



## FACILITATING EQUITABLE AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA (FEAD) PROJECT

# Kenya National Dialogue 2011 Report

The Sarova Stanley Hotel, Nairobi | 17th October 2011



OCTOBER, 2011

# 1. INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Background Note on the National Dialogue in Kenya

Facilitating Equitable Agricultural Development (FEAD) in Sub-Saharan Africa project, commenced with three countries of Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda for a one year period ending March 2012. The main activities include undertaking policy oriented research in the project countries, outcomes of which will be used in targeted advocacy, supported and strengthened through national and international networks.

In line with these objectives, the research studies undertaken under the project were presented at National Dialogues in the respective project countries; the purpose was twofold; to appraise stakeholders with the study outcomes and to elicit feed-back, comments and in-puts from the stakeholders, this would then enable finalizing of the studies towards targeted advocacy of the outcomes.

In Kenya the national dialogue was held on 17<sup>th</sup> October, 2011 in Nairobi, in attendance were 25 participants from the agricultural sector, farmers associations, agricultural research institutes, private sector, civil society, government ministries, and CUTS staff. (See programme and list of participants in the annex).

## 1.2 Opening remarks

*By clement Onyango, Director, CUTS*

In his opening remarks, Clement thanked all the participants for honouring the invitation to attend the FEAD national dialogue. He gave a brief overview of the FEAD project noting that it emanates from the recently concluded project on Fostering Equity in the Trading system (FEATS) wherein the need for an enabling environment towards equitable agriculture development in Africa was identified. He then presented the day's program, the FEAD research terms of reference as well as the objectives of the meeting.

## 2. PRESENTATIONS

### 2.1 Presentation of FEAD Kenya Research Study

*By Bridget Rugube Kimani, CUTS ARC Nairobi*

The Kenya national study titled “Facilitating Equitable Agriculture Development in Sub-Saharan Africa: The Case of Kenya” was presented by MS. Bridget Rugube Kimani on behalf of the author MS. Gloria Otieno who was unable to attend the event.

The study is based on both literature reviews as well as empirical research obtained through interviews from relevant stakeholders. The presentation elicited a lot of discussion and feed-back from participants, the highlights of which are summarised under Session Three.

### 2.2 Presentation of FEAD Global Studies

*By Julian Mukiibi, Program Officer, CUTS Geneva Resource Centre (CUTS GRC)*

In addition to the project national studies, two “global studies” were conducted were conducted at CUTS-GRC; these are based on desktop research and examine the opportunities for the agriculture sectors of the project countries, in both the multilateral trading system and the Economic Partnership Agreement between the East Africa Community and the European Union.

Both studies were presented by Julian Mukiibi, Programme Officer, CUTS-GRC; deliberations on the topics are included under Session three.

### 3. STAKEHOLDERS' DISCUSSIONS

The major objective of this session was to present participants with an opportunity to comprehensively comment on the findings of the research draft reports and seek their views/in-puts that would then facilitate finalising the draft study reports.

#### **The following is a summary of the floor deliberations:**

- 1. Overview of Kenya's agricultural sector.** There is need to add more flesh in this section since Kenya's agricultural sector is made up of more than 10 ministries. Ministry of transport (infrastructure) and ministry of Lands could be analysed (productivity). There are other research papers that could address the technology aspects but the information dissemination is poor.
- 2. Taking the research outputs to the policy makers.** Information dissemination to benefit the small-scale farmers was widely discussed. Participants agreed that there is little consultation in the agricultural policy making process in the country and this research should be able to reach out to them.
- 3. Data/statistical issues.** The research should use current/up to date data from national sources such as the economic surveys released by the ministry of planning in order to give the policy makers an understanding of the current state of affairs. The issues of statistics in the paper should be updated especially from the economic surveys of 2010 or 2011. In analysis between the growth of GDP and Agricultural contribution to the GDP, correlation does not necessarily blend with causality. Data analysis should be very clear on this.
- 4. Engaging farmers and other non state actors in the agricultural policy making process.** The research paper could clearly define the role of each stakeholder in the formulation and implementation of the agricultural policies in order to identify the gaps and propose feasible recommendations.
- 5. Organic farming.** This is an area of future potential and the research paper should give more emphasis on how it such an opportunity links with the international market despite other challenges such as Non-tariff barriers being experienced. Policy and legal frameworks on the organic farming could be a research component of the draft.
- 6. Political economy of the agricultural sector.** A component of food governance and political economy is important to study the dynamics of regimes policies related to agriculture and how they have impacted on the production. The effect of political economy to the small scale sector could be expounded by the research paper. Cartels in the agricultural sector could also be analysed since they impact heavily on food distribution, production and eventually prices.
- 7. Create a linkage between agricultural sector, services and industrialisation.** These linkages help to determine the level of their contribution to the agriculture sector and how they provide an enabling environment for the agricultural productivity. Services are only positive if they are providing an enabling environment for the agriculture to thrive. Infrastructure was cited as one of the main component of the agricultural sector.
- 8. Informal cross border trade in the agriculture trade.** This could be introduced as a sub sector since most of the agricultural products are traded informally across the

border. Other country level trade instruments such as export bans could be studied as well as create a linkage between illegality of food traded and consumer prices. Within the East African region, it is estimated that about 50% of the cross border trade happens informally especially for the products such as cereals.

- 9. Subsidies in agriculture.** A section could be introduced to determine their impacts on the poor farmers as well as how the government can sustain them.
- 10. Land policy and land tenure systems.** Many participants agreed that land reform policies in Kenya directly affect the agricultural policies as well as productivity and this should be detailed by the research paper. Contract farming was cited as one of the new areas of land disputes being experienced in Kenya and could have adverse effects on agricultural productivity. Land use rather than land ownership was considered more important for the agricultural sector.
- 11. Challenges faced by the agricultural sector after the structural adjustment programme.** This is an area that should be addressed by showing how the SAPS affected the agricultural production in Kenya. Strategies and policies for the future such as the vision 2030 could be examined to forecast the performance of the agricultural sector in the future.
- 12. Agricultural financing.** Finance in agriculture was widely discussed as an important element of support to the small-scale farmers. There is a gap to address through specific led institutions to come up with agricultural lending initiatives especially for the grass root levels. There are risks in lending to farmers though the trend is improving. Farming insurance is a new concept introduced by insurance companies but it is a challenge to insure small-scale farmers in the country. Development organisations are trying to reach out to the small scale famers in order for them to access insurance farmers.
- 13. Youth, gender and agriculture.** It was echoed that these two categories of people constitute the largest number in the agricultural labour force and the research could include them as part of major stakeholders in order to form a strong basis in advocating for farmer-friendly and private sector-led agricultural development in the country.
- 14. Small Scale Farmers in Kenya.** It was discussed broadly that there has been anecdotal support to the small scale farmers by government in the last two decades. Mechanisms to address how the small scale production could be enhanced could be a major component of the research draft. The paper could propose a mechanism of linking small-scale farmers with their large scale counterparts as envisaged in the third objective. How these farmers are organised in terms of associations and groups was discussed in length.
- 15. Market for agricultural products in Kenya.** The research paper has focused more on export market with little emphasis on the domestic market. For purposes of ensuring food security or food sustainability, there should be deliberate research focus to push for policy intervention. The current state of play of food security should be assessed by the researcher.
- 16. Agricultural policy best practices.** The research should have a component on the best practices on formulating agricultural policies from other countries of the world. Policy strategy for Mozambique was given as an example of a policy that addresses the issues of small scale farmers especially women, problems faced by the widows, people living with HIV among other major issues.

**17. Trade in agriculture.** This should be an important research component to show the effects on food security, food sovereignty and food sustainability in Kenya.

**18. Devolved system of government.** This should be studied as an opportunity to open up policy intervention at the county level. A body that encompasses every farmer organisation (Kenya agribusiness and agro-processing alliance) will create a new platform for farmers to get involved in the policy formulation and implementation.

## CONCLUSION AND CLOSING

***By Clement Onyango, Director, CUTS***

In his concluding remarks, Clement noted that there is a huge role to be played by the government in order to drive forward the agricultural sector. Land ownership and utilisation is another major area that needs to be addressed. He thanked all the participants for their valuable contribution to the draft research studies and brought the national dialogue meeting to a close.

# ANNEX 1: AGENDA

<b>0830 – 0900</b>	<b>Registration</b>
<b>0900-0915</b>	Welcome and Introduction: Prof. Jasper Okelo, Board Member, CUTS, Nairobi
<b>0915 – 1015</b>	<b>Session I – Presentation of FEAD Kenya Research Study</b>  Overall Facilitator: <i>Angela Wauye, ACORD</i>  Rapporteur: <i>Fredrick Njehu, Assistant Programme Officer, CUTS Nairobi</i>  Presentation of Draft Study: <i>Bridget Rugube Kimani, Programme Assistant, CUTS Nairobi</i>
<b>1015 – 1115</b>	<b>Session II – Presentation of FEAD Global Studies</b>  Presentation of Global Studies: <i>Julian Mukiibi, Programme Officer, CUTS Geneva Resource Centre</i>
<b>1115 – 1145</b>	<b>Tea/Coffee Break</b>
<b>1145 – 1250</b>	<b>Session III - Floor Deliberations</b>
<b>1250- 1300</b>	<b>Conclusion and Vote of Thanks</b>  Clement Onyango, Director, CUTS Nairobi
<b>1300- 1400</b>	<b>Lunch and Departure</b>



## ANNEX 2: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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