### ACTIVITIES

- **Facilitation of the USAID East Africa Regional Feed the Future (FTF) and Trade Africa Conference.**
  Africa Lead facilitated the USAID East Africa Regional FTF and Trade Africa Conference from March 7-9 in Kigali, Rwanda. Seventy-four participants from USAID Washington, East Africa Regional and Bilateral missions, implementing partners, three regional intergovernmental organizations (RIGOs), and private sector actors (businesses and associations) participated in the meeting. The meeting focused on understanding the role and work of the USAID regional office and on identifying areas, mechanisms, and specific acts of collaboration, communication, and learning to improve regional programming, integration, and trade. Participants interacted with Rwanda businesses engaged in
regional export and visited the Rwanda Revenue Authority to learn about the challenges and opportunities for small businesses in regional and international trade.

- **COMSHIP Mutual Accountability Framework Development.** Africa Lead supported COMESA/ACTESA this quarter to develop a COMSHIP Mutual Accountability Framework (MAF). Working with ACTESA, Africa Lead facilitated a sensitization workshop, gathered initial input, and agreed on a roadmap for MAF development with the Seed Technical Committee (which coordinates and spearheads COMSHIP implementation) at the February annual meeting in Cairo, Egypt. Africa Lead supported consultations and helped to establish processes, structures and relationships that support COMSHIP implementation.

- **Institutional Strengthening for COMESA/ACTESA.** After completing the ACTESA organizational capacity assessment (OCA) during 2017 Q1, Africa Lead led discussions and a two-day joint work planning meeting for ACTESA this quarter with USAID/East Africa (EA). The meeting focused on ACTESA’s objectives for the next year, discussing quality issues, setting priorities and timelines for the next year, and enhancing coordination of seed, biotechnology, and organization capacity strengthening activities. ACTESA and USAID/EA also identified three areas of priority action and potential support (governance, strategic planning, and organizational management). Despite reminders to ACTESA, they have not provided scopes of work as agreed upon. As ACTESA could play a central role in coordinating regional policy, Africa Lead is hopeful they will redouble their commitment to organizational strengthening next quarter.

- **Inspiring Youth Agribusiness Entrepreneurship.** In FY17 Q2, Africa Lead in partnership with subcontractor Mediae completed the production of the reality TV series, “Don’t Lose the Plot”. The show will be broadcast in English and Swahili beginning in May this year and will be branded under Mediae’s popular “Shamba Shape Up” show that reaches 9 million people each week in Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania. Africa Lead and Mediae began preparations this quarter for the launch of the show, including providing a private screening for USAID staff in Nairobi, messaging through social media, and starting an on-the-ground advertising campaign to boost publicity and viewership.

- **“Don’t Lose the Plot” Impact Evaluation.** Africa Lead and subcontractor TNS completed the evaluation methodology for “Don’t Lose the Plot”, which will assess impact of the show across 10,000 households in Kenya and Tanzania. After reviewing rough-cut episodes of the reality TV series, Africa Lead supported TNS to develop an evaluation matrix of the intervention effect that has been developed and will be used to assess behavior change and skills acquisition among youth as a result of watching the instructive reality TV show. TNS will begin conducting the impact assessment in June once the show begins its broadcast schedule.

- **Support for the USAID and African Union Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) Africa Regional Livestock Trade Stakeholder’s Workshop.** In collaboration with AU-IBAR, Africa Lead facilitated a Livestock Trade Stakeholders Workshop in February in Nairobi. Forty-five participants attended, representing regional and bilateral missions, development partners, experts, livestock trade associations, government, and private businesses. Participants carried out a stakeholder analysis to identify organizations, programs, livestock trade routes and markets, national and regional livestock policies and institutions, and regional issues and challenges affecting livestock trade. The conference also identified key regional strategic interventions to improve livestock trade in the region and developed an action plan. Responses to emerging issues like the Somali livestock export ban by Saudi Arabia, the current drought in the Horn of Africa, the diversification of livestock products for export, and opportunities for investment in value addition (leather processing by countries) were also discussed and included in an action plan. Africa Lead will support USAID/East Africa as it begins to carry out aspects of the action plan next quarter.

- **Online Collaboration Platform for Regional Seed and Biosafety and Biotechnology Harmonization.** As part of Africa Lead’s effort to promote constructive, ongoing regional policy processes, in FY17
Q2, we selected the online collaboration platform MangoApps after a rigorous month-long piloting process of five online systems. The MangoApps platform will allow ongoing communication, team collaboration, and information-sharing among stakeholders around key policy issues such as seed harmonization. Africa Lead introduced the platform to USAID and other colleagues in March at the USAID East Africa Regional FTF and Trade Africa Conference. Beginning next quarter, Africa Lead will coordinate with ACTESA and other regional stakeholders to pilot the application.

- Needs Identification and Development of East Africa Resilience Workplan for Collaboration and Learning. Africa Lead completed a scoping exercise for USAID/Kenya and East Africa (EA), which identified gaps and opportunities for enhancing collaboration, coordination, and learning among regional and bilateral missions and partners on building resilience in East Africa. Africa Lead consultants led a needs assessment and work planning exercise with USAID Regional and Bilateral Mission staff from Uganda, Kenya, Somalia, Ethiopia, and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD). The exercise culminated in the design of an 18-month workplan that has been shared with USAID/EA and that will commence next quarter.

- Intergovernmental Drought Disaster Resilience and Sustainability Initiative (IDDRSI) 5th Anniversary Event. Africa Lead continued to support preparations for the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD)’s IDDRSI 5th Anniversary event in June. The program has two consultants supporting a reflection paper on the past achievements and lessons learned from the IDDRSI initiative. The reporting consultant reviewed relevant documents, held several consultations, and produced a draft reflection paper that will be finalized and distributed next quarter. The event management consultant is finalizing his consultations and providing guidance on final preparations for the event.

**LEVERAGING**

- COMESA Seed Harmonization Implementation Plan (COMSHIP) Mutual Accountability Framework Development. Africa Lead supported ACTESA to develop a COMSHIP Mutual Accountability Framework (MAF). Working with ACTESA, Africa Lead facilitated a sensitization workshop, gathered initial input, and agreed on a roadmap for MAF development with the Seed Technical Committee (which coordinates and spearheads COMSHIP implementation) in the February annual meeting in Cairo, Egypt. Africa Lead supported consultations and helped to establish processes, structures, and relationships that support COMSHIP implementation. As part of the activity, ACTESA provided leverage in the form of staff time for preparation of the meetings and trainings.

- Support for the USAID and African Union Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) Africa Regional Livestock Trade Stakeholder’s Workshop. In collaboration with AU-IBAR, Africa Lead facilitated a Livestock Trade Stakeholders Conference in February in Nairobi. Fifty-five participants attended representing regional and bilateral missions, development partners, experts, livestock trade associations, government, and private businesses. As part of the activity, AU-IBAR provided leverage in the form of staff time, equipment, and supplies for the workshop.