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EAGC to enhance Sustainable Food Security and Farm Incomes at the 2019 Agribusiness EXPO edition in Uganda

[Kampala, Uganda – 6th June 2019]. The Eastern Africa Grain Council, with the support of the aBi Trust, has today launched the 2019 Agribusiness EXPO edition scheduled to take place in June from 21st to 22nd at the Masindi Agricultural Demonstration Centre, Kihonda. The EXPO will be featuring the theme “Enhancing Value in Agribusiness for Food Security and Sustainable Farm Incomes”.

The Right Honorable Prime Minister of Uganda Hon. Ruhakana Rugunda is expected to grace the event where over 70 exhibitors will showcase best practices in farm management, pre and post-harvest handling technologies and innovations as well mature crop demonstration plots. The event, which is sponsored by Centenary Bank, will bring together over 5,000 farmers from all over the Country.

Speaking at the Expo, the Commissioner for Processing and Marketing at the Ministry of Trade, Industries and cooperatives-Dr.Joshua Mutambi indicated that post-harvest food loss is a major leading cause of food insecurity with one third of food produced for human consumption going to waste. He further added that the average Ugandan farmer loses about 30% of their agricultural produce due to poor post-harvest handling practices. “The Ministry looks forward to working closely with EAGC towards the implementation of the grain sector strategy”. Said Dr.Mutambi

“Remarkable commitment in improving food quality and safety has been realized over the past 8 Expos hosted by EAGC,” lauded Dr.Agnes Apea, the EAGC Country Director in Uganda. “She further told the Media that “Masindi region has recorded the best quality maize produce in Uganda following the increased access to improved services given the new outlets in the area.” Dr Apea indicated that the EAGC Expos have led to improved infrastructure such as connection of electricity and road repairs in Kihonda region. The 9th edition of the EAGC Agribusiness Expo is expected to increase adoption of latest innovations and technologies through record sales by service providers to the farmers in a drive to achieve zero hunger.

The EXPO invites agricultural input companies, equipment and machinery suppliers, research institutions, financial institutions, large grain volume buyers and agribusiness farmers seeking for contract buyers. In line with the EAGC’s third Strategic Business Plan, the agribusiness EXPO is expected to link buyers and sellers of agricultural produce mainly grains and agricultural inputs, equipment and machinery through a scheduled Business to Business forum which will take place parallel to the expo. The event will also feature live demonstration of the use of the EAGC Regional Agricultural Trade Intelligence Network (RATIN) as well linkages to finance and farmer training along the value chain for different commodities including coffee.

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ABOUT EASTERN AFRICA GRAIN COUNCIL (EAGC)

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

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