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Voice for Change (V4C) Programme

Introduction

The V4CP is a partnership between SNV and a consortium of civil society organisations (CSOs) aimed at enhancing the CSOs capacity to advocate for emerging issues within different thematic areas. As part of the Food and Nutrition Security (FNS) thematic area, SNV has partnered with CUTS, Society of Crop Agribusiness Advisors (SOCAA) and South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP) to ensure compliance with food safety standards for locally consumed products and enhance consumer demand for quality food. The focus is on horticultural and dairy value chains. In its advocacy, V4CP takes an evidence-based approach focused on stakeholders' collaboration, inclusivity, seeking solutions and building on already existing systems.

V4CP Knowledge and Learning Event



CUTS attended V4CP learning and knowledge programme in Nakuru County during September 23-27, 2019. The workshop had V4CP partners from Rwanda and Ghana. The workshop was meant to share country experience in the implementation of the V4CP. CUTS presented achievements in enhancing food safety through milk safety and more specifically the experience with

MSPs in advocacy. From the workshop the FNS team learnt the essence of private sector advocacy and budget tracking from other V4CP implementing countries. Additionally, the FNS gained knowledge on the use of evidence for action.

Consumer Awareness on Food Safety

CUTS organised a consumer awareness forum in Murang'a on July 19, 2019. The objective of the forum was to spur consumers' awareness on food safety issues; know 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 the county level to address food safety concerns.

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It aimed at building robust food safety champions capable of engaging the government and private sector and receiving feedback for better representation of consumer voices and accountability by actors on issues of food safety and other consumer concerns. After the forum, a consumer desk was established to enhance consumer awareness, knowledge and understanding of food safety concerns.

Laikipia Dairy Policy Workshop

CUTS, SNV and the County Government of Laikipia and Agriculture Sector Development Support Programme (ASDSP) held a policy workshop on July 02, 2019. The objective of the policy workshop was to hand-over the Laikipia Dairy Development Policy to the county government. The policy proposes to improve the productivity of the dairy sector as well as safety in the dairy sector.

The County Executive Committee Members (CECM), Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food Supply (MAoLF) extended her gratitude to the V4CP for helping in developing the dairy policy. The policy will be tabled to the other county executive committee members before it tabled to the county assembly for debate and approval. The CECM committed they will push the policy to the conclusion to allow the department to allocate resources for the implementation of the policy.

Consumer Organisation Roundtable Meeting

CUTS, SNV, Kenya Consumer Protection Advisory Committee (KECOPAC) and other consumer organisations held a breakfast meeting on July 25, 2019. The essence of the meeting was to discuss the state of Kenyan consumers on issues of food safety and build a strong consumer voice to demand food safety in Kenya. Presently, the demand side is the weakest link. This is attributable to the prevailing limited consumer awareness and low capacity of existing consumer organisations. Consumer organisations are working hard to protect consumer interests but are constrained by



budgetary limitations. Additionally, there are few consumer organisations with limited recognition from the government and stakeholders that is necessary to enhance their work. It was agreed that there is a need to unify the consumer voice by forming a Kenya Council of Consumer Organisation.

Public Debt Symposium

A major concern around Zambia's debt situation is that if proper debt management is lacking there is likely to be a continued rapid increase in public debt and this will have dire consequences on the economy and Zambian people. The negative implications of high debt are already being felt through high taxes and fees, tough business climate and deteriorating investments in public services intensifying economic hardships for Zambians.

Based on this, CUTS sees the need to sustain public dialogue on debt and discuss solutions to reverse the country's debt distress. In order to integrate a regional perspective on the issue, CUTS collaborated with the African Forum on Debt and Development (AFRODAD), a pan African platform and organisation for lobbying and advocating for debt cancellation and addressing other debt related issues in Africa. The symposium brought together different stakeholders from government, think tanks, non-governmental organisations, the private sector, trade unions and the media.

Workshop on Investment Facilitation

CUTS Accra in collaboration with the World Economic Forum (WEF) and Ghana Investment Promotion Centre (GIPC) organised an investment facilitation workshop at Accra, Ghana, on September 12, 2019. Among other things, the workshop sought to bring to the fore ways to increase the quantity and quality of Foreign Direct Investment in Ghana.



Participants of the workshop

Presenting the study's findings at a validation workshop in Accra, the Lead Consultant for the study, Appiah Kusi Adomako, said setting a minimum threshold capital requirement across the board would prevent investments into sectors which do not require substantial investment. He cited, for example, that a foreign investor coming to invest in the information communication technology (ICT) sector does not need to have the same capital requirement as someone coming to invest in the real estate or mining sector.



Matthew Stephenson, Policy and Community Lead on International Trade and Investment at the World Economic Forum, recommended the establishment of investment aftercare services to help facilitate investment. He added that the GIPC Act provides a clear explanation and variation between investment promotion and investment facilitation, hence presenting Ghana with a strong legal and institutional framework for investment facilitation.

Edward Ashong-Lartey, Director of Investor Service at GIPC stated that the Centre has started with a multi-stakeholder consultation over the past few years to receive the inputs, suggestions and recommendations on what changes need to be made in modernising the GIPC Act.

Emmanuel Doni Kwame, Secretary-General of the International Chamber of Commerce, lauded the team for putting together a brilliant report. He stressed that the recommendations highlighted should be implemented to improve the investment climate.

The workshop ended with a unanimous call for targeted investment facilitation measures specific to agriculture to help increase investment flows to the sector and recommended measures, including agriculture insurance, One District, One Factory agricultural linkages, the formation of land information banks, a strong agricultural data, out-grower schemes and skills enhancements, to help overcome the challenges in the sector on government to review the existing investment Act to help boost foreign direct investments into Ghana.



The Strategic Partnership 'Green and Inclusive Energy'

Introduction

The Strategic Partnership 'Green and Inclusive Energy' in Africa programme is expected to run from 2016-2020. It is aimed to catalyse realisation of people's energy needs through green and inclusive energy systems that create economic opportunities for women and men while mitigating effects of climate change. The programme is supported by Hivos East Africa through financial resource and capacity development on Lobby and Advocacy to CSOs.

CUTS Nairobi is part of this strategic partnership working to ensure that consumers are equipped with information on RE and social accountability tools to demand for Renewable Energy (RE) while policymakers and leaders at county and national level get relevant information, knowledge, and skill set to create appropriate policies to enhance access to RE.



Development of SE4ALL Data Collection Toolkit

CUTS convened County Energy Reference Group (CRG) meetings in Homa Bay on July 23, 2019 respectively. The CRG aim of the meeting was present SE4ALL toolkit and gather inputs from the stakeholders. The toolkit seeks to:

- identify the state of renewable energy uptake at household and institutional levels;
- recognise appropriateness and feasibility of RE projects;
- determine the country/county policies to support project development;
- identify the policy, regulatory, and institutional barriers to access to clean and renewable energy; and
- classify optimal level of public investment in the energy sector.



In the meetings, CUTS presented the rationale of the toolkit and the nature of data the toolkit intends to collect at the household, business level, institution and policymaker information. The toolkit whose primary aim is to establish the status of renewable energy at county and national level by mapping out renewable energy resources and their uptake and use in the target counties. The CRG gave suggestions on the nature of information to be collected at the household, business, institutions and policymakers. The suggestions provided by the CRG members were considered for inclusion in the toolkit.

Renewable Energy Policy Roundtable Meeting

CUTS held a meeting with the CRG and Members County Assembly (drawn from the energy committee, budget appropriation, the speaker of the county assembly) on August 20, 2019. The purpose of the meeting was to present the finalised draft Renewable Energy Policy and discuss the adoption of the policy.



From the meeting, changes were made into the document and the members of the county assembly present in the meeting agreed to support the policy once it was tabled for debated. Asiyo, County Director of Energy acknowledged CUTS support in facilitating formulation of the policy. The main action point was the incorporation of comments, and the county director of energy to table the draft RE policy for approval from the county executive members before tabled to the members of county assembly for debate and adoption.

Renewable Energy Policy Hand-Over Workshop

CUTS in partnership with the county government of Homa-Bay held a meeting with the CRG members to hand-over the final copy of the draft Renewable Energy Policy on September 10, 2019.

Dickson Nyawinda, the CECM, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Homa-Bay County on behalf of the CECM Energy officially opened the meeting. The department supports the development of the policy as it provides the foundation for legislative framework and realization of the green economy in Homa-Bay. The policy was officially handed-over to the county government.

The next step of the policy is presentation to the other county executive committee, after the policy document has been approved by other executive members, it will be presented as a sessional paper to the county assembly to become part of the guiding documents. If approved, the policy will be used to inform programmes that the department will implement to realise the big four agenda.



Additionally, the CRG agreed there is need to develop a strategic plan that will actualise the realisation of the policy vision and goals. The CRG members agreed to a technical workforce to draft the Homa-Bay renewable energy strategic plan 2019- 2023. It was agreed the technical committee will be drawn from: representatives from National Environment and Management Authority (NEMA); Director of Energy; Director of Environment; Director of Trade and Industries; representative of Ward Administrators; representative of Kenya Forest Service; Trees of the future representative; World Vision representative; and CUTS representative.

BUSAC Commissions CUTS to Conduct Study on AfCFTA

The BUSAC Fund has commissioned a study to assess the Ghanaian private sector readiness towards the implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). It is expected that the study will produce a diagnostic report which will help to develop practical steps in addressing the gaps and challenges identified by the private sector with regards to the AfCFTA.

The study is being undertaken by a research and advocacy policy think called CUTS Ghana. As part of the study, a reference group consisting of the private sector, trade associations, government, academia and other representatives of institutions relevant to the implementation of the AfCFTA have been constituted. The purpose of the reference group to guide the design and the conduct of the study.



The reference group at the meeting

The lead consultant for the study Appiah Kusi Adomako who is also the Country Coordinator CUTS Ghana in presenting

the draft outline for the study indicated that the study is important in a sense that it would generate the body of evidence that would be required to help position the country strategically to maximise the full benefits of the AfCFTA agreement.

In his remarks, the Fund Manager for BUSAC Fund Nicholas Gebara indicated that there are lots of opportunities and risks associated with the implementation of AfCFTA and the research should map out the concerns of the private sector address what the challenges and opportunities are for AfCFTA. A Director at the Multilateral Trade Division at the Ministry of Trade and Industry (MOTI) Mickson Opoku, commended BUSAC Fund for initiating the study and suggested that the study should be aligned with the seven clusters which the government has identified.

Members of the reference from the Private Enterprise Federation, International Chamber of Commerce, University of Ghana Business School, Ghana National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GNCCI), Customs Division of the Ghana Revenue Authority, Chartered Institute of Logistics (CILT), Ghana Institute for Freight Forwarders (GIFF), Ministry of Trade and Industry (MOTI), Ministry of Finance, Maverick Research and Consulting, Africa Centre for International Trade and Development (ACINTaD), AfriInvest Consult Ltd and AfCFTA Policy Network-Ghana and Diaspora.

Promoting Agriculture, Climate and Trade Linkages in the East Africa Community (PACT EAC2)

NRG8

The eighth National Reference Group meeting (NRG8) on the theme *Successfully Closing PACT EAC2: Building on Impacts and Regional Prospects* was held at Nairobi on August 01, 2019. Over the past four years, the PACT EAC2 project has brought together, informed, trained and moved to advocacy action hundreds of stakeholders for more climate-aware, trade-driven and food security-enhancing agro-processing in East Africa. This being the last NRG meeting of the PACT EAC2 project, the objective of the meeting was for members to take stock of project achievements over the past four years, as well as reflect on key lessons other development projects could learn from the PACT EAC model and the capacity building needs of EAC stakeholders.

RAM4

The fourth Regional Annual Meeting was held in Nairobi from 16th-17th September. The event was themed “Sustainable Agro-Industry in East Africa: Growing on seeds of PACT EAC. The PACT EAC2 project started on October 01, 2015 and concluded on September 30, 2019. Over the past years, advocacy in the five EAC countries have engaged policy makers towards making specific agroindustry policies more climate-aware, trade driven and food security-enhancing.

These include: (i) Burundi's new Industrial Policy, and devising its implementation strategy; (ii) Kenya's new Trade Policy; (iii) Implementation of Rwanda's Industrial Policy, through launching a National Agro-processors' Forum (NAPF); (iv) Revision of

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Tanzania's Sustainable Industries Development Policy (SIDP); (v) Uganda's National Industrial Policy (NIDP). Moreover, a regional advocacy campaign around the review of the EAC Private Sector Development Strategy.

The Fourth and Final Regional Annual Meeting (RAM4) focused on the impacts of the project and how these can be sustained and strengthened after the conclusion of PACT EAC2. The main objectives of the final Regional Annual Meeting were to:

- share the main impacts of the project on people, policies and negotiations in the context of project objectives;
- discuss the lessons learnt and identify the successful methodologies;
- chart a collaborative course of action to sustain the impacts beyond the life of the project;
- identify the continuing needs of East Africans in evolving global, regional and national settings; and
- deliberate on what can be next.

The event was attended by the stakeholders from the five beneficiary countries, particularly the representatives from the concerned ministries, WTO & UNFCCC negotiators, private sector involved in agro-industry, farmers' organisations, civil society, as well as the representatives of the EAC Secretariat and other relevant regional and international organisations.



NEW PROJECTS

Model Public Procurement Framework for the EAC Region

This project, funded by Hivos EA seeks to develop a model public procurement framework using the open contracting and beneficial ownership approach for the EAC region. The proposed project specifically seeks to:

- establish what the law provides for in public procurement and assess the policy gaps in public procurement process in the EAC partner states;
- advocate for reform of public procurement process in the EAC region through sharing best practices from within Africa and the world with the EAC governments, the EAC Secretariat and other stakeholders;
- empower CSOs including consumer organisations and other like-minded stakeholders through capacity building for effective engagement on issues open contracting; and
- build an effective, active and resourceful network of Individual subject experts, CSOs and other organisations working on procurement issues.

Integrating the Voices of CSOs in EAC Intra-Regional Trade and the AfCFTA

This project, funded by the Incubator for Integration and Development in East Africa (IIDEA) seeks to enhance the effective participation of CSOs within EAC intra-regional trade and AfCFTA. The project is a one-year project and implementation commences October 2019 and concludes October 2020.

Kenya Market Trust Policy Compendium

CUTS recently won a consultancy for Policy Compendium of the Kenya Market Trust's Sectors of Operation (Livestock, Agricultural Inputs and Water). The consultancy seeks to review the national policies and regulations thereof, underlying formal and informal rules that guide the operations of the livestock, agriculture inputs industry and water sectors. At the end, a research report and policy brief will be developed.

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.

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.

NEW PROJECTS

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?

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

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.

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.

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.

Social and Economic Impact at the Ghana-Burkina Faso Border

CUTS Accra in collaboration with Borderless Alliance and with funding support from the World Bank Group is implementing a project entitled 'Social and Economic Impact Assessment at the GhanaBurkina 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.

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.

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.

NEW PROJECTS

Post Advocacy of COMPAD I

CUTS Accra with funding support from the Business Sector and Challenge Fund (BUSAC Fund) is implementing a 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. The project implementation duration is eight months.

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.

REPRESENTATIONS

Appiah Kusi Adomako attended an IFS National Pension Dialogue Meeting at Accra on July 02, 2019.

Ishmael Zulu attended the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) forum organised by the African Union at Niamey, Niger on July 03, 2019.

Appiah Kusi Adomako attended a workshop on "Tackling Ghana's Political Budget Cycle: Lessons for Ghana beyond the IMF" organised by the World Bank Group on July 11, 2019.

Appiah Kusi Adomako attended a high level Policy Dialogue on the theme AfCFTA: *Implications for Promoting the Ghanaian Private Sector, Boosting Competitiveness and Creating Jobs* on July 17-19, 2019.

Daniel Asher and **Martin Mulwa** attended the consumer groups' breakfast meeting to discuss the state of consumer food safety in the country on July 25, 2019.

Appiah Kusi Adomako and **Shadrack Nii Yarboi Yartey** attended a National Conference on the Implementation of the AfCFTA in Ghana on August 19-21, 2019.

Jane Zulu made a presentation on 'The Lessons Drawn from the Informality Working Group from the Food Change Lab' at launch of the 'BeyondMaize' by Hivos Regional Office Southern Africa on August 21, 2019.

Daniel Asher attended the Dairy Regulations 2019 Task Force meeting to review the dairy regulations 2019 on September 02, 2019.

Njavwa Simukoko attended the Planning and Budgeting Legislation and Wider Circulation of the Citizens Budget meeting on September 19, 2019.

Collins Owegi attended Kenya Private Sector Alliance Public- Private Dialogue to discuss a collaborative framework for public- private- CSOs partnership on September 27, 2019.

Chenai Mukumba was invited to present its views at the annual KPMG post-budget gala dinner at the Intercontinental Hotel following the Minister of Finance's budget speech on September 27, 2019.

Kangwa Muyunda and **Ucizi Ngulube** attended the 'Reflection of ZTP on The Expectations for the 2020 National Budget and Planning' as members of the platform at Mika Kabulonga, Lusaka on September 24, 2019.

PUBLICATION

Savings, Jobs and Climate Resilience: *The Heightened Significance of E-voucher*

In the 2018-19 farming season, the electronic voucher (e-voucher) was scaled back from 100 percent rollout to 60 percent of districts. On 4 August 2019, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture announced the government's decision to further roll back the e-voucher to just 40 per cent of districts. This was to make sure that there was enough upfront funding available to successfully deliver the e-voucher and ensure that farmers get their inputs on time.

While there is a need to ensure that the e-voucher functions effectively, the scale back of the e-voucher coverage this year will have negative consequences. The e-voucher is both a cheaper and more effective means of delivering agricultural subsidies than the alternative traditional Farmer Input Support Programme also known as Direct Input Supply. Sufficient planning is needed to ensure that the government is in a better position to scale up the e-voucher next year, starting with sufficient funds allocated to e-voucher implementation in the 2020 budget.

<https://cuts-lusaka.org/pdf/policy-brief-savings-jobs-and-climate-resilience.pdf>

