Facilitating Efficient, Structured, Inclusive and Profitable Grain Trade in Eastern Africa and Beyond
Executive Director’s Summary:

Dear Member,

Welcome to the October members update.

EAGC as your membership organization of choice continues to pursue its vision of being your “leading voice for the grain industry in Africa”. We continue to focus on putting in place core systems aimed at addressing our overall organisational mission which is anchored on structured trade.

EAGC continues to pursue its vision of being “the leading voice for the grain industry in Africa” through its four key functions; structuring grain trade systems, provision of market information, policy and advocacy work as well as capacity building through the EAGC Institute.

In order to promote the development, harmonization and adoption of the harmonized standards of staple foods, EAGC in partnership with the USAID East Africa Trade and Investment Hub convened a regional stakeholders meeting to review and revise additional 2013 East African Standards.

As a result EAGC continued to promote regional grain trade in safe food where by we hosted the Tanzania grain buyers and sellers for trade discussions with Rwandan traders during a grain trade mission hosted in Kigali by the EAGC secretariat.

With our recent expansion into the DR Congo, EAGC’s intervention in conducting an assessment of the grain sector in the Country was crowned by a stakeholders validation workshop which turned out to be the first dialogue platform between grain value chain actors and their Provincial Ministers of Agriculture in Haut Katanga and North Kivu provinces. These policy dialogues have now given direction to EAGC policy advocacy efforts in DR Congo towards creating an enabling business environment.

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 events and activities and we look forward to working with you more closely to achieve the plans ahead of us in the coming month as we continue to promote ease of grain trade, enhance the promotion of structured grain trading as well as institutional strengthening and growth.

Enjoy the reading!!!!!!

REGIONAL UPDATES:

- EAGC explores opportunities for grain productivity and productivity improvement & trade with Serbia
- EAGC to partner with FAO– Kenya
- EAGC participates at the Seep Annual Conference on collaboration for impact
- EAGC represents its members during the 3rd Partnership for Aflatoxin Control in Africa Partnership Platform Meeting

KENYA:

- EAGC Launches the Grains & Pulses Conclaves County editions in Kenya

DR CONGO:

- EAGC convenes the first dialogue platform between grain value chain actors and their Provincial Ministers of Agriculture

UGANDA:

- Pursuing EAGC mandate in promoting grain standards
- EAGC participates in the world food day celebrations

TANZANIA:

- Business practitioners to benefit from Web 2.0 training
- EAGC to work with USAID under the advancing the youth in Iringa Program

RWANDA:

- Facilitating trade between Rwanda and Tanzania
Participants at the Annual Tanzania Pulses Meeting

Jacinta Mwau, Regional Manager in charge of MIS & Communications briefing the provincial Minister of Agriculture in Haut Katanga before the policy workshop in Lubumbashi

Guests touring the crops demonstration plot during the EAGC Grains & Pulses Conclave held in Meru on 11th October 2018

Howard Mugera, Program Officer in Kenya explaining to guests how the hermetic bags work during the Grains & Pulses Conclave

Epiphanie Karekezi, Country Programs Manager in Rwanda welcomes Metal Works Ltd, a new member to EAGC

Pausta Clessy and Kiiza Kizito from the EAGC office in Uganda welcoming Zerb Foods to EAGC membership.

CTA workshop in Netherlands, EAGC was represented by Samwel Rutto, the Regional Manager in charge of STS

Review meeting for the EAC Regional Standards in Zanzibar

The Executive Director of EAGC; Gerald Masila and the Regional Programs Coordinator; Janet Ngombalu with Ambassador of Serbia to Kenya, H.E Dragan Zušpanjevac
The main focus of EAGC presentation was on sustainability achieved by working through existing farmer groups and Farm focused NGOs community structures, while engaging frontline groups, private sector, and local NGO staff. Besides EAGC, Michigan State University presentations highlighted the important transformations occurring in the demand and production segments of regional agri-food systems due to the rapid growth in medium-scale farms and sustained regional grain demand caused by rapid population growth, income growth, and urbanization. Linking farmers and processors with new international opportunities is shown to provide demand for scaled-up production. Policy advocacy groups influence government agencies to support the removal of non-technical barriers to trade and to improve the responsiveness of strategic food reserves agencies to changing supply and demand patterns. Additionally, EAGC shared on learnings to scale-out and scale-up innovations in structured trade to improve storage and aggregation availability for SHF though linkages with village aggregation centres, with increased utilization of standards and NGO support networks. Mr. Masila emphasized on the fact that food market systems are increasingly impacted by several interdependent global trends, including population growth, urbanization, ecological uncertainty, technology change, and shifts in dietary preferences. Agricultural interventions have long been designed to improve SHF productivity, strengthen market linkages, and increase income. They have improved aggregation and logistics efficiencies. Governments have introduced pro-trade policies to facilitate cross-border trade.

However, at the SEEP conference, evidence indicated that broad improvements in SHF revenue are slow. While past solutions like staple food commodity exchanges and input subsidies have partially succeeded, aggregation that delivers better prices to SHFs remains difficult to scale. Organizations such as EAGC must therefore continue to find better ways to aggregate grain, develop market linkages, influence policy, ensure improved seed variety access, that increase benefits for Small Holder Farmers and, ultimately, improve food security.
Kimwaga Mhando, the EAGC Trade Policy and Advocacy Manager represented the Council at the African Union 3rd Partnership for Aflatoxin Control in Africa (PACA) Partnership Platform Meeting (PACA PPM) themed ‘Scaling-out Country-led Approaches for Sustainable Aflatoxin Mitigation in Africa.’

PACA is a program of the African Union Commission, that coordinates efforts at continental and national level in aflatoxin prevention and control. PACA, a global player in aflatoxin control and food safety, holds biannual Partnership Platform Meeting (PPM) to bring together diverse stakeholders working towards achieving a common goal of mitigating aflatoxins on the African continent.

The meeting discussed approaches for Sustainable Aflatoxin Mitigation in Africa where African Union Commission Chairperson, H.E Moussa Faki Mahamat urged all AU Member States to tackle the impact of Aflatoxins through a strong continental vision supported by robust political will, as well as the establishment of the necessary technical structures and the promotion of coordinated approaches.

The 3rd PPM was specifically looking at the successes and challenges in the implementation of aflatoxins control efforts in the six PACA pilot countries namely; Malawi, Nigeria, Senegal, Tanzania, The Gambia and Uganda, and identify best practices for implementation in the rest of Africa.

Effective aflatoxin management is critical for achievement of the Malabo Declaration Commitments on eradicating hunger, tripling intra-Africa trade in agricultural commodities and services as well as reducing poverty, and contributing to the realization of Agenda 2063 of the African Union.

EAGC will continue to work closely with partners to ensure that its members and grain value chain actors adopt best practices in aflatoxin management which will result to more trade in safe food for consumption in the region.
Continued efforts towards improved food security in the region: FSNWG Updates

In line with EAGC’s efforts to create awareness on the role of EAGC RATIN as well as increasing number of users of the EAGC grain market information, EAGC is an active member of the FSNWG platform and the chair of the Market Analysis Sub group (MAS). EAGC, represented by John Jaoko convened the Market Analysis Sub group meeting at EAGC Regional offices where the market status was discussed and later the findings of the MAS Group analysis were presented to FSNWG meeting.

Conclusions drawn at the FSNWG indicate that in the Great Horn of Africa (GHA), the climate outlook points to a 70-75% likelihood of a El Niño event in the OND short rains.

The season is also expected to be average with good prospects over much of the Northern Sector of the GHA. Consequently, prices of livestock are expected to rebound as body condition regain owing to good pastures in the ASALs and crop output from the season will be favorable. The Food Security situation has improved compared to 2017 with the areas of concern being protracted conflict in South Sudan, the Central African Republic and Southern Somalia. In the DRC, the Ebola outbreak and flooding in the lowlands of Ethiopia may compromise Food Security and Nutrition outcomes. In addition, the projected enhance rainfall may lead to Rift Valley fever therefore affecting pastoralist livelihood.

Market availability of grain staples was noted to be ample therefore improving food security. In Ethiopia and Sudan's, macro-economic condition have left prices elevated due to persistent high inflation—the lingering effect of currency devaluation from last year to early this year. Maize and Sorghum prices decreased precipitously in the rest of the GHA, and were below earlier-year in the third quarter. Accordingly to the EAGC Regional Agricultural Trade Intelligence Network (RATIN), grain staple prices are expected to follow seasonal trends in the fourth quarter and level below the five-year average due to improved availability.

EAGC to implement the Global Monitoring for Environment and Security (GMES) and Africa Project

EAGC recently signed an MoU with IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre (ICPAC) in relation to the implementation of Eastern Africa Crop Monitor under Global Monitoring for Environment and Security-GMES & Africa Project. GMES is an initiative of the African Union and the European Space Agency (ESA), which is being developed to provide, on a sustained basis, reliable and timely services related to environmental and security issues in support of users and public policy makers’ needs.

Under this program, EAGC in partnership with ICPAC will provide its members with timely grain market information with regards to crop seasonal performance, yield projections, climate information, grain markets and trade overview which will enable grain value chain actors to make informed trade decisions for more trade and better trade. The program also aims at providing policy information to influence the implementation of sustainable environmental policies at both National and Regional Levels.
To strengthen and complement its service for stakeholder benefits, EAGC explored partnerships with the Republic of Serbia. The EAGC Executive Director, Gerald Masila and Regional Programs Coordinator, Janet Ngombalu met with Ambassador Dragan Zupanjevac, of the Republic of Serbia at the Embassy of Serbia in Nairobi. The meeting was to explore areas of collaboration between the Republic of Serbia and Eastern Africa countries. From the meeting it was agreed that there will be a discussion with the Maize Research Institute Zemun in Belgrade (the capital of Serbia) on support to the Eastern Africa countries and also possible areas of Trade in Wheat for the optimum benefit of EAGC members.

**EAGC to partner with FAO– Kenya for agricultural commercialization**

EAGC represented by the Regional Programmes Coordinator, Janet Ngombalu and the former Kenya Country Programmes Manager Davine Minayo held a meeting with the Food and Agriculture Organization representative in Kenya; Dr. Gabriel Rugalema at the United Nations Offices of Nairobi. During the meeting EAGC and FAO discussed partnership on production of food, job creation and income generation aimed at transforming agriculture from subsistence to Commercial. EAGC and FAO will jointly work on a proposal to gather evidence on bottlenecks in the agriculture sector in Kenya while will partner with us through the EAGI to develop curriculum for Agribusiness training and conduct training for different stakeholders for target counties in Kenya. 

**EAGC discusses various digital solutions in promoting agribusiness competitiveness**

Sam Rutto the Regional Manager in charge of Structured Trading Systems attended a workshop on Capitalization of Experiences for Greater Impact in Rural Development project in Wageningen, Netherlands which was organized by The Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation ACP-EU (CTA) CTA. EAGC presented on its role in structuring grain markets through Gsoko, G-Hub and RATIN platforms as digital solutions that improve performance, competitiveness and profitability of farmer-led businesses. The workshop identified six primary ways digital agriculture benefits agribusiness: better decisions; greater efficiency; higher productivity; enhanced market access; reduced risks; and inclusion and sustainability.

EAGC, as one of the implementing partners of CTA projects will continue to develop digital solutions to address needs within the grain value chain to ensure that digitalization in agriculture can contribute towards achieving food security.
EAGC first dialogue platform for grain value chain actors and Provincial Ministers of Agriculture

Following the EAGC recent establishment of its physical presence in DRC with a country office in Goma in order to bring its grain trade facilitation services closer to grain sector stakeholders in Eastern DRC, the Council hosted the grain Sector for Multi-Stakeholder Forums which were held on Wednesday, 24th October 2018 at Ihusi Hotel in Goma and on 30th October 2018 at Gloria Inn Hotel in Lubumbashi. The forums brought together key grain trade facilitation agencies drawn from both public and private sector as well as grain value chain actors to review the findings of the EAGC assessment report of the grain sector in the Eastern and Southern DRC. They sought to gather inputs from the stakeholders as well as to validate the EAGC report which will identify and prioritise key constraints affecting the development of the sector and build partnerships with public and private sector stakeholders towards addressing the grain sector challenges. Both meeting were officially opened by the Ministers of Agriculture from North Kivu Province and Haut Katanga region who noted that the grain value chain faces the challenges of access to certified seeds, skills in Post Harvest Management and also access to both finance , markets and market requirements such as staple food standards. Both the private sector and the public sector, led by the Ministers of Agriculture mentioned that such efforts by EAGC were commendable owing to the fact that this were dialogue events of a kind where the ministers got to meet stakeholders in the agricultural value chain whom they had never met before yet have had challenges in doing business within and outside the provinces. The Ministers committed to support the grain value chain in all challenges facing the sector, where they called for private sector players such as EAGC and its members to guide them with proposals clearly demonstrating the what is in it for the parties involved both from private and public sector. In order to promote and create an enabling environment for grain trade in DRC, EAGC will focus on four key recommendations from the policy dialogue meetings: Policy advocacy on reduction of taxes applicable for grain trade, promoting efficiency at Customs clearance, creating awareness on staple food standards, capacity building of grain value chain actors on the agricultural law in DRC to promote the implementation of the law and to also promote dialogue between the private sector and the public sector with regards to the application of the law.
EAGC Launches the Grains & Pulses Conclaves County editions in Kenya

The Grains & Pulses Conclave was the first edition of a series of such events lined up to be hosted in the year 2019 in 22 counties, which were mapped by EAGC during a recent study as part of the pulses belt in Kenya. EAGC will be collaborating with County Governments to jointly promote grains and pulses production, post-harvest handling and marketing through exposing farmers to best agronomic practices, innovations and technologies.

The Grains & Pulses Conclave event hosted by EAGC in partnership with Meru County and Kaguru ATC on 11th October 2018 was therefore a first of a kind event which bring together grains and pulses stakeholders from closely linked sectors including but not limited to Agribusiness, banking, insurance, telecommunication, inputs, machinery among others to engage in dialogue with their clients resulting in demand driven products that address the need of their clients. 24 exhibitors showcased various technologies and innovations at the EAGC Conclave whose theme was “Grains & Pulses for food security, Nutrition and Prosperity”

The key features of the Grains and Pulses Conclave were: Crop demonstration units prepared by seed companies to display good quality seed varieties, Livestock demonstration units where exhibitors will displayed best practices in livestock production, new genetics among other livestock related initiatives, Exhibition of the Grains & Pulses supply chain from farm to folk (table) by companies drawn from several counties in Kenya and also display of the various types of Machinery and equipment used in the grains and pulses value chains.

The event focused on the whole food supply chain, by following the story of products from the seed to the consumer level, by demonstrating interventions in managing risks associated with grain & pulses production, Post-Harvest Handling, Grain quality management, whilst at the same time creating a business case based on increased product volumes, quality and reduced costs. The Grains & Pulses Conclave also linked all the stages from farm to folk for different types of foods made from grains and pulses while creating awareness on the characteristics and secrets of diversifying into pulses sector investments.

Speaking at the event, the EAGC Executive Director shared with farmers some of the opportunities presented by investing in the pulses value chain which included but not limited to their ability to increase biodiversity as they are able to fix their own nitrogen into the soil, which increases soil fertility, increasing resilient crop production following climate change and also the fact that pulses are a nutrient-rich food that as part of a healthy diet can help fight malnutrition in both developed and developing countries.

Mr Masila further emphasized that pulses are protein based foods which are more affordable than meat by stating that in developing countries, they can be termed as “OUR MEAT!!!!!!.” Besides, pulses generally fetch better prices than other cereals such as maize, with minimal price fluctuations and therefore a farmer makes better profits from investing in pulses. They also mature quickly, taking 70-120 days, unlike maize, which takes three to four months to mature depending on the variety.

Kenya as a country has recently popularized the production and consumption of pulses although there has been a lot of political influence on the pricing of grains and pulses. The Grains & Pulses Conclave called upon the County and National Government players to promote the production of pulses with more objectivity as the political influence that has been entertained has greatly impacted on the grains & pulses pricing whereby at the end of the day, the farmer happens to be the biggest loser in the value chain. The Grains & Pulses Conclaves are therefore expected to promote increased trade in pulses, resulting to increased income and prosperity among the value chain actors.
KENYA Country Programs Updates

EAGC exhibits at the World Food Day to promote Post Harvest Handling and Market linkages

EAGC joined partners under the Kenya Cereal Enhancement Programme (KCEP) at the World Food Day event where the Council exhibited best practices in Post Harvest Handling and Market Linkages to grain farmers. The World Food day dubbed the theme, ‘A zero hunger world by 2030 is possible.’

Farmers visiting the EAGC stand were trained on post harvest handling and grain quality by Kipyegon Kipkemei, Field officer North rift where by 2000 farmers were trained. During the World Food Day celebrations, keynote speakers highlighted several issues concerning the food security in the country. Hon Lee Kinyanjui, Governor of Nakuru County underscored "Our demand for food is increasing while at the same time land available for agricultural production is decreasing. We have got to strategize on how we can maximise our food production on the limited amount of land"

The Chief Guest, the Chief Administrative Secretary Hon Stanley Toimur noted that 80% of farmers were based in rural areas. For every 9 people one dies of hunger of which 60% of this are women. By 2022 under the 5 pillars the Kenya Government is committed to ensure that the Zero hunger goal is going to be achieved 8 years earlier. ‘The youth of today will be farmers of tomorrow (2030). They need markets and irrigation to stop depending on rain fed agriculture’ FAO Country Representative Mr Gabriel Rugalema. It was evident during the event that farmers were still looking for a guaranteed market for maize. EAGC will continue to seek for partnership opportunities between the grain farmers and large volume buyers such as processors who constantly seek for consistent supply of grains.

Technology to enhance industrial revolution

On 16th October EAGC represented by Howard Mugera, Program officer in Kenya, attended a forum organized by Kenya Bureau of Standards to mark the World Standards Day under the theme International Standards & the 4th Industrial Revolution.

The 4th Industrial revolution comes after the First, Second and Third revolutions and inclusive standardization processes. These preceding revolutions will play a key role in ensuring that the benefits of the Fourth Industrial Revolution are realized on a global scale.

The 4th Industrial revolution comes at a time where the government of Kenya is focusing on the Big 4 agenda. The participants explored the emerging technologies in the digital world in relation to the BIG 4 agenda and how the small enterprises can benefit from use of technology.

Stakeholders are now anticipating that technology and standards will positively impact the agribusiness sector by reducing food wastage/loss, strengthen supply chains & linkages to value addition, enhance food market information systems and investments in warehousing.
KENYA Country Programs Updates

Hope for maize farmers as local millers’ prices increase marginally

In order to strengthen farmer produce collection, bulking and market, EAGC has helped organise farmers to farmer associations (clusters) under the KCEP CRAL programme. EAGC Field Officer, James Kuria organised a Market linkage visit to several millers with the cluster leaders. The linkage was done to 25 farmers that represented 18 CACs. 9 CACs visited Webuye Grain Millers and the other 9 CACs visited Cornbelt flour millers and Mois Bridge Grain Ltd.

During the visit to Webuye Grain millers with cluster leaders in the rift valley region, Webuye millers offered to buy their maize at Ksh1500/bag and collect it at aggregation centre. The cluster leaders also visited Cornbelt flour millers for market linkage. Where they were offered Ksh1400 per bag of maize.

The Cornbelt director in his address to the cluster leaders indicated prices have increased in one week from Ksh1100-1400 due to shortage of maize. The team visited Moi's bridge grain traders ltd for market linkage. They were offered Ksh1450 per bag and the director indicated he would support in organising for transport.

According to the RATIN quarter 3 report maize prices have been dropping down precipitously and are below last year and five year average levels. This fall in prices is attributed to increased availability and or inflows from neighbouring surplus areas. These price offers come at a time farmers are being offered Ksh900 per bag, prices way below the farmers production cost.

Warehouse operation managers equipped with skills to improve warehouse management

In order to equip warehouse operations managers with skills to manage their warehouses, EAGC trained Warehouse Operations & Management staff drawn from various companies in Matuu, Machakos County. The warehouse operations managers were trained on 5 Thematic areas. They were trained on Pre and Post-Harvest Management, Pest management, Warehouse certification, code of practice and operations, Roles and responsibilities of warehouse management board and Stores and inventory management.

A total of 36 participants were trained and from the trainings they were able to come up with action plans on Developing warehouse operations systems by determining product handling and storage requirements; developing, implementing, enforcing, and evaluating policies and procedures; developing processes for receiving product, equipment utilization, inventory management among others.
Kenya Country Programs Updates

Farmers in the coastal region to benefit through the KCEP programme

Eastern Africa Grain Council (EAGC) is one of the partners in the Kenya Cereal Enhancement Programme-Climate Resilient Agricultural Livelihoods (KCEP-CRAL) program. The overall goal of KCEP-CRAL is to contribute to the reduction of rural poverty and food insecurity of smallholders, by developing their economic potential. Under this Programme, EAGC is responsible for implementing the Post-Harvest Management & Market Linkages component.

EAGC represented by Martha Njogu and Protus Nyende, attended the KCEP quarterly partners review meeting at the Coast Institute of Technology (CIT). EAGC prepares to implement component 2 of the KCEP project in the Coastal region. This comes at a time when EAGC has just launched the grains and pulses conclave in the 22 counties to ignite pulses production in Kenya. The coastal region is one of the regions of focus.

A Courtesy visit by the EAGC secretariat was made to the Taita Taveta Agriculture office in Wundanyi with the County Desk and Sub County Agricultural Officers. EAGC will work closely with the County Government to train farmers.

During the review meeting; Mr. Davis Mwangoma - CEC Taita Taveta County was in attendance and made opening remarks during the KCEP quarterly partners review meeting at the Coast Institute of Technology (CIT) - Voi.

He emphasized on the need for synergy among all the partners within the Coastal Region since most of the activities being implemented are targeting the same farmers. EAGC hopes to reduce post harvest losses in the region and improve grain trade in Kenya and beyond.

Linking farmers to processors

EAGC has been linking farmer groups under the KCEP and GTBH programs to grain processors. To deliver on this intervention on behalf of EAGC members and in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture in Kenya, Emmanuella Atito, Howard Mugera and Protus Nyende from the EAGC secretariat paid courtesy visits to several grain Millers during small and medium millers' visits week. The team visited Kwest Millers, Kiki Millers, Betilexa investments, Ngathuru Posho Mills, Kilimambogo millers, Maycorn Mills LTD, Vine Food, Range corn, Dandora mills, and Export Trading Group.

4 companies namely: Kilimambogo Millers Ltd, Vine Food Ltd, Ngathuru Flour Mills and Export Trading Group (ETG) agreed to meet farmer and offtake at the Ghubs and farmer groups that have already aggregated their maize at a range of, Ksh 1800-1900 per bag. Range processor Ltd willing to offtake from farmers who have already aggregated their maize so long as they deliver to the off-takers premises. 3 potential members i.e. Vine Food Ltd, Ngathuru Flour Mills and Range processor Ltd were identified for recruitment into EAGC membership. This linkages come at a time when Kenyan farmers are still in need of a guaranteed market for their grains especially maize.
EAGC shares contributions to discussions on the food security agenda by the Government of Kenya

The Standard Group organised the 3rd edition of Transform Kenya initiatives under the theme ‘Food security and Nutrition’ at Strathmore School of Business in Nairobi.

The forum provided Kenyans with the opportunity of contributing to the debate nationwide.

The event discussions were centred on the four key pillars of food security among them, food security and nutrition, food production, access to markets consumer, farmer awareness and post-harvest-handling of food.

EAGC represented by Gerald Masila, The Executive director and the Communications officer , Ms.Lynette Muchai attended the highly interactive forum. The forum spurred debates on how food security can be achieved to transform Kenya. Issues around food testing and cost of production were highly debated and noted as key in the subject. Dr. Gabriel Rugalema in his address indicated that to transform Agriculture , Kenyans must transform their mind-set and deliberate actions towards promoting agriculture should be made. EAGC was recognised on its efforts to promote market linkages and organising farmers. The government was recognised on its efforts especially in investing in research.

The Standard Media group has also launched TV platform dedicated to agriculture which EAGC will be actively participating to provide expertize, lessons learnt and possible solutions to challenges contributing to food insecurity in Kenya.

EAGC to work with Baraka FM to promote pulses production and trade in the Coastal Region.

In order to promote pulses production in Kenya EAGC launched the grains and pulses conclave in 22 counties. To achieve this EAGC seeks to partner with strategic institutions such as the media houses , county governments through the Agricultural Training Centres. On 17th October EAGC represented by Jacinta Mwau and Lynette Muchai met with Baraka FM representatives to explore areas of collaboration for pulses promotion in the coastal area.

During the meeting it was agreed that Baraka FM would provide a platform for dissemination of contemporary issues around pulses to influence trade , investments and policy decision. EAGC and Baraka FM to jointly undertake publicity on events and discussion that promote discussions around grains and pulses , jointly conduct stakeholder needs assessment on challenges and opportunities in grains and pulses marketing. EAGC agreed to contribute to knowledge and expertise on grains and pulses production and marketing and mobilize key stakeholders and opinion leaders in matters related to the pulses value chain.

EAGC and Baraka FM agreed to sign an MOU which defines engagements of both Baraka FM and EAGC to ensure pulses production and investment is ignited in the Coastal region of Kenya.
UGANDA Country Program Updates

Pursuing EAGC mandate in promoting grain standards

In order to increase application of the gazetted harmonized regional standards, which were gazetted in 2013 and the revised version gazetted in 2017 potential actors require knowledge and information about these standards.

The harmonized grain standards for the EAC region enable grain value chain actors to understand how they can jointly contribute to their implementation and compliance with the aim of supporting increased grain trade in the region.

It is in light of this EAGC through its institute organised a 4 day training on grain quality and standards. The course covered the overview of grain quality standards for selected grains, appropriate sampling methods of selected grains, laboratory testing of samples and determination of grades and grain quality control.

The Uganda Country Director Dr. Rose Omaria opened the 4th Graders Training in Uganda which was organised at the EAGC offices in Muyenga. The training involved class trainings at the EAGC offices and sampling practicals at Grain Pulse Ltd in Mukono. On the second day of the training the participants were hosted at the Uganda National Bureau of Standards Chemistry Lab for Testing Methods theory and Practicals. The trainees were also exposed to Aflatoxin analysis using ELISA, HPLC and GC test procedures. On the last day of training the participants sat for an examination. Harmonized regional standards for cereals and pulses contribute significantly to improved regional grain trade as stakeholders have a common business language with regard to quality and standards requirements.

EAGC hosts the 2nd National Grain Policy Working Group Meeting

The EAGC Uganda Programs team during the week convened the 2nd National Grain Policy working Group meeting. The meeting was held at the EAGC Uganda office Boardroom.

The meeting brought together key stakeholders in the Private sector to discuss policy issues in the Grain sector. Key issues discussed included the maize policy paper and the prevailing withholding tax on grain purchases from the smallholder farmers. The policy paper is currently under review will be submitted to Uganda’s Ministries of Finance, Trade and Agriculture after it has been reviewed key stakeholders to represent their proposals for more trade and better trade.
EAGC represents the grain sector during the Russian Business mission to Uganda

EAGC was represented by Pausta Clessy Nuwagaba at the 2nd Russian Business Mission to Uganda at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Head Quarters in Kampala.

The Russian Delegation was headed by Hon. Alexey Volin; the Russian Deputy Minister for Digital Development and Co-Chairman of the Uganda-Russia Intergovernmental commission on Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation.

Also present is the Russian Ambassador to Uganda H.E Alexander Polyakov, Uganda's State Minister for Agriculture; Hon. Christopher Kibazanga. Other private sectors organizations present include Private Sector Foundation Uganda, Several mining and Tourism companies. EAGC is the voice for the commodity traders.

At the forum EAGC was invited to represent the grain industry in Uganda to discuss the available investment opportunities for the Russian Business Community in Uganda's Grain Industry. This will see EAGC members benefiting from international trade. During the meeting Pausta Clessy Nuwagaba highlighted the importance of Storage facilities, Value addition (Agro processing) and Laboratories for Quality Control.

EAGC Exhibits at the world food day celebrations

Every year the world marks the World Food Day, a day dedicated to tackling global hunger. On 16th October the EAGC Uganda Programs team represented by Regean Murume and Rhoda Kahita attended the World Food Day National celebrations held at Nabuin, Nakapiripiriti district, Karamoja region. The event was organised under the theme "A zero hunger world by 2030 is possible". The National celebrations attracted stakeholders in the agricultural sector who showcased innovations in line with the theme. The EAGC team was able to interact with farmers and introduce EAGC services to them. Gracing the occasion was the Minister for Agriculture Animal Industries and Fisheries Hon. Vincent Bamulangaki Sempijja. The Minister visited the EAGC stand and expressed interest in working with EAGC to sensitize the grain value chain actors on structuring trading systems. The team will plan for a meeting with the Hon. Vincent Bamulangaki Sempijja to discuss further on how stakeholders can benefit in more trade by structuring the trading system.
EAGC efforts on promotion of food safety, recognized at the launch of the Anti-Mycotoxin

The team represented by the EAGC STS Programs Officer in Uganda, Clessy Pausta Nuwagaba attended the launch of the Anti-Mycotoxin with special emphasis on Aflatoxin at the Kampala Serena Hotel. The launch was organized under the theme, Aflatoxin safe Uganda: Your Health, Your Wealth, Your Life. It should be noted that EAGC was actively involved in the development of the Aflatoxin Communication, Information and Communication Materials.

Prof. Archileo Kaaya of Makerere University who is the Chair of the National Technical Working Group on Aflatoxins gave a keynote address on Mycotoxins in Uganda. During his address, Prof. Kaaya recognized EAGC "for the investment put in to promote safe food in Uganda especially through Development and implementation of harmonized Standards, Training on Aflatoxin Detection, Analysis and Control, Training of Graders and awareness campaigns on Post Harvest Handling.

EAGC’s objective is to Improve enabling environment for regional and international grain trade. To achieve this EAGC has developed and is implementing the Regional Training Curriculum on Sampling, Testing & Grading. This is all geared towards increased trade in the region.

EAGC participates annual Agricultural sector review meeting

On the 31st Oct, 2018, the Uganda programs team represented by M&E Officer attended a conference organized by Ministry of Trade Industries and Cooperative (MITC) at Hotel Africana. The said Ministry convenes the sector review annually to bring on board all the industry players to review performance and the way forward for the new financial year. This year’s sector review was premised on the theme “Enhancing Competitiveness of Micro Small and Medium Enterprises for National Export Development”.

EAGC was invited to the meeting as a voice for the grain industry premised on the strong partnership the council has enjoyed with MTIC especially on drafting and implementation of trade policies like Grain Trade policy, Agricultural produce and marketing policy.

The sector review performance was presented by Hon. Amelia Kyambadde, Minister for Trade Industry and Cooperatives. She noted that Uganda has experienced growth in exports with COMESA as main exports destination. The country is importing a lot commodity from Asia (China, India, Japan, and Indonesia) Middle East, COMESA. She further added that the exports grew by 7.23% in FY 2017/18. Implementation of BUBU (Buy Uganda, Build Uganda) policy in commodities like construction materials, footwear, stationery, gave examples of the cement is being used by Chain Construction Company (CCC) other than importing of cement from China.

She further noted that MTIC is pursuing the policies and sectoral strategies aimed at revamping the industry and manufacturing industries which will eventually impact the grain sector positively through increased trade of value added products.
TANZANIA Country Program updates

Business practitioners to benefit from Web 2.0 training

EAGC through its specialized training and capacity building division hosted a three-day training course that provided a platform for business people to explore the immense opportunities offered by ICT to support agribusiness growth. Participatory Web 2.0 for Development or ICT4Dev refers to the 2nd generation of web development and web design, characterized as facilitating communication, information sharing, interoperability, user-centered design and collaboration on the World Wide Web. The training encompassed Value Chain Specialists, Agribusiness Practitioners, Communication Officers and Managers, Advisory and Extension Service Providers, Business Coordinators, Community development Practitioners, Advocacy and Out-reach Representatives. From the training the business people will be able to use the web 2.0 tools to enhance their businesses.

Bank of Africa to set aside more than $300,000 to financing contracted Paddy farmers

The EAGC Arbitration team held a meeting with Raphael Group Limited, Bank of Africa, PASS Trust and Global Community at Mbeya Region to revive the Warehouse Receipt Financing Product offered by Bank of Africa under the Credit Guarantee of PASS Trust to the Contracted Paddy Farmers working with Raphael. The arbitration team managed to resolve the 1 year long outside dispute between the three parties and revived hope and a new partnership whereas the Bank of Africa has promised to set aside more than $300,000 for financing contracted Paddy farmers working with Raphael Group next financial year.

EAGC to work with USAID under the advancing the youth in Iringa Program

EAGC had a meeting with United States Agency for International Development (USAID) under the project of Feed The Future Tanzania Advancing The Youth in Iringa. The Project is One year Old, operating in Mbeya, Iringa and Zanzibar aiming at Connecting youth aged 15-35 to opportunities. The project focuses on Lively hood-Creating Jobs & Opportunities to Youth, Leadership and Life Skills.

The Project is One year Old, operating in Mbeya, Iringa and Zanzibar aiming at Connecting youth aged 15-35 to opportunities. EAGC will involve it's members in this project to add value on their activities, as well as impacting a quiet large number of Youth in Iringa-Tanzania.
RWANDA Country Program updates

‘Maize value chain in Rwanda needs to be structured’ say Private sector players

The EAGC Rwanda Country Programs Manager attended a meeting on Tuesday 2nd October 2018, at Lemigo Hotel hosted by Rwanda Private Sector Federation (PSF). The meeting adopted the theme ‘Public -Private Dialogue on Post-harvest Handling Facilities (drying &Storage) in the Maize Value Chain, Tomato Factory (API) and Rice commodity pricing’. Every year, the Rwanda Chamber of Agriculture and Livestock in the Private Sector Federation (PSF) has been working; with the support of USAID’s Driven Agricultural Growth project (PSDAG) to enable Public Private Dialogue in Agriculture (Agri-PPD) in Rwanda. During the meeting EAGC emphasized on maize quality issues as a key issue. The country manager noted that milling companies prefer to import maize. Another key issue is access to finance where banks avoid taking risks in financing farmers and traders in the maize value chain due to an unstructured sector. It was evident from the meeting that there is a need to structure the maize sector at the same level as rice sector to improve standards compliance and ease access to market and access to finance. EAGC and other stakeholders requested the government to establish a policy protecting the investors willing to implement the EAC harmonized standard as well as a request to establish bank guarantee allowing investors to have credits from international banks at low interest rates.

Facilitating grain trade between Rwanda and Tanzania

EAGC’s overall goal is to facilitate increased grain trade in the Eastern Africa region. On 30th October EAGC Rwanda Country team hosted a trade mission in Kigali at Greenwich Hotel Kigali, Rwanda from 8.00 a.m to 1 pm. The forum involved traders from Tanzania and traders from Rwanda. The trade mission aimed to facilitate one on one market linkage meetings with buyers and sellers from Tanzania and Rwanda as well as to secure potential markets for processed products of Maize and Rice. To understand grain trade the Tanzania trade delegation visited the Rwanda Customs Office, SOSOMA industries Ltd, EAX Silos in Bugesera district, and MINIMEX factory. The visit to the Customs offices was very key especially towards building the capacity of the traders involved in the import and export of commodities to both Rwanda and Tanzania.
RWANDA Country Program updates

**EAGC promotes grain quality during a Business to Business Meeting**

EAGC in Rwanda was invited to participate at business to business linkage meeting to regional buyers and sellers that was held at Kirehe Guest House, in Kirehe District Nyakarambi, Eastern Province of Rwanda on October 10th 2018 from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. The Meeting was hosted by USAID East Africa Trade and Investment Hub.

The meeting consisted of large buyers and sellers of agriculture commodities, women cross border traders and financial institutions from Tanzania and Rwanda. The aim of the Business to Business meeting was to strengthen regional business linkage opportunities among agri-commodity traders. Financial institutions were present to share their financial products and services. The traders, buyers and service providers on Rwanda met with the buyers, sellers from Tanzania to agree about the partnership in grain commodity trade. During the forum Epiphanie Karekezi; The Country Programs Manager made a presentation on Grain Quality and handling. This forum provided EAGC an opportunity to create awareness of EAGC services, link some of the members to Tanzania Market and recruit new members to join EAGC membership.

**EAGC Promotes adoption of EAC harmonized standards**

EAGC was invited to participate at a business to business linkage to regional buyers and sellers that will be held at Park Rock Hotel, in Bugesera District, Eastern Province of Rwanda on October 31st 2018 from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. commodities, women cross border traders and financial institutions from Burundi and Rwanda.

This event was organized to strengthen regional business linkages opportunities among agri-commodity traders and financial institutions were present to share their financial products that may help players to get working capital in their businesses.

The traders, buyers and service providers on Rwanda side met with the buyers, sellers which are big and small from Tanzania side to agree about the partnership in grain commodity trade. The EAGC team used the opportunity to create awareness on EAC harmonized standards and encouraged women cross border traders from Bugesera District (Rwanda) and Commune de Kirundo (Burundi) to adopt and implement them.
RWANDA Country Program updates

Linking Rwanda Farmers to the Gulf Corporation Council

EAGC joined stakeholders at the meet the full the farmers forum in Rwanda. The meeting was prepared by crenov8 (leading conglomerate consulting & digital firm in the Middle east, Dubai & Africa, Nigeria) in a collaboration with NAEB (National Agricultural Export Development Board) and took place on Friday 5th October 2018, at the Radisson Blue Convention Centre.

Meet the farmers conference (MTFC) is an agro-business conference that aims to bring together large scale agricultural commodity producers from Africa to buyers with the countries that form the Gulf Corporation Council (GCC) using Dubai as a trade Centre. buyers from United Arab Emirates.

It provided a unique opportunity for Agriculture Value Chain Stakeholders to network, collaborate, and form potential business partnerships across borders.

The conference created synergy between the different stakeholders in the Africa Agriculture Industry for more efficiency and effective trade facilitation between Rwanda and the GCC markets. This was the 4th conference where the 1st held in DUBAI, 2nd in Ghana, 3rd in Kenya and

EAGC plans for quarter 4 during the Country Programs Committee Meeting

The Rwanda team hosted the Quarter 3 CPC meeting on 9th October 2018. The agenda of the CPC meeting was to discuss about the achievements of EAGC in the 3rd Quarter and plans for the remaining quarter.

The CPC meeting took place at EAGC office, Mulindi Grain Market, Kigali-Rwanda. The meeting was chaired by CPC chairman Mr Eugene Rwibasira.

The two members were present (Mr Safari Jean Bosco and Mr Twahirwa Tharcisse) and CPC members who were absent with apologies were Mutijima Augustin and Munyangorore Elyse.

Significant improvement in performance especially towards bridging the gaps in targets for the year 2018 work plan is expected in quarter four of the year following the CPC meeting held in Rwanda.
**MALAWI Country Program updates**

**Pigeon peas farmers continue to benefit from the successful EAGC policy lobbying and advocacy**

Recent interventions by the Eastern Africa Grain Council (EAGC) through policy lobbying and advocacy got to convince the stakeholders on the need to integrate consumption of pigeon peas in public institutions in Malawi. This intervention was first advocated for in Tanzania where EAGC managed to integrate Pigeon peas in public institutions, a solution which proved to be a viable alternative in Malawi.

From the lobbying ADMARC to purchase 100,000 MT of pigeon peas from smallholder farmers at MK320/kg. Procurement of Pigeon peas by ADMARC-Government statutory corporation has been ongoing. The Government has released MWK5billion to ADMARC as an option to provide markets for the farmers who are desperately looking for Pigeon pea markets.

The Malawi Country office had an update from Namulenga Cooperative, one of beneficiary Cooperatives under the EAGC Technical Advisory Services (E-TAS) have sold 8.7MT at US$313.00/MT to Agriculture Development and Marketing Corporation (ADMCAR).  

**EAGC explores partnership with IFPRI**

The Malawi Country programs team had a meeting with Dr Bob Baulch from International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) to discuss possibilities of collaboration between EAGC and IFPRI.

The Policy Institute has a keen interest in Maize production and trade data and is looking for partners to comprehensively consolidate data from Zambia. However, IFPRI does not support partners financially, they only leverage data collection from partner MIS tools. EAGC will be keen to partner with the research Institution as this is an opportunity to expand EAGC RATIN data collection efforts in Zambia to enable the Council to provide tradeable market information to grain value chain actors in Zambia.
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| 7–9th November | Windsor hotel and Golf club in Nairobi, Kenya | 2019 Annual Regional planning  
Following the launch of the EAGC 3rd Strategic Business Plan, the secretariat will convene to brainstorm on the role of EAGC in 2019 towards promoting more trade and better trade in the Eastern Africa Region and Beyond. The strategic plan will be implemented in the context of each of the countries where EAGC operates. |
| 12th—18th November | Accra, IFC Conference Centre and Kumasi-Anita Hotel in Ghana | Training on Warehouse Receipt System and Structured Trading Systems  
EAGC in partnership with IFC will carry out two trainings in Ghana on Warehouse Receipt System and structured systems in Accra and Kumasi in Ghana. The participants drawn from the grain value chain will be exposed to both classroom and field practicals as EAGC will be aiming at promoting and facilitating efficient, structured, inclusive and profitable grain trade in Ghana by sharing the experiences from the Eastern Africa Region. |
| 20th-21st November | Nairobi Kenya | DRC buyers Business to Business Meeting in Kenya  
EAGC in partnership with the UKAID –ELAN RDC will be hosting a Business to Business Meeting for DRC buyers interested in buying machinery and equipment as they aim to improve their productivity and efficiency in grain production and value addition. The B2B meeting will bring together sellers of machinery and equipment from EAC to meet the DRC buyers after which a couple of industry visits are planned to expose the DRC buyers to the machinery and equipment at site and they function. |
| 23rd November | Nairobi Kenya | Grain sector stakeholders meeting  
EAGC will convene a grain sector stakeholder to discuss the Warehouse Receipt system progress and EAGC’s role in promoting the bill. The meeting will also provide a platform to brainstorm and address the issues/challenges surrounding the maize sector in Kenya. |
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).

THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS

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