

EVENTS

CREW Project Focus Group Discussions

As part of the 'Competition Reforms in Key Markets for Enhancing Social and Economic Welfare in Developing Countries (CREW Project)' activities, CUTS Accra, Ghana organised Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) with the farmers and maize queens on July 03 and July 15, 2015 respectively. The events were organised in Techiman in the Brong Ahafo Region, Accra, Ghana and aimed at identifying the challenges encountered by maize farmers during the production and marketing phase of their yield and to investigate the uncompetitive practices prevalent in private procurement players known as the maize queens in the maize production value chain.

IVORI-III Project Inception Meetings

Integrating the Voice of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in Regional Integration Process – Eastern and Southern Africa (IVORI III) Project inception meetings were held in Nairobi, Kenya; Lusaka (Zambia) and Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on July 28, July 30 and August 04, 2015 respectively. The objectives of the Project comprise implementation of the Tripartite Free Trade Area (TFTA) for enhancing social and economic benefits for eastern and southern African citizens and strengthening ability of CSOs and Non-state Actors (NSAs) to participate absolutely and influence the TFTA implementation process for better results on the ground.



EACOMP National Advocacy and Training Workshop

Accelerating the Implementation of the EAC Competition Policy and Law (EACOMP) Project National Advocacy and Training Workshop marking the beginning of the Advocacy phase of the Project were held on: August 03-04 in Tanzania, August 06-07 in Uganda and August 10-11, 2015 in Rwanda. The objectives of the two-day national advocacy and training workshop were: to share the national research findings from the country research reports and prevailing constraints and recommendations to competition policy reforms in the country; to train the stakeholders on key competition elements with reference to existing anti-competitive practices and train the business community on how to enhance competition compliance and to engage stakeholders in coming up with strategies to tackle challenges to competition and on effective advocacy on competition issues.

III Regional Training Workshop of PACT EAC Project

The III Regional Training Workshop under 'Promoting Agriculture-Trade-Climate Linkages in the East African Community (PACT EAC)' Project was held on September 09-10 at Hilton Hotel, Nairobi. The expectations of the training workshop was to enhance knowledge on climate change, food security, trade linkages and capacity building. Besides, it also fortified interactions among the stakeholders from the region to devise holistic policies to deal better with climate change and food security challenges by exploiting trade potential as an essential development tool.

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ONGOING PROJECTS

IV PACT EAC Regional Annual Meeting

The IV PACT EAC Regional Annual Meeting was held on September 07-08, 2015 at Hilton Hotel in Nairobi under the theme, 'The climate-trade-food security nexus: after four years – policy impacts, practice changes and increased knowledge'. The meeting aimed at assessing the Project implementation to highlight the achievements of the Project beneficiaries and implementers of this Project, in terms of knowledge, capacities and coordination of stakeholders, as well as policy impacts related to the linkages between climate change, food security, and trade in the East African Countries (EAC). In addition, the meeting also intended to provide a networking opportunity to the relevant national, regional and international stakeholders.



Media Campaign Launch for Enhancing Consumer Regulatory Action on Consumer Issues

The media campaign launch for the Project: Enhancing Consumer Regulatory Action on Consumer Issues in Health Care Sector was held on July 01, 2015 live on radio. Besides being supported by Zambian Governance Foundation (ZGF), CUTS has partnered with Hot FM under their corporate responsibility and the latter will air extra-adverts on the media campaign on health issues. The launch attracted participation from various stakeholders, such as the Health Professional Council of Zambia, Ministry of Health and Zambia Medicines Regulatory Authority. During the launch, first set of adverts on consumer rights and responsibilities on medicines was also aired.

Equalising Community Accountability in the Chieftdom Towers Project

The first training on social accountability under Equalising Community Accountability in the Chieftdom Towers Project was conducted on July 10, 2015, in Mulendema village in Lusaka, Zambia with the aim of enhancing community ownership and participation in the implementation of the chieftdom towers.

Another such training was conducted in Matanda area of Luapula Province of Zambia, with the aim of enhancing community ownership and participation in the implementation of the chieftdom towers.

High-level Stakeholders' Meeting of CREW Project

The high-level stakeholders' breakfast meeting was held on August 31, 2015 in Lusaka, Zambia and the meeting was chaired by the Ministry of Transport (MOT) on 'Migrating to a Mandatory Standard for Seat Occupancy in Mini-buses and Developing a Transparent and Inclusive Fare Setting Process'.

Understanding and Enhancing Awareness on Health Care Issues in a Zambia Project

A validation meeting was held on September 01, 2015 for Understanding and Awareness Raising on Health Care Issues in Zambia Project. Experts invited from different organisations opined that more work was required in terms of structure, methodology and referencing of the report.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Launch of COMPAD Booklet

CUTS Accra, Ghana will launch a booklet entitled 'Why Ghanaians Should be Interested in Competition Policy' on November 05, 2015 in Coconut Grove Hotel to be followed by a seminar on 'Pro-competition Reforms in Key Sectors in Ghana'.

Regional Advocacy Workshop

EACOMP Project is scheduled to hold the Regional Advocacy Workshop on October 13-14, 2015 at Kibo Palace Hotel in Arusha Tanzania. IVORI-ESA Project is scheduled to hold the Policy-makers Breakfast Roundtable and the Validation workshops as per the following schedule:

- October 28, 2015 in Lusaka, Zambia
- November 05, 2015 in Nairobi, Kenya and
- November 09, 2015 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

The V NRG Meeting for the CREW Project

The V NRG meetings of the CREW Project will be held on October 13, 2015 and November 05, 2015 in Zambia and Ghana respectively. The purpose of the meeting will be to discuss the progress on the implementation of the advocacy strategy while also to highlight some of the tangible outputs that have been realised from this process. The meeting will also provide platform for discussion on the way forward with the NRG members.

NEW INITIATIVES

Towards Evolution of a National Competition Regime in Ghana – COMPAD Project

CUTS, with support from the Business Advocacy Challenge (BUSAC) Fund, is implementing a 15-month Project entitled: 'Advocating for a Functional Competition Regime in Ghana' referred to as the COMPAD Project. The goal of the Project is to facilitate the process towards evolution of a national competition regime in Ghana, through an informed process, incorporating the views of key actors and with the support from Ghanaian business and consumers.

Capacity Building on Renewable Energy & Energy Efficiency in Two Countries of Kenya

A project to build the capacity/awareness among the Consumer Groups to demand for renewable energy (RE) and energy efficiency (EE) in two countries of Kenya supported by HIVOS will be undertaken. The objective is to enhance long-term capacity/awareness of consumer groups to demand for RE and EE initiatives. Besides, this intervention will understand, document and communicate their specific needs to the relevant policy-makers.

Integrating Voice of CSOs in TFTA Implementation

CUTS Lusaka, Zambia in partnership with CUTS Nairobi, Kenya is implementing a Project called 'Integrating the Voice of CSOs in Regional Integration Process-Eastern and Southern Africa' (IVORI-III) Project with funding support from Oxfam Novib. This Project, which will be implemented in Ethiopia, Kenya and Zambia, aims to set up a network of CSOs and use it to gather inputs, over a period of six-months (July-December, 2015). This is for developing a forward-looking 'Engagement Framework and Action Agenda' for eastern and southern African CSOs' engagement on the TFTA negotiations and implementation processes.

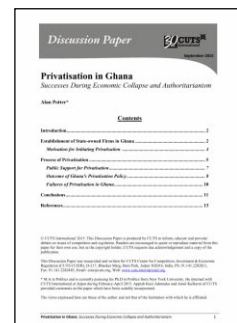
PUBLICATIONS

Privatisation in Ghana

Success During Economic Collapse and Authoritarianism

Privatisation of state-owned firms has long been one of the principle recommendations of economists for developing nations. Both the World Bank (WB) and International Monetary Fund (IMF) recommend privatisation of state-owned firms and in many cases have made privatisation policy a condition for receiving IMF and WB funds. Public ownership is associated with inefficiency due to non-financial motivations. The goal of this paper is to empirically analyse the case of privatisation in Ghana to determine what factors led to successes and what policies led to failures. It outlines the establishment of state-owned firms in Ghana, motivation and process of privatisation with a particular emphasis on initiation of the policy in late 1980's. The paper looks at the performance record of privatisation in Ghana in terms of its effect on firm performance, workers, broader economy and general public.

http://www.cuts-ccier.org/pdf/Privatisation_in_Ghana-Alan_Potter.pdf



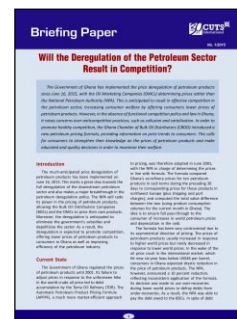
A quarterly newsletter which covers news and analysis on trade and sustainable development issues relevant to the African countries. The July-September issue encompasses a cover story entitled 'UN-SDG Agenda: Shift in Global Development'. The newsletter carries news on Economics and Development, Trade, Regional News and Consumer and Environment news etc.

http://www.cuts-international.org/arc/pdf/Tradequity15-Africas_Largest_Free_Trade_Area_Launched.pdf

Will the Deregulation of the Petroleum Sector Result in Competition

The Government of Ghana has implemented the price deregulation of petroleum products since June 16, 2015, with the Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) determining prices rather than the National Petroleum Authority (NPA). This is anticipated to result in effective competition in the petroleum sector, increasing consumer welfare by offering consumers lower prices of petroleum products. However, in the absence of functional competition policy and law in Ghana, it raises concerns over anti-competitive practices, such as collusion and cartelisation. In order to promote healthy competition, the Ghana Chamber of Bulk Oil Distributors (CBOD) introduced a new petroleum pricing formula, providing information on price trends to consumers. This calls for consumers to strengthen their knowledge on the prices of petroleum products and make educated and quality decisions in order to maximise their welfare.

http://www.cuts-international.org/ARC/Accra/pdf/Will_the_Deregulation_of_the_Petroleum_Sector_Result_in_Competition.pdf



REPRESENTATIONS

Appiah Kusi Adomako, Centre Coordinator and **Abubakari Zakari** of CUTS Accra, Ghana met Jorge Velazque of Jacobs, Cordova & Associates (provider of regulatory reforms services) to introduce the Centre and also held discussions on possible synergies between the two firms in the area of economic regulations.

Rosebela Oiro of CUTS Nairobi, Kenya attended all the EACOMP National Training workshops in the month of August 2015.

Martha Getachew of CUTS Nairobi, Kenya attended a Regional Food Security meeting organised by the European Union Commission in Kigali on 08 September, 2015.

Appiah Kusi Adomako of CUTS Accra, Ghana had a meeting with Daniel Osei Boakye and Ayeimba from the African Development Bank. They requested a meeting with the Centre to learn more about CUTS Accra's (Ghana) work on public procurement. They explained that they are working to produce a market analysis framework to revise the procurement policy for African countries and are engaging with the relevant stakeholders to seek their views on how best to improve procurement process in Ghana.

Edayatu Lamptey of CUTS Accra, Ghana attended a consumer forum organised by the National Communications Authority, on the theme 'Quality of Service, the Key to Consumer Satisfaction'.

Edayatu Lamptey and **Solee Park** of CUTS Accra, Ghana attended a Monitoring and Evaluation Workshop organised by Esoko-Ghana. The workshop aimed at providing training on how to use mobile to administer questionnaires on the field and also to track field data.

Appiah Kusi Adomako and **Edayatu Lamptey** had a meeting with Ekow Spio-Garbrah, Minister for Trade and Industry (MoTI), Ghana to introduce CUTS and discuss the possible collaboration between the Centre and the MOTI on issues and projects bordering on CUTS main thematic areas.

REFLECTIONS FROM MEDIA

Address High Inequality Levels in the Counties

Eugene Jernigan

Business Daily, September 14, 2015

Devolution has brought about a wide range of opportunities and challenges in the county governments. The development plan in Kenya is asymmetric, with wide gaps of inequalities and a large population sinking into poverty. Small-scale farmers in the counties are facing numerous challenges. Hence, proper agricultural, climate change and trade policies must be mainstreamed and implemented at the county-level. It is not uncommon for small-scale farmers to frequently ask for money from their relatives in the cities to buy fertilisers, seeds and plough land every planting season. Climate change and vagaries of trade have deprived these farmers of a decent living resulting to their abandoning of agriculture and livestock-keeping as a means of livelihood as well as migrating to urban areas.

<http://www.businessdailyafrica.com/Opinion-and-Analysis/Address-high-inequality-levels-in-the-counties/-/539548/2870146/-/item/1/-/cxf94/-/index.html>

East Africa: Make Farming Sexier for the Youth, Said EAC

the Star, September 15

Farming should be made more attractive to young people, the EAC has stated. The EAC Deputy Secretary General-in-Charge of productive and social sectors, Jesca Eriyo, said neglect of the sector by the region's youths was opening it up to adverse competition from the South African development community and the common market for Eastern and Southern Africa. Addressing a convention in Nairobi aimed at enhancing the capacity of the EAC to engage in upcoming world trade organisation discussions, Eriyo said member countries need to interest their younger citizens in the industry.

The convention was organised by the CUTS Nairobi, Kenya in collaboration with EAC under a four-year Project entitled 'Promoting Agriculture-Trade-Climate Linkages in the East African Community'. The two-day meeting was attended by the Ministries and stakeholders in the East African Affairs, trade, agriculture, climate change and environment sectors.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201509150192.html>