

# CUTS Africa in Action

November 2016-January 2017



## EVENTS

### World Competition Day 2016

As part of celebrating the 'World Competition Day 2016', CUTS Accra, Ghana held a seminar at Coconut Grove Hotel (Accra) on December 05, 2016. The theme of the seminar was: 'Cement: Issue of Competition or Unfair Trade Practice'? The event was attended by academia, many CSOs, etc.

### First Consumer Roundtable

CUTS Nairobi, Kenya organised the first Consumer Roundtable Meeting under the 'Voice for Change Programme' on November 17, 2016 at Panafric Hotel. The objective of the meeting was to introduce the Food Nutrition and Safety (FNS) Programme on 'Milk and Horticulture Safety' to discuss on on key consumer safety issues, and develop joint policy advocacy actions by the consumer organisations relating to food safety and loss reduction.



### Muranga County Dairy Stakeholders' Meeting

CUTS Nairobi, Kenya in partnership with the county Government of Muranga, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock conducted a meeting to establish engagement frameworks/opportunities for food safety and loss reduction in Muranga County and provide recommendations. The meeting took place on November 16 and December 06, 2016 at Muranga County, KARLO Offices.

### Public Hearing Meeting: 2017 Zambia National Budget

Civil Society for Poverty Reduction (CSPR), Jesuit Centre for Theological Reflection (JCTR) and Caritas Zambia in collaboration with CUTS Lusaka (Zambia), Economics Association of Zambia (EAZ) and Zambia National Education Coalition (ZANEC) hosted a Public Hearing Meeting on November 23, 2016 to discuss 2017 Zambia National Budget. The main purpose of the Public Hearing was to: analyse the 2017 Budget and make comparisons with the joint submission made by Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) to the Government.

### Food Safety and Post-Harvest Losses in the Dairy Industry in Kenya Training

CUTS Nairobi in partnership with SNV, not-for-profit international development organisation, organised training for CUTS Nairobi, Kenya staff on Food Safety and Post-harvest Losses under the 'Voice for Change' Project on January 25-26, 2017 at Nairobi Centre. The objective of the training was to enhance effective policy reforms in the dairy sector focussing on food safety and loss reduction issues.

## IN THIS ISSUE

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

## **ONGOING PROJECTS**

### **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 will be undertaking a study and advocacy measures on likely impact of the fuel subsidies' removal on consumers. The Concept Note for this Project was revised in collaboration with the Zambian Institute of Policy and Research (ZIPAR). Responsibilities is divided between the two institutions and survey instrument is developed.

### **Cross Border Trading Literature Review**

CUTS Accra, Ghana with funding support from the Food and Agriculture Organisation (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 and CUTS Nairobi Centres. The Project is being implemented over a year's period.

### **Consumer Awareness on the Importance of Sustainable Landscapes Management**

CUTS Lusaka, Zambia is undertaking the Project in collaboration with Solidaridad. A media breakfast meeting was held on February 02, 2017 to inform the media about the Project, so that they can raise public awareness on the benefits of sustainable consumption and production. Two radio programmes and one TV show will air soon as part of the activities under this Project.

### **Enhancing Consumer and Regulatory Action on Consumer Issues in the Healthcare Sector**

#### ***Multimedia Dissemination Campaign***

A Contract was signed under the Project 'Enhancing Consumer and Regulatory Action on Consumer Issues in the Healthcare Sector: Multimedia Dissemination Campaign' and list of activities to be undertaken in the first quarter was submitted to Zambian Governance Foundation (ZGF). A Patient Manual will be translated into local languages and meetings will be set up with the key stakeholders.

### **Enhancing Investment in Agriculture for Women Smallholder Farmers and Ensuring Increased Access to Land**

The Project 'Enhancing Investment in Agriculture for Women Smallholder Farmers and Ensuring Increased Access to Land' has been approved and a 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.

## **NEW INITIATIVES**

### **CSOs' Engagement in the Continental Free Trade Agreement of Africa**

CUTS Nairobi is seeking funding to implement a project on 'Civil Society Organisations' Engagement in the Continental Free Trade Agreement (CFTA) of Africa'. The goal of the project is to ensure a meaningful consultation and transparency for a comprehensive CFTA negotiations and implementation through a CSO engagement forum.

### **Fostering Fair Competition for Stimulating Investment in the EAC**

CUTS Nairobi is soliciting funding to support a project titled 'Fostering Fair Competition to Stimulate Investment in the East African Community'. The goal of the project is to facilitate fair competition in the Information and Communication Technologies, Financial services, and Agri-business (dairy) sectors in the EAC through legal/policy and institutional reforms.

### **Impact of Trade Taxes on the Regional Integration Agenda**

CUTS Lusaka is planning funding to undertake a study on the 'Impact of Trade Taxes on the Regional Integration Agenda', particularly in light of conversations regarding the CFTA. With most governments dependent on customs duties for resource mobilisation, could this hinder the reduction of tariff barriers necessary to promote regional integration?

### **Enhancing Regional Cross-border Trade**

CUTS Lusaka is seeking funding to undertake a project looking at the 'Role of Technology in Enhancing Regional Cross-border Trade in Southern Africa', with a special focus on women and youth.

### **COMPAD II: Competition Law Drafting**

CUTS Accra is soliciting support from the Business Sector Advocacy Challenge (BUSAC) Fund to implement a Project entitled "COMPAD II: Competition Law Drafting". The aim of the Project is to draft the National Competition Law for the Ministry of Trade and Industry (MOTI).

### **Low Intra-regional Trade of Food Products**

CUTS Accra is seeking for funding support 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 of food products in ECOWAS in a sustainable manner. The Project is expected to be implemented over a period of one year.

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### National Reference Group 3 Meeting

Under the PACT-EAC2 Project, CUTS Nairobi is organising a National Reference Group Meeting 3 (NRG3) meeting on March 13, 2017 in Nairobi, Kenya. The objective of the meeting will be to launch a study conducted in Kenya entitled ‘Agro-industrial Development Policies: What Nexus to Climate, Food Security, and Trade’? The meeting aims to link the recommendations of this study to agro-processing related policies that are in the pipeline to set the stage for policy advocacy on climate-awareness, food security enhancing, and trade driven agro-processing in Kenya.

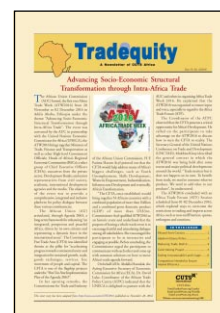
### Meeting with Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung

CUTS Accra, Ghana on February 22, 2017 will be meeting Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (SFE) to request for funds to support some aspects of the “Advocating for Functional Competition Regime for Ghana II” (COMPAD II) Project.

## PUBLICATIONS

### Tradequity

The October-December 2016 issue of the quarterly newsletter carries a cover story entitled ‘Advancing Socio-Economic Structural Transformation through Intra-Africa Trade’ highlighting the first ever Africa Trade Week (ATW2016) held from November 28 to December 02, 2016 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia under the theme: “Advancing Socio-Economic Structural Transformation through Intra-Africa Trade”. The newsletter covers news on Economics and Development, Trade, Regional Issues and Consumer and Environment. The newsletter covers a Special Feature ‘Competition Needed to Ensure Market Efficiency’.



### Impact of Various Tax Related Investment Measures on the Zambian Economy: *Special Focus on the Agriculture Sector*

In the 21<sup>st</sup> century great strides have been made in social and economic development in many countries translating some poor countries like Zambia to middle income levels. Notwithstanding these notable changes in the country’s economy, investment promotion remains relevant in Zambia as well as in other developing economies as local investment capacity continues to be outpaced by demand for goods and services in both local and international markets. It is against this background that this study seeks to look at the impact of various tax-related investment measures in the economy with special focus on the agriculture sector.

## REPRESENTATIONS

**Clement Onyango**, Centre Coordinator, CUTS Nairobi attended a bilateral meeting with Trade Mark East Africa on November 16, 2016 at their office. The objective of the meeting was to discuss on the possible areas of collaboration with TradeMark East Africa (TMEA).

**Appiah Kusi Adomako**, Centre Coordinator, CUTS Accra (Ghana) and **Edayatu Lamptey** from the Accra Centre had a meeting with Dangote Cement Company Limited, Tema on November 21, 2016, to introduce CUTS, discuss possible working partnerships and also invite them to the World Competition Day Policy Dialogue.

**Chenai Mukumba**, Centre Coordinator, and **Muntanga Musiwa** of CUTS Lusaka (Zambia) attended a CSO Sustainable Development Goal Training on January 19, 2017 at Intercontinental Hotel (Lusaka). The meeting was organised by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The objective was to train CSOs on mainstreaming Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

**Boniface Otieno Owin** and **Daniel Asher** from CUTS Nairobi attended Stakeholder meetings in Homa-Bay County on January 19, 2017 under the Energy and Climate Change Advocacy in Kenya Project. The objective of the meeting was to discuss the way forward on engagement at the county level under the SP-E Project by CUTS Nairobi.

**Appiah Kusi Adomako** and **Edayatu Lamptey** on the November 21, 2016, had a meeting with GHACEM (Cement Manufacturers) to introduce CUTS, Accra and to discuss possible working partnerships and also invite them to the World Competition Day Policy Dialogue.

**Boniface Otieno Owin**, **Daniel Asher** and **Kebenei Chepkoech Joan** from CUTS Nairobi attended a ‘Policy Analysis Training’ workshop from 13-16 December, 2016 at Masada Hotel, Naivasha (Nairobi). The objective of the workshop was to train partner CSOs under the Voice for Change Partnership on policy analysis and developing policy briefs for advocacy in 2017.

**Muntanga Musiwa** attended a meeting on ‘Basic Needs Basket’ on November 29, 2016. The meeting organised by Jesuit Centre for Theological Reflection (JCTR). The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the contents of the Basic Needs Basket prepared by JCTR.

**Daniel Asher** attended a Joint sector (Dairy and Horticulture) meeting with Nakuru County Government to present the programme activity plan for endorsement by Nakuru County Government at their office on January 11, 2017.

## REPRESENTATIONS

**Muntanga Musiwa** attended a breakfast meeting on the 2017 Agriculture, Fisheries and Livestock Sector Budget Analysis on November 22, 2016. The meeting was held at Pamodzi Hotel (Lusaka) and was organised by Indaba Agricultural Policy Research Institute (IAPRI). The purpose of the meeting was to analyse the Agriculture, Fisheries and Livestock sector of the National Budget.

**Kebenei Chepkoech Joan** and **Daniel Asher** attended the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Regional Business Development Service Training and conference in Mombasa (Kenya) from November 21-25, 2016 at Pride Inn Hotel in Nairobi. The objective of the meeting was to introduce participants to 'Market Systems Thinking and Key Concepts and Frameworks' required for adopting the markets work for the poor approach in their work.



## REFLECTIONS FROM MEDIA

### Competition Needed to Ensure Market Efficiency

*B&FT, December 08, 2016*

"In a competitive market both consumers and producers are presented with affordable and wider choices of quality goods and service and this brings about efficiency in allocation of resources, thus the benefits of a competitive market cannot be overlooked. Professor Justice Samuel Kofi Date-Bah, retired Justice of the Supreme Court of Ghana and Board Chair, CUTS Ghana said that the recent agitations in the cement industry should serve as an indication to policy makers the need for a fully functional competition and unfair trade practice law to regulate the conduct of the market players. Appiah Kusi Adomako, Centre Coordinator for CUTS International, Accra (Ghana) indicated that consumers desire to have quality cement at an affordable price and one way of achieving this is through the presence of multiple players in the market competing among them.

<http://thebitonline.com/business/economy/22236/competition-needed-to-ensure-market-efficiency.html#sthash.0pTUlqvB.dpuf>

### High Poverty Levels in Luapula Worry Civic Leader

*Lusaka Times, November 17, 2016*

Mulenshi Ward Councilor of Mansa Municipal Council Yotham Mwansa has described the 81.1 percent poverty ranking for Luapula Province of Zambia as worrisome because it has the potential of reaching 100 percent. Mwansa expressed his concern during the Civil Society Poverty Observation Group in partnership with the Civil Society for Poverty Reduction, CUTS Lusaka, (Zambia) Public Hearing Meeting on Social Accountability in Mansa district near Lusaka. He said that Civil Society Organisations should start encouraging people to seriously engage in productive strategies of reducing poverty at personal and household level as opposed to shifting the blame to institutions of government and local authorities.

<https://www.lusakatimes.com/2016/11/17/high-poverty-levels-luapula-worry-civic-leader/>

### 'Cement War' Good for Building Industry

*Graphic Online, December 02 2016*

The Centre Coordinator for CUTS Accra, Appiah Kusi Adomako said that in the past, there was no competition in cement and GHACEM, leading cement company of Ghana enjoyed monopoly for about 35 years. In 2002, Diamond Cement came into the industry, which made it a duopoly and, as it stands, competition has been heated up with the presence of Dangote cement. "There has been issues and allegations in the cement industry because the profit of GHACEM has been reduced but these issues have to be investigated to see if it is true or false before the necessary action can be taken", he added. He also mentioned that the key drivers of cement prices in Ghana were taxes, forex rates, which affect exchange rates, factors of production in terms of energy as well as labour and production shortages.

<http://www.graphic.com.gh/news/general-news/cement-war-good-for-building-industry.html>

### BUSAC Fund and Private Sector Advocacy

*By Appiah Kusi Adomako, CUTS Ghana*

Every Government since the start of the Fourth Republic has identified the private sector as an engine for inclusive economic growth. Data from the Ghana Statistical Service indicates that the private sector's contribution to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) has seen exponential growth over the past decades. With Government ambitiously pursuing Public Private Partnerships for infrastructure development, it is estimated that private capital and private sector share of the economy would increase thereby creating more jobs and bringing in revenue for the Government. In spite of the plethora of the private sector's contribution to the economy, the sector is bedevilled with an avalanche of issues ranging from poor business operating environment to high cost of credit.

<http://thebitonline.com/companies/23042/busac-fund-and-private-sector-advocacy-.html>