Facilitating an Efficient, Structured, Inclusive and Profitable Grain Trade in Eastern Africa and Beyond

35,060 MT of grain traded @ USD 12 M

2,126 stakeholders trained
Executive Director’s Summary:

EAGC continues to pursue its vision of being “the leading voice for the grain industry in Africa”. One of EAGC’s core mandates is the promotion of the adoption of structured trade systems across the Eastern Africa region. The Council has recorded positive growth in formal trade following the introduction of these initiatives.

By way of example, in the month of August 2018, the Council facilitated trade linkages in DR Congo, Tanzania, Rwanda, Burundi and Malawi for traders of grain where deals for the sale of 35,060MT valued at USD 12M.

EAGC continued to develop, facilitate and support structured grain trading that is profitable and inclusive where we enhanced the confidence of support service providers such as financial institutions and insurance companies to consider the opportunities in the grain sector through training on International Structured Commodity Trade Financing.

To strengthen and complement its service offering for optimum stakeholder benefits, EAGC entered into strategic partnerships with ICPAC, and Ndarugu Metropolis towards promoting more informed trade and better trade.

We also aimed to promote sustainable Agribusiness innovation and partnerships for better trade and food security in Kenya where we hosted a 2 day Agribusiness Expo in partnership with the Trans Nzoia County Government.

This newsletter shares both Regional and Country specific updates which EAGC achieved for you members and this could not have been realised without your support and collaboration.

We thank you for your active participation in the Council’s activities and look forward to working with you more closely to achieve the plans ahead of us in the Coming Month as we promote ease of grain trade, enhance the promotion of structured grain trading as well as institutional strengthening and growth.

Enjoy the reading!!!!!!
AUGUST MEMBERS UPDATE IN PICTORIAL

Grain trade facilitation forum held in Goma, DR Congo to link DRC traders with buyers and sellers from Rwanda, Burundi among other countries.

EAGC team thanksgiving mass at the Nairobi Regional Office with Rev. Fr. Sylvestre KICHE, from the Archdiocese of Freetown in Sierra Leone.

Participants group photo during the training on International Structured Commodity Trade. Trainees were drawn from Mozambique, Zimbabwe, United Kingdom and Kenya.

Hon Patrick Khaemba, Governor of Trans Nzoia County at the EAGC Stand during the Kenya Agribusiness Expo held in Kitale. EAGC Executive Director and Field Officer explaining about the Hermetic storage bags and level of uptake among grain farmers.

Dr Artan Guleid (left) Director General of ICPAC and Mr Gerald Masila (Right), Executive Director of EAGC exchange copies of signed MoU in readiness for onward implementation in the application of climate and grain market information for informed decision making.
The Eastern Africa Grain Institute (EAGI), the capacity building arm of EAGC delivered a comprehensive practical understanding of structured trade and commodity financing, with a specific focus on risk management and the financing of physical flows of commodities. Held at the Mombasa Beach Resort, the training drew participants from companies that have invested in the Grain sector from Kenya, Mozambique, Zimbabwe and the United Kingdom.

Africa is making steady progress towards agricultural transformation a process that requires the support of a significant and innovative financing system that will see the shift from subsistence-oriented agriculture to commercial agriculture at all levels of the agricultural value chains. With the African population likely to double by 2050, if this demand is not addressed through production and access to finance a food crisis is looming.

The availability of finance is essential for a healthy trading system and currently up to 80 per cent of global trade is largely supported by some form of financing or credit insurance (WTO, 2016). Nevertheless, there are significant gaps that riddle the provision and many companies cannot access the financial tools that they need; missing opportunities for growth and expansion. Non-traditional financing mechanisms that include factoring, supply chain finance, forfaiting, among others also exist but there is very little knowledge of their existence in grain value chain SMEs.

The grain Council therefore exists to develop, facilitate and support structured grain trading that is profitable and inclusive. This system will help raise the portfolio of grain business within region enhancing the confidence of support service providers such as financial institutions and insurance companies to consider the opportunities in the grain sector.

The course equipped the international participants with practical skills to analyze the opportunities and challenges/risk presented by structured commodity trading systems and devise financing proposals and risk management measures to manage the associated challenges/risks.

Trainees were exposed to a field excursion where they visited Grain Industries Limited, one of the state of the art milling company and a member of EAGC.
An upcoming regional program on Strengthening Agricultural Higher Education for Agri-Food Transformation in Africa funded by World Bank is was launched at the National Stakeholders Consultation Project Workshop held on 23rd August 2018 at the World Bank Offices – Upper Hill Nairobi.

During the forum, the MD Kenya Dairy Board Dr. Margaret gave the official opening speech on behalf of Permanent Secretary of the State Department of Agriculture Dr. Tuimur.

The regional project designed by the World Bank will be coordinated by the Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM) and will focus on skills improvement for current and future needs of the agri-food systems and the entire agriculture sector.

The project will be implemented in 6 African countries including Cameron, Cote d’Ivoire, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi and Mozambique. EAGC will play a big role in implementing the project through the Eastern Africa Grain Institute (EAGI).
EAGC and IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre (ICPAC) recently entered into a collaboration agreement to strengthen the capacities of Eastern African countries to collect, understand, share, and deploy appropriate crop conditions information and food commodities information to support decision-making, support food security planning, reduce climate change vulnerabilities in the selected countries, and foster a food-secure Africa.

ICPAC is a Centre established to foster climate services and knowledge to enhance community resilience for prosperity in the Greater Horn of Africa. It is responsible for eight member countries namely: Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Uganda as well as Burundi, Rwanda and Tanzania. The functions of the Centre include: Climate monitoring, data management and climatology, Climate diagnostics, prediction and early warning, Climate applications, Capacity building, Environmental Monitoring, Disaster risk Management, Dissemination and awareness raising, Applied Research and the Development of partnerships.

The MoU signed by the two organizations defines engagements of both ICPAC and EAGC for ensuring technical cooperation and information sharing to ensure effective coordination and communication necessary to implement the agricultural monitoring activities agreed upon partners. EAGC and ICPAC will jointly identify and analyze agriculture assessment information needs, provide support for crop information production, synthesis, and use. The partnership will build the capacities and knowledge of EAGC and ICPAC to collect and utilize high quality, demand-driven climate information, market prices for key grain commodities and for crop conditions reporting and for decision making. The two organizations will work closely to promote mutual interest and co-operation in understanding and resolving issues related to agriculture assessment and regional grain trade.

The MoU was signed at a time when EAGC members had requested for the RATIN platform to provide grain market information with the application of climate information to enable grain farmers, traders and processors make informed trade decisions. EAGC and ICPAC partnership will seek to therefore deepen the understanding of the scientific, economic and social issues relating to the food security in the Greater Horn of Africa and the Eastern Africa Region.

**Developing silos for grain storage in Ndarugu Metropolis**

The aim of EAGC is to support structured grain trade in the Eastern and Southern Africa region and to achieve this EAGC Partners with institutions to achieve its aim. In light of this background, EAGC signed a Memorandum of understanding with Ndarugu Metropolis.

Ndarugu metropolis is a proposed major development located 35km Northeast of Nairobi. An approximately 575 acre site will be transformed into a state-of-the-art mixed use development comprising of industrial (special economic zone), wholesale food market and residential uses (student city). The Metropolis will provide significant social and economic opportunities for the region. With most of the Post-harvest losses mostly happening during storage and is approximately 30% of grain produced, Ndarugu Metropolis will develop silo storage in strategic locations. EAGC is expected to conduct a feasibility study, identify off-takers and project finance as well as provide detailed design and supervision of the construction.
EAGC to implement SHAEA programme

Contributing to the draft EAC harmonized seed bill and regulations

EAGC represented by the Regional Manager in charge of Structured Trading Systems Mr. Samwel Ruto, participated in the regional meeting to validate the draft EAC harmonized seed bill and regulations. The East African Community Partner States, namely the Republic of Burundi, Republic of Kenya, Republic of Rwanda, the United Republic of Tanzania, the Republic of Uganda and the Republic of South Sudan have policies, laws and regulations governing the seed sector. The effectiveness of these instruments is not uniform in all the Partner States, which to an extent affects the potential for seed trade among the States. Further, the processes for variety registration and other relevant procedures are different which affects the movement of seeds across the borders and ultimately increases the cost of doing business.

The main objective of the EAC Seed Bill & Regulations was to facilitate the production and intra-trade of quality certified seed within EAC region. The East African Community Partner States, namely the Republic of Burundi, Republic of Kenya, Republic of Rwanda, the United Republic of Tanzania, the Republic of Uganda and the Republic of South Sudan have policies, laws and regulations governing the seed sector. The effectiveness of these instruments is not uniform in all the Partner States, which to an extent affects the potential for seed trade among the States. Further, the processes for variety registration and other relevant procedures are different which affects the movement of seeds across the borders and ultimately increases the cost of doing business.

The benefits that can be derived from having harmonized seed laws and regulations would include enhanced accessibility to diverse range of quality and affordable seeds to farmers, facilitation of inter and intraregional trade, reduced transition costs and contribution towards Agricultural productivity in the EAC region. Therefore, the EAC Sectoral Council on Agriculture and Food Security (SCAFS) in 2017 directed the EAC Secretariat to initiate a regulatory framework directed towards harmonization of seed laws and regulations in the EAC region, borrowing from other regional blocs - COMESA and SADC harmonized seed regulations. As a follow-up to this directive, the EAC Secretariat with support from USAID East Africa, initiated the process of developing the EAC harmonized Seed Bill and Regulations. Though the harmonization of the seed regulatory framework would address the challenges within the region, there is dire need to identify and improve on factors that would harness trade with other trading blocs thereby expanding the market, creating benefits out of economies of scale and essentially increasing the traded volumes of seed. This can be achieved, to a large extent, by having increased uniformity in terms of legislative frameworks among the different trading blocks, for instance COMESA, EAC and SADC. To achieve the inter-regional blocks legislative uniformity, it is important to evaluate the seed harmonization initiatives undertaken for instance under COMESA and the progress so far made. Further, though the EAC has in the past made efforts to harmonize the regional seed related procedures in collaboration with ASARECA, there still exist some limitations and gaps that call for an initiative to eliminate the glaring diversity. The meeting also provided an opportunity to share lessons and experiences from similar harmonization initiatives in COMESA and SADC. Comments generated during the meeting were incorporated in the revised draft Seed Bill and regulations and subsequently submitted to EAC Partner States.
Eastern Africa Grain Council (EAGC) in partnership with ELAN RDC hosted a Grain Trade Facilitation meeting on 29th August 2018 at the Ihusi Hotel in Goma, DRC.

The trade forum brought together 80 buyers and sellers comprising of DRC sellers of maize and other commodities and grain buyers from Rwanda and Burundi. Sellers of Machinery and Equipment manufacturers from the Eastern Africa Region also participated in the event to establish trade alliances with the DRC grain producers, traders and processors who sought to improve their productivity.

Manufactures of grain farming, Post-Harvest Handling and processing equipment, Grain Millers/Processors, Seed Companies, Agribusiness entrepreneurs, Logistics companies, Traders, Grain Cooperatives and Unions and financial institutions such as Equity bank, Bank of Africa, Raw Bank, Trust Merchant Bank among others actively participated in the trade forum.

Trade deals worth USD 6M of 20,000MT were signed as a commitment for immediate trade transactions between the buyers and sellers. The EAGC secretariat will follow up with the buyers and sellers to facilitate the trade and ensure that the trade deals are actualized.

Following recent expansion of EAGC interventions into DRC, EAGC in partnership with its local partners: ELAN RDC convened a training for border and market monitors. EAGC RATIN is now the first platform offering grain market and trade Intelligence in the Eastern DRC.

John Jaoko, the EAGC Program Officer charged with the Regional Management of the RATIN platform, trained the new EAGC Programs Officer charged with coordination of EAGC programs and projects in the Eastern DRC; and market and border monitors. The training focused mainly on the importance of data collection, the various data collection methods, data collection ethics and report writing. The training involved classroom sessions at the ELAN RDC board room and field practical at Goma market and Goma border not far from the Goma town.
Kenya Country Programs Updates

Promoting food security through sustainable Agribusiness innovations and technologies in Kenya

It been 12 years since EAGC launched the 1st Agribusiness Expo in Kenya. Up to date, over 50,000 have benefitted from the capacity building and innovations showcased at the Agribusiness Forums. This year EAGC in partnership with the Kitale National polytechnic and the Department of Agriculture hosted the 2018 edition of the EAGC agribusiness Expo in Trans Nzoia County. The Expo dubbed the theme “promoting sustainable Agribusiness Innovation and partnerships for better trade and food security in Kenya”.

Gracing the event as the Chief guest on the 1st day was the Governor of TransNzoia County H.E Hon Patrick Khaemba while the Chief guest for the 2nd day was the Deputy Governor, of the County H.E Dr. Stanley Tarus.

This was the first time EAGC was hosting an Agribusiness Expo in Kitale following requests by the local stakeholders.

The event was sponsored by CFC Stanbic Bank, Unga farm care (EA) Limited and the Kenya Crops and Dairy Market Systems Development Activity (KCDMSD). The Agribusiness Expo created a platform for awareness creation on the Hermitic Storage Technology where over 1400 Farmers were exposed and trained on Postharvest Management of grains. Sales worth KES 250,000 were made at the exhibition arena and over 50 contacts for machinery were made for delivery on an immediate future date.

Introducing EAGC-Technical Advisory Services to farmer groups

With the aim of improving grain aggregation and marketing at the community aggregation centres, EAGC has been implementing EAGC-Technical advisory service (E-TAS) technical training to groups in Central & North Rift where 301 members were trained in August.

The trainings majorly focused on postharvest handling of grains. Farmers were taught on determining the physiological maturity of maize, sorting of grains, shelling of grains, cleaning, drying and storage of grains. There was also focus on pest control by applying pesticides and use of hermetic bags that control infestation of weevils in maize. The groups were urged to seek alternative markets for their grains.

It was agreed that the groups should also establish and strengthen marketing committees which will be responsible for identifying markets for grains. The marketing committee will also advice members on marketing of their grains using information obtained on price, quality and quantity required. The committee should also carryout assessment of the volumes available for sale by the members which should guide what volumes to sign on contracts. The groups were also encouraged to adopt trading on grains to avoid relying only on harvesting season to utilize their stores.
UGANDA Country Program Updates

EAGC participates at the Joint Agricultural Sector Annual Review (JASAR)

EAGC represented by the Country Program Manager in Uganda, Kiiza Kizito participated at the 2018 Joint Agricultural Sector Annual Review (JASAR) organized by the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF) and partners. The event took place from the 28th to the 29th of August 2018 under the theme “Building Resilience to Climate Change Effects to Enhance Agricultural Productivity.”

The review was a climax of field tours of Ministry projects was supported by the United States Agency for International Development and Non-State Actors including the Food Rights Alliance.

During the review, Hon. Vincent Sempijja the Minister for Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries highlighted the importance of the sector, achievements to date and commitments for financial year 2018/19.

Assessing grain trade corridors significant in grain marketing

EAGC team from the Uganda office profiled borders between DRC and Uganda that is Mahagi and Bunagana borders. The activity was aimed at evaluating and profiling of new borders and Markets that are significant in grain marketing systems and assessing data collection protocols.

The team established that trade is majorly informal trade with almost no paper required to trade. Trade has slightly increased after launch of the Simplified Trade Regime through COMESA.

Mahagi border is located 4km from Paidha which is the nearest boarder town and about 2km from the Goli crossing point between Uganda and DRC. It is opens every day from 8am to 5pm though trade in agricultural produce starts as early as 6am and goes on after 6pm.

On the other hand Bunagana border is located 30 Km away from Kisoro Town and opens every day from 8:00am and closes at 7:00pm. After 7pm commodities are allowed to cross but not in trucks.

Based on the field reports where major cross border trade was recorded, EAGC is set to commence data collection in Mahagi and Bunagana trade points in the fourth quarter of 2018 so as to inform traders and policy makers for informed decision making.
Creating an enabling trade environment for grain trade

To align EAGC policy advocacy interventions with grain stakeholders, the country programs team in Uganda hosted the first National Policy Committee with a shared vision of having for an enabling environment which would promote grain trade. The meeting developed Terms of Reference for the Working Group as well as priority areas of focus for advocacy and an implementation plan.

Key stakeholders at the meeting included representatives from SEATINI Uganda, Uganda Seed and Traders Association (USTA), UNFFE, PKF, WFP, the Grain Council of Uganda, Reco Industries and Kilimo Trust. A Committee was formed under the leadership of Mr. Masereka Nelson from USTA, Vice Chairperson Ms Lumonya Faith from SEATINI and EAGC as Secretary.

Some key issues were discussed and most importantly was the prevailing prices of low maize prices. The members agreed to develop a position paper on the issue and this would presented to the parliament for consideration.

Promoting trade and grain standards in collaboration with the World Food Programme

EAGC met with the Agriculture and Market Support Unit from WFP at the EAGC board Room in Uganda. The WFP team was led by Miyuki Yamashita the Head of Agriculture and Market Support who discussed collaboration with EAGC and leveraged on the existing interventions to further promote trade and standards. WFP shared a list of 70 Community Aggregation Centres across the country. EAGC presented the GSoko Model, an online trading platform owned and managed by EAGC.

The two organizations agreed that EAGC would offer training and capacity building services mainly on fumigation of storage facilities to WFP nominated Community Aggregation Centres.

The nominated and trained Community aggregation Centres will also benefit from trading efficiently on the EAGC GSOKO platform following the proposed partnership between EAGC and WFP to install the platform at their premises.
TANZANIA Country Program updates

Linking grain businesses to finance

Commercial Bank of Africa (CBA) in Tanzania, a new member of EAGC, had a One to One Business to Finance (B2F) Linkage. CBA is launching new financial products and some of the EAGC members in Tanzania will be among the first beneficiaries of the products and financial services.

Commercial Bank of Africa was linked to Smigi Investment Co Ltd, AA Nafaka Store and Lina Super Sembe. All the three members of EAGC agreed to be beneficiaries of the products expected to be launched in the month of September 2018.

Smigi Investments Co Ltd who has plans to Construct a Warehouse Facility in Dar Es Salaam, noted this product will enable the company address Post Harvest Losses through the construction of a modern warehouse.

Promoting trade between farmers and grain millers

In line with our mission: To advocate for an enabling environment and promote structured grain trade for optimum stakeholder benefits EAGC facilitated a B2B Meeting in the Capital City of Tanzania at the Fantasy Village Hotel in Dodoma on 30th August. The meeting was attended by 50 participants drawn from the grain sector where 7 grain processors and 34 farmer groups attended. The B2B meeting was sponsored by Candia Food Grains Bank. In attendance was the deputy mayor of Dodoma region. Commodities traded included Sunflower, groundnuts, Millet and Sorghum where 15,000mt were signed.
Creating awareness about EAGC and the grain sector during the Nane Nane Exhibition

The Tanzania programs team attended the Nane Nane exhibition in Mbeya with the Agra consortium.

The “Nane Nane” (Farmer’s day) is a one-week annual agricultural fair that takes place from August 1-8th in various regions of Tanzania where farmers and other agricultural stakeholders (e.g. Universities and research institutes, input suppliers or fertilizer producing industries) showcase new technologies, ideas, discoveries and alternative solutions concerning the agricultural sector. It is also the day the nation celebrates the contribution of agriculture sector to the national economy.

The EAGC represented the voice of the grain sector at the Nane Nane Agricultural Show which was held in Mbeya. During Grain stakeholders applauded EAGC on the commendable job towards structuring grain trade in Tanzania.

However, it remained evident that the key constraint for farmers to adopt the new technologies was access to finance and this will be a key area of focus and intervention for EAGC to support farmers in Mbeya region.

Facilitating Trade linkages for grain stakeholders in Tanzania

In efforts to strengthen trade linkages the EAGC Tanzania team organized a business to business meeting in Njombe. As a result EAGC was able to facilitate trade between Wanging’ombe AMCOS in Njombe and Silverland where 60MT were traded. During the business to business meeting it was noted farmers have already aggregated alot of maize in their warehouses with good quality grain which meets local and regional market requirements thanks to EAGC trainings in the area.

During the trade facilitation chairman from Wakulima Tushikamane AMCOS remarked ‘We can fill this warehouse in four days, look at this truck ,It is a single farmer harvest, we are happy that EAGC has taught us warehouse management, Post Harvest Management, now you can see even good arrangement of bags in warehouse and the quality of our grains is recommendable, we want buyers who have muscles, whom we can build a long term relationship with, we are grateful to have discussed with Silverland, but still as AMCOS members we have internal discussion, I think we are inclined to work with Silverland". They have proceeded to aggregate more maize into the warehouse.

The Tanzania team was also able to link Didihama AMCOS with New Boogaloo and King'ori Saccos with New Boogaloo. Kingori Saccos agreed to sell to New Boogaloo at the prevailing grain market price.
The Country team has been implementing the EAGC Technical Advisory Services to selected Farmer Organizations in various districts since 14th August 2018. Since inception of the implementation, a total of 421 farmers (245 Males and 176 Females) have been trained on various courses based on needs including but not limited to Post-harvest Management, Grading and Quality Management, Contracts, Value-addition, Warehouse operations and Leadership and Governance.

MALAWI Country Program updates

Introducing the EAGC Technical Advisory Services to Malawi farmers

The Country team has been implementing the EAGC Technical Advisory Services to selected Farmer Organizations in various districts since 14th August 2018. Since inception of the implementation, a total of 421 farmers (245 Males and 176 Females) have been trained on various courses based on needs including but not limited to Post-harvest Management, Grading and Quality Management, Contracts, Value-addition, Warehouse operations and Leadership and Governance.

EAGC Policy Advocacy pays off in Malawi:

Integrating Pigeon peas in public institutions. Government purchases 100,000MT of pigeon peas from smallholder farmers at MK320/kg.

The Government of Malawi agreed to support purchase of pigeon peas by public institutions such as schools to support the market for farmers after India restricted pigeon peas imports.

This is through efforts by EAGC policy lobbying and advocacy interventions through which the Council managed to convince the stakeholders that like in Tanzania, integrating Pigeon peas in public institutions might be a viable alternative.

The representatives met the Minister and forwarded is the outcome of the meeting regarding markets for pigeon peas. The Minister instructed the Ministry team to write a Memo to the President of the Republic for his approval to direct Ministry of Finance to immediately release funds for ADMARC to purchase 100,000 MT of pigeon peas from smallholder farmers at MK320/kg.

ADMARC is expected to buy pigeon peas from farmers and will be sold to schools, hospitals, prisons and tea estates to be eaten as relish in the short term. In the medium and long term, ADMARC will start processing the peas for export market. This is a big win especially to the Malawi farmers who had grown exports for the Indian Market.
EAGC participated in the African Postharvest Losses Information System (APHLIS). The purpose of the meeting was to discuss on improvement to the effort to collect, analyse and disseminate data on Post–Harvest Losses of cereal grains in sub-Saharan Africa. Cereals are the basis for food security and vital to the livelihoods of smallholder farmers throughout the region.

BURUNDI Country Program updates

EAGC to spearhead private stock mapping for the Burundi National Food Balance Sheet

The EAGC Burundi country representative attended a National Food Balance sheet committee validation workshop organized and funded by the National government of Burundi. The 2 day workshop in Gitega aimed at analyzing and validating the food balance sheet from January to June 2018. However during the workshop several challenges were highlighted where the participants felt that the system deserves updating since there is a risk of double entry in the data collected.

During the workshop EAGC as a lead organization in the private was asked to identify all potential contributors that accurately reflect the private sector stock in Burundi.
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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>7th September</td>
<td>Nairobi, Kenya</td>
<td><strong>Participation in the 'Vibrant Gujarat' Roadshow and Networking Lunch</strong>&lt;br&gt;A delegation from Government of Gujarat will be visiting Kenya. The purpose of this visit is to interact with leaders of Kenyan trade associations / chambers of commerce as well as Senior Government officials in pursuit of encouraging trade and investment between Kenya and the State Government of Gujarat. The delegation will also provide information about the opportunities available in Gujarat as well as offer them every support in trading with and investing in Gujarat. Information about the forthcoming Vibrant Gujarat Summit (connecting India to the World) to be held in Gujarat from 18 - 20 January in 2019. This activity will enable EAGC explore trading opportunities in Gujarat for its members and this will lay foundation for intensified trade between EAGC members and India.</td>
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<td>9th—13th September</td>
<td>Lubumbashi, DRC</td>
<td><strong>EAGC to Facilitate trade between Southern DR Congo and Eastern Africa Region</strong>&lt;br&gt;In the upcoming business to business meeting EAGC will facilitate trade between DR Congo and the Eastern Africa region. The Business to business meeting will draw participants majorly from the grain trade sector. Trade deals worth of 15,000MT are expected to be signed as a commitment for immediate trade transactions between the buyers and sellers. The EAGC secretariat will follow up with the buyers and sellers to facilitate the trade and ensure that the trade deals are actualized.</td>
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<td>6th—8th September</td>
<td>Africa Green Revolution Forum (AGRF) Kigali, Rwanda</td>
<td>Leveraging Regional Trade for food security. The USAID EATIH and EAGC will share successes and lessons from their trade facilitation activities with the goal of stirring up debate on additional interventions that can improve food security and by eliminating barriers to regional trade.</td>
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<td>17-21 Sep 2018</td>
<td>Entebbe, Uganda</td>
<td>Regional EAC Standards Harmonization Meeting for Cereals. EAGC with the support of the USAID EATIH have been on the forefront in advocating for harmonized standards for staple foods in the EAC and as a result 9 standards have already been revised, gazetted and launched for implementation by the Bureaus of Standards in the EAC. This meeting will seek to harmonize standards for Sorghum, Millet and Green grams.</td>
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<td>18th to 20th September</td>
<td>Dar es Salaam</td>
<td>EAGC &amp; Bank of Africa Maize &amp; Rice Stakeholders' meeting. Access to finance has been once of the major bottlenecks for grains stakeholders. This meeting will explore opportunities for maize and rice value chain actors for commodity trade financing with BOA.</td>
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<td>17 - 19th September</td>
<td>Naivasha, Kenya</td>
<td>Write Shop for Hermetic Storage Technologies Scientific report. Hermetic Storage Technology (HST) enables farmers to store their own seed and grains for future use for long periods without loss due to insects and without using any insecticides. The technology consists of enclosing the produce in air-tight containers that prevent or minimize gas exchange. Insect aerobic respiration depletes oxygen and increases carbon dioxide.</td>
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<td>24th September</td>
<td>Kigali, Rwanda</td>
<td>Training on Fumigation. A big proportion of Post Harvest Losses are attributed to insect infestation of grains during storage and in turn decreases agricultural production and profitability leading to food shortages and high food prices. The use and application of fumigation by industry players requires review and updating to international best practice for improved efficiency and effectiveness thus necessitating appropriate training and capacity building. This training will equip participants with necessary knowledge and capacity for effective use of the latest technology in fumigation. To confirm your participation in the training, please contact Ms. Epiphanie Karekezi on: Email: <a href="mailto:ekarekezi@eagc.org">ekarekezi@eagc.org</a> or Mobile phone number: + 250 788 315 138</td>
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ABOUT 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 Regional 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).