

EVENTS

Launch of FNS Programme

CUTS Nairobi, Kenya and the Society of Crop Agribusiness Advisors of Kenya (SOCAA) have been working together under SNV's Voice for Change Partnership-Food Nutrition and Security (FNS). The goal of the project is to improve food security and nutrition through increased consumption of safe food and reduction of food losses in the dairy and horticulture sub-sectors. FNS programme was held in Laikipia County of Kenya on July 18, 2017 to bring together policymakers and other actors in horticulture and dairy sector of the County.

Impact of Susidy Removal on Consumers

CUTS Lusaka, Zambia hosted a dissemination meeting for discussing the report entitled "No Such Thing as a Painless Wean: How the 2016 Fuel Subsidy Removal Affected Transport Consumption and Consumers' Coping Strategies" on September 01, 2017. CUTS Lusaka has prepared this report in collaboration with the Zambia Institute for Policy Analysis & Research (ZIPAR).

Regional Annual Meeting under PACT EAC-2

Regional Annual Meeting under Promoting Agriculture, Climate and Trade Linkages in the East African Community (PACT EAC-2) project was held on September 04-05, 2017 in Kigali, Rwanda. This regional meeting reviewed the ongoing and upcoming policy efforts geared towards making agro-processing more climate-aware, trade-driven and food security-oriented in East Africa.



4th National Reference Group Meeting

The 4th National Reference Group (NRG) under PACT-EAC-2 project was organised in Nairobi on August 03, 2017. Various representatives and stakeholders from the government, private sector farmer groups, gender-based organisations, media persons, consumer organisations and civil society organisations (CSOs) participated in the event.

The participants discussed practical policy options that could be adopted by the Government to ensure that the Buy Kenya, Build Kenya Strategy (BKBK) promotes trade driven, food security enhancing, and climate aware agro-processing in Kenya.



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EVENTS

Media Briefing on Milk and Dairy Products' Safety

CUTS Nairobi, Kenya in Partnership with SNV Netherlands held a Media Briefing meeting on August 29, 2017 under 'Voice for Change Partnership, Food Nutrition and Security (V4CP-FNS)' project. The meeting focussed on creating local demand for consumption of safe milk and other dairy products in Kenya while addressing losses through generating awareness to local consumers, policy intervention by Government (County and National Government) and change practice by private sector players along the value chain through media reporting.



NEW INITIATIVES

Advocacy on Fiscal Policies to Tackle Inequality in Ghana

Accra Centre is seeking for funding support from OXFAM, Ghana to implement a project entitled 'Advocacy on Fiscal Policies to Tackle Inequality in Ghana'. The principal objective of the project is to explore the best possible ways by which the Government can increase investment in the social service sector. This is to reduce inequality and ascertain the fiscal policy regimes over the years that have accounted for the growth of inequality in Ghana, and adopt the best possible means to curb the phenomenon. The project is expected to be implemented over a period of five-months.

CSOs' Engagement in the CFTA

CUTS Nairobi is seeking support from various organisations to ensure a meaningful consultation, transparency for a comprehensive Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA) negotiations and implementation through a CSO engagement forum.

COMPAD II: Competition Law Drafting

CUTS Accra is soliciting funding support from the BUSAC Fund to implement the project '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).

Consumer Rights to Health through Accessible Quality Medicine

CUTS Nairobi is seeking support to enhance consumer awareness on the prevalence and the dangers of poor quality/substandard medicines to consumer's health.

Consumer Financial Protection

CUTS Accra is seeking funding support to implement a project entitled 'Consumer Financial Protection: Smart Campaign'. The aim of the project is to promote consumer welfare in financial services. The project is expected to be implemented over a two-year period.

Impact of VAT on Women and Children

Lusaka Centre is seeking support to conduct a study on gender-sensitivity and responsiveness of Zambia's Value Added Tax (VAT) Policy and its Implications on women and children.

Consumer Rights and Empowerment for Socio-Economic Growth

CUTS Accra is soliciting funding support from private sector organisations to carry-out a project dubbed 'The State of the Ghanaian Consumer: Consumer Rights Empowerment for Socio-Economic Development in Ghana'. The aim of the project is to develop a 'State of Ghana Consumer Report' detailing rights violations and the existing amendment mechanism in Ghana. The project is expected to be implemented within six-months.

Enhancing Food Security in Maize

CUTS Accra Centre is seeking funding support to implement a project christened 'Enhancing Food Security by Linking Women Maize Farmers along the Value Chain'. The principal goal of the project is to enhance food security in maize and contribute to economic development in Ghana.

Sustainable Energy in Agriculture

CUTS Nairobi Centre is seeking funding support to promote use of solar powered irrigation pumps in the agricultural sector.

Consumer Protection and Welfare in the Digital Financial Ecosystem

Accra Centre is seeking funding support to implement a project christened 'Conduct of Market Research, Diagnostic Survey and Assessment on Fraud, Cyber Security Management, Recourse, Information Disclosure and Transparency in the Digital Financial Ecosystem in Ghana'. The principal goal of the project is to ensure consumer protection and welfare in the digital financial ecosystem in Ghana. The project is expected to be implemented within eight months.

Raising Public Awareness

CUTS Lusaka is soliciting funding support to raise public awareness on illicit financial flows and misappropriation of public funds.

ONGOING PROJECTS

Post Advocacy of COMPAD-I

CUTS Accra with the funding support from the Business Sector and Challenge Fund (BUSAC Fund) is implementing a project in Ghana entitled 'Post Advocacy of Advocating for Functional Competition Regime for Ghana (COMPAD-I)'. The aim of the project is to ensure that the gains made in COMPAD-I are sustained, and to ensure the full operationalisation of the Competition Policy. The project implementation duration is eight months.

Agricultural Commodity Management in Zambia

CUTS Lusaka, Zambia is undertaking a project entitled 'Agricultural Commodity Management in Zambia'. The project is being funded by the Zambia Advocacy Programme (ZAP). Under this project, CUTS Lusaka will be undertaking a study to enhance the work done by the Zambia Commodity Exchange (ZAMACE) in agricultural sector. The main objectives of this study are to conduct extensive analysis on agricultural commodity management in the Sub-Saharan region and identify, which of these Zambia can adopt and to provide specific, practicable recommendations that can aid in addressing existing issues in ZAMACE.

Energy Sector Public Budget-Expenditure Tracking

CUTS Accra with funding support from SNV Ghana is undertaking a project entitled 'Energy Sector Public Budget-Expenditure Tracking'. The overarching goal of the project is to help in enhancing electricity access in the rural communities in Ghana. The key objectives of this project are to track how the energy sector budgets are utilised at the Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assembly (MMDA) level; help identify and address problems and weaknesses in the energy sector public expenditure; transfer and service delivery etc. The project is being implemented over a period of three-months.

PUBLICATIONS

Newsletter

ReguLetter

The July-September 2017 issue of the newsletter carries cover story entitled 'Why is Apple differentiating between India-China?' as its cover story, which states that the latest flavour in the mobile industry is iPhone X. Its manufacturer, Apple, is leaving no stones unturned in ensuring the global success of its flashy new smartphone. It is safe to assume that Apple will devote equal attention to the world's largest telecom markets: China and India. However, the company seems to be differentiating between two peas in a pod, when it comes to regulatory and policy compliance in these two countries. A special feature opines that banking the unbanked is crucial to any effort designed to result in shifting from informal to formal mechanisms.



http://www.cuts-ccier.org/pdf/reguletter_Jul-Sept2017.pdf

Promoting Sustainable Food Consumption

CUTS Lusaka is undertaking a project dubbed 'Promoting Sustainable Food Consumption in Zambia'. The project is being funded by HIVOS and the World Food Programme (WFP). The overall objective of this project is to promote the consumption of food that is safe, diverse, nutritious and affordable for consumers in Lusaka through the use of evidence-based advocacy interventions.

State of the Economy II

CUTS Lusaka is undertaking a project entitled 'State of the Economy II'. The project is being funded by Oxfam through the Civil Society Poverty Observatory Group (CS-POG). Under this project, CUTS Lusaka looked at the impact of removal of fuel subsidies on consumers in October 2016.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Public Forum on Consumer Safety

CUTS Nairobi will be organising a Public Forum on 'Consumer Safety Issues in Kenya's Dairy Industry' on October 12, 2017 at Hilton Hotel, Nairobi.

National Planning Meeting

CUTS Nairobi will be organising National Planning meeting under Strategic Partnership on Energy (SP-E) on October 09-10, 2017 at Royal Tulip Hotel.

Launching FNS Project

CUTS Nairobi will be organising multi-stakeholder launch of Food Nutrition and Security (FNS) project in Murang'a County. In addition, the Centre will also organise a National Multi-stakeholder Forum and capacity building activities under the FNS project.

Tradequity

The July-September, 2017 issue of the newsletter carries cover story entitled 'SADC Summit Closes as Union of Comoros becomes a New Member'. It states that the 37th SADC Ordinary Summit of Heads of State and Government has welcomed the Union of Comoros as its new Member. Besides, the newsletter encompasses news on Economics, Development, Trade, Environment and Consumer issues.



<http://www.cuts-international.org/ARC/>

PUBLICATIONS

Joint ACP-UNCTAD Guiding Principles for Investment Policymaking

The Joint African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP)-UNCTAD Guiding Principles for Investment Policymaking have been approved by the ACP Committee of Ambassadors in Brussels.

The non-binding Principles were jointly developed by the UNCTAD and the ACP Secretariats after consultation with ACP Members States and regional organisations. The Joint Principles draw on UNCTAD's Core Principles set out in UNCTAD's Investment Policy Framework for Sustainable Development and build on key ACP policy documents, notably the Georgetown Agreement establishing the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States, the Declaration of the 8th Summit of ACP Heads of State and Government of the ACP Group of States, the Strategic Framework for ACP Private Sector Development.

The Joint ACP-UNCTAD Principles come at a time when countries are re-orienting their national and international investment policies in line with today's sustainable development. Recent developments in national and international investment policies will be discussed during the September 12, 2017 session of UNCTAD's Trade and Development Board, Palais des Nations, Geneva as well as during UNCTAD's Annual International Investment Agreements Conference at Palais des Nations, Geneva from October 09-11, 2017.

<http://investmentpolicyhub.unctad.org/News/Calendar/Home/550>

REPRESENTATIONS

Clement Onyango, Director and **Daniel Asher and Beryl Onjala** of CUTS Nairobi participated in the 'Voice for Change' programme launch with SNV at Sarova Panafric Hotel, Nairobi on September 29, 2017. The objective of the programme was to officially launch the V4C partnership at national-level.

Boniface Otieno Owin participated in the Consumer Dialogue Forum on Energy Sector Regulation and Consumer Protection in Nairobi on September 29, 2017. The objective of the forum was to discuss consumers' concerns in the energy sector and how they can be addressed through enhanced regulations.

Appiah Kusi Adomako participated in the International Conference on the Political Economy of the Economic Transformation in Accra, organised by Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES) in Accra, Ghana on September 20-22, 2017.

Boniface Otieno Owin of CUTS Nairobi participated in the 4th NRG Meeting for Tanzania under the PACT EAC-2 project on August 25, 2017. The objective of the meeting was to discuss upcoming national research study and advocacy, as well as, state of play in World Trade Organisation (WTO) and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) negotiations.

Isaac Yaw Obeng of CUTS Accra participated in the Final Stakeholder Meeting on 'Payment Systems and Services Bill' organised by the Central Bank of Ghana from August 22-25, 2017.

Samir Bhattacharya, Assistant Director, CUTS along with **Appiah Kusi Adomako and Isaac Yaw Obeng** participated in 'Namaskar 2017' Conference. The event was organised on August 16-17, in Accra.

Samir Bhattacharya and Appiah Kusi Adomako had a meeting with Frederick Alipui, Chairman, Ghana National Chamber of Commerce, (GNCC) and Managing Director, Afrinvest Consult Ltd. The meeting was held on August 15, 2017 in Accra, Ghana to have a discussion on the regional integration related work being done by CUTS.

Muntanga Musiwa of CUTS Lusaka attended a two-day Regional Conference in Lusaka on August 02-03, 2017. The 7th Annual Regional Conference welcomed other Regional Centres of Expertise (RCE) in Africa.

REPRESENTATIONS

Chenai Mukumba, Centre Coordinator and **Muntanga Musiwa and Ishmael Zulu** of CUTS Lusaka attended a Public Discussion organised by the Civil Society for Poverty Reduction (CSPR) at Mulungushi International Conference Centre, Lusaka on July 27, 2017. The purpose of the Public Discussion was to get inputs from the public on the budget submissions for the 2018 national budget.

Chenai Mukumba participated in an Information Sharing Seminar on the 'Effectiveness of Anti-Corruption Bodies in Zambia' on July 21, 2017 at Intercontinental Hotel, Lusaka. The meeting was organised by Transparency International Zambia.

Clement Onyango and **Martin Mulwa** of CUTS Nairobi attended Consumer Organisations and Kenya Consumer Protection Advisory Committee (KECOPAC) meeting to explore the possibility of unifying consumer organisation to have one voice. The meeting was held at KECOPAC offices on July 18, 2017.

Daniel Asher, Kebenei Chepkoech Joan and **Beryl Onjala** of CUTS Nairobi attended the launch of the V4C, Food Nutrition and Security (FNS) project in Laikipia County on July 18, 2017. The objective of this event was to officially launch the V4C-FNS project in the County.

Appiah Kusi Adomako participated in the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) Regional Trade Data Workshop on July 11-12, 2017 in Dakar, Senegal.



REFLECTIONS FROM MEDIA

How to Enhance Consumer Safety in Dairy Industry

Joan Kebenei

Business Daily, August 10, 2017

Kenyans consume a lot of milk. Various studies estimate that Kenyans consume between 50 and 100 litre of milk per person each year and consumption is growing much more rapidly than meat consumption. Though milk is considered by many as the perfect food, it is also good at feeding bacteria and other germs. Moreover, milk can be contaminated from many different sources: food that the cow eats, chemicals and antibiotics used on the farm or along the supply chain, or even substances deliberately added to milk. The Kenya Dairy Board (KDB) and the Ministry of Health (MoH) have the legal mandate of ensuring consumer protection in the food industry.

<http://www.businessdailyafrica.com/analysis/How-to-enhance-consumer-safety-in-dairy-industry/539548-4052764-92nxggz/index.html>

Are We on Track for Achieving Green Energy Goals?

Martin Mulwa

September 06, 2017

Affordable, sustainable, and reliable green energy is essential for achievement of sustainable development and poverty reduction in Kenya. Despite this fact, access to green energy is still a challenge. Kenya's Sustainable Energy for All (SE4All) Action Agenda, 2016 shows that biomass accounts for 68 percent of overall energy consumption in the country. Petroleum and electricity account for 22 percent and 9 percent respectively, while other source of energy account for only 1 percent of overall energy requirement. On the policy front, the Energy and Petroleum Policy 2015 provides a comprehensive policy framework for the energy sector in line with the 2010 Constitution and Vision 2030. Moreover, County Governments should also develop effective green energy policies that address their unique energy needs.

<http://www.businessdailyafrica.com/analysis/Are-we-on-track-to-achieving-green-energy-goals-/539548-4085226-13siss1/index.html>