



Call for Papers

8TH AFRICAN GRAIN TRADE SUMMIT

3rd to 5th October 2019 | Mombasa, Kenya

Theme: More Trade and Better Trade: Transforming Grain Trade Value Chains for a Prosperous Africa

Introduction

The Eastern Africa Grain Council (EAGC) is hosting the 8th edition of its African Grain Trade Summit (AGTS) on 3rd to 5th October 2019 in Mombasa, Kenya. The Summit is an internationally-recognised, high-level, policy conference that attracts high level policymakers, influential industry practitioners and leading researchers in the grain sector from across Africa and beyond for discussions about key grain industry issues and developing trends in grain trade on the continent. The Summit typically features high-level plenary discussions, side-events, exhibitions, B2B events and field excursions, to name a few.

With its theme, *“More Trade and Better Trade: Transforming Grain Trade Value Chains for a Prosperous Africa”*, the 8th AGTS seeks to find solutions to the missing pieces of the grain trade puzzle and attempt to devise an action plan to transform grain trade value chains and to deliver more trade and better trade and ultimately deliver prosperity for Africa.

Call for Papers

The 8th AGTS Programme Committee hereby invites the submission of original, unpublished papers on topics to be presented under the 8th AGTS main program. The topics for consideration include but are not limited to:

1. Turning Policy into Action:

Policy remains one of the biggest underlying issues affecting growth prospects in the grain sector. Many supportive policies have been constituted, but implementation is weak. This session will explore ways to reverse this trend by coming up with innovative ways to get governments and stakeholders to implement policies in order to take advantage of existing trade and business opportunities in the grain sector and ultimately deliver More and Better Trade.

2. Innovations for Improving Grain Trade & Value Addition:

The viability of grain trade and value addition depend on the extent to which such activities can be conducted profitably. This means increasing efficiency to minimise costs while making the most of opportunities in markets to maximise returns. Innovations – be they technological or otherwise – play an important role in generating optimal value for grain sector players. This session will share some of the recent innovations in the grain sector that aim to support trade and value addition, with the aim of finding modalities for scaling up such innovations to benefit the wider grain sector in Africa.

3. Grain Trade & Food Safety:

Food safety is generating increased attention due to the rise of non-communicable diseases. Considering that grains form the bulk of food intake across Africa, food safety in grain value chains is an integral part of the public health discourse. This session explores the current developments in how food safety is addressed grain trade to identify policy gaps and recommend remedial measures. It will attempt to come up with practical and sustainable measures on improving food safety in grain value chains.

4. Grain Trade Intelligence:

Access to reliable and timely information plays an important part in informing policy and business decisions. This entails putting in place systems for effective data capture and making sense of such data through analysis. Despite the presence of numerous agribusiness information systems, their effectiveness in informing business and policy decisions remains doubtful, partly due to sustainability of such systems and concerns over reliability and confidentiality of the data/information they produce. This session seeks to explore how information systems can be enhanced to become sustainable, credible to all relevant stakeholders and utilised to inform policy and business decisions.

5. Food Security Responses: Practical options for Improving inter-governmental coordination for Improved National and Regional Food Security:

Food security continues to be a major concern of governments across Sub-Saharan Africa and will continue to be so as climate change poses increased threat to agricultural production. Considering the inter-dependency between countries on food trade, food security responses need to be similarly well-coordinated amongst countries with strong trade linkages in food trade. However, such coordination remains a challenge; this session, therefore, will discuss existing coordination mechanisms between countries and offer solutions to improve such coordination for improved food security responses.

Submission of Abstracts

- Submission of Abstracts (approximately 500 words in length) for the papers shall be no later than **17.00hrs East Africa Time on 7th June 2019** to the following address:

Attn: Mr. Kim Mhando
Eastern Africa Grain Council
Email: agts2019@eagc.org
Cc: EAGC Executive Director (gmasila@eagc.org);
Regional Programs Coordinator (jngombalu@eagc.org)

- The Abstract must include the title of the presentation and should state the intended audience as well as the learning goals for the participants.

- The Abstracts should be accompanied by the following contact information for the main presenter:

- Full Name
- Designation
- Company/Organisation
- Address
- Telephone contacts (fixed line and mobile)
- A functioning e-mail address
- A short CV or professional biography of the presenter (5-10 lines in a conversational tone – approx. 50 words)
- A passport size photograph with good resolution

Selected presenters will be notified in writing by 26th July 2019

For further details and clarification, please contact:

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ATT: Kim Mhando, Trade Policy & Advocacy Manager