



EVENTS

Third Regional Annual Meeting

Third Regional Annual Meeting under PACT EAC2 project was held on September 17-19, 2018 in Kampala, Uganda. The meeting reviewed ongoing and upcoming national and regional policy efforts geared towards making agro-processing more climate-friendly, trade-driven and enhancing food security in East Africa. Three years into the project, stakeholders in all the five countries are engaging policymakers through advocacy campaigns – at both national and regional levels.



Capacity Building Workshop on Dairy Safety

Food safety has become a major concern in Kenya with rampant media reports on cases of vended food contaminated with dangerous and fatal substances. Increasing awareness and capacity among farmers, processors, retailers, and consumers is a



critical step towards providing safer food in Kenya. CUTS in partnership with Kenya Dairy Board (KDB) organised a combined training on milk quality and safety for Milk ATM and Milk bar attendants. The participants received a robust and wholesome training covering KDB's mandate, dairy regulations, consumer safety, public health rules and enforcement.

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'Marginal Effective Tax Rates and Tax Incentives in Zambia' Study Launched

CUTS Lusaka, Zambia released a report on the 'Sector-Level Marginal Effective Tax Rates (METRs) and Investment Incentives in Zambia' on August 17, 2018. The METR measures the returns of a marginal investment that is required to compensate for the effects of taxation. The higher the tax rate, the lower is the incentive to invest. The METR takes into consideration the various costs and benefits that influence the decision to invest an extra unit of capital into a specific sector. Some of the cost factors considered include economic depreciation; the costs associated with different types of financing and the effects of inflation and interest rates on investments.

EVENTS

Consumer Open Day and Exhibition

On July 19-20, 2018, Competition Authority of Kenya invited CUTS Nairobi, Kenya to exhibit during the consumer open day and exhibition Nairobi County. CUTS created awareness on milk safety and promoted public knowledge on food safety in the dairy sector. CUTS also enhanced the publicity of its online consumer cell by taking consumers through the process of lodging complaints both through the online platform and the messaging short code on issues relating to safety in dairy sector. CUTS also shared consumer messages with consumers to enhance their capacity to demand for quality and safety in the dairy sector.



FNS Project Launch in Nakuru

CUTS Nairobi, Kenya the Society of Crop Agribusiness Advisors of Kenya (SOCAA), Sustainable Agriculture Community Development (SACDEP) have been working together under SNV's Voice for Change Partnership-Food Nutrition and Security (FNS). The aim 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. SOCAA, CUTS and SACDEP in collaboration with SNV, Netherlands Development Organisation, met on a common forum to promote dialogue on the food safety and loss reduction issues to foster linkages for further collaboration to influence positive developments in food safety and loss reduction.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Meeting with the Parliamentarian Agriculture Committee Members

CUTS Nairobi will be meeting with the Parliamentarian Agriculture Committee members the purpose of the meeting will be to lobby for the enactment of national food safety policy. The meeting is to be held with the private sector players to broker partnership between the private players – Kenya Tea Development Agency Holdings Ltd. (KDTA), Kenya Dairy Processors Association (KDPA), dairy cooperatives and county government. The formation of public private partnership will increase collaboration between civil society organisations (CSOs) and dairy sector stakeholders on food safety.

Meeting with USAID

CUTS Accra, Ghana has a meeting with United States Agency for International Development, (USAID) – an independent agency to follow up on the ECOWAS study proposals shared with them and other possible project topics.

Consumer Forum with County-level Consumer Groups

CUTS Nairobi, Kenya is to convene a consumer forum with county level consumer groups in the Nakuru, Nyandarua, Murang'a and Laikipia to increase awareness on safety in the dairy sector. Formation of robust and active consumer forum at county level which actively demands accountability with regard to milk losses and safety in Kenya.

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.

Capacity Building of Dairy Value Chain Actors

CUTS Nairobi, Kenya in collaboration with Kenya Dairy Board is to undertake training and capacity building of dairy value chain actors in counties of focus.

Smart Campaign; Cities Governance Initiatives

CUTS Accra, Ghana is soliciting for funding support from the Government of Ghana and other government institutions and stakeholders to implement a project called “Ghana Cities Governance Initiatives”. The aim of the project is create and implement a common platform where the general public can interact with relevant MMDAs to report problems encountered in surrounding spaces for prompt resolution.

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 two-year period.

The State of the Ghanaian Consumer

Consumer Rights Empowerment for Socio-Economic Development in Ghana

CUTS Accra, Ghana is soliciting for support funding from private sector organisations to carry-out a project dubbed “The State of the Ghanaian Consumer: Consumer Rights Empowerment for Socio-Economic Development in Ghana”. The aim of the project is to develop a “State of Ghana Consumer Report” detailing rights violations and the existing redress mechanism in Ghana. The project is expected to be implemented within six months.

ONGOING PROJECTS

Promoting Sustainable Food Consumption in Zambia

CUTS Lusaka, Zambia undertook a project in conjunction with World Food Programme (WFP), which was to be done 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.

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 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 six-month 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 Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).

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 conduct 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. Thereafter, provide recommendations on sector-specific optimal investment promotion policies that the Zambian Government could consider.

Post Advocacy of COMPAD I

CUTS Accra, Ghana, with funding support from the Business Sector and Challenge Fund (BUSAC Fund) is implementing an eight-month project in Ghana called, “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.

FRA Reform

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 presented before the Parliament. Subsequently, provide commentary on the findings and support the reform process for the Food Reserve Agency (FRA).

Petition on Consumer Protection Law to be passed in Ghana

CUTS Accra, Ghana with its internal resources is implementing a project entitled, “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.

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 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.

REPRESENTATIONS

Appiah Adomako, Hilary Enos-Edu, Isaac Yaw Obeng and Juliet Oppong Yeboah of CUTS Accra had a meeting with representative from Nielsen Ghana to discuss strategies and roadmap to execute 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' – a project jointly undertaken by both organisations with funding support from GIZ. The meeting was held on July 19, 2018.

Clement Onyango attended next steps for African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) organised by Africa Union. The objective of the meeting was to assess regional integration in Africa and competition policy in the next steps for AfCFTA. The meeting was held from July 26-27, 2018.

Chenai Mukumba attended the launch of the 2017 Zambia Bribe Payers Index (ZBPI) organised by Transparency International Zambia at the New Government Offices on July 25, 2018. The ZBPI is a summary of a survey report that is published every other year by *Transparency International Zambia* (TIZ) and *Anti-Corruption Commission* (ACC) with the intention of providing an empirical measurement of bribery incidences in government, departments, parastatal and private sectors in Zambia.

Martin Mulwa and **Jackline Wanja** attended the Eastern and Southern Africa Dairy Association 2018 Conference and Exhibition. The conference brought together Africa Dairy Stakeholders for the grand transformation of the dairy sector. The conference was held from August 22-24, 2018.

Appiah Adomako, Steve Yeboah and Isaac Yaw Obeng participated in BUSAC Financial Management Training held at Aburi from July 23-25, 2018. The training was organised by the Business Sector Advocacy Challenge (BUSAC) Fund.

Clement Onyango, Daniel Asher, Collins Oweg, Martin Mulwa, Jackline Wanja and **IDK** attended PACT EAC2 National Reference Group (NRG) meeting. The meeting was held on August 17, 2018.

Appiah Adomako participated in a stakeholder workshop on Cross-Border Trade in Dakar, Senegal from September 18-20, 2018. The workshop was organised by Support to West Africa Regional Integration Programme (SWARIP).

Collins Oweg attended a workshop organised by EACSOF on enhancing youth and women participation in trade across EAC region. The objective of the meeting was to develop a concept note for project fundraising.

Kangwa Muyunda of CUTS Lusaka attended a Technical Working Group meeting organised by the Ministry of Commerce Trade and Industry at New Government Complex, Zambia on September 10, 2018. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the proposed key policy recommendations for the 2019 budget.

Collins Oweg attended consumer protection executive training organised by Communication Authority. The training focussed on market regulation, customer service, and cyber security and consumer protection laws in the communication industry.

Chenai Mukumba and Ishmael Zulu attended a four-day workshop on strengthening regional trade policy dialogue platforms organised by the African Union at Radison Blu Hotel, Lusaka from September 25-28, 2018. The objective of the seminar was to highlight the importance of enhancing the role of the organised private sector, informal private sector and women in trade policy formulation.

Clement Onyango, Daniel Asher, and Jackline Wanja attended Voice for Change coaching session with SNV consultant. The objective of the coaching session was to enhance efficiency and sustainability of CSOs. The meeting was held on September 10, 2018.

Chenai Mukumba attended the launch of the 2017 Zambia Bribe Payers Index (ZBPI) organised by Transparency International Zambia at the New Government Offices on July 25, 2018. The ZBPI is a summary of a survey report that is published every other year by *Transparency International Zambia* (TIZ) and *Anti-Corruption Commission* (ACC) with the intention of providing an empirical measurement of bribery incidences in government, departments, parastatal and private sectors in Zambia.



Low Funding, Climate, Slow Agro-Processing

The Star, August 21, 2018

A study on leveraging the buy Kenya, build Kenya strategy to promote sustainable agro-processing has concluded that the sector suffers a number of challenges in achieving its dream. Problems, such as infrastructural bottlenecks, climate change, inadequate financing, technological challenges, and limited access to distribution channels are key impediments to success of local agro-processing industries, the study by advocacy group CUTS Nairobi, Kenya has found. The agro-industrial sector plays a key role in creation of jobs and spurring manufacturing for the country, a key sector in the president's big four agenda. "Climate change is also a concern, which may yet be overlooked as we rush towards industrialisation", stated CUTS Nairobi Director Clement Onyango.

https://www.the-star.co.ke/news/2018/08/21/low-funding-climate-slow-agro-processing_c1805665

Safety, the Overlooked Link in Food Security

Wanja Wanjiru

Standard Digital, July 12, 2018

Fundamentally, food and nutritional security is inextricably linked to food safety. According to the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), food security is only achieved when people have access to, among others, safe and nutritious food that is necessary for a healthy life. The quantity and quality are bedfellows. There is great benefit for both public and private sectors to invest more in food safety; consider the foregone socio-economic burden brought about by non-communicable diseases and foodborne diseases derived from, among others, microbes and toxins in food.

<https://www.standardmedia.co.ke/article/2001287669/safety-the-overlooked-link-in-food-security>

E-voucher the Right Policy to Support Agricultural Growth in Zambia – Stakeholders

The Mast, July 26, 2018

The agriculture sector is under threat from reversing the roll out of the e-voucher card system, stakeholders have said. A joint statement by National Union of Small Scale Farmers, players in the fertiliser industry, agro dealers across the country, CUTS Lusaka the Centre for Trade Policy and Development, and the Civil Society for Poverty Reduction stated that reversing the positive decision to roll out the e-voucher card system even partially was not good for the country. The stakeholders stated that they believed the identified challenges such as late activations, late start as well as connectivity could be worked upon for timely and efficient delivery of inputs through the e-voucher card system in the 2018/2019 growing season.

<https://www.themastonline.com/2018/07/26/e-voucher-the-right-policy-to-support-agricultural-growth-in-zambia-stakeholders/>

Empowering Consumers to Demand for Food Safety

Martin Mulwa

Business Daily, September 13, 2018

Ideally, consumer safety should be a primary focus of any food production or supply system and should be designed with consumer participation for accountability. However, a lot of times this is not the case due to information asymmetry in the market, as one side is more informed than the other, with producers and processors being more informed on the status of the products than the consumers. The quality and safety of food is in many cases only recognised after consumption results in adverse effects. Food safety is increasingly being recognised as an important issue for sustainable food systems and markets.

<https://www.businessdailyafrica.com/analysis/columnists/Empower-Kenyan-consumers-to-ensure-food-safety/4259356-4758356-gcbujez/index.html>

CUTS Highlights Need for Healthy Diets

News Diggers, September 10, 2018

CUTS Lusaka, Zambia Centre Coordinator Chenai Mukumba mentions Zambia is among the countries struggling with alarming levels of malnutrition because of mono-diets. In an interview on the side-lines of a Civil Society for Poverty Reduction (CSPR) organised workshop dubbed, 'Sustainable Diets for All', Mukumba observed that Zambians had to start dealing with the challenge of malnutrition because most households had been relying on the same type of food for a long time. Mukumba said there was need for Zambians to diversify their diets in order to create a healthy nation.

<https://diggers.news/local/2018/09/10/cuts-highlights-need-for-healthy-diets/>

CUTS Urges Government to Reverse the 30 Ngwee Tax on Internet Calls

Lusaka Times, August 15, 2018

CUTS Lusaka has urged the Zambian Government to reconsider issuing the statutory instrument to introduce the 30 ngwee a day tariff on Internet phone calls and rather focus on ensuring improved service provision by the mobile phone operators. Reacting to the 30 ngwee tariff slapped on Internet calls by Cabinet, CUTS Lusaka said that the decision by consumers to move to Internet phone calls is rational consumer behaviour prompted by past actions of both the Government and the mobile phone companies themselves, adding that Zambians have been receiving expensive but low-quality traditional phone services from the mobile phone companies.

<https://www.lusakatimes.com/2018/08/15/consumer-unity-and-trust-society-urges-government-to-reverse-the-30-ngwee-tax-on-internet-calls/>