EAGC launches its 2018 EAGC Agribusiness EXPO edition in Kitale, Kenya

[Kitale, Kenya– 25th June 2018]. The Eastern Africa Grain Council, in partnership with the Kitale National Polytechnic and the Country Government of Trans Nzoia, has today launched the 2018 edition of the EAGC Agribusiness EXPO scheduled to take place in August 2018 from 16th to 17th at the Kitale National Polytechnic in Kenya.

The EXPO will be featuring the theme “Promoting sustainable agribusiness innovations and partnerships for better grain trade and food security in Kenya”. The Kenya’s event taking place in August will be hosted after the EAGC EXPO in Uganda that took place on 22nd and 23rd June and the Tanzanian EAGC EXPO scheduled and 20th and 21st July featuring a similar thematic focus.

In Kenya, agriculture is a major contributor to the economy and provides livelihoods for the majority of the population. Primary production plays an important part in maintaining the country’s food security, while the industrial and horticultural crops subsectors are important foreign exchange earners.

Speaking at the launch, Mr Gerald Masila, the Executive Director of EAGC stated, “The Expo will seek to consolidate innovations and partnerships for the grain sector in view of the Government’s BIG 4 Agenda on making Kenya food secure by also promoting manufacturing.” Mr. Masila further added that , “With the rapidly rising population, there is an equal increase in demand for food hence worsening the food insecurity in Kenya, which calls for sustainable innovations in the agribusiness sector to address future crisis food insecurity.”

Addressing the function, Dr Joel Tenai, EAGC Board member representing Farmers thanked the leadership of the Kitale National Polytechic for accepting to partner with EAGC in hosting the 2018 Agribusiness EXPO stating that the EXPO “will provide opportunity for farmers to see the new seed and farming technologies to be exhibited at the crop demonstration site and other post-harvest management and value addition so that they can improve the quality and quantity of their produce in order to reap better returns on investment in their agribusiness venture in farming”

The EXPO will host over 70 exhibitors who will showcase innovations in line with the theme of the event, featuring new technologies and innovations in value addition, post-harvest handling, good agricultural practices, and sustainable agribusiness models among others. Visitors to the EXPO will include farmers, traders, millers, farm machinery suppliers, agrochemical dealers and service providers such as banks, warehouse operators, the general public, government agencies, research institutions and international organizations operating in the Eastern Africa region.

The event, which has been graciously sponsored by Unga Farm Care East Africa Ltd and Stanbic Bank, will also bring together over 10,000 farmers from all over the Country and beyond.
Stella Kimutai, the Saboti Sub county agriculture officer representing the County Executive Committee Member for Agriculture and cooperatives, who presided over as the chief guest for the launch, appreciated and thanked EAGC for partnering with the Kitale National Polytechnic to host the EXPO, noting that the Trans Nzoia County was a lead producer of cereals and other agricultural crops and has earned the title of the “grain basket of Kenya. The county boosts an estimated annual output of 5m bags of maize, 2600 Tonnes of Tomatoes, 13,000 bags of sunflower, 3200 Tonnes of coffee among others.”

She further singled out the persisting challenges in the agriculture sector and called on all stakeholders to join hands in finding lasting solutions through developing sustainable partnerships between farmers, service providers and institutions of higher learning such as the Kitale National Polytechnic, so as to create jobs, increase incomes and improve country earnings in international trade through increased investment in agribusiness.

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About Eastern Africa Grain Council (EAGC)

The Eastern Africa Grain Council is a regional organization with membership drawn from across the Eastern and Southern Africa. Membership is drawn from grain value chain stakeholders currently with presence in 10 countries across Africa including Burundi, Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Tanzania, Zambia, Malawi, South Sudan, DRC Congo and Ethiopia. EAGC’s key products and services include promotion of structured trading system (STS) through the warehouse receipting systems (WRS), and the EAGC online Grain Trading platform (G-Soko), Market Information Systems (MIS) offered through the Regional Agricultural Trade Intelligence Network (RATIN- [www.ratin.net]) and evidence-based Policy Advocacy and Training and Capacity Building through the Eastern Africa Grain Institute (EAGI).

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