



PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EAGC to enhance the contribution of climate smart interventions to enhance sustainable livelihoods

[Wote, Kenya - 19th May, 2022]. The Eastern Africa Grain Council has today launched the Makueni Farmers Agribusiness Fair (ABF), the first in a series to be hosted by EAGC in the country. The Makueni ABF, targeting the Kenyan Lower Eastern region, is scheduled to take place on 1st June, 2022 at the Makueni Agricultural Training College (ATC), Makueni County. The Agribusiness Fairs will feature the theme “**Climate Smart Technologies and practices for sustainable livelihoods**”.

The Agribusiness Fair is expected to attract exhibitors who will showcase an extensive range of innovative technologies to address the interlinked challenges of food security and climate change. Exhibitors will also showcase agribusiness products and services to allow learning on interventions for enhancing the capacity of agribusinesses, to eventually create and raise income through sustainable agribusiness development.

The challenge of keeping up with the constantly rising demand for food has been worsened by agriculture’s extreme vulnerability to climate change. The negative impact of climate change is already being felt in the form of extreme temperatures, unpredictable weather variability, emerging invasive crops and pests, and more recurrent extreme weather events.

In the recent past farmers have reported reducing crop yields and their nutritional value exemplified by the global shortage of soya bean among other crops leading to lower production of animal feeds and hence lower livestock productivity.

According to the World Bank, there is need for the globe to produce about 70 percent more food by 2050 to feed an estimated 9 billion people. To achieve adequate food production and food quality increase there is need for substantial investments in climate adaptation

In a bid to solve the challenges of climate change, soil nutrients, pests and diseases and the use of outdate technology among others that have riddled farmers in the lower Eastern, over 20 exhibitors will showcase existing solutions. These include climate change best practices in crop production, farm management, pre and post-harvest handling technologies and innovations as well mature crop demonstration plots.

The ABF held in partnership with the Agricultural Training Centre (A.T.C) Makueni and the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, will bring together over 2,000 farmers, seed and fertilizer companies, Agric-equipment manufacturers, traders, processors, warehouse operators,

government, machinery companies, financial institutions, agricultural consultants and researchers from within and beyond the county.

The expo seeks to empower farmers through climate-based knowledge sharing and training on the most recent innovations and technologies. In addition, the expo will provide a platform for exhibitors and the closely linked sectors to showcase their products and innovations for adoption as well as enable business networking by the various players in the industry.

The expo is also expected to provide an opportunity to link buyers and sellers of agricultural produce, inputs, equipment and machinery via the exhibition arena to achieve record sales by the sellers. In addition, the expo will provide an opportunity for networking where partners, sponsors and exhibitors will get the opportunity to interact with the participants and create business relationships.

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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 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).

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