



EVENTS

CUTS-FAO Joint Validation Workshop

CUTS Nairobi, Kenya in conjunction with Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations organised a Study Validation Workshop on ‘Trends, Experiences and Socio-Economic Impact of Formalisation of Informal Trade in Africa’ with a focus on women small



traders. The aim of the Workshop was to share best practices and lessons from East, West and Southern Africa on how to formalise Informal Cross-Border Trade (ICBT). The workshop had a diverse participation of over 36 participants representing different types of organisations.

Public Hearing: Inter-agency Coordination in Investment

CUTS Lusaka, Zambia along with, Centre for Trade Policy and Development (CTPD) and Caritas Zambia with support from Oxfam Zambia collaborated with the Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry to host a meeting on June 13, 2017 at Radisson Blue Hotel, Lusaka with key stakeholders to explore ways on how civil society and government could work together on promoting inter-agency coordination on investment and tax-related issues including the investment database.

Bomet County RE Study Validation Workshop

CUTS Nairobi, Kenya held a study Validation Workshop under the Strategic Partnership in Energy (SP-E) programme on May 12, 2017 in Bomet County, Kenya.

The objective of the workshop was to get the inputs and amendments from the county representatives into the draft study report. The study, conducted by CUTS Nairobi focussed on the barriers to uptake of renewable energy (RE) in Bomet County. The forum provided a platform to discuss deeper issues on energy accessibility in Bomet County.



IN THIS ISSUE

Events	1
Ongoing Projects	2
Forthcoming Events	2
Publications	2
New Initiatives	3
Representations	4
Reflections from Media	4

ONGOING PROJECTS

Cross-Border Trading Literature Review

CUTS Accra, Ghana with funding support from the FAO is implementing a project in Ghana called 'Cross-Border Trading Literature Review'. The aim of the project is to document literatures on cross-border trade in Africa, in partnership with CUTS Lusaka, Zambia and CUTS Nairobi, Kenya. The project is being implemented for a year.

Resolving the Unresolved NTBs in the EAC

Resolving the Unresolved Non-Tariff Barriers (NTBs) in the East African Community (EAC), CUTS Nairobi, Kenya has undertaken a Study on 'Resolving the Unresolved NTBs in the East Africa Community'. Under the initiative it has published the third Policy Brief on NTB reporting system in the EAC and an analysis of data collected through additional interviews with truck owners and drivers has been accomplished.

State of the Economy II

The Energy Crisis and the Impact on the Economy

In light of the package that Zambia is currently negotiating with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), CUTS Lusaka, Zambia will be undertaking a study and advocacy measures on the likely impact of the removal of fuel subsidies on consumers. The data was collected by the global market research firm – Ipsos and has been analysed by both CUTS and Zambia Institute for Policy Analysis and Research (ZIPAR). The Paper has been finalised and has been sent out for peer review. A dissemination meeting will be held on July 14, 2017.

Coalition Building on Trade and Economic Regulation Issues

CUTS Nairobi, Kenya is working on 'Capacity Building on Coalition Building on Trade and Economic Regulation Issues in Africa' with the support of Oxfam Novib. So far, invitations have been sent to CSOs to join African Coalition on Trade and Economic Regulation (ACTER) and the ACTER Google group has been established. The final internal draft of the strategic plan has been shared with partners for their inputs and awaiting comments from the partners.

Understanding and Raising Awareness on Healthcare Issues

The objective of the The Competition and Consumer Protection Commission (CCPC) project is to understand the healthcare issues and the regulatory effectiveness of the health system in Zambia.

Leveraging Regional Policy Successes to Improve FRA Interventions

The objective of the project 'Leveraging Regional Policy Successes to Improve Interventions by the Food Reserve Agency (FRA)' is to contribute to the development of a more effective and efficient FRA in Zambia.

Enhancing Investment in Agriculture for Women Smallholder Farmers

The project 'Enhancing Investment in Agriculture for Women Smallholder Farmers and Ensuring Increased Access to Land' has been approved and contract has been signed. Two Position Papers will be drafted and policy engagement meetings will be held with Zambia Development Agency (ZDA) and other relevant institutions.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Meeting with USAID

CUTS Accra, Ghana will be meeting with United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to follow up on the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) study proposal shared with them and other possible project themes.

Meeting with West Africa Trade Hub

CUTS Accra, Ghana will be having a meeting with the West African Trade Hub to further discuss possible collaborations in the region on trade related issues.

Meeting with International Fertilizer Centre

CUTS Accra, Ghana will be meeting the International Fertilizer Centre (IFDC) to discuss possible extension of CREW staple food finding research on issues relating to the fertilizer sector.

PUBLICATIONS

Newsletter

Tradequity

The April-June 2017 issue of the newsletter carries a cover story entitled 'African Experts Consider Ways to Speed up Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA) Negotiations' stating African negotiators' gathering at 5th Meeting of the CFTA-NF at the beginning of March 2017 welcomed the CFTA Template Agreement presented by the African Union Commission (AUC) as a basis for text-based negotiations. The newsletter also encapsulates 'Trends, Experiences and Socio-Economic Impact of Formalisation of Informal Trade in Africa' as its Special Feature. Besides, it also covers news on Economics and Development, Trade, Environment and Consumers issues etc.

http://www.cuts-international.org/ARC/pdf/Tradequity_No2-2017.pdf



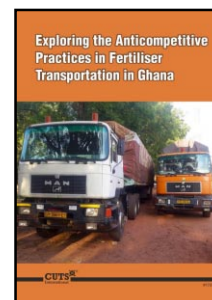
PUBLICATIONS

Research Report

Exploring the Anticompetitive Practices in Fertiliser Transportation in Ghana

'Exploring the Anticompetitive Practices in Fertiliser Transportation in Ghana' study was undertaken by CUTS Accra Centre with the aim of exploring possible causes of high prices of subsidised fertilisers in the country. The study was carried out with the sole aim to investigate if any anticompetitive practices are prevailing at the port handling and inland transportation of fertilisers as well as to determine the possible effects of such anticompetitive practices on the retail cost of fertilisers in Ghana. The research study emerged from the project entitled 'Competition Reforms in Key Markets for Enhancing Social and Economic Welfare in Developing Countries (CREW)' project which was implemented in Ghana, India, Philippines and the Zambia, across two common sectors: 1) Staple Food and 2) Bus Transport sectors with the aim to demonstrate the benefits of competition reforms to consumers and producers.

http://www.cuts-ccier.org/CREW/pdf/Exploring_the_Anticompetitive_Practices_in_Fertiliser_Transportation_in_Ghana.pdf



NEW INITIATIVES

Advancing Competition Regime in Select West African Countries

CUTS Accra, Ghana is seeking funding support to implement a project entitled 'Advancing Competition Regime in Select West African Countries through Capacity Building and Technical Assistance'.

Strengthening the Coordination Delivery and Review of Interventions and Trade Capacity

CUTS Lusaka, Zambia is seeking funding support from Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry for its endeavour 'Strengthening the Coordination Delivery and Review of Interventions and Trade Capacity on Environmental and Competition Issues'. The duration of the project is of 6 months.

Analysing the Benefits of the TIR Convention in COMESA and SADC

CUTS Lusaka, Zambia is seeking funding support from International Road Transport Union (IRU) for its new initiative 'Analysing the Benefits of the TIR Convention in Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) and Southern African Development Community (SADC)'.

Integrating the Voices of Economic Justice Advocates

For enhancing the voice of economic justice advocates in the EAC region the project 'Integrating the Voices of Economic Justice Advocates in the EAC Economic Development Agenda through a Right Based Approach (IVORI IV)' is being initiated by CUTS Nairobi. It seeks to identify key issues on economic justice within the EAC region to be addressed, to develop a strong network of economic justice advocates for a harmonised/coherent voice in the EAC Region and develop a Strategic Action Plan for addressing Economic Injustices in the Region.

Better Coordination Delivery and Review of Interventions and Trade Capacity

With the support of Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry (MCTI), CUTS Lusaka, Zambia will be implementing the project 'Strengthening the Coordination Delivery and Review of Interventions and Trade Capacity on Environmental and Competition Issues'. After finalising the concept notes, complete proposals will be tabled at the EIF Steering Committee Meeting in the following quarter.

Understanding Low Intra-regional Trade in Food Products

CUTS Accra, Ghana is seeking funding support from USAID and ENDA-CACID to implement a project entitled 'Understanding Low Intra-regional Trade in Food Products in Select Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Countries'. The goal of the project is to enhance food security in select West African countries through the increased intra-regional trade in food in ECOWAS in a sustainable manner.

Realisation of Consumer Rights to Health through Accessible Quality

CUTS Nairobi, Kenya is seeking funding support from Open Society Initiative for Eastern Africa (OSIEA) for the project 'Realisation of Consumer Rights to Health through Accessible Quality Medicine in Kenya'. The objective of this initiative is to review the status of Consumer Rights Protection Act operationalisation in pharmaceutical sub-sector in Kenya.

Consumer Awareness on the Importance of Sustainable Landscapes Management

CUTS Lusaka, Zambia is seeking funding support from Solidaridad for its project 'Raising Consumer Awareness on the Importance of Sustainable Landscapes Management'.

Energy Sector Public Budget-Expenditure Tracking

CUTS Accra, Ghana is seeking funding support from SNV to carry out a project called 'Energy Sector Public Budget – Expenditure Tracking'. The aim of the project is to track budgetary allocations of the Ministry of Energy to the district-level and understand how they are utilised in energy sector related projects. The project is expected to be implemented over a period of three months.

REPRESENTATIONS

Clement Onyango, Director, **Daniel Asher, Kebenei Chepkoech Joan** and **Beryl** of CUTS Nairobi, Kenya attended a Capacity Development Workshop organised by SNV Netherlands under the FNS project on April 04-07, 2017 at Smith Hotel, Rongai. The objective of the workshop was to develop the capacity of CSOs under the Voice for Change Programme in leadership and organisational skills relevant to the project.

Chennai Mukumba, Centre Coordinator, Lusaka met the Minister of Agriculture to discuss 'Leveraging Regional Policy Successes to Improve Interventions by the Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA)'. The event was organised by Ministry of Agriculture, Zambia.

Appiah Kusi Adomako, Centre Coordinator and **Issac Yaw Obeng** of CUTS Accra, Ghana had a meeting with Borderless Alliance to follow up on the ECOWAS study proposal shared with them and other possible project topics.

Samarantha Banda of CUTS Lusaka, Zambia attended Financial Management Workshop to learn about Zambian Governance Foundation (ZGF) financial reporting requirements. The event was organised by Zambia Governance Foundation.

Appiah Kusi Adomako and **Issac Yaw Obeng** had a meeting with GIZ'S Department for Financial Systems Development (FSD) and a team from the Consultative Group to Assist the Poor (CGAP) to seek for a possible collaboration

Kebenei Chepkoech Joan and **Beryl** of CUTS Nairobi participated in an exhibition workshop in Limuru, Kiambu County on April 27, 2017. The objective of the workshop was to raise producer and consumer awareness on issues of food safety in the dairy sector.

Ishmael Zulu represented CUTS Lusaka at the Civil Society for Poverty Reduction (CSPR) launch of the report on the impacts of fluctuating commodity prices on government revenue in the South African Development Community (SADC) region. The event was organised by CSPR.

Chennai Mukumba represented CUTS Lusaka in Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Meeting organised by Caritas. The event was held to promote harmonisation of efforts amongst Ministries and Government agencies in order to harness the potential of FDI in Zambia.

Clement Onyango attended the Nairobi International Financial Centre Bill review meeting on May 11, 2017 organised by Tax Justice Network Africa (TJN-A) at the Monarch Hotel, Nairobi. The objective of the meeting was to do a critical analysis of the clauses contained in the Nairobi International Financial Centre Bill (NIFC Bill), 2016 in line with the case put forward by the government.

Clement Onyango and Kebenei Chepkoech Joan represented in CUTS and FAO joint workshop on 'Trends, Experiences and Socio-Economic Impact of Formalisation of Informal Trade in Africa with A Focus on Women Small Traders in Kigali', Rwanda on May 23-24, 2017. The objective of the workshop was to validate the study jointly done by CUTS and FAO on formalisation of Informal Cross-Border Trade in Africa.

Appiah Kusi Adomako and **Issac Yaw Obeng** had a meeting with the Association of Ghana Industries (AGI). The purpose of the meeting was to make a follow-up on the proposed Ghana Public-Private Energy Dialogue Platform – Invitation.

Daniel Asher, Boniface Otieno Owin and **Martin** of CUTS Nairobi attended a Technical Working Group Committee meeting in Bomet county on May 30-31, 2017. The objective of the meeting was to present and review the draft Bomet County Green Energy Policy.



REFLECTIONS FROM MEDIA

People Must Get Benefit from Minerals: CUTS

Daily Nation, June 20, 2017

There is need for Government, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and mining companies to find ways of ensuring that the Zambian mineral wealth benefits all, CUTS Lusaka (Zambia) Coordinator Chennai Mukumba said. Mukumba said measures must be put in place to ensure that people benefited from the minerals, which were a depleting resource. She said Zambia was rich and endowed with valuable minerals that needed to benefit the communities they were mined from.

"It is the responsibility of the civil society and the Government to ensure the Zambian people benefit from the minerals being mined in the country. Every Zambian deserves to have a share of the national cake either directly or through access to good health, education or infrastructure, constructed from the resources made from the mining sector", she added.

<https://www.dailynation.news/people-must-benefit-from-minerals-cuts/>