

Every quarter, *In Action* keeps you updated on CUTS International, Geneva's ongoing work. It provides our stakeholders with a snapshot of our research, advocacy, networking and training activities under our policy-oriented projects in developing countries, as well as our latest publications and events.



## Project News

### Promoting Agriculture, Climate and Trade Linkages in the East African Community

In the next decades, the critical situation of food security in the East African Community is expected to aggravate as climate change worsens in a region where most of East Africans rely on agriculture for their living. Early action and adoption of sound policies harnessing the potential role of trade is a must. Through a project entitled "Promoting Agriculture-Climate-Trade Linkages in the East African Community" (PACT EAC), CUTS International Geneva and its partners throughout the region aim to contribute to this process.

Through an integrated set of research-based advocacy, networking and training activities and by linking grassroots with Geneva, the project seeks to build human and institutional capacity of East African Community (EAC) stakeholders to help them take better advantage of international trade for their growth and development and poverty reduction, particularly in the context of climate change.



#### Quarterly Update

- **Research:** Additional national studies were presented and disseminated during the 7th National Reference Groups' (NRG) meetings in the 5 EAC countries in April 2015.
- **Advocacy:** Most campaigns achieved their objectives as announced at NRG7 meetings. Several action alerts and briefing papers were released, and more are in the pipeline. Good press and TV coverage.
- **Networking:** NRG7 meetings successfully took place in the 5 EAC countries. NRG 7 reports have been received from partners. RAM4 preparations have started.
- **EAC Geneva Forum:** 22nd EAC Geneva Forum successfully held on 06/05 at CUTS Geneva office. 23rd Special EAC Geneva Forum also took place on 15/05 at CUTS Geneva office. 22 and 23 Geneva Forums' reports and materials have been uploaded on website. Process towards the 24th EAC Geneva Forum to be held on the sidelines of the 4th Regional Annual Meeting has already started.

More at : [cuts-geneva.org/pacteac](http://cuts-geneva.org/pacteac)



# Support in Trade in Services Negotiations

In recent years, developing and least developed countries have increasingly recognised the importance of developing their services sectors and are therefore engaged in services trade negotiations at many levels including at the WTO, bilaterally or part of regional integration efforts. However, the technical capacity required to negotiate and liberalize trade in services is considerably higher than goods trade and the political implications are more complex, which has led to the status quo as efforts to negotiate services trade agreements have often faltered.



With support from the UK Trade Advocacy Fund (TAF), CUTS is joining hands with ILEAP and Sussex University to undertake a series of activities that seeks to contribute to the increased and more effective participation of LDCs, LICs, LMICs and RECs in multilateral, regional and bilateral services trade negotiations.

## Quarterly Update

- **Research:** Several research studies being conducted by CUTS. Two research studies were released. Others are being laid out towards publication. Comments expected from ILEAP on several outputs.
- **Web portal:** Web platform was finalized in consultation with partners and was officially launched at an event in May
- **Outreach activities:** Proposal submitted to WTO for holding 2nd outreach event alongside the WTO Public Forum in October.

More at : [tradeinservices.net](http://tradeinservices.net)



## Project News

### Trust and convergence in the Multilateral Trading System

The year 2015 is critical as WTO members work towards a Post-Bali Work Programme to conclude the Doha round. Both developing and developed countries will now have to confront the core issues that have divided them for nearly 15 years and build the necessary trust to find creative solutions. These forums organised by CUTS and FES Geneva Office sought to positively contribute towards convergence on a balanced Post-Bali Work Programme, by informally bringing together WTO negotiators from both developing and developed countries towards building greater trust with each other.



#### Quarterly Update

- **Forums:** CUTS and FES held the 2nd meeting on June 19. Decision was made to have the next meeting on July 16.

More at : [cuts-geneva.org](http://cuts-geneva.org)



## Project News

### Support to LDC Group in Geneva in WTO negotiations for Post-Bali work programme

2015 is a critical year of negotiations for the LDC group in Geneva. To help them in better participating in the process related to the Post-Bali work programme, CUTS International is providing them technical support as requested by the Group and strictly in line with their expressed demands.

# □ Events



## Climate, Food, Trade: Taking Stock of our impacts on Policy and Practice

Apr. 14-17 | East African Community ▶ In April 2015, CUTS International and its partners in East Africa hold the final national meetings of food security, climate change and trade stakeholders under the PACT EAC project. Stakeholders took stock of the project's recent successes in shaping policy synergies between the three areas, and contributing to their informed participation at the WTO. With a view to build on this momentum, high-level officials called for a second phase of the project for continued support.



## Week-long Visit of East African Stakeholders to Geneva

May. 4 | Geneva, Switzerland ▶ In May 2015, East African stakeholders of trade, environment and agriculture were invited by CUTS to Geneva for a week-long visit to acquaint themselves with the multilateral environment at the interplay of these three issues. They had the opportunity to attend trade-related meetings, were briefed by international organisations about the status and their stake in the WTO and UNFCCC negotiations, and interacted with their respective missions based in Geneva.



## Agro-Processing Trade: The Private Sectors' Experience of Climate Change Along the Value Chain

May. 6 | Geneva, Switzerland ▶ All businesses depend on weather and climate no matter their size, location, products and services. In East Africa in particular, the agro-processing industry relies on rain-fed agriculture and is therefore vulnerable to changing climatic conditions. At the 22nd EAC Geneva Forum, East African WTO delegates were updated about such climate change challenges faced by the private sector on the ground. They also discussed WTO negotiation issues related to GATS disciplines on domestic services regulations.



## Support to Enhance Development of Trade in Services Negotiations

May. 6 | Geneva, Switzerland ▶ This outreach event aimed to enhance awareness amongst the Geneva trade and development community, notably WTO Delegates, about the series of project interventions underway and offer some insights into some of the emerging lessons and results. It also offered an opportunity to discuss more generally potential future needs of LDCs, LICs, and LMICs in relation to trade in services negotiations, policy-making and implementation.



## Building Trust and Convergence: Informal Lunch Meeting of WTO Negotiators

May. 13 | Geneva, Switzerland ▶ The year 2015 is critical as WTO members work towards a Post-Bali Work Programme to conclude the Doha round. Both developing and developed countries will now have to confront the core issues that have divided them for nearly 15 years and build the necessary trust to find creative solutions. This event organised by CUTS and FES Geneva Office sought to positively contribute towards convergence on a balanced Post-Bali Work Programme, by informally bringing together WTO negotiators from both developing and developed countries towards building greater trust with each other.



## Trade in Services: Special Meeting of the EAC Geneva Forum

May. 15 | Geneva, Switzerland ▶ Following a request by East African negotiators to the WTO, CUTS organised this special meeting of the EAC Geneva Forum where delegates could discuss the strategy to adopt in ongoing negotiations towards a Post-Bali Work Programme.

More at : [http://www.cuts-geneva.org/Events\\_2015.html#150506b](http://www.cuts-geneva.org/Events_2015.html#150506b)

# Publications



## Secteur Privé : Un Partenaire Potentiel Dans L'information Agro-Climatique Et Commerciale

Action Alert ▶ Afin de lutter efficacement contre les effets des changements climatiques sur la sécurité alimentaire, les institutions centrales et locales responsables de l'agriculture, de l'environnement et du commerce doivent collaborer entre elles dans l'exécution de leurs mandats respectifs et s'échanger des informations de manière coordonnée. À cet égard, certains Acteurs Non-Étatiques (ANE) - comme les organisations du secteur privé ou les médias - disposent de réseaux, d'une présence au niveau local et d'une expertise dont ces institutions pourraient bénéficier et s'inspirer. Available at <http://goo.gl/6BQxhc>



## Technology: A Key Element in the Future Paris Agreement

Action Alert ▶ Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) were gathered in Bonn in early June 2015 to advance the negotiations on the new climate agreement to be finalized in Paris in December 2015. Many challenges need to be addressed before the formalization of the Paris agreement, including: operationalizing equity; establishing a facilitative regime to support technology transfer; and for intended nationally determined contributions (INDCs) to go beyond mitigation to include finance, technology and capacity building support. Available at <http://goo.gl/AZXsCD>



## Policy Coherence: East African Stakeholders Call for Building on Recent Advances

Action Alert ▶ In April 2015, CUTS International and its partners in East Africa hold the final national meetings of food security, climate change and trade stakeholders under the PACT EAC project. Stakeholders took stock of the project's recent successes in shaping policy synergies between the three areas, and contributing to their informed participation at the WTO. With a view to build on this momentum, high-level officials called for a second phase of the project for continued support. Available at <http://goo.gl/59EeHZ>



## Climate, Food, Trade: Institutional Interplay and Information Exchange in Kenya

Briefing Paper ▶ This briefing paper presents the institutional interplay and information exchange in Murang'a and Makueni counties in Kenya in relation to climate change, food security and trade issues. Findings indicate that, horizontal linkages, that is institutional interlinkages and information exchange among stakeholders within counties, are strong, particularly interministerial and interactions of the private sector with county ministries. However, vertical linkages between counties' stakeholders and the national government were found to be weak. Available at <http://goo.gl/RhvRk3>



## Trade Development: Why Should Country-Based Stakeholders Regularly Visit Geneva?

Action Alert ▶ Country-based support for the "Geneva Frontline" has long been successfully leveraged by industrialised economies in multilateral negotiations. Unfortunately, many developing countries have been slow in connecting their missions in Geneva to country-based stakeholders which has led to huge opportunity costs. As a case in point, during a recent week-long visit to Geneva, East African stakeholders invited by CUTS have been able to provide insightful advice to their missions, better understand the multilateral linkages of trade with other issues, as well as open several technical assistance leads. Available at <http://goo.gl/vp2LTG>



## Secteur Privé et Société Civile: Relais de l'Information Agro-climatique et Commerciale au Burundi?

Briefing Paper ▶ Afin de lutter efficacement contre les effets des changements climatiques sur la sécurité alimentaire, les institutions centrales et locales responsables de l'agriculture, de l'environnement et du commerce doivent collaborer entre elles dans l'exécution de leurs mandats respectifs et s'échanger des informations de manière coordonnée. À cet égard, certains Acteurs Non-Étatiques (ANE) - comme les organisations du secteur privé ou les médias - disposent de réseaux, d'une présence au niveau local et

d'une expertise dont ces institutions pourraient bénéficier et s'inspirer. Cette note d'information examine l'efficacité des méthodes et mécanismes de communication mis en place par les ANE, et examine les défis rencontrés afin de proposer des recommandations utiles



## Home-Grown Solutions » : Rwandan Cases of Linking Climate Change, Agriculture and Trade

Briefing Paper ▶ This briefing paper looks at specific cases of home-grown solutions in Rwanda that have linked agriculture, climate change, and trade. In many LDCs heavily dependent on agriculture, climate change leads to floods or drought that can wipe out entire harvests. This not only inhibits their agricultural trade, but can also be disastrous for the rural poor who often rely on rain-fed agriculture for their own sustenance. Rwanda has been devising unique “home-grown solutions” to this problem, leading to the identification of linkages between agriculture, trade, and climate change at the local level that provide lessons for integrating environmental issues into development processes. Available at <http://goo.gl/05gqj8>

aux ANE et aux institutions gouvernementales. Available at <http://goo.gl/OoHOnm>



## Uganda's National Trade Policy: Drawing Linkages with Climate Change and Food Security

Briefing Paper ▶ This briefing paper first discovers the lack of linkages between trade, climate change and food security in Uganda's National Trade Policy (NTP). Then it discusses the importance of the linkages between these three dimensions, and explains the causes of such missing linkages in Uganda's NTP. Finally it gives recommendations that deliberate efforts should be made to include the linkages between trade, climate change and food security in Uganda's NTP. Available at <http://goo.gl/GM3UJr>



## Climate, Food, Trade: Analysis of Institutional Interplay and Information Exchange in Tanzania

Research Study ▶ This study examines the institutional mechanisms in place in Tanzania for interaction between the government agencies responsible for climate change, agriculture and trade issues. Evidence from the study shows that the institutional and legal frameworks in Tanzania are supportive and enabling for the implementation of the District Development Plans (DDPs) at district level, including wards and village level. However, the District Councils are facing a number of challenges that undermine institutional interplay and linkages between them and the national policy-making processes. Among the main challenges identified by the author are the inadequate resources for the execution of the DDPs, the lack of district autonomy, as well as the limited involvement of Non-State Actors. Available at <http://goo.gl/eaZTc6>



## Climate, Food, Trade: Analysis of Institutional Interplay and Information Exchange in Rwanda

Research Study ▶ This study examines the institutional mechanisms in place in Rwanda for interaction between the government agencies responsible for climate change, agriculture and trade issues. It finds that Rwanda has taken major steps in the decentralization of powers, and that the planning process is all-inclusive thereby ensuring close collaboration between central and local governments. However, gaps, shortcomings and weaknesses still exist within the institutional arrangements and across central government and district authorities. Most challenges were found at the district level, including weaknesses in coordination, involvement of grassroots citizens, inclusivity of consultation processes, and implementation follow-up. Available at <http://goo.gl/EzZw6r>



## Climate, Food, Trade: Analysis of Institutional Interplay and Information Exchange in Uganda

Research Study ▶ This study examines the institutional mechanisms in place in Uganda for interaction between the government agencies responsible for climate change, agriculture and trade issues. Focusing on the two districts of Nakaseke and Nakasongola, it sheds light on a number of challenges that have resulted in inadequate coordination in the execution of their mandates. For instance, the study finds that understaffing at the district level has led to assigning multiple roles to individual officers which has affected their performance in mainstreaming environmental issues in other areas. Among other recommendations, the author points to the need for formally establishing institutional linkages for specific cross-cutting aspects, especially towards increasing coordination of district authorities with the central government ministries and agencies. Available at <http://goo.gl/aG6MaO>



## Climate, Food, Trade: Analysis of Institutional Interplay and Information Exchange in Kenya

Research Study ▶ This study examines the institutional mechanisms in place in Kenya for interaction between the government agencies responsible for climate change, agriculture and trade issues. Among other findings, the study shows that coordination of public institutions is stronger within the counties and weaker between the counties and the national government. It also makes key recommendations to be taken up at both county and national levels in order to promote an effective interaction framework for better policy and institutional coherence. Available at <http://goo.gl/LVRWZY>



## Climat, nourriture, commerce: Analyse des interactions institutionnelles et des échanges d'informations au Burundi

Research Study ▶ Cette étude examine les mécanismes institutionnels en place au Burundi pour l'interaction entre les organismes

gouvernementaux chargés des questions de changement climatique, d'agriculture et de commerce. En effet, la multiplication des défis provoqués par le changement climatique sur les populations agricoles, et le rôle potentiel du commerce pour atténuer l'insécurité alimentaire qui en résulte, ont rendu nécessaire pour ces institutions de communiquer plus systématiquement entre elles. Available at <http://goo.gl/6uvb9D>



## WTO Agriculture Negotiations: Securing EAC Countries' Interests

Research Study ▶ As the WTO membership is working towards a Post-Bali Work Programme to conclude the Doha round, developing and developed countries will now have to confront the core issues that have divided them for nearly 15 years. Agriculture being at the top of the list, this study explores the general interests of East African Community (EAC) Member States in the ongoing WTO negotiations on agriculture and provides inputs for both the preparatory phase of the work programme and the ensuing negotiations. It reviews the 2008 agriculture modalities to establish whether they have been overtaken by time, especially in the light of changing US and EU agricultural policies and the circumstances and needs of EAC countries. Available at <http://goo.gl/W1HP2f>



## Services Policy-Making and Negotiations: Involving Civil Society for Public Interest and Consumer Welfare

**Support in Trade in Services Negotiations -**  
Research Study ▶ Looking past the setback of this summer on trade facilitation and food stockholding that threatened the success of Bali, the WTO is now back on track. The year 2015 will be critical as members work towards a Post-Bali Work Programme to conclude the Doha round as instructed by trade ministers last year. Both developing and developed countries will now have to confront the core issues that have divided them for nearly 15 years and build the necessary trust to find creative solutions. Available at <http://goo.gl/RhvRk3>



## WTO Services Negotiations: Identifying East African Community Countries' Interests

Research Study ▶ The paper explores the East African Community (EAC) and its interests in the WTO services negotiations. Drawing on an understanding of the region, it analyses its economic dynamics, including on services trade, in a bid to tease out what the region could prospect in the WTO's negotiations based on the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS). It connects the dots between EAC home-grown processes on services liberalization, and what as well as how the GATS negotiations could be used to harness benefits for EAC countries- particularly in the context of preparations for the Post- Bali Work Programme and the run up to the 10th WTO Ministerial Conference (MC10). Finally, it speaks to the important question of developing the EAC's capacity to benefit from the opportunities presented by WTO-led liberalization on trade in services.



## GATS Disciplines on Domestic Regulations Negotiations : Brief Analysis of Developing Country Issues

Staff Paper ▶ Despite recognising the right of members to regulate services domestically, the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) also provides that measures relating to qualification requirements and procedures, technical standards and licensing requirements should not constitute unnecessary barriers to trade in services. On this basis, the WTO Council for Trade in Services established the Working Party on Domestic Regulations (WPDR) to develop generally applicable disciplines as appropriate for individual sectors or groups. This note briefly analyses the main issues under negotiation in the development of the above disciplines, highlighting some of the concerns faced by developing countries and mapping the way forward. Available at <http://goo.gl/1AUaJN>

# □ Representations



- On April 13, two interns attended the UNCTAD Global Commodities Forum.
- On April 23, an intern attended an OECD-ICTSD meeting on “Trade policies, value chains and development”.
- On April 28, Leslie Debornes attended the WTO 20th Anniversary event.
- On May 12, Rashid S Kaukab attended a meeting of CSOs with the SG of UNCTAD regarding preparations for UNCTAD XIV
- On June 3-6, Leslie Debornes attended the first sessional period of UNFCCC in Bonn, Germany
- On June 16, Leslie Debornes attended the ICTSD event on Global Value Chains in the Clean Energy Sector
- On June 19, Julian Mukiibi and Julien Grollier attended the WTO LDC Group meeting on NAMA component of element paper
- On June 23, Julian Mukiibi and Julien Grollier attended the expert level meeting of the LDC group
- On June 30, CUTS Geneva attended the 5th Aid For Trade Global Review meeting at the WTO

## Forest policy to regulate charcoal trade

by *The Guardian (Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania)*

**Apr. 24.** The government has said that the upcoming forest policy will address issues that aim to regulate charcoal business which many stakeholders, including Economic and Social Research Foundation (ESRF) and CUTS International through the PACT EAC project, have identified as a threat to environmental sustainability. [...] Available at <http://goo.gl/rd3INE>

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## Promoting agriculture, climate change for development in EAC”

by *The Guardian (Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania)*

**Apr. 24.** The Economic and Social Research Foundation (ESRF) in collaboration with CUTS International Geneva and other partners in East Africa has for over three years been in the forefront in informing and influencing policy and practice so as to address challenges related to the linkages between food security, climate change and trade. [...] Available at <http://goo.gl/4i9OQA>

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## Une étude informative sur le Commerce, Changement climatique et Sécurité alimentaire au sein de l'EAC a été présentée

by *Rwanda News Agency (Kigali, Rwanda)*

**Apr. 20.** Le Forum des Organisations de la Société Civile au sein de la Communauté des pays de l'Afrique de l'Est (EAC), en collaboration avec l'ONG « Cuts International », et d'autres partenaires, notamment le Groupe National de Référence (GNR ou RNG) ont tenu leur rencontre sur les Liens entre Commerce, Changement climatique et Sécurité alimentaire. [...] Available at <http://goo.gl/43HxPI>

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## Un bulletin agro-météorologique pour anticiper les risques agro-climatologiques

by *Burundi Eco (Bujumbura, Burundi)*

**Apr. 17.** Pour fournir aux différents acteurs du monde rural des informations sur les prévisions agro-météorologiques lors des périodes d'intenses activités agricoles afin de réduire de façon sensible l'insécurité alimentaire et nutritionnelle, l'Action Développement et Intégration Régionale (ADIR) à travers le projet PACT EAC suggère la conception d'un bulletin agro-météorologique. [...] Available at <http://goo.gl/FNwRLc>

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## Climate change is already impacting agricultural and trade patterns throughout East Africa

by *Rwanda News Agency (Kigali, Rwanda)*

**Apr. 16.** Climate change manifested through frequent extreme weather events is already impacting agricultural and trade patterns throughout East Africa, disturbing livelihoods all along the agricultural value chain. With adequate policy responses, trade could help prevent additional large-scale hunger arising from this situation, e.g. by moving food from surplus to deficit areas or providing alternative livelihood opportunities. [...] Available at <http://goo.gl/SvEbGs>

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## Join hands to tackle climate change, EA ministries told

by *The Daily Nation (Nairobi, Kenya)*

**May. 16.** Ministries of agriculture, environment and trade in East Africa need to harmonise their policies to effectively deal with issues of climate change, food security and trade. This has become even more important in view of the on-going negotiations at both the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Both these negotiations include issues related to food security and agriculture.. [...] Available at <http://goo.gl/TgAT6C>

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## New information hub on trade in services

*by ITC Global Services Network*

**May. 16.** On 6 May 2015, a new information hub on trade in services policymaking and negotiations was launched at an outreach event at the World Trade Organization, "Support to Enhance Development of Trade in Services Negotiations." The information hub, supported by the UK Trade Advocacy Fund (TAF), forms part of a joint project by the International Lawyers and Economists Against Poverty (ILEAP), CUTS International Geneva and the University of Sussex's Centre for the Analysis of Regional Integration (CARIS). [...] Available at <http://goo.gl/DWVJCs>

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## Two Counties announce imminent launch of weather communications programmes for farmers

*CUTS Press Release*

**Apr. 15.** CUTS held the 7th and last National Reference Group (NRG) meeting under the project Promoting Agriculture-Climate-Trade linkages in the East African Community (PACT-EAC) on April 14, 2015 at the Hilton Hotel in Nairobi. [...] Available at <http://goo.gl/YUTDao>

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