

Globalisation at the Crossroads

Rethinking Inequalities and Boundaries

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DEVELOPMENT, TRADE AND FOOD SECURITY IN AFRICA MANAGING INTERFACES WHEN PROMOTING AGRICULTURAL



POTENTIAL LINKS TO SDG 1, 2, 17

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BACKGROUND AND INTRODUCTION

CUTS PHILOSOPHY AND METHODOLOGY

- CUTS believes in synergies and breaking “policy silos” to effectively deal with the formidable challenges faced by humanity in a globalised and evolving world
- Our working methodology consist of four organically linked sets of activities related to Research, Advocacy, Networking and Training (RAN-T)
- We target and bring together all relevant stakeholders from the public, private and non-profit sectors to promote development and implementation of holistic approaches and policies



BACKGROUND AND INTRODUCTION

PACT EAC PROJECT ([HTTP://WWW.CUTS-GENEVA.ORG/PACTEAC2/](http://www.cuts-geneva.org/pacteac2/))

- Based on our philosophy and methodology, we have been implementing a project titled “**Promoting Agriculture-Climate-Trade Linkages in the East African Community (PACT EAC)**” since 2011 – the second phase started in October 2015
- The main objective of the project is to build capacity of all relevant EAC stakeholders to develop holistic policies in the areas of agriculture, climate change and trade at the national and regional levels that also informs their **coherent participation in the relevant international fora, i.e. the World Trade Organisation (WTO), the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)** etc.
- At the centre of project activities are **multi-stakeholders groups consisting of the representatives of EAC government ministries, trade and climate change negotiators, relevant NGOS and private sector, etc. They guide as well as benefit from the project activities.**





SUCSESSES AND CHALLENGES

CONTINUING CHALLENGES UNDER PACT EAC2 (SINCE OCT 2015)

- **Turnover among project stakeholders** – government officials in particular move on and efforts have to be made to integrate the newcomers into project philosophy and activities
- Not all **project stakeholders have sufficient influence on their institutions** to initiate corrective actions. Moreover, invited **policy makers and negotiators are not always allowed by their hierarchy to countries participate in project meetings and trainings**
- During the project duration, government agendas in all **the five EAC may not plan policy work (e.g. development, revision, implementation) in the relevant issue areas for the project to influence them (e.g. Tanzania)**

SUCSESSES AND CHALLENGES

CONTINUING CHALLENGES UNDER PACT EAC2 (SINCE OCT 2015)

- **It has been observed that EAC trade and climate change negotiators are still not talking to each other outside of project meetings and activities**
- **WTO and UNFCCC are very politically sensitive, which implies being dependent to elections, political willingness, diplomatic limits, etc.**
- **Political changes – and instability – impacts on the continuation and effectiveness of project activities (e.g. Burundi)**

MAIN LESSONS: RIGHT METHODOLOGY

- Our methodology has been to employ a whole set of various activities synergistically and consistently in support of each other. All the major activities under the project were geared towards the objective. For example, research studies looked at the nexus (including gaps, duplications, contradictions) of trade, climate change and food security policies at the national level thus contributing to the knowledge-creation in this area; networks brought together all the key relevant stakeholders dealing with the three issues of trade, CC and FS thus providing regular platforms to interact; advocacy targeted a specific policy/practice change at the interface of these issues thus showing concrete ways to link the policies; and training focussed on the theoretical and practical aspects of holistic policy making to deal with the three issues thus building capacity to develop and implement holistic policies.



MAIN LESSONS: FLEXIBLE APPROACH

- **Project implementation plan is not taken as a straight jacket.**

When we saw an opportunity to move towards the objective, we tried to capitalize on that even if it was not in the project proposal or implementation plan, with the approval and support of the donor.

For example, this has included: taking trade negotiators to participate in the national and regional meetings, synthesising national studies to bring out common issues as well as major differences, designing and implementing specific advocacy campaigns on a particular policy interface where a government is planning to revise the policies, etc.

MAIN LESSONS: SUSTAINED INTERACTION

- A key feature has been giving the relevant stakeholders (e.g. policy makers and negotiators in trade, CC and FS) repeated opportunities to interact with each other, often in settings where other stakeholders (e.g. civil society, think tanks, media, etc.) were also present. This allowed them to understand each other's language, interests, concerns, etc.

MAIN LESSONS: FACILITATORS AND NOT PREACHERS

- What we did **not do was** “**preaching**”. We remain facilitators, providing the participating stakeholders the opportunities, knowledge, examples, but without forcing them to anything. It has been for them to see the value of what needs to be done and then do it with their ownership. We also did not try to give them a “common language”. Rather we tried that they should be able to understand each other’s language, and see the links between their respective works.



MAIN LESSONS: EXTERNAL FACTORS

- It helped that during this period climate change issues became much more visible in the project countries (e.g. the yearly COPs, the Paris Agreement, the work on INDCs, etc.). Hence, CC was no more a distant second to trade but has been taking a more important position in the national and regional discourses. It also helped that the policy makers and negotiators in these areas were **guided by the same overall national/regional developmental objectives that are being articulated more and more clearly and coherently.**

CONCLUDING REMARKS

- **It is indeed a long and difficult road towards breaking silo mentality. Technical, institutional and human factors responsible for this mentality are real and sometimes deeply entrenched.**
- But it is not impossible to walk on this road. Sustained efforts with the right methodology, flexibility, perseverance, understanding and partnerships can take us forward.
- We have to walk on this road to effectively deal with the challenges faced by the inter-connected world of the 21st century.



THANK YOU

