Tradequity
A Newsletter of CUTS Africa
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Revamp Trade to Catalyse Setting Up CU

The Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) launched its controversial Customs Union (CU) on June 08, 2009. CU abolishes 85 percent of the tariffs on Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and other products manufactured in the region. The launch of the CU had been put on hold since 2004 in order to give member countries enough time to consult each other on its potential benefits.

A CU is a free trade area with a common external tariff. The participant countries set up common external trade policy, but in some cases they use different import quotas. Further, a CU is created when two or more customs territories decide not to charge duty on goods traded among them and when they get to adopt and apply the same rates of customs duty on goods imported from outside their territories.

The main aim of the CU is to revamp trade in the region that had gone flat in the past five years, largely as a result of supply-side constraint, poor infrastructure and poor communications due to dilapidated infrastructure. It is believed that by removing tariffs, COMESA hopes to increase trade among member countries and force local companies to restructure and improve their poor infrastructure and communications system.

This development, however, implies that governments within the region will not have to depend on trade tax for their revenue. Instead, they will aim to generate revenue by engaging in trading among themselves and from taxpayers' money.

Further, COMESA has committed itself to compensate member states through COMESA funds and implored member countries to invest in local manufacturing industries in order to compete regionally as well as with countries outside the region, including South Africa. Critics still insist that the CU will negatively affect local industries in the region due to the fact that some countries will dominate over others who do not have a strong production power.

In case of Zambia it is worth mentioning that any benefits accruing to CU might not be felt unless Zambia accelerates the enhancement of domestic trade so as to compete favourably and avoid shocks that might kill infant industries as a result of stiffer competition from products originating from other COMESA countries.

The growth of domestic trade remains as distorted as ever in spite of the recent years of economic expansion and consumption boom. A number of factors are responsible for this stunted growth, which may include poor physical infrastructure, high land prices and rentals, absence of efficient transport, lack of space for commercial activities even in major cities, missing links in the distribution chains of agriculture and industrial products, weak contract enforcement, paucity of warehousing, official biases, lack of access to finance, etc.

Further, it is also imperative that the issue of safety standards are seriously taken into account for the country to compete favourably both regionally and to markets outside the region. It is also important to recognise that economic diversification is widely seen as a positive trade objective in sustaining economic growth since it makes countries less vulnerable to adverse terms of trade shocks by stabilising export revenues, making it easier to channel positive terms of trade shocks into growth, knowledge spillovers and increasing returns to scale.

Lastly, there is need to accelerate development of competition and consumer welfare policies so as to increase economic efficiency and consumer welfare. The CU may bring in anti-competitive practices along with it. It is noteworthy that in a liberalised market, competition policy provides the necessary checks and balances to ensure that benefits of liberalisation are realised by all.

In conclusion, having a vibrant domestic trade system in any country is important for it to benefit from any trade agreement. Thus, the need to improve domestic trade in Zambia becomes cardinal and therefore the need to expedite the setting up of the CU. *(Simon Ng'ona 18.06.09)*

IN THIS ISSUE

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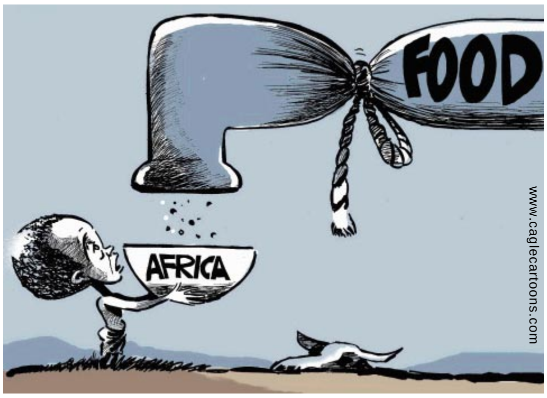
Increased Food Security



Zambia is to receive US$29.8mn from the European Union (EU) to improve its agriculture and food security. Ambassador to the delegation in Zambia, Derek Fee, said the fund would support three activities meant to improve access to agricultural inputs like fertilisers, seeds and services like vets and advisers. The fund would also support safety net measures that facilitate social transfers to vulnerable groups and the general budget support to assist government to finance the much-needed support to the agricultural sector.

Zambia is among one of the 23 developing countries benefiting from financial aid from the EU, which, reflects the seriousness of EU to assist the least developing countries in getting agriculture back on its feet and improve food security. The EU expects the project to impact positively millions of poor people in Africa, Asia and Latin America. *(TP, 17.05.09)*

Mine Investors Challenged

The Zambian government has asked investors in the mining industry to justify claims that they are not making any profits at the current copper price of US$4,400 per tonne when Zambia Consolidated Copper Mines (ZCCM) was running the conglomerate at a price below US$1,500 per tonne.

Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Mines and Minerals Development said a copper price of US$2,500 per tonne should be the planning figure while anything higher should be a big bonus. Investors in the mines should not blame recession for their financial fallout but instead realign their operations in a prudent manner for their effective functioning. *(TP, 07.04.09)*

Plans to Reduce Business Cost

World Bank Vice-president for Africa, Obiageli Ezekwesili has advised the Zambian government not to risk its capital by increasing its shareholding in copper mines. This advice has come due to government's plan to quickly implement economic reforms that will reduce the cost of doing business in the country and increase its stake in the mines to augment its decision-making in the sector.

But Ezekwesili said the government should not risk its scarce resources that could be channelled to other economic sectors during the current economic crisis. According to her, the country is at the canter of economic transformation and government should quickly implement its policies since people are willing to participate in the economic transformation of the country.

(ZDM, 17.05.09)

Swedish Aid to Aid Zambia

Swedish Ambassador to Zambia, Lars Ronnas said that his government will support Zambia with approximately US$48mn for its development plans based on the Fifth National Development Plan (FNDP). The budget support will be in areas of agriculture, health and energy.

In the energy field, the Swedish government was engaged in rural electrification. Ambassador Ronnas said he was happy with the utilisation of funds given by his government. He also said the issue of governance was always important to the Swedish government as it wanted to make sure that the money that was contributed to Zambia was accounted for. *(TP, 10.04.09)*

Infra Inv. - Solution for Crisis

The African Development Bank (AfDB) Group President Donald Kaberuka has observed that a rapid resolution of the current financial crisis will be possible if investments in infrastructure development are accelerated. Kaberuka said a quick turn-around from the current financial crisis depended on many factors, such as, African countries' investment climate related issues and their progress on infrastructure development.

The AfDB had responded promptly to the financial and economic crisis by making Africa's voice heard at international decision-making bodies, including the G-20 Summit and by scaling up its cooperation with other multilateral development banks in order to pool more resources for countries facing challenges. *(ZDM, 14.06.09)*

IMF Happy with Reforms

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has said it is impressed with the economic reforms currently underway in Zimbabwe, courtesy of the newly inclusive government.

Zimbabwe is trying to recover from years of economic decline which, according to IMF figures recorded an estimated 14 percent fall in real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 2008, on top of 40 percent cumulative decline during 2000-07. Poverty and unemployment rose to about 90 percent. Support from IMF will depend upon policy implementation, donor support and a resolution of overdue financial obligations. *(ZDM, 20.04.09)*

Tunisia Tops in Competitiveness

Tunisia tops the competitiveness index in Africa according to the 2009 World Economic Forum report. Tunisia which is ranked 36th globally in the competitiveness index, has portrayed competitiveness on goods markets, taxation systems and agricultural sectors that are not very costly to the economy, according to the report.

However, despite ranking second in Africa in technological readiness, Tunisia still suffers from low technology penetration rates, according the report.

The report further said Tunisia has a well functioning health and educational system, as well as sound levels of domestic competition. Tunisia is ranked 17th in the world in terms of the quality of its educational system and 7th in terms of the quality of math and science education. *(Afrolnews.com, 17.06.09)*

Assurance of Assistance

Japan has pledged to assist the COMESA member countries and the continent at large with concessional loans and grants amounting to US$4bn over a period of five years. The country has also pledged to expedite implementation of the US$2bn grant and technical assistance to help African countries tackle the prevailing economic and financial crisis.

"Japan will double its Overseas Development Aid (ODA) for Africa by 2010. Japan is determined to carry out its commitments made at Tokyo International Conference on Africa's Development (TICAD)", said the Japanese Ambassador to Zambia.

(ZDM,09.06.09)

Agriculture May Fix Crunch

The world's recession has become a household name in Kenya and indeed the world over. As a nation, our primary objective is to generate income, which, in turn, can be used to purchase goods and services.

One way to encourage and facilitate agriculture based Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) is through subsidies, at least in the short term. Majority of small-scale farmers give up due to poor returns as a result of inability to access the necessary but expensive farm inputs and seeds.

A clear policy on subsidies would improve production, ensure food security and earn foreign exchange through exports. The other way is educating small-scale farmers on alternative agricultural activities especially those that do not entirely rely on rainfall.

(BD, 20.06.09)

Aids Frozen

Zambia is one of the countries that is mainly dependent on aid to supplement its annual budget. Zambia's dependency on aids is due to low returns from its Gross National Product (GNP) and GDP. The donor community has been willingly helping boost the Zambian economy and livelihood of its citizens.

But this picture recently changed when donor aid was frozen to the Ministry of Health due to a corruption scandal of about K29 bn (US$557692.3bn). The Swedish government through the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) and the Netherlands government has decided to suspend their financial support to the ministry.

(Simon Ng'ona, 26.05.09)

Market Reforms to Resurrect Africa

The current global downturn is a crisis emanating from advanced economies rather than from bad policies on part of sub-Saharan African (SSA) countries. African economies will nevertheless be affected through a variety of international trade-related channels, including reduced commodity prices and exports receipts, foreign direct investment (FDI) and equity flows, exchange rate fluctuations, and remittances.

Trade is already shrinking, growth declining, and unemployment rising. The associated losses for SSA countries are forecasted at over US$50bn in 2008-2009. African development is hampered by a four-component poverty trap.

First, inadequate access to markets and growth poles; second, poor governance; third, its natural resources have been of interest to many; and fourth, climate change and environmental security are sources of concern. Spill over of the global financial crisis could worsen poverty on each of the above dimensions.

(BD, 02.04.09)

Value for Money

The Irish government has advised the Zambian government to prove the value for the money that the donor community has aided to Zambia. The Irish Ambassador to Zambia said the value for money was a priority and that donor representatives need to know the use of money so that its misuse could be stopped.

The matter has been brought to the notice of the President and all ministries and permanent secretaries will have to take the issue on a serious note. *(TP, 13.06.09)*

Forum to Address Financial Crisis

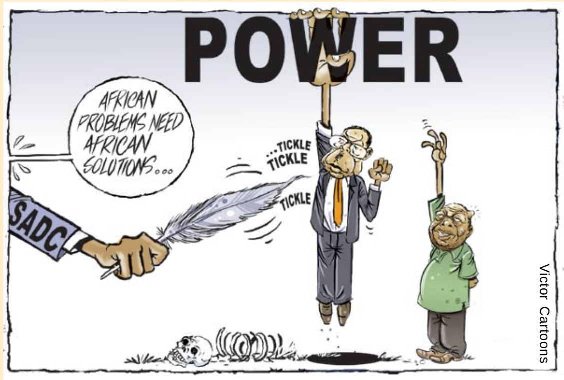
The World Economic Forum (WEF) was organised to provide a platform for world leaders to address and exchange views on the responses to the global financial crisis. While SSA has been less impacted by the global recession than most other emerging regions, the economic crisis still represent both a challenge and an opportunity for the continent and its people.

Summing up two days of intensive discussions and workshops that addressed the short-term economic outlook, as well as Africa's longer-term development needs, key leaders took a relatively optimistic view. They said the continent's resources – both human and physical – leave it well positioned to return to a rapid growth path, as long as governments move aggressively to deliver on their commitments to market reforms, political accountability and investment in infrastructure and education.

(AN,05.06.09)

Decision Wins Support

Some political parties and civil society members have backed the Southern African Development Community (SADC) decision to help Zimbabwe with financial resources to rebuild her economy. The member states of SADC should contribute US$10bn towards Zimbabwe's economic recovery.



Zambia's Forum for Democracy and Development (FDD) Vice President, Chifumu Banda said all the SADC countries would benefit greatly if Zimbabwe's economy normalised. Had SADC foreseen the problems that are now prevalent in Zimbabwe and acted earlier, the country's economy would not have deteriorated to such a level. *(ZDM, 07.06.09)*

Rules Relaxed

Tanzania has offered to allow more import goods manufactured within the EAC, pushing the trading bloc's search for an unfettered market access a step higher. The country's standards regulator has directed Tanzania Food and Drugs Authority (TFDA) to allow goods that have been cleared as fit for consumption by various national quality bodies of member states.

The signal by the Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) means goods manufactured within EAC will now trade freely in Tanzania without need for further testing at entry points as long as they bear the standardisation marks issued by the national quality regulators of the countries of origin. Relaxed market entry rules, therefore, come as a welcome relief to traders . *(BD, 13.05.09)*

Extraordinary Summit

The Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) in Zimbabwe recently ended its annual conference with a call for urgent SADC extraordinary summit to break its deadlock with Zimbabwe African National Unit – Patriotic Front (ZANU-PF) over central bank governor. The MDC wants the central bank chief to be removed from his post for contributing to the country's economic meltdown by excessively printing money to support quasi-fiscal activities.

The party believes the two individuals, both appointees of President Robert Mugabe are holding back progress. The MDC believes Central Bank Governor, Dr Gideon Gono and Attorney General, Johannes Tomana were unilaterally appointed by the president without due regard to the political agreement that establishes the unity government, which require that consultation must have been made prior to their appointments.

(TP, 02.06.09)

EAC Resolutions will Boost Trade

Even as concern mounts that partner states could use the amendments proposed in the EAC Common Market to erect non-tariff barriers, the East African Business Council, an apex body of business associations in the region, says the move will promote trade in the region. The decision taken by EAC Heads of State in regard to the contentious issues of the protocol that have delayed its signing over the last three years was the only way the integration process could move forward without alienating any member state.

The tenth heads of state summit in Arusha endorsed Tanzania's long held position that the sections of the Common Market protocol governing land access, immigration policy and right of business establishment be amended in favour of national laws, setting the stage for the signing of the common market by November 2009. *(BD, 05.05.09)*

Taking the Bull by the Horns

COMESA is planning to improve income and enhance food security of livestock dependent households in the region dubbed "Regional Enhanced Livelihoods in Pastrotal Areas". Currently, poor livestock services, such as inefficient production, marketing and distribution systems are among some of the major limiting factors to regional and export markets.

There is need for regional organisations like COMESA to urgently undertake appropriate disease management interventions in support of domestic and export trade for the sake of farmers. COMESA with other member states is also developing a long-term strategy for livestock development to take advantage of the global livestock market. The aim is to promote safer trade in livestock and products of animal origin to enhance the contribution of livestock sector to economic development in the region. *(TS, 21.04.09)*

Anti-poverty Grant Ready

COMESA will administer the US$3.4mn grant approved in 2008 by the AfDB to help member states implement programmes aimed at fighting poverty. However, the COMESA Secretariat warned that this grant cannot be used for executing large-scale undertakings such as population censuses, agriculture censuses, and household surveys but it can be used for carrying out work at the preparatory and analytical phases of these activities.

The programmes will be undertaken in four cluster areas approved by AfDB and will be based on the priorities approved by the member states' National Strategies for Development of Statistics or Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers.

(TEA, 07.06.09)

Slow Results of CU

Local manufacturers will have to wait three years before they can enjoy the benefits of the recently agreed COMESA trade agreement. Though leaders from the 19-member country bloc launched a CU that would allow free movement of goods and services across the region but it will take three years to be fully implemented.

Heads of States endorsed the CU which means that all finished imported goods to the region will attract 25 percent duty. However, the members were not expected to sign any deal to join the CU because it was included in the COMESA Treaty of 1994 that proposed it to be launched after ten years. *(TS, 24.06.09)*

Botswana Slides into Recession

According to Central Statistics Office (CSO) Botswana's real GDP fell to P4.914 bn (US$0.72bn) in the first quarter of 2009. Mining and quarrying industry contributed most to the decline of the economy recording a 68.6 percent fall. Water and electricity industry also recorded a decrease of four percent.

The figures show that compared to the last quarter of 2008 real GDP in Botswana fell by 22 percent. The decline was due to decreases in mining and quarrying industry; water and electricity; general government; finance and business services and trade, hotels and restaurants.

(Allafrica.com 29.06.09)

Back into Debt Trap

The Jesuit Centre for Theological Reflection (JCTR) has warned that Zambia is slowly falling back into the debt trap because of government's failure to put in place a legal framework for debt contraction.

Speaking during a forum dubbed "Meet your Leaders" JCTR Programmes Officer for Debt, Aid and Trade, Privilege Hang'andu, said it was saddening to see the country slip back into the debt trap due to unnecessary and irresponsible borrowing. The debt legal framework allows parliament to decide on the nature of loans the country should contract. Hang'andu said the irresponsible borrowing by the government was unsustainable and needed to be stopped. *(TP, 27.05.09)*

Political Stand on EPAs

The Eastern and Southern African (ESA) countries negotiating the Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) with the European Union (EU) have removed technocrats from the negotiations table, claiming the urgent need to add a political dimension to the negotiations.

This development clearly indicates that the ESA configuration would soon sign a full EPA that would result in a free trade agreement whereby EU goods would flood the markets of ESA countries and if signed in the current state would adversely and negatively affect the local industries that cannot compete effectively with EU companies due to high subsidies.

"The EPA negotiations have been taken at a political level since time was not on our side. We have to end somewhere and politicians have a sense of urgency to conclude and produce results so we have taken it up at political level and we shall sign provided contentious issues are addressed", Felix Mutati, Zambian Minister of Trade and Secretary General of COMESA said. *(Simon Ng'ona, 15.05.09)*

Increasing Trade Opportunities

Trade between the five East African Countries (EAC) is increasing, paving the way for quicker formation of a common market. Statistics published by EAC Secretariat Arusha show that the region's prospects of investment and job creation will increase. Overall, the EAC recorded an average real growth of 6.8 percent in 2007 and an average per capita income of US$424. The average annual underlying inflation rate increased to 7.6 percent in 2007, from 5.4 percent in 2006.

The highest increase was in food prices. Coffee production in the region has been on the decline since 2003, while tea production has risen. In 2003-2007, there was a decline in hydropower generation as a proportion of total generation. This decline has been offset by a gradual rise in thermal power generation in the region. Investment in mineral exploration declined from US$72mn in 2006 to US$13.7m in 2007. The survey by the EAC secretariat forecasts deeper integration of the region. *(TEA, 30.05.09)*

FDI Cushions Downturn

Foreign investment from China and the Persian Gulf nations is helping Africa weather the global downturn. China, which has been an African investor for more than a decade, plans to step up activities and work on its reputation in SSA as an employer and business partner. Persian Gulf investors, too, although hammered by the downturn, say they are sticking with African projects.

Foreign-investment flows could be a critical lifeline for some SSA economies. The region's income has been hit by falling commodity prices, dwindling government revenue and remittances declining. The increased interest from China and Gulf countries, as well as India, has helped to embolden some African governments to demand more favorable terms or to create a more competitive business environment. *(TWSJ, 27.06.09)*

Ripe for Investment

Angola and Mozambican economies have presented vast opportunities in their reconstruction programmes, especially in the energy sector, according to a new investment climate report by Frost & Sullivan.

It expects the current electricity industry reformation to reduce investment barriers significantly, saying both countries' investment laws give foreign and domestic investors equal access to investment incentives and enable the participation of private investor in public infrastructure projects.

Frost & Sullivan also said the investment environment in both countries is characterised by bureaucratic procedures with high levels of corruption, making international investors reluctant to invest. *(AfrolNews.com, 07.05.09)*

New Trade Deal Opposed

Ugandan legislators have recommended the suspension of trade talks between the EAC member states and the EU. The talks, which will lead to the signing of framework agreements are aimed at opening up markets in the EAC member states to EU goods, a move they argue is detrimental to the region's industrial growth.

The Members of Parliament on the Committee of Tourism, Trade & Industry, in their report to parliament, have urged the EAC member states to pull out the negotiations before any concrete agreements are signed. The MPs argue that the market access offer as provided by the EPAs is questionable. *(TEA,01.06.09)*

Expanding Trade Relations

The Chambers of Commerce of Madrid and Gambia have signed a collaboration agreement to promote trade relations. The agreement seeks to promote internationalisation of companies in Madrid and Africa and to increase bilateral trade relations.

They have also agreed to exchange economic and trade information between entrepreneurs to know the prospects and business opportunities in their respective markets.

The Gambia is a gateway to the countries of Economic Community of Western Africa, the bloc which has 15 members in west Africa. It also has an important commercial port, due to its free port status which serves more consumers in the West Africa. *(WTO, 29.06.09)*

Climate Change – Who is Responsible?

British High Commissioner to Zambia, Tom Carter said UK is partly responsible for the problems in climate change. Carter said UK was one of the industrialised countries, which contributed to rising green house emissions. He said that though Zambia has hardly produced any of the greenhouse gases, which are now changing the world's climate, yet it would be one of the first countries to suffer from climate change. Therefore, Zambia should demand more global action on climate change.

He said Britain would help Zambia in its campaigns against climate change as it did not have enough resources. He said schools played a key role in raising awareness of the dangers of climate change, adding that environmental issues needed to feature prominently in the school curriculum. *(TP, 11.05.09)*

Farmland Investment

Fertile soil in Africa is now sought by international investors to the tune of hundreds of thousands of hectares. A report on the trend – "Farmland Grab" concludes that food security, rather than commercial enterprise, is behind most of the deals sealed or negotiated.

Alarmed by exporters' trade restrictions, food importing countries have realised that their dependence on the agricultural market makes them vulnerable not only to a surge in prices but, more crucially, to an interruption in supplies.

The report adds: "The trend of farmland investment is real and gaining ground". The trend to outsource the provision of food security and pursue self-sufficiency at home is hotly contested by agricultural companies and trade officials. Pascal Lamy, head of WTO, warned that more trade rather than less trade was the solution to food security. *(FT, 25.05.09)*

Difference of Opinion

The Zambia National Farmers Union (ZNFU) has rejected the K65000 (US$12.2) floor prices for a 50 kg bag of maize but the Food Reserve Agency (FRA) has maintained that the price is fair enough and has advised farmers who are not satisfied to sell their commodity to other buyers in the agriculture industry.

ZNFU Executive Director, Ndambo said the price was demeaning to farmers since they have put in more to harvest the crop.

He said ZNFU expected a minimum floor price between K75,000 (US$14.5) and K85,000 (US$16.4) per 50 kg bag of maize. Ndambo said setting of price is a serious national matter which demands consultation before setting the price. FRA widely consulted the producers, buyers and consumers and they found it reasonable. *(ZDM, 18.05.09)*

GMO Maize

The majority of Kenyans might be consuming genetically modified maize without their knowledge, according to a Parliamentary Committee on Agriculture report.

The report says about 90 percent of maize imported into the country for human consumption is of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO) variety.

The report says out of the eight ships that docked in Mombasa between September 2008 and February 2009, seven had delivered the GMO maize variety mainly from India and South Africa. *(DN, 02.05.09)*

ZESCO Tariffs

ZNFU has revealed that it is preparing a comprehensive reaction to the proposed increase in tariffs by Zambia Electricity Supply Company (ZESCO) Limited. ZESCO Limited has proposed to increase the electricity tariff by an average of 66 percent for both maximum demand and domestic consumers in 2009 to bring tariffs to cost-reflective levels.

ZNFU stated that it was in touch with the Energy Regulation Board (ERB) where information was being solicited as regards to justification for the proposed increase.

ZESCO contends that its application for a tariff hike was aimed at bringing the cost of electricity in the country to cost reflective levels which could necessitate new investments in electricity generation. *(TP, 14.04.09)*

Renewable Energy takes Roots

The effort to tap renewable sources of power in Kenya is on with two wind power projects expected to start operating in the next two years. The two projects have a capacity to produce almost half of Kenya's current electricity needs. Moreover, the first commercial solar electricity project is also planned to start operating soon.

Further, introduction of a commercial biogas engine that uses garbage to generate electricity will ease reliance of manufacturers on the national electricity grid. The new rush has seen companies like global renewable energy leader GE Energy, newcomers like Gitson Energy and KenGen in the renewable energy sector.

It is expected that in the next two years, they will change Kenya's electricity generation situation, currently dominated by hydro, geothermal and thermal power. *(BD, 28.05.09)*

Lifting Wheat Export Ban Tax

The ZNFU has requested the government to allow farmers export surplus wheat to other countries. ZNFU Executive Director, Ndambo Ndambo, said farmers had about 70,000 metric tonnes of unsold wheat as at March 27, 2009.

The carry-over stock and 2009's crop means Zambia has wheat stock of about 260,000 tonnes against national requirement of 210,000 tonnes.

Ndambo said the union had since submitted three options to the Ministry of Finance and National Planning to consider allowing farmers to export wheat and buy wheat from farmers through the FRA. *(ZDM 19.05.09)*

Building Trading Capacity for Poverty Reduction

Consumer Unity & Trust Society-Africa Resource Centre (CUTS ARC), Lusaka in partnership with Civil Society for Poverty Reduction (CSPR), Zambia and with the assistance of Finnish Embassy, Zambia is supporting civil society groups to respond to ongoing policy discussions in Zambia on productive capacity building and trade development taking place through the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF). During the first half year of the project, a number of activities and research was undertaken to supplement work by the Government of Zambia to benefit from the EIF support.

Roundtable Meeting with Donors

A Round Table meeting on the EIF with the donors was held in Lusaka, on April 09, 2009. The objectives of the meeting were to:

- present recommendations that have been coming out form the workshops conducted by ARC, Lusaka;
- get an update from EIF-Geneva team on the implementation of the EIF (opportunities and challenges); and
- present the findings of the research on the DTIS in Zambia.

The meeting was attended by Dorothy Tembo, the EIF WTO Executive Director, Yusuf Dodia, Chairman, Private Sector Development Association (PSDA), Dale Mudenda, Researcher, DTIS Assessment, other civil society organisations (CSOs) and CUTS Board members and staff.

Private Sector Roundtable Meeting

A half day roundtable meeting for Private Sector on the EIF was held in Lusaka, on May 08, 2009. The objective of the meeting was to get recommendations from the Private Sector in Zambia which would support Private Sector Organisations to respond to ongoing policy discussions on trade and development taking place in the EIF process thus play an active role in the Trade Expansion Working Group (TEWG).

Sensitisation Workshop on the Gender Dimensions

A one day Sensitisation Workshop on gender dimensions of EIF was held in Lusaka, on June 12, 2009. The objectives of the workshop were to:

- sensitise gender based organisations on the EIF so as that they assess the opportunities of the EIF;
- raise gender concerns and input them into the EIF implementation process in Zambia; and
- educate gender based group about the extent to which trade and the EIF in particular can contribute to development and poverty reduction.

The workshop was well attended with 40 participants ranging from MCTI, COMESA CSOs; gender based organisations etc.

EAC's Integration Agenda

CUTS Geneva Resource Centre (CUTS GRC) in collaboration with CUTS Africa Resource Centre (CUTS ARC), Nairobi organised a regional workshop under the theme "Civil Society Response to Emerging Challenges and Opportunities of EAC Regional Integration" as part of the 'Building Inclusive East African Community' (BIEAC) Project in Nairobi, on April 27-28, 2009. The workshop discussed the research findings on the BIEAC project from all the five East African community partner states and provided insights on how EAC countries could better integrate in the global economy.

CUTS-WTO Joint Regional Outreach Event

The first ever CUTS-WTO Joint Regional Outreach Workshop was organised in Nairobi, on April 29-30, 2009 in collaboration with ARC, Nairobi. The event was inaugurated by Assistant Minister of Trade, Kenya and was attended by delegates from Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Rwanda, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda. This activity has built the foundation for such joint activities in the future. Patrick Low, Director, Economic Research Division, and Maria Perez-Esteve, Counsellor, External Division attended from the WTO.

Fostering Equity and Accountability in Trade

CUTS Geneva Resource Centre (CUTS GRC) jointly with ARC, Lusaka and Nairobi organised national dialogues under the Fostering Equity and Accountability in Trading System (FEATS) project in Lusaka and Nairobi on April 06 & May 19, 2009 respectively. CUTS GRC with the support of The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, US, is implementing the project. FEATS project countries include Kenya, Malawi, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia.

The project is divided into two phases of trade policy research, the first to analyse the political economy aspects of trade policy-making in the project countries and the second to focus on a specific issue within the topic of "Trade in Agriculture".

National dialogues were divided into two substantive sessions: to discuss the first phase research and make progress on the Terms of Reference (ToRs) for the second phase research. As part of the first session, a questionnaire was circulated with questions aimed at validating the research output of the first study, as well as to fill in some research gaps.

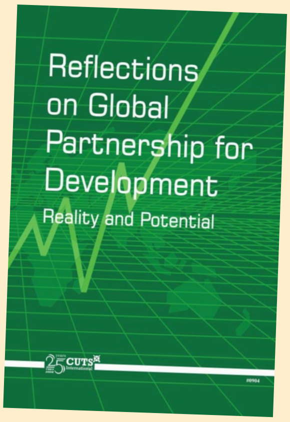
An Assessment of the Zambian Diagnostic Trade Integrated Study

CUTS commissioned a study to review the Diagnostic Trade Integration Study (DTIS) of Zambia which was drafted in 2005 by the government. The study identified gaps in the DTIS and suggested improvements that can be made in the study in order build capacity and reduce poverty.

A Study on the Rice Value-chain in Zambia

A sector specific study has also been undertaken on the rice value chain to address the challenges that the rice industry faces and how the EIF can address them to enhance employment, exports, and food security in Zambia. Rice was chosen as a supplementary sector in addition to the areas already selected by the government in consultation with the EIF secretariat, such as honey and livestock.

Reflections on Global Partnership for Development: *Reality and Potential*



CUTS International organised a conference on the Global Partnership for Development (GPD) in New Delhi, on August 12-13, 2008. The conference was enriched by papers and presentations from a wide range of experts hailing from both the developed and the developing world as well as open house deliberations and panel discussions. This volume compiles the papers presented during the course of this conference and examines diverse aspects of the GPD from different angles.

http://www.cuts-citee.org/pdf/Reflections_on_Global_Partnership_for_Development_Reality_and_Potential.pdf

Trade and Climate Change

(CITEE No 5/2009)

This briefing paper tries to sketch the relationship between climate change and trade in a concise, yet accessible, manner around four interrelated questions:

- What are the similarities and differences between trade and international climate agreements?
- How does trade liberalisation impact climate change?
- In what ways could both be mutually beneficial?
- How could trade and climate change mitigation efforts come in conflict?

http://www.cuts-citee.org/pdf/BP09-WTO-04.pdf

Sources

AN: Afrol News; BD: Business Day; CN: COMESA News; COMESA: Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa; DM: Daily Monitor; FT: Financial Times; SM: Africa Online; TP: The Post; WTO: World Trade Organisation; ZDM: Zambia Daily Mail

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