

With the new developments of G-Soko, EAGC will leverage on facilitating trade and facilitate warehouse receipt system undertaking since major challenge that farmers in Meru face is access to market for their produce.

**Warehouses Annual Inspection for Quality Grain Storage Enforced**

EAGC through its Structured Trading System program is implementing the Warehouse Receipt System program in Kenya. Part of the project requires selected warehouses to be inspected and certified for approval of participation in the WRS process.

This month, Sipili and Ng’arua Warehouses in the North Rift region of Kenya were inspected to ascertain maintenance of standards. This was the annual inspection exercise necessary before renewal of certificate to operate the WRS system.

The management team was advised to improve the standards of the warehouse warehouses EAGC STS program Officer and Field Officer conducted the exercise in the region between 26th and 28th January 2016.

The inspection of warehouse is the initial stage in the process of incorporating warehouse in the WRS and ensuring best storage practices which EAGC advocates to reduce storage related losses hence increasing the volume of grain.
East Africa Trade and Innovations Hub (EATIH) hosted partners for AG Forum planning meeting on 13th January 2016. The forum which will be hosted (EATIH) is scheduled to take place in mid March 2016 in Nairobi. Under the theme, Enhancing regional Cross Border Trade, the forum will bring together partners and key players in the grain sector across the region. The discussion will major on ways to enhance traders’ capacity on relevant knowledge to unlock cross border trading and build trade networks and contacts.

Program Officers, Titus Kisangau and Gideon Murenga represented EAGC in the meeting. It was noted that many forums have been held across the EA region and it still stands out that matters affecting trade have not be adequately addressed to lasting solutions towards enhancing regionally integrated trade. It stood out that a lot needs to be done, and especially around cross-border trade.

This forum will be key for all actors in the grain value chain. EAGC as a key partner in the sector in collaboration with the other partners like FEWSNETS, AGRA, FAO, FTESA et al, will facilitate the forum.

EAGC and EAC Secretariat Meets Reviews Process for The EAC Staple Food Standards

The implementations of Entebbe II recommendations on EAC staple food standards is in the process. To fast track this, the EAGC and East Africa Community Secretariat held a meeting with EAC team in Arusha the following actions were proposed;

1. Two national partners meetings to be held to review first batch of standards by 15th Feb 2016.

2. Regional EAC Standards meeting to be held on 29th Feb–4th March 2016 in Mombasa-Kenya

3. Regional EAC meeting for standards Editorial Team (TBC)

4. Regional laboratories meeting on proficiency Testing, Curriculum & certification of graders- (22nd - 24th March Entebbe

5. EAC Technical Sub-Committee on sampling procedures as per ISO/GAFTA Standards-18th -22nd April 206

The EAGC was represented in the meeting by Regional STS Manager, Samwel Rutto and Trade Policy Analyst, Kimwaga Mhando on 29th January 2016. The agreed deliverables are expected to be presented to East African Standards Committee by end of 1st Quarter of the year.

Promoting Farmer Based Groups

Tanzania team visited three Farmer Based Organizations (FBO) at Moshi to familiarize them with the EAGC Staff. As the EAGC commits to support farmers by mobilizing them to aggregate their produce, it is crucial to make follow ups.

FBO’s face challenges were that can be solved when highlighted and this was the main reason for the visit.

Their warehouses were inspected with regards to the G-Soko equipment that are the Bluetooth Weighing Scales, Printers and the Android Smart Phones to ascertain required standards.
# KEY EAGC FEBRUARY ACTIVITIES

## FEBRUARY 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2nd Feb</td>
<td>Nairobi, Kenya</td>
<td>MIS meeting with partners; Grow Africa, Global Communities and EAGC</td>
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<tr>
<td>3rd to 4th</td>
<td>Arusha, Tanzania</td>
<td>VECO East Africa meeting Arusha</td>
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<td>18th to 20th</td>
<td>Naivasha, Kenya</td>
<td>Senate and Parliament committees on Agriculture - WRS Bill Retreat</td>
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<td>9th</td>
<td>Nairobi, Kenya</td>
<td>Stakeholders Meeting for presentation of findings on WRS Impact Study.</td>
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<td>7th to 9th</td>
<td>Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania</td>
<td>2nd Annual USAID/Tanzania Development</td>
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<tr>
<td>10th to 11th</td>
<td>India</td>
<td>Africa Agribusiness Forum</td>
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<tr>
<td>10th to 12th</td>
<td>South Sudan</td>
<td>Grain Stakeholders Workshop</td>
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<tr>
<td>17th to 19th</td>
<td>Kigali, Rwanda</td>
<td>EAC Standards Stakeholders Workshop</td>
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<td>23rd to 25th</td>
<td>Tanzania</td>
<td>ANSAF Annual Policy Conference</td>
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<tr>
<td>22nd to 25th</td>
<td>Kenya</td>
<td>Stakeholders Immersion on EAGC Communication Strategy, G-Soko Platform and EAGI Curriculum Validation Workshop</td>
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<tr>
<td>29th to 2nd March</td>
<td>Nakuru, Kenya</td>
<td>Agribusiness Financing Training</td>
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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT THE EAGC SECRETARIAT

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IMPORTANT INFORMATION AND WEB LINKS.
You can read and view on the following links

EAGC ANNUAL REPORT 2014-2015

EAGC INFORMATION PACK

ATPAF-ESA BULLETIN VOL III