



EVENTS

Discussions on Competition Reforms in Accra & Lusaka

The fourth NRG meeting was held in Lusaka, Zambia on April 22 and on April 23, 2015 in Accra, Ghana. The purpose of this meeting was to deliberate on CUTS' plan for promoting competition reforms in the Project sectors (Maize and Bus Transport) in Zambia and Ghana, respectively. These meetings were held under the 'Competition Reforms in Key Markets for Enhancing Social and Economic Welfare in Developing Countries' (CREW Project). Both CUTS Lusaka and the Accra Centres are partners for the same. The events in both the cities were well attended by officials of Government agencies and Ministries; representatives of the market queens/sellers associations in the countries, farmers' association representatives, Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), the academia and the media.

<http://www.modernghana.com/news/614963/1/government-shelling-out-more-money-on-fertiliser-s.html>

Stakeholder Meeting on Trade and Climate Change

The seventh and last National Reference Group Meeting (NRG), under PACT EAC Project was held in Kenya, Nairobi on April 14, 2015 at Hilton Hotel, Nairobi, Kenya. The meeting was based on the theme 'Climate, Food, and Trade: Taking Stock of Our Impacts on Policy and Practice'. About 60 participants from civil societies, county and national Kenya



PACT EAC 7th NRG Meeting April 14, 2015 at Nairobi, Kenya

Meteorological Services (KMS) representatives, farmers, academicians and people from the media were part of the event in the last NRG meeting .

Quality Standard of Bus Transport in Zambia

CUTS Lusaka, Zambia held a brainstorming meeting with Zambia Bureau of Standards (ZABS) on April 23, 2015. This meeting was held in order to engage ZABS on the need to develop quality standard of the intra-city bus transport. The CREW Project research in Zambia revealed the need for having some benchmark for the bus seat quality in Zambia. Through this initiative the Project aims to develop quality standards in the bus transport.

Discussions with Farmers and Market Queens in Ghana

CUTS Accra, Ghana began the first round of Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) with farmers and market queens in the Brong Ahafo region in south Ghana on June 29, 2015. This was undertaken as part of the advocacy work under the CREW Project in Ghana. More FGDs would be undertaken in Greater Accra region on July 06, 2015.

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PROJECTS

Advocating for a Functional Competition Regime

CUTS Accra, Ghana with support from the Business Advocacy Challenge (BUSAC) Fund, has implemented a 15-month Project entitled, 'Advocating for a Functional Competition Regime in Ghana' referred to as the COMPAD Project. The main objective of the Project is to facilitate the process towards evolution of a national competition regime in Ghana, through an informed process, incorporating views of key actors and with support from Ghanaian business and consumers. The Project is on official hold with advice from BUSAC Fund and is likely to resume in October, 2015.

EACOMP Project: Rating Challenges in Implementing EAC Competition Policy and Law

CUTS Nairobi, Kenya is implementing a two-year Project entitled 'Accelerating the Implementation of the East African Community or EAC Policy and Law' referred to as EACOMP Project. The Project is supported by Trade Mark East Africa (TIMEA). Its main objective is to assess the challenges in the implementation of the EAC Competition Policy and Law in each of the partner State; document evidence on anti-competitive practices and their negative impacts and use such an evidence to promote an enabling environment to support the effective implementation of competition legislations at national and regional levels through a multi-stakeholder engagement.

Telecom Towers in Zambia

CUTS Lusaka, Zambia had made a plea for Zambia Information and Telecommunications Authority (ZICTA) to look at the concern over the construction of over 100 telecommunication towers by the ZICTA across Zambia to improve cellphone coverage in rural areas. CUTS Lusaka, Zambia in its endeavour has urged that ZICTA should not compromise on the telecommunication towers.

Competition in Health Care in Zambia

Identifying the need for having a well-tailored awareness generation interventions to build an informed citizenry on their consumer rights and responsibilities on health issues CUTS, Lusaka, Zambia and 'Muvi Television' have launched a rigorous awareness generation campaign on consumer rights and responsibilities on health care products and services. The campaign tries mainly to compliment government's efforts envisaged to deliver an efficient health care system in Zambia through addressing day-to-day practical challenges, which consumers face while consuming health-related products and services.

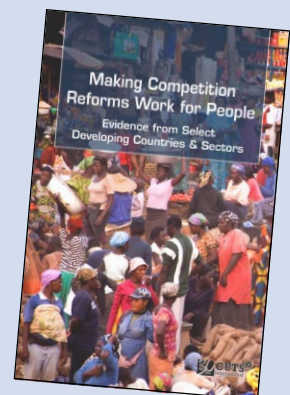
PUBLICATIONS

Forthcoming Publication

CREW Synthesis Report

The Synthesis Report of the CREW Project (www.cuts-ccier.org/crew) would be launched in Geneva by Amb Guillermo Valles, Director, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) on July 08, 2015. This Report presents common lessons emerging from the project countries: Ghana, India, the Philippines and Zambia. This Project is being undertaken in the four project countries by CUTS and its partners across two common sectors, staple food and bus transport. It is being supported by DFID (UK) and BMZ (Germany) facilitated by GIZ (Germany).

http://www.cuts-ccier.org/CREW/pdf/Making_Compensation_Reforms_Work_for_People-Evidence_from_Select_Developing_Countries_and_Sectors.pdf



FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Policy Dialogue on Deregulation of Ghana's Down-stream Petroleum Sector

CUTS Accra, Ghana will be organising a policy dialogue to discuss the effects of the down-stream petroleum sector deregulation on Competition and consumers. The policy dialogue series of CUTS Accra, Ghana will act as a platform for bringing the opinions on board of various stakeholders including policy-makers, practitioners, businesses, CSOs, consumer groups, etc.

Launch of the IVORI-ESA Project

The IVORI-ESA Project will be launched in Lusaka, Zambia on July 30, 2015 at Grand Palace Hotel. The aim of the launch is to introduce the Project and gather views of the targeted stakeholders. The objective of the Project is to set up a network of CSOs and use it to collect inputs for a period of six months.

EACOMP National Advocacy and Training Workshops in EAC Countries

Research on Poverty Alleviation (REPOA) in collaboration with CUTS Nairobi, Kenya with support from Trademark East Africa (TMEA) after concluding the research phase of the two-phased Project on EACOMP, REPOA will be organising a two-day EACOMP Project National Advocacy and Training Workshop on August 03 and 04, 2015 in Dar es Salaam. The objectives of the National Advocacy and Training Workshop is to share the national research findings from the country research report and present constraints and recommendations to competition policy reforms in the country, to train stakeholders on key competition elements with reference to existing anti-competitive practices and train the business community on how to enhance competition compliance and to engage stakeholders in coming up with strategies to tackle challenges to competition and on effective advocacy on competition issues.

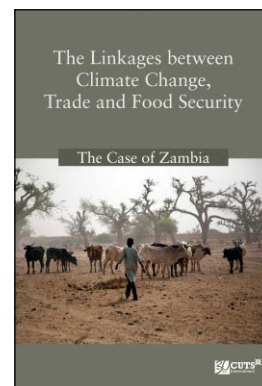
The Linkages between Climate Change, Trade and Food Security – *The Case of Zambia*

Climate Change has posed considerable threats to food security in Zambia specifically given that the resulting extreme weather conditions, such as drought and heavy rains have destroyed much of the crops. Food prices soar, making it impossible for most of the population to afford food. It is clear from the recent revelations in this research and similar studies conducted by CUTS International in East Africa that the linkages between climate change and food security have to date, largely been explored in relation to impacts on crop productivity and hence, food production

By means of this study, policy-makers in Zambia would be better informed so as to should ensure that there is always policy coherence, with clear spelt out linkages, among the three issues either at evolution or implementation level of these policies.

[http://www.cuts-international.org/ARC/Lusaka/pdf/](http://www.cuts-international.org/ARC/Lusaka/pdf/The_Linkages_between_Climate_Change_Trade_and_Food_Security_The_Case_of_Zambia.pdf)

[The_Linkages_between_Climate_Change_Trade_and_Food_Security_The_Case_of_Zambia.pdf](http://www.cuts-international.org/ARC/Lusaka/pdf/The_Linkages_between_Climate_Change_Trade_and_Food_Security_The_Case_of_Zambia.pdf)

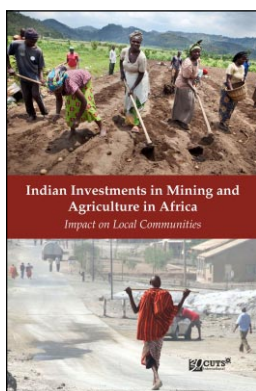


Indian Investments in Mining and Agriculture in Africa *Impact on local Communities*

Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS) countries in recent years are increasingly becoming significant investors in Africa and although Africa receives only 4 percent of BRICS Foreign Direct Inflows outflows, BRICS countries have joined the ranks of top investing economic bloc in Africa. A Project entitled ‘Critical Dimension of Indian Investments in Africa’ was conceptualised by CUTS with support from Heinrich Boll Foundation (HBF) to critically review the impact of Indian investments in Africa, through a Preface research-led discourse on improving the social, economic and environmental impacts of investments in the mining and agricultural sector. The research that has been undertaken on Indo-African engagement focussed mainly on the bilateral engagement from a business perspective though the need was felt to better understand different ways in which the investment is impacting/benefitting local African communities. The outcome of the research highlights that while Foreign Direct Investment is important for social and economic development of Africa, such investments whether in mining, agriculture or any other sectors need to earn a social licence to operate freely with trust.

<http://www.cuts-cicler.org/iaa/pdf/>

[Indian_Investments_in_Mining_and_Agriculture_in_Africa_Impact_on_Local_Communities.pdf](http://www.cuts-cicler.org/iaa/pdf/Indian_Investments_in_Mining_and_Agriculture_in_Africa_Impact_on_Local_Communities.pdf)



Tradequity

The April-June of the newsletter carries cover story entitled ‘Africa’s Largest Free Trade Area Launched’ stating that the African heads of state have launched the largest Free Trade Area (FTA) during the Third Tripartite Summit held in Sharm El Sheik, Egypt to create an integrated market with a combined population of 600mn people and Gross Domestic Product of about US\$1tn. The newsletter also covers news on Economics and Development, Trade, Regional Round Up and Environment and Consumer issues. Besides, it also encompasses a Special Feature ‘Social Media Protected Consumers from Safaicom Tyranny’.

http://www.cuts-international.org/arc/pdf/Tradequity15-Africas_Largest_Free_Trade_Area_Launched.pdf



PAY UP!: International Tax Issues in Africa

Governments use domestic resources to meet set development goals. As countries continue to lose tariff revenues. Governments use domestic resources to meet the defined development goals. As countries continue to lose tariff revenues due to global and regional trade liberalisation agreements; and offer tax concessions to foreign investors, it is imperative that citizens hold their authorities accountable for wastage and unfairness in tax administration as well as question certain tax concession deals. This Briefing Paper presents tax issues in Africa including tax issues in Africa including tax evasion, illicit financial outflows and tax competition and what can be done to stop tax money from disappearing into thin air.

http://www.cuts-international.org/ARC/Nairobi/pdf/PAY_UP_International_Tax_Issues_in_Africa.pdf



REPRESENTATIONS

Rijit Sengupta, Regional Director CUTS Africa Resource Centre and **Appiah Kusi Adomako**, Centre Coordinator, CUTS Accra, Ghana met Eric Tetteh Addison, Deputy Director for Policy and Planning at the Ministry of Transport (MoT) to share the CREW research findings from the bus transport.

Clement Onyango, Director of CUTS, Nairobi, Kenya attended the East African Community stakeholder meeting in Geneva on May 03-07 of 2015, which was organised by CUTS Geneva.

Rijit Sengupta and **Appiah Kusi Adomako**, Centre Coordinator met Borderless Alliance on April 09, 2015 to explore best ways to strategically work together to identify donors for the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Project on 'The Cost of Non-Regional Integration'.

Annie Mwambazi Siame of CUTS Lusaka, Zambia participated in a launch event for Phase II of 'Support to Civil Society Organisations in Environment and Natural Resource Management of Civil Society Environment Fund (CSEF)' in Zambia on May 19, 2015 at Mulungushi International Conference Centre in Lusaka. The aim of the event was to convene key stakeholders' active within the environment and natural resource management sector in Zambia.

Rosebela Oiro of CUTS Nairobi, Kenya attended the 'Leadership Advocacy' meeting organised by the Commonwealth Secretariat/International Labour Organisation and the UN Women's Nairobi Regional Office on the June 10-11, 2015 at the Royal Orchid Hotel Westlands.

Annie Mwambazi Siame attended the II Agriculture Indaba, which was held on May 22, 2015. The meeting was organised by Indaba Agricultural Policy Research Institute (IAPRI) and the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock. The aim of the Indaba was to discuss the crop marketing modalities and diversification of Farmer Input Support Programme (FISP) for the year 2015-2016.

Appiah Kusi Adomako and **Edayatu Lamptey** of CUTS Accra, Ghana attended a Policy Dialogue Series (WAC-PoDIS) organised by the West African Civil Society on the theme, 'Civil Society Self Regulations in West Africa: Deliberations and Way Forward' on June 25, 2015.

Simon Ng'ona, Centre Coordinator, CUTS Lusaka and **Clement Onyango**, Director CUTS Nairobi participated in a conference organised by the Commonwealth Secretariat and the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) on Mega-Trading Blocs and the Future of African Trade: Moving from Fragmentation to Inclusive Trade Multilateralism on May 26-27, 2015 in Nairobi, Kenya. The main objective of this conference was to assist Sub-Saharan African policy-makers and standard-setting bodies assess the policy implications and impact of the rise of mega-trading blocs.

REFLECTIONS FROM MEDIA

Social Media Protected Consumers from Safaricom Tyranny

By **Rosebela Oiro**

The Star, May 22, 2015

Any seasoned marketer will not only focus on increasing the market share of their business but retaining it as it grows. Retaining the market share of a business is the focus of most dominant market players and this is attained by creating customer loyalty. Nakumatt, for instance, began a smart point programme where buyers are awarded points that they can use to purchase goods each time they shop at Nakumatt.

The uproar on social media championed by the likes of Robert Alai and many vexed Safaricom subscribers saw consumers rally themselves petitioning to take legal action against the operator.

The consumer protection agencies need to step up in playing their role as opposed to letting the consumers fight for themselves in the best way they know how through social media.

<http://www.the-star.co.ke:8080/news/social-media-protected-consumers-safaricom-tyranny#sthash.hYYZ290.UjQkuUe.dpuf>

Stakeholders Review CREW Project in Accra

Ghana Web, May 12, 2015

Stakeholders have met to review an advocacy plan of the CREW Project in Accra. The Project aims to develop an approach, which will help assess the impact of competition reforms on consumers and producers in selected markets. One of the goals of the Project is to demonstrate the benefits of competition reforms, so that greater attention and support could be provided to the issue.

CUTS Accra, Ghana has been overseeing the Project. Professor Felix Asante, Director of the Institute of Statistical, Social and Economic Research (ISSER), chaired the meeting and stated that the Project was examining Maize and Bus Transport markets and how competition reforms could impact the consumers and producers in Ghana.

http://www.cuts-international.org/arc/accra/media-stakeholders_review_CREW_project_in_Accra.html