



SEATINI WEEKLY Newsletter

FOURTH EDITION

3rd –9th August, 2015

Stakeholders trained on Competition Policy and Law:

SEATINI Uganda in partnership with CUTS Nairobi and with support from Trade Mark East Africa (TMEA) undertook a research on the state of play of competition policy and law in Uganda.

Based on the findings of the study, a National Advocacy Training on “***Accelerating the Implementation of EAC Competition Policy and Law (EACOMP PROJECT)***” was organized from 6th to 7th August 2015 at Sheraton Hotel Kampala.

The training built constituencies for promoting fair competition and contributed to building the capacity of national stakeholders to understand and appreciate competition concerns from both national and regional level perspectives.

The training brought together stakeholders representing Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies, Private Sector, Academia, Civil Society Organizations and the Media Fraternity.

Some of the key issues that emerged from the training included; Competition law can be a means to achieving economic growth; the need for a Competition law that is supportive of her development agenda; an appropriate competition law that is not anchored in free market fundamentalism but one that is supportive of domestic production as well as value addition and industrial development.



This photo shows participants during the training

SEATINI UGANDA'S PARTICIPATION IN OTHER ACTIVITIES:

Regional Stakeholders Meeting on the implementation of EAS 2013 Staple Foods Standards:

From 4th to 5th ,August, 2015 , SEATINI Uganda participated in a regional meeting of stakeholders that deliberated on issues impeding the adoption and application of Staple Foods Standards .

East African Community (EAC) in Partnership with the Eastern Africa Grain Council (EAGC) organized a two –day regional meeting during which stakeholders considered the study report on the implementation of EAS 2013 Staple Foods Standards .

The meeting brought together key stakeholders including National Standards Bureaus, inspection companies, phytosanitary institutions, private sector representatives among others was held at Imperial Golf View Hotel in Entebbe, Uganda.

Key issues from the meeting included; the process that led to the development of EAS 2013 Staple Foods Standards was marred with inadequate consultations ; level of awareness on the Staple Foods Standards is very low specially at the border; the need to make implementation guidelines simpler and more practical to users especially the value chain actors; trade is very dynamic and that there is need to address the gaps in the standards in order to cope up with the best practices in the global market; most of the equipments used in the laboratories are not standardized. Participants later developed activities roadmap towards the review of standards for staple foods and also came up with actionable recommendations.

The East African Community (EAC) gazetted the new EAS 2013 harmonized Staple Foods Standards on December 6, 2013.Implementation of the approved standards commenced, in earnest, throughout the EAC Partner States through collaborative efforts of the respective National Standards Bureaus (NSBs) and the grain industry stakeholder institutions.

This was a follow up on the regional meeting that was held in Entebbe in July, 2014 during which the participants pin pointed the challenges in respect to the consistent application, interpretation, sampling and test methods in determining the various parameters as stated in the EAS 2013 Staple Foods product specifications.



This photo shows stakeholders who participated in the regional meeting

Workshop on the Doha Development Agenda and the Post Bali Work Programme:

SEATINI Uganda participated in a “Workshop to discuss the Doha Development Agenda (DDA) and the Post Bali Work Programme”. The workshop, organized by the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives was held from 5th to 7th , August ,2015 at Goff Course Hotel, Kampala.

The key issues discussed during the workshop was the state of play in DDA negotiations, stakeholders input in the DDA negotiations and the increasing the state of Uganda’s preparedness for the Nairobi 10th WTO Ministerial Conference. The workshop was attended by members of the Inter-Institutional Trade Committee (IITC).

Consultative Meeting on Monitoring and Reporting on the Right to Food under the UN Periodic Review:

SEATINI Uganda participated in a Consultative Meeting on “Monitoring and Reporting on the Right to Food under the UN Periodic Review”. The meeting, which was organised by Care International, Food Rights Alliance (FRA) and Panos East Africa was held on Friday 7th, August, 2015 at Imperial Royale Hotel, Kampala.

The meeting discussed the right to food from the perspective of women’s and children’s rights. The meeting generated inputs from stakeholders to inform the development of Uganda’s country report from economic, political and social dimensions.

REGIONAL EVENTS:

Nigeria and EAC discuss African Continental Free Trade Area:

Nigeria’s outgoing High Commissioner to Tanzania , Dr. Ishaya Samaila Majambu, paid a courtesy call on the East African Secretary –General (SG), Dr. Richard Sezibera , at the EAC Headquarters in Arusha, Tanzania.

Dr,Majambu hailed the many achievements made by the five EAC Partner states especially in the area of infrastructure development.

Saying that this would spur economic growth in the region, adding that it would be prudent for other REC to borrow EAC’s infrastructure development strategy.

The envoy called for increased exchange programmes and study tours between the EAC and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) .

On his part, Dr. Sezibera emphasized the increasing collaboration between the EAC and ECOWAS.

Dr.Sezibera emphasized the increasing collaboration between the EAC and ECOWAS. Dr Sezibera said the EAC was keen on what ECOWAS has attained in the area of financial integration noting the establishment of the tripartite Free Trade Area (FTA) between the EAC, South African Development Community and the COMESA, Dr Sezibera said he looked forward to the

FTA holding up with ECOWAS and other RECs to form an African continental FTA (CFTA).

The SG said the (FTA) would be a turning point in that it would give African countries the opportunity to trade between themselves in addition to global market.

Amb. Sezibera praised Nigeria and its citizens for their patriotism and national pride saying the West African country had made Africa proud.

“When things go wrong in Africa, we Africans are often quick to berate ourselves, Nigerians outside of Africa introduce themselves as Africans and are always ready to defend the continent”, said the Secretary General (SG).

(East Africa Community(EAC) Secretariat, Arusha, Tanzania : 3rd August, 2015)

For more information, please follow the link at:http://www.eac.int/news/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1553:nigeria-and-eac-discuss-african-continental-free-trade-area&catid=48:eac-latest&Itemid=69

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES:

- 1st Manufacturing Business Summit and Exhibition in East Africa scheduled to take place from 1st to 2nd September, 2015 at Speke Resort Hotel, Munyonyo in Kampala
- SEATINI Uganda’s working session at the WTO Public Forum on: *“The Mega-RTAs and the changing global trade landscape: What is the way forward for Africa, developing countries and the WTO?” due to be held on 20th September to 2nd October, 2015 in Geneva.*

SEATINI



Strengthening Africa in World Trade

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