



EVENT PRESS RELEASE

EAGC to provide market linkages for grains and innovations uptake at the 2019 Agribusiness Expo

[Kitale, Kenya - 3rd July, 2019]. EAGC in partnership with the County Government of Trans Nzoia and the Kitale National Polytechnic has today launched the Annual Agribusiness EXPO, 2019 edition which will take place in Trans Nzoia County from 15th to 16th August 2019 at the Kitale National Polytechnic. The event will feature the theme **“Promoting agribusiness innovations for sustainable food value chains”** with an aim of providing a platform for market linkages for agricultural produce as well as the uptake of innovations.

Speaking at the launch of the Expo and representing the Governor Trans Nzoia County Hon.Patrick Khaemba , Mr Edward Osanya the County Director of Agriculture stated that “The event will largely contribute towards the country’s food security pillar under the big four agenda while at the same time provide a market for our grain farmers in Trans Nzoia County who sometimes store their grain for long periods with the hope that prices would get better”.

Over 12, 000 farmers from Trans Nzoia County and beyond are expected to attend the agribusiness expo which will provide an opportunity for trade with close to 100 exhibitors who will be exhibiting best practices in farm management and Post-Harvest Management, as well as the latest technologies ,innovations, products and services in the sector.

Commenting on the upcoming expo at the launch, Mr. Gerald Masila the Executive Director of EAGC said that, “The expo is a national event to be hosted in Trans Nzoia County for the second time since 2018 and is expected to bring together stakeholders in the agribusiness sector from over 10 counties in Kenya.” Mr Masila further added that the event will feature innovations among them rain fed agriculture which is practiced mainly by grain farmers. “Trans Nzoia County is expecting 5.3 Million 90kg bags of maize harvest by end of the cropping season and therefore the Council has mobilized large volume buyers to attend the expo for a trade facilitation meeting with the custodians of the grains”.

EAGC agribusiness expos have been promoting trade and business opportunities within the sector with the last year’s expo recording business linkages among 89% of the participants while 81% of those who had made the business linkages actually traded.The experience has indicated that the Agribusiness sector in Kenya has a potential and interest for investment growth.

“Following the recent partnership with EAGC in hosting the annual national agribusiness Expos at our facility, the Kitale National Polytechnic has set aside land for establishing a zero grazing unit which is currently 90% complete. We have also developed a new curriculum on agribusiness which we hope to launch in 2020 at the 3rd edition of the expo at our institution.” Indicated Mr. Fanuel Onyango, the Principal of the Kitale National Polytechnic.

Stakeholders in the agricultural sector including farmers, seed and fertilizer companies, agricultural equipment and machinery manufacturers, traders, processors, warehouse operators, government, financial institutions, agribusiness insurance companies, agricultural researchers and members of the general public are invited to attend and showcase their products and services to the large crowd of farmers at the Expo.

In pursuant to EAGC's third Strategic Business Plan, the agribusiness EXPO will provide an opportunity to link buyers and sellers of agricultural produce, agricultural inputs, equipment and machinery for more trade and better trade.

-----ENDS-----

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 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).

For more information, please contact the EAGC Secretariat:

Regional Manager, MIS & Communication- Jacinta Mwau Tel: +254 733 444 035

E-mail: jmwau@eagc.org , grains@eagc.org