

## CUTS Africa Resource Centre Nairobi Research Profile

Over the past years, CUTS Africa Resource Centre has focused on research and capacity-building activities at the national, regional and multi-county levels. This methodology emanates from CUTS ARC Nairobi to function to act as a resource, coordination as well as networking Centre to promote South-South cooperation for a sustainable, people-centered economic development. The Centre has established itself and contributed in the policy making process in Eastern African region through on-going and completed research project.

### Current Research Projects

In line with its mission and objectives, ARC, Nairobi is undertaking various research based advocacy project in Eastern Africa:

- a. **Fostering Equity and Accountability in the Trading Systems (FEATS) Project:**  
This is being implemented in five countries of Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Malawi and Zambia. The project aims at ensuring positive linkages between trade and development in Africa by developing the capacity of governments to proactively and positively respond to trade issues through their involvement in policy research.  
[www.cuts-international.org/ARC/Nairobi/FEATS/index.htm](http://www.cuts-international.org/ARC/Nairobi/FEATS/index.htm)
- b. **EPAs (ongoing since 2005):** A research, advocacy and capacity building project for civil society organisations (CSOs) in six countries viz. Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Zambia, Ethiopia and Malawi. It is supported by **Royal Danish Embassy**. Subsequent support has been made by Overseas Development Institute, London; European Centre for Development Policy Management (ECDPM), Netherlands; and Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES) Kenya.
- c. **Building an Inclusive East African Community (BIEAC):** A two year programme, funded by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) that commenced in November 2008 and ended in December 2011. The project covers the five member states of the East African Community: Burundi; Kenya; Rwanda; Tanzania; and Uganda. Its main objective was to provide support to a range of CSOs in the region to examine the implications of external trade policies on the welfare and livelihood of the people and provide a better understanding of both challenges and opportunities of trade integration. This is done through research; awareness raising and advocacy. [www.cuts-international.org/ARC/Nairobi/BIEAC/index.htm](http://www.cuts-international.org/ARC/Nairobi/BIEAC/index.htm)

#### *Research Themes for the BIEAC Phase I*

- Leveraging The Agriculture Sector Through Trade: Opportunities and Challenges in the EC-EAC EPA.
- The Most Favoured-Nation provision in the EC/EAC Economic Partnership Agreement and its implications
- Export Taxes and EPAs: Another Policy Tool under Threat from the EC?
- Trade in Services and EPAs: The Way forward for EAC

- Standards and Market Access Under EPAs: Implications and Way forward for EAC

### ***Research Themes for the BIEAC Phase II***

- Socio-economic Implications of the Uganda's Draft *Competition Law: Addressing Challenges at National and Regional Level*
- *A Case for Trade in the Resurgent EAC: Policy Challenges and Opportunities*
- *The Non-Tariff Barriers in Trading Within the East African Community (EAC)*
- Integrating Migration with Development in EAC: Policy Challenges and Recommendations
- Harmonisation of EAC Tax Policies and Laws: Proposals for Taxation Regime for Fostering Small Business Development and Regional Economic Growth
- Accession of Burundi and Rwanda to the EAC: Implication for Private Sector Development
- How Might EAC Reduce Negative Implications of Informal Cross-Border Trade to Support Regional Trade Integration and Development?

### ***Briefing Papers***

- The Most Favoured-Nation Provision in the EC-EAC EPA and its Implications
- Export Taxes and EPAs another Policy Tool under Threat from the EC?
- Standards and Market Access under EPAs Implications and Way forward for EAC
- Leveraging the Agriculture Sector Through Trade: Opportunities and Challenges in the EC-EAC EPA
- Trade in Services and EPAs: The Way forward for the EAC

- d. Scenario Planning for EAC Agriculture Development and Sustainable Food Security in 2020 and Beyond:** This research project aims to establish what is going on within the EAC region with regards to food security, the challenges and opportunities that present themselves and how these might possibly evolve in the coming years. Through the use of scenarios, the project will seek to establish possible trajectories that food security policy might take and how the region might respond in order to ensure that its chosen food security remains viable.

### **Concluded Research Projects**

- a. **Trade in Services and Domestic Regulation (July 2007-December 2007):** This study in Kenya provided background information on the country's services sector over the last two decades. It analysed the evolution of the sector in Kenya and its contribution to the country's gross domestic product, employment, exports and imports, investment flows and sectoral linkages. The study also analysed the competitiveness of different sub-sectors in the service sector with particular reference to inter-industry trade.
- b. **Linkages between Trade, Development and Poverty Reduction (February 2005-December 2008):** This project aimed at analysing possible linkages between trade, development and poverty; drawing from among others, success stories of such

linkages that have been demonstrated in other developing/least developed countries. Ways in which Kenya can increase its capacities to engage on trade as a means to enhancing the state of economic development thereby reducing poverty were also addressed. Apart from Kenya, the research (and subsequent advocacy) was done by leading research partners in Tanzania, Uganda and several other countries both within Africa and Asia, comprising a total of 13 countries. Institutions and resource persons from the civil society, government and business community were engaged in this multi-country initiative.

[www.cuts-citee.org/tdp.htm](http://www.cuts-citee.org/tdp.htm)

- c. **Investment and Development (September 2000- October 2002):** This was a two-year research and advocacy project that was initiated in 2002. The aim of the research undertaken in Kenya, among other countries was to assess the impact of investment on development; testing the hypothesis of whether an increase in investment automatically meant an enhancement in the economic development regime in a country. The project was undertaken in partnership with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

[www.cuts-international.org/ifd-indx.htm](http://www.cuts-international.org/ifd-indx.htm)

- d. **Competition and Regulatory Policy Research (May 2007-July 2007):** In collaboration with the CUTS Centre for Competition, Investment & Economic Regulation (CUTS CCIER), ARC Nairobi has been instrumental in implementing and coordinating a number of research-based advocacy and capacity building projects on competition policy and law issues (referred to as 7Up projects). The role of ARC has been that of a regional coordinator for the project, the centre has made substantial contribution in the effort to carry forward the ‘key outcomes’ from the project to inform national policy in various countries of the region (in addition to that of Kenya), to ensure appropriate uptake of these findings in the process of competition and regulatory reforms in the beneficiary countries.

[www.cuts-ccier.org/7up3/7Up3.htm](http://www.cuts-ccier.org/7up3/7Up3.htm):

[www.cuts-ccier.org/7up1/index.htm](http://www.cuts-ccier.org/7up1/index.htm)

- e. **Sectoral Regulatory Study (May 2007-July 2007):** A research study entitled, ‘Comparative Study of Sectoral Regulation in Developing Countries: Lessons for Policy, Governance and Implementation – A Case Study of Kenya’ was undertaken by ARC. The main aim of the study was to analyse the regulatory institutions and processes in select sectors (electricity and telecom) in Kenya, and draw lessons relevant for other developing countries.

- f. **A Multi country Diagnostic Research on Supply-Side Capacity and Export Response (2008):** This is a multi country research project funded by the Commonwealth Fund and covers four countries, viz. Bangladesh, Kenya, Uganda and Zambia. The broad objective of the research project was to find out the factors determining export success of a few firms in certain sectors of least developed countries (LDCs) and small and vulnerable states (SVS) and to learn lessons from the success experiences so that appropriate interventions can be undertaken for the benefit of other potential entrepreneurs to strengthen the countries’ efforts towards diversification.

- g. **Mapping Out the Institutional Policy Environment and Issues Affecting Small-Scale Farmers and Options for Enhanced Productivity and Market Access in Kenya (KAPMAD):** This project aims at contributing to poverty reduction and improvement of livelihoods in Kenya through improved agricultural production and sustainable access of smallholder producers to markets. Its two main objectives are to understand the constraints blocking productivity-related competitiveness of smallholder producers and their sustainable access to markets; and enunciate options for unblocking the above constraints to bring about improved agricultural productivity and competitiveness and pro-poor market development and access by small-scale farmers to those markets. The project was undertaken in partnership with Kenya Small Scale Farmers Forum with support from Ford Foundation, Office for Eastern Africa, Nairobi.

[www.cuts-international.org/ARC/Nairobi/KAPMAD/index.htm](http://www.cuts-international.org/ARC/Nairobi/KAPMAD/index.htm)

- h. **Research Project on Competition Policy and Regulations in the Energy Sector in Kenya:** This research study was envisaged to assess the institutional framework of the national competition policy and the regulatory structures; review and evaluate the competition policy and regulatory framework of the energy sector in light of energy sector reforms; and undertake a comparative analysis of competition and regulatory framework in energy sector in other countries.

#### *Project Documents*

#### [Project Report Competition in Energy Sector in Kenya](#)

#### *Briefing Papers*

- [COMPETITION LAW IN KENYA - A Snapshot](#)

See: [http://www.cuts-international.org/ARC/Nairobi/Competition\\_in\\_Energy\\_Sector/](http://www.cuts-international.org/ARC/Nairobi/Competition_in_Energy_Sector/)

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