

Background Note on the Validation Workshop in Kenya

Development of agriculture in Africa requires a multi-pronged approach combining policy and practice, private and public partnership, and national and multilateral synergies. A key aspect of this approach relates to the creation and nurturing of an enabling environment both at the national and multilateral levels for farmer-friendly agricultural development that is led by the private sector. But advocacy gaps arise in this process due to limited understanding of relevant issues and minimal interaction between private sector and farmers' organizations. Moreover, the efforts on the ground to promote such enabling environment may not bear fruit if they are disconnected from international processes.

The FEAD Project in Kenya

Through its Facilitating Equitable Agricultural Development in Sub-Saharan Africa (FEAD) Project, CUTS is strengthening these horizontal and vertical links in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda by undertaking organically linked activities of research and analysis, advocacy and dissemination and networking. In Kenya, the first country research study under this project is aimed at:

- Examining the relationships existing between agriculture policy makers, farmers, investors and traders in the country as well as their role/contribution to the policy formulation and implementation;
- Identifying both the positive and negative elements in the relevant legal and institutional policy and regulatory framework that either facilitate or hamper positive interaction and equitable terms of trade among farmers, investors and traders;
- Encouraging and promoting dialogue among farmers, investors, traders and policy makers through inclusive research methodology (i.e. regular feedback to and from relevant stakeholders that will encourage dialogue among farmers, traders, investors and policy makers);
- Generating a set of practical recommendations directed at all relevant stakeholders which will be the basis for advocacy for farmer-friendly and private sector-led agricultural development in the country.

Objectives of the Workshop

- To enhance the stakeholders understanding of CUTS International and FEAD project
- To present the first draft of the FEAD research studies for discussion and validation by the Kenya National Reference Group.