

Fostering Equity and Accountability in the Trading Systems (FEATS) Project

Tanzania National Dialogue: Dar-Es-Salaam, 22nd May, 2009

*Organized by Economic and Social Research Foundation (ESRF), Tanzania and
CUTS Geneva Resource Centre, Switzerland*

FEATS Background

The FEATS project of CUTS began in 2008 and will continue through March 2011 with the broad goals of raising awareness for better coherence between development and trade policies thus contributing to economic development and poverty reduction in project countries. The project countries include Kenya, Malawi, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia. The project is divided into two phases of trade policy research; the first one analyzes the political economy aspects of trade policy making process in the project countries, and the second phase will focus on a specific issue within the topic of “Trade in Agriculture”. Draft research studies for the first phase were completed in early 2009 and then revised after first set of comments from stakeholders and for presentation in the National Dialogues in each project country to be organized in April – May 2009.

Tanzania National Dialogue: Introduction

The Economic and Social Research Foundation (ESRF) in collaboration with CUTS GRC organized the Tanzania FEATS National Dialogue at Kunduchi Beach & Resort Hotel in Dar-Es-Salaam, Tanzania on 22 May 2009. About 20 representatives of civil society, research institutions, private sector and relevant government agencies attended the ND. The ND had the following objectives:

- Discussion and validation of the FEATS first phase research study on trade policy making process in Tanzania;
- Approval of the topic and discussion of the draft ToR for the FEATS second phase research study; and
- Strengthening the Tanzania FEATS network already established.

The ND was officially opened at 9.30 am by ESRF's Executive Director, *Dr. Hoseana Bohela Lunogelo*, who as well provided a brief introduction to the Project. In his remarks, he also mentioned the excellent working relationship that exists between CUTS and ESRF in undertaking a number of projects. Afterwards, Mr. Rashid S. Kaukab, CUTS Deputy Director and Research Coordinator, briefly introduced activities by CUTS and its FEATS Project. The workshop had two substantive sessions as narrated below:

Session I: Presentation of Phase one Research Findings

Mr. Clement Onyango, Centre Manager for CUTS Africa Resource Centre, Nairobi presented the draft research report on political economy of trade policy making in Tanzania. Following his presentation, contributions from stakeholders included:

- A need to update some of the data used as well as correction of some facts stated in the report.
- The issue of benefits through the regional trade agreements where Tanzania was pointed out not to be benefiting due to inability to fully exploit the available opportunities. It was then suggested for the report to cover and address this issue as well.
- Aspect of inclusiveness as addressed by the study was pointed out as a very important element in trade policy making in Tanzania. It was as well pointed out that the report should to the extent possible explain how different international and national frameworks in trade policies, such as the MDGs, Tanzania Vision 2025, NSGPR/MKUKUTA etc, can be addressed.
- Stakeholders in trade policy making in Tanzania are not fully involved in all policy-making procedures. This limited participation by the private sector and CSOs etc is the reason for imbalanced policies. Moreover, it was not clear whose ideas, comments or advices are included in policy formulation.
- Lack of coordination within private sector and government bodies, such as agriculture and ministry of trade, was as well pointed out. Mandates and activities of institutions are not clearly stated. Similarly the issue of trade policy and investment policy was also pointed out – the relationship between the two in Tanzania is not very clear.
- What is the exact level of control that Tanzania has on its trade market?

- Poor implementation of policies was mentioned as a key constraint. There are a number of policies and frameworks, particularly related to trade, but the level of implementation is very poor.
- In response, it was clarified that the study has covered many of the issues identified as important and it will be further strengthened based on the comments.

In addition to these discussions and comments, aiming at refining the presented draft report, questionnaires were afterward distributed so as to capture more comments from the stakeholders.

The draft research study was validated subject to the incorporation of the comments.

Session II: Topic and Draft Terms of Reference for Phase II In-depth, Issue-Specific Research Study

Mr. Rashid S. Kaukab presented and explained the draft terms of reference for the second phase research study (in the area of Trade in Agriculture and with a focus on food security and rural livelihood issues). As per earlier discussions with the FEATS Tanzania National Reference Group (TNRG) the proposed topic of the study was “*Regional Trade in Agriculture: Performance of and Prospects for Tanzania with focus on food security and Rural Livelihoods*”.

As discussions continued, a number of issues were brought up, including a proper definition of ‘agriculture’ as well as ‘regional’; the alignment of the study with development frameworks as well as the issue of gender participation in the agriculture sector. At the end of all these discussions, participants felt that the chosen topic was too broad and its stated objectives were not seen properly attainable. It was then agreed to narrow down the scope of the study as well as the title for the second phase to read: ***Trade in Agriculture in the EAC: Implications on Food Security and Rural Livelihood in Tanzania.***

Conclusion

After all these discussions, the presented first phase report was considered as a good final report, subjected to few changes. Concerning the second phase study Terms of Reference, the newly proposed topic was accepted by all and especially the country research partner.

Participants agreed to offer assistance, whenever required, in finalizing the report of the first phase, as well as in carrying out the research for the second phase.

On behalf of the Economic and Social Research Foundation (ESRF), *Ms. Monica Hangi* thanked both Mr. Kaukab and Mr. Onyango; together with all who participated in the National Dialogue (ND) and requested all for continued participation in FEATS activities especially during the second phase research study.