Dear Members and Stakeholders,

Welcome to July Members’ Update!

In this issue, we highlight various successful activities which took place within the month. These included: the 56th Board meeting where the 5th chairman of the Council was elected, Bilateral talks were held between Kenya and Zambia leading to the importation of maize and sugar from Zambia to Kenya. EAGC partnered with several organizations to deliver her mandate for members including partnership with EAC to review sampling and testing methods for cereals and pulses for improved quality. The Eastern Africa Grain Institute services are also expected to become demand driven after the Institute held a strategy workshop to review the current service offering vis a vis grain sector needs.

This year EAGC is hosting the 7th Africa Grain Trade Summit (AGTs) in Tanzania. We urge you to save the date; 5th – 7th October 2017 and look forward to working with you towards the realization of the Council’s mandate.

Enjoy the reading.

Mr Eugene Rwibasira, Country Director Rwanda takes over the EAGC leadership mantle from Dr Bernard Otim (Former EAGC Chair and Country Director Uganda)

EAGC held the 56th board meeting on 25th July 2017 during which the board members appointed Mr Eugene Rwibasira as the new Chairman of the Council. Mr Fredrick Kawalewale, EAGC Country Director Malawi was also appointed as the Vice Chairperson and will serve the EAGC Board along side Mr Isaac Chege, Country Director Kenya, who will serve the Council as the Treasurer. The Executive Director of EAGC, Mr Gerald Makau Masila serves as the Board Secretary. The EAGC board members were elected by EAGC members during the 11th AGM held on 20th April 2017. The 5th enthusiastic board under the leadership of Mr Eugene Rwibasira will for the next two calendar years be responsible for the corporate governance of the Council as well as performance review of the Secretariat based on the implementation of the annual operations plan.
At a time when EAGC is commemorating its 10th anniversary, the 7th African Grain Trade Summit will reshape grain trade policy in Africa, especially in the context of Africa’s overarching development vision and global food trade dynamics. H.E. John Pombe Magufuli, the President of the United Republic of Tanzania has been invited to grace the Summit which will facilitate a reflection of the journey over the past 10-15 years in the African grain sector to create a new vision and strategic thrust for the transformation of the sector.

**Summit features:**

- A 2-day conference
- Field visits to key economic sites in Dar-es-Salaam
- Business to Business Meetings
- Exhibition
- High level Gala dinner

**Target Audience:**

- Senior Government officials and policy makers
- Grain trade Stakeholders: Farmers, Traders, Processors
- Grain trade Service Providers in Logistics, Finance, Testing etc.
- Development partners, Researchers and academia
- International Media houses

**Your investment:**

A. Delegate and speakers fees

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Complimentary: Conference participation, high level dinner and field visits only. Fees covers high level gala dinner and field visits only.

B. Exhibitors fees

To exhibit at the 7th African Grain Trade Summit, pay $1,000.

Complimentary: Exhibition tent, participation in the Summit for 3 persons, the high level gala dinner and field visits only.

C. Sponsorship Opportunities

To sponsor the Summit, please contact the Summit organizers to develop tailor-made packages to suit your specific needs.

**To book your participation contact:**

Regional Office and Kenya Country Office:
Attn: Jacinta Mwaau email: jmwaau@eagc.org or Kimwala Mlando email: kimlande@eagc.org, apm2017@eagc.org

EAGC Tanzania Country Office:
Attn: Bundu Terry Email: btyerry@eagc.org

EAGC Uganda Country Office:
Attn: Kiza Kizito Email: kizakizi@eagc.org

EAGC Malawi Country Office:
Attn: Babette Juwajezyi Email: bjjuwajezyi@eagc.org

EAGC Rwanda Country Office:
Attn: Epiphanie Karekezi Email: ekarekezi@eagc.org

EAGC Burundi Country Office:
Attn: Yves Basungwiyarayo Email: byysin@eagc.org

EAGC South Sudan Country Office:
Attn: Taban Abina Email: tabana@eagc.org

**Partners**
Kenya & Zambia Governments holds bilateral talks on maize imports

On the 3rd and 4th July 2017, Kenyan and Zambian delegations met in Nairobi for bilateral talks on trade facilitation between the two countries. The meeting was attended by Kenya’s Cabinet Secretaries for Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries Hon. Willy Bett, EGH and Hon. Henry Rotich, EGH and Zambia’s Ministers of Agriculture Hon. Dora Siliya, MP and Finance Hon Felix C. Mutati, MP.

The bilateral meeting arose from the EAGC Regional Grain Trade facilitation forum in Lusaka, Zambia held on 28th June 2017 which highlighted policy and logistical challenges affecting grain movement from Zambia to Kenya. The Government of the Republic of Zambia confirmed removal of 10% surtax on maize exports and maize export bans. The Kenyan Government confirmed destination inspection on maize imports from Zambia on condition that the exporters ensure that the maize meets the relevant Kenya Standard including moisture content (max 13.5%) and aflatoxin levels (max 10ppb).

Kenyan traders will be the key beneficiaries of the trade talks as the Government of Kenya confirmed duty waivers on importation of maize, sugar and milk until the situation normalizes. The two Governments agreed to address emerging issues affecting transshipment through other jurisdictions as well as enhancing cooperation on SPS issues. Maize and sugar importers have since started trading on these commodities.

New Regional Food Balance Sheet (RFBS) data contributors sign up for data sharing

The Eastern Africa Grain Council (EAGC) organized training, recruitment and installation of the new RFBS system and data collection Mobile App in Kenya, Uganda.

53 organizations have been recruited and trained as RFBS data contributors in the three countries.

The activity aimed at collection on Private sector stock data and gathering of inputs and recommendations to improve the system before rolling out the final product.

The initiative was timely as the region is currently facing uncertainty in vital trade information regarding current stock of grains/cereals/pulses, import projections by the and Tanzania.

All stakeholders engaged during this exercise applauded EAGC for the RFBS initiative. The 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). The current focus is on Maize, Wheat, Beans, Rice, Barley, Millet, and Sorghum.
EAGC cements collaboration with Tegemeo Institute

The Eastern Africa Grain Council (EAGC) signed a five-year renewable collaboration with Tegemeo Institute to boost agricultural research through data sharing and outreach. The MoU was signed on Monday, 3rd July, at EAGC offices, where the two organizations agreed to jointly undertake research, data sharing and outreach as well as other activities of mutual interest for the development of the agricultural and grain value chains in Kenya and the broader Eastern and Southern Africa region.

The Memorandum of Understanding cements the existing relationship between the two organizations for active engagement on Policy, Research and advocacy for the development of reforms to create a supportive environment for agricultural and grain sector value chains.

The collaboration is expected to create a framework for collaboration to improve research and analysis of agricultural trade, policy and advocacy.

EAGC membership and stakeholders will benefit from this collaboration as the partners will be hosting quarterly member briefings to engage grain trade experts, a platform which will provide a timely way of responding to grain policy issues affecting EAGC members. This partnership will also result to the development of annual food situation assessments which is a concrete methodology for assessing the Regional food security to improve the framework for the EAGC's Regional Food Balance Sheet.

EAGC Participates in the National Implementation Committee on EAC Common Market Protocol (CMP)

Eastern Africa Grain Council participated in the retreat for the Kenya National Implementation Committee (NIC) of the East Africa Community (EAC) Common Market Protocol (CMP), from July 17–18, 2017 at the Simba Lodge Hotel in Naivasha, County.

The retreat was convened by the Kenya Private Sector Alliance (KEPSA) with the support of the East Africa Trade and Investment Hub (EATIH) in partnership with the State Department of East African Integration under the theme “Strengthening the NIC and Enhancing Private Sector Participation in the NIC”.

EAGC shared developments on grain standards and regional sampling and testing process as key achievements in the CMP implementation. The NIC advocates for greater implementation of EAC Protocols to enable the private sector to realize the benefits of the EAC Common Market and for greater private sector participation in the implementation mechanisms of the Common Market.
The Eastern Africa Grain Council (EAGC) and the East African Community (EAC) hosted the Regional Standards Harmonization meeting to review the sampling and testing methods for cereals, pulses and their products in East African Community (EAC) from 4th to 6th July 2017 at Zanzibar Beach Resort in Zanzibar, Tanzania.

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

The strategy aims at creating innovative, attractive and sustainable employment opportunities for the youth through active regional interventions.

The strategy was launched by the Cabinet Secretary in charge of Agriculture Willy Bett alongside the US Ambassador to Kenya H.E Robert Godec and other Development Partners.

The Conference aimed at scaling up interventions for youth in agribusiness by various stakeholders in Kenya. The Kenyan Government will spend USD 3.4m to enhance access and sustainable use of land for the youth in agribusiness to attain high productivity.

The land lease approach will be implemented through partnership with county governments, the National Land Commission, private land owners and community elders.

Land rent in Kenya averages USD100 per acre for the last decade for large and small-scale farmers leading to the high cost of production, leading to low investment from the farmers. The Grain sector is among the agricultural subsectors to benefit from this scheme in Kenya engagement in agribusiness.
Regional Updates

EAGC joins stakeholders at the Kenya Trade week

The Ministry of Industry, Trade and Cooperatives’ in Kenya launched the National Trade Policy on Monday 10th July 2017 during the Kenya Trade week event that brought together stakeholders in the trade sector under the theme: Transforming Kenya into a Competitive Export-Led and Efficient Economy. The new Trade Policy articulates provisions that are geared towards promoting efficiency in the growth of domestic trade through transformational measures that address the constraints impeding against the development of the wholesale, retail and informal sectors. The Policy adds impetus to the robust trade policy reforms that the country has pursued under regional and multilateral trade arrangements and translates to Kenya’s commitments at regional and multilateral level to solidify policy measures and create opportunity for their domestication through the various instruments that are proposed. This will contribute to strengthening of regional integration and will in turn anchor Kenya as a dependable and predictable trading partner. The Policy was launched at a time when the global trade landscape is facing emerging challenges where over 70% of global trade is made up of manufactured goods. Speaking at the launch, Hon Adan Mohammed, the Cabinet Secretary of the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Cooperatives lauded that Intra-Africa trade averages about 12% whilst Kenya’s share of both the global pie as well as in Africa has been facing serious bottlenecks leading to a huge balance of trade deficit with most of our trading partner.

Of main interest to EAGC, the trade policy in particular introduces a trade agenda in several sectors such as agriculture, industry, infrastructure and ICT thus providing a framework for these sectors to adopt policies that complement rather than compete with each other.

Grain Stakeholders set to benefit the most from the review of Eastern Africa Grain Institute Strategy

The EAGC Secretariat held a workshop aimed at developing a strategic plan that will transform EAGI into be a commercial entity offering demand driven services to stakeholders.

The workshop was supported by Global Communities through the AIMS program which seeks to enable EAGI to run its services sustainably and commercially.

The Institute’s vision and mission as well as objectives were critically reviewed by the EAGC secretariat.

EAGI was envisioned as the Regional reference for Business Development Services in the Grain Industry from 2017-2022

EAGC members and stakeholders will be the key beneficiaries as EAGI shifts focus to affordable and demand driven services to transform the grain market within the five year Strategic plan.
The Eastern Africa Grain Institute (EAGI) conducted SME’s Capacity building and training in Kenya and Tanzania from 24th-28th July 2017 with the support of Global Communities (GC). 74 Grain sector SMEs were trained. The SMEs comprised of traders, processors and farmer based organizations dealing in grain.

The SMEs were trained on development and preparation of business plans, Sales and marketing, Tax compliance, book keeping, among other business management practices.

The best business management practices taught to the SMEs will enable the participants to exploit opportunities for growth which will enable them enhance the returns on their businesses.

TANZANIA

Stakeholders trained on Post harvest Management, Grades and Standards

The Eastern Africa Grain Council (EAGC) organized a training for Grain stakeholders in Tanzania were trained on Post Harvest Management, Grades & Standards at Morena Hotel in Dodoma.

Over 20 traders, producers and warehouse operators were equipped with knowledge and expertise on the importance of post harvest management. Post harvest losses have been one of the key factors affecting grain trade and contributing to food insecurity.

EAGI has a well customized training program on post harvest management to support grain stakeholders as well as EAGC members.

Trade Contracts worth USD 11,686,774.19 about Signed.

EAGC Tanzania facilitated a national B2B meeting which actuated a total of 24,868 MT of non bidding contracts for Pigeon peas, Cassavava, Yellow, Beans, Groundnuts, Green gram, Maize, Paddy rice and Sesame.

The trade was valued at Tshs 25,360,300,000 billion equivalent to USD 11,686,774.19. EAGC continues to support trade facilitation in a bid to ensure efficient grain trade for farmers and traders in the country.
The Eastern Africa Grain Council (EAGC) in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries in Meru County hosted the 2nd Pulses Trade Fair and Exhibition at the Kaguru Agricultural Training Centre. The trade fair themed “Advancing Pulses Production and Markets”, targeted pulses farmers and other agribusiness stakeholders to learn and share opportunities in pulses production to address food insecurity for increased income.

The Trade Fair 2017 was supported by the private sector as well as non-profit organizations and federal funding agencies including the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), Alliance for Green Revolution in Agriculture (AGRA), USAID-East Africa Trade Investment Hub (EATIH), Unga Limited Group, Africa Agribusiness Academy among others. The Trade Fair brought together 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. Over 1500 farmers from Meru and neighbouring counties attended the fair while over 40 companies exhibited a wide range of innovative products and services in the industry as well as 10 crop demonstration units which showcased different crop varieties.

**MALAWI**

**Country Program Committee (CPC) review members activities in Malawi**

The country office held their quarterly CPC meeting on 4th of July 2017.

Amongst the committee members present were Agricultural Input Supplies Limited (AISL), Agricultural Commodity Exchange (ACE), Tradeline Corporation, NASCO-MEX and Zekoko farms. The meeting discussed the draft country strategy, performance of the past semi-annual work plan (January–June 2017) and the remaining semi-annual work plan (July–December 2017).

EAGC Malawi Country office welcomed on board a new member: M’gomera Seed Investment Company.
EAGC as the key advocate of the Post Harvest Loss (PHL) in the country, participated in the African Post-harvest Losses Information System (APHLIS) workshop. APHLIS is a scientific model producing calculated estimates of postharvest losses of food crops across sub-Saharan Africa.

Currently the system provides evidence-based information on cereal grain weight losses in 38 countries of Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) contributed in part by a network of local cereal grain experts.

The new system will run until 2020. Participants learnt about the system, how to use it for PH losses information in Africa and finally how to use its calculator to produce own data on PHLs.

The system is important to EAGC since based on the information from FBOs, the Council can generate information on PHLs in the 10 covered Countries, as a tangible evidence-based tool to show all the stakeholders in the grain industry that it is a life requirement to reduce PHLs and increase production.

EAGC Participates in the Nile expo in Jinja

The EAGC Uganda team represented by Mr Benjamin Aijuka and Ms. Justine Namubiru attended the 25th Source of the Nile expo in Jinja from 20th to 22nd July 2017 under the theme “Managing the challenges of climate change for sustainable agriculture”.

The expo was officiated by H.E Yoweri Museveni, the President of the Republic of Uganda. At the expo EAGC participated in the Agricultural Financial Forum graced by the Hon. Matia Kasaija; Minister of Finance.

The Forum discussed the Agricultural Credit Finance under the Bank of Uganda.

The stakeholders noted that this credit should not be channeled through the Commercial banks but rather recommended that an Agricultural Bank be established through which the farmers can access the credit.

EAGC welcomes a new member on board: Agrovet Farmers Ltd

Mr. Benjamin Aijuka, program officer in Uganda receives Agrovet Farmers Ltd on board to EAGC membership.
CONTACT US

EAGC REGIONAL OFFICE
Gerald Masila
Executive Director
Email: gmasila@eagc.org or grains@eagc.org
Tel: +254 733 444 035 /+254 710 60 73 13

Janet Ngombalu
Regional Programs Coordinator
Email: jngombalu@eagc.org or grains@eagc.org
Tel: +254 733 444 035

Jacinta Mwau
Regional Manager—MIS & Communication
Email: jmwa@eagc.org
Tel: +254 726 670 822/ +254 712 651430

EAGC KENYA COUNTRY OFFICE
Davine Minayo
Country Program Manager
Email: dminayo@eagc.org
+254 733 444 035 /+254 710 60 73 13

EAGC UGANDA COUNTRY OFFICE
Kiiza Kizito
Country Program Manager
Email: kkizito@eagc.org
Tel: +256 414 501 903

EAGC RWANDA COUNTRY OFFICE
Epiphanie Karekezi
Ag. Country Program Manager
E-mail: ekarekezi@eagc.org
Tel: +250 782 026 649

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

EAGC MALAWI COUNTRY OFFICE
Babettie Juwayeyi
Country Program Manager
Email: bjuwayeyi@eagc.org
Tel: +265 888 60 03 53

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