Dear Members and Stakeholders,

Greetings from the EAGC Secretariat !!!!!

We are glad to share with you the members update for the month of June 2017.

With the increased food insecurity situation in the Region, the Council undertook Trade Facilitation missions in India and Zambia which saw members benefit from Cross Border Trade. We also doubled up our policy advocacy work through several International and National forums to advance our Regional Agenda.

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

Enjoy the reading.

Key Upcoming Events

Kenya Pulses Trade Fair, Meru : 13th July 2017
Malawi Agribusiness Expo, Lilongwe : 10th to 11th August 2017
7th African Grain Trade Summit, Dar es Salaam : 5th to 7th October 2017

For More Details Contact EAGC Secretariat; Tel. +254 733 444 035, Email: grains@eagc.org
Indo-Africa Agri Business Summit held on 19th-24th June 2017 in Indore, India

Regional Grain Trade Facilitation Forum held on 28th June 2017 in Lusaka, Zambia
India and Eastern Africa sign Trade and Investment deals for Collaboration towards achieving Global Food Security

The Eastern Africa Grain Council in collaboration with the Indo Global SME Chamber (IGSC) held the International Agribusiness Summit 2017 on 19th – 24th June which saw the participation of several African Countries and Indian firms.

Alongside the summit, EAGC hosted Business to Business Meetings which resulted to signing of 99 non-binding contracts amounting to 39,272 Metric Tonnes valued at USD 1,158,998,400.00. 50 Contracts were for food commodities while 49 of the contracts were for the sale of machinery.

During the summit, both the economies committed to work together and achieve the common goals of food security, improved health and nutritional conditions, capacity building and skill development, technology transfer, and other parameters that have an impact on the economic condition of the Indian and African people.

The Summit, provided a learning and networking opportunity to EAGC delegates in Agribusiness from different sectors during a 3 day intensive Agribusiness training, a one day field visits, Agribusiness awards and a two day conference themed “Achieving Billion Dreams through Agribusiness”.

The event was supported by the International Trade Centre, (ITC) a United Nations Agency that has been actively on the forefront in supporting India’s Trade with Africa (SITA)

The European Development Days 2017 took place on 8th June 2017 under the theme “Investing in Development.” EAGC participated in the session on successful approaches, innovations for boosting cross border trade through simplified trade regimes to support local businesses, to address the informal economy in Africa.

Janet Ngombalu, Regional Programs Coordinator of the Eastern African Grain Council (EAGC) noted that the private sector and producers can take advantage of standards in order to be more competitive and also promote value addition and regional trade, as has been the case with grain producers in Eastern Africa.

EAGC is focusing its efforts on promoting trade in staple grains, which are collectively the biggest commodities traded in the region. Not only is the grain trade key to fostering rural development, but cross-border flows will also increase regional food security by encouraging imports from areas of surplus to countries experiencing harvest shortfalls.

Standards play an important role in regional trade and exports to the EU and therefore EAGC has established a working MoU with Bureaus of Standards in Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania and EAC to harmonize standards, to create regional centres of excellence for standards and to develop more collaborations with partners, particularly the private sector and other international standard setting bodies.

EAGC is a thought leader in the regional grain trade hence this forum provides members with an opportunity to tap into international trade developments.

Regional Updates EAGC promotes Inclusive Trade in Africa for Members

Panel on Inclusive Trade at the EDD17

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EAGC represents members interests in Regional Integration during the 18th EABC AGM

EAGC was represented by Kim Mhando, Trade Policy Analyst at the 18th Annual General Meeting of the East African Business Council, which was held in Kampala, Uganda on 16th June 2017. The AGM elected a new Chairperson and Executive Committee of EABC, as well as provided an opportunity to articulate some of EAGC's positions with respect to regional integration.

On the same day, EAGC was part of the EABC delegation that paid a courtesy call to Rt. Hon. Dr. Ruhakana Rugunda, Prime Minister of Uganda. With Uganda serving as the new Chair of the East African Community, the courtesy call provided an opportunity for stakeholders to point out various issues with respect to EAC integration.

The Prime Minister noted the need for increased coordination by EAC Partner States to address food security issues, rather than each country taking unilateral measures which may be ineffective, counterproductive and potentially harming other Partner States' food security.

The Eastern Africa Grain Council (EAGC) in collaboration with Zambia Commodity Exchange (ZAMACE), with support of USAID’s East Africa Trade and Investment Hub and USAID’s Southern Africa Trade and Investment Hub held a Regional Trade Facilitation Forum in Lusaka, Zambia 28th June. The forum brought together over 195 sellers and buyers of maize and other grain commodities from the Eastern and Southern Africa nations who signed trade deals in terms of contracts amounting to 382,640MT valued at USD 100 Million for export of grain commodities.

The Trade Forum aimed at strengthening food trade linkages between southern Africa countries, namely Zambia, Malawi, South Africa, and Zimbabwe, and eastern Africa counties, namely Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda and Burundi.

During the forum, the Minister of Finance, Republic of Zambia, Hon. Felix Mutati lifted export bans, and announced the removal of 10% export tax on all grain commodities. He assured traders simplification of export documents and committed to work with all Governments in the region to support regional trade and to reduce on the rules on the certificate of origin.

In his remarks, EAGC Executive Director, Mr Gerald Masila said that the Council shall continue to engage the Government to create mutually agreed mechanisms to facilitate trade between Zambia and Eastern and Southern Africa countries for the successful execution of trade agreements and optimal benefits of contracting parties.

EAGC Regional Grain Trade Facilitation Forum unblocks Regional Trade Barriers

Traders sign trade deals during B2B meeting in Lusaka
Country Briefs

UGANDA

Farmers urged to adopt new technologies to increase food production

The EAGC Annual Agribusiness Expo attracted over 15,000 farmers, the largest attendance since its inaugural expo in 2012. This year’s expo was organized in partnership with Masindi District Local Government and Masindi District Farmers Association and was held on 23 to 24th June 2017 at Masindi Agricultural Demonstration Centre-Kihonda, Masindi District.

Themed “Towards a food Secure region through sustainable trade, research and innovations” farmers drawn from the farming communities of Masindi, Kiryandongo, Hoima, Buliisa, Kibaale, Oyam, Apac, Gulu, Nwoya, Lira, Nakasongola learnt emerging agricultural innovations to boost their production. Several technologies in post-harvest handling, irrigation technology, improved seed varieties, and information access through ICT were showcased in Machinery, Seed Companies, Agro-chemical companies, Research Organizations, Farmer Based organizations.

TANZANIA

EAGC Annual Agribusiness Expo Promotes Innovations to Boost Food Security

EAGC Tanzania Office facilitated the 5th Tanzania Agribusiness Expo on 29th and 30th June attracting over 5,000 farmers in Arusha. The expo was organized in collaboration with the Selian Agricultural Research Institute (SARI). 14 Seed companies and 25 companies exhibited new innovations and technologies in the Agribusiness sector. Among them, Agro Machinery & Equipment and fertilizer manufacturers.

The two day event themed “Agribusiness Innovation for food security and Industrialization” took place in the same week when the Government of Tanzania has tightened the ban on grain exports in a bid to stem rising local prices and rein in inflation, to boost the country's nascent food processing industry. This is a move to encourage the construction of (food processing) industries in the country.

The Regional Finance Manager, Ms Drollah Ssebagala noted that each year the Council hosts the Agribusiness Expo with an aim of advocating for an enabling environment and promoting structured grain trade for optimum stakeholder benefits to increase industry knowledge and inspire action to scale up agribusiness sector to a new level.

Mr. Richard Kwitega the Regional Agricultural Secretary (RAS), Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources, Livestock and Fishing lauded EAGC for the Expo initiative which has proven advantages of giving the Agribusiness stakeholders a stronger voice in agribusiness, we have brought both Public and private sector into the conversation. The Expo created a learning and networking opportunities on new agribusiness technologies to farmers and participants.
Kenyan food is set to be safer than ever after the European Union made available state-of-the art equipment that will enable national food control authorities to test the quality and safety of a wide range of food products.

The food testing laboratory equipment was launched by The Cabinet Secretary for Industry, Trade and Co-operatives, Adan Mohamed and the EU Ambassador, Stefano Dejak at the Kenya Bureau of Standards headquarters.

CS Mohamed said the equipment now available in laboratories at the Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service (KEPHIS), the Directorate of Veterinary Services (DVS) and the Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS), gives the institutions the necessary tools to enforce and certify compliance with consumer food safety requirements. CS Mohamed said the SMAP project contributed to removal of the 10 percent increased physical checks on Kenya's French beans at designated ports of entry in the EU. The French Beans are now getting access to the EU market as a result of the efforts between the Kenya Horticultural Council, KEPHIS and the EU institutions.

EAGC in partnership with KEBS is implementing MoU signed in 2015 to improve and promote the quality of East Africa’s grains aimed at ensuring the quality of grain and grain products to enhance competitiveness of exports in regional and international markets.

EAGC plans to advance Pulses Production and Markets

On 14th June, EAGC in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, Meru County announced 2nd Pulses Trade Fair that will be hosted on 13th July 2017 at the Kaguru Agricultural Training Centre. The trade fair themed “Advancing Pulses Production and Markets”, will focus on addressing the role of grain stakeholders in pulses production and trade towards a food secure country.

The Meru Pulses Trade Fair is expected to bring together all stakeholders in the Pulses Industry including seed and fertilizer companies, Agric-equipment manufacturing companies, traders/exporters, processors, government, donor community and other strategic partners in the agricultural sector.

The Fair will feature; Exhibitions, Crop Demonstration arena, Livestock Demonstration, Farmers Training Business to Business as well as Networking dinner.

Approximately 1500 farmers from Meru and neighbouring counties have been mobilized to attend the Fair.
Rwanda office team participated in the 12th Agri Show organized by the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources (MINAGRI) from 22-27 June with a focus on various technologies as part of efforts to popularize mechanisms to fight effects of climate change among farmers.

About 150 people and entities from the farming sector participated in the show, compared to 115 in last year’s event. Technologies presented include irrigation machinery, improved drought resistant seed varieties, post-harvest handling techniques, and grass cutting and compressing machines. Financial institutions, seed companies as well as insurance companies also showcased their products.

EAGC members and over 700 farmers were provided with EAC standards guides for beans, maize, and soy beans.
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