



EVENTS

World Competition Day

As part of the activities marking World Competition (Antitrust) Day, CUTS with the support from the BUSAC Fund organised stakeholder dialogue and media encounter on the theme: ‘Competing with Market Rules: the Role of the Competition Law in Ghana’s Economic Transformation’ at Accra, Ghana on December 05, 2018.



The World Competition Day, which was also celebrated as part of the strategies adopted by CUTS Accra to implement the project entitled ‘Advocating for a Functional Competition Regime for Ghana’ (COMPAD) brought together government ministries, regulators, Central Bank, Ghana Investment Promotion Centre (GIPC) financial and banking institutions, development partners, business associations, consumer organisations and academic research to discuss the theme.

The Ghanaian Trade Minister and Ghana International Trade Commission acknowledged the relentless efforts of CUTS Ghana in ensuring that Ghana has a functional competition policy and law to guide the conduct of the market and enhance enabling business environment for the private sector. Frank Agyekum, Secretary, Ghana International Trade Commission assured that the government will prioritise the passage of the law in 2019.

CUTS and Lusaka City Council Sign an MoU

CUTS Lusaka signed an MoU with the Lusaka City Council to cooperate in raising consumer awareness on the need to move away from mono diets. This is important given that Zambia has the highest levels of malnutrition in Africa. Both the institutions would jointly organise discussions on consumer rights and responsibilities on diet-related issues and share information on programmes, activities and projects of mutual interest.



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Promoting Agricultural Commodity Management

CUTS Lusaka organised a media briefing on two studies that were undertaken on Zambia Market Commodity Exchange (ZAMACE) and the Food Reserve Agency (FRA) on November 27, 2018. The objectives of the ZAMACE study were to:

- undertake conclusive analysis of the existing literature on challenges that ZAMACE has experienced since its establishment;
- conduct an analysis on agricultural commodity management in the sub-Saharan region, and identify lessons which Zambia can adopt; and
- provide specific, practicable recommendations that can aid in addressing existing issues in ZAMACE and agricultural commodity management in Zambia.



World Food Day Celebrations

CUTS jointly with Society of Crop Agribusiness Advisors and Sustainable Agriculture Community Development received an invite exhibited during the World Food Day 2018 at the Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organisation at Njoro Centre, Nakuru during October 15-16, 2018. CUTS was able to raise awareness on milk safety to both consumers and farmers. Through a one-on-one discussion, CUTS promoted basic knowledge on food safety in the dairy sector. The Centre also publicised a safe online portal and shared messages with consumers and farmers to enhance their knowledge on aspects of safety in the dairy sector.

Ensuring Food and Nutrition Security

CUTS Nairobi has been working through the Voice for Change Partnership (V4CP) to engage key players in the dairy industry to turn the situation around. James Kariithi, Coordinator, Agricultural Sector Development Support Programme, Laikipia County opined that CUTS and V4CP's partnership has added value to their work by increasing awareness that food security is not only about volume but also about nutrition and safety. Various events were organised:

- CUTS in partnership with Laikipia Agricultural Sector Development Support Programme (ASDSP) and Kenya Dairy Board (KDB) organised a joint training on milk quality and safety for Milk ATM and Milk bar attendants. The participants received a robust and wholesome training covering KDB's mandate, dairy regulations, consumer safety, public health rules and enforcement. In addition, they received training on disease control from the livestock department.
- CUTS in partnership with County of Nakuru and KDB jointly organised a capacity building training for milk transporter's quality and safety while handling milk on November 15, 2018. The training was intended to increase the capacity of dairy transporters to adhere to safety standards. Milk transporters play a critical role in terms of ensuring the safety of milk. CUTS facilitated the capacity building workshop. The participants received training covering KDB's mandate, dairy regulations, consumer safety, public health rules and enforcement.
- CUTS in partnership with the VCP-FNS Dairy & Horticulture held a one day capacity building workshop at Milele Resort, Nakuru County for consumer organisations/champions drawn from a few pilot counties on November 22, 2018. The workshop was intended to spur consumers' awareness on food safety issues; knowing their power in the market place, their rights and obligations in regard to access to safe food, and improving accountability by government agencies and private sector involve in ensuring delivery of safe food to citizens.



data collection and strategic plan development for all sub-county staff of Livestock, Veterinary, Agriculture and Cooperative. The consultant trained the team on the importance of having updated data in the dairy strategic plan and on how to use the dairy baseline data collection tool.

- CUTS in partnership with the County Government of Laikipia and the Laikipia Agricultural Sector Development Support Programme under the VCP organised a policy workshop. The objective of the meeting was to finalise the formulation of Laikipia Dairy Development Policy. The Laikipia Dairy Development Policy was finalised and awaiting to be tabled in the County Assembly before its adoption and implementation.

- The County Government of Murang'a requested CUTS Nairobi under the VCP to assist in collecting data to inform the dairy strategic plan. CUTS in partnership with SNV consultant facilitated a one-day training session on the

NEW INITIATIVES

Political Economy of the Livestock Sector in Kenya

CUTS Nairobi conducted a study on behalf of the Kenya Markets Trust (KMT) to inform policies and appropriate interventions for sustainable transformation of the livestock sector. The research employed a political economy framework in seeking to interrogate the entry point to decision making and various actors/interest groups engaged these processes. The specific objectives of the research are to:



- analyse the influence of the political economy landscape on the growth of the livestock sector in Kenya;
- analyse the political economy context around the livestock sector;
- analyse the economic relevance of livestock sector to Kenya;
- identify entry points, champions and institutions that KMT could collaborate with; and
- develop a policy brief on how to address emerging issues from the political economy analysis.

Kenyan Consumer Status on Food Safety

CUTS Nairobi received support from SNV to spearhead the process that will lead to the country having in place a unified and sustained effective consumer voice inform of a network to influence both the policy and processes/actions and to demand for accountability by all stakeholders in the food value chain for improved food safety for consumers in Kenya. This is in line with the recommendation by stakeholders under VCP programme.

The project intends to spur consumers' awareness; knowing their power in the market, their rights and obligations and improve accountability from government and private sector. Expanding the consumer movement to counties and cities, especially to protect poor and vulnerable consumers in rural and remote areas, CUTS considers the development of consumer associations/champions in counties and cities to boost consumer movement in Kenya.

Smart Campaign

Cities Governance Initiatives

CUTS Accra is soliciting for funding support from the Government of Ghana and other government institutions and stakeholders to implement a project entitled, 'Ghana Cities Governance Initiatives'. The aim of the project is to create and implement a common platform where the general public can interact with relevant Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies (MMDAs) to report problems encountered in surrounding spaces for prompt resolutions.

COMPAD II: Competition Law Drafting

CUTS Accra is soliciting for funding support from BUSAC Fund to implement a project entitled, 'COMPAD II: Competition Law Drafting'. The aim of the project is draft the National Competition Law for the Ministry of Trade & Industry.

Consumer Financial Protection *Smart Campaign*

CUTS Accra is seeking funding support from Centre for Financial Inclusion: ACCION/Mastercard 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 period of two years.

Assessing Pesticide Contamination on Selected Fruits and Vegetables in Urban and Rural Markets in Ghana

CUTS Accra is soliciting for funding support from West Africa Food Market (WAFM) to conduct a project entitled, 'Assessing Pesticide Contamination on selected Fruits and Vegetables in Urban and Rural Markets in Ghana: Implication on Food Safety and Consumer Health'. The project is expected to be implemented within a period of six months.

Assessing the Level of Investment in the Agriculture Sector

CUTS Accra is seeking funding support from WAFM to implement a project entitled, 'Assessing the level of Investment in the Agriculture Sector'. The project is expected to be implemented over a period of six months.

Advancing Competition Regime in Select West African Countries through Capacity Building and Technical Assistance

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

Exploring Challenges surrounding Public-Private Partnerships

CUTS Accra is seeking funding support from Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) to implement a project entitled, 'Exploring Challenges surrounding Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) in the Country'. The objective of the project is to provide two-three case studies on some key PPPs in the country in order to understand such partnerships. The project is expected to be implemented over a period of six months.

NEW INITIATIVES

Enhancing Consumer Welfare by reducing Anti-Competitive Practices in Pharmaceutical Sector

CUTS Accra is soliciting funding support from Management Science for Health to implement a project entitled, 'Enhancing Consumer Welfare by reducing Anti-Competitive Practices in the Pharmaceutical Sector in Select Countries of West Africa'. The objective of the project is to improve access to essential medicines and healthcare for consumers by successfully bringing in competition reforms in the pharmaceutical sector. The project is expected to be implemented over a period of two years.

Addressing Effects of Antibiotics Use in Agriculture Production on Consumers in Ghana

CUTS Accra is seeking funding support from Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) to implement a project entitled, 'Addressing the Effects of Antibiotics Use in Agriculture on Consumers in Ghana'. The main objective of the project is to create awareness on the health implications of antibiotics use in agriculture production. The project is expected to be implemented within a period of 15 months.

Addressing Effects of Agrochemicals Use in Agriculture Production on Farmers and Consumers in Ghana

CUTS Accra is seeking for support funding from FAO to undertake a project entitled, 'Addressing the Effects of Agrochemicals Use in Agriculture Production on Farmers and Consumers in Ghana'. The main objective is to generate awareness regarding the relationship between excessive uses of agrochemicals on health. The project is expected to be implemented within a period of 15 months.

The State of the Ghanaian Consumer

CUTS Accra is soliciting for funding support from private sector organisations to carry-out a project entitled, '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 redress mechanism in Ghana. The project is expected to be implemented within a period of six months.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

E-Voucher Developments

CUTS Lusaka in collaboration with the Indaba Agricultural Policy Research Institute (IAPRI) will be organising a meeting disseminating the findings of a study that was undertaken on the implementation of the E-Voucher in 2018. The purpose of the meeting is to review the implementation of the E-Voucher programme and discuss the outlook of the programme for 2019.

PACT EAC2 Seventh National Reference Group

The meeting is scheduled for March 2019. During this event, stakeholders from the government, civil society, farmers' associations, business community, academia, and agro-processors, among others, will discuss the progress of the project and pertinent emerging issues.

Outcome Harvesting Writeshop

This writeshop under SP-E will be held at Nairobi on February 11-13, 2019. The meeting brings together Hivos and all SP-E partners, and its objective is to improve skills in harvesting and documenting outcomes yielded in the programme.

Launch of FNS Project in Nyandarua

The objective is to introduce the FNS project to key stakeholders. This would enable inform the programme and activities in food safety in the county.

National Stakeholder Forum

This aims towards Competitive Dairy and Horticulture Sector through Safety and Quality Riding on government's big four agenda on food security to build momentum for food safety. The meeting is planned for January 2019.

Follow up on ECOWAS Study

CUTS Accra will be meeting with US Agency for International Development to follow up on the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) study proposals shared with them and other possible project topics.

West Africa Trade Hub

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

Ghana Standards Authority

CUTS Accra will be meeting with Ghana Standards Authority with the objective of signing a MoU.

ONGOING PROJECTS

Social and Economic Impact Assessment at the Ghana-Burkina Faso Border on Tema Ouagadougou Corridor

CUTS Accra in collaboration with Boarderless Alliance and with funding support from the World Bank Group is implementing a project entitled 'Social and Economic Impact Assessment at the Ghana-Burkina Faso Border on the Tema Ouagadougou Corridor'. The main goal of this project is to assess the impacts of reforms in Customs Transit System along Tema Ouagadougou corridor and its social and economic impact along the corridor. The project is expected to be implemented within a period of eight months.

Market Research and Diagnostic Surveys on Information Disclosure and Transparency, Fraud, Customer Recourse, and Client Needs Assessments in the Mobile Insurance Sector in Ghana

CUTS Accra in collaboration with Nielson Ghana and funding support from the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) is implementing a project entitled 'Market Research and Diagnostic Surveys on Information Disclosure and Transparency, Fraud, Customer Recourse and Client Needs Assessments in the Mobile Insurance Sector in Ghana'. The principal objective of the project is to undertake a market survey in selected cities to understand the banking financial space in Ghana to enable a deeper understanding of the Ghanaian mobile insurance market as well as increasing usage of financial services by low-income households and micro, small and medium enterprises. The project is expected to be implemented over a period of six months.

Energy Sector Public Budget-Expenditure Tracking

CUTS Accra with funding support from SNV is implementing a project entitled 'Energy Sector Public Budget-Expansion Tracking'. The objective 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 within a period of four months.

REPRESENTATIONS

Pradeep S Mehta and **Clement Onyango** attended the WTO Public Forum 2018 at Geneva on October 02-04, 2018. The forum brought together WTO Member States to debate on a wide range of WTO issues and on some of the major trade and development topics of the day.

Collins Owegi and **Jackline Wanja** attended the WTO session on 'Challenges for the Multi-lateral Trading System-

Post Advocacy of COMPAD I

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

Petition on Consumer Protection Law to be Passed in Ghana

CUTS Accra is implementing a project entitled 'Petition on Consumer Protection Law to be passed in Ghana'. The goal of the e-petition is to fast track the passage of the Consumer Protection Law in Ghana through civil action and advocacy with 20,000 signatures.

Promoting Sustainable Diets for All

CUTS Lusaka is implementing a project entitled, 'Promoting Sustainable Diets for All' which seeks to address the informal food system which is best positioned to address growing urban food insecurity in Zambia, in general, and Lusaka and Kitwe, in particular. However, the sector faces significant challenges that constrain the effective provision of services to the growing urban spaces. Informal markets make food accessible to city residents, the majority of whom are poor. While the increase in the number of supermarkets and other retail outlets make food available, the majority of people living in Lusaka and Kitwe do not have access to these outlets.

Reformation of Food Reserve Agency

CUTS Lusaka is undertaking a project with Food Trade in providing checks and balances on the reformation of the FRA in Zambia. The main objective of this project is to conduct a research and compare the current FRA Act to the FRA Bill that is before the Parliament. Thereafter, provide commentary on the findings and support the reform process for the FRA.

Farmers and Food Systems

This assignment by CUTS Lusaka will deliver the Zambia case study for a multinational project which examines the future of small-scale agriculture within a changing global, regional and national context. The work will explore different narratives, evidences and trends to address the over-arching foresight questions: In 20 years' time will there be a substantial role of small-scale agriculture in feeding the world, and in providing livelihoods for poor and vulnerable groups? What transformations are likely and what will the trade-offs be?

Perspectives from East Africa Conference' at Nairobi, Kenya on October 16-18, 2018. Owegi delivered a presentation on 'Agriculture, Digitisation and Trade.'

Appiah Adomako and **Isaac Yaw Obeng** attended the official commissioning of the NCA-CERT Common Platform organised by the National Communications Authority at Accra, Ghana on October 22, 2018.

REPRESENTATIONS

Daniel Asher, Martin Mulwa, Jackline Wanja and **Idah Kinya** attended a consumer roundtable workshop on November 01, 2018. The objective of the workshop was to review the terms of reference of the Kenya Consumer Status Report of Food Safety.

Appiah Adomako and **Chenai Mukumba** attended the Consultative Workshop for Private Sector and Civil Society on the AfCFTA in Dakar, Senegal during November 05-09, 2018.

Kangwa Muyunda participated in the Femnet Feminist Macroeconomic Academy "The Future of Work for Women in Africa" at Maputo, Mozambique during November 05-09, 2018.

Jackline Wanja attended Antibiotic Awareness Week workshop organised by Ministry of Health and Diamond V on November 13-15, 2018. The objective of the workshop was to discuss emerging issues on antibiotic resistance as well as consumer perception.

Daniel Asher attended the meeting 'Accelerating the End of Hunger and Malnutrition' organised by Food and Agricultural Organisation and International Food Policy Research Institute in Bangkok during November 26-30, 2018. The objective of the workshop was to exchange experiences on implementation of the VCP in different countries.

Jackline Wanja attended the National Youth in Agriculture Forum on November 27, 2018. The objective of the forum was to explore ways in which the youth can engage in leadership and influencing policy in the Agricultural sector.

Idah Kinya attended the East Africa Youth Policy Workshop on December 11, 2018. The objective of the workshop was to build the capacity of CSOs focussing on issues of youth to understand the East African Youth Policy.

Martin Mulwa attended a workshop on ICT for agriculture in Kenya on December 10, 2018. The objective of the workshop was to leverage on ICT to ensure agriculture productivity and growth.

Clement Onyango, Collins Owegi and **Jackline Wanja** attended Africa E-commerce Week organised by UNCTAD during December 10-14, 2018. The objective of the meeting was to examine ways of enhancing the ability of African countries to engage in and the evolving digital economy.

Daniel Asher and **Idah Kinya** attended Laikipia Dairy Development Policy workshop during December 04-07, 2018. The objective of the workshop was to provide inputs to the Laikipia Dairy Development Policy 2018-2022.



REFLECTIONS FROM MEDIA

CUTS Sees Potential in Timber

Daily Mail, October 08, 2018

Zambia's timber sector has the potential to contribute over US\$10bn to the gross domestic product (GDP) annually if well managed by various stakeholders, CUTS said. Out of 752,614 square kilometres (km) of Zambia, 44.5 square km is covered by forests, representing about 60 percent of the country's land. CUTS board member Yusuf Dodia said illegal harvesting and inconsistent policies are some of the challenges facing players in the timber sector and have a negative effect on its growth.

www.daily-mail.co.zm/cuts-sees-potential-in-timber/

Diversification Key in Agriculture

Daily Mail, October 04, 2018

CUTS said that the government's continued promotion of value addition and market linkages are key components of ensuring that farmers have markets for their produce. Recently, President Edgar Lungu said government will continue to focus on increasing agricultural production by promoting value addition and facilitating market linkages. CUTS Lusaka Centre Co-ordinator Chenai Mukumba said enhanced efforts in promoting the growth of the agriculture sector will reduce poverty levels in the country, especially in rural areas.

www.daily-mail.co.zm/diversification-key-in-agriculture-says-cuts/

CUTS, COMESA Seal Deal

Daily Mail, October 11, 2018

CUTS Lusaka and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern African (COMESA) have signed an MoU to jointly mobilise resources for promoting and strengthening trade in the region. The organisations have agreed to invite each other to technical and policy meetings where issues having a bearing on objectives of each party are being discussed. Under the MoU, the organisations will also jointly mobilise resources for development, competition regulation, agricultural research, addressing climate change and food security.

www.daily-mail.co.zm/cuts-comesa-seal-deal/

A Tough Climate and Weakened Economy

New Diggers, November 16, 2018

Businesses of all sizes are the heart of the country's development as they created employment for many Zambians and are a major provider of tax revenues for the government. It is therefore important for the government to create an environment in which the private sector can thrive and contribute to the development of the country. However, Zambia's debt position is making it difficult for businesses to sustain themselves.

<https://diggers.news/guest-diggers/2018/11/16/a-tough-climate-and-weakened-economy-bow-debt-concerns-businesses-and-employees/>

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