

REF: EAGC/G-SOKO-2/2017/002

15th June 2017

Dear Grain Traders Association of Zambia

RE: INVITATION TO ATTEND THE REGIONAL GRAIN TRADE FACILITATION FORUM IN LUSAKA, ZAMBIA

Receive Warm Greetings from the Eastern Africa Grain Council (EAGC).

EAGC would like to invite you to a **Regional Trade Facilitation Forum** for grain stakeholders in the Eastern & Southern Africa region. The Trade Forum is scheduled to take place **in Lusaka, Zambia on Wednesday, 28th June 2017 from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm**. The venue of the meeting will be confirmed later.

The event is organized by EAGC in partnership with the USAID East Africa Trade & Investment Hub (the Hub) and the USAID Southern Africa Trade & Investment Hub (SATIH) in collaboration with COMESA. The objective of the Trade Forum is to strengthen food trade linkages between Southern Africa countries namely Zambia, Malawi, Angola, Botswana, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, and Zimbabwe, and the Eastern Africa counties namely Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi and South Sudan.

Most African countries do not have food self-sufficiency, thus imports are essential to feed their ever-growing populations. Nevertheless, the intra-regional trade is very low in Africa, attributed to the complexity of trading and logistics with neighboring countries.

Presently, the Eastern Africa region is experiencing a shortage in availability of food grains including maize, soybeans and other grains. While on the other hand, Zambia is expected to record sufficient tradeable surplus this year of 3.2 million MT. This shows that there is need to promote intra-African trade in agricultural commodities. The Malabo declaration clearly articulates the need to promote agricultural productivity and intra-regional trade.

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The EAGC and its partners are therefore finding sustainable ways to address the food shortages through regional trade facilitation. It is with great pleasure that we wish to invite your organization, to participate in this forum. The Forum is expected to convene sellers and buyers of grain commodities from the Southern & Eastern Africa regions to network and execute trade deals.

The cost of accommodation will be catered for by the participant. Should you wish to participate, kindly complete the attached registration and send it to gsoko@eagc.org and Nathan_Leibel@satihub.com for processing. For more information or clarification, please feel free to contact the EAGC country offices or the regional secretariat, contacts below;

- EAGC Regional Secretariat/ G-Soko Trade Desk: eatito@eagc.org, Tel: + 254 712 652069

We look forward to your participation in this meeting.

Yours faithfully,

EASTERN AFRICA GRAIN COUNCIL

Gerald Makau Masila
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



EAST AFRICA
**TRADE
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SOUTHERN AFRICA
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