Tradequity

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How can AfCFTA deliver Made in Africa reality?

The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) process is well on track to be ready for trading in July 2020 as planned and Accra, Ghana has been chosen as a location of the AfCFTA Secretariat. In the 2019 edition of UNCTAD Economic Development in Africa Report, titled Made in Africa: Rules of Origin for enhanced intra-African trade, it has been argued that it is Rules of Origin (RoO) that will make or break the AfCFTA.

Rules of origin

RoO are situated at the nexus of trade and industrial policy. The complexity and incompatibility of different sets of RoO across regional economic communities in Africa is one of the many obstacles that hinders growth of intra-African trade.

Behind the low figures on intra-African trade, what is at stake is the continent's capacity to retain investments, create jobs and create higher value-added on its soil. The AfCFTA can be the main vehicle to achieve these objectives by increasing trade among regional economic communities within Africa.

Our research shows that for the AfCFTA to achieve its ambition to be the main trading regulatory framework in Africa, RoO need to be simple, transparent, business friendly, predictable and accessible by all private sector stakeholders, from large to small and medium sized firms.

Opting for the AfCFTA RoO should come with no additional costs for compliance. Variations of requirements across products ranging from percentage level of local value to the number of transformations of a product on African soil, the options need to be made available on a RoO Portal, as planned in Niamey.

Lessons from six

UNCTAD's recommendations for the AfCFTA's RoO are grounded in a thorough analysis of the patterns and contents of trade within Africa as well as with the rest of the world: from continental to regional level.

They also draw lessons from six value chains, namely tea, cocoa to chocolate, cotton-apparel, beverages, cement and the automotive industry.

UNCTAD's analysis draws on a review of the RoO and on the utilisation of preferential rates by the continent's least developed countries (LDCs). It is clear that more flexible rules of origin stimulate exports in particular from LDCs.

The high rate of underutilisation of preferential schemes by LDCs on the continent underscores their continuous need for support in building and utilising productive capacities.

The cocoa industry provides one of the most telling examples of how the AfCFTA could support structural transformation, paving the way for the vision enshrined in Agenda 2063, through the development of agro-processing regional value chains (RVCs) for the continent's strategic commodities.

Infrastructure challenge

RVCs in the cocoa industry that could create high value-added products are challenged by insufficient economies of scale, logistical challenges, poor infrastructure, as well as high levels of tariff protection.

Further co-operation between producers across different regional economic communities and standardised RoO across the continent, as agreed in the AfCFTA, could bolster competitiveness of African inputs into the cocoa industry value chain.

Non-tariff barriers

Businesses are also expecting national policymakers to clearly define the timeline of the AfCFTA implementation and are interested to see in what ways political leadership aims to address non-tariff barriers to trade. If RoO are set right, this growth could be the stepping stone on which "Made in Africa" stands to build their competitiveness and dive into the fiercely competitive conquest of global markets and grow the African market itself.

Mukhisa Kituyi, Secretary-General of UNCTAD; excerpts from an article that appeared in the East African on September 12, 2019.

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Business Confidence High

Business confidence has increased marginally as compared with that of the previous according to the Association of **Ghana** Industries' (AGI's) Business Barometer. The business confidence index surged to 104.8 from 100.5 recorded in the first quarter of the year.

According to the AGI, the reduction in electricity tariffs has given the industry some relief and level of confidence going forward. President of AGI, Yaw Adu Gyamfi said despite signs of recovery, the local industry is still under pressure and one of the major challenges is high exchange rates.

The related developments in the Ghanaian economy and reiterates that the influx of imports remains a major risk to the growth of the industry and the country's job creation prospects; instances of weak local currency and exchange rate volatilities as experienced in Q2 reflect the import-oriented nature of our economy. *(B&FT, 09.08.19)*

Highest Economic Ranking

Kenya has the highest ranking in economic, consumer and business prospects in African markets for the second year in a row, a survey by New York-based data analytics firm Nielsen Holdings Plc shows. Nielsen Africa Prospect Indicator shows the country remains on top in the continent in the two fronts, but had also deteriorated in terms of business and retail prospects.

Economic growth was lower in the first quarter of 2019 compared to the same period of 2018 even though most analysts, including the Treasury, have put the projected gross domestic product growth rate at between 5.5 and 6.0 percent for 2019. *(BD, 18.09.19)*

Heading towards Prosperity

As the inaugural National Economic summit reached its crescendo in Livingstone, **Zambia** the messages by the keynote speakers were clear and in tandem: time for rhetoric on economic prosperity is over; it is time to put a word into deed.

President Edgar Lungu, his Kenya counterpart Uhuru Kenyatta and former President of Tanzania Jakaya Kikwete were clear in stating that while the region and African continent have great opportunities to prosper, there must be action taken in this direction.

This was underscored by the host, the Economics Association of Zambia, whose President Lubinda Haabazoka stated: "We want to see Zambia develop now and not tomorrow". *(ZDM, 27.07.19)*

Debt Continues Pilling Up

Zambia's external and domestic debt stock has continued rising with the latest official figures showing it now stood at US$10.23bn as at end of June 2019. This is against the end-March figures of US$10.18bn.

This was revealed by newly appointed Finance Minister Bwalya Ng'andu during his quarterly media briefing. Dr Ng'andu said the external debt stock as at end June 2019 was US$10.23bn compared to US$10.18bn at the end March 2019. He added that the stock of guarantees is currently US$1.3bn, unchanged from the end March 2019, and the end-December 2018 position. *(LT, 17.07.19)*

Producer Price Inflation Rises

The Producer Price Inflation rate for July 2019 was 8.8 percent, up 1.7 percentage points from 7.1 percent recorded in June 2019, the **Ghana** Statistical Service said. The month-on-month change in producer price index between June 2019-July 2019 was 1.9 percent.

David Kombat, Deputy Government Statistician, said the producer price inflation in the Mining and Quarrying sub-sector increased by 5.2 percentage points over the June 2019 rate of 22.4 percent to record 27.6 percent.

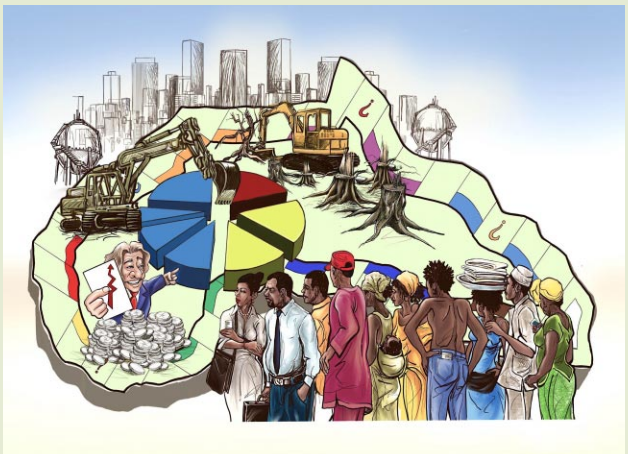
Manufacturing, which constitutes more than two-thirds of the total industry increased by 0.1 percentage points to record 5.4 percent. *(GNA, 16.07.19)*

Loan Deal Cancelled

Kenya has terminated a US$207.4bn loan deal with the World Bank for road upgrades following delays in the execution of the projects. The lender says Kenya opted to cancel the loan deal inked in 2012 and involved the multilateral lender providing US$300mn and the Treasury topping up US$113mn for road upgrades in Nairobi and other urban centres.

The termination of the loan agreement is a departure from the Treasury's recent trend where it has developed an appetite for foreign loans, drawing criticism over the borrowing spree. *(BD, 20.08.19)*

Private Sector to Spearhead Socio-Economic Transformation



The **Ghanaian** Vice-President Dr Mahamudu Bawumia has urged the private sectors of both Ghana and Nigeria to lead the way towards a healthy collaboration in trade, investment and growth.

He called on them to brainstorm on issues that will help address barriers to trade, business and investment, and propose pragmatic ways to address them together with the business community. Bawumia was speaking at the Ghana-Nigeria Trade and Investment Conference in Accra.

According to him, innovative thinking, co-operation and leveraging of resources for growth are some of the most sustainable solutions to improve livelihoods, reduce poverty, create wealth and ultimately contribute to regional peace, security and stability. *(B&FT, 19.08.19)*

Facilitate Market Access

A number of South African companies began a week-long trade mission to **Zambia** to deepen relations with the Southern African country.

The Outward Trade and Investment Mission aims to facilitate market access and expose South African companies to the Zambian market while deepening bilateral trade relations.

The Department of Trade and Industry, Zambia is positioning South Africa as the preferred trade and investment partner for Zambia, as the country seeks to address its triple economic challenges of poverty, inequality and unemployment through its diversification strategy as outlined in Zambia's 7th National Development Plan.

(ZR, 12.08.19)

UK to Continue DFQF

Kenya has reached an agreement to continue trading with the UK under preferential terms even after the UK's exit from the European Union. Under the deal, the UK has committed to provide duty-free, quota-free access (DFQF) to Kenyan goods exported to the UK.

The two-year deal is expected to give the UK government time to work on new trade agreements to replace the current European Union pacts. Other East African nations, which are classified as Least Developed Countries (LDCs) unlike Kenya which is a Lower Middle Income Country, will also continue trading with the UK under the DFQF arrangement with the EU. *(EAD, 28.09.19)*

Opportunities for Mining Suppliers

Zimbabwean companies in the mining supplies sector are being encouraged by the country's national trade development and promotion organisation ZimTrade, to take advantage of opportunities in the **Zambian** market.

In May 2019, ZimTrade conducted a market survey in Zambia, which indicated that vast opportunities were identified in the processed foods and mining supplies sectors.

Subsequently, the organisation facilitated the participation of companies at CAMINEX trade expo, which is related to mining, agricultural and industrial that takes place in the Copperbelt region.

(TS, 15.09.19)

Women Miners of Gemstone Industry

Zambia's artisanal and small-scale mining industry has been growing with some of the country's gemstones, such as emeralds being among the best in the world. The Ministry of Gender is promoting local organisations such as the Association of Zambian Women in Mining (AZWIM) for sustained growth of the industry.

Recently, the government was a proud host of a delegation from the Precious Minerals and Marketing Company (PMMC) of Ghana who were in the country to create trade linkages with AZWIM, which has a membership of well over 100 countrywide. The opportunity to engage in trade with the PMMC is expected to bring a new dimension in the operations of the women small-scale miners and trade at large.

Previously, AZWIM participated in international gemstone trade fairs in China, Hong Kong, Thailand and the US where the organisation has exhibited rough gemstones.

(ZDM, 26.09.19)

Support Trade Facilitation

The US Ambassador to **Ghana**, Stephanie S Sullivan, has assured Ghana of her country's commitment to support initiatives that will facilitate trade between the two countries.

She said US investors would be encouraged to invest in key sectors of the Ghanaian economy to promote sustainable development. Sullivan gave the assurance when she paid a courtesy call on Members of the Council of State in Accra.

The Chairman of the Council, Nana Otuo Siriboe II, presided over the meeting. The Council explained how it operated and the role they played in national development. *(DG, 18.07.19)*

Encourage Motor Manufacturing

Players in the automobile sectors from the East African Community and the Southern African Customs Union are developing a joint policy to encourage motor vehicle manufacturing that is beneficial to both blocs. This development comes at a time when the Tripartite Free Trade Area (TFTA) tariff negotiations launched more than four years ago are near conclusion.

The two economic blocs have had a prolonged battle over whether to abolish the contentious 25 percent import duty under the TFTA. They agreed that import duty on some motor vehicle parts will be abolished within the first five years of the TFTA. *(EAD, 23.09.19)*

Consolidate Climate Governance

On the sidelines of Nana Addo Akuffo-Addo's visit to France and as part of the France-**Ghana** Investment Forum in Paris, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and two credit facilities have been signed between the two countries.

The MoU is related to the Adapt' Action facility, whose objective is to enable Ghana to consolidate its climate governance, leading to the successful implementation of its Nationally Determined Contributions (GH-NDCs) through capacity-building activities; translate these GH-NDCs into sectoral public policies and action plans in the field of adaptation; and design structured and transformational climate programmes and projects, with a focus on adaptation to climate change impacts. *(DG, 17.08.19)*

Formalise Trade in Food Crops

Ghana and Burkina Faso have opened talks to formalise trade relations in food crops, the Minister of Food and Agriculture, Dr Owusu Afriyie Akoto, has announced.

To this end, Akoto and his Burkinabe counterpart, the Minister for Agriculture and Hydro-agricultural Equipment, Salifou Ouedraogo, met in Changsha, China, to identify ways to capture data as a basis to formalise their trading relationship.

While food crops such as maize, millet, rice, soya beans, yam and plantain are exported from Ghana to Burkina Faso, vegetables such as tomatoes, onions, lettuces, cabbage are also exported from Burkina Faso to Ghana.

Ghana informally exports approximately 150,000 tonnes of food annually to its neighbouring countries of which Burkina Faso is the largest recipient of 75 per cent of the total export. The value of exports from Ghana to Burkina Faso is over US$100mn at the informal level. *(DG, 02.08.19)*

Boost Agricultural Exports

Kenya and the European Union (EU) have signed a deal for the Market Access Upgrade Programme (MARKUP) that seeks to boost Kenya's agricultural exports both regionally and internationally. Under the agreement, the EU will provide about US$4.1mn grant.

Additionally, Kenya will receive assistance to ensure that its agricultural produce meet the stringent safety standards for the EU and East African Community (EAC) markets.

Under the programme, small scale farmers from 12 counties across the country will receive capacity building to grow horticultural produce that meets international sanitary and phyto-sanitary standards. *(Xinhua, 30.08.19)*

Efforts to Attract more FDI

The **Ghana** Investment Promotion Centre (GIPC) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Malta Enterprise, Malta's economic development agency, tasked with attracting new foreign direct investment, as well as facilitating the growth of existing operations.

The MoU empowers both parties to set up a strategic think-tank composed of officers from both agencies and partnered stakeholders who will devise a three-year strategy covering areas of mutual interest.

GIPC and Malta Enterprise will collaborate to set up information sharing mechanisms by regularly exchanging information on economic and trade updates, laws and regulations, policy measures, industrial standards and trends, market analysis reports, exhibitions and fora, trade leads as well as investment projects in Ghana and Malta.

(GW, 09.07.19)

ZCCZ Continues to Flourish

The **Zambia**-China Economic and Trade Cooperation Zone (ZCCZ) has continued to attract investment in its multi-facility zone in the Copperbelt province in Zambia, an indication that China-Zambia relations are being strengthened further by investment from the Asian country.

Bright Nundwe, Copperbelt Permanent Secretary said ZCCZ has proved to be a purpose vehicle for investment growth in Zambia since its establishment in 2007.

Since 2013, more than 2,000 Shacman trucks have been sold to Zambia, and the company also serves the surrounding countries through cross boarder logistics routes. Nundwe commended ZCCZ for its tireless efforts to attract investment for both the Chambishi and Lusaka multi-facility economic zones. *(BR, 19.09.19)*

Competitiveness Drops

Kenya has for the first time bought more than she sold to African countries in the half-year period, signalling continued dwindling competitiveness of her products on the continent. Trade deficit in Africa stood at Sh156 million, marking the first time Kenya has run a deficit since the Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) started to publicly keep trade records in 1999.

Data from Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) show total exports in six months through June dropped 1.96 percent to Sh107.55 billion compared with a year ago, higher than 0.99 percent in imports to Sh107.71 billion. *(BD, 04.08.19)*

Nurture Industrial Capacity

African nations will need to boost output of goods and services and integrate payment systems if they are to take advantage of a new US$3.4tn economic initiative, according to the head of the African Development Bank.

A continental free-trade zone was launched in Niger in August 2019 which, if successful, will usher in a new era of development for an area with a population of 1.3 billion people.

It is hoped that the 55-nation AfCFTA will help unlock Africa's long-stymied economic potential by boosting intra-regional trade, strengthening supply chains and spreading expertise.

(B&FT, 01.08.19)

Trade War Chokes COMESA

The persistent US-China trade war has seen the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) recording a reduction in cross-border mergers and acquisitions (M&As) to around US$300bn in the first half of 2019, down by over US$200bn. This represented a 40 percent decline in cross-border M&As.

Zambia is a member of COMESA and subscribes to the COMESA Competition Commission, which promotes and encourages competition by preventing restrictive business practices and other restrictions that deter the efficient operation of markets, thereby enhancing the welfare of the consumers in the common market. *(ZDM, 11.09.19)*

Hybrid Maize Seed Export Initiative

The US government, in partnership with the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Secretariat and Zambian government, have formally commissioned the first hybrid maize seed export programme worth US$370,000 from Zambia to the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

The hybrid maize seed export is a first-of-its-kind initiative to be commissioned under the SADC Harmonised Seed Regulatory System (HSRS) and Seed Certification and Quality Assurance guidelines.

The export process offers a path forward for SADC countries to move high-quality seed varieties listed in the SADC Regional Variety Catalogue across borders and ensure consistency to those improved seeds. *(DN, 12.06.19)*

Afrexim Bank East Africa Branch

The African Export-Import Bank has signed a deal with Uganda, which will see the pan-continental investment lender open its East African branch office in Kampala.

The deal was signed by President Yoweri Museveni and Benedict Oramah, Afrexim's president. The branch in Kampala will be the Bank's fifth after Cairo, Abuja, Abidjan and Harare.

Prof Oramah said the establishment of an East Africa branch would deepen the bank's involvement with the region's institutions. The Kampala branch will be open for business during October 2019 and serve 11 countries: Kenya, Uganda, Sudan, Eritrea, Djibouti, Ethiopia, South Sudan, Tanzania, Rwanda, Burundi and Comoros. *(EAD, 28.09.19)*

ECOWAS Roaming goes Free

The ECOWAS citizens travelling within the sub-region from January 2020 will enjoy no roaming charges following the implementation of the ECOWAS roaming initiative. The initiative is aimed at creating an enabling environment for the international mobile roaming market to ensure affordable access to roaming services for voice, SMS and data.

This initiative would reduce roaming rates within the ECOWAS sub-region, promote cross border investments and encourage competition among operators to reduce call charges.

All 15 ECOWAS-member countries are committed to complete all the legal and administrative processes required to facilitate the roaming initiative by December 31, 2019. *(DG, 12.09.19)*

Challenges from Transhumance

The ECOWAS Commissioner for Agriculture, Environment and Water Resources, Sékou Sangaré, has called for concerted efforts to address the challenges of transhumance and pastoralism in the West Africa sub-region. He was addressing the week-long Regional High Level Meeting for Peaceful Cross Border Transhumance between Sahelian and Coastal countries in West Africa.

Transhumance is the action or practice of moving livestock from one grazing ground to another in a seasonal cycle, typically to lowlands in winter and highlands in summer.

He stated about pastoralism and transhumance, there is the need for member states to work together to create in rural areas the conditions for a sustainable valorization of this mode of livestock farming. *(GNA, 16.09.19)*

Boost intra-EAC Trade

The East African Business Council (EABC) is calling on East African Community (EAC) borders to eliminate Non-Tariff Barriers (NTBs) and implement agreed EAC directives to boost intra EAC trade to 50 percent which currently stands at 12 percent.

Peter Mathuki, CEO, EABC said this during the second Public-Private Dialogue (PPD) with Trade Facilitation Agencies at Busia One-Stop Border Post as they interrogated if EAC agreements and practices ease doing business across EAC borders.

The PPDs focus is on the extent to which Partner States are translating the EAC Common Market Protocols into policies that support the actualisation of free movement of goods and people. *(TS, 25. 09.19)*

Towards SADC Liberalisation

The SADC ministers responsible for Information and Communication Technologies (ICT), Public Information, Transport and Meteorology deliberated on issues of importance to the region in four sectors about infrastructure in support of regional integration.

The meeting was held in Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania under the theme, "Emerging Technologies to Support SADC Regional Integration and Sustainable Industrial Development", provided a platform for an interactive discussion on high impact infrastructure projects and technology-related-priority issues that the region needs to immediately address. *(TST, 27.09.19)*

EAC Single Currency by 2024

EAC member states are set to start discussions on revising the timelines for the start of the single currency regime, after realising that it would be difficult to set up the necessary institutions and achieve the set macroeconomic benchmarks with only five years to the 2024 deadline.

Bank of Uganda Governor, Emmanuel Tumusiime-Mutebile said several challenges stand in the way of fully implementing the East African Monetary Union Protocol.

He said it is important for the region to assess the practicability of the current timelines, which require member countries to comply with macroeconomic convergence criteria at least three years before the single currency regime starts. *(EAD, 10.08.19)*

New CST to harm Consumers

Consumers of telecommunications services will lose talk time due to the proposed increment in the CST. Currently, telephone service consumers such as mobile phone users spend about 19.09 pesewas out of every GH¢1 worth of airtime on taxes.

The increment follows the proposed increase of the CST from six to nine percent expected in force when the President assents to the Appropriation Bill approved by Parliament okaying supplementary spending of more than GH¢6.3bn.

While some **Ghanaians** consider it burdensome and insist that it should be reversed, others believe it should be maintained because that was the surest way to capture majority of the people into the tax net to generate enough revenue for development. *(B&FT, 13.08.19)*

Two New Solar PV Plants

The European Investment Bank and FMO, the Dutch entrepreneurial development bank, have agreed to finance construction and operation of two new solar photovoltaic plants (PV) in **Kenya.**

EIB and FMO will each provide US$53mn for the two projects, with the remainder of the US$147mn total project cost provided by the project promoters Frontier Energy.

The two schemes will diversify Kenya's electricity supply away from both rain-dependent hydro and fossil fuels, contribute to improving grid stability in Western Kenya and cater for expected increase in energy use in the coming years. *(KBC, 25.09.19)*

Concern over Increased CST

Some industry players, such as **Ghana** Telecommunications Chamber, the Ghana Union of Traders Associations, the Consumer Protection Agency and the Institute of Chartered Economists of Ghana have raised concerns over the upward adjustment in some taxes in the mid-year budget review, stressing that the increment will impact negatively on the cost of living.

The Minister of Finance, Ken Ofori-Atta proposed that the tax on luxury vehicles be waived, while the Energy Sector Levy and the Communications Service Tax (CST) be increased.

However, the industry executives said the increment in the taxes was not the ideal thing to do and will burden the consumer. *(DG, 07.08.19)*

Consumer Food Safety

Consumer organisations have asked Health CS Sicily Kariuki to take action on reports that supermarkets use illegal additives and chemicals to prolong the shelf life of foods. The organisations want Kariuki to tell **Kenyans** what measures the ministry is putting in place to protect the health of citizens.

Addressing the press, **Daniel Asher of CUTS Nairobi**, said that food safety should be a top government priority. It is not easy for an ordinary Kenyan to differentiate counterfeit and genuine products in the Kenyan market. Unsafe food consumption as resulted to increased hospital visits due to food borne illnesses. *(ST, 19. 07.19)*

Defeat African Tree Poaching

As representatives from over 180 countries meet in Geneva for the 18th Conference of the Parties (CoP18) of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), EIA releases a new report documenting the highly destructive trade in 'mukula' wood from Central and Southern Africa.

Asian timber trafficking networks have been plundering the forests for years to export this valuable timber, despite several bans that have been issued during that time in both **Zambia** and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

(www.allafrica.com, 16.08.19)

Record Green Energy Investment

Kenya attracted a record US$1.4bn investments in renewable energy in 2018, the third highest in Middle East and Africa, deepening its shift from expensive sources of electricity.

The 2019 United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) report that tracked global trends in renewable energy investments shows Kenya overtook Egypt, United Arabs Emirates, Jordan and Rwanda to join top six hotspots for green energy.

Kenya saw investment of US$1.4bn in 2018, the highest on record, and split almost equally between geothermal at US$486mn, wind at US$476mn and solar at US$467mn. *(BD, 18.09.19)*

Beat Plastic Pollution

Plastic bags are a major environmental challenge in **Zambia** and efforts by respective authorities to address this problem seem not to yield the expected results.

On a daily basis, tonnes of plastics bags end up at the only landfill at Chunga dumpsite while the uncollected plastic bags are found everywhere in drainages and roads around the city of Lusaka.

Section 58 of the Environmental Management Act, provides for the Expanded Producer Responsibility (EPR) and demands that every producer of any plastic products be responsible for their waste. However, the EPR is still in its finalisation stage for it to be operational.

(ZDM, 24.07.19)

Special Feature

Promoting Agro-processing Industry in East Africa

PACT EAC2, particularly through its regular Forums for the EAC WTO and UNFCCC negotiators, as well as on-demand submission development's workshops, has assisted those climate and trade negotiators to put forward and argue for their interests in the relevant negotiations.

PACT EAC2 Impact on National and Regional Policies- A moderated panel session

Group-work session

CUTS Geneva in partnership with CUTS Nairobi, has been implementing Promoting Agriculture Climate Change and Trade Linkages in the East Africa Community (PACT EAC2) project from October 01, 2015. It was concluded on September 30, 2019. Through inter-linked and synergetic research, advocacy, networking and training activities, it brought together, informed, trained, and moved to advocacy action hundreds of EAC stakeholders from governments, civil society, businesses, farming communities, women, youth, academia and media. It aimed to build the capacity of East Africans for climate-aware, trade-driven and food security-enhancing agro-processing in their region.

A key objective of the project is to improve the knowledge and capacity of participating stakeholders through, *inter alia*, research, analysis and training. More than 1000 stakeholders have reported that they now understand better how agro-processing development can be more climate-aware, trade-driven and food security-enhancing. The project also aimed to bring together different groups of stakeholders to share knowledge and work together. This resulted in more than 30 collaborative initiatives among the participating stakeholders

Over the past years, advocacy in the five EAC countries has engaged policymakers 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 Tanzania's Sustainable Industries Development Policy (SIDP); and (v) Uganda's National Industrial Policy (NIDP). Moreover, a regional advocacy campaign around the review of the EAC Private Sector Development Strategy.

International trade and climate change negotiations play an important role in framing the policy space available to governments in developing their agriculture and agro-processing sectors despite the environment and climate change's constraints. PACT EAC2, particularly through its regular Forums for the EAC WTO and UNFCCC negotiators, as well as on-demand submission development's workshops, has assisted those climate and trade negotiators to put forward and argue for their interests in the relevant negotiations.

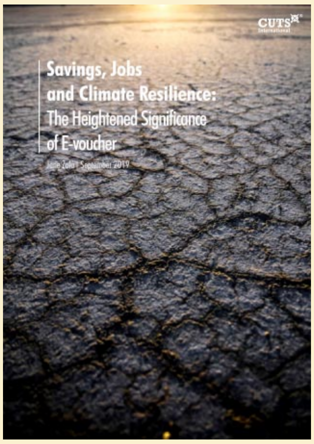
The Fourth and Final Regional Annual Meeting (RAM4) focussed on the impacts of the project and how these can be sustained and strengthened after the conclusion of PACT EAC2. The main objectives of the final Regional Annual Meeting were to:

- share the main impacts of the project on people, policies and negotiations in the context of project objectives;
- discuss the lessons learned 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.

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

Our Twitter Handle (@cutsafrica)

@CUTS_Lusaka September 12: PUBLIC DEBT SYMPOSIUM THREAD In collaboration with the @AFRODAD201 & @CsprZambia, on 30 August 2019 @CUTS_Lusaka hosted a public dialogue on debt and discussed solutions to the country's debt situation. Here are some of the highlights from the #PublicDebtSymposium2019

@CUTS_Lusaka August 22: CUTS, HIVOS & OTHER #SD4ALL PARTNERS VISIT MARKETS AFTER THE #BEYONDMAIZE LAUNCH. Based off yesterday's launch of the #BeyondMaize paper by our #SD4ALL partners @hivosrosa, @CUTS_Lusaka alongside other @Hivos partners decided to do a field visit to complement its 2-day meeting.

@CUTS_Lusaka September 25: CUTS LUSAKA MAKES NEWS IN GHANA Also as a result of the same statement @CUTS_Lusaka made news on Ghana's online news publisher @newsghana3 that ran the story under the headline "FUEL HIKE IN ZAMBIA SPARKS MIXED REACTIONS". You can read more on: https://www.newsghana.com.gh/fuel-hike-in-zambia-sparks-mixed-reactions/newsghana.com.gh

@CUTS_Lusaka July 11: CUTS AT THE TOWARD STABILITY & GROWTH MEETING - The Consumer Unity Trust Society - @CUTS_Lusaka is currently attending the Town Hall Meeting organized ZIPAR. The meeting is aimed at discussing the performance of the #ZambiaPlusProgramme which has been implemented by the government to stabilize the Economy and make it resilient to the headwinds that have hit it over the last 3 years. #TownHallMeeting #TowardStabilityAndGrowth @CsprZambia @unicefzambia @CUTS_Lusaka @DfidZambia

@Cuts_Accra September 13: CUTS urges #gov't to review #investment #capital requirement to boost #FDIs in #Ghana

@Psm_cuts @SamirApolitical @wef @cutsafrica @appiahkusi @gipcghana https://t.co/EzI1WpciTz

@Cuts_Accra August 29: CUTS Ghana calls on WAEC to scarp the illegal sale of scratch cards to BECE/WASSCE candidates https://t.co/ZKNGrAZCQC

@Cuts_Accra August 19: Happening now; President of #Ghana addressing participants of the national conference on the implementation of the #AfCFTA in Ghana https://t.co/BOh4L9qK2J

@Cuts_Accra August 19: Happening now: National Conference on the Implementation of the #AfCFTA in #Ghana #Accra @Psm_cuts @SamirApolitical @AfCfta @appiahkusi @AlanKyerematen @cutsafrica https://t.co/JPjrBDeDDB

@Cuts_Accra August 06: #AU #Africa development bank sign 4.8m grant for #free #trade secretariat

@Psm_cuts @SamirApolitical @AlanKyerematen @CUTS_Nairobi @appiahkusi @CUTS_Lusaka @cutsafrica https://t.co/urqOl3IRy3

Sources

B&FT: Business & Financial Times; BD: Business Daily; DG: Daily Graphic; DN: Diggers News; EAD: East African Daily; GNA: Ghana News Agency; GW: GhanaWeb; KBC: Kenya Broadcasting Corporation; KNA: Kenya News Agency; LT: Lusaka Times; ND: Nation Daily; SD: Standard Daily; ST: Star Newspaper; TS: The Standard; TST: The Straits Times; ZDM: Zambia Daily Mail; ZR: Zambia Reports

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