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Dear Members and Stakeholders,

Greetings from the EAGC Secretariat.

We are glad to share with you this monthly members update for the month of May 2017.

The month was marked by increased prices of maize across the region. This presented an opportunity for the council to advocate for better government policies to address food insecurity.

Within our mandate, the council engaged with different development partners, governments as well as stakeholders to formulate and validate key interventions in regard to an enabling environment for grain trade.

EAGC, in partnership with Indo Global SME Chamber will host Africa Agribusiness Summit themed, *Achieving Billion Dreams through Agribusiness; Promoting South-South Agribusiness Trade and Collaborations on 19th –24th June in Indore, India*. This will be an opportunity for EAGC members to tap into the international grain market.

In the months of July and August, the council will host annual Agribusiness Expos in Uganda, Tanzania, Kenya and Malawi. These expos seek to increase grain business network for its members in the region.

We look forward to working with you towards realization of the council’s mandate.

Enjoy the reading.
Regional Update

The council represented by the Executive Director, Gerald Masila participated in the Steering committee on removing barriers to trade within COMESA region that was held at Taj Pamodzi, in Zambia, Lusaka on 17th May 2017.

The project is implemented by COMESA in seven countries - Egypt, Kenya, Malawi, Sudan, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe to address specific commodities: Maize, Fish, Dairy, Oranges and Beef. It is funded by the Standards and Trade Development Facility with co-funding from COMESA and runs for three years from 2015.

The committee reviewed the progress of the project, addressed emerging issues and shared lessons learned. The committee also approved outputs, work plans and budgets for the 3rd year.

During this meeting, EAGC identified an avenue for building synergy on trade promotion and is currently organizing a Trade Facilitation Forum for Enhanced Regional Cross-Border Trade between Zambia and Eastern & Southern Africa Countries scheduled to take place on 28th June 2017.

The trade forum is expected to strengthen ties in food trade between Zambia and other Southern Africa countries with Eastern Africa. The Forum is expected to convene sellers of maize and other food commodities from Zambia and other Southern Africa countries and buyers from Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Rwanda and Burundi, to name a few.

The Forum will also convene governments and representative of RECs from Eastern and Southern Africa to witness business in action and build their understanding of the importance of food trade in addressing food security, with the intention of influencing much-needed policy reforms to facilitate cross-border food trade.

This was an important meeting for EAGC as it plans to open its country office in Zambia.

EAGC Voice in the 2017 Africa Regional Forum on sustainable development Forum

EAGC was represented by the Regional Programs Coordinator Janet Ngombalu at the 2017 Africa Regional Forum on sustainable development in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 17th to 19th May 2017.

This was a meeting in preparation for the 2017 High-level political forum on sustainable development (HLPF). The Theme of the forum was: Ensuring inclusive and sustainable growth and prosperity for all. This theme was well aligned with that of the 2017 HLPF, Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world.

EAGC was representing EAGC Members and the wider Private Sector in the discussion on Ending Hunger and Achieving Food Security for Africa, which is under the SDG Component 2. This was in partnership with UNFAO, who are the lead on the SDG Component 2 and the Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA). It was interesting to note that this was the first time the private sector had been brought on board in the SDGs discourse. From the forum it was noted that no development will take place without the consulted partnership of both the public and private sector consultants.

EAGC is now recognized as a thought leader on trade and support to the private sector. As the leading voice of the grain sector, EAGC represents the interest of Members in such forum and decisions are made to continuously support EAGC members to improve their business while reducing transaction cost.

From Right: Abebe Haile FAO in Africa Head of Regional Programs, Hon. Chikwenya, Minister from Zimbabwe, Michael Clark, Head of Governance and Institutions FAO Rome and Janet Ngombalu Regional Programs Coordinator EAGC.
EAGC participated in the KEPSA stakeholders’ meeting with the Governor of the Central Bank of Kenya, Dr Patrick Njoroge on 10th May to deliberate the situation and advise on remedial measures in regards to the interest rate cap.

In September 2016, the Bank (Amendment) Act was signed into law. The Amendment Act introduced a cap on interest rates at 4% above the Central Bank Reference Rate and a minimum interest rate to be paid to deposits in commercial banks. The law was introduced in an attempt to encourage access to formal credit for the private sector. Although Interest rates on bank loans have indeed declined significantly, the implementation of the Act has not achieved intended objectives of raising access to credit to the private sector.

The CEO of Kenya Bankers Association (KBA), Mr. Habil Olaka noted that KBA undertook a study on the interest rate cap which established that the Interest rate cap is not meeting its intended objectives; loan applications have not increased, loan approvals and disbursements have declined, and savings have noted increased.

Nick Nesbitt, Chairman of KEPSA, noted that both sides of the interest rate cap debate need to understand each other’s side of the story. Although the banks are against the cap, they should also evolve with the changing landscape.

In his remarks, Mr Njoroge, CBK Governor noted that the declining growth in lending to the private sector started much earlier before the interest rate cap. Therefore, there’s need to distil the impact of the interest rate cap from other industry dynamics in play.

The meeting recommended a follow up on KEPSA survey by conducting more in-depth study on the impact of the interest cap on the economy through sector-specific studies. EAGC will undertake follow-up study, specific for grain sector which could be expanded to Uganda and Tanzania.
Regional Update

Addressing Regional Food Security and Nutrition Situation

The Eastern Africa Grain Council participated in the Great Horn of Africa (GHA) regional food security situation meeting. The meeting was organized by the Food Security and Nutrition Working Group (FSN-WG) which comprises of FAO, EAGC, FEWSNET, FSNAU and WFP among others. The meeting held at the IGAD, Climate Prediction and Application Centre (ICAPC) underscored the need to step up humanitarian assistance in the region as some countries are moving from bad to worse.

In Uganda about 1.6m people are moderately food insecure with Karamoja, Teso and Central Eastern parts of the country experiencing below average rainfall. There is an anticipated decline in food production by 20% due to Fall Army Worm infestation. In Burundi, about 2.6 million are in acute food insecurity phase with about 4 million people stressed due to micro-economic conditions that has led to above average food prices and also, tightened supplies from below average Season A crop.

It was noted that in Kenya, rains received in the months of March were below average while about 2.2–2.6 million people need humanitarian assistance. In South Sudan, conflict remains a key driver to the 3.5 million people facing acute food shortage while about 90,000 people are experiencing famine. Recent attacks on humanitarian staff has worsened the situation in South Sudan.

It was noted that The IGAD, Climate Applications and Predictions Centre (ICAPC) climate outlook for the region is not promising as forecast show rains will be below average. However, the probability of a La Nina episode in November is very low.

Farmers were advised to plant drought resistant crop varieties, stakeholders raised awareness on FAW. It was agreed that FAO representative will share a brief on the situation.

EAGC through Reginal Agricultural Trade Intelligence Network (RATIN) has been advising grain stakeholders on the food security situation in the region. Partnership with other market information service providers will be ideal in addressing food security and nutrition issues in Africa.

EAGC Voices Out the rising Food Insecurity in Kenya and the larger EAC community

The EAGC Executive Director shared insights on the current food crisis in the region through several media platforms. Among them Nation Television (NTV), Kenya Television Network (KTN), Ebru TV as well as K24.


Recently, Kenya and the East Africa generally has suffered food shortage as a result of short rains. Drastically this has led to increased food prices in the region.

Here are some of the links to YouTube Interviews and online articles.

- **The Unga Dilemma** — KTN Part 1
- **The Unga Dilemma** — KTN Part 2
- **Warehouse Receipt System Bill** — Ebru Africa TV
- **Kenya asked to adopt WRS Bill** — KBC
EAGC participated in the workshop on exchange of experiences on fortification under the Affordable Nutritious Foods for Women Project (ANF4W), which was held on 31st May 2017 at Silver Springs Hotel, Nairobi. Representatives from various organizations and Government Ministries such as GIZ, Bio Consult Ministry of Health, Kenya Bureau of Standards, Meru County Government, EAGC, KEPSA, KAM and Members of the Meru Millers association attended this workshop.

The main objective of the ANF4W project is to improve access to fortified staple foods for women of reproductive age. Worldwide, two billion people suffer from micronutrient deficiencies. Women of reproductive age and children less than two years of age suffer disproportionately from iron, folic acid, vitamin and zinc deficiencies. This has serious consequences since micronutrient deficiencies weaken the immune system making affected persons more vulnerable to infectious diseases.

In Kenya, 43% of the population lives on less than $1 per day leaving little income for purchasing healthy foods. As a result, Kenyans suffer from the double burden of undernutrition and obesity with 21% of the population having inadequate caloric intakes and 26% of women of reproductive age being overweight or obese. Chronic Malnutrition and poor nutrition education and preventive health practises increase maternal, infant and child morbidity and mortality.

The ANF4W project in Kenya was a four-year development partnership (2013-2017) with the private sector which sought to improve the micronutrient intakes of women of reproductive age particularly during the critical window of pregnancy through the first two years of postpartum.

The project extended fortification to small and medium size oil and flour mills in Meru County to ensure a sustainable supply of fortified staple foods in rural areas. Technical support and training was provided to four 10 mills of which 4 millers and one oil producer in Meru County have already started fortifying their flour within the project time frame.

With the ANF4W project coming to an end in May 2017, private sector partners expressed their interest and commitment to continue working with the millers to continue improving access to fortified staple foods. The Technoserve organization expressed interest in working with the stakeholders in food fortification to provide both financial and technical assistance.

EAGC on the other hand committed to work with the Meru Millers Association to offer capacity building support and SME millers at large to improve coverage and quality of fortified foods in Kenya.
Pulses Network Inception Workshop

On 9th May 2017, EAGC Tanzania Office facilitated Pulses Network inception workshop successfully. Twenty-five (25) participants from different sub-sector participated. Among the participants, NMB and TABD as financial institutions, the Ministry of Agriculture, Industry and Trade was represented by policy and marketing team, policy working group represented by PAPAC and ASPIRES, government authorities including TANTRADE, TWRRB, AMSHA, TGFA, ANSAF, The Guardian Ltd and Litenga.

Pulses exporting companies which participated include Quality Pulses exporters, RV exporters, Afrisian and iGRAINS. A consultant from AID Environment Mr. Jan Willem Molenaar who is the lead researcher presented the concept of Sector governance as well as the objective of the research and had a chance to receive inputs and comments from the participants.

During the workshop EAGC, ITC, and VECO had an opportunity to interact with EAGC members and other stakeholders. EAGC Tanzania and VECO staff will join the consultant to conduct field interviews.

EAGC Tanzania is spearheading the implementation process for the Pulses value chain roadmap in Tanzania.

Traders and Sellers after the B2B in Mtwara

EAGC Tanzania office facilitated a successful national B2B in Masasi, in the Mtwara region.

Trade contracts amounting to over 23,000MT in volumes and estimated at a value of USD 13 Million were signed.

The meeting brought together 3 traders from Dar es Salaam and Mtwara, namely Usangu Valley Co, Mbasira Soil and Oil industry and Masasi High Quality Producers. The sellers representing farmer groups namely Mtavichoma, Tujikomboe, Umoja, Mchangani, Nguvu Kazi, Kambi Popote, Kujiamini, Komboa, Tumaini, Mkwiti Chini, Juhudi, Amani and Mshikamano participated in the trade.

The farmer groups applauded EAGC trade facilitation forums as a good opportunity for them to be able to engage with the traders without having to deal with middlemen and agents.

These farmer groups were mobilized by the Agha Khan Foundation and Rekodia with whom EAGC works closely to implement the Supporting Indian Trade for Africa (SITA) Pulses Roadmap. The B2B mostly consisted of commodities such as maize, pigeon chic, green gram, paddy, sunflower and sesame.
VECO East Africa Partners agree on Working Guidelines

VECO DGD Program partners meeting on 25th May 2017 at the EAGC Uganda Training Centre. The meeting was attended by VECO Country Manager, officials from Uganda Cooperative Alliance (UCA), and Uganda Fruits and Vegetables Exporters and Producers Association (UFVEPA).

Mr. Gedion Obuga, the Finance and Systems manager VECO East Africa presented to the partners the accountability procedure and the accountability guidelines with the partners’ finance teams.

The meeting agreed that each partner should submit an implementation plan for their sub sectors, for funds to be released to their respective accounts.

The meeting harmonized partners accountability guidelines and fund requisitions which would help in impacting positively to the beneficiaries.

Recently, EAGC partnered with VECO East Africa to support warehouse certification and Standardization in the country.

Experts meet to address Agricultural Sector Challenges

The EAGC Uganda Office participated in the Regional Food Balance Sheet (RFBS) meeting on 19th May 2017 at the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industries and Fisheries (MAAIF) Headquarters in Entebbe.

The Ministry appreciated the critical role played by the RFBS especially in predicting the Country’s food security situation.

The ministry noted that they would continue coordinating the Public sector data and called upon EAGC; having existence in all EAC Countries to carry on the FBS activities. They thanked EAGC for the efforts to keep the FBS alive and for developing the National Food Balance sheet template that was approved by the stakeholders meeting in August 2016.

The ministry noted that the same template was used during the Food Security Cabinet Briefing by the Minister of Agriculture, Animal Industries and Fisheries.

The meeting agreed to have the Food Balance Sheet Committee meeting to compute all the data for presentation at a public workshop.

Increased Village Aggregation Centres in Uganda is on Course

EAGC Uganda office has been conducting preliminary inspection of storage facilities in Eastern Uganda in readiness for EAGC Certification.

Through VECO East Africa Food Trade Project partnership, EAGC has inspected Aggregation Centres which include, Manafwa Basin Rice Farmers Cooperative society Ltd (500MT), Namubuka Area Cooperative Enterprise Ltd (300MT), Iki-Iki Development Association (200MT), Nabukka Area Cooperative Enterprise Ltd (250MT), and Bugaya Area cooperative Enterprise Ltd (300MT).

EAGC is determined to ensure increased certified warehouses and aggregation centres in the country to promote quality post harvest handling and G-Soko uptake in the country.
EAGC hosted the 2nd Kenya Pulses Platform (KePuP) meeting at EAGC boardroom on 11th May 2017. The platform comprises of EAGC, ITC, Ministry of Trade, County Governments, Research Institutes, Financial Institutions, among other partners. KePuP platform is ideally meant to act as steering committee to spearhead activities for implementation through the SITA project.

The activities within the SITA initiative aim to:

- Increase the value of business transactions between India & Kenya, currently valued at USD 2 million.
- Structure the value chain and reduce levels of mistrust within the trading sector.
- Maximize on the increased demand for gluten foods.
- Develop strategies for increasing acreage under pulses.
- Plan for quarterly meetings for the KEPUP committee members.
- Improve capacity building levels of farmers through certified seeds to get at least a 40% increase on volumes for meeting off takers’ demand.

The meeting agreed to fast track progress made so far. The agenda for the next two months was also drawn.

**New RFBS System and Mobile App Developed**

The Eastern Africa Grain Council (EAGC) has developed a new Regional Food Balance Sheet (RFBS) system to help address efficiency in submitting data. The team embarked on testing trials for the system with a training and installation of the new RFBS system and data collection Mobile App within North Rift region of Kenya – Eldoret, Kitale and their environs.

Fifteen (15) Food Balance Sheet data contributors were profiled while confirmed 14 trained. May 2017 stocks data was uploaded in the system and 14 Non Disclosure Agreements signed. The activity aimed at practical implementation of the new system, gathering inputs and recommendations leading to action on the findings and thereafter rolling out the final product.

The initiative was timely as the Country is facing uncertainty in information regarding current stock of grains, import projections by the government, source and type of commodities to be imported and finally the market price both at source and local market. The implementation will be rolled out in all countries within few months.

This system is purposed to advise on trade policy, monitor Food status - early warning system to the region in partnership with the Ministries of Agriculture regionally, Food Relief agencies and the East Africa Community (EAC). Its current focus is on Maize, Wheat, Beans, Rice, Barley, Millet, and Sorghum.
The EAGC in partnership with Global Communities conducted a country level B2B in Malawi’s capital, Lilongwe district.

The local B2B is one of the deliverables within the Agribusiness Investment for Market Stimulation (AIMS) program which EAGC is implementing with Global Communities in Malawi. A total of 4,868MT of grains was traded in non-binding contracts worth USD 2,737,945.2.

EAGC trade facilitation has resulted to increased income to the farmers and reduced transaction costs for the grain traders.

The EAGC country team attended a National Awareness and Dialogue on SADC Regional Agriculture Policy (RAP) and National Agriculture Policy (NAP) workshop at Sunbird Lilongwe Hotel on Wednesday 10th May 2017.

The meeting was meant to highlight relevance of regional policies to national policies with a key emphasis on SADC Regional Agriculture Policy and National Agriculture Policy.

This was EAGC’s opportune event for both exposure and contribution to key issues affecting both regional and national agricultural policies.

In line with her mandate, EAGC continues to position herself as the voice of grain industry in the country to realize an enabling environment for the grain trade.

EAGC Facilitates an Efficient, Structured, Inclusive and Profitable Grain Trade in the Region

The Eastern Africa Grain Council believes that capacity building is an ideal service to ensure proper post harvest handling as well as increased crop production.

EAGC Malawi office team facilitated the training session for the farmers and traders on post-harvest management storage as well as good agriculture practices in Lilongwe.

During the session, PICS Media Consultant, an arm of Purdue University demonstrated the importance of using good storage facilities like the Purdue Improved Crop Storage (PICS) bags. Further, the Agricultural Input Supply Limited (AISL) built the capacity of the producers on how to use inoculant for pulses to improve their soil fertility.

PICs Bags for proper grain storage practice

Regional Agricultural Trade Intelligence Network (RATIN) training session

Farmers’ Capacity Building on Post—Harvest Management and Good Agricultural Production

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EAGC Burundi Exploring Partnership with One Acre fund

The EAGC Burundi country director and country representative visited a one of the farmer groups under One Acre Fund support. The OAF supports over 200 groups in Burundi credit in kind for fertilizers, selected seeds, solar bulbs, hermetic bag, etc after which they agree to pay within agreed period.

One Acre Fund Burundi is interested in joining EAGC membership to explore EAGC’s experience on MIS, trading system, stock certification and market research for its clients.

NEW MEMBERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Service Provider</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Canadian Foodgrains Bank</td>
<td>Associate</td>
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<td>Kenya</td>
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<td>Central Archdiocesan Province Caritas Association (CAPCA)</td>
<td>Active</td>
<td>Service Provider</td>
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<td>M&amp;N Commodities</td>
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<td>Ikuwo General Enterprises Ltd</td>
<td>Active</td>
<td>Traders and Processor</td>
<td>Tanzania</td>
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<td>Limy Millers</td>
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<td>CECPA-SMU</td>
<td>Affiliate</td>
<td>National level Association</td>
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SAVE THE DATE

7th African Grain Trade Summit
(Dar es Salaam, Tanzania)
5th - 7th October 2017

THEME:
SETTING NEW HORIZONS: RETHINKING GRAIN TRADE FOR FOOD SECURITY AND PROSPERITY IN AFRICA
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<tr>
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<th>Event Description</th>
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<td>Budget Synopsis</td>
<td>All Countries</td>
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<td>14th June 2017</td>
<td>B2B meeting—Tanzania– Malawi</td>
<td>Lilongwe, Malawi</td>
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<td>14th June 2017</td>
<td>Pulses Trade Fair Media Launch</td>
<td>Meru, Kenya</td>
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<td>23rd and 24th June 2017</td>
<td>Uganda Agribusiness Expo</td>
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<td>19th—24th June, 2017</td>
<td>Regional India – Africa Business Linkage</td>
<td>Indore, India</td>
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<td>1st -7th July</td>
<td>(Dar es salaam (Sabasaba) International Trade Fairs</td>
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<td>5th-7th July</td>
<td>Regional progress review and planning meeting (All program teams)</td>
<td>Nairobi</td>
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<td>13th, July 2017</td>
<td>Pulses Trade Fair</td>
<td>Meru, Kenya</td>
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<td>Rwanda Agribusiness Expo</td>
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<td>Malawi Agribusiness Expo</td>
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<td>Agriculture Exhibitions (Nanenane)</td>
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<td>5th – 7th October 2017</td>
<td>7th African Grain Trade Summit</td>
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<td>7TH – October</td>
<td>Launch of EAGC Strategic Plan (2018-2022)</td>
<td>Dar es Salaam</td>
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<td>1-3rd November</td>
<td>Regional Annual Planning Workshop</td>
<td>Nairobi, Kenya</td>
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<td>10th – 11th November 2017</td>
<td>Grain Trade Policy Forum (ATPAF-ESA) –2017</td>
<td>Kigali, Rwanda</td>
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<td>13th and 14th December</td>
<td>Board Meeting</td>
<td>Nairobi</td>
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