



## EVENTS

### Voice for Change (V4C) Programme



#### Global V4C PME Learning

The V4CP PME learning was held at The Hague, the Netherlands during April 09-11, 2019. The aim of the event was to reflect and improve upon the V4CP's current PME system, while also looking to the future and coming up with inputs for a possible second phase.

Alongside deep reflection on learnings, the exchange of ideas and experiences, and possible improvements for the future, the event was also a moment for PME officers and CSO representatives to connect. The training workshop was a hands-on

learning with practical assignments. PME officers, representatives from V4CP CSOs, and the global PME team participated in the event.



#### V4CP Knowledge and Learning

CUTS Nairobi attended V4CP knowledge and learning event in Rwanda organised by SNV during April 29-May 05, 2019. The workshop shared country experiences in the implementation of the V4CP. The FNS team learnt the essence of private sector advocacy and budget tracking from other V4CP implementing countries. Additionally, the FNS gained knowledge on how to design and facilitate multi-stakeholder engagements.

### Budget Tracking Training and Handover Meeting

CUTS Nairobi attended a budget tracking training organised by International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) on April 11-12, 2019. The objectives of the workshop were to appreciate the rationale of public expenditure for food safety, understand the food safety budget tracking methodology, review food safety budget data and make use of the food safety budget tracking tool and analysis.

After the training, the food safety budget tracking tool was handed over to CSOs. The FNS received the tracking toolkit and will use it to advocate for increased targeted budgetary allocation towards food safety at the national and county level.



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### Capacity Building for Dairy Value Chain Actors

CUTS Nairobi jointly with County of Laikipia (ASDSP) and Kenya Dairy Board (KDB) organised a capacity building training for dairy value chain actors on milk quality and safety when handling milk on April 17, 2019. The capacity building was part of KDB carrying out their mandate on awareness creation and capacity building of dairy value chain actors.

The training was intended to increase the capacity of milk dealers to adhere to safety standards. The training was a result of CUTS advocacy for improved capacity of dairy value chain actors. The participants received training covering KDBs mandate, dairy regulations, consumer safety, public health rules and enforcement.



### World Food Safety Day

CUTS Nairobi celebrated the first-ever World Food Safety Day, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in December 2018, under the theme 'Food Safety, everyone's business' on June 07, 2019.

The World Food Safety Day provides an opportunity to create awareness and ensure that Codex Standards give guidance towards safer food. The objective of the celebrations is to inspire actions for safer food and give producers, food transporters, processors, consumers and the government a chance to focus on food safety.

### Nakuru Dairy Stakeholders Forum

CUTS Nairobi attended the Nakuru Dairy Value Chain Stakeholder Forum organised by National Agricultural and Rural Inclusive Growth Project (NARIGP) and Agriculture Sector Development Support Programme (ASDSP) on June 18, 2019. The primary objective of the meeting was to form Nakuru Dairy Value Chain Platform which will bring together all players in the value chain to network, exchange ideas and identify solutions to address challenges facing dairy enterprise among them poor milk quality and safety.

From the meeting, V4CP was appointed to represent the NGOs and development partners in the Nakuru Dairy Stakeholders' Platform. The platform offers a good opportunity to champion for safe and quality milk and milk products, introduce and activate the Community of Practice (CoP) as well as share the Nakuru Dairy Strategic Plan with stakeholders.



### Consumer Awareness Forums

CUTS Nairobi held consumer awareness forums in Nakuru, Nyandarua and Laikipia county on May 02, 03 and 31, 2019 respectively. The objectives of forums were to spur consumers' awareness on food safety issues; knowing their consumer rights and obligations in regard to access to safe food, understanding the redress mechanism and formation of a strong consumer desk/units at county level to address food safety concerns. After the forum, a Consumer Desk was established at Safe communities and a WhatsApp group was formed for regular communication.

### Policy Brief Writeshop

CUTS Nairobi attended a policy brief workshop organised by 3R and V4C project staff with good skills on how to write good policy briefs for communication development. Policy briefs among other methods are to inform decision making and/or influence policy making.

The workshop provided a good avenue for learning how to write communicative policy brief well targeted for various target audiences and with SMART policy recommendations. From the workshop, participants also learnt of the components of a good policy brief and what each entails. Knowledge gained from the workshop will be used to draft policy brief from the available evidence materials.

## Review of FSIP Implementation

CUTS Lusaka through the Agriculture Network, organised a review meeting of Farmer Input Support Programme (FISP) implementation for 2018-19 season on May 07, 2019. The meeting was attended by over 100 participants including farmers, civil society organisations, agro-dealers, cooperating partners, think tanks and government institutions.

It witnessed agricultural players overwhelmingly call for the continuation of the E-Voucher. Since the 2017-18 agriculture season, Smart Zambia Institute in collaboration with Ministry of Agriculture has been implementing the Zambia Integrated Agriculture Management Information System to support the management of the FISP e-voucher system.

### The Strategic Partnership 'Green and Inclusive Energy'

*Two Policy Roundtables were held in Bomet and Homa-Bay counties on June 11 & 13, 2019 respectively.*

#### Bomet County Policy Roundtable

CUTS Nairobi held a planning meeting with the Directorate of Energy, County of Bomet and the SP-E County Coordinator on June 11, 2019. The purpose of this meeting was to recap the progress made in the last phase of the programme as well as to deliberate on the planned activities in the current phase. A key action point arising was the need to expedite the passing of the draft Renewable Energy Policy. The process (and potential challenges) of getting it through the County Assembly were also discussed. The main action point was the formation of a multi-stakeholder forum with organisations of interest in renewable energy operating in the county. The Committee, once constituted, will engage in lobbying the County Assembly to pass the policy into county laws. Director of Energy took a lead in planning for this forum.

#### Homa-Bay County Policy Roundtable

CUTS held a meeting with Directorate of Energy and Mining, County of Homa-Bay on June 13, 2019. During this meeting, CUTS appraised the Director with an overview of the programme in the county. This included the CRG (scope and mandate), research study, capacity building of consumers and the executive on renewable energy technologies, as well as outreach and awareness activities which had been conducted in the county. The briefing also elaborated the steps that led to the formulation and validation of the Homa Bay County Renewable Energy Policy and the role of the multi-stakeholder committee in pooling together to lobby the Energy and Mining committee of the county assembly to support the policy and the ensuing bill once it reaches the assembly.

### Promoting Agro-processing Industry in East Africa

The EAC PSDS National Stakeholder workshop was held under the project entitled, 'Promoting Agriculture, Climate and Trade Linkages in the East Africa Community'. The participants reviewed the East African Community Private Sector Development Strategy (EAC-PSDS) 2006 provisions covering climate-related aspects of agro-processing development.

In particular, they identified provisions that were missing in this regard, and provided recommendations for their inclusion in the upcoming PSDS 2018-2022. These recommendations will be included in a stakeholders' position paper, to be later used as inputs into the PSDS development process.



### Policy Reform for Private Sector Investment



This project, funded by US Agency for International Development (USAID) through Africa Lead is themed 'Advancing Private Sector Investment in Agribusiness through the Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Programme Process: The Case for Cassava Value Chain' and its overall objective is to advance/incentivise private sector investment in agribusiness value chains. The five-month project running till 15 August 2019 will comprise a research study as well as policy roundtable meetings in Nairobi and two counties engaged in cassava production.

CUTS participated in data collection in Nairobi, Makueni and Busia counties during April 01-12, 2019. Following data analysis, a draft report has been developed and will be validated on July 23, 2019.



## ONGOING PROJECTS

### Promoting Sustainable Diets for All

The project seeks to address the informal food system which is best positioned to address growing urban food insecurity in Zambia, in general, and specifically Lusaka and Kitwe in particular. However, the sector faces significant challenges that constrain the effective provision of services to the growing urban spaces. Informal markets make food accessible to city residents, the majority of whom are poor. While the increase in the number of supermarkets and other retail outlets make food available, the majority of people living in Lusaka and Kitwe do not have access to these outlets.



### Social and Economic Impact at the Ghana-Burkina Faso Border

CUTS Accra in collaboration with Boarderless Alliance and with funding support from the World Bank Group is implementing a project entitled 'Social and Economic Impact Assessment at the Ghana-Burkina Faso Border on the Tema Ouagadougou Corridor'. The main goal of this project is to assess the impacts of reforms in Customs transit system along Tema Ouagadougou corridor and its social and economic impact along the corridor.

### Mobile Insurance Sector in Ghana

CUTS Accra in collaboration with Nielson Ghana and funding support from the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) is implementing a 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 as well as increasing usage of financial services by low-income households and MSMEs.

### Assessing Energy Management in the Mining Sector

This project will conduct an assessment of the current status of energy management in the mining sector, attitudes to price rises to reach cost recovery levels and review the technical and economic feasibility of implementing a scheme to promote energy efficiency in exchange for reduced electricity tariffs in the future.

### Reformation of Food Reserve Agency

CUTS International Lusaka 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 the Parliament. Thereafter, provide commentary on the findings and support the reform process for the FRA.



### Farmers and Food Systems

This assignment will deliver the Zambia case study for a multinational project which examines the future of small-scale agriculture within a changing global, regional and national context. The work will explore different narratives, evidence and trends to address the over-arching foresight questions: In 20 years' time will there be a substantial role of small-scale agriculture in feeding the world, and in providing livelihoods for poor and vulnerable groups? What transformations are likely and what will the trade-offs be?



### Petition on Consumer Protection Law

CUTS Accra is undertaking an initiative with its internal resources is implementing a project titled 'Petition on Consumer Protection Law to be passed in Ghana'. The goal of the e-petition is to fast track the passage of the Consumer Protection Law in Ghana through civil action and advocacy with 20,000 signatures. At present, there are 2190 signatories.



## ONGOING PROJECTS

### Advocacy Hub and Policy Engagement Work

The main objectives of this project are to create a platform for highlighting CUTS proposed policy reforms in key areas of work supported by Zambia Accountability Programme (ZAP), including on the agriculture and debt; enable CUTS to respond and influence ongoing economic debates on key issues, via media breakfasts or articles; and enable the organisation to raise awareness on key issues amongst the public, MPs and the media, particularly on debt through an article series, media activity and briefings with MPs and journalists.

### Analysis of Animal Feed Value Chain in Zambia

This project involves the design, preparation and execution of the animal feed value chain study, which identifies challenges towards effective competition in the animal feed value chain. This also includes an evaluation of government interventions, especially focussing on how these shape incentives for firms to compete and invest.

More importantly, this value chain study will provide recommendations on the design of more effective policies that foster competition in the animal feed value chain and suggest how pro-competition policy reforms may have an impact on various economic variables in the animal feed value chain.

### Capacity Audit of Sagnerigu and Zabzugu Districts

CUTS Accra with support of Oxfam/NORSAC is implementing a project entitled 'Capacity Audit of the Revenue Units of the Sagnerigu and Zabzugu Districts' to assess the existing capacity at the selected district assemblies towards revenue mobilisation.

### Strengthening Voices of Women in the Informal Sector

This project will seek to contribute to this discussion by creating platforms in five different Southern African countries, namely: Zambia, Zimbabwe, Malawi, Botswana and Namibia where these issues will be discussed at the national level. These discussions will then culminate in a regional convening which will be hosted in Zambia whereby women from these countries will come together in an effort to agree on a regional position on social protection. One woman from each country will then be selected to participate at the Commission on the Status of Women as well as various other forums at national, regional and global levels to amplify their voices on this issue.



### Investment Facilitation for Sustainable Development in Ghana

CUTS Accra with the support of the World Economic Forum is implementing a project entitled, 'Project Management Support for Investment Facilitation for Sustainable Development in Ghana' to understand how investment facilitation can lead to sustainable development in Ghana.

#### NEW PROJECT

### Development of a Model Public Procurement Framework Using Open Contracting and Beneficial Ownership Approach for the EAC Region

This project will be funded by HIVOS and its overall objective is to develop a model public procurement framework using the open contracting and beneficial ownership approach for the EAC region. The one-year project is valued at • 35,000

CUTS attended an Open Contracting Sprint organised by Hivos on May 06-09, 2019. The purpose of this engagement was to introduce the OC approach, assess the capacity needs of organisations for implementation of the programme in order to develop a customised support package. Additionally, the sprint provided introduction into Hivos way of working in key areas pertinent to implementation of the proposals.

## REPRESENTATIONS

**Clement Onyango** and **Jackline Wanja** attended a meeting with representatives from US Agency for International Development to discuss potential collaboration regarding competition in Kenyan agricultural markets on June 25, 2019.

**Njavwa Simukoko** attended a Fight Inequality Alliance Global and Pan African Gathering at Kitwe during June 14-20, 2019.

**Collins Owegi** attended the PRE-SBSTA/SBI 50 EAC Strategy Meeting on Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture at Kigali, Rwanda on June 05-07, 2019. The objective of the meeting was to develop a joint EAC regional submission to SBSTA/SBI.

**Daniel Asher**, **Martin Mulwa** and **Idah Kinya** attended a gender and social inclusion meeting organised by Netherlands Development Organisation on June 04, 2019. The essence of the meeting was to understand the extent CSOs under V4CP are incorporating the gender and socially excluded in the project implementation on June 04, 2019.

## REPRESENTATIONS

**Kangwa Muyunda** attended a validation meeting to look at the proposals developed under Zambia Tax Platform for the 2020 National Budget at Lusaka on May 30, 2019.

**Appiah Kusi Adomako** participated in the National Dissemination and Policy Workshop on Trade and Development in Ghana on May 21, 2019.

**Appiah Kusi Adomako** attended and made a presentation at the 2019 World Telecommunication and Information Society Day Celebration organised by the National Communication Authority on May 17, 2019.

**Shadrack Nii Yarboi Yartey** together with the team from World Economic Forum had a meeting with Ministry of Food and Agriculture on the World Economic Forum on May 17, 2019.

**Appiah Kusi Adomako** together with the team from World Economic Forum had a meeting with Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa, Food and Agriculture Organisation, Ghana Union of Traders, Seed Co-West Africa on the World Economic Forum on May 16, 2019.

**Jackline Wanja** attended a climate finance training workshop organised by Netherlands Development Organisation and Pan African Climate Justice Alliance on May 06, 2019. The objective of the workshop was to sensitise V4CP CSOs on climate change funding mechanisms and build their capacity on Green Climate Fund process.

**Chenai Mukumba** attended a high-level policy discussion on 'Genetic Engineering and Biosafety Law in Zambia', at Lusaka on April 11, 2019.

**Collins Owegi** and **Jackline Wanja** participated in data collection for PRAI in Nairobi, Makueni and Busia counties during April 01-12, 2019.



## REFLECTIONS FROM MEDIA

### Take Action to Regain Market Confidence

*Money FM Zambia, May 27, 2019*

A group of seven CSOs advised that the government should work towards improving the confidence of investors and corporation partners in markets. CUTS Lusaka Centre Coordinator Chennai Mukumba said that this can be done through robust Financial Management. She noted that government should implement the financial oversight reforms, improve transparency on pipeline debt and revise the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework.

[www.moneyfmzambia.com/](http://www.moneyfmzambia.com/)

### Austerity Measures to Strengthen Kwacha

*Zambia Daily Mail, May 27, 2019*

The government has been urged to exercise fiscal restraint and implement austerity measures that will help improve investor confidence, and also strengthen the Kwacha. The local unit has come under severe pressure due to high demand for petroleum imports, reduced supply of foreign exchange and negative market sentiments. Mukumba said the depreciation of the Kwacha will not just have a negative effect on the economy but on individuals as well.

[www.daily-mail.co.zm/](http://www.daily-mail.co.zm/)

### CSOs Urges President Lungu to Hold Meeting to Assure Investors

*Lusaka Times, May 27, 2019*

A Consortium of CSOs proposed that as President Edgar Lungu holds an Emergency Cabinet meeting, government needs to take immediate action to improve cooperating partners' and investors' confidence in markets through robust financial management. The CSOs have also noted the need for the government to implement a genuine austerity budget for 2020 and begin to undertake austerity measures immediately, take a number of policy decisions to address Zambia's debt and promote private sector-led growth.

[www.lusakatimes.com/](http://www.lusakatimes.com/)

### Why Farmers and MPs Prefer the E-Voucher

*Diggers News, May 22, 2019*

CUTS will explain the benefits of the e-voucher giving a case for the 100 percent roll out of the programme. There have been numerous accounts of challenges faced in the implementation of the e-voucher including: late payment of agro-dealers and reduced capacity to stock enough inputs to meet demand, poor network connectivity, long distances covered by farmers to the nearest agro-dealers etc. However, in a survey carried out by CUTS, reveal that Zambian farmers have a clear preference for improving the delivery of e-voucher.

<https://zambiareports.com/>