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Press Release

Partnership meeting between Eastern Africa Grain Council (EAGC) and Eastern Africa Farmers' Federation (EAFF)

The Eastern Africa Grain Council (EAGC) and the Eastern Africa Farmers' Federation (EAFF) today have signed a memorandum of understanding with the objective of strengthening the collaboration between the two organizations. Both EAGC and EAFF play a key role in the agricultural sector in Eastern Africa. There is a need to exploit opportunities for synergy and coherence so as to achieve mutual objectives.

One of the early actions to operationalise the MoU will be the development of a capacity building program for farmer organizations and co-operatives in the area of structure trading systems. This program will be implemented through the capacity building arm of EAGC, known as the Eastern Africa Grain Institute (EAGI), and is expected to last one and a half years. EAGI will start by profiling the farmer organizations and co-operatives to assess their capacities to engage in business. Thereafter the leaders and managers will receive tailor-made training and coaching on a range of topics including an market information systems, pre and post harvest management and storage, warehouse receipt systems, commodity exchanges, trade contracts, grain quality assurance and standard's requirements.

The expected result from the program is the development of cadre of experts within farmer organizations who are able to steer their organizations to conduct business in a competent and professional manner. These farmers organizations are expected to engage more proactively in regional trade within the East African Community by signing contracts with buyers and linking to other service provides. The program will be targeting to reach 45 farmer organizations (including co-operatives) dealing in rice and maize, in three countries - Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda. However, the lessons will be shared among the wider EAFF membership in Eastern Africa.

The program will support efforts towards regional integration and promotion of increase in intra-regional trade in staple foods for improved food security and better incomes to farmers.

For more information on EAFF and EAGC, please visit:

www.eagc.org, www.ratin.net

www.eaffu.org.