

UGANDA

MBARARA TDP DIALOGUE REPORT

under
TDP PROJECT

held at
Mbarara District Farmers Association Boardroom

organized by
Consumer Education Trust (CONSENT)
gpo box 1433 kampala, uganda

and
CUTS International
Centre for International Trade, Economics & Trade (CUTS-CITEE)
D-217 Bhaskar Marg, Bani Park
Jaipur 302 016, India

supported by
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August 22, 2008

Introduction

The dialogue 2nd in the 2008 series was held in Mbarara at the Mbarara District Farmers Association under the project, titled: **Linkages between Trade, Development and Poverty Reduction**.

The dialogue on August 22, 2008 attracted 29 stakeholders from different sectors including respondents in the TDP Project Case Study report, focusing on the Impact of Trade Liberalization to the Dairy sector in Uganda. Others included farmers, local authority policy makers, civil society organizations, private sector, business support organizations and the media.

The Dialogue

Mr. Kimera Henry Richard, Chief Executive, CONSENT opened the dialogue sharing the genesis of the project plus its objective and products generated out of it towards trade advocacy and development since 2005.

Presented highlights of the TDP Project Case Study report, focusing on the Impact of Trade Liberalization to the Dairy sector in Uganda conducted in 2005 plus the Trade Advocacy Campaign Kit.

Encouraged stakeholders to share their opinions as proceedings are disseminated widely and can input into policy and legal framework to enable trade work for the resource poor.

Shared TDP Advocacy campaign kit and urged the stakeholders to use it at local, regional and national levels when engaging policymakers at local authorities and national setup.

Presented an overview of the TDP Project Case Study report, focusing on the Impact of Trade Liberalization to the Dairy sector in Uganda. That was conducted in the districts of Ntungamo, Ibanda, Mbarara and Bushenyi in South Western Uganda. With an objective of gathering household evidence and perceptions on how the open market environment in Uganda has affected household welfare and the level of poverty in the dairy sector, particularly to farmers. Plus observations on what the dairy sector had undergone since the operationalization of the Dairy Development Authority Statute and Act.

Positive trends in the dairy sector farmers since liberalization:

- Increase in milk production from 365 millions liters to 1.5 million liters per annum in the districts surveyed.
- Improvement of the dairy herds
- Increase in micro markets for the surplus production of the dairy sector.
- Expansion of the informal distribution channels and network.
- Increase in variety of locally produced dairy products.

Negative trends in the dairy sector farmers since liberalization:

- Increase in cost of production by over 60%.
- Increase in milk losses at farm level.
- Fluctuations of farm gate prices.
- Proliferation of substandard farm inputs like drugs.
- Collapse of farmer cooperatives.

- Collapse of veterinary extension services.
- Reduction in farm human resource
- Weak regulatory regime and breakdown of the quality control systems.
- Limited infrastructure in the milk supply chain.

Discussions and concluding view:

- There are positive trends due to liberalization irrespective of the market failure, low household incomes, unscrupulous trade practices and persistent poverty.
- Farming households need extension services to enhance production and marketing.
- Consumer protection and product quality needs improvement through effective regulatory and quality control systems.
- Safety nets under liberalization have to be enhanced with complimentary regulatory and institutional support framework and resources.
- Uganda's milk is competitive in the region.
- Consumers should be sensitized to play their meaningful role in the market, specifically, to expose health hazards through public awareness and campaigns for quality production.
- Civil society and business support organizations should build capacity to develop and propose policy alternatives to address societal challenges that lead to failure in trade leading to national development among others.

Stakeholders were commended for the healthy deliberations were to feed into national policy.

TDP Dialogue Program Friday August 22, 2008

1000–1015 HRS	Registration
1015–1045 HRS	Opening session Remarks by CONSENT
1045–1320 HRS	Discussions
1320–1330 HRS	Wrap up the dialogue
1330 HRS	Lunch and departure
End of Dialogue	

TDP Dialogue List of Participants

Name & designation	Contacts, organization & e-mail
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9. Peninah Besigye	Farmer, Kati
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18. Turyaramya Moses Chairman	Mbarara Civil Society Organisations Forum & MBADISCOD, 0782406729, mturyaramya@yahoo.com
19. Nuwagira George W, Chairman	Uganda Crane Creameries Co-operative Union PO Box 1088, Mbarara, 0485-421543, 0772519234 ucccu@union.co.ug
20. Capt. Dick. Kajugiira, Treasurer	MDFC Union PO Box 175 Mbarara 0772417799/0712417799
21. Karegire Elly, Chairman	MDFCU, 0772536098
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24. Timothy K. Bitter, Chairman	Kashari Dairy Farmers Co-operative Society, 0772662553
25. Longino Ekisa	Hope Farmers Association
26. Cristopher Komere	Muyogo, Kikoni, Ntungamo
27. Robinah Nuwagaba	Kabagyenda, Ntungamo Town Council
28. Justine Kagarukaho	Rugorogoro, Ibanda Town Council, Ibanda
29. Kwesiga Christopher	Kyakahimira, Nkungu-Katoma, Kamwenge