

Change for trade: Climate services for a transforming Grain Sector

“The Eastern Africa Grain Council (EAGC) has grown its networks within the co-production space”, Jacinta Mwau, EAGC Regional Manager MIS & Communication

Supporting grain trade in 10 countries within Eastern Africa, the Eastern Africa Grain Council (EAGC) caters for different stakeholders within the grain value chain. EAGC partnerships include small and large scale traders, farmers, and processors, governments, research institutions among other players. As a regional organisation working in Kenya and in partnership with ICPAC, EAGC was identified by CARE Kenya as one of the organisations to be engaged in the co-production process through the W2SIP project.



Users and producers of climate information engaged in the WISER sponsored co-production workshop at Gracehouse Resort, Nairobi, Kenya

Key to their work has been climate information provision for different stakeholders to facilitate efficient and profitable grain trade in the region. As the current weather patterns become increasingly erratic, the value chain actors are increasingly demanding for more localised weather and climate information. EAGC through Ms. Jacinta has been engaged in several multi-sectoral and multi-country co-production workshops and a Peer Learning and Training workshop on climate services organized by CARE Kenya through the WISER Support to ICPAC Project (W2SIP). Their involvement was in an effort to improve EAGC's understanding of co-produced climate services. Through this process, EAGC gained a clearer understanding of their role as intermediaries of agricultural climate services especially those that benefit the grain value chain. As a result, EAGC has engaged several institutions including the National Drought Management Authority, Climate Development Knowledge Network (CDKN), SNV to support communication and dissemination of climate information to their users. In addition, the W2SIP workshops provided a platform for, EAGC to network with National Meteorological Departments in the region.

Drawing from their experience during the WISER co-production process, EAGC was able to host 2 workshops with their members to start the co-production process. In partnership with CDKN, EAGC facilitated a climate information User Needs Assessment in September 2019 in Nairobi. The assessment was aimed at identifying the climate information needs with

emphasis to the post-harvest process and the most suitable ways to package and communicate the information. The information generated from this workshop can be utilised by various institutions and projects partnering or supporting climate information for the grain sector. This will include improving the information already being provided by ICPAC to EAGC members. In addition, they had a discussion session during their Eighth African Grain Trade Summit, 2019 on climate-proofing grain trade and investment. The session was aimed at helping their members understand and articulate current and future climate risks and possible solutions in the different countries.

Going forward, EAGC will be seeking to provide training and capacity building on how to utilise climate information within the grain sector to its members through future partnerships. In addition, it will seek to explore further partnerships with the National Meteorological Departments to develop customized climate information for the grain sector in different countries of operation.

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