EAGC MEMBERS MONTHLY UPDATE: MARCH 2016

The EAGC Members Monthly Update is a compilation from EAGC Secretariat on the monthly events and activities undertaken the previous month.

IN THIS ISSUE
1. EAC and EAGC harmonise Regional Staple Foods Standards
2. EAGI Continues to Accelerate Capacities of Stakeholders Through Agri Business Trainings
3. Commissioning of the Field Motorbikes, a Boost to Farmers Mobilisation
4. Well done, Partners Applaud EAGC for Effective Implementation of Projects
5. 100 Days, Boots on the Ground to Fast track Gsoko
6.(i) More Farmers Consider Aggregating their Produce
6.(ii) EAGC to partner With East and Central Africa Bean Research Network (ECABREN)
8. Executive Director and State Minister of Agriculture of the Republic of Rwanda Meet
9. South Sudan Country Program Receives Complete Office Furniture
10. EAGC seeks to Strengthen Institutional Ties With Farmgain Africa and Fit Uganda Ltd

EAGC and EAGC harmonise Regional Staple Foods Standards

The Eastern Africa Grain Council (EAGC) and the East African Community (EAC) hosted the Regional Standards Harmonization Meeting for the Review of the East African Staple Foods Standards from 29th February to 4th March 2016 at Leisure Lodge Resort in Kwale County, Kenya.

The meeting, held with the support of the USAID East Africa Trade and Investment Hub (EATIH), brought together technical experts on Quality Assurance and Standards representing both the public and private sectors from all East African Community Partner States.

The purpose of the meeting was to review the comments from the National Technical Consultations that were previously held in all Partner States for the draft Standards on Cereals and Pulses, in order to arrive at a consensus amongst all Partner States with respect to the review of the Staple Foods Standards.

In addition to public and private sector delegates from Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda, the meeting was also attended by the USAID East Africa Trade and Investment Hub, the USAID/Feed the Future Enabling Environment for Agriculture, the African Organisation for Standardisation (ARSO), Kilimo Trust, Eastern Africa Farmers Federation and the World Food Programme.

EAGC STS Regional manager, Mr. Samwel Rutto speaking on behalf of the EAGC Executive Director, Gerald Masila – emphasised the importance of reaching a consensus on the review of the Standards, and further expressed EAGC’s commitment to the review process with the purpose of facilitating efficient, structured and profitable grain trade in the EAC bloc.
Continued ... EAGC and EAGC harmonise Regional Staple Foods Standards

In his opening remarks, Dr. Hermogene Nsengimana, Secretary General of the African Organisation for Standardisation (ARSO) recalled the signing of the Tripartite Free Trade Area Agreement and the launch of the Continental Free Trade Area, both of which attempt to broaden and deepen intra-Africa trade relations. As such, Dr. Nsengimana emphasised the need to review the Standards with the developments at continental level in mind.

Speaking on behalf of the EAC Secretariat, Mr. Willy Musinguzi acknowledged the support of EAGC and USAID EATIH in the review process for the Standards and further highlighted the importance of the Standards in promoting regional trade in staple food commodities.

In her welcome remarks, Ms. Harriet Odembi, Director of Agriculture and Agribusiness at USAID EATIH thanked the delegates for the availability and commitment to the review process, and further highlighted the importance of the Standards in helping smallholder farmers and small traders become more effective participants in intra-regional trade. Ms. Odembi also reaffirmed EATIH’s continued support to EAC in realising tangible results from the Standards harmonisation process.

The meeting deliberated on four (4) Standards, these being Maize Grains (DEAS 2:2015), Wheat Grains (DEAS 51:2015), Milled Rice (DEAS 128: 2015) and Dry Beans (DEAS 46: 2015). The deliberation of the Dry Soybeans Standards (DEAD 762: 2011) was deferred to the next round of the review process.

This meeting was crucial towards reaching harmonized standards for cereals and pulses which in return will ensure standardized trading in grains across the region.

EAGI Continues to Accelerate Capacities of Stakeholders Through Agri Business Trainings

The training drew 11 participants from financing institutions, especially Family Bank and the Africa Institute of Corporate Citizenship (AICC Africa) from Malawi which is a non-governmental organization and whose main mandate is to promote the role of business in development.

The participants were equipped with key skills on agribusiness sector, warehouse receipt financing, value proposition of commodity trading, and agribusiness project financing and appraisal. As part of the training, facilitators took participants to the field visit and visited Bunda Cake Company which is a feed mill processing company to learn how the company has successfully utilized value proposition of commodity trading.

The training was facilitated by experienced team of trainers in the Agribusiness sector. During the training, Joyce Njoba, an agribusiness expert who was among key trainers encouraged financial institutions to take agribusiness financing as key area in promoting agriculture. Other trainers included, Japheth Musau and John Waibochi from Virtual City.

The training involved interaction session where experienced stakeholders shared their successes and challenges in relation to agri-financing with the participants. These testimonials were shared by; Andy Dale who is the Director of New Boogaloo, John Minua from Minua Commercial Agencies, Mary Njeri a trader in Nakuru and Lydia Gachuma from Mwihoko Farmer Group in Nakuru.
The Cabinet Secretary in charge of the Ministry of Agriculture in the Republic of Kenya, Mr Willy Bett, called for a debriefing meeting on 1st March 2016 to assess the progress made on the WRS Bill. EAGC has been on the forefront championing for the bill representing private sector. The Executive Director accompanied by Regional Manager MIS & Communications represented EAGC in the meeting.

Some of the Key issues from the Cabinet Secretary Mr. Bett emphasized on ensuring that the Bill focuses on supporting business in the region and not curtail it in anyway. He called for a consultative process and to that the WRS process should support the farmers to get benefits and returns on their investment.

Commissioning of the Field Motorbikes, a Boost to Farmers Mobilisation

The EAGC Board Chairman, Dr. Bernard Otim, EAGC Executive Director, Mr. Gerald Masila and AGRA representative, Mr. Mark Irungu on 22nd March 2016 flagged off three field motorbikes at the EAGC offices Nairobi and later addressed the media.

Dr. Otim, addressing the media, mentioned that the motorbikes were purchased with the support from AGRA and will used by the field officers team to reach more farmers and stakeholders especially in Kenya. He applauded the continued support from AGRA and urged them to extend this engagement so that EAGC can also implement the same projects in the whole region. The same call was made by the EAGC Executive Director, Mr. Gerald Masila in his remarks.

Gerald Masila in his remarks.

Mr. Masila said that through the AGRA project, EAGC plans to realise a total of 12,600 MT of grain to be traded, 17,000 farmers mobilized to aggregate their grain in the G-Soko certified warehouses, 24,000 farmers trained, Ksh 253 million lent through G-Soko, 6 linkage forums held for both backward and forward linkages, 1,000 MT of inputs supplied and 25 warehouse staff trained.

Currently, EAGC has realized 11 warehouses certified under the EAGC GSoko system for market linkage, Ksh 40 million loaned to depositors of grain in the GSoko certified warehouses in Kenya, 7,000 farmers trained and 100MT of inputs distributed through the GSoko warehouses and aggregation centres.

Mr Mark Irungu in his remarks, acknowledged the efforts of EAGC in mobilizing farmers to aggregate their produce which in return brings more earning to the farmers. He reiterated the commitment of AGRA in partnering with EAGC to support farmers.

He encouraged EAGC to put more effort to reach more farmers and warehouse operators in order to realise greater achievement.
The month of March was very critical for the Eastern Africa Grain Council which saw four major donors jointly participate in project field visit. The partners; AGRA, Food Trade-ESA, SIDA, USAID-Trade Investment Hub, AMPATH and Virtual City accompanied by EAGC team, inspected the ongoing grain farmer support programs in North Rift region on 9th and 10th March 2016. The visit was aimed at assessing the impact of the programs to the farmer groups, VACs and warehouse operators in the grain sector. The partners had a chance to interact with members of KIPEP CBO, Cheptarit Women Group and Nafics Ltd warehouse. These groups have benefited immensely from the support of all partners through EAGC.

Through the support of partners, EAGC has been supporting grain farmers in the region under several initiatives. These initiatives include; Trainings for capacity building on post harvest handling, grain standards and warehouse receipt financing, Mobilisation of farmers to aggregate their produce in the EAGC certified warehouses, Market linkaging to access structured market and also Issuance of post harvest handling equipments. EAGC has also sampled certified warehouses for G-Soko piloting roll out which are provided with full G-soko Kit - Bluetooth enabled weighing scale, smart phone and a thermal printer.

Speaking during the visit, Cheptarit Star WG Secretary, Ms Josephine Bugei, acknowledged the support of EAGC and partners in supporting them through trainings on post harvest handling and providing them with post harvest handling equipments.

Partners applauded EAGC for the work well done especially in supporting women farmer groups by exposing them to effective trainings and grain market access. “We are delighted that these programs are benefiting farmers and more importantly empowering women towards improved livelihoods,” Isaac Tallam of Food Trade-ESA said. He added that they were impressed that the G-Soko system is working well with farmers and has increased trust and transparency in grain trade, hence increased income to farmers; the reason why more farmers are now aggregating in G-Soko linked warehouses.

The team visited Nafics Limited, an EAGC member which is one of the grain trade companies operating warehousing linked to G-Soko system. During the visit, donors also noted that the system roll out is promising to ensure efficiency and transparency especially to farmers hence lowering losses through cartels.

As the visit came to the end, the EAGC Executive Director, Mr. Gerald Masila in his remarks assured partners that EAGC is commitment to implement projects for the benefit of the farmers. He also assured the team that GSoko was a reality and to that effect, EAGC had contracted a consultant to assist EAGC in preparing a roadmap for the full development of the GSoko trading platform; Prepare documentation (brief high level overview of the business model) of the G-Soko business model and also develop the rules of trade based on the business model.
1. GSoko Update
On 10th March 2016, the EAGC Executive Director, Gerald Masila chaired DFID-EAGC partners meeting held at the EAGC regional office board room to deliberate on the GSoko action plan. The first session received a brief from Virtual City on the GSoko progress update. The Virtual City Managing Director, Mr. Waibochi informed the team that the first version of the system was developed until November last year and Virtual City is currently working on the second version.

The meeting was informed that, a team from India was to visit Virtual City on 28th March 2016 to look at the brokerage system. Mr Marco Serena of DFID offered to support in linking EAGC to the top Rabbo Bank Management on associated banks in Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania and Rwanda. Key to note was that, moving forward, the impact data collected from the system will be used as source of income by EAGC. Moreover, EAGC will come up with a tariff for the trade facilitation fees.

2. Market Activation Brief
Mr Masila informed the meeting that so far, EAGC has already certified 30 warehouses; Kenya 14, Uganda 11 and 5 Tanzania. He added that a Business Development Services and Warehouse Diagnostic Enterprise Analysis will be carried out for the remaining 24 warehouses which were inspected and not certified. He also mentioned that EAGC has brought in new staff, Peter Wanjohi who will assist on the technical and physical areas to certify those

SITA Pulses handbook validation meeting.
The EAGC regional team hosted stakeholders meeting to review the pulses handbook at the EAGC office.

The validation meeting brought in pulse stakeholders mainly traders.

The meeting was aimed at receiving update from the consultant and validate the work ready for publishing.

From the stakeholders, it was noted that the consultant had done a good work but more input was necessary in the second phase of developing the material to ensure that the published handbook has relevance to the uses.

The stakeholders felt that there was need to add some figures on yield, production volumes and price.

Contracts Signed at B2B Linkage in Eldoret

Emmanuella Atito and Field officer, James Kuria organized market linkage meeting in Eldoret. The business to business meeting (B2B) attracted 39 participants, 7 of them were buyers and the rest were sellers and development partners. Contracts of 893 MT of grain were signed between the buyers and sellers present.

The team made presentation on EAGC and its programs to the participants present in a bid to increase awareness of EAGC activities and interventions in the region. The team facilitated the signing of contracts between the buyers and the farmers present.
The Eastern Africa Grain Council has inaugurated Country Program Committees (CPCs) in Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda and Tanzania. The committees which has at least four members will be chaired by the Country Director who sits in the EAGC Board of Directors committee. The CPCs will work to support the Board in discharging its mandate in respective countries.

The EAGC Executive Director, Mr Gerald Masila with the support of regional and country managers facilitated members’ meetings, selection and inauguration of the committees.

In Uganda, the EAGC members meeting was graced by the EAGC Executive Director, EAGC Board Chairman Dr. Bernard Otim and the Director Amb. Philip Idro who oversaw the election of the CPC as follows;

1. Mr. David Kissa — Producers/Farmers-Kapchorwa Commercial Farmers Association
2. Mr. Hebert Kyeyamwa — Traders/warehouses-Agroways Uganda Limited
3. Dr. Rose Omaria — Processors—Soroti Grain Millers
4. Bruno Matovu Bakasambe Services — Kinoni Produce Farm Limited

The inauguration of the CPC was hailed by the members as the best initiative that EAGC has ever taken to involve them to support the council’s activities. The CPC is charged to support country teams towards implementation of the EAGC mandate in the region.

In Kenya, the committee was constituted with an additional 3 members elected to the CPC forming a team of 7 members. The other members will be the current Kenya board members. Tanzania and Rwanda conducted the same exercise and elected their country program committees.

The Terms of Reference for the CPC were reviewed and teams tasked with working closely with the Secretariat to execute the mandate of EAGC at Country level.
In the month of March, the East Africa Grain Council team visited Warehouses and Aggregation Centres in Eastern Region to monitor the progress on the aggregated volumes as well as mobilize farmers to continue aggregating their produce. It was noted that a total of 198 90 kg bags of green grams had been aggregated since with a week. Muungano CBO 168 and 30 Thange/Ngoman cluster. The 168 bags were sold to Spice world while the 30 bags had been sold to FAO at 83 Kshs per Kg. Aggregation of cowpeas was to start as from ne.

Mwailu warehouse operator is currently aggregating grains in the warehouse from the various aggregation centers. Currently, Mwailu is holding a stock of 140 90kg bags of green grams and cowpeas. The visit was also to follow up on utilization of the G-Soko system after a refresher training the previous week. Mwailu Warehouse is one of the warehouses linked to Gsoko in the Eastern region of Kenya. Smart Logistics is another Gsoko linked warehouse in the region.

Visited also was MEPICO CBO. The FBO is also a potential EAGC member and have already received the member information pack and the membership application forms. Recently, MEPICO opened a new aggregation centre (Vieti) in Wamunyu Machakos.

To this end, farmers through aggregation centres and warehouses are reaping considerable returns from their produce. More so, many of the warehouse operators are welcoming the GSoko system. This, motivates EAGC to continue mapping warehouses and aggregation centres for farmers to utilise GSoko.

EAGC to partner With East and Central Africa Bean Research Network (ECABREN)

The East and Central Africa Bean Research Network (ECABREN) held stakeholders workshop in Machakos on 7th March 2016 to deliberate on how to market new bean varieties. The EAGC represented by the Country Program Manager, Davine Minayo presented programs and the activities that EAGC is undertaking to promote the growth and marketing of pulses with specific emphasis on beans. The presentation was an eye opener to the stakeholders present.

ECABREN identified EAGC as a key partner in the dissemination of the new bean varieties and also aggregation and marketing of bean especially through EAGC Expos. The stakeholders agreed that it was critical to use the EAGC aggregation centres and warehouses as collection points for seeds/inputs and also for marketing of aggregated beans. Finally, it was agreed that a follow up meeting will be held with the three companies to link them to our farmer groups for supply of certified seed.

In the sidelines of the meeting, EAGC held discussion with Dryland Seeds, KALRO (Kenya agricultural and Livestock Research Organization) and CIAT (International Centre for Tropical Agriculture) on the possibility of linking them to EAGC farmer groups for supply of seed.
### EAGC moves to Increase Certified Warehouses Across the Southern Corridor

The Eastern Africa Grain Council made a deliberate move to identify possible warehouses for inspection. This action was aimed at increasing the number of EAGC certified warehouses that farmers would be able to aggregate and deposit their produce in within Tanzania.

The country team identified BRN Warehouses, RUDI Warehouses, NAFAKA Warehouses, Karatu among others. These warehouses are served by over 80 village aggregation centres.

The team conducted preliminary inspection of warehouses with an average storage capacity of 300MT. Among these, 2 warehouses under the AMCOS ownership; Madibira and Kyela met the EAGC warehouse certification standards while other 5 warehouses were below par. The team noted that many of the warehouse operators need training on warehouse handling to ensure quality standards for storage. Going forward, the team recommended training to the warehouse operators to build capacity on warehouse operations.

The team has scheduled activities that will be carried out in the next three months for the purpose of mobilizing more farmers and enrolling warehouses:

- Identification & Profiling of FBO’s
- Preliminary Assessment, Mapping & Profiling VAC’s and warehouses.
- Training on Post Harvest Management and Grades & Standards to the VAC’s and Warehouses
- Certification of qualified warehouses

### EAGC Roots for Collaboration in Addressing Policy Issues

EAGC Tanzania Country Program held a meeting with Africa Practice Consultancy to seek collaboration positions on policy advocacy. From the meeting, three main issues were addressed; Soya Policy Constraints, VAT on Tanzania’s Rice to other EAC countries, Familiarization of G-Soko to the influential government officials. These issues currently, have affected grain trade in the country and I return affecting the whole region.

Africa Practice acknowledged issues raised and agreed to convene follow up meetings with between EAGC Tanzania Country Team and Board of Advisers whom will play a vital role in the advocacy at the governmental level.

The Board of Advisors in Tanzania have agreed to support EAGC in pushing through its position on policy issues around Soya and Rice. The EAGC country program team held several meetings with the members of the Board of Advisors to lobby for their support in addressing policy issues in the grain sector.

The Board of Advisors met were briefed on G-Soko roll out plan in Tanzania. Mr Ikunda Terry, the country program manager met with Prof. Prof.Semboje. After briefing, he praised EAGC for its effort on policy advocacy. He advised that EAGC to convene a meeting with the MALF, MITI, TWLB, TMEX for the purpose of creating awareness on the policy issues at hand.

Mr. Ikunda also met with Mrs. Olive who advised EAGC to organize a meeting with the Member of Parliament of Songea & Kilosa. She noted that Songea and Kilosa are major regions for Soya production and the Members of Parliament will be ideal to represent the policy issues in the parliament.

Accompanied by representative from Catholic Relief Services, a Soya Policy Action Group Member, Mr. Ikunda also with the CEO of Infotech Tanzania, Mr.Ali Mufuriki, and Ms Neema of CRS at Infotech Office, Dar-Es-Salaam.
The Eastern Africa Grain Council team lead by the Executive Director Mr. Gerald Masila, held a meeting with the State Minister of Agriculture of the Republic Rwanda, Hon. Tony Nsanganira. He was accompanied by the EAGC Rwanda Director, Mr. Eugene Rwibasira, the Regional MIS Manager, Janet Ngombalu and the Rwanda Country Manager Alain Nzitatira.

The purpose of the meeting was to review EAGC's progress in Rwanda, discuss the draft MOU between EAGC and the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources, as well as to plan on the way forward to the grain sector in Rwanda. The two organizations agreed on key modalities to facilitate faster progress on structuring the grain sector and ways to support farmers to increase grain flow to the market. The Minister urged the EAGC team to support in building the capacity of the farmers in Rwanda on grain markets and review the process on contracting among farmers. The draft MOU will be finalized and signed at a later date.

**Rwanda Country Program to Leverage on Partnerships**

This month, EAGC Rwanda country program held several meetings with possible partners from the Chamber of Commerce and Media. A meeting with with the Private Sector Federation in Rwanda; the Chamber of Commerce and Services which is an association of General Trade, EAGC sought to become a member of the federation in the near future. This was in a bid to enlarge collaboration with other organisations in the country.

Recently, RATIN SMS system was installed in Rwanda opening opportunity for the stakeholders to utilise market information through their mobile phones. To increase dissemination of information and creation of awareness on the EAGC activities, the team held meeting with the Regional Media Centre to discuss areas of collaboration on dissemination of information and media coverage of the EAGC activities.

**Partnership Proposition Meeting at DFID Rwanda**

EAGC Rwanda Program Manager, Alain Nzitatira accompanied by EAGC M&E Manager, Penina Gichuru attended the early market engagement meeting at DFID Rwanda for a new program, “Improving market system for Agriculture in Rwanda”.

DFID has introduced new program which seeks to support market systems for Agriculture in Rwanda and will need to fund qualified organizations. EAGC had identified this program for possible partnership in

The project promises high prospects in supporting farmers. EAGC sought to keep watch on the programme stages as they evolve to identify entry points. The programme will become viable once the market analysis is completed and high impact value chains are identified.
South Sudan is one of the promising countries where EAGC has set base. EAGC was invited to attend the AGRA M & E and the formation of the Seed trade association for South Sudan (STASS) workshop which was conducted from 30th -31st, March 2016. The STASS will be the parent organization of the seed companies to oversee and tackle issues around the seed industry in relation to the regional and international standards in South Sudan.

This was an opportunity for EAGC to network and lobby for membership with the seed companies’ representatives. South Sudan team established contacts with AFFA Seeds, ARUDA Seeds, South Farmers, MASCO Seeds, SSAPU, Afrognics and Seed grow. Other participants in attendance were: MAFCRD, CTC, Yei, IFDC, FAO, SSAPU and University of Juba (Scientist).

The Eastern Africa Grain Council IN partnership with the German cooperation (GIZ) in South Sudan. The partneship is majorly foccused to develop and build the warehouse operators capacities/ skills in running warehouse business. From 7th to 10th February 2016 the team was engaged in a one week workshop at Raha Hotel, Juba to develop a specific business plan for the first four selected warehouses (Gangura, Nzara, Nyei and Palwar) out of the total 11 warehouses across the green belt region. The workshop was attended by 12 participants with 3 members from each warehouse.

The business plan will help to guide in running the warehouse business smoothly. There are other identified opportunities around the warehouse operators.
To strengthen systems for RATIN data dissemination to a wider audience, the EAGC country team represented by the country manager, Lillian Bazaale and MIS Officer, Pausta Clessy held meetings with Farmgain Africa and Fit Uganda Ltd; two of the strongest MIS providers in Uganda.

The two organizations agreed to partner on data dissemination leveraging on regional price information and informal cross-border volumes. Separate MoUs and/or Strategic Business Agreements will be drafted in April and shared for review and signing.

It was noted that the dissemination mechanisms for Farmgain Africa include website, radio programs and SMS messages through SMS media. Farmgain monitors weekly prices for 24 commodities in 18 markets in Uganda.

Fit Uganda Ltd monitors up to 35 markets in Uganda out of which 4 are in Kampala, and 4 are border markets. The dissemination channels include the call centre, radios (18 stations), website, SMS platform on subscription, mobile App, WhatsApp, Facebook, and Twitter.

Both organisations intend to introduce live screens at trading centres/stores to broadcast market information and standards. Their data collection methodology is ISO certified and they pledged to support EAGC to certify RATIN methodology for successful partnership.

In this arrangement, the team will require data from RATIN ranging from 2012 to 2016 since they have moved into trend analysis. They have also developed an Infotrade Mobile App targeting middle level traders who they would wish to link to G-SOKO when the partnership is finalized.

The team represented by Benjamin and Lillian visited two certified warehouses and handed over their Certificates to operate as fully inspected and certified by EAGC. Some of the warehouses that received the certificates include Josephs Initiative and Masindi Seeds and Grain Growers Ltd.

The Team also handed over PHH equipment including shellers, moisture meters, and tarpaulins to the VACs linked to the certified warehouses. EAGC continues to certify more warehouses in the country in a bid to increase number of EAGC certified warehouses. This is anticipated to increase aggregation capacity forthwith.

National Food Balance Sheet Validation

This month, Uganda Country Program team represented by Clessy Pausta held a meeting with Hakuza Annuciata, a Senior Economist at Ministry of Agriculture Animal Industries and Fisheries (MAAIF) at the Office of the Prime Minister to discuss the organization of the National Food Balance Sheet Validation Meeting.

During the meeting it was suggested that the validation meeting be held in April 2016, and that invitations should be sent by the Ministry. The validation meeting is expected to be graced by the Assistant Commissioner-Statistics MAAIF.
During the International Day of Women, EAGC Burundi participated in the Burundi Association of Business Women and Agri-Profocus exchange workshop under theme: *equalities opportunities in the agribusiness in Burundi*. Representative from FBO’s, NGOs and members of Agri-Profocus in Burundi and Burundi’s business women participated in the event. The meeting was coordinated by the President of Burundi Association of Business Women, Agri-ProFocus coordinator in Burundi and NU women in Burundi.

Burundi country representative presented EAGC activities in the country in a bid to seek more areas of partnership. Several stakeholders appreciated EAGC opportunities that will improve business in Burundi. The forum opened doors for engagement with several participants to share more about these opportunities with EAGC country Representative. Two cooperatives of agricultural producers expressed interest to become EAGC members.

Currently, Burundi has four fully registered members and more companies have expressed interest to become members and participate in EAGC activities.

### APRIL 2016 – KEY EAGC ACTIVITIES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date Range</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4th to 8th April</td>
<td>Abuja, Nigeria</td>
<td>EAGI Training on Web 2.0 and Social Media for Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th to 7th April</td>
<td>Entebbe, Uganda</td>
<td>Graders Training</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5th to 7th April</td>
<td>Dar es Salaam, Tanzania</td>
<td>GSoko Sensitization with Warehouse Operators</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th to 6th April</td>
<td>Malawi</td>
<td>Reporting and Induction of EAGC staff – Malawi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7th April</td>
<td>Nairobi, Kenya</td>
<td>Annual Review meeting with SIDA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11th to 14th April</td>
<td>Accra, Ghana</td>
<td>CAAD Partnership meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11th to 15th April</td>
<td>Uganda</td>
<td>Profiling of FBOs linked to Nyakatonzi and Joseph</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15th April</td>
<td>Regional</td>
<td>EAGC Annual Review meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19th April</td>
<td>Iringa, Tanzania</td>
<td>SAGCOT Soya Partners Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18th to 22nd April</td>
<td>Mombasa, Kenya</td>
<td>Regional EAC Meeting on Sampling and Grading</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21st–22nd April</td>
<td>Nairobi, Kenya</td>
<td>Annual General Meeting (AGM)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22nd April</td>
<td>Nairobi, Kenya</td>
<td>Regional B2B meeting (Uganda and Kenya)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25th April to 5th May</td>
<td>Uganda</td>
<td>Business Development Service Consultancy to Warehouses</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT THE EAGC SECRETARIAT

EAGC SECRETARIAT
Janet Ngombalu
Regional Manager, MIS & Communication
Email: jngombalu@eagc.org or grains@eagc.org
Tel: +254203745840/+254733444035

EAGC KENYA COUNTRY OFFICE
Davine Minayo
Country Program Manager
Email: dminayo@eagc.org
Tel: +254 720 318 373

EAGC UGANDA COUNTRY OFFICE
Lillian Bazaale
Country Program Manager
Email: lbazaale@eagc.org
Tel: +256 0393 112854 / +256 414 501 903

EAGC TANZANIA COUNTRY OFFICE
Terry Ikunda
Country Program Manager
Email: iterry@eagc.org
Tel: +255 754 354 852/ +255 784 366 669

EAGC RWANDA COUNTRY OFFICE
Epiphanie Karekezi
Ag. Country Program Manager
Email: ekarekezi@eagc.org
Tel: +250 788 750 766

EAGC BURUNDI COUNTRY OFFICE
Yves Batungwanayo
Country Representative
Email: byves@eagc.org
Tel: +257 71 48 09 83 or + 257 75 48 09 83

EAGC SOUTH SUDAN COUNTRY OFFICE
Taban Emmanuel Joseph A.
Country Representative
Email: tabina@eagc.org
Tel: +211 955 048 125 or +211 925 179 680

OUR PARTNERS

FoodTrade
East and Southern Africa
Facilitating regional trade in staple foods

Sida
AGRA
Growing Africa’s Agriculture

CTA
Transforming Agriculture for Improved Livelihoods

AIMS