



## EVENTS

### Consumer Forum on Building Aliances with CSOs on Food Safety Agenda

The Voice for Change Partnership (V4CP) is an alliance between Netherland Development Organisation (SNV) and a consortium of civil society organisations (CSOs) aimed at enhancing the CSOs' capacity to advocate for emerging issues within different thematic areas. As part of the Food and Nutrition Security (FNS) thematic area, SNV has partnered with CUTS Nairobi, Society of Crop Agribusiness Advisors of Kenya (SOCAA) and Sustainable Agriculture Community Development (SACDEP), to ensure compliance with food safety standards for locally consumed products and enhance consumer demand for quality food. The project related event was held on June 13, 2018 at Hilton Hotel, Nairobi (Kenya).



### Homa Bay County Validates Renewable Energy Policy

On May 30, 2018, Homa Bay County validated its first ever draft renewable energy policy at an event graced by CUTS Nairobi, Kenya along with HIVOS, county government officials and key stakeholders in the energy sector. This validation workshop was the culmination of several policy roundtable meetings that CUTS had facilitated for drafting the policy document. The policy sets precedence for the county to pass laws on renewable energy which will increase uptake and use of renewable energy technologies.

### State of the Economy Media Breakfast

CUTS Lusaka, Zambia held a media breakfast on the state of the economy on April 27, 2018. The media briefing was a space created by civil society to debate on the current state of the economy, including the economic outlook for Zambia. The aim of the meeting was to share civil society's concerns in terms of broad economic management issues on: Zambia's debt position, trade, domestic resource mobilisation, agriculture, mining and social sector.

### Annual Regional Meeting

CUTS Nairobi, Kenya organised Annual Regional Meeting on June 25-29, 2018 in Arusha, Tanzania. The main activities included experience sharing, media involvement as well as a review of the theory of change. A field trip an off-grid solar power generation site was also made to experience first-hand how renewable energy is used to power-up remote areas.

## IN THIS ISSUE

Events .....	1
Ongoing Projects .....	2
Forthcoming Events .....	3
Publications .....	4
Representations .....	4
Reflections from Media .....	5

### Food Nutrition and Security Project in Murang'a

CUTS Nairobi, SOCAA and SACDEP have been working together under SNV's V4CP-FNS project. The project related event was held on May 10, 2018 in Kenya. The goal of the project is to realise improved food security and nutrition through increased consumption of safe food and reduction of food losses in the dairy and horticulture sub-sectors. The FNS programme was initiated in December 2016, and since then a number of meetings have been organised, which culminated in the multi-stakeholder workshop that brought together policymakers and other actors in horticulture and dairy in Murang'a County.



## ONGOING PROJECTS

### Market Research and Diagnostic Surveys

CUTS Accra, Ghana in collaboration with Nielson Ghana and funding support from the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), is implementing a six-month project entitled, "Market Research and Diagnostic Surveys on Information Disclosure and Transparency, Fraud, Customer Recourse and Client Needs Assessments in the Mobile Insurance Sector in Ghana". The principal objective of the project is to undertake a market survey in selected cities to understand the banking financial space in Ghana to enable a deeper understanding of the Ghanaian mobile insurance market and increasing usage of financial services by low-income households and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).

### Food Reserve Agency Reformation

CUTS Lusaka, Zambia is undertaking a project with Food Trade in providing checks and balances on the reformation of the Food Reserve Agency (FRA) in Zambia. The main objective of this project is to conduct a research and compare the current FRA Act to the FRA Bill that is before Parliament. Thereafter, provide commentary on the findings and support the reform process for the FRA.

### Post Advocacy of COMPAD I

CUTS Accra, Ghana with the funding support from the Business Sector and Challenge Fund (BUSAC Fund), is implementing an eight-month project in Ghana dubbed, "Post Advocacy of COMPAD I". The aim of the project is to ensure that the gains made in COMPAD I is sustained and to see to the full operationalisation of the Competition Policy.

### Investment Incentives in Zambia

CUTS Lusaka, Zambia is working on a project with the Zambia Accountability Programme (ZAP). This project entails calculating and evaluating the drivers of the Marginal Effective tax rates in the key economic sectors in Zambia which are manufacturing, mining, agriculture, and financial sectors. The main objective of this project is to do an assessment of the sector level marginal effective tax rates and also evaluate the drivers of investment, given the predominance of tax incentives in investment promotion in Zambia too.

### Energy Sector Public Budget-Expenditure Tracking

CUTS Accra, Ghana with the funding support from SNV Ghana is undertaking a three month project entitled, "Energy Sector Public Budget-Expenditure Tracking". The overarching goal is to help improve electricity access in the rural communities in Ghana. The key objectives of this project are to track how the energy sector budgets are utilised at the Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assembly (MMDA) level, help identify and address problems and weaknesses in the energy sector public expenditure, etc.

### Leveraging Zambia's Timber Industry

CUTS Lusaka, Zambia is working on a project with Action Aid on the Timber sector in Zambia. The main objective of the project it is to review the policies governing the timber sector, with a focus on understanding how these have affected different stakeholders as well as develop a strategy that will look at how the government can put legislation in place to limit foreign traders and empower local people in the timber industry.

### Promoting Sustainable Food Consumption in Zambia

CUTS Lusaka, Zambia undertook a project in conjunction with World Food Programme (WFP), which is to be conducted in form of a survey. It was part of a bigger project on awareness-raising and sensitisation of the general public on sustainable diets in Zambia. The objective of this study was to provide insights on food consumption in urban areas, such as Lusaka. This information is critical for influencing households to change food consumption, especially encouraging a shift from mono-diets towards diversification.

## ONGOING PROJECT

### Benefits via Progressive Pro-poor Spending and Introducing Fiscal Reforms

CUTS Accra, Ghana with the funding support from OXFAM Ghana, is implementing a five-month project dubbed, “Reducing the Poor over Exposure to Indirect Taxes, Expanding the Tax Bracket through Real Estate Taxes, Increase Spending in the Healthcare Sector, Increase Spending in the Education Sector”. The overall objective of the assignment is to present to the policymakers the gains that can be achieved through progressive pro-poor spending and motivate them to bring in adequate fiscal reforms in this endeavour.

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### Meeting with West Africa Trade Hub

CUTS Accra, Ghana has a meeting with the West African Trade Hub to further discuss possible collaborations in the region on trade related issues.

### PACT EAC2 National Reference Group Meeting 6

The sixth Promoting Agriculture, Climate and Trade Linkages in the East African Region (PACT EAC2) National Reference Group 6 (NRG6) Meeting of CUTS Nairobi, Kenya is scheduled on August 17, 2018.

### Launch of Food Nutrition and Safety Project

Launch of FNS Project in Nakuru, Kenya is to be held to introduce the project to key stakeholders. This would enable inform the programme and activities in food safety in the county.

### Meeting with Ghana Standard Authority

CUTS Accra, Ghana has a meeting with Ghana Standard Authority (GSA), with the objective of signing a Memorandum of Understanding.

### Capacity Building of Value Chain Actors

CUTS Nairobi, Kenya in collaboration with Kenya Dairy Board will organise ‘Capacity Building of Value Chain Actors’. This is to be done to undertake training and capacity building of dairy value chain actors in the counties of focus.

### Partnership among Private Players

CUTS Nairobi, Kenya is having meeting with private sector players to broker partnership among private players – Kenya Tea Development Agency Holdings Ltd. (KDTA), Kenya Dairy Processors Association (KDPA), Dairy cooperatives and county government. The formation of PPP would increase collaboration between CSOs and dairy sector stakeholders on food safety.

## PUBLICATIONS

### Research Report

### Review of the Food Reserve Agency Act *Will commercialising the FRA address its inefficiencies?*



The Ministry of Agriculture and the FRA proposed seven amendments to the Food Reserve Act Chapter 225 of the Laws of Zambia. Institutions, such as IAPRI provided an analysis on the potential effects of each of the amendments. The main purpose of this paper, therefore, is to show how that specific proposal would severely undermine the development of Zambia's agricultural sector should the government proceed to implement the proposed amendment.

This document can be accessed at: [http://www.cuts-international.org/arc/lusaka/pdf/Report-Review\\_of\\_the\\_Food\\_Reserve\\_Agency\\_Act.pdf](http://www.cuts-international.org/arc/lusaka/pdf/Report-Review_of_the_Food_Reserve_Agency_Act.pdf)

### Promoting Agricultural Commodity Management in Zambia *Leveraging Regional Policy Successes to Improve Performance by ZAMACE*

In order to deal specifically with issues pertaining to multiple market imperfections, such as high transaction costs, low and asymmetric levels of market information, low levels of trust and 'adversarial' trading relations, the government passed the Agricultural Credits Act 35 of 2010 to establish a Warehousing Licensing Authority. Although the Act was enacted in 2010, it was not implemented until late 2014 when Statutory Instrument (SI) No. 59 was signed into law appointing the Zambia Commodities Exchange (ZAMACE) as the 'authorised agency' of the Agricultural Credits Act. Hence, this study seeks to explore the factors that have impeded the growth of ZAMACE since its establishment in 2009 and identify potential solutions that could expand and enhance the role that ZAMACE is already playing in the agricultural sector.

This document can be accessed at: [http://www.cuts-international.org/arc/lusaka/pdf/Report-Promoting\\_Agricultural\\_Commodity\\_Management\\_in\\_Zambia.pdf](http://www.cuts-international.org/arc/lusaka/pdf/Report-Promoting_Agricultural_Commodity_Management_in_Zambia.pdf)



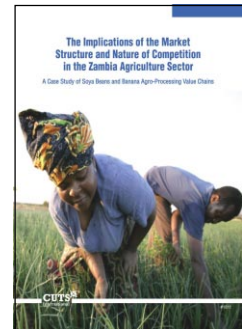
## PUBLICATIONS

### The Implications of the Market Structure and Nature of Competition in the Zambia Agriculture Sector

#### *A Case Study of Soya Beans and Banana Agro-Processing Value Chains*

The main objective of the study was to undertake a competition assessment of the agriculture market in Zambia, using soya bean and banana production as case studies. This is intended to identify any anti-competitive practices as well as any market distortions, policy induced or otherwise, that need to be removed to complement the implementation of the National Agriculture Investment Plan (NAIP).

This document can be accessed at: [http://www.cuts-international.org/arc/lusaka/pdf/Report-Nature\\_of\\_Competition\\_in\\_theZambia\\_Agriculture\\_Sector.pdf](http://www.cuts-international.org/arc/lusaka/pdf/Report-Nature_of_Competition_in_theZambia_Agriculture_Sector.pdf)



## REPRESENTATIONS

**Appiah Adomako**, Centre Coordinator, CUTS Accra attended a meeting on June 28, 2018, organised by The Economic Governance Platform on the theme, “Review of Three Years of Implementing Ghana’s Sixteenth Stabilisation Programme with the International Monetary Fund (IMF): How Does Ghana Avert another Stabilisation Programme with the Fund?”. The objective of the meeting was to bring together like-minded CSOs, among other things to discuss a guide on the exit strategy for Ghana in 2019 and highlighting the issues critical for the country going forward to avert another stabilisation programme with the IMF.

**Chenai Mukumba** and **Kangwa Muyunda** of CUTS Lusaka attended the launch of the China Debt Study Report organised by the Centre for Trade Policy and Development (CTPD) at Grand Palace Hotel in Lusaka, Zambia on June 08, 2018. The report was on a study focussing on Chinese debt.

**Jackline Wanja** of CUTS Nairobi attended a meeting Agribusiness small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) stakeholder Workshop. The objective of the meeting was to mobilise SMEs to be more involved in policy process. The meeting was held on June 06, 2018.

**Chenai Mukumba**, **Muntanga Musiwa** and **Charity Siwabamundi** of CUTS Lusaka attended a book launch organised by HIVOS at Southern Sun Hotel in Lusaka, Zambia on May 24, 2018. HIVOS organised the meeting to launch the book entitled, ‘The Local Food Value’.

**Chenai Mukumba**, **Ishmael Zulu** and **Kangwa Muyunda** of CUTS Lusaka attended a workshop on debt charter organised by African Forum and Network on Debt and Development (AFRODAD) and Southern African Institute for Policy and Research (SAIPAR) at Protea Hotel in Lusaka, Zambia on April 26, 2018. The objective of the meeting was to provide a basis for improvements in the transparency in the contraction and management of public debt, the issuance of public guarantees, the selection and implementation of debt financed projects, etc.

**Clement Onyango**, **Susanne Rabisch**, **Collins Oweg** and **Jackline Wanja** of CUTS Nairobi attended a meeting with Open Society Initiative for Eastern Africa (OSIEA) and the Open Society Initiative for West Africa (OSIWA), to discuss areas of partnership in issues of economic justice and trade in East and West Africa. The meeting was held on April 20, 2018.

**Martin Mulwa** and **Jackline Wanja** of CUTS Nairobi attended FNS budget tracking methodology tool meeting held on April 20, 2018. The tool developed by The International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), to track public budgets and expenditures on food safety at both national and county level.

**Daniel Asher** and **Collins Oweg** of CUTS Nairobi attended a meeting in Homa-Bay to discuss the formation of a technical committee to draft Green and Inclusive Renewable Energy Policy. The meeting was held on April 12, 2018.

**Ishmael Zulu** and **Kangwa Muyunda** attended a three-day meeting on gender based budgeting organised by Oxfam at Cresta Golfview Hotel in Lusaka, Zambia from April 10-12, 2018. The objective of the meeting was to build a common understanding of gender responsive budgeting and identify ways to strengthen and coordinate work across different activist communities in Zambia.

**Ishmael Zulu** and **Kangwa Muyunda** attended a three-day seminar on tax policy organised by Zambia Tax Platform (ZTP) and International Bureau of Fiscal Documentation (IBFD) at Sandy’s Creation from April 04-06, 2018. The objective of the seminar was to create dialogue on taxation issues, so that stakeholders are better placed to strengthen the tax justice agenda in Zambia.

**Chenai Mukumba** attended a meeting on the review and update of the National Financial Education Strategy (2017-2022) organised by the World Bank at the World Bank offices on April 05, 2018.



### **Government to Monitor Foreign Investors Following Chinese Fake Bottled Water Scandal**

*Lusaka Times, April 14, 2018*

Consumer Unity and Trust Society (CUTS International, Lusaka) Centre Coordinator Chenai Mukumba has appealed to the Zambian Government to ensure that foreign investments in the country are monitored. Mukumba stated most Foreign Direct Investment entering the country is left unchecked posing a threat to consumers. The Centre Coordinator was reacting to a recent scandal of Chinese nationals producing fake mineral water under the Aquasavanna brand in Lusaka, Zambia recently. She stated that as a consumer organisation it is a breach of trust to the consumers as the faith that consumers have on the particular brand is affected.

<https://www.lusakatimes.com/2018/04/14/government-told-to-monitor-foreign-investors-following-chinese-fake-bottled-water-scandal/>

### **Educate Counties about Consuming Safe Dairy Products**

*Martin Mulwa*

*Business Daily, April 24, 2018*

Dairy industry is the single largest sub sector of agriculture in Kenya contributing to the national economy, household incomes and food security. According to the Kenya Dairy Board (KDB) the sector contributes 14 percent to the agricultural GDP and 4.5 percent to the overall Kenyan GDP. Hence, a well-developed dairy sector would contribute significantly to the country's food security and to the attainment of one of the key pillars of Big Four Agenda of the Kenyan Government.

<https://www.businessdailyafrica.com/analysis/columnists/Educate-counties-about-consuming-safe-dairy-products/4259356-4520924-b5264q/index.html>

### **Zambia still Feeling Effects of Inconsistent Mining Fiscal Regime: CUTS**

*News Diggers, June 27, 2018*

Zambia is still feeling the impact of policy inconsistencies in the mining sector because the country has not yet benefitted as much as it should, mentioned Chennai Mukumba. She noted that the country was still reeling from the effects of an inconsistent mining fiscal regime in view of the little returns accrued from the sector. She challenged the Government of Zambia to find a way to make up for the losses in revenue incurred that were due to inconsistent mining policies.

<https://diggers.news/business/2018/06/27/zambia-still-feeling-effects-of-inconsistent-mining-fiscal-regime-cuts/>

### **What is at Stake for Consumers in Africa Free Trade Area?**

*Wanja Wanjiru*

*Business Daily, April 30, 2018*

In the past month, there have been detailed critiques and appraisals of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) from different corners. Effective implementation of the AfCFTA will bring about much desired industrialisation, infrastructural growth, economic diversification, job creation, food security, regional value chain development and ultimate continental development. Much like other Free Trade Agreements (FTAs), the AfCFTA will be largely producer – oriented with a focus on small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and the larger private sector.

<https://www.businessdailyafrica.com/analysis/columnists/What-is-at-stake-for-consumers-in-Africa-free-trade-area-/4259356-4538012-x0v080z/index.html>

### **Government should Consider Intervening in High Bank Charges: CUTS**

*Lusaka Times, June 19, 2018*

CUTS Zambia stated that it may be important for the Zambian Government to consider intervening in the high bank charges being slapped on consumers for various transactions. A recent survey showed that banks are charging anything from K5 to K500 for clients to access their money through the ATMs and over-the-counter transactions, while mobile money providers charge anything from K2 to K100 to send or receive money. Chenai Mukumba explained that there is need for government to ensure that consumers are not being exploited.

<https://www.lusakatimes.com/2018/06/19/government-should-consider-intervening-in-high-bank-charges-cuts/>

### **Is Renewable Energy a Solution to Zambia's Energy Deficit?**

*Lusaka Times, April 27, 2018*

“The dominant industry player ZESCO Limited has been facing a number of challenges over the past years and the need for more investment to come into the sector is being appreciated at policy level. Various stakeholders have called for the diversification of the country's power generation mix, especially now at a time when is experiencing a huge power deficit”, said Chenai Mukumba at a recent public meeting in Lusaka, on Zambia's energy crisis.

<https://www.lusakatimes.com/2016/04/27/renewable-energy-solution-zambias-energy-deficit/>