

2009 Annual Report

CUTS Africa Resource Centre, Lusaka



CUTS Africa Resource Centre, Lusaka

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Consumer Unity & Trust Society (CUTS)

CUTSAfrica Resource Centre (CUTSARC), Lusaka, Zambia

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Established in 1983 as a voice of the poor to express their developmental needs and aspirations, CUTS International (www.cuts-international.org) is a leading Southern voice and face of consumer empowerment through its rights-based approach and activities for influencing the process and content of inclusive growth and development. From consumer protection work in India it has expanded its scope and interventions to subjects such as good governance and social accountability, trade and development, economic and business regulations including competition, investment and corporate governance issues, and human development, particularly women's empowerment.

The organisation's Vision is 'consumer sovereignty in the framework of social justice and equality'. It conducts action (policy) research and evidence-based advocacy for policy and practice changes to bridge the gaps between the core and the periphery, that between the state and non-state actors. It believes that consumer empowerment not only serves national interest but also addresses many challenges faced by the global public goods. It aims to take forward the consumer movement to the political space at sub-national, national and international level with a holistic and balanced objective.

With its headquarters and three programme centres in Jaipur, India (Centre for Consumer Action, Research & Training, Centre for International Trade, Economics & Environment, and Centre for Competition, Investment & Economic Regulation), one in Chittorgarh, India (Centre for Human Development), a liaison office in New Delhi, India and resource centres in Calcutta, India; Lusaka, Zambia; Nairobi, Kenya; Hanoi, Vietnam and in Geneva, Switzerland the organisation has established its relevance and impact in the policy-making circles and among the larger development community in the developing world and at the international level.

It has created and is part of several networks to cross-fertilise ideas and actions for fostering equity and accountability in economic governance through South-South and South-North cooperation between and among the state and non-state actors. It serves at several policy-making bodies of the Government of India, in some other developing countries, and at the international level.

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From the Secretary General, CUTS International

In our endeavour to go global, the establishment of CUTS Africa Resource Centre (CUTS ARC) in the year 2000 in Lusaka was a significant step, as it was the first overseas centre of CUTS International. The sole objective of launching this Centre was to promote South-South civil society cooperation on trade and development and create long-term capacity of civil society representatives to address issue of equity and accountability.

In nine years, through various programmes and activities, this Centre has been able to focus on expanding and consolidating the horizon of South-South civil society cooperation for which it was entrusted with the responsibility. Since its inception, the Centre has been engaged in establishing itself through implementation of projects independently and also with partner organisations. The present work programme contains research, advocacy, training/capacity building and networking on international trade, consumer protection, competition policy and foreign direct investment (FDI).

The Centre is currently implementing a project to raise people's awareness of their consumer rights and prevailing unfair trade practices across Zambia. The project is funded by the Capacity Building for Private Sector Development (CBPSD), a programme implemented by the European Commission (EC). The project aims to establish the 'missing link' between competition enforcement, on one hand, and achieving desirable impacts for common Zambian consumers, on the other. This six-month project was formally launched in Lusaka, Zambia, on October 21, 2009.

Another project on which the Centre worked was 'Fostering Equity and Accountability in the Trading System (FEATS)' Project which is being implemented by CUTS Geneva Resource Centre (CUTS GRC) with the support of The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, US. FEATS project began in 2008 and will continue through March 2011 with the broad goals to raise awareness for better coherence between development and trade

policies, thus contributing to economic development and poverty reduction in project countries: Kenya, Malawi, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia. The Centre hosted a national consultative dialogue in Lusaka, on April 08, 2009.

During the period, the Centre undertook a one-year project entitled, 'Enhanced Integrated Framework – Aid for Trade to LDCs'. It is aimed at supporting CSOs respond to policy discussions in the Integrated Framework process and CUTS will act as the focal point. Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF) is a measure to bridge the gap between demand and supply as effectively as possible and mainstream trade into national development strategies. The objective of the project is to engage civil society and other actors in the EIF process and supporting them to respond to ongoing policy discussions on trade and development taking place in the EIF process, thus playing an active role in the Trade Expansion Working Group.

A research dissemination workshop under the EIF was held in Lusaka, on November 27, 2009 to disseminate two research studies: *A Study on the Rice Value-chain in Zambia* and *An Assessment of the Zambian Diagnostic Trade Integrated Study* to various stakeholders which included government, donor communities and CSOs and media in the hope that the two study reports should contribute to the successful implementation of the EIF process in Zambia.

CUTSARC continued to work on its focus areas during the period, including building capacity of the Centre through training workshops and participating in similar events at the national and international forums. The Centre acknowledges the support of various donor agencies in fulfilling its objectives. Though a good initiative has been made, much work remains to be done.

Jaipur
September 2010

Pradeep S Mehta
Secretary General

Our Organisation

Consumer Unity & Trust Society Africa Resource Centre (CUTS ARC), Lusaka, began its operation as a registered non-governmental organisation (NGO) in Zambia in December 2000. This year marks the ninth year of CUTS ARC in Zambia. The Centre is affiliated to CUTS International and bears the historical transformation of the organisation to gain an international recognition. Over the past years, the Centre has established itself and contributed effectively in the policy-making processes in Zambia and the region, as a whole. This has been due to the Centre's strength in research, advocacy and networking.

Mission

The mission of the organisation is to function as a resource, co-ordination as well as networking centre to promote South-South cooperation on trade and development, by involving state and non-state actors (NSAs).

Objectives

With respect to achieving its objectives, ARC Lusaka has established links with NGOs, donor agencies, inter-governmental and governmental bodies, especially in Eastern and Southern Africa (ESA). The Centre has also established working relations with regional bodies such as Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), Southern African Development Community (SADC) and Consumers International Regional Office for Africa (CI-ROAF).

The Centre aims to:

- establish civil society cooperation in the areas of trade, economic policies and environment in Africa ever since its inception;
- form national, regional and international co-ordination system and alliance building among organisations working on similar social and economic issues;
- function as a resource centre for Africa-based NGOs, consumer organisations, government and regulatory agencies; and
- conduct capacity building activities on regional and international trade, consumer protection, and foreign investment and competition policy issues at national, regional and international levels.

In the coming years, the Centre will continue to work in its traditional areas such as trade, but more focus will be on competition and consumer protection. The institution will also explore other new challenges, which are instrumental in the development of Zambia and Africa, in general.

Structure

The governing structure of the Centre comprises of the Executive and the Advisory Committee. The functions of these committees are as follows:

- Executive Committee works to provide policy direction and guidelines to the organisation; and ensure that the aims and objectives of the organisation are achieved.
- Advisory Committee gives advice on project work being undertaken by the Centre, upon being consulted, and attend meetings of the Centre as resource persons, when called upon by the Centre.

Human Resources

The staff comprises of a Co-ordinator, two Programme Officers, an Administrative Assistant and Office Assistant. Of the five staff members, two are females and three are males, a deliberate policy of CUTS to have at least one-third ratio of the staff as females.

Strategic Plan

Planning of activities of the Centre has been done by the staff in consultation with CUTS Jaipur to avoid duplication and bring in convergence in programmes. As part of the planning process, the Centre has identified a number of researches, advocacy, networking with other organisations and donor agencies for collaborative work.

The Centre has recorded some success in its target of becoming a reputed regional resource centre for policy research, advocacy and training on international trade, consumer protection, economic and regulatory policies having outreach to all Anglophone countries in Africa. However, for this target to be achieved, the Centre still needs to do a lot more. In order to achieve its short-term objectives, the Centre decided to draw up workable plans, which would be suitable to the national and regional context. ARC, Lusaka would focus on advocacy, research and training programmes having national and regional coverage.

Projects and Programmes

Of its nine years of existence, the Centre has established itself through clear and workable projects, which it has implemented independently and also with partner organisations. The present work programme contains research, advocacy, training and capacity building and networking on international trade, consumer protection, competition policy and FDI. Its strength in networking has been seen through its links with other consumer organisations such as the Zambia Consumer Association (ZACA) and other civil society groups in the COMESA SADC countries.

In Zambia, CUTS ARC has been working hand in hand with organisations such as the Zambia Competition Commission (ZCC) and the Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry (MCTI), where it sits on a number of working groups, which include the Trade Expansion Working Group (TEWG), the National Working Group on Trade Facilitation, Trade and Industry Sector Advisory Group, among others.

The organisation, which is also a member of the Civil Society Trade Network of Zambia (CSTNZ), has been instrumental in providing input into the Sixth National Development Plan both in CSOs and government-organised platforms. It also has good relationships with organisations such as the Zambia Investment Centre (ZIC), the Ministry of Finance and National Planning (MoFNP) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFF) and other intergovernmental agencies.

The Centre is currently running the following projects:

- Enhanced Integrated Framework – Aid for Trade to LDCs
- Fostering Equity and Accountability in the Trading System (FEATS)
- Raising Awareness at the Grassroots on Competition Policy and Consumer Protection Issues in Zambia

Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF) – Aid for Trade to LDCs

This is a one-year project spanning from December 2008-December 2009. It is aimed at supporting CSOs respond to policy discussions in the Integrated Framework process and CUTS will act as the focal point. Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF) is a measure to bridge the gap between demand and supply as effectively as possible and mainstream trade into national development strategies. The objective of the project is to engage civil society and other actors in the EIF process and supporting them to respond to ongoing policy discussions on trade and development taking place in the EIF process, thus playing an active role in the TEVG.

Advocacy and Networking

National Sensitisation Workshop

A national sensitisation workshop was organised in Lusaka, Zambia on January 21, 2009. The main aim of this workshop was to raise awareness among all stakeholders working on trade and development issues on the importance of the EIF process to least developed countries (LDCs) such as Zambia. It was also envisaged that the workshop could also be used as a platform to sensitise and engage stakeholders on the EIF process so that they can assess the opportunities of the EIF to LDCs. The workshop was attended by 42 representatives from the government and the Finnish Embassy, CSOs, research institutions and the media.



EIF Copperbelt Provincial Sensitisation Workshop

The Centre hosted a provincial workshop in Kitwe Town of the Copperbelt Province in continuation with the lined up activities on the EIF project on February 11, 2009. The main purpose of the workshop was to sensitise both state and non-state actors (NSAs) of the Copperbelt Province on the

importance of the EIF process. The workshop was well attended by participants from public and private sectors, CSOs, donors and the media.

CSO Roundtable Meeting

The Centre organised a roundtable meeting for the CSOs on the EIF process in Lusaka, Zambia on February 27, 2009, with the intention of engaging and updating the CSOs, sharing information on the current status of the implementation of EIF in Zambia and discussing and developing CSOs position on the EIF process in Zambia.

EIF Luapula Provincial Sensitisation Workshop

ARC Lusaka held its second provincial workshop in Luapula Province on March 19, 2009. This workshop also aimed at enhancing the knowledge base of the EIF process to as many stakeholders as possible. The workshop was attended by CSOs, government representatives, the media and the private sector.



Roundtable Meeting with Donors

A Roundtable meeting on the EIF with the donors was held in Lusaka, Zambia on April 09, 2009. The objectives of the meeting were to:

- present recommendations that have been coming out from the workshops conducted by ARC, Lusaka;

- get an update from EIF-Geneva team on the implementation of the EIF (opportunities and challenges); and
- present the findings of the research on the Diagnostic Trade Integrated Study (DTIS) in Zambia.

The meeting was attended by Dorothy Tembo, the EIFWTO Executive Director; Yusuf Dodia, Chairman, Private Sector Development Association (PSDA), Dale Mudenda, Researcher, DTIS Assessment, other CSOs and CUTS Board members and staff.

Private Sector Roundtable Meeting

A half day roundtable meeting for Private Sector on the EIF was held in Lusaka, Zambia on May 08, 2009. The objective of the meeting was to get recommendations from the Private Sector in Zambia which would support private sector organisations to respond to ongoing policy discussions on trade and development taking place in the EIF process thus play an active role in the TEWG.

Sensitisation Workshop on the Gender Dimensions

A one day Sensitisation Workshop on gender dimensions of EIF was held in Lusaka, Zambia on June 12, 2009. The objectives of the workshop were to:



- sensitise gender based organisations on the EIF so as that they assess the opportunities of the EIF;
- raise gender concerns and input them into the EIF implementation process in Zambia; and
- educate gender based group about the extent to which trade and the EIF in particular can contribute to development and poverty reduction.

Producers Roundtable Meeting

In continuation of the outlined activities, a roundtable meeting was organised in Lusaka, Zambia on August 08, 2009. The aim of the meeting was to respond to ongoing policy discussions on trade and development taking place in the EIF process. A well-attended meeting saw participants from the donor community, actual producers, other CSOs and the media.

EIF Sensitisation Workshop

CUTS held the fourth sensitisation workshop under the EIF project in Chipata, Zambia on November 02, 2009.

The objectives of the workshop were to:

- sensitise and engage various stakeholders on the EIF process so that they could assess the opportunities of the EIF to LDCs, such as Zambia;
- assess the feasibility of incorporating the EIF in the Fifth National Development Plan; and
- provide recommendations that would feed into the successful implementation of the EIF in Zambia.

Research Findings Dissemination Workshop

CUTS held a research dissemination workshop under the EIF in Lusaka, on November 27, 2009. The objective of this workshop was to disseminate two research studies: *'A Study on the Rice Value-chain in Zambia'* and *'An Assessment of the Zambian Diagnostic Trade Integrated Study'* to various stakeholders which included government, donor communities and CSOs and media with the hope that the two study reports should contribute to the successful implementation of the EIF process in Zambia.

Fostering Equity and Accountability in the Trading System (FEATS)

CUTS GRC with the support of The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, US, and in collaboration with CUTS ARCs is implementing the 'Fostering Equity and Accountability in the Trading System (FEATS)' project. FEATS project began in 2008 and will continue through March 2011 with the broad goals to raise awareness for better coherence between development and

trade policies, thus contributing to economic development and poverty reduction in project countries: Kenya, Malawi, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia. The objective of the project is to raise awareness for better coherence between development and trade policies, thus contributing to economic development and poverty reduction in project countries.

Advocacy and Networking

FEATS National Consultative Dialogue

ARC Lusaka hosted a national dialogue consultative meeting in Lusaka, Zambia on April 08, 2009. The twin objectives of the meeting were to:

- present the draft research study on political economy of trade policy-making in Zambia for discussion and validation;
- discuss and finalise the Terms of Reference for issue-specific research study for the second phase of the FEATS project; and
- gather views and analysis to be incorporated in the current draft research study on the political economy of trade policy-making in Zambia.

The meeting was attended by CSOs, representatives from private sector, government institutions and the COMESA.

Raising Awareness at the Grassroots on Competition Policy and Consumer Protection Issues in Zambia

CUTS is currently implementing a project to raise people's awareness of their consumer rights and prevailing unfair trade practices across Zambia. The project is funded by the Capacity Building for Private Sector Development (CBPSD), a programme implemented by the European Commission (EC). The project aims to establish the 'missing link' between competition enforcement,



on one hand, and achieving desirable impacts for common Zambian consumers, on the other. The project will enhance the capacity of consumers to better comprehend consumer protection and competition policy issues and engage with policymakers to facilitate relevant policy reforms. This six-month project was formally launched in Lusaka, Zambia, on October 21, 2009.

The objectives of the project are to:

- increase awareness and understanding among various stakeholders, especially the consumers at the grassroots on the relevance and benefit of competition for consumers;
- empower consumers with information about their rights and how they can mobilise others to generate advocacy responses that would help address their challenges and needs; and
- strengthen the capacity of the consumer groups to take up action-oriented research and advocacy on competition and regulatory policy issues.

Other Activities

TDP Dialogue Meeting

The last dialogue and consultative meeting on the TDP project was held in Lusaka, Zambia on June 04, 2009. The workshop attracted over 20 participants from various organisations such as the government, the media, farmer groups/associations, other CSOs and the private sector. It aimed at creating a platform to discuss and evaluate the project in Zambia.

Workshop for Media on Development Issues

CUTSARC, in partnership with Caritas Zambia organised a capacity building workshop for the media on trade and development in Lusaka, Zambia, on November 07, 2008. The workshop was constituted from a background that there still remains a gap in the general reporting of the media in Zambia in the areas of trade and development. The workshop was characterised with presentations on contentious issues under the WTO and the EPAs, including floor discussions.

Further, for an effective debates on trade, economics and development issues, there is need to have appropriate information dissemination which can only be done once the media is provided with adequate skills through capacity building training.

Representations

In accordance with the mission of the Centre, the Centre took part in activities organised by its partners. During the reporting period, the representatives of the Centre took part in the following events:

Date & Place	Event & Organiser	Issue/Objective	Participant(s)
Lusaka, Zambia January 29, 2009	Ministry of Commerce Trade and Industry (MCTI) Domestic Trade Department	Discuss the planned activities related to the commemoration of World Consumer Rights Day which fall on March 15	• Simon Ng'ona
Lusaka, Zambia, February 16-19, 2009	MCTI and CBPSD	Negotiations skills training	• Patrick Chengo
Lusaka, Zambia, February 18, 2009	European Commission	Discuss the EDF Annual Operational Review for 2009 and get inputs of CSOs for the 2009 thematic programme designed by the EC	• Simon Ng'ona
Lusaka, Zambia, March 14, 2009	MCTI	Commemoration of World Consumer Rights Day	• ARC Lusaka staff
Kabwe, Central Province, April 16-23, 2009	International Relations Research Programme (IRRP)	Conduct a research on China-Africa relations	• Simon Ng'ona
Kitwe, Copperbelt Province, April 21-22, 2009	Zambia Honey Partnership (ZHP)	Discuss the progress of the honey sector in Zambia	• Tommy Singongi

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Date & Place	Event & Organiser	Issue/Objective	Participant(s)
Lusaka, Zambia, April 24, 2009	Economic Association of Zambia (EAZ)	Discuss EPAs and their impact on the Zambian economy	• Simon Ng'ona
Lusaka, Zambia, May 14, 2009	Oxfam Zambia	Launch of Oxfam Study in Zambia on the Coca-Cola and Corporate Social Responsibility	• Angela Mwape Mulenga
Lusaka, Zambia, May 15, 2009	Dead Aid Meeting organised by EAZ	Dr Dambisa Moyo's position on discontinuing aid to African states	• Simon Ng'ona • Patrick Chengo
Lusaka, Zambia, June 09, 2009	TEWG Meeting	Discuss how Zambia could be engaged in the UNIDO-WTO project which aims to complement the aid for trade agenda, with specific focus on standard quality assurance and metrology	• Simon Ng'ona
Lusaka, Zambia, June 19, 2009	Capacity Building Meeting organised by the ZCC	Disseminating information to the local manufacturers and service providers regarding anti-competitive practices and consumer protection issues in Zambia	• Patrick Chengo
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, July 30-31, 2009	Parliamentarians and Civil Society Workshop on EPAs organised by the African Union (AU)	Discussion on engagement of Parliamentarians and CSOs in EPA negotiations and AU's position on EPAs	• Patrick Chengo

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Date & Place	Event & Organiser	Issue/Objective	Participant(s)
Lusaka Zambia, July 31, 2009	Incorporation of multi-stakeholders views in the formulation of Zambia's Competition and Consumer Protection Policy organised by MCTI	Collate views from members of NSAs in order to come up with a Competition and Consumer Protection Policy	• Simon Ng'ona
Lusaka, Zambia, August 27-28, 2009	Zambia National Farmers Union and Southern African Confederation of Agriculture Union	Orient and sensitise the small-scale farmers on the issues of Sanitary and Phyto- sanitary Standards	• Angela Mwape Mulenga • Patrick Chengo
Mauritius, August 28-30, 2009	Eastern and Southern Africa (ESA) Community Bloc	Interim EPA signing ceremony	• Simon Ng'ona
Lusaka, Zambia, September 09, 2009	CSO engagement in the SNDP Consultative forum organised by Civil Society for Poverty Reduction (CSPR)	Discuss how CSOs would participate in the formulation of SNDP, FNDP Mid-Term Review as well as the revision of the Terms of Reference for thematic groups	• Patrick Chengo
Lusaka, Zambia, September 21- 22, 2009	EPA Review Meeting organised by the MCTI	Update on the EPA negotiations	• Angela Mwape Mulenga
Lusaka, Zambia, September 23, 2009	Sixth National Development Plan (SNDP) CSO preparatory meeting for the agriculture and social protection thematic group meeting organised by CSPR	Strategise and choosing of lead organisations for thematic groups	• Simon Ng'ona

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Date & Place	Event & Organiser	Issue/Objective	Participant(s)
September 23, 2009, Lusaka, Zambia	Training workshop on the EPAs organised by the ZCC, in collaboration with TRALAC, MCTI and IDLO	To assist the legal and business communities understand and fully appreciate interface between EPAs and Competition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Angela Mwape Mulenga
Lusaka, Zambia, October 12, 2009	MCTI	Presentation of the final trade services strategy documents commissioned by MCTI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Angela Mwape Mulenga
Lusaka, Zambia, October 27-29, 2009	Regional workshop on trade facilitation in the context of the north to south corridor organised by AITIC and MCTI	To improve basic understanding of the WTO trade facilitation negotiations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Simon Ng'ona
Lusaka, Zambia, November 05, 2009	EPA Regional (ESA) Multi-stakeholder Strategy Workshop organised by the Centre for Trade Policy and Development (CTPD, formerly CSTNZ)	To review and assess the state of play in the ESA-IEPA negotiations and highlight key issues, challenges and opportunities for the ESA member states	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Patrick Chengo

Outreach

Advocacy work on international trade and development and Aid for Trade (AfT) issues encountered by the poor countries has been carried out through publication of policy briefs, news bulletins, newsletters, e-newsletters, press releases and workshops.

The Centre was involved in advocacy on AfT under the trade and development component. The Centre was involved in advocacy on competition policy, consumer protection, development-oriented FDI policy, fair trade, poverty reduction, and stakeholder involvement in decision-making process. Weekly Trade Highlights are produced by the Centre, which are further disseminated among partners.

Newsletters

Consumer Watch

This quarterly e-newsletter is a joint initiative of CUTS ARC and ZACA, published with the objective of enhancing consumer welfare, through sensitisation, information dissemination and capacity building of consumers, business entities and the government. While addressing consumer concerns, the newsletter also focuses on bringing out issues such as violation of consumer rights and measures to be taken by the relevant authorities to protect stakeholders.

Tradequity

The Centre produces the quarterly e-newsletter entitled 'Tradequity' on trade and development issues. It is disseminated among the partner organisations, development agencies, government and other stakeholders.

EIF Newsletter

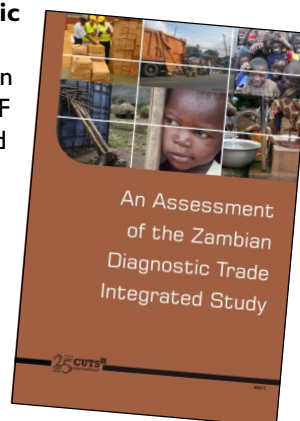
The Centre produces this publication in order to enhance understanding on AfT and the EIF policy discussions both at national and international levels.

Research Studies

An Assessment of the Zambian Diagnostic Trade Integrated Study

The overall objective of the study is to make an assessment of the DTIS in Zambia under the EIF and its relevance to building trade capacity and eventually lead to poverty reduction.

The study observes that the DTIS provides enormous potential for Zambia to diversify its export base and accelerate national development. The assessment has shown that the proportion of non-traditional exports in total exports has reduced over the years, despite increasing in absolute terms. The performance of non-traditional exports has remained below the potential and has grown at the same rate as the traditional exports. Moreover, most of the identified prerequisites to effective implementation of the DTIS recommendations have remained unresolved.



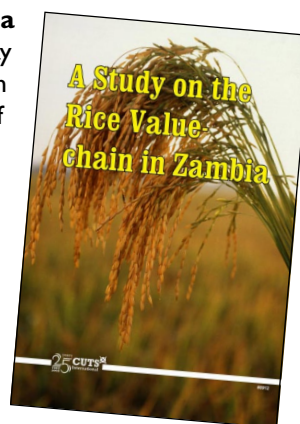
The report can be viewed at:

[*http://www.cuts-international.org/ARC/Lusaka/pdf/*](http://www.cuts-international.org/ARC/Lusaka/pdf/)

[*An_Assessment_of_the_Zambian_Diagnostic_Trade_Integrated_Study*](#)

A Study on the Rice Value Chain in Zambia

Globally, rice is a major food staple and a mainstay for many rural populations. As such, it is an important food crop for the food security of significant numbers of rural dwellers in the world. This study seeks to present an analysis of the rice-value chain situation in Zambia and how the sector can be promoted further through support from the EIF initiative. Additionally, the intention is for the report to serve as point for public sector, donor, NGO and private sector discussion with particular focus on opportunities in the value-chain for securing and improving income among rural populations in the rice growing areas.



The report can be viewed at:

[*http://www.cuts-international.org/ARC/Lusaka/pdf/*](http://www.cuts-international.org/ARC/Lusaka/pdf/)

[*A_Study_on_the_Rice_Value_chain_in_Zambia.pdf*](#)

Newspapers/Media Interaction

ARC representatives featured on MuviTV main business news segment during the period:

- discuss and giving CUTS position on the announcement of 7th WTO Ministerial Conference by the Director General Pascal Lamy on June 02, 2009;
- discuss the outcomes of the producers' round-table meeting on August 08, 2009;
- discuss and publicise the research findings of the DTIS assessment and rice value chain in Lusaka on November 27, 2009; and
- give CUTS position on the plan by ERB to increase fuel prices on November 06, 2009.

ARC representative featured on the national television programme “business enterprise”:

- discuss and give CUTS position on the launched COMESA Customs Union on June 15, 2009;
- discuss and enlighten the public on the functions and issues still under discussion at the WTO on July 07, 2009; and
- discuss the constraints to Zambia export diversification on September 14, 2009.

The Centre also had articles published in the local newspapers. Articles such as urging LDCs to coming up with a common position before of the 7th WTO Ministerial Conference and requesting government to disseminate relevant and accurate information on the fuel crisis that hit the country were published. Focus was also on trade facilitation issues and the Centre was quoted commenting on the interventions by organisations such as AIATIC for providing capacity building on this issue to state and NSAs.

Mehta gives council on EPAs

CUTS International secretary general Pradeep Mehta has said poor countries like Zambia should start devising ways of surviving the aftermath of the Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) rather than deferring signing of the trade agreement.

Early this month, Zambia refused to sign the interim EPAs with the European Union (EU), a move commerce minister Felix Mutati said was aimed at fostering regional integration among the ESA countries.

In an interview, Mehta stressed that there was need for regional countries to ensure close integration as a way of enhancing their bargaining power.

"Most international agreements are complex and the powerful will always dominate and exploit the weak and the same basic principles apply to the EPAs," Mehta said. "EU is insistent on signing these EPAs...the problem is that, especially for a small country like Zambia... you can't avoid to sign because now you will be able to be out of the club and lose out."

He said some of the benchmarks that African countries could continue pushing in the post-EPAs era included delayed liberalisation of sensitive sectors.

Mehta said no country could risk remaining outside the global trade order with the coming of the World Trade Organisation (WTO).

"You don't liberalise everything. Critical international trade negotiations are crucial," said Mehta who is also an expert on trade policy. "If the global trade order is tight, you can't buy another shoe but if the global trade order is loose, clarity is also important."

Mauritius recently where Zambia refused to sign the interim EPAs with the European Union (EU), a move commerce minister Felix Mutati said was aimed at fostering regional integration among the ESA countries.

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Networking with Stakeholders and other NGOs

The Centre has established links with most of the CSOs working on trade and development issues in ESA. The Centre gives priority to do collaborative work with like-minded organisations with the objective of skill sharing and to achieving its objective of South-South civil society cooperation on trade and development. The Centre has established networks with CSOs and consumer organisations in Uganda, Kenya, Malawi, Zambia, South Africa, Seychelles, Mozambique, Namibia, Mauritius, Ethiopia and Zimbabwe. The representatives of these organisations have been participating in various training and other programmes being organised by ARC Lusaka. During the 2008 period, the Centre was actively involved in networking with CSOs, regulatory and government agencies, inter-governmental bodies and business associations, etc.

Advocacy work on international trade barriers faced by poor countries has been carried out through publications of policy briefs, news bulletins, press releases, lobbying and workshops. The Centre has been involved in advocacy work on competition policy, consumer protection, development-oriented FDI policy, fair trade, poverty reduction, stakeholder involvement in decision-making. The target group comprises of civil society/consumer organisations, government/regulatory agencies, chambers of commerce, labour unions et al. Advocacy works on development-oriented FDI policies have been conducted through national reference group meetings, newsletters, brochures, media interactions, etc.

The Road Ahead

The Centre is committed to strengthening its collaborative work with various stakeholders in the coming years. The Centre has continued to establish new contacts with organisations in the region and in Zambia for collaborative work and networking. A dynamic mailing list has been prepared by the Centre for distribution of printed and electronic publications. The target is to become a reputed regional resource centre for policy research, advocacy and training on international trade, consumer protection, economic and regulatory policies having outreach to all Anglophone countries in Africa by the year 2009. In order to achieve its short-term objectives, the Centre draws up workable plans, which would be suitable to the national and regional context.

Audit Report

Kalonganino House Plot 1012 Kafue Road, Makeni	REPORT OF THE AUDITORS TO THE MEMBERS OF CONSUMER UNITY & TRUST SOCIETY (CUTS)	P.O. Box 37021 Tel: 097-852349 01-274723 Lusaka
<p>We have audited the Financial Statements on pages 4 to 12 which have been prepared under the historical cost convention and accounting policies set out on page 7.</p>		
<p>RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE DIRECTORS AND AUDITORS</p> <p>As described on page 2, the Financial Statements are the responsibilities of the Directors. It is our responsibility to form and express an independent opinion, based on our audit on the Financial Statements.</p>		
<p>BASIS OF OPINION</p> <p>We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing. These Standards required that we plan and perform the audit so as to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the Financial Statements are free of material misstatement.</p> <p>An audit includes examination on test basis of evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures in the Financial Statements. It also includes an assessment of significant estimates and judgements made by the Directors and whether the accounting policies are appropriately disclosed.</p> <p>We planned and performed our audit so as to obtain all information and explanations, which we considered necessary in order to provide us with sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance that the Financial Statements are free from material misstatement whether caused by fraud or other irregularity or error.</p>		
<p>OPINION</p> <p>In our opinion, the Financial Statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Society and its surplus for the year then ended.</p>		
<p>AUDITORS LUSAKA</p> <p>Jonah Hasiciimbwe – FCCA, FZICA. MANAGING PARTNER</p>		
<p>DATE:</p>		

CONSUMER UNITY & TRUST SOCIETY (CUTS)
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2009

	2009 K	2008 K
INCOME	402,881,450	281,318,000
EXPENDITURE	(399,162,761)	(282,255,000)
SURPLUS / (DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR	3,718,689	(937,000)

MOVEMENT TO ACCUMULATED FUNDS

Balance at 1 st January 2009	(6,306,000)	(5,369,000)
Surplus / (Deficit) for the year	3,718,689	(937,000)
Reclassification from Deferred Income	1,553,000	-
BALANCE AT 31ST DECEMBER 2009	(1,034,311)	(6,306,000)

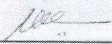
CONSUMER UNITY & TRUST SOCIETY (CUTS)
DETAILED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2009

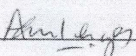
	Notes	Year 2009 ZMK	Year 2008 ZMK
INCOME			
Revenue	2	403,009,450	279,515,000
Overdrawn on deferred income		(128,000)	-
Exchange gain		-	1,803,000
Total income		402,881,450	281,318,000
EXPENDITURE			
Constitution review costs		1,700,000	-
Accountancy		15,112,500	5,000,000
Advertising		-	1,747,000
Bank charges		4,321,955	3,101,000
Subscriptions / donations		1,951,295	3,615,000
Depreciation		275,000	42,000
Administrative expenses		4,418,000	1,577,000
Water and Electricity		1,130,000	-
Printing and stationery		18,870,600	13,227,000
Postage and Telephone/ Internet services		30,600,615	16,393,000
Interest Payable		-	658,000
Facilitation expenses		1,750,000	11,792,000
Travel and Accommodation		21,553,950	94,671,000
Transport costs		25,222,268	15,556,000
FEATS		12,422,959	-
Office Rent		56,344,000	16,668,000
Office Maintenance		5,618,740	8,069,000
Office Teas and Cleaning		695,160	788,000
Consultancy fees		23,745,200	-
Insurance costs		1,350,053	1,761,000
Consultation workshop		-	2,641,000
Computer Maintenance		1,800,000	-
Casual Labour		2,650,000	-
Research Costs		4,551,775	-
Audit Fees		9,000,000	-
Courier Services		1,989,000	-
Gross salaries and wages		151,196,885	84,949,000
Exchange Loss		892,806	-
Total Expenditure		399,162,761	282,255,000
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR		3,718,689	(937,000)

CONSUMER UNITY & TRUST SOCIETY (CUTS)
BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2009

	NOTES	2009 K	2008 K
NON CURRENT ASSETS			
Tangible Fixed Assets	4	953,000	128,000
CURRENT ASSETS			
Balance at Bank	5a	3,719,836	714,000
Cash in hand		374,960	2,000
Receivables	6	28,598,772	-
TOTAL ASSETS		33,646,568	844,000
ACCUMULATED FUNDS AND LIABILITIES			
Accumulated funds	3	(1,034,311)	(6,303,000)
Deferred income		-	1,553,000
Total Funds		(1,034,311)	(4,750,000)
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Bank overdraft	5b	3,997,628	-
Payables	7	30,683,251	5,594,000
TOTAL FUNDS AND LIABILITIES		33,646,568	844,000

The Accounts on pages 4 to 12 were approved and signed on behalf of the Board by:


 Board Chairperson


 Secretary



Africa Resource Centre (ARC), Lusaka

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