



EVENTS

Promoting Agriculture, Climate and Trade Linkages in EAC

CUTS Africa Resource Centre (CUTS ARC), Nairobi organised a first National Reference Group Meeting (NRG) under the project “Promoting Agriculture, Climate and Trade Linkages in EAC” (PACT-EAC) at Nairobi, on May 22, 2012. The objective of the meeting was to introduce the PACT-EAC project and seek inputs to the draft research papers that had been prepared by the research team on trade-climate change and food security linkages in Kenya. NRG meetings were also held in other four project countries. Findings of the research activities would be discussed at an Annual Conference to be held in Kigali, Rwanda on September 17-18, 2012.

National Stakeholders Meeting on EPAs

CUTS ARC, Nairobi in partnership with Friedrich Ebert Foundation (FES), organised a ‘National Stakeholders meeting on Economic Partnership Agreements’ (EPAs) in Nairobi, Kenya on June 08, 2012. The meeting was aimed at presenting the status and progress of EPA in Kenya, present CSOs and PSOs position on EPAs and give policy recommendations to the government negotiators.

Multi Stakeholders Meeting on EAC Monetary Union

CUTS ARC, Nairobi in partnership with Friedrich Ebert Foundation (FES), organised a National Multi Stakeholders meeting on East African Community Monetary Union in Nairobi, Kenya on June 26, 2012. The meeting aimed at developing a civil society organisations (CSOs) positional paper on EAC Monetary Union.

Conclave on AGOA

CUTS International Lusaka in collaboration with Caritas Zambia organised a conclave on African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) in Lusaka, Zambia on June 05, 2012. The objective of the meeting was to discuss and reflect on some of commitments made during the 10th AGOA held in Lusaka in 2011 and come up with a position that will feed into the overall CSOs declaration of the Eleventh AGOA forum in June 2012.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

PACT EAC Kenya National Reference Group

CUTS International Geneva and CUTS ARC, Nairobi will gather together members of the PACT EAC Kenya National Reference Group for the second time at a meeting hosted in Nairobi, Kenya on August 21, 2012. This national network, which represents all relevant stakeholders from the government, the business, farming communities, CSOs, media and think tanks, is committed to making East African policy-making processes more inclusive in addressing climate-related hunger through trade.

The meeting will provide opportunities for the NRG members to gain an insight into the climate-food-trade linkages in Kenya, network and connect with other members, strengthen links with their Geneva-based WTO delegates, and create momentum for holistic national policies in the three areas.

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Consumers and National Competition Law

CUTS International Lusaka jointly with Competition and Consumer Protection Commission, Zambia is organising an event entitled, 'Consumers and National Competition Law' at Lusaka, Zambia on July 27, 2012. The event is primarily aimed at raising awareness amongst consumers on the benefits of competition law and how they can use it to address their challenges.

The specific objectives are to:

- educate participants on types of competition, some myths and realities, hurdles to fair competition and the mechanism to safeguard and promote it;
- enlighten participants on their role as consumers in ensuring effective implementation of competition law and policy; and
- discuss common anticompetitive issues in two sectors, namely Health and Transport and its impact on consumers.

A publication entitled, Why Should Zambian Consumers be Interested in Competition Policy & Law will be released on the occasion. This booklet provides concepts relating to competition law and draws examples from Zambia and other jurisdiction for the benefit of all relevant stakeholders.

NEW PROJECTS

SMEs Performance and Devolved Government System

CUTS is implementing a project entitled 'SMEs Performance and Devolved Government System: A Regulatory and Institutional Assessment in Kenya' (RICS). The project is funded by ICBE-Trust Africa and it seeks to analyse the institutional and regulatory challenges facing the SMEs in four different provinces in Kenya. Specific SMEs clusters are being looked at, to generate debate on the need for promoting SMEs sector in the country.

Assignment for the Rwandan Ministry of Trade and Industry

CUTS is currently providing services to the Rwandan Ministry of Trade and Industry on a project to study anticompetitive practices in three industries (Bank, Breweries and Insurance) in Rwanda. The assignment seeks to conduct investigations on anticompetitive practices in these markets and to build capacity within the Competition and Consumer Protection Unit in the Ministry.

Research on EAC Regional Integration

CUTS ARC, Nairobi in partnership with the UK-based Institute of Development Studies, Crown Agents and CARIS are conducting a study on behalf of Trade Mark East Africa (TMEA). The major objective of the research programme is to study the state of EAC integration, trade facilitation and its implementation. It also aims to assess the implementation of the EAC Customs Union and Common Market. The findings of this study aim at facilitating full implementation of the two protocols in the EAC region by the partner states.

Better Exploration of Trade as a Means for Poverty Reduction – Phase II

CUTS International Lusaka is implementing a project entitled 'Better Exploration of Trade as a Means for Poverty Reduction: An Inclusive Approach to Aid for Trade and Enhanced Integrated Framework in Zambia' (BETAMPOR) Phase II. The objective of this project is to build capacity of state and non-state actors (especially at the grassroots) in order to strengthen and influence participation in the EIF process thus helping promote the utilisation and ownership of the process.

Hands off the Land

CUTS is implementing a research based project entitled 'Hands off the Land' funded by the European Commission (EC). The project aims at raising public awareness especially in four countries – Netherlands, Germany, Austria and Poland and the target groups are general public, journalists, social justice activists.

The overall objective of the project is to contribute to a better compliance by European and home states regarding the promotion and protection of the Human Rights to Adequate Food and Water as defined in the General Comment No. 12 and 15 in the UN-International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) in Mali, Mozambique, Zambia, Cambodia and Colombia, especially in relation to large-scale investment in land and agricultural policies. The duration of the project is of three years.

REPRESENTATIONS

Simon Ngóna attended a Multi Stakeholders' Consultation on the draft Business Plan of the African Mineral Development Centre organised by Canadian International Development Agency in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on June 25-26, 2012.

Simon Ngóna attended a meeting organised by the LDC Watch in collaboration with the UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), and UN-OHRLS in Addis Ababa, on June 13-14, 2012.

Lee Haamunji attended a MCTI held a consultative workshop on Hire Purchase Act CAP 399 of the Laws of Zambia organised by the Ministry of Commerce, Trade & Industry of Zambia, in Lusaka, on June 11-12, 2012.

Fredrick Njehu attended an Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) coordination meeting organised by the African Union Commission in Arusha, Tanzania on May 17-18, 2012.

Andrew Sinyangwe attended a Public Seminar on Tax organised by Centre for Trade and Development in Lusaka, Zambia, on April 20, 2012.

Clement Victor Onyango and **Fredrick Njehu** attended the first National Stakeholders meeting for the EAC Non-State actors' forum in Nairobi, Kenya on April 04, 2012.

PUBLICATION

Aid for Trade and Economic Development: A Case Study of Zambia

The study undertaken under the 'Better Exploration of Trade as a Means for Poverty Reduction' (referred to as the BETAMPOR project) aims at undertaking a critical survey of the current state of the implementation of the Aft (including EIF) agenda in Zambia in the context of the country's development.

The paper gives an overview of Zambia's trade and economic outlook explaining some of the potential priority sectors and initiatives. It provides an overview of the Paris Declaration on aid effectiveness, Accra Agenda for Action as well as the Busan outcome to give the context under which assistance for Aft programmes are being shaped. While giving an overview of the EIF, it explains the steps that Zambia has taken to embrace EIF and Aft in general.

www.cuts-international.org/ARC/lusaka/BETAMPOR/pdf/Report-Aid_for_Trade_and_Economic_Development-A_Case_Study_of_Zambia.pdf

REFLECTIONS FROM MEDIA

Food rights in Africa Let's not allow citizens to go hungry

Business Daily Africa, May 29, 2012

Rijit Sengupta

The first Africa Human Development Report 2012 released recently by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), stresses a couple of fundamental issues for preserving the "right to food" for countries that struggle to provide two square meals to their citizens. This report comes a time when many parts of Africa continue to be in the grip of droughts, and affect hundreds of thousands of families. The report highlights entitlements and capabilities, as two key determinants to help achieve food security for better human development results across the continent.

CSO's Engagement in the Istanbul Programme of Action (IPoA) cardinal-UN

Lusaka, June 18, 2012

Whilst acknowledging some of the gaps in the Istanbul Programme of Action (IPoA), Civil Society working in African Least Developed Countries (LDCs) are optimistic that corrective actions can foster better outcomes of the IPoA. "For the poor countries in Africa to cast off the label of least developed, a genuine partnership with the international community is needed. LDCs in Africa and beyond no longer wish to be seen as the poorest and vulnerable perpetually bearing the brunt of financial and food crisis, climate change, debt burdens and crisis of governance... development, human rights, social justice and peace".

www.cuts-international.org/ARC/Lusaka/press_release-CSOS_Engagement_in_the_Istanbul_Programme_of_Action_IPoA_cardinal-UN.htm

Mtesa cautions over World Bank proposal on grain marketing

The Post Newspaper, Zambia, June 15, 2012

Ending the government's participation in grain marketing abruptly could disrupt maize production, warns Ambassador Love Mtesa. The World Bank last week urged the government to stop setting prices at which it buys maize from local farmers and allow the prices to be determined by the market to promote sustainable growth in the agriculture industry.

www.cuts-international.org/ARC/Lusaka/media-Mtesa_cautions_over_World_Bank_proposal_on_grain_marketing.htm

Zambia Concerned Over Trade Balance with US

Zambia Reports, June 08, 2012

Exports from Zambia to the US still remain relatively small at only US\$47.3mn annually compared to imports of US\$129mn of US products recorded in 2011. Deputy Minister of Commerce, Trade, and Industry Keith Mukata says the country should move away from being a mere producer and supplier of raw materials to producer of value-added products to ensure an improved trade balance between the two countries.

www.cuts-international.org/ARC/Lusaka/media-Zambia_Concerned_Over_Trade_Balance_with_USA.htm

Zambian agricultural investment blueprints backed by stakeholders

Coastweek, May 27, 2012

The government will invest in irrigation, development and rehabilitation of livestock infrastructure, control and eradication of livestock diseases, promotion of fisheries. The Zambian government's decision to come up with detailed investment plans aimed at enhancing various types of investments in the agricultural sector has received the support of stakeholders in the country.

www.cuts-international.org/ARC/Lusaka/media-Zambian_agricultural_investment_blueprints_backed_by_stakeholders.htm