



SEATINI WEEKLY Newsletter

SIXTH EDITION

17th –23rd August,2015

Stakeholders validated the “Nakaseke District Maize Ordinance , 2015”:

On Friday, 21st August, 2015, SEATINI Uganda with support from Trade Mark East Africa (TMEA) and in partnership with Nakaseke District Local Government organized a stakeholders meeting in Butalangu, Nakaseke District Headquarters.

The objective of this stakeholders meeting was to validate the “ Nakaseke District Maize Ordinance 2015” (Made under Section 38 of the Local Governments Act, Cap.243).

The ordinance will ensure development in the maize industry in Nakaseke District.

The Ordinance will also help stakeholders to address implementation of the East African Community (EAC) maize standards so as to produce better quality maize and increase exports to the regional markets.

The meeting brought together stakeholders including farmers, Nakaseke District Technical Staff, produce buyers and traders.

Some of the issues during the meeting include: Local Government Act empowers Local Governments to develop and implement ordinances; upholding standards is rewarding especially in terms of better prices for farmers’ produce; agriculture is not a punishment but rather an activity that has potential to enhance people’s wellbeing; Maize is a basic staple food across all EAC partner states hence availability of market for the same; need for a district farmers forum to mobilize farmers on issues of standards; need to monitor agricultural input dealers in order to ensure that quality seeds are sold to farmers and the need for farmers to increase production of maize, among others.

SEATINI Uganda with support from TMEA embarked on an 18 month project on ***“Upgrading quality Standards in agriculture for Uganda’s Maize and Sesame”***.

The project that targets the various value chain actors is being implemented in Nakaseke, Masindi and Lira districts.



From L-R, Nakaseke District Officials, Amb.Nathan Irumba, Executive Director, SEATINI and a cross section view of participants



SEATINI UGANDA'S PARTICIPATION IN OTHER ACTIVITIES:

Meeting to Review the Draft Framework for Trade, Negotiations with Third Parties and Draft EAC Model Investment Treaty :

From 18th to 20th August, 2015, SEATINI Uganda participated in the East African Community Experts Meeting to review the Draft Framework for Trade Negotiations with Third Parties and Draft EAC Model Investment Treaty .This meeting was held in Arusha, Tanzania and it brought together representatives from government Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), Private Sector and Civil Society.

During the same meeting, SEATINI Uganda submitted a Civil Society Statement on the EAC Model Investment Treaty. In addition, a Study Report on the Model Treaty is being developed by SEATINI Uganda in order to provide alternative proposals towards the realization of pro development outcomes.

During the EAC meeting held on 22nd May, 2015, the Sectoral Council on Trade, Industry, Finance and Investment (SCTIFI) directed several issues to the EAC Secretariat including the need to convene a meeting of Experts by 31st August, 2015 to validate the Draft Framework for Trade Negotiations and Submit it to the next meeting of the SCTIFI for consideration and adoption.

To access the Civil Society Statement on the Draft EAC Model Investment Treaty, please visit SEATINI Uganda's website at www.seatiniuganda.org

Coalition Meeting on the Final Recommendations of the UN Committee on ESCRs to the Government of Uganda:

On 20th, August, 2015, SEATINI Uganda participated in a Coalition meeting on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights held at Arch Apartments, in Ntinda, Kampala.

The objective of the meeting was to develop an advocacy strategy in order to influence various government Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) towards addressing the recommendations to the government of Uganda by the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ESCRs).

The meeting brought together representatives from various Civil Society Organizations working on human rights issues at the local and national levels.

SEATINI Uganda, the head of the thematic area on Trade made a presentation on "Trade and Human Rights". The presentation revealed the need for need for poor countries to benefit from global trade, the need to recognize and protect labour rights; protection of the environment; the need to use human rights as a bench mark to assess whether an economic policy is right or wrong among others.

Some of the key issues raised during the discussions include: Civil Society Organizations need to monitor the implementation of the recommendations to the government of Uganda by the UN Committee on ESCRs and the need to harmonize the legal framework governing land so as to ensure the realization of people's right to land among others.

As a way forward, Civil Society Organizations agreed to continue advocating for the recognition and promotion of ESCRs by the government since it gives more prominence to Civil and Political Rights .

SEATINI Uganda submitted a Civil Society Statement on the Draft EAC Model

Investment Treaty to EALA:

On 20th August, 2015, SEATINI Uganda submitted a Civil Society Statement on the Draft East African Community (EAC) Investment Treaty to East African Legislative Assembly (EALA) Committee on Communications Trade and Investment.

The Civil Society Statement on the Draft EAC Model Investment Treaty presents critical Civil Society concerns for consideration by the EAC in the final development of the Model Treaty. Some of the Civil Society concerns presented in the Statement include: the need to eliminate provisions on Most Favoured Nations (MFN) and National Treatment, Investor –State Dispute Settlement and the need to rethink the provisions on expropriation and compensation, fair and equitable treatment, transfers, performance requirements, broad definition of investment among others.

From 17th to 21st, August, 2015, East Africa Legislative Assembly (EALA) held a session at the Parliament of Uganda, Kampala, Uganda. During the EALA session, a number of issues were debated and adopted including investment .

The East African Legislative Assembly wants EAC to prioritize harmonization of investment initiatives and incentives if the bloc is to be promoted as a single investment area. To this end, EALA called for the formulation of an advocacy plan to spur investment policy and strategy as well as enactment of a regional law on investments.

The Draft EAC Investment Model Treaty is being developed to guide EAC while negotiating investment and related issues with third parties.

For more information, please follow the link: http://eac.int/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1947:time-for-region-to-enhance-investments-as-eala-mulls-over-regional-investment-legislation&catid=146:press-releases&Itemid=194&utm_source=twitterfeed&utm_medium=twitter

REGIONAL EVENTS:

2nd East African Community (EAC) Women in Business Conference:

The 2nd EAC Conference on the Role of Women in Socio-Economic Development and in Business was held from 20th – 21st August, 2015 at the Kenyatta International Convention Centre in Nairobi, Kenya.

The overall goal of the Conference was for women in business in the EAC to discuss opportunities, show case their Products and network in Cross Border Trade and Investment.

The Deputy Speaker of Kenya’s National Assembly, Rt. Hon. Dr. Joyce Laboso while opening the Conference called for more investment in training to equip women especially those in the informal sector with skills to increase productivity and also manage their businesses in order to enhance the participation of women in economies of EAC Partner States. She further urged leaders in the EAC to ensure women are included in regional integration as spelt out in the Treaty. For more information, please follow the link: http://eac.int/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1950:-2nd-eac-women-in-business-conference-kicks-off-f-a-t-k-i-c-c-nairobi&catid=146:pressreleases&Itemid=194&utm_source=twitterfeed&utm_medium=twitter

http://eac.int/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1950:-2nd-eac-women-in-business-conference-kicks-off-f-a-t-k-i-c-c-nairobi&catid=146:pressreleases&Itemid=194&utm_source=twitterfeed&utm_medium=twitter

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES:

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- SEATINI Uganda's parallel session at the Second Annual Conference on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ESCRs) under the theme: *“Implications of Trade Policies on ESCRs”* scheduled for 16th-17th September, 2015 at Makerere University Kampala, Main Hall.
- 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.

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