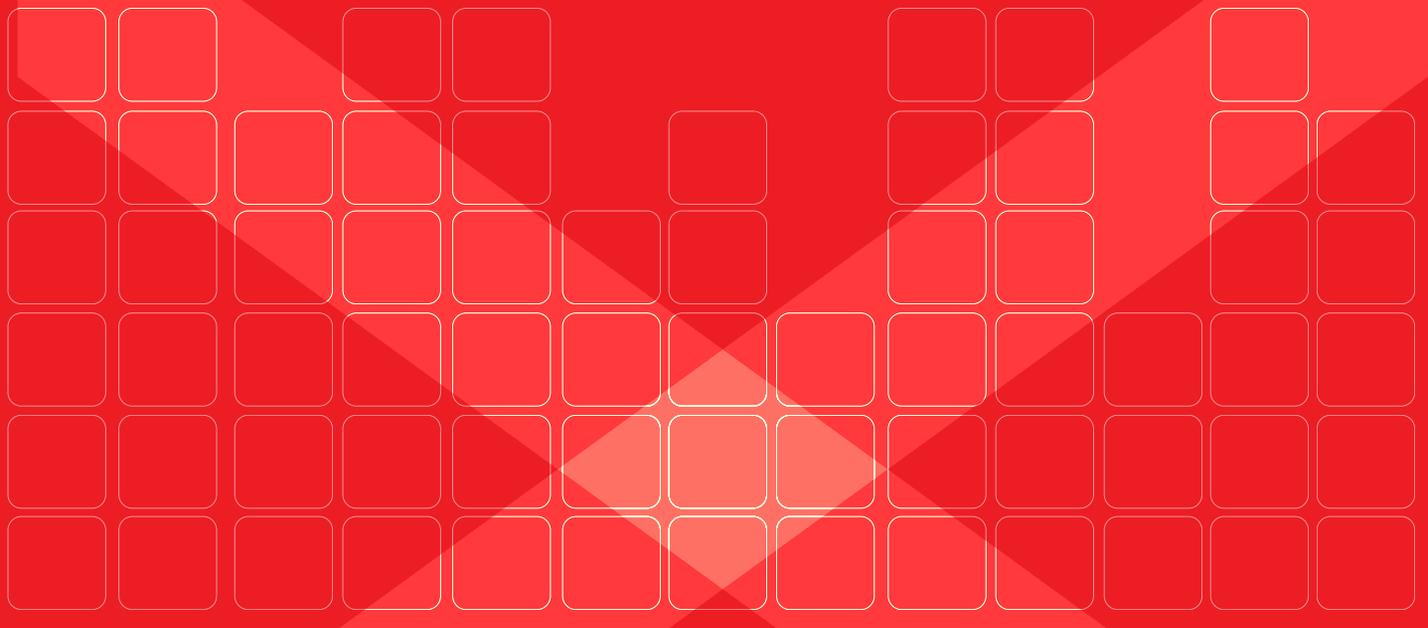




*Strengthening Africa in World Trade*

# Annual Report

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## Message from the Country Director, Ms. Jane Nalunga

I am very pleased to share the annual report of SEATINI Uganda for the year 2014. This report provides an overview of what SEATINI has been doing towards strengthening Africa in world trade.

SEATINI Uganda along with its partners and stakeholders implemented programmes in the areas of Trade and Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ESCR), Regional Integration, Financing for Development and Institutional Development, all of which are rooted in strategically positioning Africa in world trade.

2014 has been a busy year for SEATINI Uganda. However, we have moved considerably well in achieving the set milestones in relation to the outcomes, and have been able to reach more than the planned beneficiaries. It is therefore expected that SEATINI will be in position to achieve all the expected outcomes by the end of the implementation period of the current strategic plan.

Under the trade economic, social and cultural rights program, our advocacy work was done in the area of seed related policies that were at different stages of enactment. They include, Plant Variety Protection Act, the National Agricultural Policy, Biotechnology and Bio-safety bill, national seed policy and the PGRFA policy. And as a result of our advocacy work, Government is increasingly consulting and listening to key stakeholders so as to feed into the development process of national seed related policies. In 2015, SEATINI will continue to strengthen alliance building with like-minded organizations in order to create awareness on issues of seed laws, food security, farmers' rights and intellectual property.

The Regional Integration program will consolidate on gains made in the areas of free movement of goods and free movement of workers. This will be done by engaging policy makers on policy issues and creating public awareness about the standards, capacity building in form of trainings and media



awareness on the challenges met in complying with EAC maize standards. SEATINI will strengthen alliance building with organisations working on issues of market access and dissemination of standards through partnerships on disseminating the standards at the grassroots.

For the area of influencing Multilateral Trading systems and bilateral trade negotiations, SEATINI will continue to monitor the implementation of the EPAs including the ratification process with a bid to raise stakeholders and policy makers' awareness of the adverse implications of this concluded agreement. Other areas of focus will be the monitoring of the Trade Facilitation Agreement and the development of the EAC investment model treaty which is critical for negotiating investment agreements that take into account the development needs of the region.

Since 2015 marks the end of the Millennium Development Goals timeline, which will bring on board Sustainable Development Goals, SEATINI-U will therefore continue to engage in national working groups debates towards ensuring that the final outcomes of the SDG negotiation process results into realistic strategies that will be used to achieve the goals.

I am thankful to sponsors, donor agencies, the Government of Uganda, our partner organisations, the management and the staff of SEATINI Uganda for your continuous support for our Advocacy work.

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Country Director,  
Ms. Jane Nalunga

# Programme Highlights for 2014

## Launch of the Free Movement of Workers report

The Minister for MEACA officiated at the launch of the SEATINI's Research study Report titled, "Free Movement of Workers in the East African Community: Implications for youth employment in Uganda and the EAC. The colourful function brought together over 150 guests to witness this memorable event. The research analyses how the free movement of workers has performed since the establishment of the Common Market Protocol 4 years ago and the opportunities and challenges it presents for youth employment.



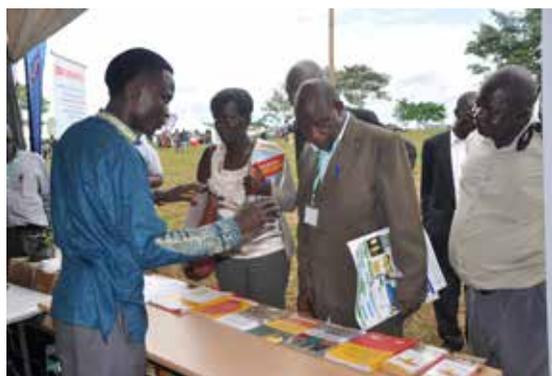
SEATINI Uganda launches a report on Free Movement of Workers in the East African Community

On October 2nd, 2014, the State Minister for Agriculture, Zelbabel Nyiira officiated at the launch of a study report entitled seed related policies and laws in Uganda: A Civil Society Advocacy Guide.

The report establishes the national level status of the country's seed and seed related policy frameworks, the gaps within the country's seed related policies and their effects on access to seed and farmers' rights.



SEATINI Uganda launches a study on seed related policies and laws in Uganda.



SEATINI Uganda participated in the World Food Day where it showcased its work through publications such as reports, posters, Newsletters etc.

## 2.0

# SEATINI-the organization

Founded in 2001, the Southern and Eastern African Trade, Information and Negotiations Institute (SEATINI Uganda) is part of a regional non-governmental organization called SEATINI that was founded in 1996 soon after the WTO Singapore Ministerial Conference. This was after realizing that Africa in particular and Third World countries in general were marginalized in the WTO negotiations and other global processes. Government's capacity to negotiate was limited and the participation of other stakeholders' i.e. private sector, CSOs, MPs was very minimal. The civil society's understanding of the complexities of the international regime was also limited. Civil society was also largely excluded from the trade negotiations and decision-making both at home and in international fora. The private sector was not adequately informed about the challenges of globalization and its effects on multilateral trading regime and thus narrowing their participation. The role of the Parliamentarians was also on the periphery.

### Vision

A strong and confident Africa committed to pursuing and defending the interests, rights and aspirations of its people at all levels.

### Mission

To strengthen the capacity of key stakeholders i.e. the Media, CSOs, government officials, Members of Parliament, farmers groups, trade unions to take a more effective part in and influence global, regional and national trade and trade related processes and better manage the process of globalization for sustainable development and improved livelihoods.

#### Values

SEATINI Uganda thrives as an independent, people-centred non-profit seeking organisation driven by the values of openness, transparency, integrity and non-violence, working with diligence towards greater justice and equity. We abide by the following principles in letter and in spirit. Commitment to:

- human justice, democracy and fairness
- people-centred development
- a Rights Based Approach to development

- a search for alternatives to the contemporary mainstream neo-liberal model of globalization
- non-partisan professional, non-racist, non-sexist and independent position in relation to national and global issues
- non-profit seeking and non-exploitative work ethics within SEATINI Uganda
- regional and continental unity

## SEATINI Uganda's Broad Objectives

### SEATINI Uganda seeks to:

- Monitor developments in the area of trade –related matters to ensure that these processes generate favourable rules and environment which can be utilized to achieve equitable and sustainable development in East and Southern Africa in particular and the continent in general.
- To provide a platform for stakeholders to deliberate on global, regional and national issues with a view of developing a consensus.
- Contribute to build long term capacity of Eastern and Southern African countries in particular and Africa in general in trade –related matters.
- Raise awareness, build capacities and bring into discourse the concerns of other key stakeholders i.e. Members of Parliament, Trade unions, Farmers' groups, women's' groups, the youth, and civil society movements into trade-related matters.

In order to ensure that the above objectives are achieved, in our strategic plan 2013-2015, SEATINI Uganda decided do work in the following programmes areas:

- Trade and Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ESCR)
- Influencing Bilateral Trade Negotiation and Multilateral Trading Systems
- Regional Integration
- Financing for Development
- Institutional Development

## 3.0.

# Programme implementation

**SEATINI-Uganda** is presently in the second year of implementing her 3 year strategic plan that was developed under the theme 'Promoting democratic governance of trade and trade related processes and pro-development trade policies for sustained equitable development and improved livelihoods'. In line with her strategic plan, this year SEATINI has undertaken work in the following areas:

- Trade and Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ESCR)
- Regional Integration
- Financing for Development
- Influencing Multilateral Trading systems and bilateral trade negotiations

During 2014 SEATINI-U continued to implement her programs in context of the changing trade and development environment and in line with her strategic plan. The changing scenery in the national, regional and global trade and trade related processes informed SEATINI's advocacy campaigns and achievements.

At the national level the effects of the neo liberal paradigm continued to impact on development and trade agendas and there was more concerted efforts and pressure to make the agriculture sector more commercialized, monopolized and concentrated in the hands of the private sector and at the expense of small holder farmers. This sector, which has continued to be described as the backbone of the country continued to become an arena for global economic interests and actors, such as private investors and multinational companies focused at making profits from seed breeding and distribution as a business.

Advancement of intellectual property right regimes and laws on seed which seek to concentrate the control over seed and other plant reproduction materials to a small group of multinational companies was prevalent in 2014 and resulted in legislations such as the Plant Variety Protection Act (PVP) and the National Agriculture Policy (NAP) signed into law in 2014 while others like the Biotechnology and Biosafety Bill, Plant Genetics Resources for Food and Agriculture policy (PGRFA) and the national seed policy remained in the pipe line. These laws in their current state have far reaching implications on livelihoods, access to incomes, and poverty reduction especially as they promote private investor interests at the expense of livelihoods of small holder farmers who comprise majority of Uganda's agricultural producers.

Uganda is heavily dependent on agriculture, and seeds are a key input in agricultural production. Seeds are also the most elementary inputs for any farming system as they determine the continuity of crop production and therefore food security. In Uganda, small scale farmers form over 95% of the farmers in the country with 60% of these being women. These have over the years made an invaluable contribution to the preservation, and improvement of plant genetic resources and biodiversity. As such there is a need to reward these farmers for their contribution towards the traditional plant genetic diversity by developing laws that protect their rights to seed.

In the area of investments the country continued to witness unregulated land based investments further threatening food security. Uganda has been keen at attracting Foreign Direct Investments (FDIs). Indeed at the end of 2013 a report by Ernst and Young indicated that Uganda was among the top 10 FDI recipients in Africa, a finding that was attributed to the country's solid economic growth and a rapidly expanding population that are appealing to investors. FDIs have been fronted as a means to economic development foremost through the creation of employment, transfer of technology and industrialization, among others. Conversely however statistics throughout this year showed that despite the increasing FDIs into the country, Uganda continued to face a growing rate of youth unemployment that stood at over 60% according to the Uganda National Bureau of Statistics.

FDIs have also been associated with violations of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ESCRs) in Uganda. Most citizens have been denied their consultative rights prior to the establishment of investments in their traditional lands and FDIs have encouraged land grabbing hence undermining people's rights to food and employment.

The linkage between economic, social and cultural rights and trade and development has also not been fully appreciated at the country level as the focus has continued to be on upholding political and civil rights. Uganda has therefore not yet enshrined these rights in the constitution and has not developed the content, scope and mechanisms to enforce these rights.

At the regional level there were efforts to intensify the benefits of the EAC regional integration process and make it more tangible to the people. This was seen in the increased commitments to eliminate Non-Tariff Barriers (NTBs) in order to facilitate trade in goods and enable the private sector do business at reduced costs in line with the EAC Common Market Protocol.

The free movement of goods was also enhanced with the development of harmonized standards for goods including agricultural produce like maize and beans in order to allow producers in this sector better access the available opportunities in the EAC Common Market.

However the challenges to market access continued to be prevalent at the national level owing to absence of policies and guidelines for implementation of the regional standards. The limited consultation of stakeholders in policy making and standards setting as well as the delink between implementing ministries and between the ministries and their representatives at the local level all compounded on the already existing market access challenges such as lack of awareness, limited access to information and failure by agencies at the grassroots to enforce policies. These hence constrained Uganda's and Small Scale Farmers' ability to utilize existing regional agricultural market opportunities.

The year was also characterized by a revival of the negotiations on liberalizing the process of the free movement of workers which had stalled owing to failure by partner states to make further commitments. The negotiations were held within the Tripartite of Kenya, Uganda and Rwanda under the Northern Corridor Integration project, also known as 'the coalition of the willing'. The revival of these negotiations was timely, owing to the rising unemployment challenges facing the region. However these negotiations continued to be skewed towards liberalizing movement of highly skilled professionals, leaving out the young workers who comprise more than 90% of job seekers. The process therefore was not cognitive of the employment and development challenges facing Uganda and the EAC, due to absence of data on skills mismatch, limited consultation of non-state actors and inadequacy of the policy formulation and implementation processes on addressing unemployment. It was therefore important for civil society to engage in this process and advocate for a rethink of the implementation of this process in a manner that enhances employment creation including managing skills gaps, and enabling movement of skilled informal labour.

The East African Community continued to be involved in bilateral trade negotiations with the European Union (Economic Partnership Agreement) and with the United States (Trade and Investment Partnership Agreement). These negotiations arose as an agenda of the developed countries to access markets in LDCs through more binding agreements that go beyond the provisions and scope of the multilateral system of the World Trade Organization. The conclusion of the EPAs that had been stalled for more than 10 years will have far reaching negative implications on Uganda and the entire East Africa region especially in terms of promoting agricultural production, taxations, and exports.

A fair and equitable multilateral trading system is critical for providing a conducive policy environment for production and trade at national and regional level. However, multilateral trading system continued to side-line issues of interest to poor countries like Uganda as agreed upon in the Doha Development Round. These issues include the provision of meaningful market access by developed countries, elimination of trade distorting subsidies, provision of a safeguard mechanism for developing countries to protect their agriculture and policy space to purchase agricultural products from their small scale farmers. The Bali Ministerial Conference at the end of 2013 focused mainly on trade facilitation which will increase imports thus affecting production and employment creation.

It is important to ensure that Uganda and the EAC identify how they can benefit from the trade facilitation agreement but also continue to advocate for the development issues in the WTO.

The issues discussed above informed SEATINI's advocacy work throughout the year. SEATINI used the following advocacy strategies to implement its programs. They include, media engagements (Print and Electronic media) in order to put these issues to the public domain, workshops, researches and publications, working with Ministry officials, working at local level, petitions, networks at national regional and global levels, participation in national, regional and global conferences.

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# Trade, Economic, Social and Cultural rights programme

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Programme objective: To influence trade and trade related policy processes for the attainment of people's economic social and cultural Rights.

Trade and Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (TESCR) focuses on strengthening the capacity of stakeholders to effectively participate in agriculture, investment and climate change related policy processes.

In 2014, SEATINI-U's work under the T/ESCRs focused on issues of seed, market access, trade and investment. Climate change, gender and HIV were cross cutting issues. The overriding aim was ensure there is a coherence of policies at local, national and regional levels that promote the realisation of peoples' economic, social and cultural Rights. The programme focused on information generation, policy advocacy, alliance building, raising awareness and capacity building for the various stakeholders. The programme further monitored the various negotiations and trade related processes at national, regional and global levels to accordingly influence negotiations and policies toward the realization of people's rights.

Under the area of developing pro-development seed related policies and laws, SEATINI targeted the Plant Variety Protection Bill, 2010, the Biotechnology and Biosafety Bill, 2012, the National Agriculture Policy, the National seed policy, the EAC Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (EAC-CAADP) and the ARIPO PVP harmonization process.

This seed advocacy campaign focused at having in place seed related legislations that recognise and protect farmers' and communities rights to seed, protect and promote indigenous knowledge, promote household food and nutrition security, recognize and protect the right to food, protect the environment and local Biodiversity from contamination and loss, protect the right of consumers to information and the right for small holder farmers and the civil society to participate in decision making on matters that affect them. About 1167 (330 female) stakeholders participated in influencing trade related areas of agriculture, climate change and investment policies at national, regional and global level for the attainment of Economic Social and Cultural Rights.

## Highlights

Through organising local meetings, SEATINI raised public awareness on the seed in Uganda and the need to protect local seed varieties. Three local level meetings were organised to raise awareness. These meetings mobilised stakeholders such as CSOs and local communities (farmers, cultural groups, media...) in the central, northern, and eastern regions of Uganda including cultural leaders to advocate for the advancement of their own methods of preserving and utilisation of seed and for the protection of indigenous seed varieties.

SEATINI built the capacity of over 50 members of Parliament on the seed to enable them advocate for the development of pro-development seed related policies. This was through meetings organised at the national level discuss the current global push to erode away small holder farms and livelihoods and replace them with large scale monoculture farms and the threat that this poses to food security, farmers' livelihoods and biodiversity at large. Up to now, Government is increasingly consulting and listening to key stakeholders so as to feed into the development process of national seed related policies.

As a result of SEATINI' continued CSO engagements and advocacy on the PVP bill and the Biotechnology and Biosafety bill, Government is opening up spaces for CSO participation and engagement. For example, MAAIF has increasingly engaged and consulted the civil society. For example, SEATINI was invited by Dr Okasai Opolot, the director of crop resources to discuss CSO concerns on the PVP bill on 30th July 2014 at the ministry headquarters in Entebbe. SEATINI was also among the few CSOs that were recommended by MAAIF to participate in the validation of the draft national seed policy as well as the national validation of the East African Community (EAC) version of the Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Plan (CAADP) in Uganda.

In the areas of policy advocacy, SEATINI in partnership with other civil society such as Food Rights Alliance and the African Biodiversity Network continued their advocacy campaign on the PVP bill, 2010 (now PVP Act 2014) in 2014, emphasising the Bill's failure to protect traditional seed and plant varieties from exploitation by commercial plant breeders as well as its inability to recognise farmers' and community rights to seed. This was done by engaging the cabinet secretariat, parliament, and the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF) through workshop meetings, radio talk shows and statements/position papers. We however, secured a commitment from MAAIF to have farmers' and communities rights to seed recognised and protected in the PGRFA policy that is being drafted.

SEATINI continued to create public awareness on GMOs and the gaps in the current Biotechnology and Biosafety Bill 2012 and proposed ways to improve it. This was done through Radio Talk shows. Listeners also shared their views and fears regarding the introduction of GMOs in Uganda, key amongst which was the likely contamination of our indigenous seed varieties by these GMOs.

The campaign on GMOs and the Biotechnology and Biosafety Bill 2012 continued up to the Parliamentary circles. And as a result of influencing the policy makers, the parliamentary committee on science and technology adopted and incorporated some of the CSO positions such as labeling GMO products, protection of indigenous varieties from contamination and the potential risks of GMOs on human health among others in its report.

The speaker of parliament of Uganda has also continued to defer the Biosafety and Biotechnology Bill 2012 for further consultations.

SEATINI together with other likeminded CSO and farmer organisations around the world petitioned the Bill and Melinda Gates foundation to stop the on-going human feeding trials involving GM banana. These trials are currently being carried out on students at the University of Iowa in the United States of America, with planned introduction on the Ugandan and other East African markets.

At the Regional level, a process to develop a common EAC Biosafety policy is underway while at the continental level, the African Regional Intellectual Property Organisation (ARIPO) is pushing for the adoption of the draft ARIPO PVP Protocol.

SEATINI in partnership with Human Rights Network- Uganda (HURINET-U), Initiative for Social and Economic Rights (ISER) and other ESCR based organisations continued to lobby the Uganda government to recognise ESCRs as real rights, that can be judicially adjudicated and enforced, and not as mere inspirational policies and programmes. This lobbying has led to the country's submission of her first ever report, since ratifying the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in 1987, on the implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in Uganda to the United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. CSOs working on ESCR have also developed and submitted an alternative report on the Implementation of ESCRs in Uganda to be considered together with the government report.



Ambassador Nathan Irumba making a presentation during the Cultural leaders' meeting held in Hoima District.

# Influencing multilateral trading systems and bilateral trade negotiations

Program Objective: To enhance the capacity of stakeholders to effectively influence Multilateral and Bilateral Trade negotiation and other global processes to generate favourable rules and frameworks that are supportive of Uganda's and EAC's development and improved livelihoods in Uganda and the EAC region.

At the beginning of 2014, the debate around the protracted EPA negotiations escalated with EU putting a deadline of October 4, 2014, to remove all Duty Free Quota Free market access offers to any country that could not have concluded and signed the EPAs. Similarly, the negotiations for a Bilateral Investment Treaty with the USA continued to take shape. Within the EAC secretariat, efforts were underway to develop an EAC investment model treaty for negotiating investment agreements with third parties. SEATINI Uganda in partnership with other civil society organizations in Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda and Uganda took to engage their country negotiators, the EAC secretariat, private sector among others on the implications of concluding a trade agreement such as the EPAs; and provided comments to the US Bilateral investment treaty as well as the draft EAC investment model treaty to ensure that they take into account the development needs of the region. At the multilateral level, the decisions taken during the 9th WTO ministerial conference in 2013 i.e. the adoption of the permanent Trade Facilitation Agreement and the decision on public stockholding for food security, among others, despite their implication on livelihoods (food security) and sustainable development, are all subject to action by Uganda. The decisions were greatly unbalanced and unfair as they favour the interests of the developed world and only provide best endeavour clauses on the development package for least-developed countries (LDCs).

In order to satisfactorily achieve the Program objectives, in 2014 SEATINI organized (8) Workshops and meetings; (2) public dialogues, (1) press conference, (6) radio programmes and (3) debates in institutions of higher learning. The program team also participated in (2) exhibitions and fairs at national level; and in more than (5) meetings organized by stakeholders at regional and international level. In addition, SEATINI Uganda also developed (2) studies; (2) policy brief and (3) Articles published at national, regional and international levels. These meetings enabled SEATINI-U to bring together organizations and stakeholders both at local, national and global levels to share knowledge, pool experience and resources for combined action. SEATINI-Uganda facilitated the strengthening of platforms at different levels allowing stake holders to deliberate and make their voices heard.

## Highlights

SEATINI-U together with civil society organizations working on trade, food security, human rights and environment developed and submitted petitions on EPA negotiations to the EAC secretariat. The petition provided guidance to the EAC Secretariat in preparing for the EAC Negotiation positions. A letter from the Secretary General appreciating SEATINI's efforts in enriching the EAC's EPA negotiation positions was obtained.

Still under EPAs, SEATINI Uganda engaged a wide range of key stakeholders on the EPA negotiations. These meetings provided a platform for stakeholders to be updated on the developments within the negotiations as well as an opportunity to directly engage the country negotiators and stress their positions especially on the issues that had been cited as contentious. During these meetings, stakeholders called upon the EAC Negotiators to use these negotiations to push for positions that promote industrialization, production and productivity in the EAC.

In 2014, awareness raising activities and consultative meetings with key stakeholders were held which resulted into the development of petitions and positions on the proposed US Bilateral Investment Treaty that were submitted to EAC Secretariat, Speakers of Uganda parliament and EALA. The provisions under Articles on National Treatment, MFN, Minimum Standard of Treatment, Expropriation and Compensation, and performance requirements in the EAC's draft Model Investment Treaty are reflective of SEATINI-Uganda's positions.

SEATINI Uganda led some Civil Society Organizations to petition the Speaker of the Uganda Parliament and the Speaker of EALA on the EPA Negotiations. The petitions called for alternative options to be explored in order to ensure a mutually beneficial trade relationship between the EAC and EU. The statement was also sent to the Secretary General of EAC Secretariat who acknowledged SEATINI's continued support in ensuring that the EAC concludes a beneficial EPA. The SG also noted that the positions raised by SEATINI Uganda and other civil society organizations were in harmony with the EAC's positions and that efforts would be made to ensure that the contentious issues are addressed before conclusion of the negotiations.

SEATINI Uganda continued to engage policy makers using different platforms on their role in promoting trade and Investment that leads to Uganda's sustainable development. The MPs stressed the need to assess whether the country is channelling her investments to areas that lead to employment creation, skills and technology transfer because currently, most land based investments have only led to land grabbing, and subsequently not benefitted the communities where they operate.

SEATINI continued to create public awareness on EPA negotiations and the EAC-US TIPA Negotiations through Radio Talk shows. Several talk shows on EPA Negotiations pending the conclusion and after conclusion of the negotiations were held. The major aims of these talk shows were to keep the public abreast the negotiation process, and also disseminate public concerns on the negotiations to the negotiators to enable them conclude an EPA that is reflective of EAC's development priorities. The listeners called upon EAC Ministers to first assess and weigh the risks and opportunities of the EPA before signing.

They also urged the EAC governments to take it upon themselves to develop and sustain the competitiveness of the EAC market so as to be able to favourably compete with the EU market, which the EPA, upon signing, will usher in.

Under the EAC-US TIPA Negotiations, a Talk show was held to discuss the outcomes and implications of the TIPA negotiations and AGOA on Africa's economy, and propose recommendations on how Africa-U.S.A Trade and Investment relationship should create a win-win situation. The talk show stressed that for Uganda to tap into these opportunities, it is important to have in place a policy framework that should ensure its citizens benefit from these investments and trade opportunities.

In addition, as the pressure to conclude the EPAs grew stronger, SEATINI Uganda also doubled her efforts in raising public awareness in order to keep stakeholders abreast on the incessant developments especially within the negotiation process. An online Google Group and a face book page was created where 4000 E-mail updates through Articles, Positions, statements and declarations on EAC-EU EPA and EAC-US TIP and WTO negotiations were sent to national, regional and International stakeholders. The group provided a platform for CSOs and the private sector from all over the globe provided important positions that were used to engage the EC and EAC Negotiators on the EPA negotiations. The platform also generated intense debate and updates on the US-EAC-TIPA negotiations and the Post Bali Work plan process, thus helping keep stakeholders abreast of the negotiations.

As a result of SEATINI-U's continued advocacy for a more coherent National Trade Policy to climate change, the Ministry of Trade and cooperatives has embarked on the development of its 5 year National Trade Sector Development Strategy. In a report developed to inform the process, a recommendation to strengthen the capacity of the Ministry to understand the impact and adaptation to emerging trade issues like climate change has been emphasized. Other ministries such as the Office of the Prime Minister and the Ministry of Water and Environment currently appreciate the need for coherent trade, climate and food security/ agriculture policies.

SEATINI's was part of the government delegations in the EPA, WTO and Investment negotiations. As a result, it has won Government's trust and confidence in mobilising and representing CSOs views in these negotiations. The Minister of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives has on several occasions recognized SEATINI's role in bringing together negotiators and non-state actors to develop negotiation positions that are informative of Uganda's Vision.

In 2014, SEATINI Uganda participated in a number of meetings at the national, regional and global level. At the local level, we participated in a meeting with the WTO Director General during his visit to Uganda to discuss the major Multilateral Trade Negotiation issues. During this meeting, SEATINI Uganda emphasized that Uganda's interest and that of other LDC states is to have the WTO Post Bali Work plan increasing their domestic production capacity; encourage diversification and industrialization; increase food security; provide quality employment; and whether it will support LDCs' move from being largely raw natural resource exporters, towards being producers of more sophisticated products.

SEATINI also participated in a civil society working group meeting on the post 2015 development agenda where stakeholder positions on the proposed Sustainable Development Goals were developed. This meeting was part of many other consultations of different major groups which were supposed to feed into the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals. These positions were developed to help inform the negotiators in the January 2015 negotiations.

Regionally, SEATINI-U participated in the third regional annual meeting on promoting climate, trade and food security policy linkages which provided a platform for stakeholders to engage directly with the WTO Geneva representatives from EAC partner states. During this meeting, SEATINI-U noted that the agreement on Trade Facilitation at the WTO does not entirely take into account LDCs' needs for development and should therefore be rethought, the offers made under the WTO that are beneficial to LDC states are often "best endeavour" and not binding yet those beneficial to developed countries are often binding and challenging for LDCs to implement as they require heavy financial support, technical assistance, and capacity building among others.

Globally, SEATINI-Uganda participated in a number of meetings such as Uganda's preparatory meeting for the Africa-USA Summit. During this meeting, SEATINI indicated that while Uganda hasn't benefitted a lot from the trade relationship under the USA-Africa Relationship due to numerous challenges such as supply side constraints, under developed financial sector, low level of technology and skills, poor state of infrastructure and low level of industrial development among others, it makes no value addition for her to enter into fresh Trade and Investment Partnership negotiations with the U.S.A as this will only diminish her much needed policy space.

SEATINI participated in a hearing on EPA negotiations where we made a presentation to the Members of the European Parliament on "How to make the EPAs work for Trade and Development". During the hearing, SEATINI stressed the far reaching implications of EPA on EAC's development and called for more consultations to ensure transparency and ownership of the final outcomes of the EPA.

As part of the outreach programme, SEATINI continued to build the capacity of the youth to effectively engage in and influence trade and trade related policies. This was done through organizing debates in different Universities on Trade and Investment negotiations, EPAs, FDIs and their implication to the youths and regional integration. This resulted into the youth recommending the EAC countries to focus on human development under globalization to be able to compete favourably in the open markets, a position that they should ensure comes out clearly out of the on-going negotiations. These grand debates brought together students from Makerere University Kampala, Makerere Univesrity Business School, Kampala International University, Kyambogo University, Muteesa I Royal University and Cavendish University.

# Regional Integration

Programme Goal: To promote effective stakeholder engagement in the EAC Regional integration processes.

Partnerships and Networks

The year 2014 witnessed a growing momentum to accelerate the regional integration process, and make it more visible and tangible to the peoples of East Africa. This has been seen in the accelerated efforts towards enhancing inward looking interventions to revitalise the regional economies through promoting industrialisation and reviving the productive sectors as per the EAC Treaty and Common Market Protocol, with a focus on enabling the free movement of goods. This included the elimination of Non-Tariff Barriers (NTBs) across the region and development of harmonised standards for agricultural goods to limit cross border rejection of the goods arising from failure by partner states to meet sanitary and phytosanitary requirements by counterpart states. However the absence of frameworks at the national and local levels for implementation of the set regional policies such as standards and the non involvement of stakeholders in the formation of these policies continued to pose challenges for market access to the EAC.

Programme implementation

In the area of free movement of workers there have been efforts to revive the regional negotiations on liberalising labour in a move to improve employment creation by easing movement of labour from areas of surplus to areas of scarcity. However, these negotiations continued to be focused on enabling movement of highly skilled formal workers and did not take into consideration the majority of employment seekers in the region who comprise the youth that lack commensurate skills for the available jobs in the region. The absence of policy interventions to address the actual employment needs in Uganda and the EAC in general therefore was a stumbling bloc to making the regional integration process impact positively on people's livelihoods and welfare.

Programme Highlights for 2014

In cognisance of these challenges at the policy and practice level, this year SEATINI's advocacy interventions have been on redirecting the integration agenda to make the process work for the people. SEATINI continued to monitor, participate and input into these processes with the aim of enhancing people centeredness.

SEATINI strengthened the existing platforms at national level including the maize and beans platform, the National Monitoring Committee on elimination of NTBs, the National Implementation Committees on implementation of the Common Market Protocol, the National Oversight Committee (within Trade Mark East Africa) on implementation of the regional integration agenda in Uganda, the neighbourhood assemblies (citizens' platforms)

on democratic governance, the National Reference Groups on trade, climate change and agriculture and the Virtual Livelihoods school in Africa. This has been through enriching these platforms with positions on development processes from a trade perspective, mobilizing stakeholders to influence policy processes and develop positions for submission to policy makers. 1,536 (471 female) stakeholders have actively participated in policy monitoring platforms.

In 2014, a new policy monitoring structure was formed in Nakaseke district; a committee was developed comprising value chain actors to monitor implementation of the EAC/Uganda maize standard in the district.

SEATINI was also co-opted onto the National Monitoring Committee on elimination of Non Tarriff Barriers where she networks with CSOs, PSOs, and other actors working on issues of elimination of barriers to trade.

SEATINI has strengthened the EACSOFF Uganda national chapter and with the EACSOFF secretariat on issues of youth employment and free movement of workers as well as on the need to enhance movement of agriculture goods through compliance to standards. The issues raised by SEATINI were submitted by EACSOFF to the EAC Secretariat as part of CSOs' concerns on progress of the regional integration process and as a result they were among the key topics discussed during the 3rd annual Secretary General's Forum.

In 2014, four focal points were formed and strengthened in the central, northern, eastern and western regions of the country. This was done through furnishing them with information materials for distribution to beneficiaries, enabling them to mobilise stakeholders' advocacy positions and involving them in policy advocacy initiatives to provide platforms for them to champion the interests and positions of their stakeholders. The focal points include the District Commercial Officer in Nakaseke district, the General Secretary of the Uganda National Chamber of Commerce, Lira branch, Masindi District Farmers' Association (MADFA) and the District Commercial Officer from Masindi district, as well as SORUDA, an NGO in Soroti district that coordinates farmers on meeting standards. SEATINI continues to utilise these focal points to mobilize stakeholders at the grassroots in influencing policy processes in the integration agenda.

As a result of the meetings SEATINI organised at the local level to raise awareness on the opportunities in the wider EAC market and their related requirements including standards, focal points were formed to act as grass root mobilisers, and provide feedback on advocacy initiatives.

Other meetings were organised at national level to advocate for a rethink of the process of free movement of workers. These included strategising meetings to agree on policy recommendations for addressing the gaps in implementation of this process, and consultative meetings to inform development of a study report on potential of the free movement of workers to address youth unemployment in the country and the region at large.

Through Radio Talk shows, SEATINI created awareness on the presence of the EAC maize and beans standards, benefits of compliance as well as the costs of non-compliance. Some of the issues raised by farmers and traders include the high costs of farm implements that are needed in compliance, challenges in accessing bulk storage facilities, the absence of rewards for standards which discourages them from complying, and the absence of the government

at the local level to ensure compliance. These issues were submitted to the Ministries of Agriculture and Trade for follow up and positive feedback was received. For example some of the issues such as establishment of national storage facilities and institutionalising monitoring mechanisms for policy implementation at the local level were incorporated in the national draft grains trade policy.

Four Newsletter and two newspaper articles were developed and published drawing attention to the need for the EAC to address the policy and practice hindrances to effecting the free movement of workers. These included issues of absence of an independent Ministry of Labour, absence of national identification cards for use by those seeking employment as travel and identification documents, language barriers, and a failing education system amongst others. The articles ensured that these issues were put in the public domain and contributed to public discourse.

SEATINI was co-opted onto the maize and beans platform where she represents and inputs civil society issues and is being constantly consulted by the Ministry of Trade in developing a national grains trade policy.

As a result of SEATINI Uganda's continued advocacy on issues free movement of workers to address issues of skilling young workers, the EAC has started according more attention to the issue of free movement of workers; EAC has developed a draft policy on exchange of young workers.

From the positions papers SEATINI submitted to the Ministry of EAC Affairs on free movement of workers, a feedback was received that our positions will be included in a country position paper that will be submitted to the Committee of Permanent Secretaries from the EAC. These include issues of enabling movement of workers who possess informal skills, harmonization of work permits, institutionalization of national identification cards as travel documents, harmonization of education curricular, and institutionalization of separate ministries to handle labour issues.

SEATINI continued to implement activities in the area of free movement of goods under a project titled, "Upgrading quality standards in agriculture for Uganda maize and sesame" and as a result a bylaw on implementing the EAC maize standard was developed by Semuto Sub County in Nakaseke district.

SEATINI is also being constantly consulted in the review of the draft EAC warehouse standard, EAC draft food and nutrition safety policy and in the development of simplified information materials on standards by the Uganda National Bureau of Standards.

SEATINI continues to engage with government ministries and Members of Parliament on trade issues with evidence based research which often feeds into government positions. Because of this, SEATINI is no longer perceived as anti-government but as objective and has thus been selected to sit on government forums such as the National Implementation Committees at Ministry of EAC Affairs, the Inter Institutional Trade Committee at Ministry of Trade, and the Maize and Beans platform at Ministry of Agriculture. At some of these forums, there had not been any civil society voice previously.

# FINANCING FOR DEVELOPMENT/TAX JUSTICE PROGRAMME

## Overall Objective:

To promote sustainable development and democratic societies through fair and accountable tax systems.

## Specific Objectives

- To promote transparent and sustainable resource mobilisation, allocation and utilization policies and practices
- Taxation is a mobilisation tool
- Tax as a sustainable tool for financing development.
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## Highlights

As a result of the local level meetings organized in in Kapchorwa and Nakaseke on Deepening the Tax Justice Agenda at District Level, key stakeholders representing youth, community based organisations, farmers were identified to be part of the tax justice alliance.

In follow-ups with participants in these meetings, several LRPs have carried out step-down trainings and undertaken awareness meetings at District and Sub county levels. An example is in Katakwi LRP where AAU and Teso Anticorruption Coalition have integrated the tax justice agenda in their work with Resource Trackers and Women Accountability Groups, respectively.

SEATINI Uganda and Action Aid Uganda organised a regional meeting under the theme: Enhancing Domestic Resource Mobilisation for Sustainable Development. The meeting generated recommendations on the DTT policy/strategy that government is developing. These recommendations were shared with the commissioner tax policy department and a representative on the Mbeki Panel on Illicit Financial Flows- Hon Irene Ovonji-Odida.

SEATINI organized a consultative Meeting on Revenue Mobilisation and Accountability in Pader. The consultative meeting also discussed the 2014/15 budget and its implications on rural livelihoods. The meeting was also aimed at strengthening dialogue to facilitate stakeholder engagement between the three districts. The meeting brought together district officials, councilors and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) who demanded that the local governments strengthen the local revenue enhancement committees to carry out their mandate.

SEATINI Uganda and KIWEPI organized a policy and advocacy meeting to analyse the local government revenue mobilisation, allocation and utilisation processes in the districts of Kitgum, Lamwo and Pader. The meeting identified capacity building needs of stakeholders which will be the basis for trainings that will be conducted next year.

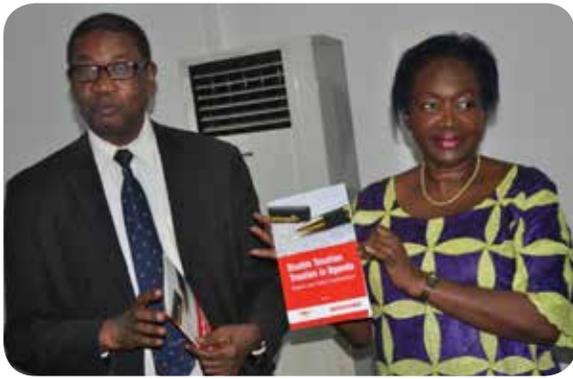
SEATINI organized learning visits to identify citizens platforms, and identify entry point where Capacity for Research and Advocacy for Fair Taxation (CRAFT) project could be implemented.

SEATINI-Uganda and Citizens Watch Information Technology (CEWIT) conducted a scoping visit in the West Nile (Arua, Yumbe, Koboko) and Acholi (Amuru, Gulu, Pader). This resulted in identifying a number of issues that led to the Project's implementation success. These included organising an inception meeting, bring the district leaders on board, identifying the 20 TOTs as well as identifying the advocacy materials to be translated.

SEATINI Uganda empowered communities at the grassroots to articulate and engage on tax issues with their duty bearers. This was done through the development and distribution of tax related IEC materials. SEATINI-Uganda and CEWIT contracted the District Language Boards in Acholi and West Nile regions to translate Information, Advocacy and Communication materials IEC in local languages (Alur, Lugbara, Kakwa and Madi). The IEC materials were translated and distributed to the project area

At least 20 TOTs have been trained under the CRAFT project to promote sustainable revenue mobilisation, allocation and utilisation in West Nile and Acholi Region. The training also equipped the participants with knowledge, advocacy and campaign skills for policy and advocacy work on the tax justice and tax related issues. This was as a result of trainings conducted in Gulu to build capacity of civil society organisations to engage with the state and effectively advocate for accountable, fair and pro-poor tax systems.

SEATINI participated in both local and International meetings and trainings such as the Pan African Conference on Illicit Financial Flows, Taxation and Domestic Resource Mobilisation, Africa Mining Vision Conference and the East African Tax Governance Network Capacity Building Training. These meetings were key in strengthening networks and identifying allies and collaborators on key issues related to tax. The meetings also enabled the organization to align its programme implementation to the global and regional campaigns and processes.



SEATINI CEO and the Minister of finance launching a study report on DTTs in Uganda.

The meeting which attracted participants, representing the District Local Governments, town councils, the business communities, farmers, civil society organizations, Community Based Organisations, the media and Local Government Finance Commission, identified capacity building needs of stakeholders which will be the basis for trainings that will be conducted next year(2015).

SEATINI continued to carry out civic education campaign activities. This has resulted into Training of Trainers (ToT) who mainstream tax justice in their regular discussion and advocacy initiatives. This has enabled them relate tax to their community development. The TOTs are carrying out continuous civic education awareness and building the capacity of the neighbourhood assemblies to influence revenue processes at the local government level. As a result in Kitgum District alone, over 250 people were reached by the ToTs during their work of highlighting tax justice issues. At the sometime, a CBO in Kitgum Matidi called AYIIDA-Uganda has written a letter to participate in a rally as a way of advocating for the renewal and rehabilitation of the roads from Kitgum Matidi Centre to Paibony parish.

SEATINI continued to use radio talk shows as a platform to create awareness and generate debate on tax issues. Additionally, radio talk shows have enabled wider coverage of the project and currently communities demand for transparency and accountability from their leaders.



The Chairperson N/A (KACEL WA TWERO N/A) Kitgum District exploring the tax justice insight and asking questions to the district official.



SEATINI Uganda and KIWEPI organized a policy and advocacy meeting to analyse the local government revenue mobilisation, allocation and utilisation processes in the districts of Kitgum, Lamwo and Pader.

The collaboration with the tax policy department on the double taxation treaties advocacy yielded positive results; the Ministry of Finance suspended negotiating DTTs until a formal policy is in place. See link <http://www.monitor.co.ug/Business/Govt-suspends-Double-Taxation-pacts/-/688322/2338432/-/item/1/-/i7vexvz/-/index.html>

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## Research and Publication

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Research plays a very important role in SEATINI's work. SEATINI conducts research to ensure that her advocacy with government is factual and evidence based. In 2014, SEATINI used studies and publications as key advocacy and capacity enhancement tools. The publications include both technical and advocacy information materials such as posters, brochures, stickers, T-shirts and studies centred on specific trade and developmental critical issues at national and Africa in general.

The various research studies and publications that SEATINI publishes have turned her into a more reliable and frequently referred to source of trade and trade related information for stakeholders such as Members of Parliament, the civil society, the media, farmer groups and the general public.

Under the Trade economic, social and cultural rights programme, SEATINI carried out two evidence based studies and analyses entitled: 'Seed Related Policies and Laws in Uganda: A civil Society Advocacy Guide' and 'Foreign Direct Investments (FDIs) in Uganda: Impact on people's Economic, Social and Cultural Rights'. These studies have helped SEATINI to carryout evidence based advocacy and to continue being a reliable and frequently referred to source of trade and trade related information for stakeholders such as Members of Parliament, the civil society, the media, farmer groups and the general public.

Under the financing for development/tax justice programme, a total of 300 copies both of training Module one and two were printed. Module one titled "Basic Insights on Taxation" aims at equipping participants with relevant information around the concept of taxation. Training module two titled "The Taxation Chain: Understanding the National and international Dimension of Taxation" aims at building the capacity of civil society organisations and other stakeholders to understand the role of international players in influencing domestic resource mobilisation and give civil society groups the necessary information on how to influence national tax policies. The Modules were used in the CRAFT phase two training to guide the resource persons and the participants during the training. All TOTs who participated in the training received a copy to guide them in the civic education campaigns.

SEATINI Uganda carried out a baseline study to analyse the domestic resource mobilisation, utilisation and allocation processes in Kitgum, Lamwo and Pader districts. Specifically, this study has influenced policy actions on strengthening resource mobilisation, allocation and utilisation processes.

Under the Bilateral and multilateral trading systems, SEATINI undertook an assessment study on the EPA negotiations and other bilateral processes and their implications on Uganda and the regions' economy and peoples' livelihoods. The study entitled: "The Implications and Challenges of Implementing an EPA for Uganda", examines the provisions in the concluded EPA and their likely implications on EAC's economy and provides recommendations on how the EAC should position itself to maximize opportunities while minimizing the risks of the EPA.

Under the Regional Integration programme, a study titled 'Free movement of workers in the EAC; Implications for youth employment in Uganda' was conducted to analyse the progress of the process of free movement of workers and the barriers to using this process to address youth unemployment. The study highlighted the hindrances to this process arising from provisions of the Common Market Protocol such as its focus being on only highly skilled formal workers hence ignoring workers skilled in informal jobs, the absence of policies directly addressing skills gaps in the economy, the challenges posed by the old school education system which focuses more on theoretical learning than imparting skills, and the challenges posed by the liberalised underdeveloped economies of the partner states in the EAC. The study also proposed recommendations to address these problems. This study was launched by the Minister of EAC Affairs who promised to champion the recommendations at the regional level. 500 copies were printed and disseminated.

## Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials

SEATINI Uganda produced several information, education and communication materials which sensitized our stakeholders on different issues about trade and trade related processes.

They include policy briefs, Newsletters, articles, position papers, statements, open letters, leaflets, posters, brochures, and stickers.

The information materials generated were shared with a wide range of stakeholders comprising of Members of Parliament of Uganda and EALA, media houses, Civil Society Organizations, respective Secretariats of EAC, AU, EC and ACP, Members of the European Parliament, private sector, Universities, Trade Unions and Farmer Organizations, and relevant Ugandan Ministries like MTIC, MEACA, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Ministry of Local Governments.

## Policy Briefs

Under the Regional Integration programme, SEATINI developed a policy brief and a position paper on impediments to the free movement of workers and recommendations for making the process work for the people. Over 1000 copies were disseminated to policy makers. This brief has been used by the Ministry of EAC Affairs and Ministry of Gender in informing their deliberations on moving the free movement of workers forward.

A statement highlighting the challenges facing value chain actors in complying with the EAC maize standards was also developed and submitted to the Ministries of EAC Affairs, Trade, Agriculture and Uganda National Bureau of Standards. The issues raised as recommendations were incorporated in the draft grains trade policy being developed by the Ministry of Trade. These issues are also to be considered during development of a framework on implementing the EAC standards.

A position paper on 'Constraints to implementation of the EAC maize and beans standards' was also developed and shared with policy makers including Members of Parliament, Ministries of Trade, Agriculture and EAC Affairs and the EAC Secretariat and the feedback received was that the policy makers promised to forward these issues to their supervisors and relative departments for action.

Simplified information materials demystifying the provisions in the EAC maize standards were developed explaining the good/compliant practices and showing the wrong practices that should be avoided. These materials were disseminated in Nakaseke district and exhibited at a regional workshop organised by Trade Mark East Africa in Nairobi where SEATINI showcased her work on standards.

Under Trade and Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ESCR) programme, three (3) position papers were developed and shared with the policy makers, CSOs and the general public. They include; A Petition to the president of Uganda requesting him not to sign into law the Plant Variety Protection Bill 2010, a statement to Members of Parliament detailing CSO concerns over the Biosafety and Biotechnology Bill 2012, and a policy brief titled "Accessing markets for agricultural produce: Challenges and policy recommendation." In a dissemination meeting where the findings of the research on the challenges of market access in Gulu and Lira districts were shared, the policy makers pledged to work towards the elimination of these challenges.

Under the Bilateral and multilateral trading system, two policy briefs were developed and shared with the policy makers and the general public. These include, a policy brief titled "Africa-EU Trade relationship: from Lome, to Cotonou, to EPAs" which analyses the changing Africa-EU Trade dynamics and implications on Africa's development and proposes policy recommendations on what should inform future Africa-EU Trade relationship.

Another policy brief titled "Assessing the Trade Facilitation Agreement in the WTO negotiations" was developed to accelerate the debate and further contribute to Uganda's decision of how to implement the Trade Facilitation Agreement. The policy brief assesses the implications of the Trade Facilitation Agreement in the WTO on LDCs and specifically Uganda. The brief recommended Uganda to carry out an assessment of the cost implications (human and financial) of the proposals being put forward to be used for requesting for capacity building and technical assistance prior to making any binding commitments.

After realising that the proposed US TIPA negotiating template did not fully take into account the development needs of the EAC populace, SEATINI Uganda led other civil society organisations to develop a statement that was submitted to policy makers at national and regional level.

The statement recommended EAC to obtain pro development outcomes from the TIPA, as well as to put in place its own tailor made negotiating template. As a result, EAC secretariat undertook a study research which provided proposals to enhance the region's negotiating strategies for an investment treaty with the US, to ensure that the EAC's development needs are not compromised.

## Resource Centre

The facility is now 9 years since its initiation in 2005. It is both for research and a resource for trade and development information materials. SEATINI-Uganda's resource centre has over 13,100 numerous publications in terms of Policy briefs, training guides, periodicals, bulletins, reports, leaflets, magazines and research papers on Agriculture, Investment, Tax and Trade related issues with an online version of reference to the available books. SEATINI-U's resource has witnessed its validity basing on its accessibility by stakeholders; Civil Society Organisation, Farmers, Lecturers, Universities, students and other individual researchers.

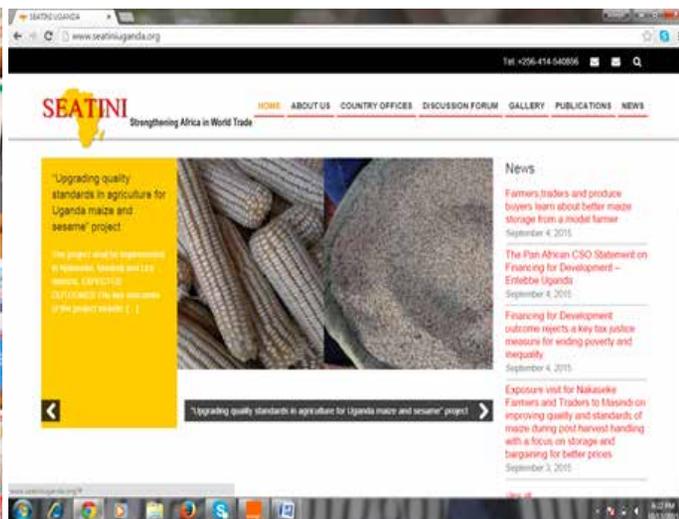
In the year 2014 SEATINI-Uganda also witnessed the sharing of its information materials with other CSO's resource centre and other civil societies working on development related issues.

## Website

SEATINI Uganda continued to use its website on [www.seatiniuganda.org](http://www.seatiniuganda.org) to share and disseminate information with stakeholders interested in trade and development issues. Besides the website, the social media accounts such as Facebook and Twitter were also used to disseminate information about SEATINI Uganda's Programmes. The website acted as a hub for easier access to SEATINI information materials online.



SEATINI Uganda Resource Centre



SEATINI Website

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# Partnerships and Networks

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The developments that followed 2013 and built into 2014 both regionally and globally required a strong network of civil society to effectively influence on-going trade policy processes.

During 2014, SEATINI continued to work with networks at global, national and local levels to strengthen collaboration and alliance building and continues to enrich these networks with input from a trade perspective. This has helped the organization to mitigate the risks associated with advocacy work.

In order to strengthen her voice in advocacy, SEATINI Uganda worked closely with SEATINI Kenya, Kenya Human Rights Commission, EcoNews, ACORD Rwanda, Tanzania Policy Forum, East African Business Council, East African Civil Society Forum and African Trade Network at the regional level. SEATINI Uganda also worked with Our World is Not for Sale, Third World Network, and Beyond2015 at the global level. These networks were instrumental in contributing to the debate on the WTO negotiations specifically on the Trade Facilitation Agreement and the Public Stockholding for food security, Post 2015 development agenda, EAC-EU-EPAs and the EAC-US-TIPA.

SEATINI Uganda together with other civil society organizations within the region including Consumer Unit Trust in Kenya, Association for the Defence of Consumer Rights in Rwanda, Research on Poverty Alleviation in Tanzania, Association Burundaise des Consommateurs in Burundi kick started a discussion within the region's partner states to accelerate the implementation of EAC competition policy and law. The EAC Competition Act was enacted in 2006 and assented to by the heads of state. It is expected to promote fair competition in the EAC integration process. The legislation is expected to control cross border anticompetitive practices in the current common market regime thus promoting private sector development, economic growth and poverty reduction.

SEATINI has also embarked on a partnership with the Uganda National Bureau of Standards on development of a sesame standard and an MOU to this effect will be signed in 2015.

Additionally, SEATINI Uganda together with other organisations in Burundi, Rwanda, Geneva, Tanzania and Kenya embarked on an advocacy campaign for coherent trade, climate and food security/ agriculture policies. During this campaign,

SEATINI Uganda led the organizations to demand for a refocus of the EAC-USA Trade and Investment negotiations that are cognizant of food security and climate change issues for sustainable development. The advocacy also sought to promote the importance of coherent Trade and investment negotiations positions for Socio-economic justice. For example, a proposal made on Article 12 of the 2012 USA Bilateral Investment Treaty (Investment and Environment) was that it is a very narrow clause which does not provide for mechanisms of punishing investors that will not comply with the environmental standards. Further consultations on this clause are to be made once official negotiations of the Trade and Investment Treaty commence.

Under Trade, economic, social and cultural rights programme, SEATINI continued to partner with the organisations to implement its advocacy activities. This was done through carrying out joint awareness creation, capacity building and policy advocacy meetings and submitted joint petition, against the PVP bill 2010 to the president of Uganda and a statement to members of parliament, detailing the civil society's concerns on the draft Biotechnology and Biosafety Bill, 2012. The organisations include African Biodiversity Network (ABN), the Food Rights Alliance (FRA) the Virtual Livelihood School Africa – Uganda chapter (VLSA-Uganda), the Centre for Health, Human Rights and Development (CEHURD) and Human Rights Network- Uganda (HURINET-U).

SEATINI has continued to work with the Food Rights Alliance (FRA) and VLSA-Uganda on the campaign for the development of pro development seed related policies and the campaign against GMOs while partnerships with HURINET-U and CEHURD are mainly in the area of human rights.

At the Continental level, SEATINI has been engaged in the Intellectual Property debate that majorly focuses on issues of Plant Variety Protection (PVP). The African Regional Intellectual Property Organisation (ARIPO) is developing a harmonized regional Plant Variety Protection law. This law protects the interests of private seed players and criminalises farmer/ indigenous varieties that cannot be classified as Uniform, Distinct and Stable.

Under the Regional Integration Program, SEATINI's advocacy campaign on the free movement of workers has led to her being co-opted as a member of the National Talent Mobility Program under the Ministry of Gender. Its advocacy on free movement of goods and free movement of workers was implemented with support from networks such as the National Organisation of Trade Unions and the Federation of Uganda Employers.

SEATINI is regularly consulted and invited to forums on youth employment and movement of workers by CSOs working on issues of youth empowerment such as Uganda Youth Network. As a result SEATINI was amongst the framers of the Joint Workers' and Employers' position paper submitted to the EAC which stressed issues of harmonising work permit fees, easing access to work permits, institutionalising a separate Ministry for labour and addressing the need for a minimum wage in Uganda.

In the area of free movement of goods, SEATINI formed an alliance with the members of the Maize and Beans platform where she championed the need for demystification of the EAC maize standards, awareness creation of grass root actors, policy coordination by relevant line ministries to ensure implementation, and also the need for rewarding standards to ensure compliance. Through this alliance SEATINI is supporting USAID in development of information materials on maize standards. SEATINI also enriches the discussions at this platform with the trade positions on issues of improving productivity and market access for the two products.

At the regional level up to 319 stakeholders were reached directly through meetings and workshops, and dissemination of information materials. These included value chain actors, youth, academia, women's groups, CSOs, private sector, the media, policy makers at national and regional levels and government officials. Through the engagement with these stakeholders in policy discussions on regional issues their awareness of existing opportunities in the EAC region has been increased and has been able to influence policy and practices on EAC regional integration.



Members of the Food Rights Alliance (FRA) during a press conference on Bio-technology and bio-safety bill, 2012.

## Lessons learnt

SEATINI realized the need to strengthen her impact at the grassroots and hence throughout this year the organisation has built her working relationship with the local government leaders at the grassroots both to ensure sustainability and impact (through utilizing these officials as focal points) but also to mitigate political opposition towards civil society activism. This has also improved SEATINI's capacity to mobilize citizens' voices and enhance capacity for small scale farmers to voice out their issues at national and regional levels.

During this year, SEATINI learnt that by involving high level government officials in our work i.e. Ministers to launch our studies, the organisation gained more visibility especially in the media. This strategy also enabled us to obtain direct feedback from the Ministers and commitment to champion our issues.

The use of letters written directly to policy makers such as the Secretary General of the EAC, EALA speaker also enabled SEATINI to gain their attention and ensured feedback received in their replies.

The use of press conferences at the office was a cheaper means to engage the media which was also more effective in terms of coverage from a wide range of media houses.

Engaging local leaders in our awareness activities enabled us to influence the policy formulation processes at local level, for example in Nakaseke district, engaging with the Local Council leadership on the implementation of standards in our awareness meetings resulted in them being tasked by the community to enforce implementation of the EAC maize standard in order to improve their access to regional market opportunities. This led to an undertaking by the Local Council leaders to develop bylaws on implementation of the EAC maize standard.

Signing of Memorandum of Understandings with project partners is important before commencement of project.

## 4.1 Institutional Development

### 4.2 Governance

The Country Programme Management Board (CPMB) continued to meet and provide guidance to management on implementation of the organizational activities as stipulated in the work plan of the programmes. The CPMB participated in planning meetings and continued to give overall guidance and direction.

### Members of Country Programme Management Board

Mr. Ndebesa Mwambutsya : Chairman

Mr. Davis Ddamulira: Member

Mr. Vincent Mayiga: Member

Ms. Jane Nalunga: Ex-officio

Amb. Nathan Irumba: Ex-officio

Ms. Rose Namara: Member

Ms. Agnes Kirabo: Member

### 5.1 Members of Staff

The following are the staff members who served SEATINI-Uganda in 2014

Country Director

Ms. Jane Nalunga:

## PROGRAMMES

Ms. Bridget Mugambe: Programme Officer; Trade and Economic Social and Cultural Rights

Mr. Joseph Kakonge: Programme Officer; Trade and Economic Social and Cultural Rights

Ms. Nelly Busingye Mugisha: Programme Officer; Financing for Development/Tax Justice

Ms. Regina Navuga: Programme Assistant; Financing for Development/Tax Justice

Ms. Lina Asimwe: Programme Officer; Regional Integration Programme Officer;

Ms. Faith Lumonya: Programme Assistant; Influencing Bilateral and Multilateral Trade Negotiations and Multilateral Trade System

Mr. Africa Kiiza: Programme Officer; Influencing Bilateral and Multilateral Trade Negotiations and Multilateral Trade Systems

Ms. Aidah Nanyonjo: Documentation and Communications Officer

## FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Ms. Eresi Mbambu; Accountant

Ms. Joanita Nassuna; Assistant Accountant

Ms. Tushemerirwe Ann; Assistant Accountant

Ms. Emily Babirye; Administrator/Human Resource

Mr. Aloysious Kittengo; Assistant Administrator/Human Resource

Mr. Patrick Mukungu; Security Guard/Cleaner

## INTERNS AND VOLUNTEERS

Mr. Kafeero Herbert; Volunteer

Ms. Edna Priscilla Namulondo: Intern

Mr. Emanuel Alana: Volunteer

Mr. Joshua Masembe: Intern



Participation in the CSO fair



SEATINI Uganda Board chairman Mr. Mwambutsya and Country Director Ms. Jane Nalunga Sharing a light moment after a meeting



Ms. Jane Nalunga interacting with some of the participants after a workshop



R-L Ms. Jane Nalunga, Hajji Rashid Kibowa, MEACA and Mr. Godfrey Ssali, UMA



SEATINI Uganda staff and other resource persons during one of the radio talk shows



SEATINI Uganda Country Director making a presentation during a workshop

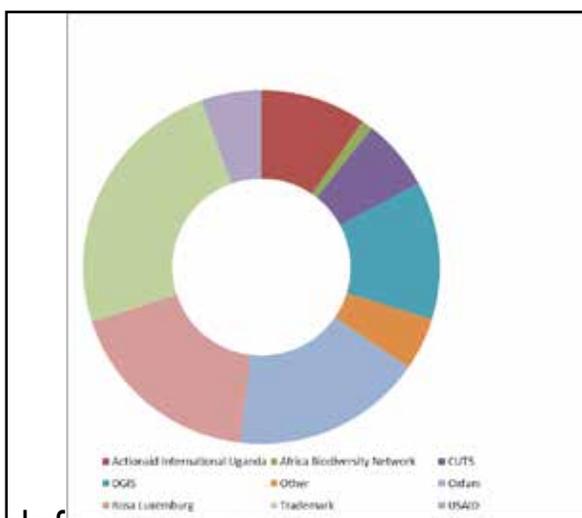


SEATINI Uganda Board Chairman handing over a gift to Mr. Anders Reimers Larsen ( Local Tax Justice Advisor ) during his fairwell party

## Financial Highlights 2014

The finance department develops and implements control mechanisms for financial analysis, reporting and transparent effective management of resources. In the reporting period, SEATINI Uganda's books of Accounts were audited by BVL & Co Certified Public Accountants.

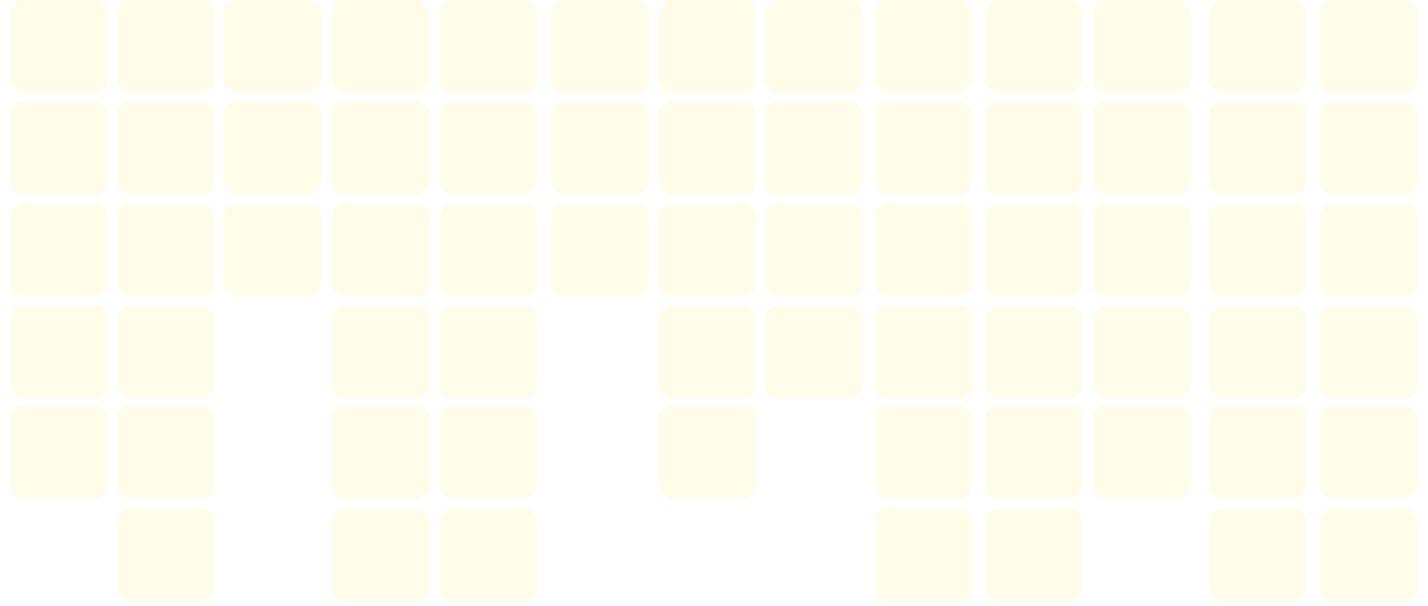
In the year 2014, SEATINI Uganda continued to receive grants worth UGX 1,626,345,337 from funders, which enabled it to implement its work plan. The funders were USAID, Oxfam, Rosa Luxemburg Foundation (RLF) Trademark East Africa (TMEA), Action Aid International Uganda (AAIU), Consumer Unity and Trust Society (CUTS International), Africa Biodiversity Network and DGIS. The chart and the table below show funds SEATINI Uganda received from various donors:



SEATINI-Uganda funding for 2014

| Organisation                    | Funds Received       | Percentage  |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|-------------|
| Action Aid International Uganda | 156,000,000          | 10%         |
| Africa Biodiversity Network     | 16,938,400           | 1%          |
| CUTS                            | 106,111,502          | 7%          |
| DGIS                            | 205,200,000          | 13%         |
| Other                           | 78,724,521           | 5%          |
| Oxfam                           | 281,688,000          | 17%         |
| Rosa Luxemburg                  | 293,249,000          | 18%         |
| Trademark                       | 399,745,200          | 24%         |
| USAID                           | 88,688,714           | 5%          |
| <b>Total</b>                    | <b>1,626,345,337</b> | <b>100%</b> |





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