Executive Director’s Summary:

Dear Member,

Welcome to the February members update.

First and foremost, I take this opportunity to welcome 5 companies which joined the EAGC family during the month of February 2019. These include: Clinton Foundation in Malawi, Reseau Commercial Et Agricole SARL in DR Congo, Dow elef Agrofarm Limited in Tanzania, Minoterie De Likasi in DR Congo and Financial Access Commerce and Trade Services (FACTS) in Kenya.

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, trade policy and advocacy work as well as capacity building through the Grain Business Institute with the aim of delivering grain trade, more trade and better grain trade.

EAGC’s strategic focus for the next five years is on delivering “More Trade” and “Better Trade” for its members in region. These goals are expected to be achieved by improving efforts to promote structured trade, an enabling environment for grain trade and institutional strengthening for institutional sustainability. To enhance service delivery to EAGC members the secretariat has been focusing on membership engagements to establish members’ needs and develop solutions to address these needs.

EAGC’s strides towards the adoption of the Warehouse Receipt System (WRS) Bill in Kenya saw the Council hosting a retreat for Members of Parliament (National Assembly) in Kenya to discuss the WRS Bill which is currently at the Senate level for consideration and eventually accentuation by the President of the Republic of Kenya.

The Council continues to spearhead the process of developing Standards for Hermetic Storage Technologies (HST) in Kenya where it convened a workshop to review draft standards for Hermetic Storage was hosted for key stakeholders.

To deliver its mandate to members, EAGC continued to seek for partnerships opportunities with like minded organizations to compliment EAGC service offering.

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 initiatives 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!!!!!!
Participants for the retreat held on 21st Feb 2019 pose for a group photo after successful deliberations during the Members of Parliament retreat at the Reef Hotel in Mombasa, Kenya.

Participants at the NARIGP planning meeting with Technical Experts with County officials in Kisumu.

Tanzania TIFA Steering Committee meeting on 25th Feb 2019 to review AGRA funded projects in Tanzania.

Yves Batungwanayo, EAGC Burundi country representative at the Cerealis Factory with General Manager, Mr Olivier Vyuzura.

EAGC Members from the Southern DRC Region with EAGC team after the first ever members meeting in Lubumbashi. From left to right: Mr Manoj, Africa Milling Corporation, Ms Jacinta, EAGC, Mr. Ngama, RCA, Ms. Agnes, Ferme Safari International, Mr. Mickey, Minoterie de Likasi, Mr. Masila, Executive Director EAGC.

EAGC staff Mr. Junior Ndesanjo participating in "Hoja ya Leo" programme Radio One – Dar Es Salaam on February 27, 2019 under Radio One that discussed on the theme “What can be done to help farmers to sell their produce”.

From left to right Sylvia Nyamai, Senior Manager, Safaricom, Jacinta Mwau EAGC, Martha Njogu, Digisfarm Fred Kioo, Head of Safaricom’s Agri-Iz Department Janet Ngombalu and Sam Rutto after a successful Partnership meeting at the Safaricom Westlands Kenya Offices.
EAGC continued to make strides towards the adoption of the Warehouse Receipt System Bill by hosting a Retreat for Members of Parliament (National Assembly) in Kenya to discuss the WRS Bill.

In attendance were 17 Members of Parliament, grain stakeholder, ministry of trade, Ministry of agriculture, banks and Strategic Food Reserve Trust Fund and Oversight Board.

The Executive Director Gerald Masila accompanied by Jacinta Mwau and Kimwaga Mhando represented EAGC during the retreat. The Principal Secretary Trade Dr. Chris Kiptoo made a presentation during the retreat on Kenya Commodities Exchange (KOMEX).

The three day workshop that was held in Capital reef Hotel in Mombasa on 21st– 23rd February 2019 was culminated by a field visit to Grain Bulk Handlers Ltd (an EAGC member) and their operations at the Port of Mombasa. During the visit Jared Locklear, General Manager of Grain Bulk Handlers gave an overview of their operations.

The draft bill has been passed by the National Assembly and is at the senate before it is finally assented by the president of the Republic of Kenya. EAGC will continue pursuing the signing of the WRS Bill and see it to fruition.

The warehouse receipt system will facilitate trade and enhances market efficiency by helping in creating liquidity for agricultural commodities and improving access to credit. It will allow farmers to avoid selling after harvest, when prices are depressed. Farmers will be able to deposit their commodities in a certified warehouse, which will issue them with a receipt that serves as document of title. The document will in turn be used as collateral for short term credit.

**The council explores partnership with Vijabiz**

To deliver its mandate in the grain sector and to members, the council pursues strategic partnership with organizations. This Month EAGC held a meeting with a representative from CTA Netherlands, Ken Luhento and USTADI rep Eric Bosire to discuss how the two CTA supported programs VIJABIZ (Youth in Agriculture) and EAGC Grain Business Hubs can collaborate together.

VIJABIZ (Vijana Biashara) is supporting youths groups in three value chains (Grains, Fish and Dairy) in entrepreneurship and reduce youth unemployment through training, market linkage, mentorship, grants, value addition. The Grain Trade Business Hub (GTBH) Model that facilitates a forward and backward linkage model for farmers to access grain markets, services and trade across the region.

Through an MOU that will be signed soon, the two CTA components will collaborate in joint field visits to see the youth groups in the grain value chain and visit a model GHUB in Nakuru. From the meeting it was agreed that through VIJabiz the organizations will Co-host/Partner in hosting a youth in agriculture or ICT in agriculture at the 8th Africa Grain Trade Summit, Co-host the Agribusiness Expo in Kitale and Pulses Conclave in Kilifi County.

EAGC will draft 2 MOUs to firm up the partnership that will see youth in Kilifi and Nakuru County benefit.
The Eastern Africa Grain Council (EAGC) is spearheading the process of developing Standards for Hermetic Storage Technologies in Kenya. It is in light of this the council in partnership with the Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS) and with support from the USAID Kenya Crops and Dairy Market Systems (KCDMS) Activity convened a Workshop to Review Draft Standards for Hermetic Storage Technologies in Kenya, which took place on 12th and 13th February 2019 in Nairobi, Kenya.

The purpose of the envisaged HST standards is to protect both manufacturers and end-users of HSTs (particularly farmers) from inferior quality and counterfeit products which are already entering the market as HSTs become increasingly popular tools for reducing post-harvest losses and protecting quality of staple food commodities.

The workshop convened 37 members of the Joint Technical Committee (JTC) established by KEBS to develop the HST Standards.

From the workshop the members agreed that the immediate next steps in the process of developing HST standards were: Public Review period for the Revised Draft Kenya Standards for HSTs (60 calendar days from date of circulation by KEBS) by 30th April 2019 and an editorial Workshop and consideration of public review comments by 30th May 2019.

The development of HST Standards is a ground-breaking initiative considering that there are no HST Standards anywhere in the world. As such, the Standards developed in this project are expected to eventually inform East African, African and ISO standards for HSTs.

EAGC members recommend changes to reduce cost of doing business to County Governments

EAGC represented by Janet Ngombalu met with Cabinet Secretary, State Department of Devolution Hon. Eugene Wamalwa and Principal Secretary Charles Sunkuli CBS, at the State Department of Devolution offices to discuss on the County Economic Blocs, and how issues of devolution are affecting the private sector. This was done in partnership with KEPSA where EAGC is a Member. The meeting responded to EAGC target to engage with high level policy makers to increase better trade and more trade. It further resonates with the objective to provide member services by representing member issues to the cabinet secretary especially on removal of taxes to reduce transaction costs and also increase opportunities for investments in the counties.

The team highlighted in the meeting challenges being experienced such as: Double taxation of private sector including EAGC members by both national and county governments and delayed payments to businesses for supplies for more than 10 months and more in some counties. The members discussed modalities for County Economic Blocs engagement with private sector, prioritization of a 10 year investment plan, Counties comparative index and harmonization of policies to support private investments.

The economic Blocs will benefit members consolidated their investments with counties for economies of scale. The team requested to attend the devolution conference. The Economic Blocs policy is before cabinet so there is need to provide input. EAGC members will be engaged to see how counties engagement are affecting their businesses and provide recommendations.
Kenya Country Programs Updates

Kenya Smallholder farmers to benefit from the Cereals Enhancement Programme

From Left to right: Jacinta Mwaai (EAGC), Venah Kwamboka (EAGC) and Philamon Imbeywa during a membership visit to Spice World Limited

The EAGC Kenya Country Programs team, welcomes 1 new member; Financial Access Commerce and Trade Services Limited (FACTS).

Financial Access is a long established financial sector advisory firm with a global 25 year track record of implementing change and capacity development for and with financial institutions in emerging markets. FACTS lends to SMEs in Kenya, Uganda and (soon) Tanzania.

To strengthen EAGC membership base and build stronger partnership with members the EAGC team has been engaging with members through visits to map out their expectations as well as explore partnership opportunities.

This month the Kenya programs engaged several members including Kamili packers, Ennovative capital, Sauti Africa, Bell industries, Spice world, Grainpro, Bunge East Africa, Canadian Food Grain Bank, NCPB, ABC Bank, Minua enterprises, Capital reef and Grain Bulk Handlers.

Kenya Country Programs Updates

Strengthening EAGC Membership base in Kenya

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.

This year the EAGC, KCEP Project Coordination Unit had entry and planning meeting in preparation for the roll-out and implementation of KCEP-CRAL Component 2 in Taita Taveta, Makueni and Machakos county.

To effectively deliver the KCEP CRAL programme in these areas, EAGC held Trainer Of Trainers trainings in Wote, where the trainings focused on; On farm grain management, Store management, Group dynamics, Management skills, Financial management, Marketing skills. The trainers will deliver the Trainings to farmers in the March. TOT training conducted under the KCEP program convened participants drawn from service providers and Ministry of Agriculture who will be engaged in training farmers at the ward and sub-county level.

Under the KCEP project another training was conducted for 35 shellers and threshers in Machakos who will support in providing commercial shelling and threshing services to farmer groups.
Kenya Country Programs Updates

Over 2,200 grain farmers benefit from technical training

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. This month the country team has trained 2205 farmers.

The farmer groups were trained on pre harvest management, cleaning, renovating and spraying the store before storage of grains use modern technologies in storing their grains using hermetic technology.

During the field activities EAGC partnered with several stakeholders to deliver the training to farmers. The team partnered with Trans global distributors & Bell Industries on Training on postharvest handling of grains and use of hermetic bags & agrochemicals.

The field officers also engaged the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries through the WAOs in training on pre-harvest management, maize marketing especially on the process of selling maize to NCPB at individual level and group level.

The team also engaged Grekkon ltd an irrigation company that supports farmers to install modern irrigation systems to ensure continued production throughout the year and the team also partnered with Green Tech ltd a company that support farmers in installing irrigation systems and construction of greenhouses thus creating crop diversification.

Through the AIMS supported project farmers in E-TAS groups in Kenya have sold 20, 495 (90kgs Bags) of maize, beans, green Gram in Makueni, Meru, North rift, Kitui, Narok, Bomet worth Kshs 90,750,195 in the month of February alone. The commodity is sold to Schools, WFP, local traders.

EAGC explores partner opportunity with Safaricom’s Digifarm

To deliver its mandate to members EAGC seeks partnerships with Likeminded organizations to compliment EAGC services. This week EAGC represented by Samwel Rutto, Martha Njogu Jacinta Mwau and Janet Ngombalu held a meeting with Digifarm Fred Kioo, Head of Safaricom's Agri-Iz Department and Sylvia Nyamai, Senior Manager, Safaricom.

The purpose of the meeting was to explore areas of partnership with Digifarm. DigiFarm is a Safaricom product whose aim is to enrich the small-holder farmer. DigiFarm an agribusiness solution tailored for small-holder farmers, providing them with financing, information on different crops and animals in addition to quality, discounted inputs. Farmers can enroll to and access Digifarm by dialing *283#.

A follow up meeting will be held to firm up the partnership which will support farmers increase productivity, access trade/markets and access financial services.
Uganda Country Program Updates

Promoting membership development in Uganda

Agroways, an EAGC member launched a new multipurpose grain Facility in Mbarara. This initiative will benefit maize farmers in the districts of Ibanda, Kamwenge and Kyegegwa who have been struggling with unfair prices. This facility is expected to handle over 300,000 metric tons of maize every year in addition to creating hundreds of jobs to people who will build and operate the facility, the suppliers of materials, maize suppliers, transporters, labour at household level among others.

The facility will be working with small holder farmers in the five districts especially on maize, sorghum and barley for commodities demanded by Nile Breweries. EAGC team will work closely with Agroways to link them to more smallholder farmers and EAGC members in need of storage facilities.

EAGC’s core mandate under the new 2018–2022 strategic plan is enhancing service delivery to members. In a bid to align EAGC interventions to member needs and to support existing members in the Council, the Uganda team held membership engagements within the week where 17 members participated in a members’ meeting where they were sensitized on aflatoxin issues and their impact on trade. Additionally, to improve the quality of maize grains among members, EAGC sensitized and distributed materials on quality. The EAGC Country programs team will continue visiting members in the coming weeks mapping out their needs.

EAGC members to benefit from weather forecast information

The EAGC Uganda team on 27th February participated in a meeting on Enhancing Adaptation to climate-smart technologies for Uganda’s Agricultural sector at Protea hotel. The meeting was organized by ACTADE- African Centre for Trade and Development.

To add value to members EAGC team will pursue an MoU with Uganda National Meteorology Authority to partner on weather forecast information dissemination alongside price information provision.

From the partnership EAGC will also get involved in National climate change policy advocacy Group alongside members like UNFFE, ACTADE.

The policy platform will enhance EAGC’s capacity to voice out her members’ policy concerns in regard to Climate change. At the same meeting, EAGC made contacts with two potential exhibitors as well as a farmer group leader working with about 1,200 farmers in Tororo who can be signed up for RATIN SMS updates.
The EAGC Uganda team received reports on the temporary border closure between Uganda-Rwanda. The team was informed that trucks not being cleared by the Rwandan authorities and only buses are allowed to cross from the three border points of Cyanika, Bunagana and Katuna.

According to information from the Trade Information Desk Officer at Katuna Border, the border was closed on 27th February 2019 at 2:00pm by the Ugandan authorities. All transport trucks carrying cargo and all food items were stopped in the no man’s land by Rwandan Border Authorities having been cleared by the Ugandan counterparts. According to a statement released by the Rwandan Commissioner for Customs Services, Referenced as “Temporary Diversion of Heavy Trucks from Gatuna to Kagitumba Border post”, the move is meant to “provide ample space” for the completion of the One Stop Border Post (OSBP) infrastructure.

However, according to information from the border, all Rwandan nationals including School going children have been stopped from crossing into Uganda. Only Non-Rwandan Nationals are allowed to cross to Uganda. No Ugandan national with or without goods is allowed to enter Rwanda. All passenger aboard buses bearing Rwandan IDs and Passports are not cleared to cross into Uganda. There is a reported “heavy” deployment by the Rwandan authorities than Normal and the border has been sealed off with padlocks. Uganda has maintained supply of water and electricity to Uganda. The Cyanika border was also closed on 27th Feb 2019 at 2:00pm to all trucks, private cars, and pedestrians.

On 28th February 2019, only trucks carrying perishable goods like horticulture and fish were cleared by Rwandan Authorities to enter. No trucks were allowed to enter into Rwanda.

At this border, no formal communication has been given by either authorities about the impasse. According to sources at the border, all the cleared trucks with perishables have to first go to Kigali for Verification before they proceed to their final destinations. This includes trucks destined to neighbouring Rubavu. It has also been reported that taxes have been doubled by the Rwandan authorities for Ugandan goods without any communication.

All pedestrians and school going children have been stopped into Uganda. Only trucks from Rwanda destined to DRC through Bunagana are allowed to cross. No other imports and exports of cereals allowed to cross. Rwanda has cut off water supply to Uganda; although Uganda has maintained electricity supply to Rwanda.

The Mirama Hills/Kagitumba Border Post was also closed on 27th Feb 2019 to all Ugandan trucks and nationals.

The border, however, briefly allowed trucks to cross to Rwanda on the night of 28th Feb before closing it again. No nationals of either type are allowed to cross to either country.

**Representing the voice of the Grain sector for borderless East Africa for Trade and Investment**

The EAGC Uganda team was invited to Participate in a high level meeting dubbed ;the CEO Round Table Breakfast Meeting hosted by EABC in collaboration with Private Sector Foundation Uganda (PSFU) on 26th February 2019 at Serena Hotel in Kampala.

EABC envisions a borderless East Africa for Trade and Investment therefore EABC is repositioning to push for private sector interests at East African Community (EAC) level. In view of this, the EABC is in collaboration with the various National Focal Points will enhance dialogue with the EAC and increase its visibility and reputation across the region. During the meeting EAGC had opportunity to get informed on EABC’s Outlook for 2019, activities and new membership products & benefits.

However, EAGC cautioned EABC to take the issue of Rice importation in Uganda as a serious issue since it is still bringing tension between the Rice Millers Association and rice growers association of Uganda as the two are antagonistic on the importation of rice and observation of the 70% CET on rice.

The meeting further provided avenue for business to business networking, strengthening of partnership and linkages between East African Business Council and Private Sector associations based in Uganda. Noteworthy, EAGC Country manager was involved in formulating a Private Sector Charter as well as meeting the new EABC Executive Director in person.
EAGC welcomed two new members in DRC namely: Minoterie de Likasi and Reseaux Commerciale et Agricole.

The team focused retention efforts in the Southern DRC Region where the Country Representative was supported by the Executive Director and the Regional Manager in charge of MIS and communications to host a 5 Members meeting to seek for members partnership in 2019 and to draft the policy agenda for the DRC grain sector.

In Eastern DRC, the team has been concentrating on membership visits as well as identifying new and potential members. In Bukavu the DRC representative Ets RIAF, PACAF and AGRIFORCE to gather member feedback and recommendations to EAGC. The members were happy to inform the country representative that through RATIN they have been able to make better trade decisions. The members noted to grow their grain business access to finance is key and through EAGC they hope to get information on how to access funds. The business to business meetings remained a key highlight to the members highlighting they made significant business contacts during the forums.

In Rutshuru, Mr. Bonane met ETS Baraka an EAGC member. Who regrettable noted he was expecting to buy the soybean oil processing machine through a contract signed during an facilitation forum organised by EAGC but the deal is yet to actualise.

During the field visit Mr. Bonane identified and visited potential members. In Bukavu ETS GAP and AASF who will be joining EAGC before the AGM scheduled in April. In Kamanyola the representative met with FOPSIPAF an MINOKA while in Rutshuru had a meeting with Ets Mikeno, Premidis, Ets Ziri, ENTH and SODERU the organizations will be paying the membership fees in the coming month ahead of the AGM.

In Goma, the DRC country Representative visited several members in order to profile their needs and understand how EAGC can partner with the members to better their business whilst following up on Business to Business contracts to actualize the deals signed. Mr. Bonane managed to carry out meetings with Ets Job, FOPAC, FEC, Maize King, Ets Vanny Bishweka and Ets Buhendwa

Expanding EAGC interventions to Western DRC

EAGC held a meeting with World Vision DRC to explore the opportunity for providing MIS Training consultancy to their staff and local market facilitators as an effort towards the implementation of MIS services in the Southern DRC region as well as Kinshasa area. The meeting held in Lubumbashi discussed the proposal submitted earlier, to agree on activities and budgets which will see EAGC expanding interventions in the Western part of the country, Kinshasa.
The team in DRC held several meetings with Mining Companies namely: Kico SA, MMG, TFM and ERG in an effort to seek for opportunities for partnership with them especially towards enabling them to implement their Corporate Social Responsibility in the region. The Provincial Government of Haut Katanga compels the mining companies in the Southern DRC to support Small Holder Farmers within the neighboring community to produce maize as a staple food for them to promote food security within province. In order for the mining companies to retain their social license, they are required to work with SHF to produce maize in an area of land not less than 500ha.

EAGC and RCA partnered to facilitate the mining companies to maximize the outcomes in the promotion of grain production in Southern DRC, Provision of Technical Advisory Services to SHF and the grain value chain actors at large, Grain storage and aggregation in partnership with mining companies and finally in Grain Off taking and value addition by RCA and other EAGC members in the region.

**Flying EAGC flag in DRC at the IFAD workshop**

EAGC recently launched its initiatives to DRC. Focus by the Country representative have been on creating awareness of EAGC services as well as membership benefits. It is in light of this that Joab Bonane participated in IFAD project planning workshop in Goma and presented EAGC interventions in the event.

The Country Representative also interacted with grain value chain actors and created awareness on the role of EAGC and membership benefits to those eligible.

The EAGC country representative visited the COMESA office in Bunagana to explore areas EAGC could collaborate with COMESA to improve the policy and advocacy process for DRC members.
Tanzania Country Program updates

Members benefiting from EAGC trainings

The Tanzania team conducted warehouse operators and management training in 2018. From the training several members were trained. This month the team visited several members to document the impact of the trainings that was carried out.

The team visited Super Seki-Iringa to conduct a warehouse inspection. The team discovered that following the EAGC Warehouse Operators and management training that was conducted to Super Seki and other operators, the member now has a moisture meter for checking on moisture content for grains; the warehouse now has 4 fire extinguishers in place for fire hazards and have also bought 2 weighing scales for better accuracy. Also the member now has the environmental, health and safety signs and tools. The EAGC team visited Mbomole Investment Co. Ltd and Njombe (Tenende) both EAGC members . The team observed that following the EAGC warehouse operators and management training that was conducted, the members now have moisture meters, fire extinguishers in place for fire hazards and also have hazardous signage in place.

EAGC recognized as the voice of the grain sector

EAGC achievements in 2018/2019 and plans for 2019 were covered in the Guardian Newspaper on 27th February, 2019. It was noted that EAGC managed to advocate for the lift of export ban on maize and paddy and removal of VAT on imported soya meal which is crucial ingredient for animal feeds manufacturers, also EAGC pledged to work closely with the Ministry of Agriculture to address challenges on the availability of grains, acceptability of grains, affordability of grains and access to market.

Junior Ndesanjo also participated in a 2 hours Radio programme known as “Hoja ya Leo” under Radio One that discussed on the theme “What can be done to help farmers to sell their produce”. This provided an avenue for EAGC to continue offering solutions to the grain value chain actors.
Ms Janet Ngombalu represented EAGC in moderating a session on Staples Value Chain at the 5th Annual Agriculture Policy Conference, Dodoma Hotel.

The conference brought together agriculture actors to discuss the policies put in place in the country and their impact on the regional trade environment. EAGC represented by Junior Ndesanjo was also one of the panelist for the staple food session and was able to address issues availability of grains in grains in the region and meeting the demand; accessibility of the grades and standards required in the regional markets and how Tanzania is prepared to meet these grades and standards and access to the market in general giving examples of the trade missions to Kenya, Zambia and Malawi.

From the conference the PAG was requested to convene a meeting to discuss on; 5th AAPC emerging policy issues.

On February 26, 2019 EAGC staff attended a Policy Analysis Group (PAG) meeting held at ASPIRES office in Dar Es Salaam. it was agreed that PAG should establish a small subcommittee members that will pass and wrap up the 2019/20 Tax reforms on 28th February, 2019 and plan to attend the Agriculture Tax Task Form Reform meeting in Dodoma organized by Ministry of Finance and Planning scheduled on 18th March, 2019.

EAGC lobbies for removal of VAT on Post Harvest Handling Technology

Currently 342,000MTs of maize and Legumes with an equivalent value of Tshs.222 Billion is lost annually.

The case is the same on VAT imposed on crop insurance which hinders a total of 150,000 Small Holder Farmers to access the benefits of insurance.

On Wednesday February 20, 2019, Junior Ndesanjo had a TV interview with East Africa Television to lobby on behalf of the grain sector for the removal of VAT on PHH.

EAGC to partner with Tanzania Mercantile Exchange

To explore partnership EAGC represented by Prudence Mushi, met with Tanzania Mercantile Exchange (TMX) at EAGC Tanzania office, TMX is the first commodity exchange in Tanzania.

The exchange is established as a platform where farmers, traders, exporters and other various market actors are able to access domestic and global market and obtain a fair price in selling or buying of commodities.

Mrs. Kathryn TMX linkage manager has proposed an MoU to firm up the partnership between EAGC and TMX.
Malawi Country Program updates

Promoting partnerships with EAGC members in Malawi

The team visited Trade line Corporation, an affiliate EAGC member and discussed on the way forward for partnership with EAGC in 2019. Trade line Corporation is working to empower agricultural SMEs with Business development services, Financial Services and Markets for their competitiveness in the commercial sector. EAGC will link Trade line corporation to small holder farmers.

This year the Malawi team’s number grew by two additional staff following the EAGC partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture where two graduate interns were placed to work with EAGC for knowledge and skills transfer after their under graduate degrees in the agricultural field.

Ensuring Quality Data under the AIMS program

The EAGC team last year collected baseline data for the AIMS project. To verify the data collected the Malawi team embarked on a Data Quality Assessment exercise. AIMS program conducts data quality assurance exercise annually in order to maintain the recommended data quality standards. The program uses DQA exercise to verify the consistency and quality of data over time.

The team on 25th February carried out enumerator training at the EAGC Malawi country office in Lilongwe. The training was facilitated by Mr. John of Global Communities and Ms. Kohani of EAGC. The DQA exercise is Data Quality Assessment started on 26th of February to 1st March. Where 20 organizations were assessed. The country program officer accompanied the enumerators during the monitoring and evaluation exercise.

In other updates the EAGC Malawi team scheduled a meeting between EAGC and Action Holdings commodity Exchange Limited (AHCXL) to follow up on warehouse receipt system pilot program with Ecobank. Ms. Kohani met with Mr. Robert of AHCXL to find out the progress. It was noted that there had been very little that was done and a follow up with Ecobank was needed to ensure progress. And ultimately benefit to EAGC members and grain value chain actors.

Rwanda Country Programs Updates

Exploring affordable access to finance to EAGC members

The Rwanda country team held meetings with RGCC, WIN WIN Deals Ltd, Movement Supply Services, Post Harvest Solutions and SOSOMA. During the meeting the members noted a need for Post Harvest management training as well as investment in post harvest equipment. A growing concern to the EAGC members in Rwanda is the high interest offered by the banks.

To address the members concern the team visited a number of banks that support the agriculture sector: BPR by Atlas Mara, KCB-Rwanda, Ecobank, COGEBANK, Bank of Africa and UOB to find out what are their requirement for a farmers cooperative and any other SME to get finances to invest in postharvest equipment.

The team will continue to pursue discussions with the banks to identify suitable products to fit the members.
Burundi Country Program updates

Strengthening member partnerships in Burundi

Burundi focus for this month has been on strengthening EAGC membership base in the country. This month the EAGC team welcomed a new member SOCOF to EAGC membership.

To strengthen membership retention in Burundi, Mr. Batungwanayo visited Cerealis an EAGC member producing fortified flour in Burundi. The purpose of the visit was to explore potential partnership areas with the member Mr. Olivier Vyuzura, Burundi EAGC Country Director. The Burundi Country Director highlighted in line with the EAGC strategy on membership it will be key to bring on board actors from the beer industry in Burundi, who use a lot of grains and this could influence other members of the value chain. Similarly Agriprofocus and Africa Active Milling company Limited were visited.

The identified four potential members in Burundi including but not limited to: Molaplus company Limited, Cooperative d’encadrement de Production, Association d’Encadrement de Production et de Vulgarisation en milieu rural (AEPV), and SOCOF. The latter organization became the first new EAGC member in Burundi in 2019.

South Sudan Country Programs Updates

EAGC to partner with Premium Agro Consult Ltd

The program officer held a partnership meeting with Premium Agro Consult Ltd, a service provider company limited by shares dealing in Market linkage and value chain development, Agrotech services, Business advice, Loan service linkage and consultancy.

During the meeting, the team explored various partnership avenues with Premium Agro Consult Ltd on Market linkage, Business management trainings and consultancies. The firm expressed readiness to become a member of EAGC. They are looking forward to partner with EAGC in developing business management modules for their current joint consultancy with CORAID, Agrитетра and Spark known as South Sudan Agribusiness Development Programme II (SSADP II).

The country representative initiated Partnership discussions with the Food Security Technical Secretariat (FSTS) in January following the need to acquire data for the Grain Watch publication. FSTS is a technical committee funded by FAO attached to the National Bureau of Standards to collect and analyze agricultural data which is fed into the online MIS called Climis.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
<th>EVENT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11th March 2019</td>
<td>EAGC Regional office board room</td>
<td>EAGC Board meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13th – 15th March 2019</td>
<td>EAGC Training Centre Nairobi, Kenya</td>
<td>Post Harvest Handling and Management Training</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20th March 2019</td>
<td>EAGC Board room, Nairobi, Kenya</td>
<td>Quarter 1 Country Program Committee Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20th – 22nd March 2019</td>
<td>EAGC Training Centre, Nairobi, Kenya</td>
<td>Regional structured Commodity Trade Financing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27th– 29th March 2019</td>
<td>EAGC Training Centre, Nairobi, Kenya</td>
<td>Strategic Business Planning Training</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19th March 2019</td>
<td>Kigali, Rwanda</td>
<td>AGRA Consortium meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22nd March 2019</td>
<td>Kigali Rwanda</td>
<td>Rwanda Members Forum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20th March 2019</td>
<td>Goma, DRC</td>
<td>DRC Members Forum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25th March 2019</td>
<td>Goma, DRC</td>
<td>IFAD –EAGC partnership meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11th – 15th March 2019</td>
<td>EAGC Training Centre, Kampala Uganda</td>
<td>Export Procedures Training</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21st March 2019</td>
<td>EAGC Board Room, Kampala, Uganda</td>
<td>Policy working Group meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18th -22nd March</td>
<td>Nairobi, Kenya</td>
<td>Uganda members Trade Mission to Kenya</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25th March 2019</td>
<td>EAGC Boardroom, Kampala, Uganda</td>
<td>Quarter 1 Country Program Committee Meeting</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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).

CONTACT US

REGIONAL HEAD OFFICE & KENYA
Lavington, Mbaazi Avenue, Off Kingara Road
P.O. Box 218, 00606 Nairobi, Kenya
Cell: +254 733 444035 +254 710 607313. Email: grains@eagc.org

TANZANIA
CSDI Office Premise, Sinza Mori, Plot No. 16, Block A
P.O. Box 34210 Dar es Salaam, Tanzania Tel: +255 754 354 852 +255 784 366 669
Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI),
P.O. Box 6024 Arusha , Tanzania

UGANDA
Plot 938 Galukande close,Muyenga, Opposite Kironde road
P.O. Box 28435 Kampala, Uganda /Tel: +256 393 112 854 +256 414 501 903

ZAMBIA
C/o Grain Traders Association of Zambia Katanga Road
P.O Box 34863 Industrial Area, Lusaka, Zambia

RWANDA
Mulindi Grain Market
P.O. Box 4497 Kigali, Rwanda Cell: +250 788821312

SOUTH SUDAN
Hai amarat, Dehavana lounge next to Lugali house
P.O. Box, 505 Juba - South Sudan, Tel: 0955048125/0925179680

BURUNDI
C/o IFDC Office
Tel: +257714 80983 Bujumbura, Burundi , Email: grains@eagc.org

MALAWI
Malawi Off Mphonongo Street, Area 43/Plot 491 , P.O. Box 30209 Lilongwe, Malawi

DR CONGO
PO Box 308, Goma ,DR Congo,Tel +243 970 564 100