

## **FEATS National Dialogues in Kenya, Malawi, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia**

**October 2010**

CUTS in collaboration with its partners is undertaking a 3-year project titled FEATS (Fostering Equity and Accountability in the Trading System) in Kenya, Malawi, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia with funding support from The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation of the US. The project broadly aims at raising awareness and building capacity of stakeholders for better coherence between development and trade policies, with particular focus on agriculture, thus contributing to economic development and poverty reduction in project countries. (More information on the project is at <http://www.cuts-grc.org/FEATS-Projects.htm>.)

The project is divided into two phases. In the first phase (from April 2008 till September 2009), an analysis of trade policy-making processes in the project countries was undertaken. Outputs of this research are available at [http://www.cuts-grc.org/FEATS-Projects.htm#FEATS First Phase Research Publication](http://www.cuts-grc.org/FEATS-Projects.htm#FEATS_First_Phase_Research_Publication).

Second phase, launched at an international conference in Geneva on 1 October 2010 is focussing on issues related to agriculture, trade and development. Country researchers have been commissioned to undertake focussed and outcome-oriented research and analysis of a specific issue selected in consultation with stakeholders in each project country and in view of its importance for enhancing people's livelihoods and improving the contribution of trade to development. (Presentations on the ToRs of country studies are available at [http://www.cuts-grc.org/FEATS-Projects.htm#FEATS First Geneva International Conference 2009](http://www.cuts-grc.org/FEATS-Projects.htm#FEATS_First_Geneva_International_Conference_2009).) Country studies have employed an inclusive methodology by involving representatives of the governments, civil society and researchers in the project countries. First full drafts of country studies are now ready. These are based on desktop research as well as some field work and have been revised taking into account comments by respective FEATS country National Reference Groups and CUTS research team.

National Dialogues in project countries are important components of advocacy activities under the FEATS project. National Dialogues are also the means to validate the research findings and strengthen the networks established under the FEATS project. (Details of first set of National Dialogues organized in project countries in April-May 2009 are at [http://www.cuts-grc.org/FEATS-Projects.htm#FEATS National Dialogues 2009](http://www.cuts-grc.org/FEATS-Projects.htm#FEATS_National_Dialogues_2009).)

Second set of FEATS National Dialogues are being organized in October 2010 with the following main objectives:

- a. To present the final drafts of second phase country research studies on issues related agriculture, trade and development for discussion and validation,
- b. To consolidate the networks established, particularly the FEATS country National Reference Groups (NRGs), and
- c. To contribute to advocacy and broader dissemination of key messages and recommendations emerging from FEATS research.