EVENT REPORT: 4TH KENYA NATIONAL REFERENCE GROUP MEETING

CAMPAIGNING FOR CHANGE

JUNE 24, 2013
LA MADA HOTEL, NAIROBI, KENYA
The 4th National Reference Group (NRG) meeting was held on June 24, 2013 in Nairobi at La Mada Hotel from 09:00 to 13:30 hours. Participants were drawn from various relevant ministries; civil society organizations (CSOs) and the academia (see Annex I for list of participants). A total of 48 people participated in the meeting, out of which 8 were CUTS staff.

The session started by participants sharing their expectations from the meeting, which included:

- Learn the nexus of climate change (CC), food security (FS) and Trade
- Learn and share
- Networking
- Understand the gender aspect of the nexus
- Relate PACT to the WTO negotiations
- Understand the mechanisms of mainstreaming the three issues into policies

Participants were welcomed by Clement Onyango (CVO), CUTS-ARC director, who emphasized on the need to link trade with food security and climate change. Citing examples, CVO asked why, when a Tanzanian tries to cross the border with maize, s/he gets arrested at the border by the Tanzanian police, yet Kenya and Tanzania are under the common market of EAC; or when North-Eastern Kenya is starving, maize in North Rift is rotting. CVO challenged participants to link up pertinent FS issues to trade and climate change.

The 4th NRG meeting was officially opened by Jasper Okelo (JO), CUTS-ARC board chair. Jo stated that, despite all the agreements involving trade, CC and FS, Kenya is still challenged whether or not those treaties are working; and that if Member States are working for the common good of the people/region. For him, an agreement without a human face could easily be ‘toilet paper’. From participants’ expectations, JO stated it was his hope that participants do not just learn but also assume responsibility as stakeholders of the Common Market to make policies happen. A policy that could move Kenya to point A to B and we could proudly say we are a better off society.

PRESENTATION 1: ADVOCACY CAMPAIGN ON IMPLEMENTING INSURANCE SYSTEM AND IRRIGATION INFRASTRUCTURE

Chaired by Francis Karin from Tegemeo Institute

CUTS-ARC’s Trade and Development Assistant Programme Officer, Munu Martin Luther (MML), presented the advocacy objective; advocacy core message; target audience; as well as mechanisms of getting the message through (see Annex II).

PLENARY DISCUSSION

Irrigation: Participants acknowledged that Tanzania has more irrigation schemes, thanks to its late visionary leader, Julius Nyerere. Although Kenya is pushing for irrigation the most in the region, funding of projects is the main problem. It was recognized that we need to learn from those regions within Kenya (particularly Central Kenya in Meru, Nyeri, etc ) that have small scale irrigation schemes.

National Budget: Participants felt that CSOs respond to national budget announcement than being involved in the process. It was agreed that CSOs and the private sector need to be engaged in the budget planning process and be proactive instead of being reactive.
**Insurance**: Given that insurance penetration in Africa is very low, participants wondered if Kenyan farmers are willing (able?) to put money (insure) their crops. Participants wondered if the private sector could be involved, particularly if there is an opportunity for small and medium enterprises to create financial institutions such as agricultural savings and credit cooperatives (SACCOs). However, some participants felt that Kenya’s economy is not mature enough to involve SACCOs as insurers. Furthermore, it was argued that the basis for insurance is normal climate situation and no insurance responds unless there is a departure from the predicted CC that must then be announced by the Met department. There is, therefore, a need for dialogue with the private sector involving all stakeholders, including the Met department.

*Recommendation*: Europeans saw it fit to subsidize their farmers because they realize food is a security issue; whereas in Kenya, 60% of the population that feeds the whole nation is neglected. In the late 60s and early 70s, Kenya subsidized its farmers, until it adopted the Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP) of the World Bank/IMF. Is it not time to go back to ‘Kenyatta’s programme’, as private insurers are bound to charge 18%-20% for crop insurance?

**Ministry of Water**: participants felt that it would have been ideal to have Ministry of Water and Mineral Resources under the Ministry of Agriculture. There is a clear nexus between Agriculture, irrigation and water. If there is no river, there is no water and hence, no irrigation. The involvement of the Ministry would cater for the dilemma where the water is coming from.

**Media**: Participants condemned the Kenyan media for not showing enough interest on development issues and for focusing too much on politics. ‘They follow big people, not big issues’.

**Campaign1**: MML elaborated on questions regarding Campaign 1. Questions included what the target and strategies of the campaign are, i.e., if it is an indoor/boardroom one or if we are going to see farmers with placards demanding insurance and irrigation. Clarification was also given to what extent the campaign will be sustainable when the project phases out after September 2014.

**Coordination**: Participants identified coordination of relevant line of ministries as one of the main challenges when interlocked issues like FS, CC and trade and involved. Engaging at the level of Permanent Secretaries has been tried and failed. Therefore, coordination of line ministries should be at the Deputy President level as it has overriding power over all other ministries. Hence, Treasury, Planning, Environment, Water and Agriculture Ministries should be coordinated by a political head.

*Recommendation*: There is a need to have a joint secretary to oversee CC, FS and trade that has representation from all concerned ministries ‘so that when they talk, we know it is government talking’.

**Livestock**: The participant from Kenya Pastoralist Consortium on CC stated that there is a need to incorporate livestock farmers when addressing CC, FS and trade.
PRESENTATION 2: ADVOCACY CAMPAIGN ON THE NEED FOR EARLY WARNING SYSTEMS

Chaired by Alex Alusa, Climate Change Coordination Unit in the Deputy President Office

CUTS-ARC’s MML introduced the advocacy objective; identified key target and audience including the Meteorological (Met) department; Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources and Ministry of Finance; and the techniques of getting the message through (see Annex II).

PLENARY DISCUSSION

Where have we gone wrong? Most participants cited the lack of effective and clear communication of early warning to farmers. It was suggested that community media need to repackage the information in the local dialect. Participants noted that stakeholders need to start holding the department responsible when it fails to give information at the earliest time.

Met Department: It was noted that first, warning has to be early; second, it has to warn; and third, the person must believe that it is predictable (i.e., it must warn the right people). Participants urged for incorporating traditional/indigenous knowledge on climate change; for instance, in some places, villagers can tell when and where it will rain simply by observing the movement of birds and insects (certain insects and birds fly to the convergence zone, which signals perspiration). Participants seemed to be unsure of the Kenyan Met department’s capacity with regards to its personnel and equipment. However, a representative from Met department assured plenary that the Kenya Met department is one of the best in Africa and has all the latest equipment available. Of the 23 Metrology training institutions all over the world, one is in Nairobi, which is rated as the third best in the world.

Holistic approach: Since CC is not only about droughts, various sectors need to be involved including livestock, agriculture, energy and health. It was noted that Kenya has taken cognizance of this fact and has integrated CC in 17 sectors. However, participants were apprehensive about lack of commitment from the State citing corruption in government, private sector and corporations; as well as public apathy at all levels.

Climate Finance: It was noted that that there is enough funding as part of climate financing, hence one should not wait for government as the only source of money. A representative from the Treasury elaborated that funds are sourced internally, through national budget and tax exemptions; as well as externally, through funds for projects.

Policies: participants cited examples of how most policies are incoherent. For instance, Ministry of Trade allows the importation of maize two times the price paid to Kenyan farmers by the Cereal Board, under the Ministry of Agriculture.

Media: MML shared with participants that Tanzanian and Ugandan media are more receptive of development issues and projects like PACT than their counterpart in Kenya.

Recommendation: CUTS campaign needs to widen its key target audience by incorporating Ministry of Water; Ministry of Planning and Ministry responsible for infrastructure.
PRESENTATION3: TRADE REFORMS AND THEIR IMPACT ON FS IN THE EAC: THE POLITICAL DIMENSION

Chaired by Alice Avedi, Ministry of Trade

Christopher Onyango, the chief researcher, presented preliminary findings of the regional research study (See Annex IV).

The 4th NRG meeting ended at 13:30 hours with a wrap up and official closing from Martha Getachew (MG).
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ANNEX II CAMPAIGNING FOR CHANGE: IMPLEMENT INSURANCE MECHANISM AND IRRIGATION INFRASTRUCTURE

Campaigning for Change: Implement insurance mechanism and irrigation infrastructure

Presentation at 4th PACT-EAC NRG meeting 24/06/2013, La Mada Hotel, Nairobi, Kenya

Munu Martin Luther (CUTS ARC Nairobi)

Presentation Outline

• Introduction to the advocacy objective
• Core message
• Target audience and messages for each audience
• Getting the message through
• Conclusion

Introduction to Advocacy Objective

• The advocacy objective is to push for the implementation of insurance mechanism for agriculture.
• To promote irrigation as a means of reducing over reliance on rain fed agriculture.
• The slogan: Live to the Promise; uplift Agriculture, Insure Farmers and Promote Irrigation!
• Geographical Scope: Ahero, Pekera, Bunyala, Bura, Naivasha, Kisumu areas, Kiambu, Rift Valley Counties, Northern Kenya.

Core Message

• Lack of agricultural insurance and low levels of irrigation are key climate related challenges facing agricultural sector in Kenya.
• Limited access to credit for farmers.
• Some irrigation scheme have collapsed due to financial challenges.
• There is need for increased funding to the Agricultural sector.

Target Audience and Messages

Office of the Deputy President

• Government should coordinate the responsible Ministries (Agriculture, Environment and Trade) and increase funding to promote agricultural sector development.
• The government objective of accelerating economic growth and improving livelihoods is threatened by climate change.
• There is need to reduce reliance on rain fed agriculture through irrigation and operationalize an insurance mechanism for farmers.
Target Audience and Messages (cont...)

Other Relevant Government Departments

• The Ministries of Agriculture, Environment and Trade need to increase institutional coordination in dealing with the challenges of climate change, food insecurity and trade.

• There is need to create a Joint secretariat of the three Ministries (Ministry of Agriculture, Environment and Trade) to continuously discuss, coordinate and address issues of insurance system and irrigation infrastructure.

National Irrigation Board

• The National Irrigation Board should enhance public awareness and advocate for increased funding to achieve its objectives.

• There is need for more collaboration between the Irrigation Board and stakeholders to widen irrigation usage, increase awareness raising and advocacy to address Kenya’s over reliance on rain-fed agriculture through irrigation.

Getting the message through

• One-to-one meetings.

• Dissemination of Action Alerts.

• Dissemination of Policy briefs and other information materials.

• Petition.

• Breakfast meetings.

• During budget preparatory process.

• Media (print and electronic).

• During relevant days (World Food Day Oct. 13, 2013 World Water Day March 22, 2014)

Conclusion

• There is an urgent need to increase funding to the Agricultural Sector to meet the Maputo Declaration of 10 percent of the National Budget. This would support the institution of an insurance mechanism and irrigation infrastructure.
ANNEX III CAMPAIGNING FOR CHANGE: ENHANCE CLIMATE CHANGE EARLY WARNING

Campaigning for Change:
Enhance climate change early warning systems

Presentation at 4th PACT-EAC NRG meeting 24/06/2013, La Mada Hotel, Nairobi, Kenya

Munu Martin Luther (CUTS ARC Nairobi)

Presentation Outline
• Introduction to the advocacy objective
• Core message
• Target audience and messages for each audience
• Getting the message through
• Conclusion

Introduction to Advocacy Objective
• The advocacy objective is to push for the enhancement of climate change early warning systems so that farmers’ exposure to climate change can be predicted.
• The slogan: “Climate change and food security, forewarned fore armed”
• Geographical scope: Western Kenya, Tana River basin, Baringo, Greater North.

Core Message
• There are poor and often dysfunctional systems to warn farmers on climate/weather changes exposing farmers to uncertain climate change i.e. drought/floods which undermines farming.
• The low levels of funding to the Meteorological Department have undermined the capacity for the department to effectively undertake its duties.
• Stakeholders must be prepared to hold the Meteorological Department responsible in cases of inaccurate predictions.

How can you predict?

Target Audience and Messages
The Meteorological Department
• Advocate for the strengthening of the Meteorological Department to promote efficiency in the early warning system.
• An efficient early warning system will make promote agricultural development by making farmers aware of the projected climate related risks such that appropriate measures can be taken to minimise such risks.
Target Audience and Messages (cont...)

The Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources
- The Ministry should strengthen information flow with the Meteorological Department as well as increase funding to the department.
- More efficient information sharing with the Meteorological department and increased funding to the department will build capacity for effective weather forecast that will enhance climate change early warning system.

The Ministry of Finance
- There is need for more budgetary allocation to the Ministries of Environment and Agriculture to address the effects of climate change through adaptation and mitigation.
- Increased budgetary support will improve the capacity of these institutions to promote climate change adaptation and mitigation through strengthening early warning systems.

Getting the message through
- One-to-one meetings.
- Dissemination of Action Alerts.
- Dissemination of Policy briefs and other information materials.
- Petition.
- Breakfast meetings.
- During budget preparatory process.
- Media (print and electronic).
- During relevant days (World Environmental Day June 5, 2014, World Day to Combat Desertification June 17, 2014)

Conclusion
- The Meteorological Department needs to be strengthened to effectively predict weather/climatic changes and inform farmers so that appropriate measures can be taken.
- The Ministry of Environment should strengthen information flow with the Meteorological Department to coordinate early warning systems.
Trade Reforms and their Impact on Food Security in the East African Community: The Political Dimension

Christopher Onyango
CUTS 4th NRG Meeting, Nairobi, Kenya
24th June, 2013

Introduction

- Cross-border trade as an avenue for poverty eradication and economic empowerment
- Trade reforms affect food security situation within EAC.
- Trade policy implemented at national level but food security applies to individuals
- Effects of trade policy changes transmitted through changes in incomes and expenditures
- Impacts of individuals food security of changes in trade policy mediated through a host of domestic, social, economic and institutional factors

The problem

- EAC region affected by food shortages despite commitments to free regional agricultural trade.
- Use of legal, regulatory and institutional obstacles in the use of formal border processes lead to widespread informal trade
- Informality of cross-border trade in agriculture constraints business growth and make businesses prone to harassment and inconsistent application of trade policies.
- Vulnerability of EAC agricultural sector to international shocks.
- Ignorance about the role of politics in cross-border agricultural trade in the EAC.
- Climate changes.

Objectives of the study

Broad Objective: To analyze the impacts of trade reforms on food security in the EAC region.

Specific objectives

- study the roles, relationships and implications of state and non-state actors in agricultural trade and production of maize and rice in EAC;
- establish the factors influencing political decision-making in production and trade in maize and rice in the EAC region;
- identify the barriers/imbalances in trade politics and policy in the EAC; and
- Provide recommendations that can be used for advocacy for the needed policy reform.
Scope of the study

Study will focus on Maize and rice in EAC region

Maize
- Most commonly traded commodity in region
- A major food/staple crop in the region
- Trade policy affects production and marketing
- Consequences of climatic change
- Interest groups

Rice
- A major food crop in the region
- Sensitive product under EAC customs union regime
- Affected by trade policies – Subsidies, tariffs, export restraints etc
- Interest groups

Methodology

Conceptual Framework
- Based on Sen’s (1988, 89) Entitlement policy framework
  - Production component: Self-sufficiency
  - Trade/Exchange-based component: Supplement own production
  - Labour-entitlement: Urban workers and rural landless
  - Transfer component: formal and informal transfers

Analytical Framework
- Desktop research: To identify relevant literature relating trade reforms, food security and factors influencing decision-making
- Field research: Fact-finding mission to policy-makers, NSAs, producers and other value chain actors.
- Assessment and evaluation: Both desk-top and field survey findings

Key Preliminary Findings

Key constraints and challenges include but not limited to:
- Weak/poor policy and regulatory mechanisms for supporting local community participation and private sector in decision making concerning the agricultural sector
- Poor and/or lack of trade facilitation – high transport costs, inefficient customs formalities, poor infrastructure, corruption, documentary requirements.
- Lack market information and ready markets for maize and rice during harvesting periods.
- Imbalances of political influence among various lobby groups – farmers, marketers and consumers
- Direct government interventions which distort market prices e.g. price controls of maize in Kenya, export ban on maize (Tanzania March 2011); maize import ban (Kenya, 2008) etc
Work Plan for Outstanding Work

- Development of data collection instruments – Done
- Field Surveys – To proceed during the NRG meetings
  - Kenya: 24-26th June
  - Burundi: 2-4th July
  - Tanzania: 8-10th July
  - Uganda: 22-24th July
  - Rwanda: 29-31st July

- **August 2013**: Preparation of the final version of the research study.
- **September 2013**: Presenting the report at the second Regional Annual Meeting
- **September/October 2013**: Printing and distribution of research report by CUTS
ANNEX V MEETING AGENDA

NRG MEETING | MONDAY, 24 JUNE 2013

Campaigning for Change

08:30 – 09:00 | Registration

09:00 – 09:30 | Opening Ceremony

Welcome Address: Clement Onyango, Director, CUTS Nairobi
Official Opening: Jasper Okelo, Board Chair, CUTS Nairobi

09:30 – 10:30 | Campaign 1: Implement Insurance System and Irrigation Infrastructure
Chair: Francis Karin, Tegemeo Institute
Presentation of the campaign, by Munu Martin Luther (20 min)

Floor Discussions (40 min)

10:30 - 10:45 Tea/Coffee Break

10:45 – 11:45 | Campaign 2: The Need for Early Warning Systems
Chair: Dr. Alex Alusa, Climate Change Coordination Unit
Presentation of the campaign, by Munu Martin Luther (20 min)

Floor Discussions (40 min)

Event details

Date: June 24, 2013
Time: 08:30 – 13:00
Place: Hotel La Mada, Nairobi
(see map in annex 1 below)

Contact

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Useful links

RESEARCH STUDY
“Climate, Food, Trade: Where is the Policy Nexus?”

MORE ABOUT THE PROJECT
http://www.cuts-geneva.org/pacteac
11:45 – 12:45 | Preliminary Findings of the Regional Research Study

Chair: Alice Avedi, Ministry of Trade

Presentation: “Trade Policy and Politics barriers in the EAC to achieve broad-based food security” – Preliminary Findings, by researcher Christopher Onyango (30 min)

Discussions from the Floor (30min)

12:45 – 13:00 | Closing Ceremony

Word of Thanks: Jasper Okelo, Board Chair, CUTS Nairobi

Wrap-up and Official Closing: Clement Onyango, Director, CUTS Nairobi

تعليمات الدراسة: 

13:00 – 14:00 Lunch
Campaigning for Change

On June 24, CUTS ARC Nairobi will launch advocacy campaigns for promoting the implementation of insurance systems, irrigation infrastructure and early warning systems in the agriculture sector in Kenya. The half-day event organised as part of CUTS International’s PACT EAC project will take place at La Mada Hotel, Nairobi, Kenya.

The advocacy campaigns seek to promote some of the most important recommendations of a research study released in March under the title “Climate, Food, Trade: Where is the Policy Nexus?”, which provided recommendations for a more harmonious policy framework on issues at the interface of trade, climate change and food security.

In the East African Community, climate change and repeated extreme weather events have put some areas at risk of food insecurity. Crop failures in flooded areas, livestock deaths in increasingly arid lands and unaffordable food on markets have become common challenges for East Africans. Trade also plays a critical role in the food security equation as it is a major contributor to greenhouse gas emissions, and several levels of trade policy influence farmers’ choices for growing and selling, set the price for agricultural inputs and food sold on local markets etc. Coping with climate-related hunger therefore call for an inclusive, coordinate and coherent three-dimensional approach owned by all relevant stakeholders in the region.

CUTS International’s PACT EAC project aims to promote such three-dimensional response by hearing from, informing, training and moving to action networks of relevant stakeholders. In Kenya, stakeholders constituted themselves as a National Reference Group (NRG) led by CUTS ARC Nairobi. Following a meeting in March where suitable tactics were discussed, members of the group are now ready to campaign together towards two objectives: (i) promoting the implementation of insurance systems and irrigation infrastructure; and (ii) promoting the implementation of early warning systems.

The event will also brief the audience on the preliminary findings of a regional research study that is analyzing the role of and relationship between selected actors of agricultural productivity and regional trade, discovering the trade policy and political barriers not allowing it achieve broad-based food security in the East African Community.