



EVENTS

World Consumer Rights Day 2017

As part of celebrating the World Consumer Rights Day (WCRD) 2017, all three Africa Centres of CUTS i.e. Accra, Nairobi and Lusaka observed the day with keen interest on and around March 2017.

Building Digital and Financial World Consumers Can Trust

CUTS Accra, Ghana held a Roundtable Policy Dialogue at the Coconut Grove Hotel on March 15, 2017. The theme of the Policy Dialogue was 'Building Digital and Financial World Consumers Can Trust'. The event was attended by a large number of stakeholders, such as Ministry of Trade and Industry (MOTI); Development Policy Centre (DPC); Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ); Ghana Education Service (GES); the Foundation for the Development of Africa (FDA); Centre for Economic and Leadership Development (CELD); Participatory Development Associates (PDAs) law firms; banking and financial institutions; telecom service providers; and media houses.

Consumer Rights in the Digital Age

CUTS Nairobi, Kenya observed the WCRD 2017 in Nakuru County on the theme: 'Consumer Rights in the Digital Age'. It brought together representatives of various regulatory agencies of Kenya, various service providers as well as the consumer organisations. Competition Authority of Kenya (CAK) in collaboration with Communication Authority of Kenya (CA) and in partnership with consumer organisations were the conveners of this event.



WCRD 2017 Commemoration

CUTS Lusaka, joined Zambia and the rest of the world in celebrating WCRD 2017. The Centre along with other different institutions participated in the march past. Some of the activities organised during the commemoration included: touring of stands, awarding prizes to school students, etc.

NRG3 Meeting Held under PACT-EAC2

CUTS Nairobi, Kenya held National Reference Group (NRG3) Meeting at the Royal Tulip Hotel Nairobi, Kenya on March 13, 2017. The national meeting is part of the activities, under phase II of 'Promoting Agriculture, Climate, and Trade Linkages in the East African Community (PACT-EAC2)' project implemented by CUTS, Geneva and other partner organisations in the EAC.

The objective of the meeting was to link recent research findings on agro-processing to relevant agro-processing policies in the pipeline to promote sustainable agro-processing in the region. The meeting brought together relevant stakeholders from the government, business community, civil society, media, academia, agro-processors, representatives of regional and international organisations, etc.



IN THIS ISSUE

Events	1
Ongoing Projects	2
New Initiatives	3
Forthcoming Events	4
Publications	4
Representations	5
Reflections from Media	6

EVENTS

Sustainable Landscapes Management Media Breakfast Meeting

CUTS Lusaka (Zambia) and Dutch ecumenical development agency Solidaridad hosted a Media Breakfast meeting on February 02, 2017. The aim of the meeting was to inform the media about the 'Sustainable Landscapes Management' project that CUTS and Solidaridad have undertaken.

Meeting with County Government of Bomet

A meeting with County Government of Bomet was held on March 03, 2017. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss of (SP-E) programme activity plan as well as identify CUTS entry point in ongoing policy processes at the county level on energy sector. A technical working group for future engagement on renewable energy was established between CUTS and Bomet county technical officers.

Leveraging Regional Policy Successes to Improve Interventions by FRA

On March 30, 2017 CUTS Lusaka, Zambia in partnership with the Millers Association of Zambia (MAZ), Grain Traders Association of Zambia (GTAZ) and Zambian Commodity Exchange (ZAMACE) hosted a Media Breakfast on 'Leveraging Regional Policy Successes to Improve Interventions by the Food Reserve Agency (FRA)'. The discussions focussed on a report, which was prepared in 2016 by Natasha Chilundika (CUTS Consultant) highlighting the functioning of the maize markets in Zambia. The report used regional case studies from Tanzania, Ghana and Kenya to inform a reform programme for FRA.

ONGOING PROJECTS

Cross Border Trading Literature Review

CUTS Accra, Ghana with funding support from the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) is implementing a project in Ghana entitled 'Cross Border Trading Literature Review'. The aim of the project is to document literatures on Cross Border Trade in Africa, in partnership with CUTS Lusaka and CUTS Nairobi. The project is being implemented over a year's period.

Enhancing Consumer and Regulatory Action on Consumer Issues in Healthcare Sector Multimedia Dissemination Campaign

CUTS Lusaka, Zambia is undertaking a second phase of 'Enhancing Consumer and Regulatory Action on Consumer issues in the Healthcare Sector'. The objective of this project is to raise awareness on consumer rights in the healthcare sector focussing in Central, Muchinga and Copperbelt provinces of Zambia.

Resolving the Unresolved NTB in the EAC

CUTS Nairobi, Kenya has undertaken a Study on 'Resolving the Unresolved Non-tariff Barriers (NTBs) in the East Africa Community'. Under the initiative it has published the third policy brief on NTB reporting system in the EAC and an analysis of data collected through additional interviews with truck owners and drivers has been accomplished.

Investment in Agriculture for Women Smallholder Farmers and Increased Land Access

CUTS Lusaka, Zambia with Support from Oxfam Zambia is undertaking a project on Investment. Two papers are to be drafted under the project: 'Investment on Harmonisation and Inter-agency Collaboration' and 'Impact of Double Taxation Agreements on Domestic Resource Mobilisation Efforts'. The findings will be disseminated to Zambian Government Ministries through meetings.

Leveraging Regional Policy Successes to Improve Interventions by the FRA

CUTS Lusaka, Zambia with support from the Zambia Advocacy Programme (ZAP) is carrying out advocacy interventions using the report that CUTS published in 2016 entitled 'Leveraging Regional Policy Successes to Improve Interventions by the FRA and the Performance of Maize Markets in Zambia'.

Coalition Building on Trade and Economic Regulation Issues in Africa

CUTS Nairobi, Kenya is working on Capacity Building on Coalition building with the support of Oxfam Novib. So far, invitations have been sent to CSOs to join ACTER Coalition and the ACTER Google group has been established. The final internal draft of the strategic plan has been shared with partners for their inputs and awaiting comments from partners

Participation of Female Cross-border Trade in Agricultural Regional Value Chains

CUTS Lusaka, Zambia is undertaking a project on female cross border traders. The project will look at the barriers faced by women in regional agricultural value chains and will aim to identify policy measures to help evenly distribute the benefits of economic growth by increasing the economic gains for women who are engaged in economic activities at various levels.

State of the Economy II

The Energy Crisis and the Impact of the Economy

In light of the package that Zambia is currently negotiating with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), CUTS Lusaka in partnership with Zambia Institute for Policy Analysis and Research (ZIPAR) is undertaking a study and advocacy measures on the likely impact of the removal of fuel subsidies on consumers.

Understanding Low Intra-regional Trade in Food Products in Select ECOWAS Countries

CUTS Accra, Ghana is seeking for funding support from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and Le centre africain pour le commerce, l'intégration et le développement (ENDA-CACID) to implement a project entitled 'Understanding Low Intra-regional Trade in Food Products in Select ECOWAS Countries'. The goal of the project is to enhance food security in select West African countries through the increased intra-regional trade in food in Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) in a sustainable manner. The project is expected to be implemented over a year's period.

Impact of Trade Taxes on the Axes on the Regional Integration Agenda Regional Integration Agenda

CUTS Lusaka, Zambia is planning funding to undertake a study on the 'Impact of Trade Taxes on the Regional Integration Agenda', particularly in light of conversations regarding the Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA). With most governments dependent on customs duties for resource mobilisation, could this hinder the reduction of tariff barriers necessary to promote regional integration?

Civil Society Organisations' Engagement in the Continental Free Trade Area of Africa

CUTS Nairobi, Kenya is seeking funding from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, (SIDA) to implement a project on "Civil Society Organisations' Engagement in the Continental Free Trade Area of Africa". The goal of the project is to ensure a meaningful consultation and transparency for a comprehensive CFTA negotiations and implementation through a CSO engagement forum. The project is expected to be implemented over a period of 3 years.

COMPAD II: Competition Law Drafting

CUTS Accra, Ghana is soliciting for funding support from the BUSAC Fund to implement a project 'COMPAD II: Competition Law Drafting'. The aim of the project is draft the National Competition Law for the MOTI.

Fostering Fair Competition to Stimulate Investment in the East African Community

CUTS Nairobi is soliciting funding from United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to support a project entitled 'Fostering Fair Competition to Stimulate Investment in the East African Community'. The goal of the project is to facilitate fair competition in the Information, Communication and Technology (ICT), Financial Services, and Agri-business (dairy) sectors in the EAC through legal/policy and institutional reforms. The project is expected to be implemented for a period of 2 years.

Enhancing Regional Cross Border through Enhancing Regional Cross Border Trade

CUTS Lusaka, Zambia is seeking funding to undertake a project looking at the 'Role of Technology in Enhancing Regional Cross Border Trade in Southern Africa' focussing on women and youth.

Advancing Competition Regime in Select West African Countries through Capacity Building and Technical Assistance

CUTS Accra, Ghana is seeking for support funding to implement a project entitled 'Advancing Competition Regime in Select West African Countries through Capacity Building and Technical Assistance'.

Exploring the Challenges Surrounding PPPs in the Country

CUTS Accra, Ghana is soliciting for funding support from Friedrich-Ebert Stiftung (FES) to implement a project dubbed 'Exploring the challenges surrounding Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) in the country'. The goal of the project is to provide 2-3 case studies on some key PPPs in the country in order to understand such partnerships. The project is expected to be implemented over a period of 6 months.

Promoting Transparency and Accountability in Public Procurement through Consumer Involvement

CUTS Accra is seeking support funding from National Endowment for Democracy to undertake a project entitled 'Promoting Transparency and Accountability in Public Procurement through Consumer Involvement'. The aim of the project is to bring public procurement process related information to public domain and make it more accessible. The project is expected to be implemented over a year's period.

Consumer Financial Protection: Smart Campaign

CUTS Accra is seeking support funding from Centre for Financial Inclusion: ACCION/Mastercard to implement a project called 'Consumer Financial Protection: Smart Campaign'. The aim of the project is to promote consumer welfare in financial services. The project is expected to be implemented over a 2-year period.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Meeting with FAO on Informal Cross Border Trade

CUTS Nairobi, Kenya will be organising a Meeting with Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) on 'Informal Cross Border Trade' to take place in Rwanda on May 23-24, 2016.

Stakeholder Meeting with Key Policymakers

CUTS Nairobi, Kenya will be organising a Stakeholder Meeting with key policymakers at national level under 'V4C Programme' in April 2017.

Meeting with IFDC

CUTS Accra, Ghana has a meeting the International Fertilizer Centre (IFDC) to discuss possible extension of 'Competition Reforms in Key Markets for Enhancing Social and Economic Welfare in Developing Countries (CREW)' project staple food finding research on issues relating to the fertilizer sector.

Stakeholder Meetings at County Level

CUTS Nairobi, Kenya will also be organising Stakeholder Meetings at county level: Bomet and Homa-Bay Counties under the 'Strategic Partnership in Energy Advocacy' project.

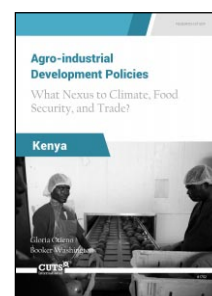
PUBLICATIONS

Research Reports

Agro-industrial Development Policies: What Nexus to Climate, Food Security, and Trade? Kenya

This study looked at Kenya's agro industrialisation policies with a view to understand the nexus between Agro-2 Agro-industrial Development Policies: What Nexus to Climate, Food Security, and Trade? industrialisation, trade and food security, bearing in mind that climate change directly affects agriculture and food security. The study used secondary information and policy documents to analyse how integrated food security, climate change, and agro-industrialisation policies are structured in the country and to what extent they are aligned to regional level policies.

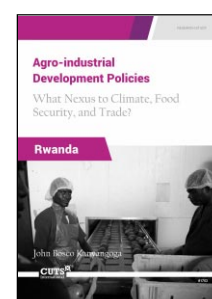
http://www.cuts-geneva.org/pdf/PACT2-STUDY-Nexus_Agro-Industrial_Development_Policies_Kenya.pdf



Agro-industrial Development Policies: What Nexus to Climate, Food Security, and Trade? Rwanda

This study proposed formulation and implementation of an agro-processing policy and strategy: According to the majority of people consulted while conducting this study, there is general consensus on the need to have a policy and strategy that is dedicated to support and promote a vibrant agroprocessing sector in Rwanda. In addition, it aims at mainstreaming gender in trade policy: It is important to ensure that gender is mainstreamed within trade policy. In this regard, some specific considerations should include: the integration of gender issues in trade policy formulation; implementation in trade negotiations at national, regional, and international levels.

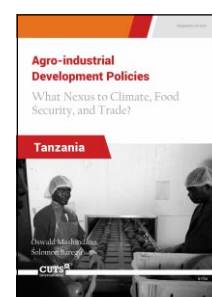
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Agro-industrial Development Policies: What Nexus to Climate, Food Security, and Trade? Tanzania

Tanzania has begun implementing its second five-year development plan with a keen focus on industrialisation for economic transformation and human development. With efforts to promote agro-processing in the country, the link between climate, trade, and food security cannot be understated. This study attempts to identify and fill knowledge gaps on agro-industrial development related policies, and how they pertain to climate change, food security, and trade linkages in Tanzania. It identifies the missing links and prospective policies that should be put in place to mainstream climate change, food security, and trade linkages through agro-processing.

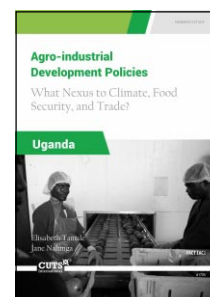
http://www.cuts-geneva.org/pdf/PACT2-STUDY-Nexus_Agro-Industrial_Development_Policies_Tanzania.pdf



Agro-industrial Development Policies: What Nexus to Climate, Food Security and Trade? Uganda

The study is an analysis of Uganda's agro-industrial policies and the extent to which they have mainstreamed climate change, food security, trade and gender. There has been resurgence in the efforts by many African countries in general, and Uganda in particular, to promote industrialisation in order to address the current development challenges. Although Uganda's economy has registered an impressive growth rate of 5 percent in 2014/15 (projected to increase to 5.5 percent for 2016/17), this growth has not translated into improved livelihoods.

http://www.cuts-geneva.org/pdf/PACT2-STUDY-Nexus_Agro-Industrial_Development_Policies_Uganda.pdf



REPRESENTATIONS

Chenai Mukumba, Centre Coordinator, and Muntanga Musiwa of CUTS Lusaka attended a Parliamentary Committee meeting on Education, Science and Technology at the Parliament house on the March 01, 2017. The purpose of the meeting was to present CUTS views on the Metrology Bill and the National Technical Regulation Bill.

Clement Onyango, Centre Coordinator and Boniface Otieno Owin of CUTS Nairobi attended a bilateral meeting with USAID – East Africa Trade and Investment Hub on March 14, 2017. The objective of the meeting was to discuss the concept note on competition that had earlier been submitted by CUTS and also discuss on existing opportunities for funding in other areas apart from competition.

Appiah Kusi Adomako, Centre Coordinator of CUTS Accra had a meeting with Ministry of Transport to discuss CREW Project sustainability.

Muntanga Musiwa of CUTS Lusaka attended a two day training workshop on March 09-10, 2017 at Tecla Lodge, Lusaka organised by HIVOS. The aim of the workshop was to train HIVOS partners and potential partners on outcome harvesting.

Daniel Asher, Kebenei Chepkoech and Beryl of CUTS Nairobi attended training on February 14, 2017 on Food Safety Concepts organised by International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI). The objective of the training was to build the capacity of CUTS project staff on Food Safety Concepts under the 'Voice for Change (V4C)' project on promoting food safety and loss reduction in the dairy sector.

Appiah Kusi Adomako and Isaac Yaw Obeng of CUTS Accra had a meeting with Nicolas Jørgensen Gebara, the Fund Manager for Business Sector Advocacy Challenge (BUSAC) Fund in Ghana to give an update regarding the progress made so far in terms of gaining extra support funding from Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS) Ghana, GIZ Ghana, Department for International Development (DFID) Ghana, USAID, among others for COMPAD II project.

Chenai Mukumba, Joseph Abraham and Samarantha Banda from CUTS Lusaka, attended a Media Breakfast meeting on March 24, 2017 at the Southern Sun Hotel. The meeting was organised by the Centre for Trade Policy and Development (CTPD). The meeting was organised to discuss the country's economic recovery programme.

Appiah Kusi Adomako and Isaac of CUTS had a meeting with Baboucar Daillo, the Africa Director for Centre for Financial Inclusion to introduce the Centre and its programmes to the former and if possible, seek for collaboration between the two organisations.

Clement Onyango and Kebenei Chepkoech Joan attended a bilateral meeting with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) on March 21, 2017 to discuss on possible areas of collaboration between CUTS and UNDP Kenya on energy and climate change projects. The objective of the meeting was how CUTS can access the Global Environment Facility Fund (GEF) small grants.

Muntanga Musiwa attended a training workshop organised by Civil Society for Poverty Reduction (CSPR) on February 16-17, 2017 at Tecla Lodge, Lusaka. The purpose of the meeting was to train on the different social accountability tools that CSPR uses.

Daniel Asher, Kebenei Chepkoech Joan and Beryl attended the All Africa Post Harvest Congress on March 28-31, 2017 at Safari Park Hotel in Nairobi (Kenya). The objective of the meeting was to examine the actionable sustainable solutions towards reducing food losses and waste along various supply chains in Africa.

Boniface Otieno Owin and Daniel Asher and Martin from CUTS Nairobi attended a national Training on Outcome harvesting during the March 08-09, 2017 at Amber Hotel Nairobi. The objective of the meeting was to train the partners under the SP-E programme on outcome harvesting reporting.

Appiah Kusi Adomako participated in the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSSOC) Conference organised by the African Union.

REPRESENTATIONS

Clement Onyango, Boniface Otieno Owin and Daniel Asher and Beryl had a meeting between CUTS Nairobi and African Women Agribusiness Network (AWAN) to discuss possible collaboration on March 22, 2017 at CUTS Nairobi office.

Appiah Kusi Adomako had a meeting with the Chief Director of Ministry of Trade and Industry (Ghana).

Clement Onyango represented CUTS at Tax Justice Network Africa (TJN-A) meeting on March 23, 2017. The objective of the meeting was to discuss on a report that analyses the impact of the proposed Nairobi International Financial Centre Bill (2016).



REFLECTIONS FROM MEDIA

Inhibit the Growth of the Pvt. Sector

Radio Phoenix, March 29, 2017

In its latest brief on 'Leveraging Regional Policy Successes to Improve Interventions by the FRA', CUTS Lusaka, Zambia said excessive spending on the agency can inhibit the growth of the private sector. Presenting the report, CUTS Lusaka Consultant Natasha Chilundika said there is also need to restrict FRA purchases to national reserve and target purchases towards outlying areas that cannot be reached by private buyers.

Chilundika mentioned that in the long term Zambia should aim to make purchases of the maize grain through the Zambia Agriculture Commodities Exchange (ZAMACE) to avoid distortionary effects on the market.

Regulatory Body for Road Transport: A Necessary Policy Prescription

Edayatu Lamptey

B&FT Online, January 11, 2016

Road transport by far carries more passengers in the country than combined rail, river, foot and air – yet it is one of the areas where an abundance of regulatory gaps has led to non-standardisation and an unclear direction for strategic growth. Road transport and road-related accidents kill more people in the country than malaria, cholera and tuberculosis combined. Data from the National Road Safety Commission (NRSC) provide gruesome statistics about road accidents. The NRSC reported previous year that 2,571 individuals were knocked down by vehicles; 13,133 road accidents were recorded in which 11,328 individuals were injured, and 1,856 lost their lives. There 20,442 vehicles involved in road accidents. The economic cost and loss associated with road accidents is estimated to be 1.6 percent of the Gross Domestic Product.

<http://thebftonline.com/features/opinions/16831/regulatory-body-for-road-transport-a-necessary-policy-prescription.html>