Introductory Note,

Dear esteemed members and partners,

This is yet another Members Update for the month of August 2016. This month indeed has been a beehive of activities at EAGC. In this issue, you will find articles highlighting activities of the secretariat and members on several interventions.

We hope this Members Update will serve as one of the ways to help you keep connected with EAGC and to find the many opportunities in which we can continue ensuring better services for your business.

EAGC has continued to partner with several grain stakeholders in the region and Africa at large. These partnerships are anticipated to benefit EAGC members grow their trade networks.

This month, as norm, EAGC hosted a successful annual Agribusiness Expo, Kenya chapter at Kabarak University, Nakuru County. The expo brought in several key partners and sponsors support the event and exhibited their products and services to the farmers and general participants.

During this month, EAGC led a delegation of EAGC members who were selected in the pilot SITA project, to Indore, India for Business to Business meeting.

On policy matters, this month was very engaging for EAGC, a case in point when Tanzania government banned exports for staple foods, EAGC and farmers were adversely affected. This being a policy issue, EAGC convened meetings for grain stakeholders to address the ban.

Moreover, in this issue, you will read more of the activities and interventions of EAGC in training and capacity building, market information systems, business to business forums as well as GSoko activities.

In the coming month, we look forward to more activities with the members and partners.

We value your feedback.

Enjoy the reading!

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The Eastern Africa Grain Council in partnership with Kabarak University hosted a two day Annual Agribusiness Expo on 12th and 13th August 2016 at Kabarak University grounds. Key speakers called upon thousands of farmers who attended the expo, to embrace new farming technologies in the subsector which is a sure way to employment opportunities, improved production as well as solution to poverty eradication.

The Expo themed, “Promoting Agricultural trade in the region through Innovations featured, exhibitions, business networking sessions, farmers training, as well as Agribusiness symposium where several innovations were showcased.

The EAGC Agribusiness Expo is informed by the dire need to increase trade through demonstrating advanced technologies and innovations that can be adopted by farmers, traders, processors and financial institutions.

The expo was officiated by H.E the Deputy Governor of Uasin Gishu county Mr. Daniel Chemno who called upon farmers to expand embrace farming technologies in their farming practices to improve production.” He added that Agribusiness is now becoming the best opportunity of employment to the youth in the country. The deputy governor said that he was impressed by the design of this year’s expo and asked EAGC initiate a discussion with county governments to introduce intercounty agribusiness expos. He also called upon national government to ensure resources reach county governments to support agriculture. “Since Agriculture is now a devolved function of the county government, we ask the national government to ensure that resources follow the functions”

EAGC Board chairman, Dr. Bernard Otım speaking at the expo said “this agribusiness Expo comes to offer solutions to the perennial national issues like increasing production costs, food shortage and high transaction costs normally faced by the stakeholders.” He noted that the Expo will provide permanent solutions to such challenges.

The expo featured key areas on crop demonstration in partnership with seed companies to showcase new technologies that will improve crop production for maximum yield at low costs; Livestock and animal feeds arena; Farm machinery section to showcase new farming technologies; Exhibition arena where traders, financial institutions are interacting with farmers to showcase new products. This year, EAGC has introduced Agribusiness Symposium to address best practices in the agribusiness and emerging issues through academic presentations.

Speaking at the Expo, EAGC Executive Director, Mr Gerald Masila said that this year’s Agribusiness Expo came at an opportune time for the Kenya Agricultural Sector and certainly government policy makers who are seeking strategies to grow economy and position the country as the food basket of the region.

The 2016 Expo addressed key issues by bringing together key players in the Agribusiness value chain to create market linkages, share experiences through exhibitions and learn from the trainings and Agribusiness symposium.
A 27-member trader-processor team from five African countries met in India to network with over 50 Indian based traders for supply of pulses. The events were co-organized by International Trade Centre, a joint agency of the United Nations and the World Trade Organization, and India Pulses and Grain Association (IPGA) under Supporting Indian Trade and Investment for Africa (SITA), in three cities of India namely Indore, Chennai and New Delhi.

Coordinator of SITA, Govind Venuprashad said that the B2B meetings which began on Friday, 19th August 2016 brought at least 27 traders under the umbrella of Eastern Africa Grain Council, from Kenya, Tanzania, Ethiopia and Uganda to interact with the city traders over possible supply of pulses from the African countries.

Dr Bharat Kulkarni, chairman Indo-Global SME Chamber, said that through these meetings both the sides can understand the need of each other. During the two days meeting, discussions were held on setting up of Indo-African Pulses Council. The council in partnership with EAGC would work for increasing pulses trade between India and five African countries.

Eastern Africa Grain Council, Executive Director, Mr Gerald Masila who led the traders from Eastern Africa, acknowledged the SITA project as one of the major project that will see pulses farmers and traders tap into the Indian market. “Eastern Africa region is privileged to tap into the market for pulses in Indian, and this would be a great opportunity to establish a reliable market for our farmers and traders” he quipped.

During the meetings, EAGC signed MoU with Apostles Trade Comm Pvt. Ltd with the aim of developing a mechanism enabling the buyers and sellers of India and Africa to transact on the platform, ecosystem for enabling trading in commodity and goods, identifying types and parameters for commodity of mutual interest as well as sharing information, knowledge and conduct research jointly on commodity markets including updates on market development of commodity.

SITA project which is in its second year of implementation, is facilitating the participation of East African pulses processors to buyer-seller meetings in India and other global trade fairs for trade and investment opportunities. Pulses processors are assisted in upgrading and strengthening their international competitiveness through marketing and quality standards trainings and receive support to obtain quality certification. The project is moreover focus on improving the competitive intelligence amongst East African pulses actors.
On 29th August 2016, the Eastern Africa Grain Council (EAGC) in collaboration with the DFID-funded FoodTrade East and Southern Africa project hosted the Regional Meeting of Rice Value Chain Stakeholders at the Julius Nyerere International Convention Centre in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

The objective of the meeting was to deliberate on the state of the rice value chain in East Africa and explore the feasibility of establishing certification and testing system for rice of East Africa origin as a solution to unscrupulous trading practices by some traders in the region.

The meeting was attended by diverse group of public and private sector rice value chain from Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda and the Democratic Republic of Congo, representing rice farmers, traders, processors, Ministries of Agriculture and Trade, National Standards Bureaus and development partners.

The Regional Meeting was officially opened by the Director of Food Security, Mr Elimpaa Kiranga who represented Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries Tanzania, Dr Florence Turuka. The PS noted the importance of public-private collaborations in solving the challenges facing the rice value chain in Tanzania and the broader EAC region. He further emphasised the Government's commitment to increasing rice production and trade as part of efforts towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. The government has rolled our initiatives to support the rice value chain like Agricultural Sector Development Plan II and the Rice Development Strategy.

In his welcome remarks, Mr Julius Wambura, Country Director for EAGC in Tanzania and Chairman of the Rice Council of Tanzania noted that the rice value chain faces numerous problems that prevent it from maximising its potential. He pointed out that all countries in the EAC region are experiencing some problems in rice trade due to policy constraints, exemplified by the recent decision by the Government of Tanzania to suspend food exports, hence the Regional Meeting was important to facilitate dialogue with Governments in pursuit of viable solutions.

Mr Marc van Uytvanck, Team Leader at the FoodTrade ESA project, highlighted the prevalence of mixing of imported rice with local rice, which has significantly compromised market access for farmers and traders of genuine Tanzanian rice. EAGC noted that current global rice consumption is currently increasing faster than production. However, the trends are likely to be reversed in the next 5 years as rice consumption in Asia begins to grow more slowly. Africa and the Middle East are the biggest growth markets for rice in the world. These two regions account for half of the global trade in rice every year.

The meeting considered branding as a means of differentiating rice of East Africa origin from rice imported from outside the EAC, thus securing a premium price for genuine East African rice.

The meeting agreed that it was crucial to engage Governments through dialogue in pursuit of viable solutions like commitment to EAC integration process as a possible way of ensuring fair trade for EAC countries. Going forward, EAGC and its partners will spearhead initiative of implementing he recommendations.
On Friday, 26th, August EAGC Tanzania Country Program Committee members and staff, held a meeting to discuss the export restriction that has been imposed on grains in the country. The meeting was attended by EAGC members Young Masitus, New Boogalo, Kibaigwa Floor Supplies, Unyiha Associates, G2L, TAMAGRASAI also Export Trading Group (ETG).

The meeting was informed by the current ban on grain export by the government of Tanzania which has affected cross border trade. The meeting sought to find the way forward to have the government lift the ban.

Mr. David Tuhoye, Mr Msigwa representing the views of the traders, indicated that grain traders have incurred a lot of losses as a result of the ban. The team agreed to for a 10– member group to work on a position paper on the hard time that traders are facing. This paper was to be presented to the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries.

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On 25th, August, the EAGC STS team conducted GSoko training for RUDI regional warehouse managers and field offices at the EAGC Tanzania Country Program offices. The training was attended by RUDI warehouse collateral managers who were from 6 districts; Kilombero, Kilolo, Iringa, Mbarazi, Songea and Namtumbu. RUDI is one of the organisations that operates several warehouses in the country.

The activity was aimed at training the Warehouse collateral managers on how to use the GSoko system in their warehouses in readiness for deployment.

The participants were taken through live demonstration to understand how GSoko works. The team learnt how Bluetooth enabled digital weigh scale that records the weight of the grain bag, the amount automatically displays on the screen and a finally how a receipt is produced. The training was mostly on the reception of goods for storage and hence there will be another training for the sales aspect of the system.

The training elicited much interest from the participants to have the system installed immediately as it would ease the manual processes that they currently use. The participants also requested that EACG considers having moisture meters that are blue tooth enabled to avoid entering the moisture content manually in the system.

RUDI agreed to embark on collecting the master data for all the farmers in the VAC’s and each will have a unique code that will represent their district, their VAC number and their individual number in the group e.g. if it’s a farmer in a VAC in Kilombero it will be KIL-01-002.
The regional team led by Samwel Rutto, Regional Manager, STS and Emmanuella Atito, Trade Facilitation Officer and Uganda team, organized a successful GSoko sensitization workshop at Imperial Royale Hotel Kampala. The workshop attracted 40 participants which included grain handlers and bank officials and Government officials.

The sensitization workshop involved the GSoko model, results of the Business Development Services (BDS) carried out in April/May 2016, and a live demonstration of GSoko functionality.

During the workshop, the warehouse operators from the newly certified warehouses; Katine and M&N commodities were trained on how to use GSoko system.

At the end of the session, grain handlers agreed that GSoko was the reliever to grain marketing and saying that they are sure that brokers will not have chance to manipulate them again.

However, participants were curious to understand the Regulatory Framework under which the process operates. Amb. Philip Idro, EAGC Board of Directors member told participants that GSoko provides a model used in the American markets and that in Africa, EAGC was the first to provide such a solution.

Amb. Idro noted the GSoko is a commodity Bank where the exchange rate is the Grade of the commodity being traded. He confirmed that GSoko is a much cheaper route to trading as it minimizes transaction costs.

CAADP Meeting held on 2nd and 3rd Sept 2016 in Nairobi Kenya. EAGC was represented by Regional Programs Coordinator, Janet Ngombalu, Trade Policy Analyst, Kim Mhando and Rwanda Country Program Manager, Set Kwizera.

ASARECA Strategy Planning meeting held on 29th and 30th August, in Entebbe, Uganda. EAGC was represented by Regional Programs Coordinator, Janet Ngombalu.
Review of translated material for dissemination of standards for beans

The EAGC Uganda team organized a successful National Food Balance Sheet meeting at Imperial Royale Hotel Kampala on 31st August 2016. The meeting that attracted 20 participants from Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industries and Fisheries, Uganda Bureau of Standards, Ministry of Finance, World Food Program, and several Private sector players was meant to present Food Balance sheet data and the country’s Food security status for validation.

NFBS Participants after the meeting

During the meeting, experts presented on the EAC RFBS and Food Security, Public Sector data, and data Relief Agency. At the meeting, participants agreed that the Food Balance Sheet was an important tool in establishing the country’s food status at a given period of time and recommended that it should be published monthly for the government to make informed decisions on food security and regional trade.

Annuciata Hakuza, a senior economist from the ministry of Agriculture, urged the government to have food balance sheet so as to know the availability of food in handling food shortage in times of crisis. Whereas participants acknowledged the importance of food balance sheet, they also observed that there was need to revise the definition of ‘food security’ which was adopted in 1996.

The meeting also agreed that the Food Security Status report for August 2016 using RFBS to the Ministry of Agriculture for Consideration.

Regulatory Impact Assessment and Cost – Benefit Analysis meeting

The EAGC represented by Pausta Clessy, MIS program Officer attended a meeting on Regulatory Impact Assessment and Cost Benefit Analysis on 18th August 2016 at Golf Course Hotel Kampala.

The one-day event was organized by The USAID Feed the Future Uganda Enabling Environment for Agriculture Activity (EEA) to introduce tools to help identify and quantify the costs and benefits of policy and regulatory proposals in order to strengthen the analytical and evidence-based foundation of private sector’s policy advocacy work.

The meeting came at an opportune and critical time, given that the budget process for the next financial year will begin in September. It was noted that that numbers do matter as part of policy advocacy were confirmed recently from various public sector entities including Parliament, MOFPED, Cabinet, OWC, OP and OPM.

The workshop featured presenters from the public and private sectors who shed light on the policy making and RIA processes in Uganda and how the private sector can add value.

EAGC is a key private sector player in the country whose input is critical in its mandate to advocate for an enabling environment in the grain sector. Currently, EAGC Uganda is gearing to advance policy advocacy in the country.

EAGC encourages partnership with other organisations, as a sure way of realizing its mandate advocating for policies which impact positively in the grain sector.
The country office organized a successful SMS training in Machakos County. The training was aimed at addressing some of the challenges that grain stakeholders face as a result of unstructured trade. Some of the challenges identified were lack of reliable and quality inputs, inadequate storage facilities and post-harvest losses, and lack of supportive government policies to support trade.

The training, a two-day event, attracted 24 participants (6 females, 16 males) from Machakos and Makueni Farmer Based Groups. Participants were trained on structured grain trading systems.

Adopt agribusiness practices, farmers urged at EAGC annual Agribusiness Expo

According to Eastern Africa Grain Council (EAGC) Executive Director, Gerald Masila, the Agri-Business Expo introduced new technologies to farmers in order for them to increase production, reduce post-harvest losses, and value addition to their crops.

"Our Agribusiness expo was designed to empower the farmers through training on new innovations and technologies in farming as well as provide an opportunity for the organizations to showcase their products and innovations aimed at increasing production and reducing post-harvest losses to a variety of stakeholders for adoption," Mr. Masila said. He added that the expo has enable players in the value chain make business contacts, and explore new business opportunities for their businesses.

Deputy Governor Daniel Chemno who officiated the opening of the annual agribusiness expo, urged farmers to practice agribusiness which he says is a profitable way of farming today. Mr. Chemno further urged farmers to avoid land fragmentation so as to be able to mechanize their farming activities.

"Due to fragmentation of land it's now hard to mechanize agriculture which poses a big challenge to the country's food security. Farmers need not to fragment their land since we are moving towards mechanized farming," noted Mr Chemno during an Eastern Africa Grain Council (EAGC) Agri-Business expo in Kabarak University on Friday.

The deputy governor further urged farmers to diversify in their farming activities due to the ever-changing climate among other challenges facing cereal farming.

"Cereal farming is now becoming expensive due to high cost of farm inputs. We need to come up with ways to mitigate and adopt and the best way to do this is to shift and diversify farming by planting crops which can adapt to the changing weather patterns," advised Mr Chemno.
FAO in partnership with African Union Commission organized an inception workshop to validate the regional implementation plan for post harvest loss reduction and develop national work plans in addressing post-harvest losses. The EAGC was represented by the Kenya Country Manager, Davine Minayo in the workshop which was held in Accra, Ghana on 23rd August 2016.

The AU Commission presented the work plan and the activities that are targeted to be implemented to reduce post-harvest losses in the three targeted countries; Zambia, Kenya and Zimbabwe noting that the rate of agricultural growth in Africa had grown in the past few years to 4% but it was still below the 6% as required by the CAADP.

The rationale for the intervention of 18 months by the AU commission in partnership with FAO and the partner states is that 100MT of food is lost per year in sub Saharan Africa and this could be able to feed 48 million people in a year.

The delegates committed to support the implementation process reducing post harvest losses to increase production. Kenya Country plan was developed highlighting the key areas of intervention for the project and also highlighting the role of private sector as led by EAGC in combating food losses especially in the grain sector. From the workshop, EAGC held discussions with several organizations with an aim of seeking areas of cooperation. Among them, FARA, Jamace and also FAO Sub regional Office in Addis Ababa.

KENYA PROGRAM

EAGC participates in the inception workshop on post harvest food losses in Africa held in Ghana

The MIS team carried RATIN sensitization initiative in Machakos and Makueni counties. The exercise targeted farmer groups within the region.

The team met several groups which includes; Mbuvo, Kyang’a, Kyambeke, Katondoloni, Kiuuku and Kitise. The activity was aimed at creating awareness of RATIN services an ideal market information service to the farmers.

Moreover, the groups have been trained on post harvest management as well as grain standards. To complement these benefits, farmers need also market price information which would enable them make informed decisions on when to sell their produce to earn best returns as well as price negotiations with the buyers.

The activity realized over a thousand new RATIN SMS subscribers. The team also met with the Minister in charge of Agriculture, Makueni County, ASDSP Officers in Makueni county and Chief Officer in charge of the Ministry of Agriculture, Machakos county. These meetings were aimed at creating awareness of EAGC activities and to seek areas of cooperation especially in EAGC’s fur thematic areas.

MEMBERS UPDATE

Farmers in Eastern region trained on RATIN usability during RATIN sensitization initiative

Members of Kyang’a farmer group pose for a photo after training on RATIN

Kenya delegation meeting with the Assistant Director General & Regional Rep for FAO, Mr Bujkar Tijani (centre).
EAGC Assessment of soya bean farming and marketing in Western Kenya

The EAGC regional team led by Business Development and Operations Manager, Tom Owour, Monitoring and Evaluation Manager, Peninah Gichuru, Technical Advisor, Peter Wanjohi and North Rift Field Officer, James Kuria conducted assessment of soya bean farming activity in western region. The activity was carried from 22nd to 26th August 2016.

The team met different organizations that are promoting soya bean and sorghum farming with aim of creating EAGC awareness and establishing areas of focus within the region. Among them were; Community Action for Rural Development (CARD), KOSFIP, MOALF Kakamega and Bungoma counties, ASDSP Kakamega, Dominion Farms, Development shift, and SOFDI.

During a meeting with CARD, it was noted that the group has been promoting soya bean and sorghum farming through contract with East Africa Maltings ltd. CARD has been promoting sorghum farming in Migori, Siaya, Busia and Homabay counties. Last season the production was approximately 1000MT (sorghum), 200MT (soya bean) and 50MT (greengrams). Farmers have VACs where they aggregate their grains before delivering to warehouses.

The team met with farmer groups involved in soya bean farming. These included MUDIFESOF, Nderema Cereal Bank, Bungoma Small Scale Farmers Forum and Anapolis Wanda Enterprises.

Mumias District for soya bean farmers (MUDIFESOF) is an FBO that has been doing soya bean farming. The farmers have been trained on soya bean farming. Currently, the FBO has been contracted by IITA to supply soya bean seeds, inoculant and sympal fertilizer to soya bean farmers recruited by IITA. The FBO also does processing of soya milk which is sold locally.

During the exercise, the team met several potential EAGC members such as Edom Millers, Lake Basin Rice Millers, Dominion Farms, and Development Shift. The groups expressed interest to join EAGC and a follow up meetings were agreed upon.

It was noted that there are a lot of farmer groups that operate warehouses in Western and Nyanza regions of Kenya. EAGC identified some of the warehouses for inspection. These include Lake basin rice millers warehouses, Mulewa rice farmers store, Nderema Cereal Bank.

Moving forward, EAGC will leverage on the available traders and farmers in Western and Nyanza to bring them on board so that they can benefit from warehouse certification and structure trade towards trading through GSoko.
The Country Manager, Ikunda Terry held a meeting with the Director of Food Security at the ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries. The meeting was aimed at discussing issues around the on-going export restriction on grains in Tanzania.

The director informed the team that the survey was complete and that they now had the data they needed to make an informed decision. He further confirmed that the permits to export grains will start being issued in the near future. He stated that people should recognize that this was not an export ban and was a mere suspension to allow for the food security assessment exercise to be carried out and as well as to better the systems and regulations through which the permits are issued.

One of the new changes that are going to be applied is the issuing of export permits through an online platform. This means that it will no longer be a requisite for a trader to travel from up country to the ministry in Dar es salaam in order for him to get the permit.

**SMEs and Farmer Based Groups trained on Structured Trading Systems in Mbeya.**

Training targeting SMEs and FBOs EAGC Tanzania program officers conducted a two-day SMEs training in Mbeya. The training attracted SMEs and FBOs from Mbeya, Iringa, Ruvuma Songwe and Rukwa. Among the trainees, there were EAGC members, Kibaigwa Flour Supplies, Rapha Group Ltd, Unyiha, Mbomole Entreprises and Young Masitus Entreprises.

The training was aimed at addressing some of the challenges that grain stakeholders face as a result of unstructured trade. Some of the challenges identified were lack of reliable and quality inputs, inadequate storage facilities and post-harvest losses, reliable markets and lack of supportive government policies to support trade.

A total of 20 representatives from different SMEs and FBOs comprising of 3 women and 17 men participated in the training.
The Eastern Grain Council, Tanzania was part of the official launch of the Executive Certificate of Agricultural Financing (ECAF), a project spearheaded by Global Communities through Agribusiness Investment for Market Stimulation (AIMS) Program.

The certificate course sponsored by AIMS in partnership with EAGC and other Financial Institutions is aimed at increasing knowledge on credit accessibility for farmers. Farmers and SMES need banks and other financial institutions to access loans to invest further in value addition in agriculture value chains.

AIMS pointed out that the food demand is to rise by 7% by 2050 and thus more investment will be needed for the agricultural sector.

In order for banks and other financial institution to willingly offer credit service packages to farmers and SMEs, AIMS will carry out trainings that will equip financial institutions with the proper knowledge on aspects such as Interest rates, the risks associated with agricultural lending and how to mitigate them.

There are specific trainings tailor-made by Kenya School of Monetary studies (KSMS) for the financial institutions. After the launch, a six day learning event commenced in which banks were to receive trainings that will help them to increase their lending portfolio to farmers and SMEs.

EAGC is a key partner with Global Communities under AIMS project especially in providing financing to small and medium sized agribusinesses and providing training for businesses that work along the agricultural value chains.

EAGC selected to host SOPAG

During a cocktail meeting hosted by Farm Africa, EAGC was selected to be the lead in the implementation SOPAG taskforce. The Country Manager, Terry Ikunda represented EAGC at the cock-tail that held at Coral Hotel.

Participants came from the Farm Africa head office in England to evaluate the progress of their country offices. Among other invitees were Rice Council of Tanzania, RUDI, VECO East Africa, SAGCOT and AMDT.

EAGC has been working with most of the organizations that were present. RUDI and VECO are working with EAGC in implementing the FoodTrade-ESA projects, among them is GSoko which is anticipated to be the solution to market problems for small-holder farmers and also allow them to carryout cross border trade through formal systems.

The cock-tail was an opportune platform to give clear picture of the work that EAGC is doing in advocating for a structured and harmonized trade system for grains in the country and in the region. SAGCOT lauded EAGC for the policy advocacy initiatives especially on Soy bean value chain.

Moving forward, EAGC will continue engaging partners in the advocacy processes.
The EAGC Malawi team facilitated Structured Commodity Grain Trading Systems (STS) training from 22nd to 23rd August in Blantyre and 25th to 26th in Lilongwe districts, represented by Babetti Juwayeyi and Taziona Mchira.

A total number of 29 SMEs participated in the training ranging from cooperatives, processors, input suppliers, traders and banks. The training was part of the deliverables within the Agri-business Investment for Market Stimulation (AIMS) program, which is aiming among others, to improve the capacity of Grain SMEs for increased, efficient, reliable and profitable structured grain trading.

To ensure an in-depth understanding of structured grain trading, Taziona Mchira presented on specific challenges and opportunities for grain trading in Malawi, which was followed by a strategic presentation on “the role of EAGC” to address specific issues affecting the grain industry. Other modules offered during the training included Market Information Systems, G-Soko online platform and grain quality management and standards.

On 24th August 2016, the Eastern Africa Grain Council (EAGC) hosted a Stakeholders Consultative Meeting on the Rwanda Warehouse Receipt System Law 2016 at the Club House La Palisse Hotel in Kigali, Rwanda.

The consultative meeting brought together a diverse group of stakeholders of the Warehouse Receipt System (WRS) to discuss matters arising from the Warehouse Receipt System Law in its current state and implications thereof on the System and the broader agricultural sector.

Mr Samwel Rutto, the Regional Manager for Structured Trading Systems at EAGC presented opening remarks on behalf of the EAGC Executive Director. In his remarks, he noted that EAGC has been implementing the WRS in Kenya since 2008 and participated in the development of the WRS Bill in Kenya, which is currently in Parliament. He further noted that the proposed WRS Law in Rwanda should provide an efficient yet robust regulatory framework that protects the rights and obligations of all key actors in the warehouse receipts system.

EAGC emphasised on the need for continued support from the government through favourable agriculture and trade policies in order to ensure the success of the WRS in Rwanda. It was also agreed that the draft Warehouse Receipts System Law 2016 is a good initiative by the Government, but it has some deficiencies which need to be resolved in order to improve the Law. Therefore, the draft Law should be re-developed to take into account feedback proposed by stakeholders.
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