

Mainstream Climate change and Food security in the National Trade Sector Development Plan

CIVIL Society Organizations have asked government to mainstream issues of climate change and food security in the National trade sector development plan. Currently the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives is in the process of developing the National Trade Sector Development plan (2015/16-2019/20). This plan identifies and sequences the activities for implementation of the National Trade Policy over the next five years. It is also an instrument used to operationalize the National Trade policy.

“For a country like Uganda whose agricultural trade largely depends on rain fed agriculture, whose productivity is correlated with the prevailing weather condition. There is need for trade policies and programs to incorporate different sectors especially the cross cutting issues such as gender, climate change and human rights to ensure a mutually supportive plan,” Faith Lumonya, a Program officer with SEATINI said this during a stakeholder’ meeting held at Hotel Africana on 10th February 2015.

The meeting aimed at developing clear strategies for improving trade, climate change and food security policy coherence in the national trade sector development plan.

Understanding the importance of food security and climate change concerns, civil society organizations recommend that the new National Trade Sector Development Plan 2014/15-2019/20, should recognize the important link between trade and climate change; and trade and food security if the country is to achieve sustainable development.

At the same time, SEATINI proposes for the review of the National Trade Policy to make it more cognizant of the linkages between food security, climate change and trade.

“Whereas the national trade policy identifies the close link between trade and agriculture, it does not comprehensively provide for strategies to deal with the country’s food security and climate change concerns” Lumonya noted

“The trade policy does not give mention of the issue of climate change nor does it comprehensively address food security issues in the country,” Lumonya added. She said the gaps that exist within the National Trade Policy continue to undermine Uganda’s efforts and contribution towards establishing fair trade deals and as well as devising ways to adapt and or mitigate the challenges of climate change for sustainable development.

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SEATINI launches standards project in Lira and Masindi districts



SEATINI Country Director Ms. Jane Nalunga addressing participants in Lira

IN February, SEATINI Uganda held inception meetings in Lira and Masindi district for the Upgrading quality standards in agriculture for Uganda maize and Sesame Project.

The meetings were attended by the values chain actors of maize and Sesame, district leaders, partner organizations, and the district technical staff.

The 18 months’ project which is implemented by SEATINI Uganda in partnership with Trademark East Africa will be implemented in the districts of Nakaseke, Masindi and Lira.

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Maize and Sesame project launched in Lira and Masindi

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The meetings aimed at introducing the project in the area as well as identifying implementing partners, beneficiaries and allies. It also aimed at creating awareness about the existing market opportunities in the EAC as well as provide a platform for strengthening engagement between value chain actors and government authorities on enhancing compliance to market standards.

“We want to partner with CBOs, NGOs and UNBS to upgrade the quality standards of Maize and Sesame throughout the value chain,” Lina Asimwe, the Program officer in charge of the project said. She noted that Ugandan maize has not been able to effectively penetrate the EAC market because of low quality produce.



Participants for the meeting in Lira

Basing on Uganda’s fertile soils, farmers have a comparative advantage of reaping big from producing maize and sesame, but unfortunately, they have not been able to realize full potential due to low quality produce and ignorance about the available growing regional market. Adding that Kenya and Southern Sudan among the key potential markets for Uganda’s maize.

In his opening remarks at Margharita Hotel, Lira Deputy Resident District Commissioner Mr. Emmanuel Mwaka lamented about the absence of a standard on Sesame in the country which has led many farmers and dealers to involve themselves in unscrupulous ways such as pouring water and mixing stones in the grain with the intention of increasing the weight of the produce. Adding, that this affects the quality of sesame thus fetching low prices on the market.

He pledged to support the project as well as the local councils to come up with a bylaw on improving the quality of Sesame in Lira and particularly Lango sub region.

While in Masindi at the Aribas Hotel, the Masindi District chairperson, Mr Wilson Insingoma Mugimba, questioned the competence of government extension workers in helping farmers produce quality products.

Mr Mugimba accused the extension workers of staying in offices and failing to set up demonstration gardens to train local farmers. Participants in Masindi identified the need for exchange visits to enable farmers learn best practices from



Participants for the meeting in Masindi

SEATINI in the Media

- } <http://www.monitor.co.ug/Magazines/Farming/Experts-urge-farmers-to-improve-grain-quality/-/689860/2588428/-/28yemuz/-/index.html>
- } <http://www.monitor.co.ug/News/National/Establish--agricultural--banks-Masindi-boss/-/688334/2622908/-/i0dn8tz/-/index.html>
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- } <http://www.newvision.co.ug/news/664796-semuto-farmers-pass-bylaw-on-maize-standards.html>
- } <http://busiweek.com/index1.php?Ctp=2&p1=2833&pLv=3&srl=68&spl=107&cl=10>

SEATINI trains local leaders on taxation

AT the end of February, the Southern and Eastern African Trade Information and Negotiations Institute (SEATINI) Uganda in partnership with Kitgum Women's Peace Initiative (KIWEPI) organized a training on revenue mobilization, allocation and utilization processes for key local government officials from the districts of Kitgum, Lamwo and Pader.

The training which took place in Kitgum town aimed at empowering local governments to promote sustainable revenue mobilization, allocation and utilization processes as well as how to enhance opportunities for local revenue mobilization, allocation and utilization processes in their districts.

The training also provided a platform for the different leaders to learn and share best experiences on local revenue mobilization, allocation and utilization processes in the various districts.



Participants who attended the training in Kitgum

The specific objectives were; To understand taxation and its relevance to development and the role of the leaders in ensuring revenue mobilization, utilization and allocation processes, and enhance participants' knowledge on data management and record keeping at the local government level.



SEATINI staff in a gender training session

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The National Trade Policy gives Government a primary role of eliminating barriers to trade, and providing an enabling environment in which the private sector will thrive and build capacity to produce quality goods and services competitively, reliably, and on a sustainable basis.

More importantly, the Policy identifies the salient relationship and linkage between the trade sector and the productive sectors such as Agriculture and Industry for exploitation as important components of the development process.



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This newsletter is published to track the progress that SEATINI Uganda is making in advocating for trade and trade related issues